



23 November 2020

(20-8450)

Page: 1/2

**REPORT (2020) OF THE COMMITTEE ON TECHNICAL BARRIERS TO TRADE**

1. The Committee held its 80<sup>th</sup>, 81<sup>st</sup> and 82<sup>nd</sup> regular meetings on 26-27 February, 13-14 May<sup>1</sup> and 28-30 October 2020, respectively. The 80<sup>th</sup> and 81<sup>st</sup> meetings were chaired by Mr Sung-Hwa Jang (Korea), and the 82<sup>nd</sup> was chaired by Mr Laurence Sandral (Australia).

2. During these meetings<sup>2</sup>, the Committee:

- a. heard statements from Members regarding measures taken to ensure the implementation and administration of the TBT Agreement under Article 15.2. In total, since 1995, 145 Members have submitted at least one such statement;
- b. with respect to notifications<sup>3</sup>:
  - i. received 1638 new notifications from Members;
  - ii. received 1129 follow-up notifications (addenda, corrigenda, revisions) from Members;
- c. with respect to specific trade concerns:
  - i. discussed 57 new specific trade concerns;
  - ii. discussed 156 previously raised specific trade concerns;
- d. took note of the 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Review of the Implementation and Operation of the TBT Agreement under Article 15.3<sup>4</sup>;
- e. held thematic sessions in February on Good Regulatory Practice<sup>5</sup>, and on Conformity Assessment Procedures<sup>6</sup>; and in October on Technical Assistance<sup>7</sup> and on Technical Regulations (mandatory marking and labelling)<sup>8</sup>; and,
- f. at the time of writing, the Committee had also scheduled, for 8 December 2020, a thematic session on conformity assessment procedures; the sharing of experiences on COVID-19; as well as a workshop on the role of gender in the development of standards.

<sup>1</sup> Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the 13-14 May meeting of the TBT Committee was held, on an exceptional basis, by written procedure focusing only on specific trade concerns. The timeline of the written procedure followed for the 13-14 May meeting is contained in document [JOB/TBT/365](#).

<sup>2</sup> The minutes of the meetings are contained in [G/TBT/M/80](#), [G/TBT/M/81](#) and G/TBT/M/82 (forthcoming).

<sup>3</sup> The figures reflect the notifications received as of 31 October 2020.

<sup>4</sup> The Annual Review is contained in [G/TBT/44](#) and includes a list of standardizing bodies that have accepted the Code of Good Practice since 1995.

<sup>5</sup> The moderator's report is contained in [G/TBT/GEN/287](#).

<sup>6</sup> The moderator's report is contained in [G/TBT/GEN/288](#).

<sup>7</sup> The moderator's report is contained in [G/TBT/GEN/306](#).

<sup>8</sup> The moderator's report is contained in [G/TBT/GEN/307](#).

3. At the meetings held in 2020, representatives of ARSO, BIPM, the Codex Alimentarius Commission, CROSQ, IEC, ISO, UNECE, and UNIDO updated the Committee on their activities relevant to the work of the TBT Committee, including on technical assistance.

---