

WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION

G/L/1017
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(12-6618)

REPORT (2012) OF THE COMMITTEE ON TECHNICAL BARRIERS TO TRADE

1. The Committee held its fifty-sixth, fifty-seventh and fifty-eighth regular meetings on 20-22 March 2012, 13-15 June 2012 and 27-29 November 2012, respectively. The fifty-sixth meeting was chaired by Ms Denise Pereira (Singapore), and fifty-seventh and fifty-eighth by Mr. Salim Lahjomri (Morocco).¹

2. At each of these meetings, the Committee heard statements from a number of Members regarding measures taken to ensure the implementation and administration of the TBT Agreement, under Article 15.2. In total, since 1995, 126 Members have submitted at least one such statement.

3. New specific trade concerns were brought to the attention of the Committee with regard to their potential adverse trade effects or inconsistency with the Agreement. The Committee also heard exchanges on several trade concerns that have been previously raised.

4. During the reporting period, the Committee continued the exchange of Members' experiences on various cross-cutting issues related to the operation and implementation of the Agreement, including: good regulatory practice, standards, conformity assessment procedures, transparency and technical assistance.

5. At the meeting on 20-22 March 2012, the Committee adopted its report of the 17th Annual Review of the Implementation and Operation of the TBT Agreement under Article 15.3 (G/TBT/31). At the same meeting, the Committee carried out the 17th Annual Review of the Code of Good Practice for the Preparation, Adoption and Application of Standards (hereafter 'the Code'). This work was based on the following background documents: a list of standardizing bodies that have accepted the Code in the period under review (G/TBT/CS/1/Add.16), a list of standardising bodies that have accepted the Code since 1995 (G/TBT/CS/2/Rev.18) and the Seventeenth Edition of the WTO TBT Standards Code Directory, prepared by the ISO/IEC Information Centre.

6. At its meeting on 27-29 November 2012, the Committee concluded the Sixth Triennial Review of the Implementation and Operation of the TBT Agreement, and adopted the Review Report (G/TBT/32). The Review addressed the following topics: good regulatory practice, conformity assessment procedures, standards, transparency, technical assistance, special and differential treatment, and the operation of the Committee.

7. During the reporting period, representatives of the Codex, ISO, IEC, UNECE, ITC, OIML, ITU, UNIDO and WHO updated the Committee on activities relevant to the work of the TBT Committee, including on technical assistance. The Committee granted ad hoc observer status to the *Bureau International des Poids et Mesures* (BIPM).

¹ G/TBT/M/56, G/TBT/M/57 and G/TBT/M/58.