

WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION

G/L/580
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REPORT (2002) OF THE COMMITTEE ON TECHNICAL BARRIERS TO TRADE

1. The Committee held its twenty-seventh, twenty-eighth and twenty-ninth meetings on 15 March, 20-21 June and 17 October (G/TBT/M/26-28) respectively. Mr. Joshua Phoho Setipa (Lesotho) and Ms. Emily Earl (New Zealand) were Chairpersons. At those meetings, the Committee heard statements on the implementation and administration of the Agreement. A number of Members informed the Committee of measures taken to ensure the implementation and administration of the Agreement. Several measures were brought to the attention of the Committee by Members who raised concerns about the potential adverse trade effects or inconsistency with the Agreement of those measures.

2. At its twenty-seventh meeting, the Committee carried out its Seventh Annual Review of the Implementation and Operation of the Agreement under Article 15.3 as well as its Seventh Annual Review of the Code of Good Practice for the Preparation, Adoption and Application of Standards (Annex 3 of the Agreement) based on background documents G/TBT/11/Rev.2, WTO TBT Standards Code Directory (Seventh Edition), G/TBT/CS/1/Add.6 and G/TBT/CS/2/Rev.8. It considered a number of proposals made at the Special Meeting on Procedures for Information Exchange held on 28 June 2001, and agreed to prepare a booklet on transparency provisions of the Agreement.

3. Following the Second Triennial Review of the Operation and Implementation of the Agreement under Article 15.4 (G/TBT/9), the Committee continued discussions on a number of elements taken up during that Review. It continued to develop a demand-driven Technical Cooperation Programme as confirmed and mandated by Ministers at Doha. A questionnaire for a survey to assist developing country Members to identify and prioritize their specific needs in the TBT-field was prepared. More than forty developing country Members submitted responses to the questionnaire for the consideration of the Committee.

4. At its twenty-eight and twenty-ninth meetings, it proceeded to carry out the mandate provided by Ministers at Doha to address the outstanding implementation issues. At its twenty-ninth meeting, it carried out the annual transitional review mandated in the Protocol of Accession of the People's Republic of China.

5. The OIE, WHO, UNCTAD and the UN/ECE were invited to update the Committee on their activities and provided information on the ways they sought to ensure effective participation of Members, and in particular of developing country Members, in their activities.

6. Representatives of the ACP, ALADI, EFTA, FAO, IEC, IMF, ISO, ITC, OECD, OIE, OIML, UNCTAD, UN/ECE, UNIDO, WHO, WHO/FAO Codex Alimentarius Commission and the World Bank attended meetings of the Committee in an observer capacity.