

WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION

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REPORT (2008) OF THE COMMITTEE ON TECHNICAL BARRIERS TO TRADE

1. The Committee held its forty-fifth to forty-seventh regular meetings on 20 March, 1-2 July and 5-6 November 2008, under the Chairmanship of Mr. Raminder S. Sidhu (India) and Ms Xueyan Guo (China).¹

2. At each of the meetings in 2008, the Committee heard statements by a number of Members informing the Committee of measures taken to ensure the implementation and administration of the Agreement. In total, since 1995, 117 Members have submitted at least one Statement on implementation under Article 15.2.

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, and the Committee heard exchanges on trade concerns that had been previously raised.

4. During the reporting period, the Committee continued the exchange of experiences on issues arising from the Fourth Triennial Review of the Operation and Implementation of the Agreement under Article 15.4 (G/TBT/19), namely: good regulatory practice, conformity assessment procedures, transparency, technical assistance and special and differential treatment. With a view to deepening understanding of the contribution good regulatory practice can make to the implementation of the TBT Agreement and advancing its work in this area, the Committee held a workshop on good regulatory practice on 18-19 March 2008. This workshop addressed the following topics: general approaches of Members to good regulatory practice; internal transparency and consultative mechanisms; regulatory impact assessment and regulatory cooperation initiatives between Members.²

5. At its meeting on 20 March 2008, the Committee adopted its report of the Thirteenth Annual Review of the Implementation and Operation of the TBT Agreement under Article 15.3 (G/TBT/23). At the same meeting, the Committee carried out the Thirteenth Annual Review of the Code of Good Practice for the Preparation, Adoption and Application of Standards. 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.12), a list of standardizing bodies that have accepted the Code since 1 January 1995 (G/TBT/CS/2/Rev.14) and the Thirteenth Edition of the WTO TBT Standards Code Directory prepared by the ISO/IEC Information Centre.

6. The Committee carried out, at its meeting on 5-6 November 2008, the Seventh Annual Transitional Review mandated in the Protocol of Accession of the People's Republic of China (G/TBT/24).

¹ G/TBT/M/44-46.

² A summary report of the workshop on good regulatory practice is contained in G/TBT/W/287. The Chairman's Report of the workshop to the TBT Committee is contained in G/TBT/M/44, Annex 1.

7. During the reporting period, representatives of the Codex, IEC, ISO, ITC, OECD, OIML, UNECE and UNIDO updated the Committee on activities relevant to the work of the TBT Committee, including on technical assistance.
