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## **1 ARTICLE 17 OF THE AGREEMENT ON AGRICULTURE**

### **1.1 Text of Article 17**

#### ***Article 17***

##### *Committee on Agriculture:*

A Committee on Agriculture is hereby established.

### **1.2 Committee on Agriculture**

#### **1.2.1 Terms of reference**

1. At its meeting on 31 January 1995, the General Council adopted the following terms of reference for the Committee on Agriculture:

"The Committee shall oversee the implementation of the Agreement on Agriculture. The Committee shall afford Members the opportunity of consulting on any matter relating to the implementation of the provisions of the Agreement."<sup>1</sup>

#### **1.2.2 Rules of Procedure**

2. At its meeting on 22 May 1996, the Council for Trade in Goods adopted the Rules of Procedure for meetings of the Committee on Agriculture<sup>2</sup>, consisting of the General Council's Rules of Procedure<sup>3</sup> applied *mutatis mutandis* with agreed modifications, except as otherwise provided in the Committee's Working Procedures.<sup>4</sup>

#### **1.2.3 Special meeting of the Committee on Agriculture on COVID-19 and Agriculture**

3. Paragraph 6 of the Committee's Working Procedures<sup>5</sup> provide that a special meeting may be convened to deal with urgent matters. In the background of the COVID-19 pandemic and its impact on global agricultural trade, a special meeting of the Committee was convened on 18 June 2020 dedicated to COVID-19 and agricultural trade policies within the framework of the Agreement on Agriculture.<sup>6</sup> This was the Committee's third such special meeting since its inception in 1995.<sup>7</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> These terms of reference are those agreed by the Sub-Committee on Institutional, Procedural and Legal Matters of the Preparatory Committee for the World Trade Organization at its meeting on 7 October 1994 ([PC/IPL/1](#)), [WT/L/43](#) (17 February 1995).

<sup>2</sup> [G/C/M/10](#), section 1. Text of adopted Rules of Procedure can be found in document [G/L/142](#).

<sup>3</sup> [WT/L/161](#).

<sup>4</sup> [G/AG/1](#) and [Add.1](#).

<sup>5</sup> [G/AG/1](#).

<sup>6</sup> [G/AG/R/94](#) and [Add.1](#).

<sup>7</sup> The earlier two special meetings of the Committee were held respectively in 1996 and 2011 to take up the relevant urgent matters ([G/AG/R/8](#) and [G/AG/R/94](#) and [Add.1](#)).

4. Ministers at the 12<sup>th</sup> Ministerial Conference affirmed the need to review and build on the lessons learned and challenges experienced during the COVID-19 pandemic and instructed the relevant WTO bodies, including the Committee on Agriculture, to analyse these lessons and challenges, and feed into a stocktaking exercise to be conducted yearly by the General Council until the end of 2024.<sup>8</sup>

#### **1.2.4 COA@100**

5. The Committee on Agriculture held its 100<sup>th</sup> Session on 15-16 March 2022. A special COA@100 event<sup>9</sup> was organized on 17 March 2022 to mark the occasion and to recall the Committee's accomplishments over the last twenty-seven years and to acknowledge its important role in overseeing the implementation of the Agreement on Agriculture. Members, observer governments and international observer organizations participated in the event along with current and several former chairpersons of the Committee. The Secretariat circulated an informal summary report<sup>10</sup> of discussions at the special event.

#### **1.2.5 Activities**

6. The Committee on Agriculture reports annually on its activities to the Council for Trade in Goods.<sup>11</sup>

Current as of: June 2024

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<sup>8</sup> [WT/MIN\(22\)/31](#) – [WT/L/1142](#).

<sup>9</sup> [WTO | CoA@100](#).

<sup>10</sup> [G/AG/GEN/203](#).

<sup>11</sup> [G/L/41](#) for 1995; [G/L/131](#) for 1996; [G/L/211](#) for 1997; [G/L/276](#) for 1998; [G/L/322](#) for 1999; [G/L/417](#) for 2000; [G/L/483](#) for 2001; [G/L/594](#) for 2002; [G/L/662](#) for 2003; [G/L/719](#) for 2004; [G/L/746](#) for 2005; [G/L/796](#) for 2006; [G/L/828](#) for 2007; [G/L/856](#) and [Corr.1](#) for 2008; [G/L/894](#) for 2009; [G/L/929](#) for 2010; [G/L/965](#) and [Add.1](#) for 2011; [G/L/999](#) for 2012; [G/L/1044](#) for 2013; [G/L/1093](#) for 2014; [G/L/1126](#) for 2015; [G/L/1165](#) for 2016; [G/L/1194](#) for 2017; [G/L/1283](#) for 2018; [G/L/1332](#) for 2019; [G/L/1380](#) for 2020; [G/L/1421](#) for 2021; [G/L/1446](#) for 2022; and [G/L/1520](#) for 2023.