Session 8: Improving the implementation and benefits of SPS transparency provisions

English Group B

Topics Discussed:

- Handling comments

- Dealing with, and obtaining translations for, notified documents not in one of the WTO languages

1. Handling comments: main issues

- Identified 2 types:
- ➢ Logistical – the process
- ➢ Preparing the response to the submitted comments
- Volume of comments - prioritizing
- When comments don't go through the NNA
- Language issues
- Political will
- Time limits and delays

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1. Handling comments: possible solutions

- Public consultations

- Internal coordination – list contact people

- Develop operational manuals

2. Dealing with, and obtaining translations for, notified documents not in one of the WTO languages: main issues

- Lack of resources
- Budget constraints
- Time limitations

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2. Dealing with, and obtaining translations for, notified documents not in one of the WTO languages: possible solutions

- Cooperate with other countries to share translations

- Platform of sharing eg IPPC Phyto resource page

- Webpage on SPS Gateway

- Create a register of experts

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