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Committee on Technical Barriers to Trade

**SEVENTH TRIENNIAL REVIEW OF THE OPERATION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE  
AGREEMENT ON TECHNICAL BARRIERS TO TRADE UNDER ARTICLE 15.4**

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## INTRODUCTION

The Seventh Triennial Review is being carried out in 2015 in accordance with the mandate under Article 15.4 of the Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT Agreement).<sup>1</sup> It was concluded on 6 November 2015. The first six triennial reviews were completed in 1997, 2000, 2003, 2006, 2009 and 2012.<sup>2</sup> During the review period (November 2012 – November 2015), the Committee has undertaken work to follow-up on specific decisions and recommendations of the Sixth Triennial Review<sup>3</sup>, as well as those agreed in previous reviews.<sup>4</sup>

Members recognize that the full implementation of the Committee's existing decisions and recommendations is a process that may span over several reviews. In this regard, Members reiterate the importance of following up on previously agreed decisions and recommendations as contained in G/TBT/1/Rev.12.

### 1 GOOD REGULATORY PRACTICES<sup>5</sup>

"**Good Regulatory Practice** (GRP) can contribute to the improved and effective implementation of the substantive obligations under the TBT Agreement. Effective implementation through best practices is seen as an important means of avoiding and minimizing unnecessary technical barriers to trade. Since the entry into force of the Agreement, the Committee has engaged in an in-depth exchange of experiences on various aspects of Good Regulatory Practice in order to foster a common understanding of the issues involved."

G/TBT/26, para. 5, p.2 (emphasis added)

#### 1.1 Exchange of experiences

1.1. During the review period, most of the Committee's exchange of experiences took place in the context of thematic sessions on GRP, held on 5 March 2013<sup>6</sup>, 17 June 2013<sup>7</sup>, and 18 March 2014.<sup>8</sup> There were two broad areas of discussion: (i) information exchange in relation to GRP, and (ii) work aimed at identifying a non-exhaustive list of voluntary mechanisms and related principles of GRP stemming from a mandate in the Sixth Triennial Review.<sup>9</sup>

##### 1.1.1 Information exchange

1.2. A number of Members discussed in **general** how GRP mechanisms are embodied in domestic legislation and policy. Canada presented its 2012 CDRM<sup>10</sup> focusing on the "one-for-one" rule aimed

<sup>1</sup> Article 15.4 of the TBT Agreement states, in full: "Not later than the end of the third year from the date of entry into force of the WTO Agreement and at the end of each three-year period thereafter, the Committee shall review the operation and implementation of this Agreement, including the provisions relating to transparency, with a view to recommending an adjustment of the rights and obligations of this Agreement where necessary to ensure mutual economic advantage and balance of rights and obligations, without prejudice to the provisions of Article 12. Having regard, *inter alia*, to the experience gained in the implementation of the Agreement, the Committee shall, where appropriate, submit proposals for amendments to the text of this Agreement to the Council for Trade in Goods".

<sup>2</sup> Reports of these triennial reviews are contained in: G/TBT/5; G/TBT/9; G/TBT/13; G/TBT/19; G/TBT/26; and G/TBT/32.

<sup>3</sup> A list of submissions circulated in the TBT Committee relevant to the topics under review is contained in the Annex to this document (p. 22).

<sup>4</sup> A compilation of the TBT Committee's Decisions and Recommendations adopted since January 1995 is contained in document G/TBT/1/Rev.12. This document also contains the Committee's Rules of Procedure, including Guidelines for Observer Status for Governments and International Intergovernmental Organizations.

<sup>5</sup> Previous decisions and recommendations on GRP are contained in Section 1 (Part 1) of G/TBT/1/Rev.12. The latest Secretariat background note is contained in JOB(08)/7, and a compilation of sources of information on GRP is contained in G/TBT/W/341.

<sup>6</sup> G/TBT/GEN/143.

<sup>7</sup> G/TBT/GEN/143/Add.1.

<sup>8</sup> G/TBT/GEN/143/Add.2.

<sup>9</sup> G/TBT/32, para. 4.

<sup>10</sup> CDRM is the Cabinet Directive on Regulatory Management.

at reducing administrative burden on business and eliminating unnecessary regulation.<sup>11</sup> The European Union described the EU REFIT<sup>12</sup> Programme which conducts regular assessment and maintenance of regulation to ensure that it continues to achieve its legitimate objectives in the least costly and burdensome way.<sup>13</sup> Malaysia explained how it applied GRP in its rule-making process and Quality Regulatory Management System.<sup>14</sup> Mexico shared information on how GRP principles – such as representativeness, consensus, transparency, rationality, internal coordination, harmonization, and review – were embodied in its domestic legislation. Mexico also described its regulatory improvement process overseen by COFEMER<sup>15</sup>, which includes deregulation, simplification, and the identification of regulatory gaps.<sup>16</sup> The United States placed emphasis on embedding GRP into institutional and other mechanisms for implementing the TBT Agreement.<sup>17</sup>

1.3. A number of Members shared their experiences on **transparency and consultation** mechanisms. Using the example of liability-rules for the repair, replacement and return of household automotive products, China showed how it employs an extensive public consultation process with a broad range of stakeholders as a means of implementing GRP.<sup>18</sup> The EU described the general framework, principles and minimum criteria of public consultation and transparency, and their key role in operationalizing GRP throughout the regulatory lifecycle.<sup>19</sup> Chinese Taipei described how it applies GRP mechanisms for public consultation and transparency in its regulatory process, including through the use of online consultation mechanisms. A case study on a regulation aimed at harmonizing standards for mobile phone chargers was presented.<sup>20</sup> A number of other Members described similar mechanisms in the context of exchanging experiences in the area of transparency.<sup>21</sup>

1.4. South Africa stressed the importance of **regulatory impact assessment** (RIA) as a mechanism in the regulatory decision making process to assess options, to confirm the need for government intervention and to set policy objectives. South Africa recognized that although the manner in which RIAs were performed could differ from Member to Member, there were some widely used key steps on which discussions could be pursued.<sup>22</sup> The World Bank explained that RIA was both a process for preparing regulatory proposals and a document summarizing policy options, the scope and details of which varied between Members, but increasingly incorporated impacts on trade and international obligations in the assessment process.<sup>23</sup>

### 1.1.2 Non-exhaustive list of voluntary mechanisms and related principles

1.5. In the Sixth Triennial Review, the TBT Committee agreed to identify a non-exhaustive list of voluntary mechanisms and related principles of Good Regulatory Practice (the "non-exhaustive list") to guide Members in the efficient and effective implementation of the TBT Agreement across the regulatory lifecycle.<sup>24</sup> During the review period, the Committee has undertaken work to advance this mandate.<sup>25</sup>

<sup>11</sup> G/TBT/GEN/143/Add.2, para. 2; RD/TBT/76.

<sup>12</sup> REFIT is the Regulatory Fitness and Performance Programme.

<sup>13</sup> G/TBT/GEN/143/Add.2, para. 4; RD/TBT/84.

<sup>14</sup> G/TBT/GEN/144/Add.1, para. 1.2; RD/TBT/74.

<sup>15</sup> COFEMER is the Mexican Federal Commission on Regulatory Improvement.

<sup>16</sup> G/TBT/GEN/143/Add.2, para. 5; G/TBT/W/378.

<sup>17</sup> G/TBT/GEN/143, para. 1.5; RD/TBT/26.

<sup>18</sup> G/TBT/GEN/143, para. 1.2; RD/TBT/35.

<sup>19</sup> G/TBT/GEN/143, para. 1.3; RD/TBT/29.

<sup>20</sup> G/TBT/GEN/143/Add.2, para. 3; RD/TBT/79.

<sup>21</sup> See Section 6.1.1.

<sup>22</sup> G/TBT/W/418, para. 1.7.

<sup>23</sup> G/TBT/GEN/143/Add.2, para. 6; RD/TBT/78/Rev.1.

<sup>24</sup> G/TBT/32, para. 4.

<sup>25</sup> The latest version of the Chairperson's proposal is contained in JOB/TBT/119/Rev.1. In total, 33 submissions from 17 Members (Argentina, Brazil, Canada, China, Colombia, Cuba, Egypt, EU, India, Indonesia, Japan, Mexico, Republic of Korea, South Africa, Switzerland, Uganda, US) were discussed during the review period (the full list of relevant submissions is contained in Annex I to JOB/TBT/119).

### 1.1.3 Other information on GRP

1.6. Regional initiatives on GRP were also discussed. Indonesia described relevant work of the SCSC<sup>26</sup>; it was noted that APEC<sup>27</sup> members had been encouraged to take a "whole of government" approach for development of regulations, to use RIA, and to implement the 2005 APEC-OECD Integrated Checklist on Regulatory Reform.<sup>28</sup> The US presented efforts in the context of APEC aimed at strengthening the implementation of GRP, including with respect to implementation of public consultations through information technology and the Internet.<sup>29</sup>

1.7. The OECD updated the Committee on recent work, including the launch of the Regulatory Policy Outlook which analysed progress made by OECD members in improving the way they regulate against the benchmark of the 2012 OECD Recommendation on Regulatory Policy and Governance.<sup>30</sup> The UNECE updated the Committee on developments in WP.6<sup>31</sup>, which broadly works at promoting good practice in the development and implementation of technical regulations.<sup>32</sup>

## 1.2 Recommendations

1.8. Building on this exchange as well as on previous decisions and recommendations of the Committee, and with a view to furthering its work in the area of GRP, the Committee agrees:

- a. to *continue to exchange information* on mechanisms of GRP adopted by WTO Members that facilitate the implementation of the TBT Agreement; and,
- b. to *hold* a thematic session in March 2016<sup>33</sup> on RIAs, including discussion of:
  - i. the extent to which RIAs could facilitate the implementation of the TBT Agreement, considering the constraints facing developing countries in carrying out RIAs; and
  - ii. how trade impacts and TBT Agreement obligations could be taken into account in the preparation of RIAs.

## 2 REGULATORY COOPERATION BETWEEN MEMBERS<sup>34</sup>

"The Committee notes that **regulatory cooperation between Members** is an effective means of disseminating GRP. It can also build confidence between trading partners through enhancing mutual understanding of regulatory systems, thereby supporting efforts that aim at removing unnecessary barriers to trade. A fundamental component to regulatory cooperation is the promotion of dialogue between Members, including at senior level. A wide variety of approaches can be employed by regulators to collaborate with each other – from information sharing to negotiating specific agreements."

G/TBT/26, paras 14-15, p. 4 (emphasis added)

### 2.1 Exchange of experiences

2.1. During the review period, most of the Committee's exchange of experiences on regulatory cooperation between Members took place in the context of thematic sessions.<sup>35</sup> Mexico described some principal characteristics of regulatory cooperation which have featured in various aspects of

<sup>26</sup> The SCSC is the APEC Sub-Committee on Standards and Conformance.

<sup>27</sup> APEC is the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation.

<sup>28</sup> G/TBT/GEN/143, para. 1.4; RD/TBT/28. JOB/TBT/119

<sup>29</sup> G/TBT/GEN/174, para. 2.1; RD/TBT/109.

<sup>30</sup> G/TBT/GEN/179; G/TBT/GEN/180.

<sup>31</sup> WP. 6 is the UNECE Working Party on Regulatory Cooperation and Standardization Policies.

<sup>32</sup> G/TBT/GEN/140; G/TBT/GEN/146.

<sup>33</sup> See para. 8.3, below.

<sup>34</sup> Regulatory Cooperation between Members figured in the Committee's Fifth Triennial Review (G/TBT/26). The Committee held a Workshop on Regulatory Cooperation between Members on 8-9 November 2011 (G/TBT/W/348). A Secretariat background document is contained in G/TBT/W/340.

<sup>35</sup> JOB/TBT/125; JOB/TBT/134.

the work of the TBT Committee.<sup>36</sup> Mexico also recalled an earlier submission, together with Canada and the United States, describing a variety of collaborative approaches to regulatory cooperation across several sectors.<sup>37</sup> New Zealand described efforts to promote regulatory coherence in wine trade in the context of the WWTG<sup>38</sup> and the APEC WRF<sup>39</sup>.<sup>40</sup> Switzerland suggested that "in-depth discussions" dedicated to topical issues relevant to the implementation of the TBT Agreement could be a way for Members to discuss specific international regulatory or standardisation challenges, thereby contributing to early regulatory cooperation between Members on new or emerging issues.<sup>41</sup> Switzerland and China identified food labelling and energy efficiency standards, respectively, as two topics for such discussions.<sup>42</sup>

2.2. The OECD described its work to improve understanding of the mechanisms of international regulatory cooperation and their contribution to regulatory quality.<sup>43</sup> The UNECE reported on work in WP.29<sup>44</sup> and other sectoral initiatives for regulatory cooperation.<sup>45</sup>

## 2.2 Recommendations

2.3. Building on this exchange as well as on previous decisions and recommendations of the Committee, and with a view to furthering its work and raising awareness of the importance of regulatory cooperation between Members, the Committee agrees:

- a. to *deepen and broaden* its information exchange in the area of regulatory cooperation between Members, based on topics identified by Members. The purpose of this information exchange is to:
  - i. provide Members with an opportunity to share factual information and experiences with respect to ongoing, new or emerging regulatory issues, including in specific sectors, without duplicating regulatory cooperation work in other technical bodies<sup>46</sup>;
  - ii. discuss possible elements of regulatory cooperation between Members with the aim of making regulatory cooperation initiatives more effective; and,
- b. to *hold* thematic sessions on regulatory cooperation between Members in June and November 2016.<sup>47</sup> The Committee will organize these sessions based on proposals from Members.

## 3 CONFORMITY ASSESSMENT PROCEDURES<sup>48</sup>

"Five articles of the TBT Agreement address **conformity assessment procedures**, and establish obligations of a substantive and procedural nature. Articles 5 and 6 contain disciplines applying to central government bodies. Articles 7, 8 and 9 relate to conformity assessment procedures of local government bodies, non-governmental bodies and international and regional systems."

G/TBT/1/Rev.12, Section 2, para. 2.1, p.8 (emphasis added)

<sup>36</sup> G/TBT/W/396.

<sup>37</sup> G/TBT/W/317.

<sup>38</sup> WWTG is the World Wine Trade Group.

<sup>39</sup> WRF is the APEC Wine Regulatory Forum.

<sup>40</sup> G/TBT/GEN/174, para. 2.2; RD/TBT/107.

<sup>41</sup> G/TBT/W/400/Rev.1, paras 1.4 and 3.1; JOB/TBT/134, para. 5.2(e).

<sup>42</sup> G/TBT/W/400/Rev.1; G/TBT/W/416.

<sup>43</sup> G/TBT/GEN/180.

<sup>44</sup> WP. 29 is the UNECE World Forum for Harmonization of Vehicle Regulations.

<sup>45</sup> G/TBT/GEN/178; RD/TBT/119; G/TBT/GEN/183.

<sup>46</sup> In line with Article 13.3 of the TBT Agreement.

<sup>47</sup> See para. 8.3, below.

<sup>48</sup> Previous decisions and recommendations on Conformity Assessment Procedures are contained in Section 2 (Part 1) of G/TBT/1/Rev.12. The latest Secretariat background note is contained in JOB/TBT/69.

### 3.1 Exchange of experiences

3.1. During the review period, most of the Committee's exchange of experiences took place in the context of thematic sessions on conformity assessment procedures, held on 29 October 2013<sup>49</sup> and 4 November 2014.<sup>50</sup>

#### 3.1.1 Approaches to conformity assessment

3.2. Members discussed criteria and methods of analysis used to inform their evaluation of the range of choices in conformity assessment procedures. The EU explained its conformity assessment system follows a risk-based approach, which aims for consistency and coherence in a given sector. Criteria for selection of conformity assessment procedures included the type of product and economic infrastructure of the sector, and the nature, type and degree of risk associated with the product in light of its intended use.<sup>51</sup> The EU also explained the role of market surveillance in relation to conformity assessment procedures and product liability regimes.<sup>52</sup> The US explained that the NIST<sup>53</sup> supported US Federal Agencies by coordinating government conformity assessment activities with the private sector to reduce unnecessary duplication and complexity. While US policy did not prescribe any specific approach to conformity assessment, NIST recommended a risk-based approach, whereby the level of rigor of the system was balanced against the risks associated with non-compliance and the risk of the product.<sup>54</sup>

3.3. Members discussed the importance of technical infrastructure (e.g. metrology, testing, certification, and accreditation<sup>55</sup>) – also referred to as quality infrastructure – in supporting the implementation of the TBT Agreement and facilitating international trade. Burundi shared information about its national standardization, metrology, quality assurance and testing system, and the responsibilities of the BBN.<sup>56 57</sup> The EU (Germany) presented its development cooperation in the field of quality infrastructure.<sup>58</sup> Malaysia shared its experience with standards and conformity assessment infrastructure, focusing on the role that Standards Malaysia plays in the development of standards, quality management, accreditation, and metrology infrastructure (SQAM).<sup>59</sup> Peru described its national plan for quality infrastructure and how it relates to efforts undertaken to enhance competitiveness.<sup>60</sup> The US discussed the trade-facilitating role of a national quality infrastructure.<sup>61</sup>

3.4. Two Members described regional cooperation initiatives in relation to quality infrastructure. South Africa explained that the PAQI<sup>62</sup> initiative coordinated regional efforts on metrology, standardization and accreditation of conformity assessment services, and involved four regional bodies (AFRAC, AFRIMETS, AFSEC and ARSO<sup>63</sup>). South Africa also described how Africa was becoming more strongly linked to the international framework of quality infrastructure, including through an increase in the number of internationally recognized accreditation bodies in Africa, and the launch of AFRAC in 2010 that created a link between national accreditation bodies and ILAC/IAF.<sup>64 65</sup> The US explained that the QICA<sup>66</sup> was a regional cooperation initiative between the

<sup>49</sup> G/TBT/GEN/155.

<sup>50</sup> G/TBT/GEN/174.

<sup>51</sup> G/TBT/GEN/155, para. 6; RD/TBT/120.

<sup>52</sup> G/TBT/GEN/174, para. 1.1.

<sup>53</sup> NIST is the National Institute of Standards and Technology.

<sup>54</sup> G/TBT/GEN/155, para. 7; RD/TBT/61.

<sup>55</sup> G/TBT/26, para. 59(b). Conformity assessment in relation to technical infrastructure includes bodies that provide conformity assessment services; conformity assessment activities such as testing, inspection and certification; and conformity assessment systems.

<sup>56</sup> The BBN is the Burundian Standardization and Quality Control Bureau.

<sup>57</sup> G/TBT/GEN/162.

<sup>58</sup> G/TBT/GEN/156; RD/TBT/64.

<sup>59</sup> G/TBT/GEN/144/Add.1, para. 1.2; RD/TBT/74.

<sup>60</sup> G/TBT/GEN/144/Add.1, para. 1.3; RD/TBT/75.

<sup>61</sup> G/TBT/W/411/Rev.1.

<sup>62</sup> PAQI is the Pan-African Quality Infrastructure initiative.

<sup>63</sup> AFRAC is the African Accreditation Cooperation, AFRIMETS is the Intra-Africa Metrology System, AFSEC is the African Electrotechnical Standardization Commission and ARSO is the African Organization for Standardization.

<sup>64</sup> ILAC is the International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation. IAF is the International Accreditation Forum.

<sup>65</sup> G/TBT/GEN/174, para. 1.4; RD/TBT/105.

three regional organizations of the Americas responsible for standardization, metrology and accreditation (COPANT, SIM and IAAC<sup>67</sup>). It aimed to foster competitiveness, innovation, trade, and consumer safety by enhancing the ability of OAS<sup>68</sup> member states to have access to internationally recognized quality infrastructure services.<sup>69</sup>

### 3.1.2 Use of relevant international standards, guides or recommendations

3.5. The BIPM<sup>70</sup> emphasized the importance of a common understanding and application of metrology for international trade, and explained how metrology underpinned the activities of conformity assessment.<sup>71</sup> OIML provided information on transparency and approval procedures for OIML International Recommendations.<sup>72</sup> ISO explained that the standards developed by CASCO<sup>73</sup>, collectively referred to as the ISO/CASCO toolbox, cover requirements for accreditation bodies and for a range of conformity assessment bodies including testing laboratories.<sup>74</sup>

### 3.1.3 Facilitating the recognition of conformity assessment results

3.6. Members discussed approaches used to facilitate the acceptance of conformity assessment results, building on the "Indicative List".<sup>75</sup> Japan described the practicality and value of the acceptance of foreign test results on condition that a certain level of reliability is ensured as a way to facilitate trade, including through the use of international laboratory accreditation schemes (e.g. ILAC MRA<sup>76</sup>) and sector specific-schemes (e.g. IECEE CB scheme<sup>77</sup>, OECD GLP<sup>78</sup> for chemicals).<sup>79</sup> South Africa explained it had yet to establish an operational government-to-government Mutual Recognition Agreement (MRA) for conformity assessment due primarily to: technical challenges, such as capacity constraints and institutional differences between parties; and, political challenges, including bias toward domestic testing facilities and difficulties on agreeing on the products or sectors to be covered.<sup>80</sup> Chinese Taipei shared experiences on use of accreditation by regulators and by industry. While regulators were sometimes reluctant to rely on accreditation due to a perceived loss of authority, accreditation in fact facilitated the work of regulators by providing technical support.<sup>81</sup> Chinese Taipei also described how conformity assessment procedures could impose a significant burden on small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs) impeding participation in international trade.<sup>82</sup> Ukraine recalled the importance of Members using accreditation as a tool to facilitate international trade, including through the framework of international systems for the recognition of conformity assessment results, such as mutual recognition agreements or arrangements (MRA/MLA) between accreditation bodies.<sup>83</sup>

3.7. The ILAC and IAF described how their multilateral mutual recognition arrangements enhanced confidence in conformity assessment results, thereby reducing unnecessary duplication of certification and facilitating trade. However, the extent to which the ILAC and IAF arrangements can facilitate trade depends on their use by regulators.<sup>84</sup>

<sup>66</sup> QICA is the Quality Infrastructure Council of the Americas.

<sup>67</sup> COPANT is the Pan American Standards Commission, SIM is the Inter-American Metrology System and IAAC is the Inter-American Accreditation Cooperation.

<sup>68</sup> OAS is the Organization of American States.

<sup>69</sup> G/TBT/GEN/174, para. 1.3; RD/TBT/104.

<sup>70</sup> BIPM is the International Bureau of Weights and Measures. The Committee agreed to grant ad hoc observer status to BIPM at the meeting of 27-28 November 2012 (G/TBT/M/58, para. 4.3).

<sup>71</sup> G/TBT/GEN/174, para. 1.2; RD/TBT/103.

<sup>72</sup> G/TBT/GEN/141.

<sup>73</sup> CASCO is the ISO Committee on Conformity Assessment.

<sup>74</sup> G/TBT/GEN/155, para. 2; RD/TBT/53.

<sup>75</sup> The "Indicative List" refers to the "Indicative List of Approaches to Facilitate the Acceptance of the Results of Conformity Assessment", G/TBT/1/Rev.12, Annex 1 (Part 1), pp. 45-46.

<sup>76</sup> ILAC MRA is the International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation Mutual Recognition Arrangement.

<sup>77</sup> IECEE CB scheme is the IEC System of Conformity Assessment Schemes for Electrotechnical Equipment and Components, Certification Body scheme.

<sup>78</sup> GLP is Good Laboratory Practice.

<sup>79</sup> G/TBT/W/412/Rev.1.

<sup>80</sup> G/TBT/GEN/155, para. 5; RD/TBT/58.

<sup>81</sup> G/TBT/GEN/155, para. 4; RD/TBT/59.

<sup>82</sup> G/TBT/W/417/Rev.1.

<sup>83</sup> G/TBT/W/420.

<sup>84</sup> G/TBT/GEN/155, para. 3; RD/TBT/54.

### 3.1.4 Other information relevant to CAP

3.8. Canada described its new regulatory framework for Federal Food Inspection.<sup>85</sup> Other relevant updates were provided by: BIPM<sup>86</sup>, Codex<sup>87</sup>, IEC<sup>88</sup>, ISO<sup>89</sup>, ITC<sup>90</sup>, UNECE<sup>91</sup>, OIML<sup>92</sup> and UNIDO.<sup>93</sup>

### 3.2 Recommendations

3.9. Building on this exchange as well as on previous decisions and recommendations of the Committee, and with a view to furthering its work in the area of conformity assessment procedures, and in particular with respect to the recommendation from the Fifth Triennial Review to initiate work on developing practical guidance on the choice and design of mechanisms aimed at strengthening the implementation of the TBT Agreement, including the facilitation of acceptance of conformity assessment results<sup>94</sup>, the Committee agrees:

- a. to *continue to exchange information* in respect of the three areas of work identified in the Sixth Triennial Review (namely: Approaches to conformity assessment; Use of relevant international standards, guides or recommendations; and, Facilitating the recognition of conformity assessment results)<sup>95</sup>;
- b. to *exchange information* on initiatives of Members to enhance regulators' reliance on international and/or regional systems for conformity assessment, including sectoral schemes, aimed at facilitating the recognition of conformity assessment results;
- c. to *discuss* approaches to the use of quality infrastructure, both national and regional, for facilitating trade in respect of standards, technical regulations and conformity assessment procedures;
- d. to *discuss* factors that Members consider relevant when deciding whether to accept tests and other conformity assessment results in other Members. For example, relevant factors could be: the existence of international schemes, or mutual recognition agreements, for the acceptance of tests and other conformity assessment results; or reliance on accreditation to demonstrate technical competence of conformity assessment bodies; and,
- e. to *hold* a thematic session in March 2016<sup>96</sup> on developments in international and regional systems, and regional trade agreements (RTAs), relating to the recognition and acceptance of conformity assessment results.

## 4 STANDARDS<sup>97</sup>

"The provisions concerning the preparation, adoption and application of **standards** are contained in Article 4 of the TBT Agreement and in the Code of Good Practice for the Preparation, Adoption and Application of Standards (the "Code of Good Practice"). In addition, Articles 2.4, 2.5, 5.4, and Paragraph F of Annex 3 of the Agreement promote the use of relevant international standards, guides and recommendations as a basis for standards, technical regulations and conformity assessment procedures. Articles 2.6, 5.5 and Paragraph G of Annex 3

<sup>85</sup> G/TBT/GEN/154.

<sup>86</sup> G/TBT/GEN/148; G/TBT/GEN/165.

<sup>87</sup> G/TBT/GEN/136; G/TBT/GEN/153; G/TBT/GEN/160; G/TBT/GEN/166; G/TBT/GEN/173.

<sup>88</sup> G/TBT/GEN/139; G/TBT/GEN/145; G/TBT/GEN/152; G/TBT/GEN/159; G/TBT/GEN/164; G/TBT/GEN/170; G/TBT/M/64/Rev. 1, para. 3.5.

<sup>89</sup> G/TBT/GEN/135; G/TBT/GEN/155; G/TBT/GEN/169; RD/TBT/53.

<sup>90</sup> G/TBT/GEN/147; G/TBT/GEN/172.

<sup>91</sup> G/TBT/GEN/140; G/TBT/GEN/146; G/TBT/GEN/178.

<sup>92</sup> G/TBT/GEN/141; G/TBT/GEN/158.

<sup>93</sup> G/TBT/GEN/142.

<sup>94</sup> G/TBT/26, para. 19(c).

<sup>95</sup> G/TBT/32, para. 5.

<sup>96</sup> See para. 8.3, below.

<sup>97</sup> Previous decisions and recommendations on Standards are contained in Section 3 (Part 1) of G/TBT/1/Rev.12. The latest Secretariat background note is contained in JOB/TBT/42 (and JOB/TBT/42/Corr.1).



emphasize the importance of Members' participation in international standardization activities related to products for which they have either adopted, or expect to adopt, technical regulations."

G/TBT/1/Rev.12, Section 3, para. 3.1, p. 12 (emphasis added, footnote omitted)

#### 4.1 Exchange of experiences

4.1. During the review period, most of the Committee's exchange of experiences took place in the context of thematic sessions on standards, held on 5 March 2013<sup>98</sup> and 18 March 2014<sup>99</sup>, as well as in the context of a thematic session on the topic of transparency, held on 17 June 2014<sup>100</sup>. Four main areas were covered: (i) the Code of Good Practice; (ii) the "Six Principles"<sup>101</sup>; (iii) transparency in standard-setting; and, (iv) the use of standards in regulation. In addition, other information relevant to standards was provided by both Members and Observers.

##### 4.1.1 The Code of Good Practice

4.2. During the review period, four bodies accepted the Code of Good Practice (hereafter "the Code") and none withdrew from it. To date, 165 standardizing bodies (of all types) have notified their acceptance of the Code.<sup>102</sup>

4.3. Australia described how business and operational processes had been implemented by Standards Australia to ensure a more effective application of the principles contained in the Code. It was noted that addressing transparency early in the standard-setting process (at the proposal stage) in addition to holding consultations at the public comment stage had led to a more efficient delivery of standards, both in terms of quality and timeliness.<sup>103</sup> The EU described its standardization system and the three European Standards Organizations (CEN, CENELEC and ETSI)<sup>104</sup> explained how they applied the Code. CEN and CENLEC said they applied specific membership criteria that incorporated the Code, the Six Principles (see below) and additional elements, according to which they assessed member national standardization bodies.<sup>105</sup> The US explained that ANSI<sup>106</sup>, a private sector organization, coordinated the market-driven US standardization system by accrediting US standards developing organizations (SDOs). ANSI accepted the Code on behalf of its over 200 accredited SDOs, and accreditation was according to SDOs meeting the requirements for due process as elaborated in the ANSI Essential Requirements.<sup>107</sup>

##### 4.1.2 The "Six Principles"

4.4. Australia described its Industry Innovation and Competitiveness Agenda, a policy initiative which aims to reduce regulatory burden and remove barriers to trade through acceptance or adoption of "trusted international standards" and risk assessments, and which aligns with the principles of Effectiveness and Relevance, and Coherence.<sup>108</sup> Indonesia explained how also the Six Principles were important to consider in national standard-setting processes – including with respect to the importance of having a national policy in place to adopt international standards.<sup>109</sup>

4.5. The ISO and the IEC described their efforts to implement the Six Principles, highlighting their decision-making procedures and stressing the importance of market relevance and effectiveness,

<sup>98</sup> G/TBT/GEN/144.

<sup>99</sup> G/TBT/GEN/144/Add.1.

<sup>100</sup> G/TBT/GEN/167.

<sup>101</sup> The "Six Principles" refers to the "Decision of the Committee on Principles for the Development of International Standards, Guides and Recommendations with Relation to Articles 2, 5 and Annex 3 of the TBT Agreement." G/TBT/1/Rev.12, Annex 2 (Part 1), pp. 47-49.

<sup>102</sup> G/TBT/CS/2/Rev.21.

<sup>103</sup> G/TBT/GEN/144, para. 1.2; RD/TBT/23.

<sup>104</sup> CEN is the European Committee for Standardization, CENELEC is the European Committee for Electrotechnical Standardization and ETSI is the European Telecommunications Standards Institute.

<sup>105</sup> G/TBT/GEN/144, para. 1.3; RD/TBT/32; RD/TBT/33.

<sup>106</sup> ANSI is the American National Standards Institute.

<sup>107</sup> G/TBT/GEN/144, para. 1.5; RD/TBT/27.

<sup>108</sup> G/TBT/W/414/Rev.1.

<sup>109</sup> G/TBT/GEN/144, para. 1.4; RD/TBT/30.

as well as coherence among standardizing bodies.<sup>110</sup> Similarly, the OIML provided information on transparency and approval procedures for OIML International Recommendations.<sup>111</sup>

#### 4.1.3 Transparency in standard-setting

4.6. Egypt described the functions and procedures of the EOS<sup>112</sup>, and provided examples of how transparency had helped to improve the development of standards by taking into account concerns expressed by stakeholders.<sup>113</sup> Japan described the process of developing Japanese Industrial Standards (JIS), with a particular emphasis on the implementation of Paragraphs J and L of the Code relating to publication of a work programme and receipt of comments before adoption of the standard.<sup>114</sup> Japan stressed the importance of central government standardizing bodies publishing their work programmes on specific websites and notifying the specific website address to the ISO/IEC Information Centre, to enable stakeholders to quickly and easily identify future standardization work that is likely to affect them, thereby enhancing their ability to effectively participate in such activities. Japan also highlighted the need to improve information sharing amongst Members about the publications in which a notice announcing the period for commenting on a draft standard is published, in order to enable interested Members or businesses to become aware of the notice and take the opportunity to submit comments.<sup>115</sup>

#### 4.1.4 Use of standards in regulation

4.7. Members discussed methods of referencing standards in regulation.<sup>116</sup> Australia described its policy initiative to assess international standards for adoption or use in regulation, including as part of GRP.<sup>117</sup> The European Union described the EU New Approach, under which legislation specified essential product requirements (health, safety and environment), while European harmonized standards supported legislation by providing one or more ways of meeting that policy objective (as expressed in the essential requirements), preserving the voluntary nature of standards.<sup>118</sup> The United States explained that US agencies rely on private sector voluntary standards to meet regulatory needs according to guidance set out in the US OMB<sup>119</sup> Circular A-119 (under revision during the review period). US policy maintains a strong preference for using voluntary consensus standards in regulation, but also acknowledges that there are standards not developed in a consensus-driven process that are in use in the market – particularly in the area of information technology – and may be relevant and necessary in meeting agency missions and priorities.<sup>120</sup> Malaysia described the use of standards and technical regulations in supporting its regulatory framework.<sup>121</sup>

#### 4.1.5 Other information relevant to standards

4.8. Burundi described the establishment of its national standardization body, the BBN.<sup>122</sup> China highlighted the importance of standards for energy efficiency.<sup>123</sup> Malaysia explained the standards development activities and procedures of Standards Malaysia, and that a new standards development process had been instituted in 2012 which reduced the time needed to develop and

<sup>110</sup> G/TBT/GEN/144, para. 1.6; RD/TBT/31; information on ISO voting procedures is provided in G/TBT/GEN/135.

<sup>111</sup> G/TBT/GEN/141.

<sup>112</sup> The EOS is the Egyptian Organization for Standardization.

<sup>113</sup> G/TBT/GEN/167, para. 6; RD/TBT/96.

<sup>114</sup> G/TBT/GEN/144, para. 1.7; G/TBT/W/357.

<sup>115</sup> G/TBT/W/413.

<sup>116</sup> It is noted that methods of referencing standards in regulation has been recognized as a mechanism of GRP (G/TBT/1/Rev.12, Section 1.1(b)ii, p. 5).

<sup>117</sup> G/TBT/W/414/Rev.1.

<sup>118</sup> G/TBT/GEN/144, para. 1.3; G/TBT/GEN/144/Add.1, para. 1.4; RD/TBT/83.

<sup>119</sup> OMB is the Office of Management and Budget.

<sup>120</sup> G/TBT/GEN/144/Add.1, para. 1.5; RD/TBT/81.

<sup>121</sup> G/TBT/GEN/144/Add.1, para. 1.2; RD/TBT/74.

<sup>122</sup> G/TBT/GEN/162.

<sup>123</sup> G/TBT/W/416.

adopt standards.<sup>124</sup> Mexico provided a number of updates on its national standardization programme.<sup>125</sup>

4.9. Other relevant updates were provided by: BIPM<sup>126</sup>, Codex<sup>127</sup>, IEC<sup>128</sup>, ISO<sup>129</sup>, ITC<sup>130</sup>, UNCTAD<sup>131</sup>, UNECE<sup>132</sup>, OIML<sup>133</sup> and jointly by a number of organizations on the UNFSS<sup>134</sup> and its work on "voluntary sustainability standards".<sup>135</sup> The ITC presented its online "standards map", an interactive portal providing information and comparability across "voluntary sustainability standards".<sup>136</sup>

## 4.2 Recommendations

4.10. Building on this exchange as well as on previous decisions and recommendations of the Committee, and with a view to furthering its work in the area of standards, the Committee agrees:

- a. to *hold* a thematic session in June 2016<sup>137</sup> on methods of referencing standards in regulation, including Members' initiatives or policies that seek to utilize international standards in regulation;
- b. with respect to transparency in standard-setting:
  - i. consistent with paragraph J of the Code, to *encourage* Members' central government standardizing bodies, and non-governmental bodies that have accepted the Code, to publish their work programmes on websites and notify the specific website addresses where the work programmes are published to the ISO/IEC Information Centre;
  - ii. consistent with paragraph L of the Code, to *encourage* Members' central government standardizing bodies, and non-governmental bodies that have accepted the Code, to share information about the publication of a notice announcing the period for commenting on a draft standard (e.g. title and volume of publication, website address); and,
  - iii. to *discuss* ways of improving Members' access to the information mentioned in *i* and *ii* above.
- c. to *exchange information* and experiences on reasonable measures taken by Members to ensure that local government and non-governmental standardizing bodies involved in the development of standards within their territories, accept and comply with the Code.<sup>138</sup>

<sup>124</sup> G/TBT/GEN/144/Add.1, para. 1.2; RD/TBT/74.

<sup>125</sup> G/TBT/GEN/7/Add.17; G/TBT/GEN/7/Add.18; G/TBT/GEN/7/Add.19; G/TBT/GEN/7/Add.20.

<sup>126</sup> G/TBT/GEN/148; G/TBT/GEN/165.

<sup>127</sup> G/TBT/GEN/136; G/TBT/GEN/153; G/TBT/GEN/160; G/TBT/GEN/166; G/TBT/GEN/173; G/TBT/GEN/177.

<sup>128</sup> G/TBT/GEN/139; G/TBT/GEN/145; G/TBT/GEN/152; G/TBT/GEN/159; G/TBT/GEN/164; G/TBT/GEN/170.

<sup>129</sup> G/TBT/GEN/169.

<sup>130</sup> G/TBT/GEN/147; G/TBT/GEN/172.

<sup>131</sup> G/TBT/GEN/144, para. 1.8; G/TBT/GEN/144/Add.1, para. 1.6; RD/TBT/82.

<sup>132</sup> G/TBT/GEN/140; G/TBT/GEN/146.

<sup>133</sup> G/TBT/GEN/158.

<sup>134</sup> UNFSS is the UN Forum on Sustainability Standards.

<sup>135</sup> UNCTAD reported on the work of the UNFSS, established jointly by five UN agencies (FAO, ITC, UNCTAD, UNEP and UNIDO). The objective of UNFSS is to facilitate and strengthen the effective and active participation by developing countries in the international dialogue on "voluntary sustainability standards". G/TBT/GEN/138.

<sup>136</sup> G/TBT/GEN/144/Add.1, para. 1.6; RD/TBT/77.

<sup>137</sup> See para. 8.3, below.

<sup>138</sup> G/TBT/32, para. 7.

## 5 TRANSPARENCY<sup>139</sup>

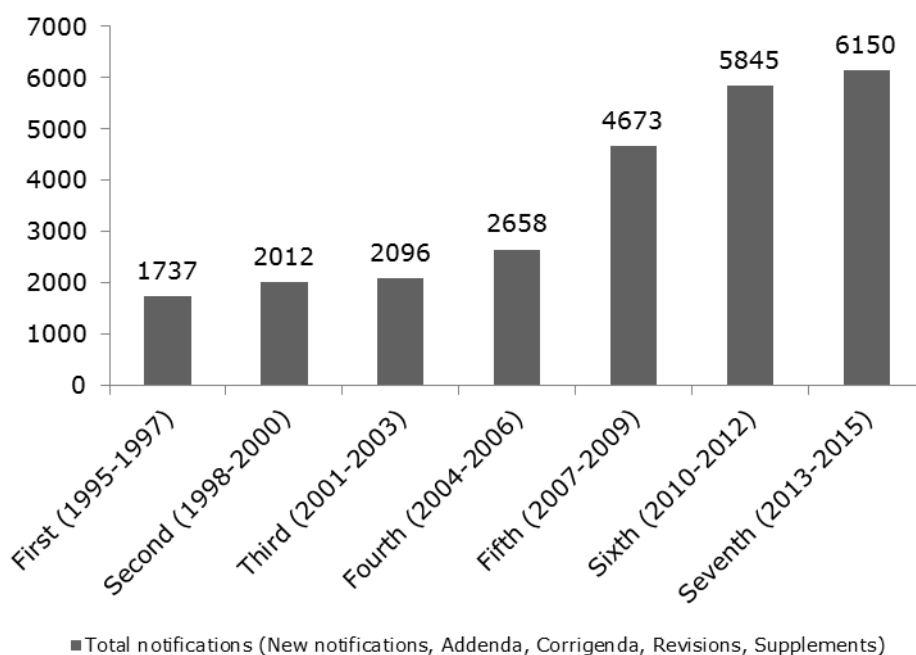
"The TBT Agreement contains **transparency** provisions in: Articles 2 and 3 (technical regulations); Articles 5, 7, 8 and 9 (conformity assessment procedures); Annex 3, paragraphs J, L, M, N, O & P (standards); and Articles 10 (general transparency provisions) and 15 (final provisions). A number of decisions and recommendations have been made with a view to facilitating access to information and further improving the implementation of transparency procedures under the Agreement."

G/TBT/1/Rev.12, Section 4, para. 4.1, p. 17 (emphasis added)

### 5.1 Exchange of experiences

5.1. During the review period, most of the Committee's exchange of experiences took place in the context of its Seventh Special Meeting on Procedures for Information Exchange held on 18 June 2013<sup>140</sup> and a thematic session on transparency held on 18 June 2014.<sup>141</sup> In the Committee's discussions on transparency, three areas were discussed in particular: (i) enquiry points, (ii) online tools; and, (iii) regional experiences. A number of other issues were also raised. Members continued to submit a large number of TBT notifications during the review period (Chart 1). The Committee also adopted a recommendation on the coherent use of notification formats (G/TBT/35), and launched the online TBT notification submission system (TBT NSS).

**Chart 1: Total TBT notifications per Triennial Review period<sup>142</sup>**



#### 5.1.1 Functioning of enquiry points<sup>143</sup>

5.2. Members shared experiences on challenges faced by enquiry points in responding to comments and requests, and with respect to building support among interested stakeholders in the private sector for the services of enquiry points.<sup>144</sup> Members also shared information about the

<sup>139</sup> Previous decisions and recommendations on Transparency are contained in Section 4 (Part 1) of G/TBT/1/Rev.12.

<sup>140</sup> G/TBT/GEN/150; G/TBT/GEN/151; G/TBT/M/60, Annex 1, pp. 43-50.

<sup>141</sup> G/TBT/GEN/167.

<sup>142</sup> Figures for 2015 are up to and including 6 November 2015.

<sup>143</sup> Previous decisions and recommendations of the Committee on this topic are listed in G/TBT/1/Rev.12, Section 4.5.2, pp. 34-35.

<sup>144</sup> G/TBT/32, para. 16.

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role of enquiry points in mechanisms to facilitate internal coordination for the effective implementation of the TBT Agreement's transparency obligations.<sup>145</sup>

5.3. Brazil described efforts of its enquiry point to inform Brazilian exporters, in particular SMEs, about requirements in export markets and matters related to the TBT Agreement, including through the export alert system, training activities to interested parties, and the preparation of competitiveness studies and technical documents to enhance exporter awareness of TBT.<sup>146</sup> China explained that its enquiry point translates notifications into Chinese for better engagement with domestic stakeholders, distributes brochures to raise awareness of other Members' measures, is in contact with leading enterprises and trade associations that provided comments on other Members' measures, and maintains branches throughout China with experts in different fields who are able to provide assistance regarding compliance with TBT requirements.<sup>147</sup> The EU described the importance of active communication with relevant stakeholders to ensure effective implementation of TBT obligations, and gave examples of awareness raising in the EU, including through the EU TBT website and alert system, and a promotional video on TBT notification procedures targeting SMEs.<sup>148</sup>

5.4. Japan explained that its two TBT enquiry points are responsible for responding to enquiries from Members, internal coordination with relevant government ministries (on notifications and comments), as well as providing advice on TBT matters.<sup>149</sup> Kenya described its TBT National Consultative Committee, which reviews and coordinates views on all issues pertaining to TBT. This includes, for example, the evaluation of notifications of other Members and coordination among ministries in light of developments in the TBT Committee.<sup>150</sup> Kenya also shared its experience with the development of a national database for dissemination of TBT notifications, NotifyKE, which is linked to the TBT Information Management System (TBT IMS).<sup>151</sup>

5.5. The Republic of Korea highlighted the important role of enquiry points and the need to further improve their functioning especially in the handling of comments.<sup>152</sup> Malaysia described the role of its TBT enquiry point within national coordination efforts to administer the TBT Agreement; this work included the development of Malaysia's TBT National Mirror Committee, a WTO/TBT newsletter and an export alert system to inform stakeholders on TBT notifications.<sup>153</sup> Mexico emphasized the importance of mechanisms to ensure proper dissemination of TBT notifications to all interested domestic stakeholders, and of national coordination schemes to ensure adequate follow up.<sup>154</sup>

5.6. Ukraine shared the initiatives undertaken by its TBT enquiry point to enhance awareness and engagement of the private sector on TBT matters, including through various periodical and ad hoc free-of-charge publications providing information on new proposed measures (TBT and SPS notifications), and relevant topics arising at Committee meetings.<sup>155</sup> The US described the value of enquiry points in directly lowering costs of trade, reducing information asymmetries, and increasing exports and access to new markets, and stressed the importance of cooperation between Members' enquiry points.<sup>156</sup> The US also informed the Committee that it had developed a customized email alert service (NotifyUS), operated by its enquiry point, which allows stakeholders to subscribe and receive messages when new notifications are issued that corresponded to regions or products of their interest.<sup>157</sup> The US also explained how it engages with the private sector through Advisory Committees, which follow a whole-of-government, multi-stakeholder approach aimed at producing the best possible policy and regulatory outcomes.<sup>158</sup>

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<sup>145</sup> G/TBT/GEN/151, paras 5-6.

<sup>146</sup> G/TBT/M/60, Annex 1, Section 3.1; G/TBT/GEN/151, para. 5; RD/TBT/45.

<sup>147</sup> G/TBT/M/60, Annex 1, Section 3.4; G/TBT/GEN/151, para. 5; RD/TBT/47.

<sup>148</sup> G/TBT/M/60, Annex 1, Section 3.5; G/TBT/GEN/151, para. 5; RD/TBT/44.

<sup>149</sup> G/TBT/M/60, Annex 1, Section 3.3; G/TBT/GEN/151, para. 5; RD/TBT/42.

<sup>150</sup> G/TBT/GEN/167, para. 3; RD/TBT/91.

<sup>151</sup> G/TBT/GEN/167, para. 12; RD/TBT/95.

<sup>152</sup> G/TBT/W/419/Rev.1.

<sup>153</sup> G/TBT/M/60, Annex 1, Section 3.6; G/TBT/GEN/151, para. 5; RD/TBT/39.

<sup>154</sup> G/TBT/W/396.

<sup>155</sup> G/TBT/GEN/167, para. 2; RD/TBT/90.

<sup>156</sup> G/TBT/M/60, Annex 1, Section 3.2; G/TBT/GEN/151, para. 5; RD/TBT/43.

<sup>157</sup> G/TBT/GEN/167, para. 4; RD/TBT/92.

<sup>158</sup> G/TBT/GEN/167, para. 5; RD/TBT/97.

### 5.1.2 Online tools<sup>159</sup>

5.7. The TBT Committee launched the TBT online Notification Submission System (TBT NSS) on 31 October 2013. During 2014, a total of 798 notifications were submitted through the TBT NSS, representing 36% of the annual notification volume. Thirty Members were using the TBT NSS when this report was issued.<sup>160</sup> Online submission has facilitated and accelerated the submission and processing of notifications, increasing the time available to Members to submit comments on notifications of interest.

5.8. The EU shared its experience and noted that the TBT NSS enabled the WTO Secretariat to issue notifications within two days of reception whereas this had previously taken one to two weeks. The system also enabled Members to track the status of submitted notifications through the system's dashboard and create templates to ease the preparation of similar notifications. As a future improvement, the EU suggested that the TBT NSS allow for direct uploading of a completed notification in PDF, in order to avoid copying and pasting the content of prepared notifications into the TBT NSS.<sup>161</sup> Uganda suggested technical improvements to the TBT NSS, so to allow for multiuser accounts and email alerts signalling rejection of notifications.<sup>162</sup>

5.9. Canada suggested the WTO Secretariat develop a global email-based notification alert system in order to raise awareness and enable Members and their domestic stakeholders to be more engaged and benefit from TBT Agreement transparency provisions, improve internal coordination of trade matters important to the Member, and foster an additional avenue for dialogue among industry, regulators and trade policy officers.<sup>163</sup> The Republic of Korea suggested that the Secretariat develop a WTO-based bulletin board system to administer comments on notified measures.<sup>164</sup>

### 5.1.3 Regional experiences

5.10. During the review period, Members discussed notifications made at the regional level. Peru (on behalf of the Andean Community) described the coordination, preparation and submission of TBT notifications of regional technical regulations and conformity assessment procedures. The Member holding the Presidency of the Andean Community notified these measures to the WTO on behalf of all four Members, through a multi-symbol notification document, and the notifying Member also received comments from other WTO Members and forwarded these to the sub-regional expert group.<sup>165</sup> Saudi Arabia (on behalf of the GCC<sup>166</sup>) explained that notification of GSO<sup>167</sup> regional technical regulations and conformity assessment procedures had led to some duplication and complexity, and described efforts by GSO to coordinate preparation and timely submission of TBT notifications of GSO measures.<sup>168</sup> The United States described good practices for the notification of regional technical regulations and conformity assessment procedures.<sup>169</sup>

### 5.1.4 Other

5.11. During the review period, Members discussed a number of other issues relevant to transparency:

<sup>159</sup> Previous decisions and recommendations of the Committee on this topic are listed in G/TBT/1/Rev.12, Section 4.4.4, pp. 33-34.

<sup>160</sup> Plurinational State of Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, China, Czech Republic, Denmark, EU, Georgia, Germany, India, Indonesia, Ireland, Israel, Japan, Kenya, Republic of Korea, Malaysia, Rwanda, South Africa, Sweden, Switzerland, Chinese Taipei, Thailand, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom and the United States.

<sup>161</sup> G/TBT/GEN/167, para. 11.

<sup>162</sup> G/TBT/W/395.

<sup>163</sup> G/TBT/W/398; G/TBT/M/64/Rev.1, paras 2.283-2.297.

<sup>164</sup> G/TBT/W/419/Rev.1.

<sup>165</sup> G/TBT/GEN/167, para. 9; RD/TBT/94.

<sup>166</sup> The GCC is the Gulf Cooperation Council.

<sup>167</sup> The GSO is the Standardization Organization for the Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf. The Committee agreed to grant ad hoc observer status to GSO at the meeting of 5-6 November 2014 (G/TBT/M/64, para. 4.5).

<sup>168</sup> G/TBT/GEN/167, para. 8; RD/TBT/93.

<sup>169</sup> G/TBT/W/415/Rev.1.

- a. On **Article 15.2** (Statement on Implementation and Administration of the TBT Agreement)<sup>170</sup>, six Members submitted their first<sup>171</sup> statements and eight Members submitted revisions to their statements.<sup>172</sup> Canada suggested a partnering exercise to encourage submission of notifications under Article 15.2 by the 30 Members that have not yet done so.<sup>173</sup>
- b. On **follow-up**<sup>174</sup>, the Committee adopted a recommendation on coherent use of notification formats<sup>175</sup> in response to the mandate from the Fifth Triennial Review.<sup>176</sup> South Africa explained their use of notification templates and identified some challenges, such as accurately identifying HS codes.<sup>177</sup>
- c. On the **provision of translations**<sup>178</sup>, South Africa reiterated the importance of the Committee's existing recommendations on provision of translations to ensure that Members have the right to provide comments on draft technical regulations and/or conformity assessment procedures.<sup>179</sup>

## 5.2 Recommendations

5.12. Building on this exchange as well as on previous decisions and recommendations of the Committee, and with a view to furthering its work in the area of transparency, the Committee reiterates the importance of the full implementation of the existing body of decisions and recommendations adopted by the Committee in the area of transparency and agrees with respect to:

- a. functioning of enquiry points:
  - i. to *continue discussing* their role in facilitating internal coordination and in the handling of comments, and *explore* ways to improve their functioning, including through the use of online tools and by addressing capacity building needs of developing Members;
  - ii. to *request* the Secretariat, based on experiences shared by Members and for the purposes of training and capacity building, to prepare a guide on best practices for enquiry points for the consideration of Members at the Eighth Special Meeting on Procedures for Information Exchange (November 2016)<sup>180</sup>;
- b. **follow-up**, to *encourage* Members to follow the recommendation on coherent use of notification formats<sup>181</sup>;
- c. **provision of translations**, building on existing recommendations of the Committee<sup>182</sup>, to *encourage* Members to provide translations of draft technical regulations and conformity assessment procedures in one of the WTO official working languages and

<sup>170</sup> Previous decisions and recommendations of the Committee on this topic are listed in G/TBT/1/Rev.12, Section 4.2, pp. 17-19.

<sup>171</sup> Lao PDR (G/TBT/2/Add.111); Mali (G/TBT/2/Add.113); Montenegro (G/TBT/2/Add.110); Senegal (G/TBT/2/Add.115); Seychelles (G/TBT/2/Add.114); Tajikistan (G/TBT/2/Add.112).

<sup>172</sup> Canada (G/TBT/2/Add.6/Rev.3); Colombia (G/TBT/2/Add.18/Rev.1/Suppl.2); Kenya (G/TBT/2/Add.86/Rev.1); Rwanda (G/TBT/2/Add.85/Rev.1); Sri Lanka (G/TBT/2/Add.27/Rev.1); Switzerland (G/TBT/2/Add.7/Rev.2); Trinidad and Tobago (G/TBT/2/Add.47/Rev.1); Ukraine (G/TBT/2/Add.100/Rev.3, Rev.4 and Rev.5).

<sup>173</sup> G/TBT/M/64/Rev.1, paras. 2.2-2.5; JOB/TBT/107.

<sup>174</sup> Previous decisions and recommendations of the Committee on this topic are listed in G/TBT/1/Rev.12, Section 4.3.1.9, pp. 26-27.

<sup>175</sup> G/TBT/35.

<sup>176</sup> G/TBT/26, para. 43(c).

<sup>177</sup> G/TBT/GEN/151, para. 4; RD/TBT/38.

<sup>178</sup> Previous decisions and recommendations of the Committee on this topic are listed in G/TBT/1/Rev.12, Section 4.4.3, pp. 31-33.

<sup>179</sup> G/TBT/W/418, Section 3.

<sup>180</sup> G/TBT/1/Rev.12, Section 4.6, p. 36. See para. 8.3, below.

<sup>181</sup> G/TBT/35.

<sup>182</sup> G/TBT/1/Rev.12, Section 4.4.3, pp. 31-33.

make them available to Members and their exporters in an effective, efficient and transparent way, taking into account the special difficulties of developing Members;

- d. use of online tools:
- i. to *encourage* Members in a position to do so to begin using the TBT NSS to facilitate and accelerate the submission and processing of notifications;
  - ii. to *request* the Secretariat to continue to improve the TBT NSS and TBT IMS in line with the needs of Members;
  - iii. to *request* the Secretariat to explore the development of an export alert system for TBT notifications, in cooperation with other organizations; and,
  - iv. to *request* the Secretariat to report back on *d.ii* and *d.iii* above at the Eighth Special Meeting on Procedures for Information Exchange (November 2016)<sup>183</sup>;
- e. **regional experiences**, with a view to providing greater transparency and meaningful opportunity for comment, to *discuss* the notification of regional technical regulations and conformity assessment procedures and recommend best practices.

## 6 TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE<sup>184</sup>

"Provisions on **technical assistance** are contained in Article 11 of the TBT Agreement. Technical assistance has been considered an area of priority work for the Committee since its establishment; it figures on the agenda of the Committee on a permanent basis. Members have regularly, on a voluntary basis, exchanged experiences and information on technical assistance in order to enhance the implementation of Article 11 of the TBT Agreement."

G/TBT/1/Rev.12, Section 5, para. 5.1, p. 37 (emphasis added)

### 6.1 Exchange of experiences

6.1. During the review period, most of the Committee's exchange of experiences took place in the context of thematic sessions on technical assistance, held on 29 October 2013<sup>185</sup> and 4 November 2014.<sup>186</sup>

6.2. The European Union presented the ACP-EU TBT Programme and described its general approach to TBT-related technical assistance, highlighting several objectives: demand-driven; anchoring in relevant trade and partnership agreements; building lasting infrastructures; and ensuring coherence and coordination between donors.<sup>187</sup> Kenya and the EU (Sweden) described the TBT Mentorship Programme, which aimed to improve the implementation of the TBT Agreement in Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania, Uganda and Zambia. This SIDA<sup>188</sup> funded programme, which ran from 2008-2012, sought to: create awareness of TBT measures to enhance the understanding of the TBT Agreement among stakeholders; strengthen institutional capacities for conformity assessment bodies; strengthen national TBT enquiry points for effective service delivery, and improve regulatory infrastructure.<sup>189</sup>

6.3. The Republic of Korea explained that the International Standards Infrastructure Cooperation Program, managed by KATS<sup>190</sup> and KSA<sup>191</sup>, aims to enhance the national standardization capacities of partner economies, and strengthen relationships with national and regional standards

<sup>183</sup> G/TBT/1/Rev.12, Section 4.6, p. 36. See para. 8.3, below.

<sup>184</sup> Previous decisions and recommendations on Technical Assistance are contained in Section 5 (Part 1) of G/TBT/1/Rev.12. The latest Secretariat background note is contained in JOB/TBT/65.

<sup>185</sup> G/TBT/GEN/156.

<sup>186</sup> G/TBT/GEN/174.

<sup>187</sup> G/TBT/GEN/156; RD/TBT/66. ACP is the African, Caribbean and Pacific group of countries.

<sup>188</sup> SIDA is the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency.

<sup>189</sup> G/TBT/GEN/156; RD/TBT/56.

<sup>190</sup> KATS is the Korean Agency for technology and Standards.

<sup>191</sup> KSA is the Korean Standards Association.



organizations. Activities included a Seoul-based cooperation programme with significant participation of experts from GSO and ARSO, and projects to address standardization, conformity assessment and legal metrology challenges.<sup>192</sup>

6.4. The United States presented the Standards Alliance, managed by ANSI and USAID<sup>193</sup>, which provides capacity-building assistance to developing Members, specifically related to implementation of the TBT Agreement. The programme objectives are: increased understanding of WTO TBT principles, implementation of the Code, improved transparency in the development and modification of technical regulations, and more robust and transparent engagement with the private sector in standards development and use.<sup>194</sup>

6.5. The Secretariat of the STDF<sup>195</sup> described its coordination and funding role in SPS-related technical assistance. While there was scope to address certain TBT issues through STDF on the basis of synergies with SPS, for example in the area of laboratory infrastructure, the mandate of STDF was currently limited to SPS issues.<sup>196</sup>

6.6. Information on technical assistance activities was provided by BIPM<sup>197</sup>, Codex<sup>198</sup>, IEC<sup>199</sup>, ISO<sup>200</sup>, ITC<sup>201</sup>, OIML<sup>202</sup>, UNIDO<sup>203</sup> and UNECE.<sup>204</sup> The WTO Secretariat provided information on its technical assistance activities during the review period.<sup>205</sup>

## 6.2 Recommendations

6.7. Building on this exchange as well as on previous decisions and recommendations of the Committee, and with a view to furthering its work in the area of technical assistance, the Committee agrees:

- a. to *reaffirm* the need to review the effectiveness of technical assistance and capacity building activities among Members in the TBT area, and *encourage* Members to continue to exchange experiences on technical assistance;
- b. to *stress* the importance and discuss possible approaches to enhancing the active participation of developing Members in thematic sessions held by the Committee;
- c. to *hold* a thematic session in November 2016<sup>206</sup> on technical assistance, including discussion of:
  - i. the positive effects of technical assistance and capacity building in the TBT area for international trade; and,
  - ii. possible approaches to identifying gaps between the demand<sup>207</sup> and supply of technical assistance in the TBT area for developing Members, and seeking to close

<sup>192</sup> G/TBT/GEN/156; RD/TBT/57.

<sup>193</sup> USAID is the United States Agency for International Development.

<sup>194</sup> G/TBT/GEN/156; RD/TBT/60; G/TBT/M/58, para 3.4.

<sup>195</sup> The STDF is the Standards and Trade Development Facility.

<sup>196</sup> G/TBT/GEN/174.

<sup>197</sup> G/TBT/GEN/148; G/TBT/GEN/165.

<sup>198</sup> G/TBT/GEN/136; G/TBT/GEN/153; G/TBT/GEN/160; G/TBT/GEN/166; G/TBT/GEN/173; G/TBT/GEN/177.

<sup>199</sup> G/TBT/GEN/139; G/TBT/GEN/145; G/TBT/GEN/152; G/TBT/GEN/159; G/TBT/GEN/164; G/TBT/GEN/170.

<sup>200</sup> G/TBT/GEN/135; G/TBT/GEN/169.

<sup>201</sup> G/TBT/GEN/147; G/TBT/GEN/172.

<sup>202</sup> G/TBT/GEN/141; G/TBT/GEN/158.

<sup>203</sup> G/TBT/GEN/142.

<sup>204</sup> G/TBT/GEN/140; G/TBT/GEN/146; G/TBT/GEN/178.

<sup>205</sup> TBT Committee meeting of 27-28 November 2012 (G/TBT/GEN/137; RD/TBT/18); TBT Committee meeting of 6-7 March 2013 (G/TBT/GEN/149; RD/TBT/37); TBT Committee meeting of 30-31 October 2013 (G/TBT/GEN/157; G/TBT/GEN/161; RD/TBT/67); TBT Committee meeting of 19-20 March 2014 (G/TBT/GEN/163; RD/TBT/88); TBT Technical Assistance Activities in 2014-2015 (G/TBT/GEN/171; G/TBT/GEN/171/Rev.1; RD/TBT/101; RD/TBT/112); TBT Technical Assistance Activities in 2015-2016 (G/TBT/GEN/171/Rev.2; G/TBT/GEN/171/Rev.3; RD/TBT/114).

<sup>206</sup> See para. 8.3, below.

them where they exist, including through exploring the need for more coordination and better targeted TBT-related technical assistance.

## 7 SPECIAL AND DIFFERENTIAL TREATMENT<sup>208</sup>

"Article 12 of the TBT Agreement addresses **Special and Differential Treatment** of Developing Country Members. Members have, on various occasions, exchanged information and views on the operation and implementation of this Article, including in the context of other items on the TBT Committee's agenda."

G/TBT/1/Rev.12, Section 6, para. 6.1, p. 41 (emphasis added)

### 7.1 Exchange of experiences

7.1. During the review period, most of the Committee's exchange of experiences took place in the context of thematic sessions on special and differential treatment, held on 29 October 2013<sup>209</sup> and 4 November 2014.<sup>210</sup>

7.2. China highlighted the importance of working towards guidelines for the implementation of the special and differential treatment provisions of the TBT Agreement.<sup>211</sup> China suggested establishing a TBT Committee electronic working group to develop special and differential treatment guidelines, and gave some preliminary ideas for themes of the guidelines, including: notifications; specific trade concerns; equivalence recognition; and, assistance for effective participation in international standardization work. Cuba stressed the importance of ensuring a better implementation of Article 12 on special and differential treatment, and of sharing experiences among Members to that end.<sup>212</sup>

7.3. Ecuador described the special and differential treatment provisions of the TBT Agreement and related case law, and put forward suggestions for strengthening and making Article 12 more effective and operational, especially in relation to avoiding unnecessary obstacles to trade (Article 12.3), granting of exceptions (Article 12.8), international standards (Article 12.4), technical assistance (Articles 12.5, 12.6, 12.7 and 12.8) and notifications (Article 12.8).<sup>213</sup>

7.4. The European Union explained how the European Commission's Impact Assessment Guidelines integrate the development dimension in the EU rule-making process. Impact assessments should establish, amongst others, whether a proposed EU initiative has international impacts, which include impacts on trade with other Members, and economic, social, and environmental impacts on developing Members to ensure coherence with the objectives of EU development policy. These impacts are considered by regulators on a case-by-case basis in the rule making process, in their efforts to strike an appropriate balance between the various interests at stake.<sup>214</sup>

7.5. The WTO Secretariat provided information on work related to special and differential treatment in the Committee on Trade and Development and the Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures.<sup>215</sup>

<sup>207</sup> In line with the Committee's agreement on a demand-driven approach to the technical assistance. G/TBT/26, para. 59.

<sup>208</sup> Previous decisions and recommendations on Special and Differential are contained in Section 6 (Part 1) of G/TBT/1/Rev.12. The latest Secretariat background note is contained in JOB/TBT/65.

<sup>209</sup> G/TBT/GEN/156.

<sup>210</sup> G/TBT/GEN/174.

<sup>211</sup> G/TBT/GEN/156, para. 8; RD/TBT/62.

<sup>212</sup> JOB/TBT/62

<sup>213</sup> G/TBT/GEN/156, para. 8; JOB/TBT/71; JOB/TBT/49.

<sup>214</sup> G/TBT/GEN/156, para. 6; RD/TBT/66.

<sup>215</sup> G/TBT/GEN/156, para. 7; RD/TBT/63; RD/TBT/65.

## 7.2 Recommendations

7.6. Building on this exchange as well as on previous decisions and recommendations of the Committee, and with a view to furthering its work in the area of special and differential treatment, the Committee agrees:

- a. to *encourage* Members to continue to exchange information on the implementation of Article 12 of the TBT Agreement, with a view towards enhancing the effective operation of Article 12.

## 8 OPERATION OF THE COMMITTEE<sup>216</sup>

**Operation of the Committee.** "Pursuant to Article 13 of the TBT Agreement, the TBT Committee was established with the purpose of: "affording Members the opportunity of consulting on any matters relating to the operation of this Agreement or the furtherance of its objectives, and shall carry out such responsibilities as assigned to it under this Agreement or by the Members". The Committee has, to date, essentially had two functions: (i) the review of measures and (ii) exchange of information on Members' experiences on the implementation of the Agreement."

G/TBT/32, para. 23, p. 9.

### 8.1 Exchange of experiences

8.1. During the review period the Committee held nine **regular meetings**, from March 2013 to November 2015.<sup>217</sup> With respect to review of measures, a total of 126 new specific trade concerns (STCs) were raised in the review period (Chart 2). In addition, 124 previously raised STCs were also discussed.<sup>218</sup> During 2014, the most new STCs were raised (47) in any given year since 1995. Chart 3 shows an overall upward trend in both notifications and STCs.<sup>219</sup>

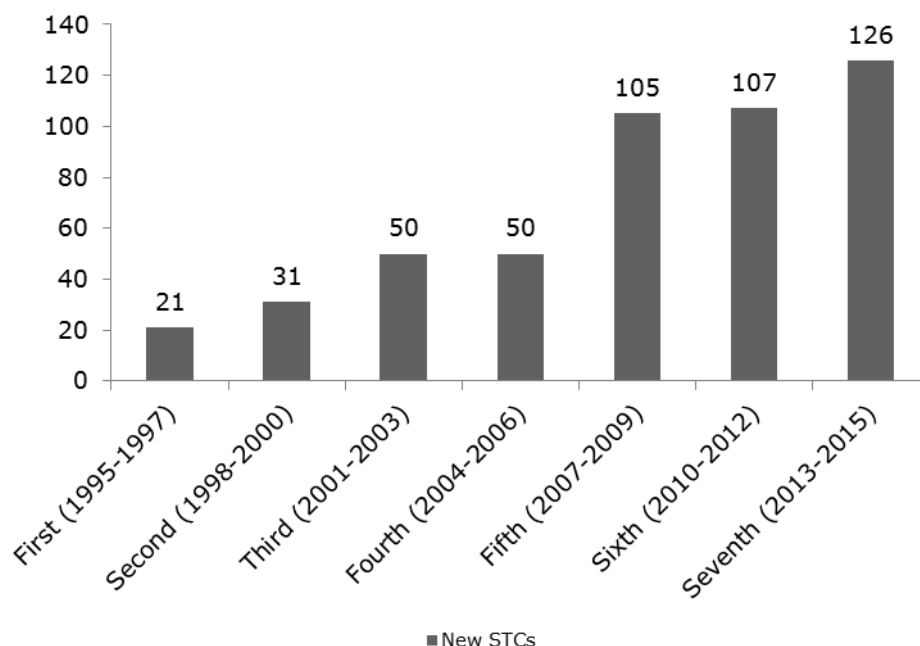
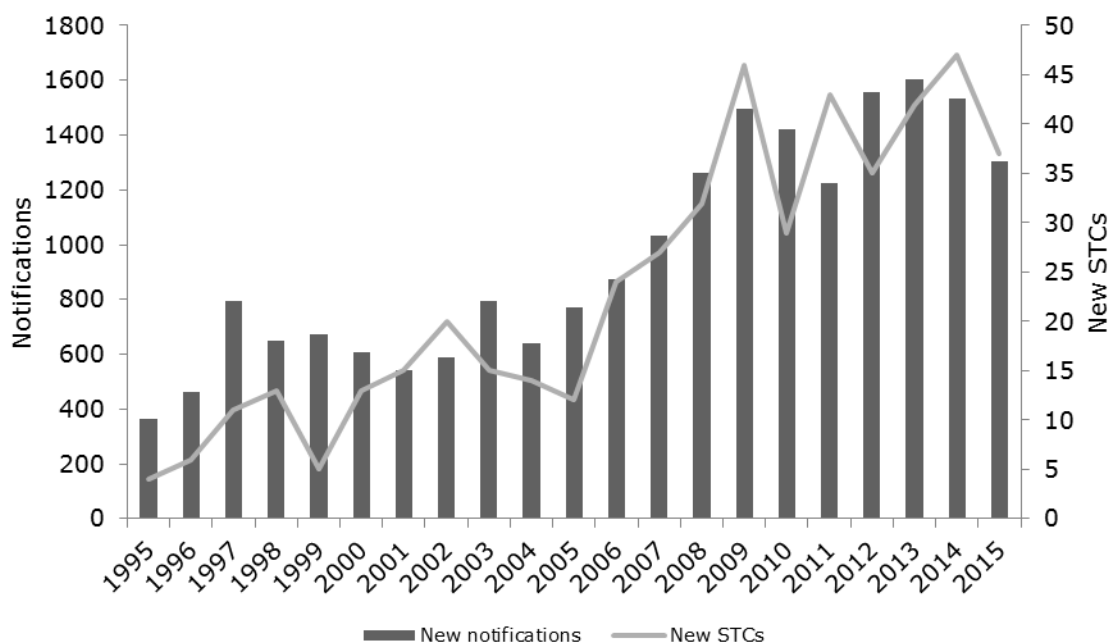
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<sup>216</sup> Previous decisions and recommendations on Operation of the Committee are contained in Section 7 (Part 1) of G/TBT/1/Rev.12. The Annual Reviews of the Implementation and Operation of the TBT Agreement for 2013 and 2014 are contained in: G/TBT/34; and G/TBT/36.

<sup>217</sup> G/TBT/M/59; G/TBT/M/60; G/TBT/M/61; G/TBT/M/62; G/TBT/M/63; G/TBT/M/64/Rev.1; G/TBT/M/65; G/TBT/M/66; and G/TBT/M/67.

<sup>218</sup> <http://tbtime.wto.org/>.

<sup>219</sup> G/TBT/36.

**Chart 2: New specific trade concerns per Triennial Review period****Chart 3: Trends in notifications and STCs<sup>220</sup>**

8.2. Back-to-back with the regular meetings, the Committee also held **thematic sessions** that addressed the following cross-cutting issues related to the implementation and operation of the TBT Agreement: good regulatory practice<sup>221</sup>, regulatory cooperation between Members<sup>222</sup>, standards<sup>223</sup>, conformity assessment procedures<sup>224</sup>, transparency (including the Committee's

<sup>220</sup> Figures for 2015 are up to and including 6 November 2015.

<sup>221</sup> G/TBT/GEN/143; G/TBT/GEN/143/Add.1; G/TBT/GEN/143/Add.2; JOB/TBT/125; JOB/TBT/134.

<sup>222</sup> JOB/TBT/125; JOB/TBT/134.

<sup>223</sup> G/TBT/GEN/144; G/TBT/GEN/144/Add.1; JOB/TBT/134.

<sup>224</sup> G/TBT/GEN/155; G/TBT/GEN/174; JOB/TBT/134.

Seventh Special Meeting on Procedures for Information Exchange)<sup>225</sup>, technical assistance and special and differential treatment<sup>226</sup>, and the operation of the Committee.<sup>227</sup>

## 8.2 Recommendations

8.3. Building on the valuable experiences gained in the context of thematic sessions since 2012, and with a view to further deepening the Committee's exchange of experiences on specific topics, the Committee agrees:

- a. to *continue* to hold thematic sessions in conjunction with its regular meetings<sup>228</sup>; and,
- b. on the following *work programme* for thematic sessions<sup>229</sup>:
  - i. March 2016: conformity assessment procedures<sup>230</sup> and good regulatory practice<sup>231</sup>
  - ii. June 2016: regulatory cooperation between Members<sup>232</sup> and standards<sup>233</sup>
  - iii. November 2016: transparency, including the Eighth Special Meeting on Procedures for Information Exchange<sup>234</sup>, technical assistance<sup>235</sup> and regulatory cooperation between Members<sup>236</sup>
  - iv. In 2017 and 2018, Members will continue to hold thematic sessions as appropriate pursuant to the decisions and recommendations before the Committee.

<sup>225</sup> G/TBT/GEN/151; G/TBT/GEN/167; JOB/TBT/125; JOB/TBT/134.

<sup>226</sup> G/TBT/GEN/156; G/TBT/GEN/174.

<sup>227</sup> JOB/TBT/125; JOB/TBT/134.

<sup>228</sup> At the Sixth Triennial Review, Members agreed on the need to focus and deepen their work and decided to dedicate time to thematic sessions in response to the specific decisions and recommendations in the Triennial Review reports, in order to press for greater progress on these issues (G/TBT/32, para. 26).

<sup>229</sup> This listing is flexible. Members may agree to include other matters for discussion, or they may agree to otherwise adapt this work programme to reflect unforeseen developments. The Committee will organize these thematic sessions based on proposals from Members.

<sup>230</sup> See para. 3.9, above.

<sup>231</sup> See para. 1.8, above.

<sup>232</sup> See para. 2.3, above.

<sup>233</sup> See para. 4.10, above.

<sup>234</sup> G/TBT/1/Rev.12, Section 4.6, p. 36. See para. 5.12, above.

<sup>235</sup> See para. 6.7, above.

<sup>236</sup> See para. 2.3, above.

**ANNEX: SUBMISSIONS FROM MEMBERS BY TOPIC (NOV. 2012 – NOV. 2015)<sup>1</sup>**

Member	Symbol & Date	Title
<b>Good Regulatory Practice</b>		
United States	JOB/TBT/148 13 October 2015	Comments from United States on JOB/TBT/135
China	JOB/TBT/146 13 October 2015	Comments from China on JOB/TBT/135
Uganda	JOB/TBT/138 24 September 2015	Comments from Uganda on JOB/TBT/135
Australia	G/TBT/W/414/Rev.1 21 August 2015	WTO Member Initiatives to Encourage the Adoption of International Standards – Seventh Triennial Review
South Africa	G/TBT/W/418 1 June 2015	Good Regulatory Practice – Regulatory Impact Assessment (RIA); Risk Assessment; Draft Technical Regulations and Conformity Assessment Procedures not available in WTO Working Languages – Seventh Triennial Review
Mexico	G/TBT/W/396 20 January 2015	Regulatory Cooperation, Good Regulatory Practice and Transparency – Seventh Triennial Review
Mexico	G/TBT/W/378 17 March 2014	Good Regulatory Practice: the Mexican Experience
<b>Regulatory Cooperation Between Members</b>		
United States	JOB/TBT/148 13 October 2015	Comments from United States on JOB/TBT/135
India	JOB/TBT/147 13 October 2015	Comments from India on JOB/TBT/135
China	JOB/TBT/146 13 October 2015	Comments from China on JOB/TBT/135
Chile	JOB/TBT/144 13 October 2015	Comments from Chile on JOB/TBT/135
Argentina	JOB/TBT/141 1 October 2015	Comments from Argentina on JOB/TBT/135
Mexico	JOB/TBT/139 28 September 2015	Comments from Mexico on JOB/TBT/135
Switzerland	G/TBT/W/400/Rev.1 9 June 2015	Proposal on the Operation of the Committee – Seventh Triennial Review
China	G/TBT/W/416 1 June 2015	Proposal for a Thematic Discussion on Energy Efficiency Standards – Seventh Triennial Review
Switzerland	G/TBT/W/400 12 March 2015	Proposal on the Operation of the Committee – Seventh Triennial Review
Mexico	G/TBT/W/396 20 January 2015	Regulatory Cooperation, Good Regulatory Practice and Transparency – Seventh Triennial Review
<b>Conformity Assessment Procedures</b>		
United States	JOB/TBT/148 13 October 2015	Comments from United States on JOB/TBT/135
India	JOB/TBT/147 13 October 2015	Comments from India on JOB/TBT/135
China	JOB/TBT/146 13 October 2015	Comments from China on JOB/TBT/135

<sup>1</sup> Submissions are arranged by subject, in reverse chronological order. Should a submission be relevant to more than one topic it will appear more than once. More general information, such as the reports provided by the Chairperson on thematic sessions or information provided by observers is not included in this list.

Member	Symbol & Date	Title
Peru, Singapore and Switzerland	JOB/TBT/145 13 October 2015	Comments from Peru, Singapore and Switzerland on JOB/TBT/135
Chinese Taipei	JOB/TBT/142 8 October 2015	Comments from Chinese Taipei on JOB/TBT/135
Mexico	JOB/TBT/139 28 September 2015	Comments from Mexico on JOB/TBT/135
Uganda	JOB/TBT/138 24 September 2015	Comments from Uganda on JOB/TBT/135
Japan	JOB/TBT/137 23 September 2015	Comments from Japan on JOB/TBT/135
Japan	G/TBT/W/412/Rev.1 13 July 2015	Conformity Assessment Procedures – Seventh Triennial Review
United States	G/TBT/W/411/Rev.1 13 July 2015	Improving the Understanding of the Trade Enabling Benefits of a National Quality Infrastructure – Seventh Triennial Review
Chinese Taipei	G/TBT/W/417/Rev.1 10 July 2015	Proposal on the Recognition and Acceptance of Conformity Assessment Results – Seventh Triennial Review
Ukraine	G/TBT/W/420 4 June 2015	Conformity Assessment Procedures – Seventh Triennial Review
Chinese Taipei	G/TBT/W/417 1 June 2015	Proposal on the Recognition and Acceptance of Conformity Assessment Results – Seventh Triennial Review
Japan	G/TBT/W/412 1 June 2015	Conformity Assessment Procedures – Seventh Triennial Review
United States	G/TBT/W/411 29 May 2015	Improving the Understanding of the Trade Enabling Benefits of a National Quality Infrastructure – Seventh Triennial Review
Canada	G/TBT/GEN/154 25 October 2013	A New Regulatory Framework for Federal Food Inspection: Discussion Document
<b>Standards</b>		
China	JOB/TBT/146 13 October 2015	Comments from China on JOB/TBT/135
Mexico	JOB/TBT/139 28 September 2015	Comments from Mexico on JOB/TBT/135
Uganda	JOB/TBT/138 24 September 2015	Comments from Uganda on JOB/TBT/135
Japan	JOB/TBT/137 23 September 2015	Comments from Japan on JOB/TBT/135
Australia	G/TBT/W/414/Rev.1 21 August 2015	WTO Member Initiatives to Encourage the Adoption of International Standards – Seventh Triennial Review
Japan	G/TBT/W/413/Corr.1 5 June 2015	Transparency – Seventh Triennial Review
Australia	G/TBT/W/414 1 June 2015	WTO Member Initiatives to Encourage the Adoption of International Standards – Seventh Triennial Review
Japan	G/TBT/W/413 1 June 2015	Transparency – Seventh Triennial Review
Mexico	G/TBT/GEN/7/Add.20 8 October 2014	Communication pursuant Article 10.3.1 of the TBT Agreement
Mexico	G/TBT/GEN/7/Add.19 7 May 2014	Communication pursuant Article 10.3.1 of the TBT Agreement
Burundi	G/TBT/GEN/162 24 February 2014	Information concerning the Burundian Standardization and Quality Control Bureau (BBN)

Member	Symbol & Date	Title
Mexico	G/TBT/GEN/7/Add.18 1 October 2013	Communication pursuant Article 10.3.1 of the TBT Agreement
Mexico	G/TBT/GEN/7/Add.17 1 May 2013	Communication pursuant Article 10.3.1 of the TBT Agreement
Japan	G/TBT/W/357 18 February 2013	Transparency in Standard-Setting
<b>Transparency</b>		
United States	JOB/TBT/148 13 October 2015	Comments from United States on JOB/TBT/135
India	JOB/TBT/147 13 October 2015	Comments from India on JOB/TBT/135
China	JOB/TBT/146 13 October 2015	Comments from China on JOB/TBT/135
Peru, Singapore and Switzerland	JOB/TBT/145 13 October 2015	Comments from Peru, Singapore and Switzerland on JOB/TBT/135
Mauritius	JOB/TBT/143 13 October 2015	Comments from Mauritius on JOB/TBT/135
Republic of Korea	JOB/TBT/140/Corr.1 1 October 2015	Comments from Republic of Korea on JOB/TBT/135
Mexico	JOB/TBT/139 28 September 2015	Comments from Mexico on JOB/TBT/135
Uganda	JOB/TBT/138 24 September 2015	Comments from Uganda on JOB/TBT/135
Republic of Korea	G/TBT/W/419/Rev.1 13 July 2015	Transparency – Seventh Triennial Review
United States	G/TBT/W/415/Rev.1 13 July 2015	Best Practices for the Notification of Regional Technical Regulations – Seventh Triennial Review
Seychelles	JOB/TBT/133 18 June 2015	Comments by Seychelles on G/TBT/W/395 – Seventh Triennial Review
Uganda	JOB/TBT/131 12 June 2015	Comments by Uganda on G/TBT/W/419 – Seventh Triennial Review
Uganda	JOB/TBT/130 12 June 2015	Comments by Uganda on G/TBT/W/418 – Seventh Triennial Review
Uganda	JOB/TBT/129 12 June 2015	Comments by Uganda on G/TBT/W/415 – Seventh Triennial Review
Uganda	JOB/TBT/128 12 June 2015	Comments by Uganda on G/TBT/W/413 – Seventh Triennial Review
Japan	G/TBT/W/413/Corr.1 5 June 2015	Transparency – Seventh Triennial Review
Republic of Korea	G/TBT/W/419 1 June 2015	Transparency – Seventh Triennial Review
South Africa	G/TBT/W/418 1 June 2015	Good Regulatory Practice – Regulatory Impact Assessment (RIA); Risk Assessment; Draft Technical Regulations and Conformity Assessment Procedures not available in WTO Working Languages – Seventh Triennial Review
United States	G/TBT/W/415 1 June 2015	Best Practices for the Notification of Regional Technical Regulations – Seventh Triennial Review
Japan	G/TBT/W/413 1 June 2015	Transparency – Seventh Triennial Review
Indonesia	JOB/TBT/124 10 March 2015	Comments by Indonesia G/TBT/W/395 – Seventh Triennial Review



Member	Symbol & Date	Title
Canada	G/TBT/W/398 26 February 2015	Proposal for a WTO-Based Alert Notification System Global Export Alert! Notification System
Mexico	JOB/TBT/122 25 February 2015	Proposal for G/TBT/W/395 – Seventh Triennial Review
Mexico	G/TBT/W/396 20 January 2015	Regulatory Cooperation, Good Regulatory Practice and Transparency – Seventh Triennial Review
Uganda	G/TBT/W/395 15 January 2015	Proposal for Further Improvement of the WTO TBT Online Notification Submission System (TBT NSS) – Seventh Triennial Review
Uganda	G/TBT/GEN/176 16 December 2014	Proposal for a WTO-Based Alert Notification System Global Export Alert! Notification System: Statement by Uganda at the TBT Committee Meeting of 5-6 November 2014.
Canada	JOB/TBT/109 10 October 2014	Proposal for a WTO-Based Alert Notification System Global Export Alert! Notification System
TBT Committee	G/TBT/35 24 June 2014	Coherent use of Notification Formats
<b>Technical Assistance</b>		
Uganda	JOB/TBT/150 30 October 2015	Comments from Uganda on JOB/TBT/135/Rev.1
Chile	JOB/TBT/144 13 October 2015	Comments from Chile on JOB/TBT/135
Mauritius	JOB/TBT/143 13 October 2015	Comments from Mauritius on JOB/TBT/135
Republic of Korea	JOB/TBT/140/Corr.1 1 October 2015	Comments from Republic of Korea on JOB/TBT/135
Mexico	JOB/TBT/139 28 September 2015	Comments from Mexico on JOB/TBT/135
<b>Special and Differential Treatment</b>		
Ecuador	JOB/TBT/71 30 October 2013	General Comments Concerning the Implementation of Article 12 of the Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade
Cuba	JOB/TBT/62 10 September 2013	Comments and Contributions from Cuba for the Thematic Session on Special and Differential Treatment to be held on 29 October in the Committee on Technical Barriers to Trade
Ecuador	JOB/TBT/49 3 July 2013	Preparation of the Thematic Session on Special and Differential Treatment and Technical Assistance to be held on 29 October 2013
<b>Operation of the Committee</b>		
United States	JOB/TBT/148 13 October 2015	Comments from United States on JOB/TBT/135
India	JOB/TBT/147 13 October 2015	Comments from India on JOB/TBT/135
China	JOB/TBT/146 13 October 2015	Comments from China on JOB/TBT/135
Peru, Singapore and Switzerland	JOB/TBT/145 13 October 2015	Comments from Peru, Singapore and Switzerland on JOB/TBT/135
Chile	JOB/TBT/144 13 October 2015	Comments from Chile on JOB/TBT/135
Argentina	JOB/TBT/141 1 October 2015	Comments from Argentina on JOB/TBT/135

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<b>Member</b>	<b>Symbol &amp; Date</b>	<b>Title</b>
Mexico	JOB/TBT/139 28 September 2015	Comments from Mexico on JOB/TBT/135
Uganda	JOB/TBT/138 24 September 2015	Comments from Uganda on JOB/TBT/135
Switzerland	G/TBT/W/400/Rev.1 9 June 2015	Proposal on the Operation of the Committee – Seventh Triennial Review
China	G/TBT/W/416 1 June 2015	Proposal for a Thematic Discussion on Energy Efficiency Standards – Seventh Triennial Review
Switzerland	G/TBT/W/400 12 March 2015	Proposal on the Operation of the Committee – Seventh Triennial Review

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