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Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures

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**SIXTH REVIEW OF THE OPERATION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE AGREEMENT
ON THE APPLICATION OF SANITARY AND PHYTOSANITARY MEASURES**

AMENDED PROPOSALS

PROPOSAL FROM THE UNITED KINGDOM

The following proposal, received on 19 April 2024, is being circulated at the request of the delegation of the United Kingdom.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1. Following the presentation and discussion of proposals for the Sixth Review of the Operation and Implementation of the WTO SPS Agreement at the informal meeting of 20 March 2024, and having considered the contributions of other Members made at that time, the United Kingdom has amended their proposals. In the interest of supporting the efficient operation of the Committee, the United Kingdom would like to withdraw our previous proposals and submit the streamlined proposals below for consideration.

1.2. The United Kingdom recognizes that other proposals may be submitted by Members for 19 April deadline. We want to ensure a collaborative approach to the refinement, consolidation and finalization of proposals covering similar topics or themes and plan on reaching out to Members with corresponding suggestions shortly.

2 AMENDED UK PROPOSALS FOR TOPICS TO BE CONSIDERED UNDER THE SIXTH REVIEW OF THE OPERATION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE WTO AGREEMENT ON THE APPLICATION OF SPS MEASURES

2.1 Explore how to further enhance effective utilisation of existing flexibilities and support for developing and least developed countries on the development and application of SPS measures to build on the MC13 SPS and TBT Declaration.

2.1. In light of the recent MC13 S&DT Declaration - and - building on the relevant workstream from the MC12 SPS Declaration work programme (group 5) - we believe the Committee should further consider ways to enhance accessibility and effective utilisation of existing flexibilities within the SPS Agreement that support developing and LDC Members to engage and benefit from international trade. (Relevant SPS Agreement Article 9: Technical Assistance, and Article 10: Special and Differential Treatment). Recognizing the fundamental importance of contributions from developing and least developed countries into any discussions on this topic, the United Kingdom proposes the Committee continue the work on exploring how the existing flexibilities in the SPS Agreement could be used more efficiently, with a focus on sharing and exploring best practices.

2.2 Review and promote the role of electronic/IT technologies ranging from but not limited to electronic certifications, ePhyto system, ePing SPS&TBT Platform, remote audits and verifications; and virtual communication tools to aid the effective application and operation of SPS measures to facilitate trade and support the functioning of the SPS Committee by enabling more effective information sharing between Members

2.2. We propose a theme that explores in more detail the role of electronic tools and techniques that can be employed to aid the application of SPS measures, including ensuring that cost and ease of implementation do not create undue barriers to trade (for developing and LDC countries in particular). (Relevant SPS Agreement Article 8: Control, Inspection and Approval Procedures and Article 9: Technical Assistance).
