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Committee on Agriculture
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Sub-Committee on Cotton

COTTON

BACKGROUND PAPER BY THE SECRETARIAT[1]

Addendum

This document contains three additional replies from Chad, the European Union and the Russian Federation, respectively, to the questionnaire on recent policy developments for cotton, which was circulated on 10 October 2017. The document should be read in conjunction with Annex 4 of document TN/AG/GEN/34/Rev.7 – TN/AG/SCC/GEN/13/Rev.7, which was circulated on 7 November 2017.

[1] This document has been prepared under the Secretariat's own responsibility and is without prejudice to the positions of Members or to their rights and obligations under the WTO. It has been prepared for information only and is not intended to provide any authoritative or official legal interpretation of the provisions of the WTO Agreements in general or in relation to any measure listed in this document.

ANNEX 4

MEMBERS' REPLIES TO THE QUESTIONNAIRE ON NEW OR UPDATED COTTON-RELATED POLICY DEVELOPMENTS

Reply from Chad

Market access

Given the fact that cotton is picked by hand in Chad, as in most African cotton-producing countries, Chadian cotton fibre does not face any particular market access problems. Furthermore, the two varieties cultivated in Chad are still favoured by spinners, owing to the length of their fibre and their tenacity. It is more the quantity that is insufficient, as the production of seed cotton is increasingly in decline.

Domestic support

In terms of support, Chadian cotton still benefits from actions by the State, which is a guarantor for loans from bank pools in favour of the cotton company, and from cotton fertilizer subsidies. Other than the State, there are no other forms of domestic support.

Export competition

In view of the high production and processing costs, which are due to the country's location on the continent, Chadian cotton still faces challenges when it comes to world market prices, in comparison with major producing countries such as China, the United States and certain European countries, in which producers receive considerable State support.

However, as pointed out above, the quality of Chadian cotton fibre provides a comparative advantage.

Reply from the European Union

No new cotton-related policy developments took place since the update in March 2017 (page 97 of document TN/AG/GEN/34/Rev.7 - TN/AG/SCC/GEN/13/Rev.7).

Reply from the Russian Federation

Market Access

Cotton fiber exports and imports of Russian Federation (thousand US dollars)

	2017 (8 months)
Export	
Republic of Belarus	379.5
Kazakhstan	0.1
Latvia	5,432.9
Total	5,812.5
Import	
Azerbaijan	279.8
Republic of Belarus	13.5
Kazakhstan	4,648.3
Kyrgyz Republic	894.2
Latvia	173.7
Tajikistan	1,691.9
Turkmenistan	483.3
Republic of Uzbekistan	4,119.5
Total	12,304.3

Domestic Support

The Russian Federation does not provide domestic support for cotton.

Export Competition

There are no specific measures in the context of export competition for cotton in the Russian Federation.