



Committee on Technical Barriers to Trade

**EIGHTH 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 Eighth Triennial Review is being carried out in 2018 in accordance with the mandate under Article 15.4 of the Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT Agreement).¹ It was concluded on 15 November 2018.² The Committee's previous seven triennial reviews were completed in 1997, 2000, 2003, 2006, 2009, 2012 and 2015.³ During the review period (November 2015 – November 2018), the Committee has undertaken work to follow up on specific decisions and recommendations agreed in previous reviews.⁴

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.13](#).

1 GOOD REGULATORY PRACTICE

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 unnecessary obstacles to trade. Institutionalizing the various mechanisms, processes and procedures of GRP through laws, regulations and guidance, as well as through the creation and designation of institutions within Member governments to oversee regulatory processes, is seen as a means of giving effect to GRP. Effective internal policy coordination, including among regulators, standardizing bodies and trade officials implementing the TBT Agreement, is stressed. Additionally, regulatory cooperation between Members is an effective means of disseminating GRP.

[G/TBT/1/Rev.13](#), p.6

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 Good Regulatory Practice (GRP), held on 8 March 2016⁵ and 28 March 2017.⁶ The topic of GRP was also discussed in the contexts of regulatory cooperation between Members (Section 2), conformity assessment procedures (Section 4), transparency (Section 6), and technical assistance (Section 7). The Committee also undertook discussions during this period to advance the mandate from the Sixth Triennial Review to find a way forward on the non-exhaustive list of voluntary mechanisms and related principles of GRP (the "non-exhaustive list") to guide Members in the efficient and effective implementation of the TBT Agreement across the regulatory lifecycle.⁷

1.2. In the discussions, several Members provided examples of the **benefits of GRP**. The Philippines explained that GRP helps ensure the design of high-quality and cost-effective regulations

¹ Article 15.4 of the TBT Agreement states: "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".

² A list of submissions circulated in the TBT Committee relevant to the topics under review is contained in the Annex to this document (p. 26).

³ Reports of these triennial reviews are contained in: [G/TBT/5](#); [G/TBT/9](#); [G/TBT/13](#); [G/TBT/19](#); [G/TBT/26](#); [G/TBT/32](#); and [G/TBT/37](#).

⁴ A compilation of the TBT Committee's Decisions and Recommendations adopted since January 1995 is contained in document [G/TBT/1/Rev.13](#). This document also contains the Committee's Rules of Procedure, including Guidelines for Observer Status for Governments and International Intergovernmental Organizations.

⁵ [G/TBT/GEN/191](#).

⁶ [G/TBT/GEN/214](#).

⁷ Relevant documents concerning the "non-exhaustive list" ([JOB/TBT/119/Rev.1](#)) are contained in: [G/TBT/GEN/192](#); [G/TBT/M/68](#), paras. 2.349 – 2.350; and, [G/TBT/M/74](#), paras 2.269 – 2.292.

that are also compatible with open trade. It also contributes to the establishment of a common and predictable framework for regulatory intervention which in turn facilitates global regulatory cooperation and harmonization. The ASEAN⁸ Good Regulatory Practice Guide of 2009 assists ASEAN governments to this effect.⁹ Canada noted that a focus on small businesses in targeted administrative burden-reduction initiatives ("the small business lens") contributes to reducing regulatory costs without compromising other important social objectives.¹⁰

1.3. Specifically on the topics of **internal coordination** and **transparency and consultation**, South Africa recalled the importance of establishing domestic administrative mechanisms to facilitate cooperation and coordination between competent authorities and coordination with other stakeholders. In this respect, South Africa highlighted the use of domestic TBT committees to assist with the effective implementation and operation of the TBT Agreement.¹¹ The European Union described the EU Better Regulation Portal which aims to further open up policy-making by enabling stakeholders and citizens to express their views throughout the entire life cycle of a policy.¹² The Republic of Korea noted that efforts on regulatory reform and rationalization of technical regulations have eased burdens on ministries, and that its Regulatory Information System improves efficiency by reducing time for information exchange between agencies.¹³ China described its Trade Policy Compliance Mechanism, and explained that numerous laws and regulations were amended and optimized; more than 1,000 policies by the central and local governments were reviewed by the end of 2015.¹⁴

1.4. A discussion specific to the topic of **regulatory impact assessment** (RIA) also took place. Australia described implementation of best practice in RIA, in particular on transparency and public consultation. Public consultation informs all elements of a Regulatory Impact Statement (RIS), helps identify viable policy alternatives, confirms the accuracy of data, ensures that there are no unintended consequences and helps increase understanding amongst affected stakeholders.¹⁵ The European Union explained how trade impacts and TBT Agreement obligations are taken into account in the preparation of RIAs in the EU, in the context of the "Policy Cycle" of the Better Regulation agenda.¹⁶ The Republic of Korea presented the use of "Technical Regulatory Impact Assessment" in Korea, which aims to improve not only the quality of regulation but also helps strengthen coordination among related ministries.¹⁷ The Philippines said it was in the process of creating an oversight body to review RIAs or RIS formulated by different regulatory agencies.¹⁸

1.5. The United States explained that its use of RIAs is based on a requirement set out in two Executive Orders for "economically significant" regulations, and that agencies have an obligation to consider trade impacts in RIAs. The US highlighted characteristics of good RIAs: they are transparent, clear, have a logical structure; use good science; are well documented; and include a discussion of sources and the magnitude of uncertainty.¹⁹ Brazil noted that RIAs should be applied *ex ante* and *ex post* and highlighted the benefits of RIAs for reducing unnecessary regulatory burdens. However, developing and least developed Members (LDCs) face challenges in applying RIAs due to lack of available data and structured databases, and in this respect information sharing on RIA is beneficial for both transparency purposes and as an effective form of technical assistance.²⁰

1.1.1 Other information

1.6. Observers also provided relevant information. The OECD²¹ noted that about two thirds of its members report that they assess trade impacts as part their RIA processes, although this is not

⁸ Association of Southeast Asian Nations.

⁹ [G/TBT/GEN/214](#), paras. 1-2; and [RD/TBT/210](#).

¹⁰ [G/TBT/GEN/214](#), para. 3; and [RD/TBT/211](#).

¹¹ [G/TBT/W/452](#), paras. 2.1-2.3.

¹² [G/TBT/GEN/214](#), para. 5; and [RD/TBT/213](#).

¹³ [G/TBT/GEN/214](#), para. 4; and [RD/TBT/212](#).

¹⁴ [G/TBT/GEN/191](#), para. 5; and [RD/TBT/139](#).

¹⁵ [G/TBT/GEN/191](#), para. 3; and [RD/TBT/135](#).

¹⁶ [G/TBT/GEN/191](#), para. 6; and [RD/TBT/140](#).

¹⁷ [G/TBT/GEN/191](#), para. 1; and [RD/TBT/131](#).

¹⁸ [G/TBT/M/70](#), Annex, para. 1.7; and https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/tbt_e/6_Philippines_e.pdf

¹⁹ [G/TBT/GEN/191](#), para. 4; and [RD/TBT/136](#).

²⁰ [G/TBT/W/461/Rev.1](#), paras. 2.4-2.8.

²¹ Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development.

without challenges.²² Other relevant updates were provided by [ARSO](#)²³, [OECD](#)²⁴, [SADC](#)²⁵, and [UNECE](#).²⁶

1.2 Recommendations

1.7. 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 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, in this vein:
 - i. to *dedicate*, unless otherwise agreed, the first thematic session of the TBT Committee each year to the topic of GRP;
 - ii. to *hold* a thematic session on the role and function of domestic committees, and other administrative mechanisms, that facilitate internal coordination on TBT;
- b. to *encourage* those Members that conduct RIA or similar initiatives as part of their regulatory process to provide, to the extent feasible, a hyperlink to the studies (*ex ante*) in the pertinent notification to the TBT Committee, as well as to notify on a regular basis or publish on a publicly accessible website the subsequent related assessments (*ex post*) in the national language²⁷;

2 REGULATORY COOPERATION BETWEEN MEMBERS

"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/1/Rev.13](#), p.9

2.1 Exchange of experiences

2.1. During the review period, most of the Committee's exchange of experiences took place in the context of two thematic sessions on regulatory cooperation between Members, held on 14 June 2016 (energy efficiency), and on 9 November 2016 (food (nutrition) labelling).²⁸

2.1.1 Energy efficiency

2.2. Members described a range of **national schemes and programmes** related to energy efficiency. [Australia](#) described its experience in applying minimum energy performance standards (MEPS) through the Equipment Energy Efficiency (E3) programme.²⁹ [Canada](#) said its energy efficiency regulations cover a wide range of product categories and include references to mandatory MEPS, which are viewed as a cost-effective way of reducing energy consumption and Greenhouse

²² [G/TBT/GEN/191](#), para. 2; [RD/TBT/134](#) and [RD/TBT/133](#).

²³ African Organization for Standardisation ([G/TBT/GEN/200](#); [G/TBT/GEN/219](#); [G/TBT/GEN/239](#); and [RD/TBT/142](#)).

²⁴ [G/TBT/GEN/208](#).

²⁵ Southern African Development Community ([G/TBT/GEN/189](#)).

²⁶ United Nations Economic Commission for Europe ([G/TBT/GEN/187](#); [G/TBT/GEN/201](#); [G/TBT/GEN/224](#); [G/TBT/GEN/234](#); [G/TBT/GEN/245](#); and [G/TBT/GEN/247](#)).

²⁷ In line with a previous recommendation by the TBT Committee, for *ex ante* RIAs, this information could be made available through a hyperlink to the assessment in Box 8 of the notification template or by including the assessment in the draft measure itself ([G/TBT/1/Rev.13](#), Section 5.6.2.1.d. on p.35).

²⁸ [G/TBT/GEN/198](#); and [G/TBT/GEN/205](#).

²⁹ [G/TBT/GEN/198](#), para. 1.3.

Gas (GHG) emissions and have been particularly effective in removing the least-efficient products from the marketplace.³⁰

2.3. China presented its national mandatory energy efficiency standards, based on minimum allowable values for energy efficiency (so as to phase out low efficiency products), energy efficiency grades (labelling programmes to inform the consumer) and an index for evaluating energy-saving products (a certification scheme).³¹ The European Union introduced its energy efficiency policies, which include product energy performance ("eco-design") requirements (to "push" the market by allowing only products that meet minimum requirements for energy efficiency thus influencing the supply side) and energy labelling (to "pull" the market by influencing the demand side). EU harmonization avoids fragmentation of rules within the Single Market.³²

2.4. Japan explained its "Top Runner Programme" which develops standards that promote high energy efficiency for a wide array of products. By evaluating manufactures' and importers' achievements based on a weighted average of products, the programme also ensures diversity of products in the market and makes it possible to promote innovations.³³ The Republic of Korea presented its range of voluntary and mandatory energy efficiency programmes, energy labelling schemes, and highlighted the importance of addressing network standby energy consumption.³⁴

2.5. Mexico outlined its process for developing energy efficiency regulation, and explained that it opted for a mandatory approach taking into account several issues including its consumer culture.³⁵ Singapore introduced the work of its national standards body SPRING (now known as Enterprise Singapore) to bring together industry, regulators, academia and consumers to identify, develop and promote energy efficiency standards, which are used by regulators to define: best practices in energy management systems (ISO 50001); minimum energy performance of equipment used in buildings; test methods for home appliances; and, the Green Mark Assessment Criteria to speed up the pace of green building development.³⁶

2.6. South Africa presented its national standard for Energy Efficient Measurement and Verification (M&V) (SANS 50010:2011) linked to tax incentives for energy efficiency, and supported by an accreditation programme for Energy Efficient M&V bodies under SANAS.^{37, 38} The United States presented Energy Star, a global voluntary energy efficiency labelling programme managed by the EPA³⁹, relying on performance specifications, testing and verification. It was noted that the EPA product specification development cycle is elaborate, transparent and provides opportunity for international input. All Energy Star products need to be third-party certified before they can carry the label.⁴⁰

2.7. Members and Observers also emphasized the **importance of standards**. Australia highlighted the role of ISO⁴¹ and IEC⁴² in developing and managing energy efficiency standards for a number of products.⁴³ China encouraged Members to adopt ISO and IEC testing methods, to promote mutual recognition of laboratory test results and the application of QR code electronic labels, and also to promote capacity building on energy efficiency standards in developing Members.⁴⁴ The IEC emphasized the opportunity to reduce global electricity consumption by increasing efficiency of electrical motors, and explained that IEC 60034-30 indicates three energy efficiency classes for

³⁰ [G/TBT/GEN/198](#), para. 1.18.

³¹ [G/TBT/GEN/198](#), para. 1.4; and [RD/TBT/144](#).

³² [G/TBT/GEN/198](#), para. 1.17; and [RD/TBT/162](#).

³³ [G/TBT/GEN/198](#), para. 1.16; and [RD/TBT/143](#).

³⁴ [G/TBT/GEN/198](#), para. 1.19; and [RD/TBT/153](#).

³⁵ [G/TBT/GEN/198](#), para. 1.20; and [RD/TBT/154](#).

³⁶ [G/TBT/GEN/198](#), para. 1.6; and [RD/TBT/160](#).

³⁷ South African National Accreditation System.

³⁸ [G/TBT/GEN/198](#), para. 1.10; and [RD/TBT/146](#).

³⁹ Environmental Protection Agency.

⁴⁰ [G/TBT/GEN/198](#), para. 1.21; and [RD/TBT/152](#).

⁴¹ International Organization for Standardization.

⁴² International Electrotechnical Commission.

⁴³ [G/TBT/GEN/198](#), para. 1.3.

⁴⁴ [G/TBT/GEN/198](#), para. 1.4; and [RD/TBT/144](#).

cage-motors.⁴⁵ UNECE presented the three agreements administered by WP.29⁴⁶ to support energy efficiency of vehicles.⁴⁷

2.8. A number of invited speakers addressed the topic of **voluntary versus mandatory approaches**. For instance, a representative of Schneider Electric, sharing experience as Chair of the ISO/IEC JTC 1/SC 39⁴⁸, said the global regulatory and standards landscape for energy efficiency of data centres is complex, and voluntary programmes allow for consumer choice and deliver results.⁴⁹ On a similar note, the Consumer Technology Association called for flexible and innovation-friendly approaches to energy efficiency regulation in the technology industry, and said that voluntary approaches are preferred to mandatory regulation based on minimum energy performance standards.⁵⁰ AHAM⁵¹ highlighted the different benefits arising from the use of international, regional or industry standards for energy efficiency.⁵²

2.9. More generally on **cooperation between Members**, Canada said that regulatory cooperation works best when it is collaborative; in other words, driven by consumers having similar preferences, stakeholders having similar concerns, and regulators with mutual interests. Canada also explained that Canada-US Regulatory Cooperation Council (RCC) has taken up work to address gaps in the alignment of energy efficiency standards between Canada and the US identified by industry, which are increasing costs for business and creating consumer confusion.⁵³ Mexico described Pan-American efforts to harmonize energy efficiency labelling requirements in light of the challenge of product comparability in terms of energy consumption.⁵⁴ The United States described its cooperation in various fora aimed at supporting good policy development in the field of energy efficiency, including: the IEA-4E⁵⁵ initiative, the SEAD⁵⁶ and work in national and international standardizing bodies.⁵⁷

2.10. Invited speakers also highlighted the **benefits of cooperation**. IEA⁵⁸ noted that cooperation on energy efficiency regulation is important to reduce costs of energy-efficient appliances for consumers.⁵⁹ ILAC⁶⁰/IAF⁶¹ explained the benefits of its multilateral mutual recognition arrangements – for government, business and consumers – in supporting organizations and products to demonstrate improvements of environmental and energy performance.⁶²

2.1.2 Food (nutrition) labelling

2.11. Regarding the **objective of protecting human health**, the United States highlighted the significant negative consequences of childhood obesity, the factors that influence the food environment for families and children, the positive contribution of the new US Nutrition Facts Label, and areas for future work in nutrition labelling.⁶³ The WHO⁶⁴ stated that nutrition labelling is one part of a comprehensive approach and policy measures to promote healthy diet and prevent and control diet-related non-communicable diseases.⁶⁵

2.12. On the importance of **harmonizing standards**, Brazil emphasized the need for balance in food labelling between, on the one hand, the right of consumers to receive pertinent information,

⁴⁵ [G/TBT/GEN/198](#), para. 1.8; and [RD/TBT/145](#).

⁴⁶ UNECE World Forum for Harmonization of Vehicle Regulations.

⁴⁷ [G/TBT/GEN/198](#), para. 1.9; and [RD/TBT/150](#).

⁴⁸ Subcommittee on Sustainability for and by Information Technology.

⁴⁹ [G/TBT/GEN/198](#), para. 1.7; and [RD/TBT/148](#).

⁵⁰ [G/TBT/GEN/198](#), para. 1.11; and [RD/TBT/149](#).

⁵¹ Association of Home Appliances Manufacturers.

⁵² [G/TBT/GEN/198](#), para. 1.5; and [RD/TBT/147](#).

⁵³ [G/TBT/GEN/198](#), para. 1.18.

⁵⁴ [G/TBT/GEN/198](#), para. 1.20; and [RD/TBT/154](#).

⁵⁵ Energy Efficient End-use Equipment

⁵⁶ Super-Efficient Equipment and Appliance Deployment Initiative.

⁵⁷ [G/TBT/GEN/198](#), para. 1.15; and [RD/TBT/151](#).

⁵⁸ International Energy Agency.

⁵⁹ [G/TBT/GEN/198](#), para. 1.2; and [RD/TBT/161](#).

⁶⁰ International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation.

⁶¹ International Accreditation Forum.

⁶² [G/TBT/GEN/198](#), para. 1.12; and [RD/TBT/155](#).

⁶³ [G/TBT/GEN/205](#), para. 1.3; and [RD/TBT/179](#).

⁶⁴ World Health Organization.

⁶⁵ [G/TBT/GEN/205](#), para. 1.2; and [RD/TBT/183](#).

and, on the other, allowing trade to take place. It was noted that Codex⁶⁶ standards and the TBT and SPS Agreements could help harmonize food labelling.⁶⁷ In this regard, Costa Rica described ongoing work of the CCFL⁶⁸ electronic working group (eWG) on front-of-pack nutrition labelling. The eWG has two objectives: (i) to determine whether the Codex Guidelines on Nutrition Labelling provide adequate guidance on front-of-pack nutrition labelling; and (ii) the role of Codex in promoting harmonization of front-of-pack labelling implemented by various stakeholders.⁶⁹ Codex presented its work on food labelling as related to information on human nutrition, undertaken by the CCFL and the CCNFSDU.^{70, 71}

2.13. Specifically on **labelling requirements**, Canada provided information on the Canadian Food Inspection Agency's on-line industry labelling tool designed to help domestic and foreign stakeholders determine if they require a particular label, such as the Nutrition Facts table.⁷² The Philippines presented the results of the APEC⁷³ Survey on Packaging and Labelling Requirements on Pre-packaged Food Products, which aims to increase transparency and take stock of labelling and packaging requirements of APEC member economies.⁷⁴ Chinese Taipei explained its food labelling regulations and the nine elements that are required to be indicated in Chinese and common symbols on the container or packaging of food and food raw materials.⁷⁵

2.14. Invited speakers also addressed the topic of labelling requirements. The Mexican Council of the Consumer Products Industry presented Mexico's experience with front-of-pack labelling, and mentioned three lessons learned: (i) regulations have to be clear and comprehensive; (ii) front-of-pack labelling has to be complemented with educational campaigns; and (iii) digital tools could provide multiple sources of information and enable the design of smart labels. Mexico's intervention highlighted that the front-of-pack labelling should: (i) follow Codex Guidelines; (ii) be science-based; (iii) consult with consumers; and (iv) not constitute arbitrary or unjustifiable discrimination or undermine intellectual property rights.⁷⁶ Mondelēz International explained that lack of harmonization in food labelling requirements adds costs for producers and consumers, and that keeping up to date with the changing landscape of food labelling requirements at the local, national and international level is a major challenge for the private sector.⁷⁷ Guatemala said that the non-harmonization of food labelling at the international level affected exports from developing countries in particular. It was difficult to comply with different labels in each country.

2.15. A number of Members described **recent developments**. The United States described the updated US Nutrition Facts Label. Recent work has been undertaken in light of: (i) improved scientific information on links between diet, health and chronic diseases; (ii) changes in the amount of foods consumed; and (iii) changes in priorities for dietary guidance (greater focus on calories and serving sizes).⁷⁸ Canada explained that changes to the Food and Drugs Act and Regulations are being proposed in order to incorporate scientific updates and to harmonize with the US system, including with respect to the list of nutrients to be declared and the basis for Daily Values.⁷⁹

2.16. The European Union reported on the recently adopted EU legal framework for food labelling which sets out principles, objectives and provisions governing food information to consumers, and which for the first time includes a mandatory nutrition declaration.⁸⁰ Chile presented its new regulations on nutritional labelling, which include three main elements: (i) restrictions of marketing of food products to children under 14; (ii) restrictions of marketing or sale in school environments; and (iii) the use of front-of-package warning labels.⁸¹ Switzerland described changes to its legal

⁶⁶ Codex Alimentarius Commission.

⁶⁷ [G/TBT/GEN/205](#), para. 1.18; and [RD/TBT/187](#).

⁶⁸ Codex Committee on Food Labelling.

⁶⁹ [G/TBT/GEN/205](#), para. 1.7; and [RD/TBT/188](#).

⁷⁰ Codex Committee on Nutrition and Foods for Special Dietary Uses.

⁷¹ [G/TBT/GEN/205](#), para. 1.6; and [RD/TBT/184](#).

⁷² [G/TBT/GEN/205](#), para. 1.15; and [RD/TBT/181](#).

⁷³ Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation.

⁷⁴ [G/TBT/GEN/205](#), para. 1.19; and [RD/TBT/192](#).

⁷⁵ [G/TBT/GEN/205](#), para. 1.11.

⁷⁶ [G/TBT/GEN/205](#), para. 1.16; and [RD/TBT/191](#).

⁷⁷ [G/TBT/GEN/205](#), para. 1.17; and [RD/TBT/189](#).

⁷⁸ [G/TBT/GEN/205](#), para. 1.10; and [RD/TBT/167](#).

⁷⁹ [G/TBT/GEN/205](#), para. 1.12; and [RD/TBT/180](#).

⁸⁰ [G/TBT/GEN/205](#), para. 1.20; and [RD/TBT/190](#).

⁸¹ [G/TBT/GEN/205](#), para. 1.13; and [RD/TBT/193](#).

framework for mandatory food labelling, including that within four years all pre-packaged food would be required to have a nutrition declaration indicating amounts of certain nutrients.⁸²

2.1.3 Other information

2.17. Observers also provided relevant information. Updates were provided by [ARSO](#)⁸³, [CODEX](#)⁸⁴, [IEC](#)⁸⁵, [OECD](#)⁸⁶ and [UNECE](#).⁸⁷

2.2 Recommendations

2.18. 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 *continue* its information exchange in the area of regulatory cooperation between Members, based on topics identified by them.

3 TECHNICAL REGULATIONS

3.1 Exchange of Experiences

3.1. [European Union](#) emphasized that **mandatory marking and labelling** requirements affect a very large portion of global trade, and that these are becoming increasingly complex. It was suggested that the Committee discuss practical aspects of compliance with mandatory marking and labelling requirements affecting imported products, and promote measures and practices that enable producers to fulfil the legitimate objectives pursued by mandatory marking and labelling requirements in the least costly and burdensome way possible, thereby facilitating trade.⁸⁸

3.2 Recommendations

3.2. With a view to furthering its work in the area of mandatory marking and labelling requirements, the [Committee](#) agrees:

- a. to *hold* a discussion of how to facilitate compliance with mandatory marking and labelling requirements on products, and consider the need for further work in the Committee on this topic, including on a sectoral basis, as appropriate.

4 CONFORMITY ASSESSMENT PROCEDURES

"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. The definition of a conformity assessment procedure is contained in Annex 1, Paragraph 3 of the Agreement."

[G/TBT/1/Rev.13](#), Section 3, para. 3.1

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 three thematic sessions held on the topics of conformity assessment procedures and risk

⁸² [G/TBT/GEN/205](#), para. 1.14; and [RD/TBT/182](#).

⁸³ [G/TBT/GEN/200](#); [G/TBT/GEN/219](#); and [G/TBT/GEN/239](#).

⁸⁴ [RD/TBT/184](#).

⁸⁵ [RD/TBT/145](#).

⁸⁶ [G/TBT/GEN/208](#) and [RD/TBT/194](#).

⁸⁷ [G/TBT/GEN/207](#); [G/TBT/GEN/224](#) and [RD/TBT/150](#).

⁸⁸ [G/TBT/W/534](#)

assessment. These sessions were held on 10 March 2016⁸⁹, 28 March 2017⁹⁰ and 13 June 2017.⁹¹ The topic of conformity assessment procedures was also discussed in the context of regulatory cooperation between Members (Section 2).

4.1.1 Approaches to conformity assessment

4.2. Members discussed factors that influence the **choice and design** of conformity assessment procedures. For example, Canada described its use of different types of conformity assessment procedures depending on the levels of risk associated with products (low, medium and high risk).⁹² The European Union emphasized proportionality and recognition (or lack thereof) as two inter-related trade aspects of conformity assessment, and said it follows a risk-based approach to conformity assessment that ensures consistency within a given product category.⁹³ The EU explained that Decision 768/2008 sets out criteria for selecting procedures in proportion to the level of risk and safety required. EU experience showed that GRP helps inform and determine the choice of conformity assessment procedures and that any type of conformity assessment procedure requires an adequate level of post-market surveillance.⁹⁴ The European Union also emphasized that risk assessment (see Section 4.1.4 below) is a crucial factor for the choice and design of appropriate conformity assessment procedures.⁹⁵ The United States stressed that the TBT Agreement maintains neutrality with respect to approaches to conformity assessment, as demonstrated in the Indicative List of Approaches to Facilitate the Results of Conformity Assessment, and that this is important given the dynamic nature of risk, including in areas like the "Internet of Things" and 3D printing.⁹⁶ The United States suggested the Committee discuss the development of National Quality Infrastructure (NQI), use of accreditation as a trade facilitative tool, and national and regional implementation of conformity assessment.⁹⁷

4.3. The European Union suggested that the Committee initiate work to develop recommendations or practical guidelines to support regulators in the choice and design of appropriate and proportionate conformity assessment procedures, and exchange of information and experiences on market surveillance (post-market controls).⁹⁸

4.4. South Africa suggested that the Committee consider the topic of "Certificates of Free Sale" requirements which, South Africa says, create challenges for exporters. South Africa explained that a Certificate of Free Sale is a document which states that a specific product meets the domestic regulatory requirements of the *exporting* Member and that the product is freely available for purchasing in the exporting Member's domestic market.⁹⁹

4.1.2 Use of relevant international standards, guides or recommendations

4.5. Members and Observers discussed the **use of relevant international standards, guides and recommendations**. For example, Mexico introduced a pilot project on safety requirements of electric products with regulation based on ISO/IEC 17067:2013. While national variations are sometimes needed, international schemes such as those of the ISO/IEC system are used for certification.¹⁰⁰ The ISO stressed the importance of common international standards, guides and recommendations as the basis for conformity assessment procedures to facilitate international trade and noted that the ISO/CASCO¹⁰¹ toolbox includes a risk-based set of conformity assessment standards for the operation of conformity assessment bodies (CABs), accreditation bodies and peer evaluation.¹⁰² The IEC explained that membership in the IEC Global Conformity Assessment Systems

⁸⁹ [G/TBT/GEN/190](#).

⁹⁰ [G/TBT/GEN/213](#). A revised Secretariat note on the TBT Committee's work on conformity assessment procedures was circulated on 22 March 2017 ([JOB/TBT/224](#)).

⁹¹ [G/TBT/GEN/226](#).

⁹² [G/TBT/GEN/190](#), para. 5; and [RD/TBT/127](#).

⁹³ [G/TBT/GEN/190](#), para. 9; and [RD/TBT/138](#).

⁹⁴ [G/TBT/GEN/226](#), para. 1; and [RD/TBT/222](#).

⁹⁵ [G/TBT/W/462](#), paras 2.2 and 2.4.

⁹⁶ [G/TBT/GEN/190](#), para. 7; and [RD/TBT/129](#).

⁹⁷ [G/TBT/W/531](#).

⁹⁸ [G/TBT/W/462](#).

⁹⁹ [G/TBT/W/453](#).

¹⁰⁰ [G/TBT/GEN/190](#), para. 11; and [RD/TBT/137](#).

¹⁰¹ ISO Committee on Conformity Assessment.

¹⁰² [G/TBT/GEN/213](#), para. 2; and [RD/TBT/209](#).

is open to all qualifying certification bodies and laboratories and that the systems are based on predefined and common operational rules and peer assessments.¹⁰³

4.1.3 Facilitating the recognition of conformity assessment results

4.6. Members discussed approaches used in **certain sectors**. Japan introduced two examples of sectoral international schemes that facilitate the acceptance of test results in other Members: the IECEE CB Scheme¹⁰⁴ and the OECD principles of Good Laboratory Practice. Both schemes help reduce duplicative testing and save government and industry resources.¹⁰⁵ Singapore (on behalf of ASEAN) explained that ASEAN has put in place mutual recognition agreements (MRAs) and harmonized regulatory regimes in three sectors: Electrical and Electronic Equipment (EEE) (based on IECEE CB scheme); pharmaceuticals (based on Pharmaceutical Inspection Co-operation Scheme – PIC/S); and cosmetics. ASEAN's work on the acceptance and recognition of conformity assessment results has facilitated the flow of goods within the region and led to reduced costs for traders and faster time-to-market for goods.¹⁰⁶ Switzerland provided another example of a free trade agreement (FTA) in a specific sector: the China-Switzerland FTA which includes a side-agreement that uses the OIML¹⁰⁷ standards to mutually recognize test results and reduce costs of conformity assessment procedures for weighing instruments.¹⁰⁸

4.7. There was also discussion on the use of **MRAs**, as well as alternative approaches. China described the China-New Zealand FTA, China's first FTA negotiated with a developed Member. The FTA includes an "Agreement between China and New Zealand on Cooperation in the Field of Conformity Assessment in relation to Electrical and Electronic Equipment and Components" (EEE MRA). The EEE MRA seeks to reduce compliance costs and facilitate trade while assisting regulators in managing risks related to electrical safety and electromagnetic compatibility as well as reducing language barriers. China emphasized the importance of MRAs based on equality and mutual benefit.¹⁰⁹ The European Union described the EU approach to conformity assessment in FTAs as including: a joint commitment to choose the least-burdensome procedure on basis of risk assessment and GRP principles to ensure fitness for purpose; the reference to existing multilateral schemes (e.g. ILAC, IAF) where positive assurance of conformity is required; sector-specific provisions such as use of UNECE-type approval certificates for motor vehicles or supplier's declaration of conformity (SDoC) for some sectors, e.g. electronics; and, where appropriate, integration of existing bilateral MRAs into FTAs. While MRAs provide a one-stop shop for manufacturers, they entail high administrative burdens and limit incentives for regulatory convergence by freezing the status quo.¹¹⁰

4.8. Chinese Taipei noted that there are limits to the effectiveness of MRAs as they tend to be costly, time-consuming, rigid and limited in scope. Allowing participation of CABs on a national treatment basis is more time and cost effective and mitigates issues of rigidity and obsolescence, particularly when there is the possibility for expansion of scope.¹¹¹ Canada preferred national treatment of CABs providing for recognition (including designation, registration, approval, licensing and notification) of foreign CABs on conditions no less favourable than those applied domestically, citing the example of Article 8.6 of the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP). In terms of other approaches, Canada encourages the use of voluntary Multilateral Accreditation Arrangements (MLAs) and noted that MRAs are harder to negotiate, implement, and benefits difficult to measure, although they can be useful for certain sectors, such as telecoms.¹¹² Mexico reported on a programme for international cooperation to improve implementation of MRAs. In this respect, COMENOR¹¹³ cooperates with

¹⁰³ [G/TBT/GEN/213](#), para. 1; and [RD/TBT/203](#).

¹⁰⁴ IEC System of Conformity Assessment Schemes for Electrotechnical Equipment and Components, Certification Body scheme.

¹⁰⁵ [G/TBT/GEN/190](#), para. 4; and [RD/TBT/126](#).

¹⁰⁶ [G/TBT/GEN/190](#), para. 6; and [RD/TBT/128](#).

¹⁰⁷ International Organization for Legal Metrology.

¹⁰⁸ [G/TBT/GEN/190](#), para. 8; and [RD/TBT/130](#).

¹⁰⁹ [G/TBT/GEN/190](#), para. 10; and [RD/TBT/132](#).

¹¹⁰ [G/TBT/GEN/190](#), para. 9; and [RD/TBT/138](#).

¹¹¹ [G/TBT/GEN/190](#), para. 1; and [RD/TBT/123](#).

¹¹² [G/TBT/GEN/190](#), para. 5; and [RD/TBT/127](#).

¹¹³ Consejo Mexicano de Normalización y Evaluación de la Conformidad (Mexican Council for Standardization and Conformity Assessment).

several CABs and laboratories worldwide to recognize test results and help foreign manufacturers obtain the Norma Oficial Mexicana (NOM) mark.¹¹⁴

4.9. There was also discussion on the use of **accreditation**. For example, Australia highlighted the importance of ILAC MRA¹¹⁵ and IAF MLA¹¹⁶, which create a strategic framework to support international trade. However, Australia questioned whether a "peer evaluation" process every four years is sufficient to maintain confidence in the results produced under the ILAC MRA and IAF MLA, and whether the participation of a professional independent evaluator could help towards objectivity and impartiality in this process.¹¹⁷ Canada and the European Union (including the EA¹¹⁸) jointly presented the bilateral "Protocol on the mutual acceptance of the results of conformity assessment", part of the Canada-EU Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA). The Protocol relies heavily on accreditation to build confidence between Canadian and EU regulators so as to facilitate the mutual acceptance of test results and product certifications by Canadian and EU-recognized CABs.¹¹⁹

4.10. Further on the topic of accreditation, the United States presented the TBT Chapter of NAFTA¹²⁰ as an example of a mechanism that enables recognition of CABs of NAFTA parties through accreditation.¹²¹ Indonesia explained that for mandatory SNI¹²², conformity assessment activities have to be performed by CABs accredited by the Indonesian Accreditation Body (KAN¹²³), and designated by the respective regulators (who have full responsibility for ensuring conformity with their requirements). The recognition of competency of foreign CABs occurs through bilateral or multilateral recognition agreements following a reciprocal principle.¹²⁴ South Africa explained how SADCA¹²⁵ helps facilitate national, regional and international recognition and acceptance of conformity assessment results through SANAS¹²⁶, MAURITAS¹²⁷ and SADCAS.¹²⁸ Attention was also drawn to AFRAC¹²⁹ which aims at raising awareness and building capacity on accreditation in Africa with a view to expanding the AFRAC MRA.¹³⁰

4.11. Members also discussed developments in **regional trade agreements** relating to the recognition and acceptance of conformity assessment results: Canada¹³¹; China¹³²; the European Union¹³³; South Africa¹³⁴; Singapore (on behalf of ASEAN)¹³⁵; Switzerland¹³⁶; Chinese Taipei¹³⁷; the United States¹³⁸; and jointly Canada and the European Union.¹³⁹

4.1.4 Risk assessment

4.12. Risk assessment is a cross-cutting topic with relevance to different aspects of the work of the TBT Committee. A number of issues were discussed including how the level of risk influences the choice of conformity assessment procedure, and different sectoral examples. Chinese Taipei

¹¹⁴ [G/TBT/GEN/190](#), para. 11; and [RD/TBT/137](#).

¹¹⁵ International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation Mutual Recognition Arrangement.

¹¹⁶ International Accreditation Forum Multilateral Recognition Arrangement.

¹¹⁷ [G/TBT/GEN/213](#), para. 3; and [RD/TBT/204](#).

¹¹⁸ European Accreditation ([RD/TBT/206](#)).

¹¹⁹ [G/TBT/GEN/213](#), paras. 4-5; and [RD/TBT/205](#).

¹²⁰ North American Free Trade Agreement.

¹²¹ [G/TBT/GEN/190](#), para. 7; and [RD/TBT/129](#).

¹²² Standar Nasional Indonesia

¹²³ Komite Akreditasi Nasional.

¹²⁴ [G/TBT/GEN/190](#), para. 2; and [RD/TBT/124](#).

¹²⁵ Southern African Development Community Cooperation in Accreditation.

¹²⁶ South African National Accreditation System.

¹²⁷ Mauritius Accreditation System.

¹²⁸ SADC Accreditation Service.

¹²⁹ African Accreditation Cooperation.

¹³⁰ [G/TBT/GEN/190](#), para. 3; and [RD/TBT/125](#).

¹³¹ [G/TBT/GEN/190](#), para. 5; and [RD/TBT/127](#).

¹³² [G/TBT/GEN/190](#), para. 10; and [RD/TBT/132](#).

¹³³ [G/TBT/GEN/190](#), para. 9; and [RD/TBT/138](#).

¹³⁴ [G/TBT/GEN/190](#), para. 3; and [RD/TBT/125](#).

¹³⁵ [G/TBT/GEN/190](#), para. 6; and [RD/TBT/128](#).

¹³⁶ [G/TBT/GEN/190](#), para. 8; and [RD/TBT/130](#).

¹³⁷ [G/TBT/GEN/190](#), para. 1; and [RD/TBT/123](#).

¹³⁸ [G/TBT/GEN/190](#), para. 7; and [RD/TBT/129](#).

¹³⁹ [G/TBT/GEN/213](#), para. 4-5; [RD/TBT/205](#); and [RD/TBT/206](#).

emphasized the relevance of risk assessment to conformity assessment procedures, technical regulations, and standards.¹⁴⁰

4.13. For example, with respect to how the **level of risk** influences the choice of conformity assessment procedure, the European Union noted that the basic principles underpinning risk assessment in the EU are proportionality and the precautionary principle. Two elements are important: (i) determining what level of risk is deemed unacceptable, which entails a political decision; and (ii) the scientific assessment of the risk. Risk assessment forms part of impact assessment in the EU, which is carried out for Commission initiatives likely to have significant economic, social, and environmental impacts.¹⁴¹ Indonesia explained that it assigns risk assessment scores to a number of different electrical and electronic products, ranging from medium to high and suggested that the Committee explore an internationally accepted definition on high- and low-risk products as Members sometimes assess the risk of the same product differently.¹⁴² Chinese Taipei noted that it uses different conformity assessment procedures depending on the risk of the product. The results of risk assessment may change overtime due to varying perceptions of risk factors in light of evolving societal concerns, and it is therefore crucial to identify the key factors that contribute to risks and to incorporate them into the assessment.¹⁴³

4.14. A number of other **sectoral examples** were raised. For example, the United States noted that the FDA¹⁴⁴ has the mission of protecting public health from various food safety and nutrition risks. The FDA mandated trans fats labelling in 2003, and revoked the "generally recognized as safe" (GRAS) status of partially hydrogenated oils in 2015. The FDA also issued a Draft Voluntary Guidance on Sodium Reduction Targets, and updated the Nutrition Facts Label to ensure that consumers have information to make healthy choices.¹⁴⁵ In the area of cybersecurity, China highlighted serious and growing cybersecurity risks facing industrial control systems (ICS). China's Electronic Technology Information Research Institute engaged in risk assessment for ICS and sought to increase cooperation with other Members in the areas of standards development and information and technical exchange.¹⁴⁶ The United States presented the United States Cybersecurity Framework, developed by NIST¹⁴⁷ in collaboration with the private sector, technology experts and government agencies. The Cybersecurity Framework is not a particular set of standards or regulatory requirements, but rather a living document that incorporates effective standards that are being applied by industry, with an emphasis on the use of international standards.¹⁴⁸

4.1.5 Other information

4.15. The Philippines presented the results of a business survey that identify conformity assessment procedures and technical requirements as the two types of non-tariff barriers that are most burdensome for Philippines' exporters.¹⁴⁹

4.16. Observers also provided relevant information. For instance, information on the trade effects of conformity assessment procedures was provided by the OECD¹⁵⁰ and the IITC.¹⁵¹ Other relevant

¹⁴⁰ [G/TBT/W/530](#).

¹⁴¹ [G/TBT/GEN/226](#), para. 1; and [RD/TBT/222](#).

¹⁴² [G/TBT/GEN/226](#), para. 3; and [RD/TBT/228](#).

¹⁴³ [G/TBT/GEN/226](#), para. 2; and [RD/TBT/227](#).

¹⁴⁴ Food and Drug Administration.

¹⁴⁵ [G/TBT/GEN/226](#), para. 4; and [RD/TBT/221](#).

¹⁴⁶ [G/TBT/GEN/226](#), para. 5; and [RD/TBT/220](#).

¹⁴⁷ National Institute of Standards and Technology.

¹⁴⁸ [G/TBT/GEN/226](#), para. 6.

¹⁴⁹ [G/TBT/GEN/204](#), para. 1.5; and [RD/TBT/178](#).

¹⁵⁰ [G/TBT/GEN/213](#), para. 6; [G/TBT/GEN/208](#); and [RD/TBT/207](#).

¹⁵¹ International Trade Center ([G/TBT/GEN/213](#), para. 7; and [RD/TBT/208](#)).

updates were provided by [ARSO](#)¹⁵², [BIPM](#)¹⁵³, [CROSO](#)¹⁵⁴, [IEC](#)¹⁵⁵, [OIML](#)¹⁵⁶, [SADC](#)¹⁵⁷, [UNECE](#)¹⁵⁸ and [UNIDO](#).¹⁵⁹

4.2 Recommendations

4.17. Building on this exchange as well as on previous decisions and recommendations of the Committee, in particular the mandate from the Fifth Triennial Review¹⁶⁰, and with a view to furthering its work in the area of conformity assessment procedures, the Committee agrees:

- a. to *continue to exchange information* in respect of the three areas of work identified in previous reviews (namely: Approaches to conformity assessment; Use of relevant international standards, guides or recommendations; and Facilitating the recognition of conformity assessment results)¹⁶¹;
- b. with respect to "Approaches to conformity assessment" to *initiate work* on developing non-prescriptive practical guidelines¹⁶² to support regulators in the choice and design of appropriate and proportionate conformity assessment procedures, including, but not limited to, the following areas:
 - i. criteria related to risk assessment and other relevant factors, including for identification of lower and higher risk products;
 - ii. the range of approaches to conformity assessment available to regulators within different regulatory frameworks;
 - iii. elements of conformity assessment that regulators can use in designing appropriate procedures;
 - iv. legal and administrative frameworks that enable regulators to confidently rely on a particular conformity assessment regime (for example, SDoC may need to be supported by appropriate product recall, product liability laws and consumer protection legislation);
- c. in parallel to the above work, to *hold* thematic sessions on:
 - i. risk assessment, including: categorization of risks, and methods of risk assessment;
 - ii. post market controls (e.g. market surveillance) and other pre-market controls;
 - iii. "Certificates of Free Sale", without prejudice to their use by Members, including on: the range of appropriate and less trade restrictive available alternatives; related challenges faced by regulators and exporters, including with respect to producing certificates when they are not in use in the exporting market; and how these apply to re-exports;
 - iv. the development of National Quality Infrastructure (NQI), including metrology, standardization, conformity assessment, and accreditation, and its use by regulators;

¹⁵² [G/TBT/GEN/200](#); [G/TBT/GEN/219](#); [G/TBT/GEN/239](#); [RD/TBT/164](#); and [RD/TBT/233](#).

¹⁵³ International Bureau of Weights and Measures ([G/TBT/GEN/188](#); [G/TBT/GEN/202](#); [G/TBT/GEN/216](#); [G/TBT/GEN/231](#); [RD/TBT/214](#); and [RD/TBT/231](#)).

¹⁵⁴ CARICOM Regional Organisation for Standards and Quality ([G/TBT/GEN/209](#); and [RD/TBT/195](#)).

¹⁵⁵ [RD/TBT/165](#); [RD/TBT/196](#); and [RD/TBT/203](#).

¹⁵⁶ [G/TBT/GEN/186](#); [G/TBT/GEN/211](#); and [G/TBT/GEN/232](#).

¹⁵⁷ [G/TBT/GEN/189](#); and [RD/TBT/122](#).

¹⁵⁸ [G/TBT/GEN/201](#); and [RD/TBT/237](#).

¹⁵⁹ United Nations Industrial Development Organization ([G/TBT/GEN/225](#); [G/TBT/GEN/235](#); and [G/TBT/GEN/246](#)).

¹⁶⁰ [G/TBT/26](#), para. 19(c).

¹⁶¹ [G/TBT/19](#), para. 46; and [G/TBT/32](#), para. 5.

¹⁶² The guidelines would need to remain neutral in respect of the range of approaches that exist.

- v. the use of international and/or regional systems for conformity assessment by regulators in both national and regional regulatory regimes; and,
- vi. case studies of practical examples of how Members arrive at the acceptance of conformity assessment results (including by using the approaches mentioned in the Committee's "Indicative List"¹⁶³).

5 STANDARDS

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 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.13](#), Section 4, para 4.1

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 a thematic session on standards, held on 14 June 2016¹⁶⁴, and in the context of the Eighth Special Meeting on Procedures for Information Exchange, held on 8 November 2016.¹⁶⁵ The topic of standards was also discussed in the context of regulatory cooperation between Members (Section 2).

5.1.1 Use of standards in regulation

5.2. The United States presented the revised US Office of Management and Budget's (OMB) Circular A-119 that sets policy on how agencies should choose and incorporate standards by reference in Federal technical regulations, and on the review of regulations incorporating standards by reference.¹⁶⁶ The European Union explained that regulations under the EU's New Approach make indirect reference to harmonized European standards (CEN¹⁶⁷, CENELEC¹⁶⁸ and ETSI¹⁶⁹), which avoids having to amend legislation each time a standard is revised.¹⁷⁰ Australia described collaboration between the Australian Department of Industry, Innovation and Science and national standardizing bodies to improve regulatory outcomes, and the importance of promoting coordination and harmonization across all jurisdictional levels.¹⁷¹ Canada noted the benefits of incorporating standards by reference, and potential challenges if references to standards are not precise.¹⁷²

5.3. Invited speakers also addressed the use of standards in regulation. ASTM International emphasized the need for standards to evolve so as to remain relevant for regulators, and said that 6,900 ASTM standards have been cited by 75 nations, and that ASTM International has entered into 95 Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) with standardizing bodies from developing countries.¹⁷³ CEN/CENELEC explained the relationship between European Standards organizations (CEN, CENELEC and ETSI) and their international counterparts (ISO, IEC and ITU¹⁷⁴) and stressed the objective of

¹⁶³ The "Indicative List" refers to the Indicative List of Approaches to Facilitate the Acceptance of the Results of Conformity Assessment: Annex 1 of [G/TBT/1/Rev.13](#) (p.52).

¹⁶⁴ [G/TBT/GEN/199](#).

¹⁶⁵ [G/TBT/GEN/206](#), para. 5. A summary report is contained in Section 3 of the Annex to [G/TBT/M/70](#).

¹⁶⁶ [G/TBT/GEN/199](#), para. 1.2.

¹⁶⁷ European Committee for Standardization.

¹⁶⁸ European Committee for Electrotechnical Standardization.

¹⁶⁹ European Telecommunications Standards Institute.

¹⁷⁰ [G/TBT/GEN/199](#), para. 1.3; and [RD/TBT/157](#).

¹⁷¹ [G/TBT/GEN/199](#), para. 1.6; and [RD/TBT/159](#).

¹⁷² [G/TBT/W/529](#).

¹⁷³ [G/TBT/GEN/199](#), para. 1.4; and [RD/TBT/156](#).

¹⁷⁴ International Telecommunications Union.

promoting coherence and avoiding duplication, and providing one single entry point for EU stakeholders to participate in national, regional and international standardization.¹⁷⁵

5.1.2 Transparency in standard-setting

5.4. Japan described how the Japanese Industrial Standards Committee implements certain recommendations from the Seventh Triennial Review¹⁷⁶ on transparency in standard setting, in particular with respect to notification of the specific website addresses where its work programmes are published, and sharing information about the publication of a notice announcing the period for commenting on a draft standard.¹⁷⁷

5.5. The WTO-ISO Standards Information Gateway was launched (replacing the ISO/IEC Information Centre) in November 2016.¹⁷⁸ This website provides information about: standardizing bodies that have accepted or withdrawn from the Code of Good Practice for the Preparation, Adoption and Application of Standards; the work programmes these bodies must publish at least every six months; and the templates for notification of this information to the WTO-ISO Standards Information Gateway.¹⁷⁹

5.1.3 Other information

5.6. Canada highlighted the importance of the gender perspective in the development of standards and technical regulations.¹⁸⁰

5.7. Observers also provided relevant information. Updates were provided by ARSO¹⁸¹, BIPM¹⁸², CODEX¹⁸³, CROSQ¹⁸⁴, IEC¹⁸⁵, ISO¹⁸⁶, OIML¹⁸⁷, SADC¹⁸⁸, WHO¹⁸⁹ and UNECE.¹⁹⁰

5.2 Recommendations

5.8. 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 standards, the Committee agrees:

- a. to *hold* a thematic session on incorporating standards by reference in regulations with a view to discussing and possibly collecting best practices and which would take into account existing guidelines and policy considerations on referencing standards; and,
- b. to *hold* a workshop on the role of gender in the development of standards.

¹⁷⁵ [G/TBT/GEN/199](#), para. 1.5; and [RD/TBT/158](#).

¹⁷⁶ [G/TBT/37](#), para. 4.10.b.

¹⁷⁷ [G/TBT/M/70](#), Annex, para. 3.2; and [RD/TBT/202](#).

¹⁷⁸ <https://tbtcode.iso.org/>; [G/TBT/M/70](#), Annex, Section 3.2.

¹⁷⁹ [G/TBT/37](#), para. 4.10.b; and <https://tbtcode.iso.org/sites/wto-tbt/home.html>.

¹⁸⁰ [G/TBT/W/532](#).

¹⁸¹ [G/TBT/GEN/200](#); [G/TBT/GEN/219](#); [G/TBT/GEN/239](#); [RD/TBT/164](#); and [RD/TBT/233](#).

¹⁸² [G/TBT/GEN/202](#); [G/TBT/GEN/231](#); and [RD/TBT/214](#).

¹⁸³ [G/TBT/GEN/197](#); [G/TBT/GEN/223](#); [G/TBT/GEN/233](#); [G/TBT/GEN/238](#); [RD/TBT/163](#); [RD/TBT/184](#); [RD/TBT/215](#); [RD/TBT/216](#); [RD/TBT/226](#); [RD/TBT/232](#); and [RD/TBT/243](#).

¹⁸⁴ [G/TBT/GEN/209](#).

¹⁸⁵ [G/TBT/GEN/230](#); [RD/TBT/165](#); [RD/TBT/203](#); and [RD/TBT/224](#).

¹⁸⁶ [RD/TBT/209](#).

¹⁸⁷ [G/TBT/GEN/203](#); and [G/TBT/GEN/232](#).

¹⁸⁸ [G/TBT/GEN/189](#); and [RD/TBT/122](#).

¹⁸⁹ [G/TBT/GEN/195](#); [G/TBT/GEN/222](#); [G/TBT/GEN/229](#); [RD/TBT/183](#); and [RD/TBT/236](#).

¹⁹⁰ [G/TBT/GEN/187](#); [G/TBT/GEN/224](#); [G/TBT/GEN/237](#); [G/TBT/GEN/245](#); and [G/TBT/GEN/247](#).

6 TRANSPARENCY

"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."

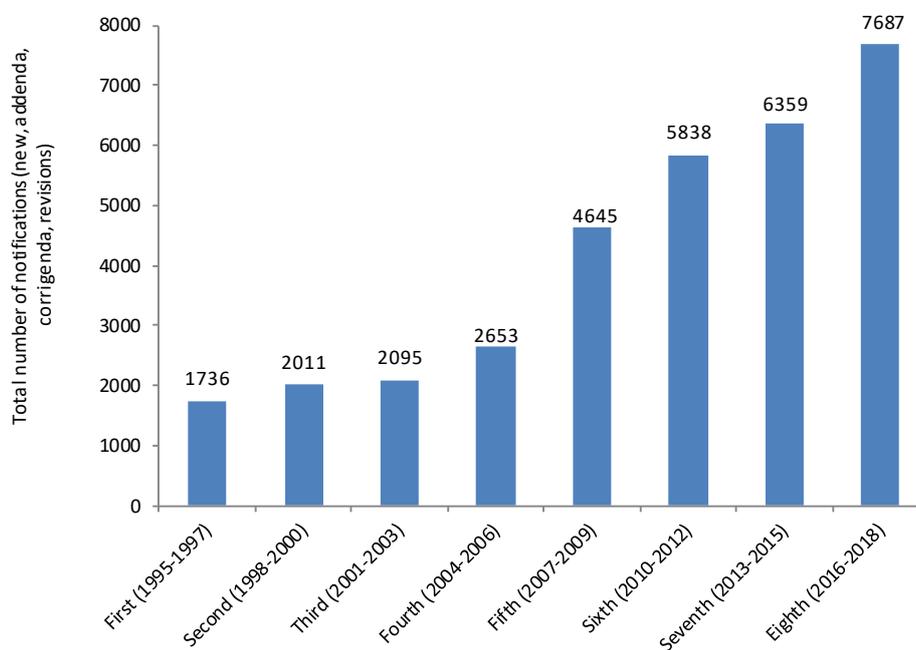
[G/TBT/1/Rev.13](#), Section 5, para. 5.1, p. 20 (emphasis added)

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 its Eighth Special Meeting on Procedures for Information Exchange held on 8 November 2016.¹⁹¹ In the Committee's discussions on transparency, three areas were discussed in particular: (i) online tools; (ii) functioning of enquiry points; and, (iii) notifications of technical regulations and conformity assessment procedures. The topic of transparency was also discussed in the context of technical assistance (Section 6).

6.2. Members continued to submit an increasing number of TBT notifications during the review period (Chart 1). During the review period, 11 Members submitted their first Statement on Implementation and Administration of the TBT Agreement under Article 15.2 of the TBT Agreement (15.2 Statement) and 8 Members submitted revisions to their statements.¹⁹²

Chart 1: Total TBT notifications per Triennial Review period¹⁹³



¹⁹¹ [G/TBT/GEN/206](#). A summary report is contained in the Annex to [G/TBT/M/70](#).

¹⁹² Figures as of 15 November 2018.

¹⁹³ Figures as of 15 November 2018.

6.1.1 Online tools

6.3. The Committee launched ePing, the global alert mechanism for TBT and SPS notifications developed jointly by the WTO, UNDESA¹⁹⁴ and ITC, at the Eighth Special Meeting on Procedures for Information Exchange on 8 November 2016.¹⁹⁵

6.4. Members discussed their experiences utilising ePing and leveraging online tools and technology to involve stakeholders in the process of gathering, disseminating, tracking and responding to TBT notifications.¹⁹⁶ Uganda shared its experience in piloting and implementing ePing at the national level, lessons learned, and steps taken to promote ePing including through meetings of the national TBT/SPS Committee.¹⁹⁷ Australia highlighted the benefits of ePing in terms of transparency, consultation and accountability, and its efforts to promote ePing using different tools and events.¹⁹⁸ Canada noted the user-friendly interface of ePing, and found the email alert and search filters particularly useful.¹⁹⁹ South Africa said ePing is an indispensable tool that facilitates public awareness and the identification of potential technical barriers in draft measures at an early stage.²⁰⁰

6.5. Korea shared its KNOWTBT²⁰¹, a comprehensive portal for supporting stakeholders to track and respond to TBT notifications.²⁰² The European Union presented its TBT web platform (EC-TBT website), its functioning and how it is promoted to stakeholders.²⁰³ The Philippines introduced the web-based portal, the "Philippine National Trade Repository" that enables access to information and facilitates compliance with regulations; using examples it was shown how technology facilitates transparency in the area of regulation.²⁰⁴ The United States presented its web-based platform "Notify US", and underlined the extensive use of the alert service by US stakeholders.²⁰⁵

6.6. Members discussed their experiences using the TBT Notification Submission System (TBT NSS), the online platform for Members to prepare and submit TBT notifications to the WTO.²⁰⁶ Canada emphasized the value and reliability of the TBT NSS, and its benefits for faster processing of notifications by the Secretariat which in turn gives Members more time to become informed and for interested parties to submit comments.²⁰⁷ The United States highlighted the benefits of the TBT NSS, and noted that the system facilitates coordination between agencies before notifying.²⁰⁸ The European Union said that while the NSS works well, there are challenges such as with respect to submission of texts that are too long or contain many images, and during periods of closure of the WTO.²⁰⁹ Kenya welcomed the faster and reliable TBT NSS, and said that its use eases coordination and reduces delays in the submission of notifications.²¹⁰ Trinidad and Tobago said the TBT NSS helps avoid delays in the submission of notifications related to coordination.²¹¹

6.7. The Committee launched the modernized TBT Information Management System (TBT IMS) in March 2017.²¹² Brazil highlighted that the TBT search tool lacks valuable information that is included in the corresponding SPS search tool, especially with respect to the status of the specific trade

¹⁹⁴ United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs.

¹⁹⁵ www.epingalert.org; G/TBT/GEN/206, para. 2; G/TBT/M/70, para. 1.1; and https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/tbt_e/1_eping_e.pdf.

¹⁹⁶ G/TBT/GEN/206, para. 3; and G/TBT/M/70, Annex, para. 1.1.

¹⁹⁷ G/TBT/M/70, Annex, para. 1.3; and https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/tbt_e/2-Uganda_e.pdf.

¹⁹⁸ G/TBT/M/70, Annex, para. 1.5; https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/tbt_e/4_Australia_e.pdf; and G/TBT/W/537.

¹⁹⁹ G/TBT/M/70, Annex, para. 1.23.

²⁰⁰ G/TBT/W/452.

²⁰¹ Korean Network on World TBT.

²⁰² G/TBT/M/70, Annex, para. 1.4; and https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/tbt_e/3_Korea_e.pdf.

²⁰³ G/TBT/M/70, Annex, para. 1.6; and https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/tbt_e/5_EU_Stakeholders_e.pdf.

²⁰⁴ G/TBT/M/70, Annex, para. 1.7; and https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/tbt_e/6_Philippines_e.pdf.

²⁰⁵ G/TBT/M/70, Annex, para. 1.8; and https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/tbt_e/7_US_e.pdf.

²⁰⁶ www.nss.wto.org/tbtmembers; for more information and access please contact tbtntss@wto.org; and G/TBT/M/70, Annex, para. 1.27.

²⁰⁷ G/TBT/M/70, Annex, para. 1.28.

²⁰⁸ G/TBT/M/70, Annex, para. 1.29.

²⁰⁹ G/TBT/M/70, Annex, para. 1.30.

²¹⁰ G/TBT/M/70, Annex, para. 1.31.

²¹¹ G/TBT/M/70, Annex, para. 1.26.

²¹² www.tbttims.wto.org; and G/TBT/M/70, Annex, para. 1.2.

concerns (STCs) raised in the Committee. Therefore, Brazil suggested adding four columns to the TBT STCs search tool in the TBT IMS.²¹³

6.1.2 Functioning of enquiry points

6.8. Members shared experiences on the role of enquiry points in facilitating internal coordination and the handling, accepting, and transmitting of comments, and exploring ways to improve their functioning.²¹⁴ The Secretariat presented the WTO TBT Enquiry Point Guide at the 14-15 November 2018 Committee meeting.²¹⁵

6.9. The European Union presented the TBT notification procedure within the EU and recalled EU member States' obligations when notifying new national technical regulations.²¹⁶ Chinese Taipei explained how its TBT enquiry point enhances coordination with and amongst regulators, through preparatory work before TBT Committee meetings and the delivery of seminars on transparency.²¹⁷ In order to overcome resistance to notify from regulators, Chinese Taipei provided its regulators with examples of similar notifications made by other Members to help persuade them of the necessity to notify.²¹⁸

6.10. Switzerland established a unit within its administration to assess TBT and trade relevance of all legislative projects and to ensure notifications take place.²¹⁹ South Africa explained that it coordinates through a domestic TBT committee that brings regulators and quality infrastructure bodies together to discuss the annotated draft agenda in advance of TBT Committee meetings; this was also an opportunity to emphasize to regulators the importance of notifying.²²⁰ A list of contact persons in different regulatory departments, including at the divisional level within each department, should be maintained to facilitate coordination.²²¹ TBT enquiry point officials have a wide range of backgrounds, from lawyers to librarians to administrators.²²²

6.11. Uganda highlighted the challenge of empowering notification authorities and enquiry points to be able to identify draft regulations that meet notification requirements.²²³ Canada underscored the importance for trading partners of the work of enquiry points in collecting and disseminating information, and in handling comments, and explained Canada's internal process for handling comments.²²⁴ Senegal mentioned the difficulty of coordination between enquiry points and notification authorities.²²⁵

6.12. The United States explained that its enquiry point and notification authority are the same entity, which avoids coordination problems. The US enquiry point is essentially a facilitator of communications, making information available to both industry and government, ensuring notifications are submitted, and handling comments. USTR coordinates with industry to develop positions for WTO TBT Committee or for bilateral engagements based on information received from the US enquiry point.²²⁶ Trinidad and Tobago explained that its enquiry point is housed at the Bureau of Standards. The enquiry point is tasked with preparing notifications, which are sent to the WTO through its notification authority, the Ministry of Trade and Industry.²²⁷

²¹³ [G/TBT/W/461](#), paras. 3.1-3.4.

²¹⁴ [G/TBT/M/70](#), Annex, Section 2.

²¹⁵ [G/TBT/37](#), para. 5.12.a.ii.

²¹⁶ [G/TBT/M/70](#), Annex, para. 2.2; and https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/tbt_e/8_EU_EP_e.pdf.

²¹⁷ [G/TBT/M/70](#), Annex, para. 2.3.

²¹⁸ [G/TBT/M/70](#), Annex, para. 2.12.

²¹⁹ [G/TBT/M/70](#), Annex, para. 2.4.

²²⁰ [G/TBT/M/70](#), Annex, para. 2.10. See related discussion in para. 1.3.

²²¹ [G/TBT/M/70](#), Annex, para. 2.5.

²²² [G/TBT/M/70](#), Annex, para. 2.18.

²²³ [G/TBT/M/70](#), Annex, para. 2.7.

²²⁴ [G/TBT/M/70](#), Annex, para. 2.11.

²²⁵ [G/TBT/M/70](#), Annex, para. 1.24.

²²⁶ [G/TBT/M/70](#), Annex, paras. 1.15 and 1.25.

²²⁷ [G/TBT/M/70](#), Annex, para. 1.26.

6.13. The United States stressed the importance of Members regularly updating their enquiry point contact information, including email addresses, fax numbers and website URLs. It was suggested that Members validate the accuracy and availability of their enquiry point contact information.²²⁸

6.14. New Zealand encouraged the sharing of information amongst Members about the effective operation of enquiry points to reduce the burden of establishing and operating enquiry points in developing Members. This could also be useful for Members which submit a limited number of notifications. New Zealand suggested discussion of good practices for domestic coordination and engagement with regulators to reinforce the transparency obligations in the TBT Agreement and ensure all relevant measures are notified in accordance with the Agreement.²²⁹

6.1.3 Submission of notifications

6.15. Brazil identified challenges related to situations where a Member considers it difficult to establish – or foresee – whether a draft technical regulation falls under the TBT and/or the SPS Agreement.²³⁰ The United States presented a paper analysing WTO Members' TBT notifications and their links to trade in goods, and highlighted that over 92% of global goods exports can be linked to TBT notifications.²³¹ The paper reviewed notification patterns by Members, and highlighted certain information that is routinely missing from Members' notifications but that is particularly important to traders: products affected; date of entry into force; and whether the measure is in accordance with international standards, guides or recommendations.²³² Japan underscored the significance of information provided in Box 8 of the notification format ("relevant documents"), and the need to improve access to the relevant documents through information technology (websites).²³³ Australia emphasized that including keywords in TBT notifications could help further identify the goods and/or types of measures covered by a notification.²³⁴

6.1.4 Texts of notified technical regulations and conformity assessment procedures

6.16. With respect to **access to full texts** of notified measures, Trinidad and Tobago, Uganda and the United States said that although they include a link to the full text of draft measures (or provide the full text to the Secretariat for posting on the WTO website) when submitting notifications, their enquiry points are nevertheless frequently asked to send the full text separately.²³⁵ The United States noted that Members sometimes cite international standards which are copyright protected and suggested that in such cases Members could add a note to that effect, provide the name of the standard, and, where possible, provide a link to where it can be purchased.²³⁶

6.17. With respect to the **adopted final text**, the United States highlighted the importance of providing information on whether proposed technical regulations and/or conformity assessment procedures have entered into force.²³⁷ Australia suggested changes to the addendum notification template to enhance transparency for the private sector and assist Members in notifying the adoption of measures.²³⁸ The United States emphasized the benefits for traders and Members of sharing information on Members' websites where final technical regulations, as well as applicable conformity assessment procedures, can be freely accessed.²³⁹

²²⁸ [G/TBT/W/451](#).

²²⁹ [G/TBT/W/463](#). See related discussion in para. 1.3.

²³⁰ [G/TBT/W/460/Rev.1](#).

²³¹ [G/TBT/GEN/215](#) and [G/TBT/M/71](#), para. 2.332.

²³² [G/TBT/W/464](#).

²³³ [G/TBT/W/528](#).

²³⁴ [G/TBT/W/537](#).

²³⁵ [G/TBT/M/70](#), Annex, paras. 1.11, 1.12, and 1.16.

²³⁶ [G/TBT/M/70](#), Annex, para. 1.12.

²³⁷ [G/TBT/W/464](#).

²³⁸ [G/TBT/W/537](#).

²³⁹ [G/TBT/W/535](#).

6.1.5 Handling of comments

6.18. Switzerland highlighted the benefits of disseminating comments received on notified measures and replies thereto, on a voluntary basis, such as improving transparency and efficiency, and facilitating the preparation of Committee meetings and coordination between Members.²⁴⁰

6.2 Recommendations

6.19. 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 agrees:

- a. with respect to functioning of **enquiry points**:
 - i. to *encourage* Members to validate the contact information of their enquiry points as contained in the TBT IMS²⁴¹ to improve the accuracy and availability of this information. Members are encouraged to either inform the Secretariat that the current information is correct, or to provide the Secretariat with updated information, by the March 2019 Committee meeting;
 - ii. to *discuss* in the context of the Ninth Special Meeting on Procedures for Information Exchange: how ePing can facilitate the work of enquiry points; linkages between ePing and domestic registers of central regulatory planning or action, or other "early warning systems"; and the private sector's use of ePing.
- b. with respect to **domestic coordination**:
 - i. to *discuss* good practices for domestic coordination and engagement with regulators, including sharing information about how Members effectively communicate with regulatory agencies to ensure that all relevant notifications are made.
- c. with respect to use of **online tools**:
 - i. to *discuss* how to improve the TBT IMS in order to best reflect the status of STCs raised in the TBT Committee with a view to modify its format accordingly before the next Triennial Review.
- d. with respect to the **submission of notifications**:
 - i. to *exchange information*, for the purposes of enhancing predictability and transparency, on practices used in situations where a Member considers it is difficult to establish whether a draft technical regulation or conformity assessment procedure may fall under the TBT and/or the SPS Agreement. This exchange may be organized as an information session in cooperation with the SPS Committee;
 - ii. to *encourage* Members to provide maximum specific information on the products potentially impacted by notified measures (in Box 4 of the notification format). In this connection, to hold an *initial discussion* on how to improve – and what challenges exist for – the identification of products including with respect to the use of ICS and/or HS codes and/or product names where precise codes do not apply;
 - iii. to *discuss* challenges in identifying deviations from relevant international standards, guides or recommendations;
 - iv. to *encourage* Members, where possible, to provide a website address giving access to the text of the "relevant documents" in Box 8 of the notification format; and

²⁴⁰ [G/TBT/W/536](#).

²⁴¹ <http://tbtime.wto.org/en/NationalEnquiryPoints/Search>.

- v. to *consider*, in light of the above, the need to review and update the Committee's *Format and Guidelines for New Notification*²⁴². Consideration could also, at that point, be given to the development of a keyword list and mechanism for assigning relevant keywords for TBT notifications.
- e. with respect to **adopted final texts**:
- i. to *recommend* Members to notify the adopted final text of technical regulations and conformity assessment procedures²⁴³;
 - ii. to *modify* the existing addenda notification template²⁴⁴ or to *develop* a new addenda template specific to adopted final texts so as to provide Members with the ability to indicate when the measure entered – or will enter – into force and provide information on where the final text can be obtained, including website address²⁴⁵;
 - iii. to *endeavour* to provide the Secretariat, to the extent possible before the June 2019 TBT Committee meeting, with up-to-date website information for where adopted final texts of technical regulations, as well as applicable conformity assessment procedures, can normally be accessed; and
 - iv. to *request* the Secretariat to maintain an up-to-date and readily available list of such websites, based on information from Members and within the limits of its resources, and to publish the list annually in the *Annual Review of the Implementation and Operation of the TBT Agreement*.
- f. with respect to the **handling of comments**:
- i. to *reiterate* previous recommendations²⁴⁶ to *encourage* Members to disseminate comments received on notified draft measures and substantive replies, on a voluntary basis; and
 - ii. to *discuss*, in the context of the Ninth Special Meeting on Procedures for Information Exchange, the dissemination of comments received on notified draft measures and substantive replies on a voluntary basis, possibly via existing online tools such as ePing.

7 TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

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.13](#), Section 6, para. 6.1, p. 43

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 a thematic session on technical assistance, held on 9 November 2016²⁴⁷, and in the context of the Eighth Special Meeting on Procedures for Information Exchange, held on 8 November 2016.²⁴⁸

²⁴² [G/TBT/1/Rev.13](#), Annex 3.2, pp. 58-61.

²⁴³ Circulated as an addendum to the original notification in line with [G/TBT/35](#).

²⁴⁴ [G/TBT/1/Rev.13](#), Annex 3.3, p. 62; and [G/TBT/35](#).

²⁴⁵ [G/TBT/1/Rev.13](#), Section 5.6.2.1, p. 35; and [G/TBT/35](#).

²⁴⁶ [G/TBT/1/Rev.13](#), Section 5.3.1.9, p. 28.

²⁴⁷ [G/TBT/GEN/204](#).

²⁴⁸ [G/TBT/M/70](#), Annex.

7.2. Indonesia described an MoU between the BSN²⁴⁹ and the IAPMO²⁵⁰ on standardization of plumbing, signed in 2003 and extended until 2017. The MOU addresses consumer needs for safe and effective plumbing systems in Indonesia's growing building and construction market.²⁵¹

7.3. The European Union presented the ACP-EU TBT Program²⁵² which aims at: enhancing the capacity of ACP regional and continental quality infrastructure institutions; supporting the capacity of ACP economic operators to comply with technical regulations, standards and conformity assessment procedures; and disseminating results and experiences.²⁵³

7.4. The United States explained how the Standards Alliance supports developing Members in implementing the TBT Agreement²⁵⁴, and highlighted examples of assistance to TBT enquiry points and notification authorities in Africa.²⁵⁵ The United States also introduced five different TBT capacity building programmes offered by the US Department of Agriculture (USDA).²⁵⁶ Invited speakers also provided information on capacity building projects. The Grocery Manufacturers Association presented two different APEC capacity building projects: the Food Safety Cooperation Forum (FSCF); and the Partnership Training Institute Network (PTIN).²⁵⁷

7.5. The Secretariat described the Aid-for-Trade initiative, and the benefits of improving the tracking and monitoring of TBT-related activities and support under Aid for Trade were discussed.²⁵⁸ The EIF²⁵⁹ presented its work in the area of standards; the EIF Trust Fund is supporting at least 10 projects with standards-related elements, including one standards-specific project in Lao PDR.²⁶⁰

7.6. The Philippines encouraged a discussion of a Standards and Trade Development Facility (STDF) counterpart for TBT. An STDF for TBT could be aimed at: increasing awareness of TBT; mobilizing resources; strengthening collaboration; identifying and disseminating good practices; and providing support and funding for the development and implementation of projects that promote compliance with TBT standards and requirements.²⁶¹ The Philippines further suggested that replicating the STDF in the TBT area could assist Members in advocating TBT principles such as GRP.²⁶² The Philippines, Mauritius and Uganda highlighted the benefits and successes of STDF in the SPS area, and encouraged Members to revisit a TBT-related technical assistance and capacity-building funding facility.²⁶³

7.1.1 Technical assistance on transparency

7.7. The United States presented the technical assistance that it provided through the Standards Alliance to build capacity of TBT enquiry points and notification authorities of African Members, including the development of action plans.²⁶⁴ Kenya said that technical assistance from the Standards Alliance supports development of a notification alert system similar to ePing. Malawi noted that technical assistance from the Standards Alliance has demonstrated that an enquiry point can be effectively run by relatively few people, an important point for a smaller economy like Malawi.²⁶⁵

²⁴⁹ National Standardization Agency of Indonesia.

²⁵⁰ International Association of Plumbing and Mechanical Officials.

²⁵¹ [G/TBT/GEN/204](#), para 1.4; and [RD/TBT/177](#).

²⁵² African Caribbean and Pacific Group of States-EU TBT Program

²⁵³ [G/TBT/GEN/204](#), para. 1.8; and [RD/TBT/174](#).

²⁵⁴ [G/TBT/GEN/204](#), para. 1.3; and [RD/TBT/172](#).

²⁵⁵ [G/TBT/M/70](#), Annex, para. 2.15; [RD/TBT/176](#); and https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/tbt_e/9_US_SA_e.pdf.

²⁵⁶ [G/TBT/GEN/204](#), para. 1.7; and [RD/TBT/171](#).

²⁵⁷ [G/TBT/GEN/204](#), para. 1.6; and [RD/TBT/173](#).

²⁵⁸ [G/TBT/GEN/204](#), para. 1.1; and [RD/TBT/170/Rev.1](#).

²⁵⁹ Enhanced Integrated Framework.

²⁶⁰ [G/TBT/GEN/204](#), para. 1.2; and [RD/TBT/186](#).

²⁶¹ [G/TBT/GEN/204](#), para. 1.5; and [RD/TBT/178](#).

²⁶² [G/TBT/GEN/214](#), paras. 1 and 2; and [RD/TBT/210](#).

²⁶³ [G/TBT/W/538/Rev.1](#).

²⁶⁴ [G/TBT/M/70](#), Annex, para. 2.15; [RD/TBT/176](#); and https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/tbt_e/9_US_SA_e.pdf.

²⁶⁵ [G/TBT/M/70](#), Annex, para. 2.21.

7.8. Canada described a planned capacity building activity with Trinidad and Tobago, consisting of representatives visiting the Canadian notification authority and enquiry point to observe operations in order to boost transparency and the application of good regulatory practices.²⁶⁶

7.9. Uganda underlined gaps in the capacity of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) to analyse the technical texts referenced in notifications, and suggested helping SMEs to build their capacity in this respect.²⁶⁷ To ease the burdens that SMEs face in reacting to notifications, Australia suggested including ePing in training programmes to increase awareness, and to use industry associations to analyse trade barriers on behalf of SMEs.²⁶⁸ CROSO and ITC provided relevant information in this regard.²⁶⁹

7.1.2 Other information

7.10. The Secretariat provided information on its TBT technical assistance activities.²⁷⁰ In addition, information was provided on relevant contributions made by the TBT Secretariat to the Aid-for-Trade Global Review in 2017, including on quality infrastructure and ePing.²⁷¹

7.11. Observers also provided relevant information. Updates were provided by ARSO²⁷², BIPM²⁷³, CODEX²⁷⁴, CROSO²⁷⁵, IEC²⁷⁶, ISO²⁷⁷, OECD²⁷⁸, OIML²⁷⁹, SADC²⁸⁰, UNECE²⁸¹ and UNIDO.²⁸²

7.2 Recommendations

7.12. 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 technical assistance, the Committee agrees:

- a. to *encourage* Members to continue providing and exchanging experiences on technical assistance, including on how to improve donor coordination;
- b. to *request* the Secretariat to provide a presentation on the feasibility, including challenges and options, of expanding the present STDF to encompass measures covered by the TBT Agreement, or setting up a separate and dedicated TBT development facility; and,
- c. to *develop* a good practice guide on how to prepare a comment on a WTO notified technical regulation or conformity assessment procedure.

²⁶⁶ [G/TBT/M/70](#), Annex, para. 2.22.

²⁶⁷ [G/TBT/M/70](#), Annex, para. 1.20.

²⁶⁸ [G/TBT/M/70](#), Annex, para. 1.21.

²⁶⁹ [G/TBT/M/70](#), Annex, paras. 1.19 and 1.22.

²⁷⁰ [G/TBT/38/Rev.1](#), Section 5 (for 2015); [G/TBT/39/Rev.1](#), Section 5 (for 2017); [G/TBT/GEN/220](#) (for 2017); and [G/TBT/GEN/221](#) (para. 5.1 on the 2016-2017 biennium).

²⁷¹ [G/TBT/GEN/228](#).

²⁷² [G/TBT/GEN/193](#); [G/TBT/GEN/200](#); [G/TBT/GEN/219](#); [G/TBT/GEN/239](#); [RD/TBT/142](#); [RD/TBT/164](#); and [RD/TBT/233](#).

²⁷³ [G/TBT/GEN/188](#); [G/TBT/GEN/202](#); [G/TBT/GEN/216](#); [G/TBT/GEN/231](#); [RD/TBT/214](#); [RD/TBT/230](#); and [RD/TBT/231](#).

²⁷⁴ [G/TBT/GEN/223](#); [G/TBT/GEN/233](#); [G/TBT/GEN/244](#); [RD/TBT/163](#); [RD/TBT/215](#); [RD/TBT/232](#); and [RD/TBT/243](#).

²⁷⁵ [G/TBT/GEN/209](#); and [RD/TBT/195](#).

²⁷⁶ [G/TBT/GEN/210](#); [G/TBT/GEN/218](#); [G/TBT/GEN/230](#); [RD/TBT/165](#); [RD/TBT/196](#); [RD/TBT/224](#); and [RD/TBT/235](#).

²⁷⁷ [G/TBT/GEN/217](#).

²⁷⁸ [RD/TBT/194](#).

²⁷⁹ [G/TBT/GEN/186](#); [G/TBT/GEN/196](#); [G/TBT/GEN/203](#); [G/TBT/GEN/211](#); and [G/TBT/GEN/232](#).

²⁸⁰ [G/TBT/GEN/189](#); and [RD/TBT/122](#).

²⁸¹ [G/TBT/GEN/187](#); [G/TBT/GEN/194](#); [G/TBT/GEN/201](#); [G/TBT/GEN/224](#); [G/TBT/GEN/234](#);

[G/TBT/GEN/245](#); and [G/TBT/GEN/247](#).

²⁸² [G/TBT/GEN/225](#); and [G/TBT/GEN/246](#).

8 OPERATION OF THE COMMITTEE

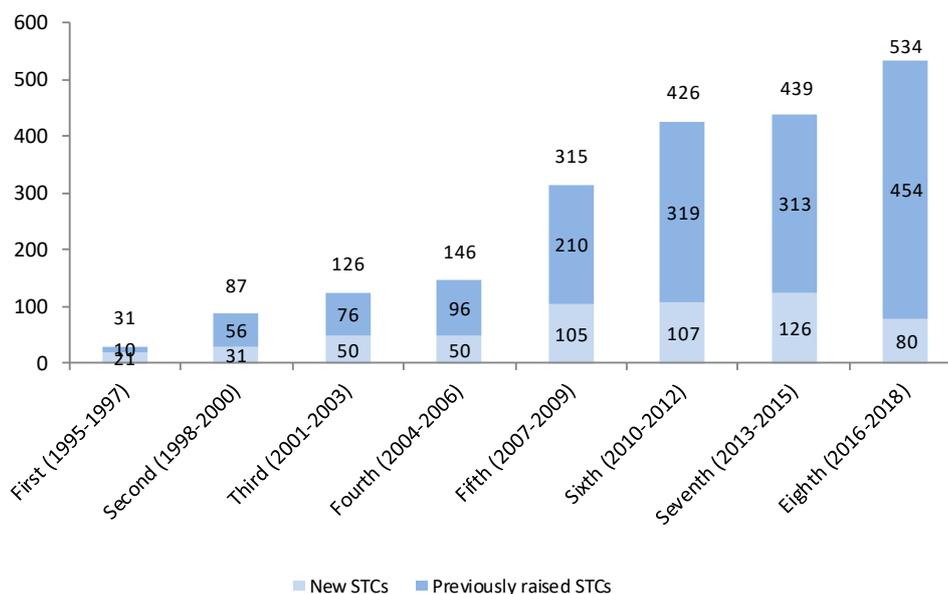
Operation of the Committee. Pursuant to Article 13 of the TBT Agreement, the TBT Committee was established with the purpose of: "affording Members the opportunity of consulting on any matters relating to the operation of this Agreement or the furtherance of its objectives, and shall carry out such responsibilities as assigned to it under this Agreement or by the Members". Since its first meeting, Members have used the TBT Committee as a forum to discuss issues related to specific measures (technical regulations, standards or conformity assessment procedures) maintained by other Members. These are referred to as "specific trade concerns" (STCs) and relate normally to proposed draft measures notified to the TBT Committee or to the implementation of existing measures. The Committee also holds thematic sessions that address cross-cutting issues related to the implementation and operation of the TBT Agreement.

[G/TBT/1/Rev.13](#), para. 8.1, p. 49.

8.1 Exchange of experiences

8.1. During the review period the Committee held nine regular meetings, from March 2016 to November 2018.²⁸³ A total of 80 new specific trade concerns (STCs) were raised in the review period, whilst over the same period, 454 previously raised STCs were also discussed (Chart 2).²⁸⁴ Back to back with the regular meetings, the Committee also held thematic sessions that addressed the following cross-cutting issues related to the operation and implementation of the TBT Agreement: good regulatory practice²⁸⁵, regulatory cooperation between Members²⁸⁶, standards²⁸⁷, conformity assessment procedures²⁸⁸, transparency (the Committee's Eighth Special Meeting on Procedures for Information Exchange)²⁸⁹, technical assistance²⁹⁰, and the operation of the Committee.

Chart 2: STCs per triennial review period²⁹¹



²⁸³ [G/TBT/M/68](#), [G/TBT/M/69](#), [G/TBT/M/70](#), [G/TBT/M/71](#), [G/TBT/M/72](#), [G/TBT/M/73](#), [G/TBT/M/74](#), [G/TBT/M/75](#), and [G/TBT/M/76](#) to be issued.

²⁸⁴ Detailed information on these STCs is available on the TBT IMS (<http://tbtime.wto.org/>).

²⁸⁵ [G/TBT/GEN/191](#); and [G/TBT/GEN/214](#).

²⁸⁶ [G/TBT/GEN/198](#); and [G/TBT/GEN/205](#).

²⁸⁷ [G/TBT/GEN/199](#); and [G/TBT/M/70](#), Annex, Section 3.

²⁸⁸ [G/TBT/GEN/190](#); [G/TBT/GEN/213](#); and [G/TBT/GEN/226](#).

²⁸⁹ [G/TBT/GEN/206](#); and [G/TBT/M/70](#), Annex, Sections 1-2.

²⁹⁰ [G/TBT/GEN/204](#).

²⁹¹ Figures as of 15 November 2018.

8.2 Recommendations

8.2. Building on this experience as well as on previous decisions and recommendations of the Committee, the Committee agrees:

- a. with respect to thematic sessions, building on the valuable experiences gained in the context of thematic sessions since 2012²⁹²:
 - i. to *continue* to hold thematic sessions in conjunction with its regular meetings during 2019 to 2021, with a view to further deepening the Committee's exchange of experiences on specific topics;
 - ii. to *encourage* a more balanced representation of speakers in thematic sessions, from all regions in the world including developing and least developed Members (LDCs). In this respect, to *request* the Secretariat to explore the use of WTO technical assistance funding to support participation of speakers from LDCs, and to consider other ways of facilitating engagement (e.g. streaming);
 - iii. for planning purposes, no later than the last meeting of the year, normally in November, the TBT Committee will *confirm* the specific topics to be discussed at the thematic sessions that would take place during the following year;
 - iv. to *hold* the following thematic sessions²⁹³:
 - March 2019: good regulatory practice²⁹⁴ and conformity assessment procedures²⁹⁵;
 - June 2019: transparency²⁹⁶, including the Ninth Special Meeting on Procedures for Information Exchange²⁹⁷;
 - November 2019: conformity assessment procedures²⁹⁸ and standards²⁹⁹;
 - March 2020: good regulatory practice³⁰⁰ and conformity assessment procedures³⁰¹;
 - June 2020: transparency³⁰² and technical regulations³⁰³;
 - November 2020: conformity assessment procedures³⁰⁴ and one additional topic to be defined in November 2019;

²⁹² In 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. This recommendation was reiterated in the Seventh Triennial Review ([G/TBT/1/Rev.13](#), Section 8.1.1, p.50).

²⁹³ This listing provided below 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.

²⁹⁴ See para. 1.7.a.ii (domestic committees, and other administrative mechanisms, to facilitate internal coordination on TBT).

²⁹⁵ See paras. 4.17.c.i (risk assessment) and 4.17.c.ii (market surveillance and other pre-market and post-market controls).

²⁹⁶ See para. 6.19.

²⁹⁷ Pursuant to the 1995 decision to hold regular meetings of persons responsible for information exchange ([G/TBT/1/Rev.13](#), Section 5.8.1, p. 42).

²⁹⁸ See para. 4.17.c.iv (National Quality Infrastructure).

²⁹⁹ See para. 5.8.a (incorporating standards by reference in regulations).

³⁰⁰ See para. 1.7.

³⁰¹ See para. 4.17.

³⁰² See para. 6.19.

³⁰³ See para. 3.2.

³⁰⁴ See para. 4.17.

- in 2021, Members will continue to hold thematic sessions on topics to be defined in November 2020;
- b. with respect to specific trade concerns:
- i. to *adjust*, on a trial basis³⁰⁵, the procedures³⁰⁶ for the inclusion of specific trade concerns in the annotated draft agenda of the Committee as follows:
 - Members wishing to propose the inclusion of a specific trade concern in the annotated draft agenda should directly inform both the Secretariat and the Member(s) involved of their intention to do so no less than twenty calendar days prior to the convening of the TBT Committee meeting;
 - the annotated draft agenda issued by the Secretariat in advance of each Committee meeting will include all specific trade concerns communicated by Members to the Secretariat; it will indicate (to the extent such information has been communicated to the Secretariat) which concerns are being raised for the first time and which have been previously raised, as well as which concerns relate to *proposed* technical regulations or conformity assessment procedures, and which concerns relate to *final* technical regulations or conformity assessment procedures. It should be circulated no less than fifteen calendar days before the meeting;
 - ii. to *continue discussions* with a view to improving the efficiency and effectiveness of the Committee's consideration of specific trade concerns;
- c. with respect to Observers:
- i. to *ensure* timely consideration of requests for observer status; and
 - ii. to *discuss* best practices for observers' participation in meetings of the TBT Committee.
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³⁰⁵ This adjustment will be valid for the March and June 2019 Committee meetings. After the June 2019 meeting, the Committee will revert to the original procedures unless there is agreement to apply the adjusted procedures on a permanent basis, or to pursue another course of action.

³⁰⁶ [G/TBT/1/Rev.13](#), Section 8.1.1.a, sub-paragraphs (i - iv), p. 50. The procedures in sub-paragraphs (i) and (ii) of [G/TBT/1/Rev.13](#), Section 8.1.1.a, are replaced by the trial procedures set out in the two bullets below. The procedures in sub-paragraphs (iii) and (iv) of [G/TBT/1/Rev.13](#), Section 8.1.1.a, remain unchanged and continue to apply.

ANNEX: SUBMISSIONS FROM MEMBERS BY TOPIC (NOV. 2015 – NOV. 2018)¹

Member	Symbol	Date	Title
Good Regulatory Practice			
United States	JOB/TBT/269	22 October 2018	Comments from the United States on JOB/TBT/248/Rev.1
European Union	JOB/TBT/266	22 October 2018	Comments from the European Union on JOB/TBT/248/Rev.1
South Africa	JOB/TBT/265	22 October 2018	Comments from South Africa on JOB/TBT/248/Rev.1
Mexico	JOB/TBT/259	19 September 2018	Comments from Mexico on JOB/TBT/248
Colombia	JOB/TBT/258	18 September 2018	Comments from Colombia on JOB/TBT/248
Brazil	JOB/TBT/257	18 September 2018	Comments from Brazil on JOB/TBT/248
Korea	JOB/TBT/256	18 September 2018	Comments from Korea on JOB/TBT/248
United States	JOB/TBT/255	17 September 2018	Comments from United States on JOB/TBT/248
European Union	JOB/TBT/254	17 September 2018	Comments from European Union on JOB/TBT/248
Uganda	JOB/TBT/251/Rev.1	14 September 2018	Comments from Uganda on JOB/TBT/248
South Africa	JOB/TBT/250	12 September 2018	Comments from South Africa on JOB/TBT/248
New Zealand	JOB/TBT/249	3 September 2018	Comments from New Zealand on JOB/TBT/248
Brazil	G/TBT/W/461/Rev.1	5 June 2018	Operation of the Committee – Good Regulatory Practices – Conformity Assessment Procedures - Transparency - Eighth Triennial Review
New Zealand	G/TBT/W/463	13 March 2018	Domestic coordination of information relevant to Notifications - Eighth Triennial Review
South Africa	G/TBT/W/452	24 October 2017	Operation of the Committee – Good Regulatory Practice – Transparency - Eighth Triennial Review
Regulatory Cooperation Between Members			
Singapore	JOB/TBT/268	22 October 2018	Comments from Singapore on JOB/TBT/248/Rev.1
European Union	JOB/TBT/266	22 October 2018	Comments from the European Union on JOB/TBT/248/Rev.1
Guatemala	JOB/TBT/260	19 September 2018	Comments from Guatemala on JOB/TBT/248
Mexico	JOB/TBT/259	19 September 2018	Comments from Mexico on JOB/TBT/248
United States	JOB/TBT/255	17 September 2018	Comments from United States on JOB/TBT/248
European Union	JOB/TBT/254	17 September 2018	Comments from European Union on JOB/TBT/248

¹ 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
Technical Regulations			
United States	JOB/TBT/269	22 October 2018	Comments from the United States on JOB/TBT/248/Rev.1
Singapore	JOB/TBT/268	22 October 2018	Comments from Singapore on JOB/TBT/248/Rev.1
European Union	JOB/TBT/266	22 October 2018	Comments from the European Union on JOB/TBT/248/Rev.1
Brazil	JOB/TBT/257	18 September 2018	Comments from Brazil on JOB/TBT/248
United States	JOB/TBT/255	17 September 2018	Comments from United States on JOB/TBT/248
European Union	G/TBT/W/534	6 June 2018	Mandatory Marking and Labelling Requirements on Imported Products: Practical Compliance Issues - Eighth Triennial Review
Conformity Assessment Procedures			
United States	JOB/TBT/269	22 October 2018	Comments from the United States on JOB/TBT/248/Rev.1
Singapore	JOB/TBT/268	22 October 2018	Comments from Singapore on JOB/TBT/248/Rev.1
European Union	JOB/TBT/266	22 October 2018	Comments from the European Union on JOB/TBT/248/Rev.1
Egypt	JOB/TBT/263	18 October 2018	Comments from Egypt on JOB/TBT/248/Rev.1
Colombia	JOB/TBT/258	18 September 2018	Comments from Colombia on JOB/TBT/248
Brazil	JOB/TBT/257	18 September 2018	Comments from Brazil on JOB/TBT/248
United States	JOB/TBT/255	17 September 2018	Comments from United States on JOB/TBT/248
European Union	JOB/TBT/254	17 September 2018	Comments from European Union on JOB/TBT/248
Australia	JOB/TBT/252	14 September 2018	Comments from Australia on JOB/TBT/248
Uganda	JOB/TBT/251/Rev.1	14 September 2018	Comments from Uganda on JOB/TBT/248
South Africa	JOB/TBT/250	12 September 2018	Comments from South Africa on JOB/TBT/248
New Zealand	JOB/TBT/249	3 September 2018	Comments from New Zealand on JOB/TBT/248
Brazil	G/TBT/W/461/Rev.1	5 June 2018	Operation of the Committee – Good Regulatory Practices – Conformity Assessment Procedures - Transparency - Eighth Triennial Review
Brazil	G/TBT/W/533	5 June 2018	Conformity Assessment Procedures - Operation of the Committee - Eighth Triennial Review
United States	G/TBT/W/531	5 June 2018	Approaches to Conformity Assessment - Eighth Triennial Review
Chinese Taipei	G/TBT/W/530	29 May 2018	Proposal on a holistic approach to Risk Assessment - Eighth Triennial Review
Uganda	JOB/TBT/245	20 March 2018	Comments by Uganda on G/TBT/W/462 - Eighth Triennial Review

Member	Symbol	Date	Title
European Union	G/TBT/W/462	9 March 2018	Approaches to Conformity Assessment - Eighth Triennial Review
South Africa	G/TBT/W/453	25 October 2017	Certificates of Free Sale: Compliance with the Provisions of the WTO Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade - Eighth Triennial Review
Standards			
Canada	JOB/TBT/267	22 October 2018	Comments from Canada on JOB/TBT/248/Rev.1
South Africa	JOB/TBT/265	22 October 2018	Comments from South Africa on JOB/TBT/248/Rev.1
Japan	JOB/TBT/264	19 October 2018	Comments from Japan on JOB/TBT/248/Rev.1
United States	JOB/TBT/255	17 September 2018	Comments from United States on JOB/TBT/248
European Union	JOB/TBT/254	17 September 2018	Comments from European Union on JOB/TBT/248
Japan	JOB/TBT/253	14 September 2018	Comments from Japan on JOB/TBT/248
Canada	G/TBT/W/532	5 June 2018	Standards and Technical Regulations: A Gender-Based Discussion - Eighth Triennial Review
Chinese Taipei	G/TBT/W/530	29 May 2018	Proposal on a holistic approach to Risk Assessment - Eighth Triennial Review
Canada	G/TBT/W/529	24 May 2018	Incorporation of standards by reference - Eighth Triennial Review
South Africa	G/TBT/W/452	24 October 2017	Operation of the Committee – Good Regulatory Practice – Transparency - Eighth Triennial Review
Transparency			
United States	JOB/TBT/269	22 October 2018	Comments from the United States on JOB/TBT/248/Rev.1
European Union	JOB/TBT/266	22 October 2018	Comments from the European Union on JOB/TBT/248/Rev.1
South Africa	JOB/TBT/265	22 October 2018	Comments from South Africa on JOB/TBT/248/Rev.1
Colombia	JOB/TBT/258	18 September 2018	Comments from Colombia on JOB/TBT/248
Brazil	JOB/TBT/257	18 September 2018	Comments from Brazil on JOB/TBT/248
Korea	JOB/TBT/256	18 September 2018	Comments from Korea on JOB/TBT/248
United States	JOB/TBT/255	17 September 2018	Comments from United States on JOB/TBT/248
European Union	JOB/TBT/254	17 September 2018	Comments from European Union on JOB/TBT/248
Japan	JOB/TBT/253	14 September 2018	Comments from Japan on JOB/TBT/248
Australia	JOB/TBT/252	14 September 2018	Comments from Australia on JOB/TBT/248
Uganda	JOB/TBT/251/Rev.1	14 September 2018	Comments from Uganda on JOB/TBT/248

Member	Symbol	Date	Title
Australia	G/TBT/W/537	8 June 2018	Transparency - Eighth Triennial Review
Switzerland	G/TBT/W/536	8 June 2018	Transparency – Handling of comments - Publication of comments on notified measures and replies thereto - Eighth Triennial Review
United States	G/TBT/W/535	6 June 2018	Transparency: List of Member Websites on adopted technical Regulations - Eighth Triennial Review
Brazil	G/TBT/W/461/Rev.1	5 June 2018	Operation of the Committee – Good Regulatory Practices – Conformity Assessment Procedures - Transparency - Eighth Triennial Review
Brazil	G/TBT/W/460/Rev.1	5 June 2018	Notification Procedures under the TBT Committee - Eighth Triennial Review
Japan	G/TBT/W/528	9 May 2018	Effective use of the notification format- Eighth Triennial Review
Uganda	JOB/TBT/246	20 March 2018	Comments by Uganda on G/TBT/W/464 - Eighth Triennial Review
United States	G/TBT/W/464	16 March 2018	Improving information in Notifications - Eighth Triennial Review
New Zealand	G/TBT/W/463	13 March 2018	Domestic coordination of information relevant to Notifications - Eighth Triennial Review
South Africa	G/TBT/W/452	24 October 2017	Operation of the Committee – Good Regulatory Practice – Transparency - Eighth Triennial Review
United States	G/TBT/W/451	18 October 2017	Transparency - Eighth Triennial Review
Technical Assistance			
United States	JOB/TBT/255	17 September 2018	Comments from United States on JOB/TBT/248
European Union	JOB/TBT/254	17 September 2018	Comments from European Union on JOB/TBT/248
Uganda	JOB/TBT/251/Rev.1	14 September 2018	Comments from Uganda on JOB/TBT/248
The Philippines, Mauritius and Uganda	G/TBT/W/538/Rev.1	8 June 2018	Technical Assistance - Eighth Triennial Review
Operation of the Committee			
European Union	JOB/TBT/266	22 October 2018	Comments from the European Union on JOB/TBT/248/Rev.1
United States	JOB/TBT/255	17 September 2018	Comments from United States on JOB/TBT/248
European Union	JOB/TBT/254	17 September 2018	Comments from European Union on JOB/TBT/248
Japan	JOB/TBT/253	14 September 2018	Comments from Japan on JOB/TBT/248
Australia	JOB/TBT/252	14 September 2018	Comments from Australia on JOB/TBT/248

Member	Symbol	Date	Title
South Africa	JOB/TBT/250	12 September 2018	Comments from South Africa on JOB/TBT/248
New Zealand	JOB/TBT/249	3 September 2018	Comments from New Zealand on JOB/TBT/248
United States	G/TBT/W/539	8 June 2018	Operation of the Committee: best practices for Observers - Eighth Triennial Review
Brazil	G/TBT/W/461/Rev.1	5 June 2018	Operation of the Committee – Good Regulatory Practices – Conformity Assessment Procedures – Transparency – Eighth Triennial Review
Brazil	G/TBT/W/533	5 June 2018	Conformity Assessment Procedures – Operation of the Committee – Eighth Triennial Review
South Africa	G/TBT/W/452	24 October 2017	Operation of the Committee – Good Regulatory Practice – Transparency – Eighth Triennial Review