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Committee on Technical Barriers to Trade

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IMPLEMENTATION AND ADMINISTRATION OF THE AGREEMENT ON TECHNICAL BARRIERS TO TRADE

COMMUNICATION FROM CÔTE D'IVOIRE

Addendum

The following communication under Article 15.2 of the Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade, dated 6 January 2020, has been received from Côte d'Ivoire.

Pursuant to Article 15.2 of the Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT), the Government of Côte d'Ivoire, a GATT Member since 31 December 1963 and World Trade Organization (WTO) Member since 1 January 1995, would like to inform the Committee of the measures taken to ensure the implementation and administration of the Agreement.

Côte d'Ivoire implements all the WTO Agreements and is involved in current negotiations on new issues of interest to the multilateral trading system. Among these agreements is the TBT Agreement, which aims to ensure that technical regulations, standards and conformity assessment procedures are non-discriminatory and do not create unnecessary obstacles to trade. The Agreement recognizes Members' right to implement measures to achieve legitimate policy objectives, such as the protection of human health and safety, and the protection of the environment.

1 IMPLEMENTATION OF THE TBT AGREEMENT

1.1. The domestic implementation of the TBT Agreement may be presented in accordance with the three main areas covered by the Agreement, namely, technical regulations (mandatory), standards (voluntary) and conformity assessment procedures.

1.1 Technical regulations

1.2. In Côte d'Ivoire, a set of statutory texts defines the technical regulations applicable to international trade. These include laws and decrees making certain standards mandatory, prohibiting the importation of vehicles over five years old and prohibiting, *inter alia*, analogue television sets and plastic bags.

1.3. Through the departments of the Directorate of Metrology, Quality Control and Fraud Prevention (DMCQRF) and Trade Regulation Directorate (DRE), the Ministry of Trade and Industry oversees the aforementioned measures. The units of some ministerial departments also conduct documentary and/or physical inspections within the framework of import procedures. Nevertheless, the customs services are on the front line as far as the customs territory is concerned.

1.2 Standards

1.4. Set up on 24 September 1992 and recognized to be of public utility since 10 July 2002, Côte d'Ivoire Normalisation (CODINORM) is the national body responsible for developing and issuing Ivorian standards. It is accompanied by the Ivorian Standardization Committee (CIN), established by Decree No. 2014-460 of 6 August 2014 on powers, structure and functioning. The CIN aims to

contribute to the implementation of the national quality policy, the system for the development and application of standards, and quality-control methods for products, goods and services for the public.

1.5. CODINORM is also responsible for certifying products and attributing them with a national trademark and a declaration of conformity with standards.

1.6. At regional level, CODINORM is a member of:

- The African Regional Organization for Standardization (ARSO)
- The African Electrotechnical Standardization Commission (AFSEC)
- The Regional Standardization, Certification and Quality Promotion Secretariat (NormCerq), Commission of the West African Economic and Monetary Union (WAEMU), and houses the regional secretariat for electrotechnical standardization.

1.7. At international level, CODINORM has been a member body of the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) since 1997, having been a correspondent member from January 1975 to July 1997. On account of its ISO membership, CODINORM has online access to all ISO standards, which can be made available to the public. CODINORM is a member of:

- The ISO Committee on Developing Country Matters (DEVCO)
- The Affiliate Country Programme of the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC).

1.8. CODINORM is a signatory to the Code of Good Practice for Standardization, by which it incorporates international standardization into the formulation of Ivorian standards. CODINORM would generally allow 45 days for the submission of comments on a draft measure. It also serves as the WTO/TBT National Enquiry Point.

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1.3 Conformity assessment procedure

1.9. Côte d'Ivoire has established a conformity assessment procedure (VOC), with a view to combating fraud and the counterfeiting of certain products. This programme has been operating since January 2019 and covers both food and non-food products.

1.10. The companies mandated by the State of Côte d'Ivoire to conduct pre-shipment conformity inspections and assessments of goods for importation into Côte d'Ivoire are:

- Bureau Veritas Inspection Valuation Assessment and Control-BIVAC BV
- COTECNA Inspection SA
- INTERTEK, International Limited
- SGS, Société Générale de Surveillance SA.

1.11. Through their international network of subsidiaries and laboratories, these companies operate in all countries of export and of origin to ensure that the products covered by the programme comply with standards.
