

REPORT (2010) OF THE COMMITTEE ON TECHNICAL BARRIERS TO TRADE

1. The Committee held its fifty-first to fifty-third regular meetings on 18-19 March, 25-26 June and 3-4 November 2010, under the Chairmanship of Mr. Aldo (Ami) Levin (Israel) and Mr. Amit Yadav (India).¹
2. At each of the meetings in 2010, the Committee heard statements from a number of Members informing the Committee of measures taken to ensure the implementation and administration of the Agreement. In total, since 1995, 121 Members have submitted at least one Statement on implementation and administration under Article 15.2 of the TBT Agreement.
3. New specific trade concerns were brought to the attention of the Committee with regard to their potential adverse trade effects or inconsistency with the Agreement, and the Committee heard exchanges on several trade concerns that have previously been raised (G/TBT/GEN/74/series).
4. During the reporting period, the Committee initiated an exchange of experiences on issues under Future Work items agreed at the Fifth Triennial Review of the Operation and Implementation of the Agreement under Article 15.4, concluded on 6 November 2009 (G/TBT/26), namely: good regulatory practice, conformity assessment procedures, transparency and technical assistance.
5. At its meeting on 24-25 March 2010, the Committee adopted the Fifteenth Annual Review of the Implementation and Operation of the TBT Agreement under Article 15.3 (G/TBT/28). At the same meeting, the Committee carried out the Fifteenth Annual Review of the Code of Good Practice for the Preparation, Adoption and Application of Standards. This work was based on the following background documents: a list of standardizing bodies that have accepted the Code in the period under review (G/TBT/CS/1/Add.14), a list of standardizing bodies that have accepted the Code since 1 January 1995 (G/TBT/CS/2/Rev.16) and the Fifteenth Edition of the WTO TBT Standards Code Directory prepared by the ISO/IEC Information Centre.
6. At its meeting of 23-24 June 2010, the Committee granted ad hoc observer status to the International Telecommunications Union (ITU). Also, the Committee held the Sixth Special Meeting on Procedures for Information Exchange on 22 June 2010.² This meeting addressed issues relating to: good practices in notification; electronic databases, operation of enquiry points, and transparency in standard-setting. A summary report of the meeting is contained in Annex 1 of G/TBT/M/51.
7. At its meeting of 3-4 November, the Committee granted ad hoc observer status to the Southern African Development Community (SADC).

¹ G/TBT/M/50-52.

² The programme for the Sixth Special Meeting on Procedures for Information Exchange is contained in G/TBT/GEN/100.

8. During the regular meetings of the TBT Committee held in 2010, representatives of the Codex, IEC, ISO, ITC, OECD, OIML, UNECE, UNIDO and ITU updated the Committee on activities relevant to the work of the TBT Committee, including on technical assistance.
