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## **Saudi Arabia – Added sugar upper limit in some food products**

The United States, supported by Switzerland, the European Union and Russia, expressed concern with a proposed measure by Saudi Food and Drug Associations (SFDA) which introduces an upper limit of sugar on imports of food and beverages. The US noted that there are numerous products where the use of sugar is necessary as a preservative and stabiliser and that there is no viable alternative.

Members said that while they appreciate the objective of the new regulation to address obesity and diabetes, they believe that there is a lack of scientific evidence to justify the limits prescribed. Members encouraged Saudi Arabia to conduct consultations with private sector stakeholders in a transparent manner. The US added that if the measure is implemented, it will disrupt the export of a wide range of products such as jams, ice-creams, carbonated drinks and confectionaries.

Saudi Arabia said that the implementation of this measure will be suspended until further notice. It added that the regulation will be reviewed and that it will continue bilateral consultations with interested members.