

Draft
Subject to Legal Review for Accuracy, Clarity, and Consistency
March 31, 2004

United States-Morocco Joint Statement
on Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) Cooperation

1. The Government of the United States of America (“United States”) and the Government of the Kingdom of Morocco (“Morocco”) support the full implementation of the WTO Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (“WTO SPS Agreement”).
2. The United States and Morocco have a history of cooperation and partnership in the area of SPS issues.
3. The United States and Morocco affirm their intent to pursue efforts to enhance bilateral SPS cooperation, recognizing that trade liberalization and strengthening investment ties between the United States and Morocco in the context of the U.S.-Morocco Free Trade Agreement (“FTA”) supports economic development, including through agricultural reform.
4. The two governments will cooperate on SPS matters by engaging in mutually agreed activities including cooperative activities aimed at supporting Moroccan agricultural reform, that promote full implementation of the WTO SPS Agreement and facilitate trade between the two governments.
5. To broaden and deepen effective cooperation on SPS issues, the United States and Morocco are establishing a Working Group on SPS Cooperation (“Working Group”) composed of government representatives appointed by the United States and Morocco. The governments intend that the Working Group will meet annually as agreed by both Parties, alternately in each country.
6. The two governments expect that the Working Group will devise a Plan of Action. In this Plan of Action, the Working Group should identify priority projects for SPS cooperation. Recognizing that the two governments may identify new cooperative priorities in the event of changing circumstances, the Working Group should update the Plan of Action as appropriate.
7. The Working Group and each government should solicit, and take into account as appropriate, the views of the public with respect to the Plan of Action.
8. The Working Group will report on its work to the SPS Subcommittee established under the FTA. In conducting its work, the Working Group should consider any views and recommendations of the SPS Subcommittee.

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9. Each government is expected to name a Principal Coordinator to serve as an overall point of contact regarding the activities of the Working Group and implementation of the Plan of Action.

10. All cooperative activities undertaken pursuant to the Working Group's Plan of Action are conditioned upon the availability of appropriated funds and are subject to the applicable laws and regulations of the United States and Morocco.