

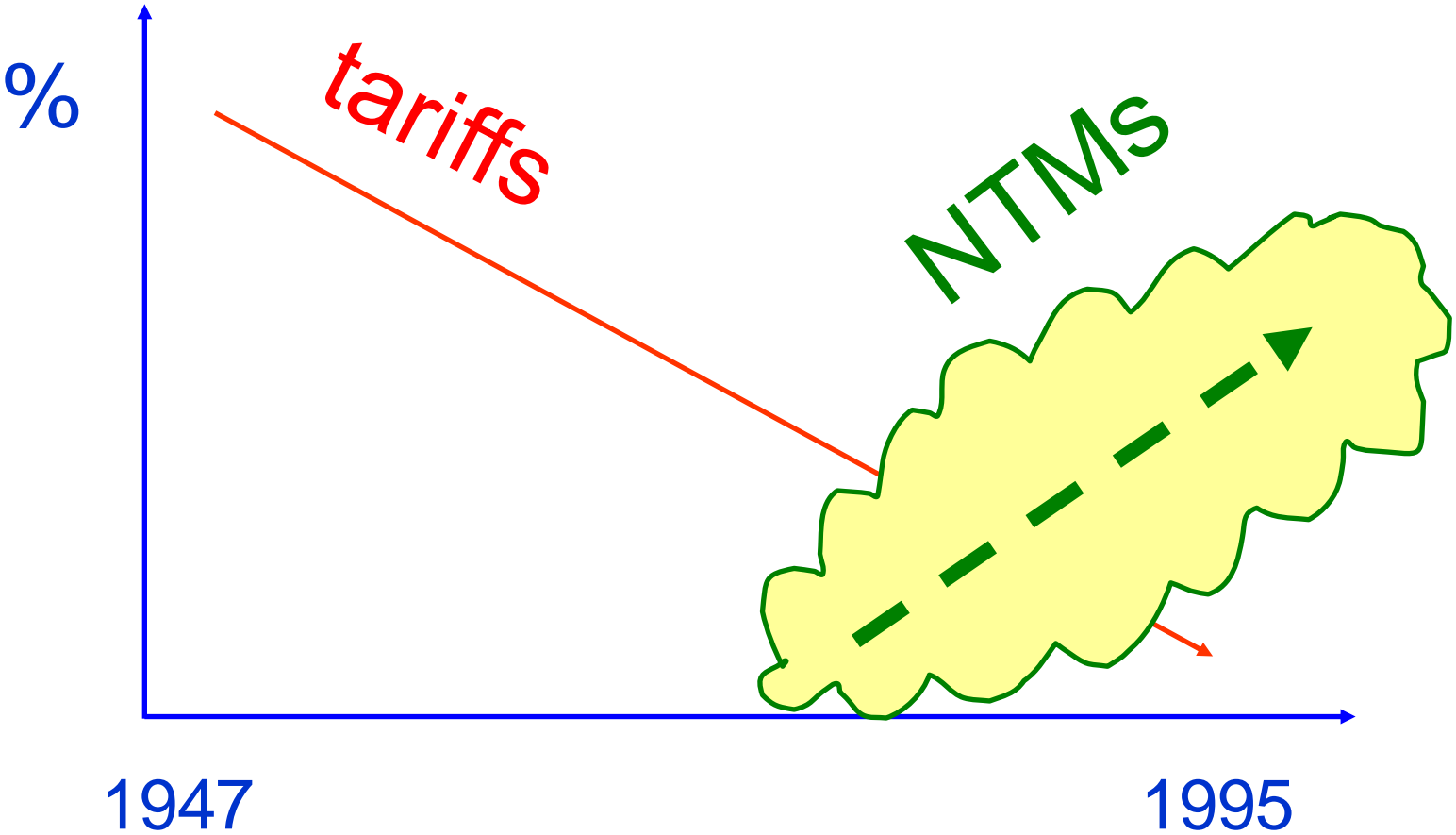
The WTO SPS Agreement and Good Regulatory Practices to Improve SPS Measures

Camille Fléchet, WTO Secretariat

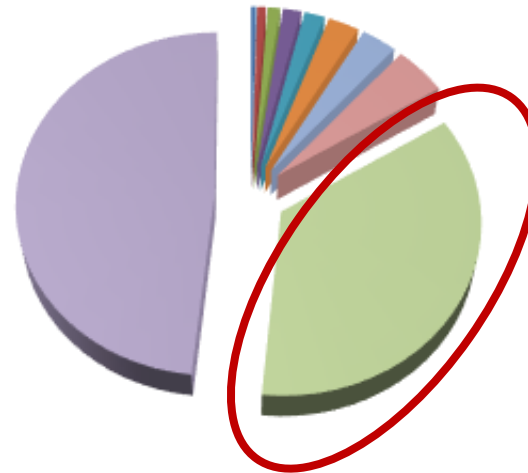
ADB–WTO–Pakistan Virtual Seminar on SPS Measures, 31 March 2022

1. Why does the WTO SPS Agreement matter?
2. STDF Guide on Good Regulatory Practices to improve SPS measures

Non-tariff measures (NTMs)



NTMs notified – Goods



- Countervailing
- Export Subsidies
- Special Safeguards
- Tariff-rate quotas
- Sanitary and Phytosanitary
- Safeguards
- Import licencing
- Quantitative Restrictions
- Anti dumping
- Technical Barriers to Trade



39% Of all non-tariff measures relate to SPS.

Over 60% Percentage of all food-related products to which SPS measure(s) apply.

91% Percentage of all animal products to which SPS measure(s) apply.

87% Percentage of all vegetables to which SPS measure(s) apply.

Objective of the SPS Agreement



Facilitating trade...

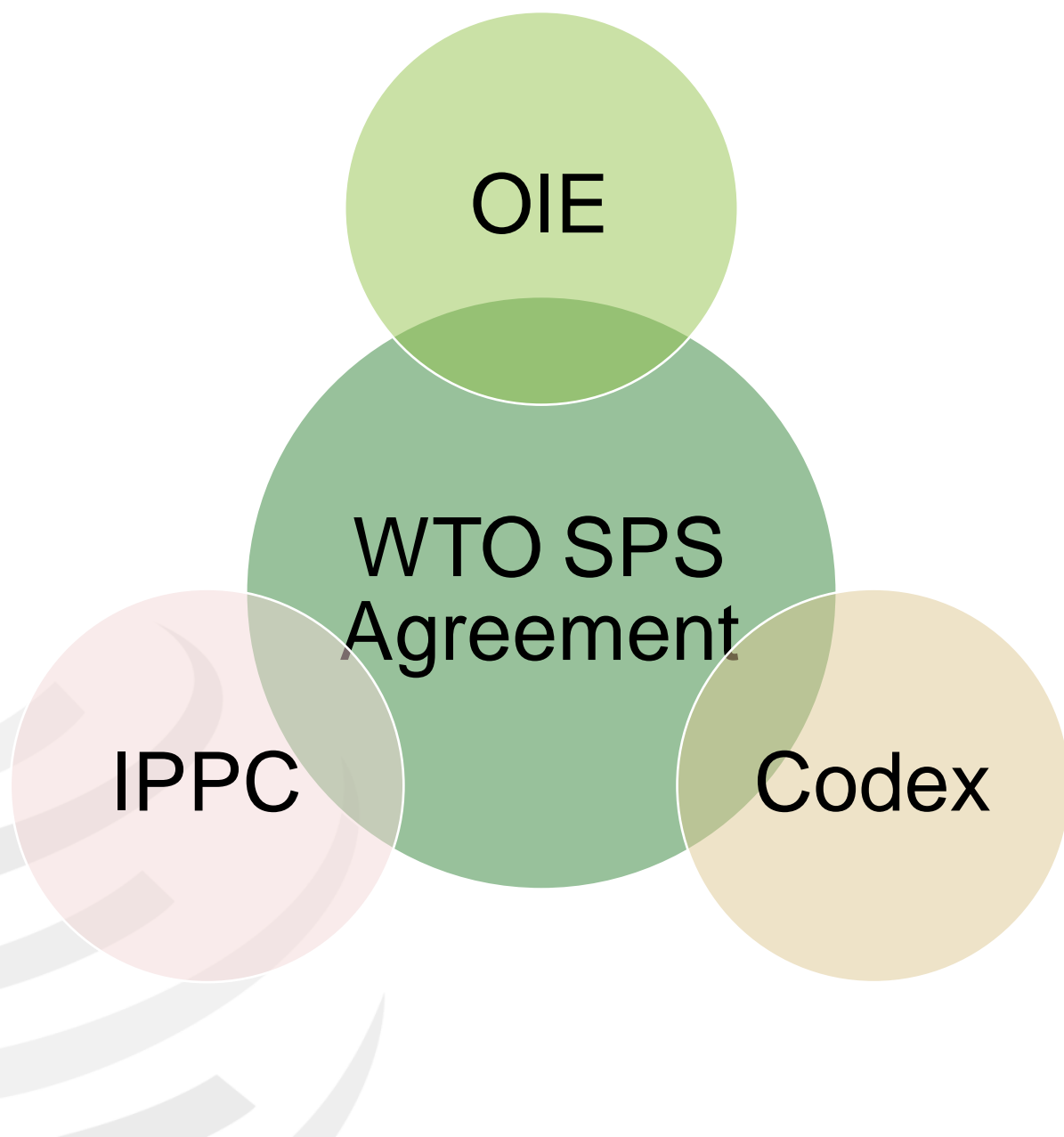
avoid unnecessary
barriers to
international trade

Members' right to regulate

protect human, animal,
plant life or health



International standards



Key SPS disciplines

1. Non-discrimination
2. Science-based SPS measures: harmonization or risk assessment
3. Least trade restrictive SPS measure
4. Equivalence
5. Regionalization
6. Transparency
7. Technical assistance / special and differential treatment
8. Control, inspection, and approval procedures

STDF knowledge work

Good practice on latest SPS solutions

Reducing trade costs

Electronic SPS certification

Good regulatory practice (GRP)

Public-private partnerships

Prioritizing SPS investments

Climate change



Good regulatory practices to improve SPS measures: A practical guide



Why an STDF Guide on GRPs?

- Consolidate information on GRPs in the SPS context
- Offer practical guidance to SPS regulators
- Help SPS regulators build on practical experiences with GRPs
- Raise awareness
- Get public and private sector stakeholders engaged

https://www.standardsfacility.org/sites/default/files/STDF_GRP_Guide_EN.pdf

Target audience

Agencies developing,
overseeing or
implementing SPS
measures in developing
countries

Government officials in
ministries, legislatures

Oversight bodies tasked
with GRPs

Public and private sector
stakeholders supporting
the development or
implementation of SPS
measures

How to use GRPs to ensure SPS measures are fit for purpose?

- Better designed SPS measures based on international standards and in compliance with the WTO SPS Agreement
- Improved understanding of, and greater compliance with, SPS measures
- Reduced cost and administrative burden of SPS measures
- Increased trust of the private sector and consumers in regulatory processes
- Greater confidence of trading partners and investors

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Are current SPS measures adequate?

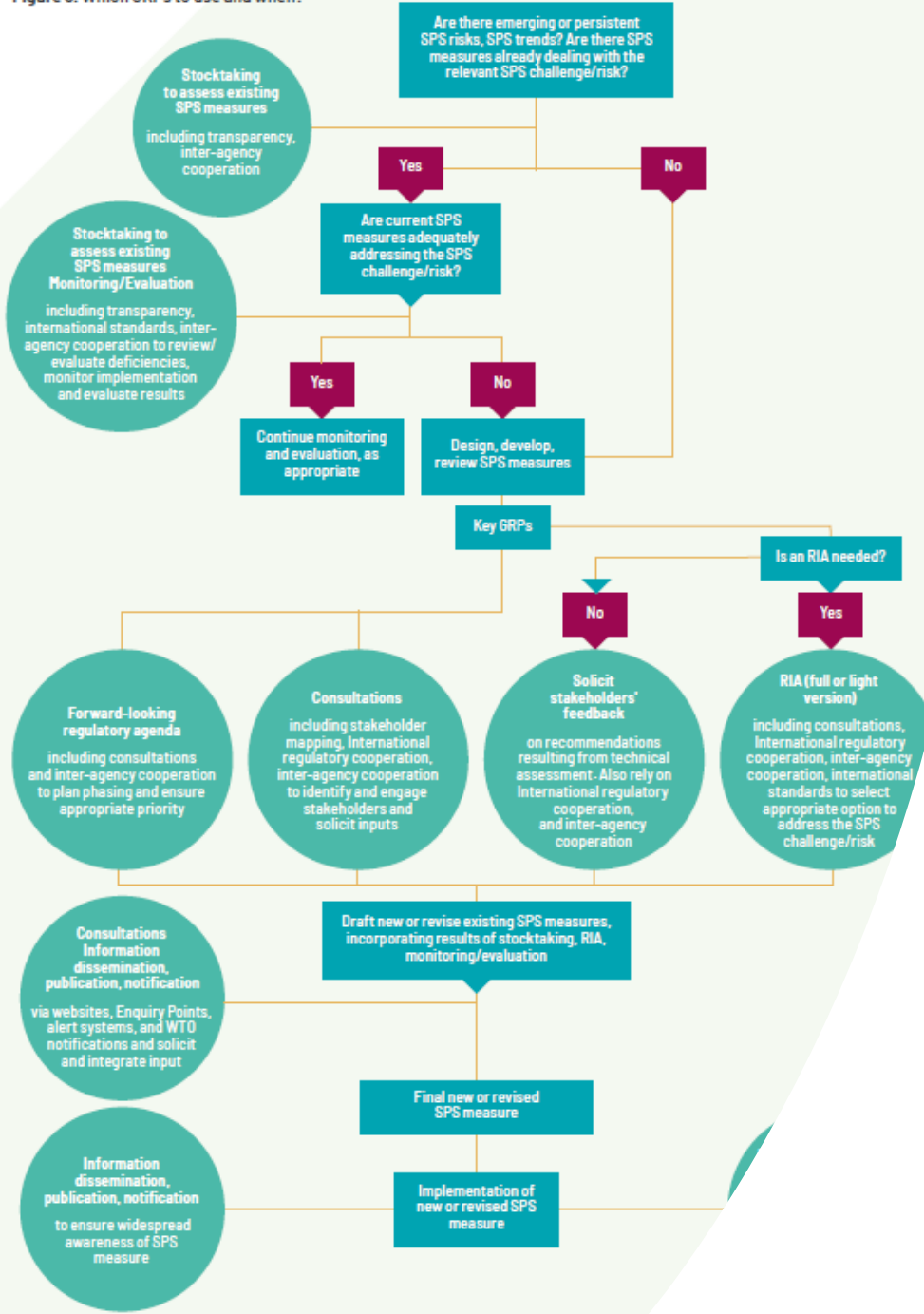
How to plan for SPS regulatory changes?

What SPS regulatory options exist?

How to develop new SPS measures?

Does the new/ revised SPS measure achieve its objective?

Figure 3. Which GRPs to use and when?



How can the STDF guide help?

- Understand how GRPs improve SPS systems
- Follow a roadmap to select and use GRPs
- Ensure consistency with SPS Agreement using an SPS checklist
- Rely on country experiences with GRPs in the SPS area
- Learn how GRPs can be adapted to country context
- Find links to useful resources

Guidance on key GRPs

- Taking stock of SPS measures
- Forward-looking agenda
- RIA
- Monitoring and evaluation
- Transparency
- Coordination and cooperation

https://www.standardsfacility.org/sites/default/files/STDF_GRP_Guide_EN.pdf



What's next?



Thank you!

Visit the WTO SPS gateway: www.wto.org/sps

Follow us on Twitter: [#WTOsps](https://twitter.com/WTOsps)

Visit the STDF webpage on GRPs:
<https://www.standardsfacility.org/good-regulatory-practice>

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