



CCSBT-EC/2410/14

## Relationship with Non-Members

### Purpose

To provide an update concerning discussion or issues with Non-Member and Non-CNM (Cooperating Non-Member) States/Entities.

### Identification of States that have or are likely to become important port or market States for SBT, for consideration at CCSBT 31.

CCSBT 18 agreed that the following process would be used for nominating States that have or are likely to become important port or market States for SBT:

- Members nominate important States whose cooperation is desired, together with background information supporting that nomination and provide this information to the Executive Secretary at least 6 weeks in advance of the Annual Meeting.
- The Executive Secretary incorporates this information in the Secretariat's agenda paper for the standing agenda item on "Relationship with Non-Members" for consideration by the Extended Commission.
- With the Extended Commission's endorsement, the Executive Secretary write to the nominated State(s) seeking their cooperation.
- The nominating Member follow-up the Executive Secretary's letter with bilateral discussion. This is an important step because experience has shown that many States do not respond to written communication.

No nominations were provided to the Secretariat in advance of CCSBT 31.

### Interactions with Non-Members

In accordance with the decision of CCSBT 30, the Secretariat has invited China, Fiji, Malaysia, Mauritius, Panama, Seychelles, Singapore and the USA to attend the October 2024 Annual Meetings of the Compliance Committee and the Extended Commission. The Secretariat also sent invitation reminders to all these non-Members in July.

There has been additional interaction between the CCSBT Secretariat and non-Member States in the compliance area, particularly the USA's continued cooperation with the CCSBT CDS. The USA has advised that it would not seek OSEC status at this time but reaffirmed its cooperation with the CDS.

Efforts by the Secretariat to engage with Malaysia did not generate a response. The direction from Members for the Secretariat to engage with Malaysia was based on previous reports of imports, however, there have been no reports of further imports in the last two years and the Secretariat recommends removing Malaysia from the list of invitees for the 2025 meetings.

Based on the most recent export destination statistics (see Attachment C of CCSBT-CC/2410/04), Members may wish to consider inviting the following importing countries to CCSBT meetings and/or encourage them to cooperate with the CDS:

- Canada (14 tonnes); and
- Philippines (22 tonnes)

Engagement with Singapore, Panama and Mauritius has been very limited and the likelihood of their attendance at an in-person CCSBT meeting appears to be quite low based on those limited exchanges. The Secretariat recommends that the invitations to Singapore, Panama and Mauritius not be carried forward to 2025 but that the Secretariat continue to engage with these States as required.

Although Fiji has not attended a CCSBT meeting in recent years, they have continued to engage with the Secretariat and show an interest in the Commission's work and processes. The Secretariat, therefore, recommends that their meeting invitation be extended to 2025.

The Secretariat's efforts to engage with China remain unsuccessful, however, China's continued role as a significant importing State warrants a renewed attempt in 2025.

Additional details on interactions with non-Members and other organisations in the compliance area are reported in papers CCSBT-CC/2410/17 and 18 respectively.

## **Recommendations**

The Secretariat recommends that Members:

- Note that no additional States were identified by Members as "likely to become important port or market States";
- Consider inviting the following countries to attend the 2025 meetings of the Compliance Committee and Extended Commission:
  - Canada;
  - China;
  - Fiji;
  - the Philippines;
  - Seychelles; and
  - United States of America

**Prepared by the Secretariat**