8. When establishing or maintaining phytosanitary import conditions on request of the exporting Party, the importing Party shall recognise the pest free areas, pest free places of production, pest free production sites, areas of low pest prevalence and protected zones established by the exporting Party as a basis for consideration towards the determination to allow or maintain the import.

9. The exporting Party shall identify its pest free areas, pest free places of production, pest free production sites and areas of low pest prevalence or protected zones. If requested by the importing Party, the exporting Party shall provide a full explanation and supporting data based on the relevant International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures developed under the IPPC, or in other ways as deemed appropriate by the Parties, based on the knowledge acquired through experience of the exporting Party's relevant phytosanitary authorities.

10. In implementing paragraphs 7 to 9, technical consultations and audits may be carried out. Technical consultations shall take place in accordance with Article 6.12. The audits shall be carried out in accordance with Article 6.8, taking into account the biology of the pest and the commodity concerned.

11. Each Party shall ensure that the procedures and obligations set out in paragraphs 8 to 10 are carried out without undue delay.

12. Whenever a quarantine pest is detected in a protected zone, the exporting Party shall immediately notify the importing Party and, on request of the importing Party, immediately suspend the relevant export. The exporting Party may resume the export provided that the importing Party is satisfied with the assurances provided by the exporting Party.

ARTICLE 6.11

Transparency and exchange of information

1. Each Party shall, in accordance with Article 7 of the SPS Agreement and Annexes B and C to the SPS Agreement:

(a) ensure transparency as regards:

(i) sanitary and phytosanitary measures, including import conditions; and

(ii) control, inspection and approval procedures, including complete details about the mandatory administrative steps, expected timelines and the authorities in charge of receiving import applications and of processing them;