



Conference of Ministers of Agriculture of the Americas
2019 Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA)

**Draft Resolution presented by the United States of America:
“Ministerial Commitment to pesticide-related provisions of
the WTO Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and
Phytosanitary Measures” – Rev. 2**

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San Jose, Costa Rica
29-31 October 2019

DRAFT RESOLUTION PROPOSED
BY THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA – Rev. 2

MINISTERIAL COMMITMENT TO PESTICIDE-RELATED PROVISIONS OF THE WTO
AGREEMENT ON THE APPLICATION OF SANITARY AND PHYTOSANITARY
MEASURES

The INTER-AMERICAN BOARD OF AGRICULTURE (IABA), at its Twentieth Regular Meeting,

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT:

The event, Maximum Residue Levels (MRLs) in Perspective, held on 30 October 2019, at the Headquarters of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), San Jose, Costa Rica,

CONSIDERING:

That IICA Member States in the Americas continue to face the challenge of producing food in a safe and sustainable way, and that farmers must be able to access the full range of tools and technologies available for agricultural production;

That farmers' access to agricultural production tools is increasingly limited by non-tariff measures that lack sufficient justification based on science and the principles of risk assessment, thus having considerable negative impact on the production, productivity and trade in safe food and agricultural products; and

That in December 2017, two months following the Nineteenth Regular Meeting of the IABA held on 25-26 October 2017, several Western Hemisphere Member States endorsed a Ministerial statement in support of the work of the SPS Committee of the World Trade Organization (WTO) and the WTO Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS Agreement) during the Eleventh Ministerial Conference of the WTO¹,

RESOLVES:

1. To affirm the importance of the work undertaken by the WTO SPS Committee to examine pesticide maximum residue limit-related issues that have an adverse impact on international trade in food and agricultural products.

¹ WT/MIN(17)/52

2. To achieve consensus in the Western Hemisphere on collaborative actions to address pesticide-related issues that impact agricultural exports including from developing countries, for example, through the promotion of collaboration in the generation of necessary data for setting trade-facilitative and regionally relevant MRLs, especially for specialty crops.
3. To affirm the importance of the risk analysis process for assessing, managing and communicating risks of concern associated with pesticide exposure in order to protect public health while enabling trade of safe food and agricultural products.
4. To commit to improving transparency and predictability in the establishment and adoption of national MRLs.
5. To strengthen the implementation of the SPS Agreement by working collectively to enhance shared understanding of the provisions, including scientific justification, as they pertain to MRLs.
6. To affirm the importance of the Codex Alimentarius Commission as the relevant international standard-setting body for pesticide MRLs and to actively enable the work of the Codex Committee on Pesticide Residues and Joint FAO/WHO Meeting on Pesticide Residues.