

RESOLUTION No. 520

**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 Limits (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 tools and technologies is increasingly limited by non-tariff measures in the target markets, which lack sufficient technical and scientific justification, and therefore have considerable negative impacts 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 Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (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 trade 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 and facilitate regional participation in the work of the Codex Committee on Pesticide Residues and Joint FAO/WHO Meeting on Pesticide Residues.
7. To apply the same principles stated above to other issues associated with MRLs, such as heavy metals.