



CCSBT-EC/2510/17

Relationship with Non-Members

Purpose

To provide an update concerning discussion or issues with 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 32.

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 32.

Interactions with Non-Members

In accordance with the decision of CCSBT 31, the Secretariat has invited Canada, China, Fiji, the Philippines, Seychelles, Thailand and the USA to attend the October 2025 Annual Meetings of the Compliance Committee and the Extended Commission. The Secretariat also sent invitation reminders to all these non-Members in July with the exception of Canada which had previously declined the invitation.

Formal responses were received from Canada, Fiji, Thailand, and the USA. Canada declined the invitation on the basis that its records showed only nominal imports of SBT. Fiji engaged with the Secretariat throughout the year (including during informal discussions with the Executive Secretary in the margins of the Honiara Summit) but at the time of writing had not yet confirmed its intent to attend this year's meetings. Thailand provided an initial response seeking clarification on whether meetings would be held in a hybrid format, the maximum number of participants, and whether financial support was available. The Executive Secretary provided Thailand with the information requested and no further communication was

received. The USA confirmed their continued engagement and will be sending a representative to attend this year's meeting of the Compliance Committee.

Based on the most recent export destination statistics (see **Attachment C** of CCSBT-CC/2510/04), Members may wish to consider inviting the following importing countries to CCSBT meetings and/or encourage them to cooperate with the CDS given that their imports have exceeded 10 tonnes in the previous year:

- Philippines (16 tonnes); and
- Thailand (14 tonnes).

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 2026.

Export volumes to Canada have decreased this year which makes it unlikely that they will attend CCSBT meetings in 2026 based on their previous response.

Interest from the Seychelles appears to be waning this year, however, the Secretariat recommends that their invitation be renewed based on their recent attendance at meetings.

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 2026.

Additional details on interactions with non-Members and other organisations in the compliance area are reported in papers CCSBT-CC/2510/17 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 2026 meetings of the Compliance Committee and Extended Commission:
 - China;
 - Fiji;
 - Philippines;
 - Seychelles;
 - Thailand; and
 - United States of America

Prepared by the Secretariat