

UN= The United Nations

WTO=World Trade Organization-formed to equalize, standardize and harmonize all member nations trade policies. An international governmental agreement founded the organization, and they operate off of agreements made in 'rounds' by member nations.

Agenda 21= One of the three parts of the Convention on Biodiversity held in Rio de Janeiro in 1993 by the UN. Agenda 21 contains 40 chapters and expresses the desire and methodology of taking regulatory control over every aspect of human life affecting the planet. Agriculture is covered predominately in Chapter 14. The US never ratified this, but it was made 'soft' law via Executive Order 12852 under Clinton and established the "President's Council on Sustainable America". Executive Orders take 2/3 votes from both Houses to overturn.

FAO= The Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN-1947

Codex= Codex Alimentarius-"Food Code" in latin, created by the FAO-1962

IPPC= The International Plant Protection Convention-Created by the FAO-1953

OIE= World Animal Health Organization. Begun in 1924 to have member nations veterinarians deal with epizootic and animal disease spread.

Uruguay Round= The establishment of the WTO SPS measures in trade

SPS- Sanitary Phyto Sanitary Agreement. This agreement was signed as part of the Uruguay Round in 1994, in force in 1995. It means Plant and Animal Health. The OIE-Codex and IPPC are the international agencies governing rules and regs regarding SPS and the side issues for harmonization of TBT and Equivalency.

TBT= Technical Barriers to Trade, this agreement applies to all SPS issues and states (at it's most simplistic) that developed countries may not impeded imports from lesser developed countries

Equivalency= An importing country may declare the systems of another country to be 'equivalent' to their own standards as one way of avoiding a trade dispute.

Legal Framework= In order for an agency to write rules and regs on particular issues they must have enabling legislation that grants them that authority. The international agencies, in many of their standards and guidelines have the mention of establishing the 'legal framework' as a goal in the implementation of these standards....In the case of EO 12852, this was a policy authorization and agency agreement to implement. It's soft law.

Regulations= When an agency either actually has authorizing statute to write regs requiring actions on the part of producers, and allowing enforcement measures to be

taken, they will usually make a notice of 'proposed rulemaking' and accept public comment on that. They do not always need to accept comments if they are altering a previous rule or making an interim rule.

GAP= Good Agricultural Practices. A grouping of standards and guidelines by the OIE, IPPC and Codex to be implemented in all member nations as part of SPS and implementation of Agenda 21. The International Standards Organizations (ISO and their ISO-22000-2005 on traceability in this are aiding in the expansion of GAP. Also, a system of certification known as Global GAP is being used to bring compliance with these standards for international trade purposes