

Economic Commission for Europe

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Committee on Trade

Working Party on Agricultural Quality Standards

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Item 7(c) of the provisional agenda

Specialized Section on Standardization of Dry and Dried Produce

Texts for adoption as new/revised UNECE Standards

Comments by Kenya – Proposed Standard for Whole Dried Chilli Peppers

Note by the secretariat

The following comments have been submitted by the delegation of Kenya and concern document ECE/TRADE/C/WP.7/2012/23 (and its revised version ECE/TRADE/C/WP.7/2012/23/Rev.1)

After analysis of the documents forwarded on the above subject, the delegation of Kenya would like to submit the following comment:

The volume of EU imports of dried capsicums from East and Southern Africa is around 700 tons (i.e. between \$2.8 and \$3.4 million). Recent dried chili exports to the EU are dominated by Malawi; although Kenya and Zimbabwe are also important players. South Africa and Uganda have recently increased their respective shares of the European market for dried chilies. Kenya has a 15 percent share of the EU market for dried whole chilies, shipping around 100 MTs in 2010 worth \$560,000, up from only 25 MTs in 2005. The Kenyan crop has one of the highest qualities among African suppliers, with consistent good color and pungency. The Africa Birds Eye (ABE) Chili is one of the varieties exported from Kenya.

In consideration of the above background information, KEPHIS suggests that the African commercial types like the African Birds Eye (ABE) chilli be considered. ABE quality considerations include coloration i.e. red/orange, length of not more than 2 cm, and have less than 8 percent moisture content. Capsaicin content (pungency) is the largest determining factor of chili quality, with suppliers earning a premium for chilies with higher capsaicin contents i.e. pungency.