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Committee on Safeguards

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**NOTIFICATION UNDER ARTICLE 12.1(C) OF THE AGREEMENT ON SAFEGUARDS
(EXTENSION OF THE EXISTING MEASURE)**

**NOTIFICATION UNDER ARTICLE 9, FOOTNOTE 2,
OF THE AGREEMENT ON SAFEGUARDS**

Hot-Rolled Sheets

MOROCCO

Supplement

The following communication, dated and received on 22 April 2026, is being circulated at the request of the delegation of Morocco.¹

Pursuant to Article 7.2 and Article 12.1(c) of the Agreement on Safeguards, Morocco hereby notifies the extension of the safeguard measure on imports of hot-rolled sheets.

1. Description of the product subject to the safeguard measure

The products under consideration and subject to the review are hot-rolled steel sheets, whether or not in coils.

The product under consideration is classified under the following Moroccan customs tariff headings: 72.08; 72.11.13; 72.11.14; 72.11.19; 72.25.30; 72.25.40; 72.26.20.00.11; 72.26.20.00.20; 72.26.20.00.51; 72.26.20.00.52; 72.26.20.00.59; 72.26.91 and 72.26.99.80.00.

2. Description of the proposed measure

The safeguard measure consists of an additional *ad valorem* safeguard duty of 19%.

3. Proposed date of introduction of the measure

The definitive safeguard measure will be published in Morocco's Official Journal. Its provisions will enter into force on 19 June 2026.

4. Expected duration of the measure

The Moroccan Ministry of Industry and Trade (the Ministry) plans to renew the safeguard measure for an additional duration of three years, i.e. until 18 June 2029.

¹ Copies of the public notice and the review investigation report have been submitted electronically. To consult them, please contact Ms Anne Richards (anne.richards@wto.org) of the Rules Division.

5. Expected timetable for progressive liberalization of the measure

In order to satisfy the requirement for the progressive liberalization of the measure, in accordance with Article 65 of Law No. 15-09 on trade defence measures and Article 7.4 of the WTO Agreement on Safeguards, the additional *ad valorem* duty of 19% will be reduced by 1 percentage point each year.

6. Evidence that the safeguard measure continues to be necessary to remedy or prevent serious injury and that the industry concerned is adjusting

In order to determine whether the safeguard measure continues to be necessary to remedy or prevent serious injury and whether the Moroccan industry is adjusting in accordance with Article 69 of Law No. 15-09 and Article 7.2 of the WTO Agreement on Safeguards, the Ministry examined the trend in imports of hot-rolled sheets and the Moroccan industry's economic and financial indicators. The Ministry then analysed the foreseeable and imminent behaviour of the imports and their effects on the Moroccan hot-rolled sheet industry after the lifting of the safeguard measure. The Ministry also examined this industry's restructuring programme.

6.1 Determination as to whether the safeguard measure continues to be necessary to remedy serious injury

In order to determine whether the safeguard measure continues to be necessary to remedy serious injury, the Ministry examined the domestic industry's economic and financial indicators, namely production, production capacity, rate of capacity utilization, sales, production costs, profitability, inventories, productivity and employment. An improvement in the situation of the Moroccan hot-rolled sheet industry was observed, but it remains very fragile.

Table 1: Overview of indicators of serious injury suffered by the domestic hot-rolled sheet industry

(Index: 2021=100 and first half of 2024=100)	2021	2022	2023	2024	H1 2024	H1 2025
Imports (tonnes)	60 992	90 943	87 540	73 703	47 579	33 169
Production (tonnes)	100	99	99	129	100	113
Imports/Production	100	146	138	92	100	63
Domestic sales (tonnes)	100	105	111	141	100	127
Market share of domestic industry	100	94	95	101	100	105
Market share of imports	100	142	133	92	100	64
Domestic selling price (MAD/tonne)	100	118	105	98	100	98
Profitability (%)	100	90	66	80	100	120
Inventories (tonnes)	100	112	133	163	100	128
Production capacity (tonnes)	100	100	100	100	100	100
Production capacity utilization rate (%)	100	100	100	128	100	112
Investment (MAD)	100	130	104	200	100	33
Employment (persons)	100	103	98	111	100	109
Productivity (tonnes/employee)	100	97	102	117	100	104

Source: Data compiled from Foreign Exchange Board statistics and results of a survey of the domestic industry.

6.2 Determination as to whether the safeguard measure continues to be necessary to prevent serious injury

In order to determine whether the safeguard measure continues to be necessary to prevent serious injury, the Ministry examined the risk that imports would increase in the coming years due to factors such as the following:

- i. the increase in the global overcapacity of steel products;
- ii. recent trends in, and geopolitical impacts on, global steel flows; and
- iii. increased protection of markets.

Having examined the above factors, Morocco concluded that there is a real and imminent risk of imports of hot-rolled sheets increasing once the safeguard measure is lifted.

6.3 Determination as to whether the domestic industry engages in adjustment plans

The Moroccan hot-rolled sheet industry has provided evidence showing that it is continuing to put in place its structural adjustment plan aimed at increasing its competitiveness. The implementation of adjustment measures is ongoing.

7. Reference to the WTO document that notified the initial application of the measure

The WTO document containing the most recent Article 12.1(c) notification is document [G/SG/N/10/MAR/7/Suppl.2](#); [G/SG/N/11/MAR/7/Suppl.6](#), published on 25 May 2023, and its supplement [G/SG/N/11/MAR/7/Suppl.7](#), published on 6 November 2023.

8. Duration of the measure from initial application until the date at which it will be extended

Morocco applied a safeguard measure to imports of hot-rolled sheets, which entered into force on 19 June 2020 for a duration of three years until 18 June 2023. This measure was extended for a period of three years, until 18 June 2026. Morocco intends to extend this safeguard measure for another three years, until 18 June 2029.

9. Developing countries excluded from the safeguard measure under Article 9.1 of the Agreement on Safeguards

Albania; Angola; Antigua and Barbuda; Argentina; Armenia; Kingdom of Bahrain; Bangladesh; Barbados; Belize; Benin; Bolivia; Botswana; Brunei Darussalam; Burkina Faso; Burundi; Cabo Verde; Cambodia; Cameroon; Central African Republic; Chad; Chile; Colombia; Congo; Costa Rica; Côte d'Ivoire; Cuba; Democratic Republic of the Congo; Djibouti; Dominica; Dominican Republic; Ecuador; El Salvador; Eswatini; Fiji; Gabon; Gambia; Georgia; Ghana; Grenada; Guatemala; Guinea; Guinea-Bissau; Guyana; Haiti; Honduras; Indonesia; Jamaica; Jordan; Kazakhstan; Kenya; Kuwait; Kyrgyz Republic; Lao People's Democratic Republic; Lesotho; Madagascar; Malawi; Malaysia; Maldives; Mali; Mauritania; Mauritius; Mexico; Republic of Moldova; Mongolia; Montenegro; Mozambique; Myanmar; Namibia; Nepal; Nicaragua; Niger; Nigeria; North Macedonia; Oman; Pakistan; Panama; Papua New Guinea; Paraguay; Peru; Philippines; Qatar; Rwanda; Saint Lucia; Saint Kitts and Nevis; Saint Vincent and the Grenadines; Samoa; Senegal; Sierra Leone; Singapore; Solomon Islands; South Africa; Sri Lanka; Suriname; Tajikistan; Tanzania; Togo; Tonga; Trinidad and Tobago; Tunisia; Uganda; United Arab Emirates; Uruguay; Vanuatu; Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela; Yemen; Zambia; Zimbabwe.

10. Offer of consultations under Article 12.3

In accordance with Article 12.3 of the Agreement on Safeguards, Morocco is ready to consult on the proposed safeguard measure with those Members having a substantial interest as exporters of the products concerned.
