

# CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION



Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations



World Health  
Organization

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Opening

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## JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME CODEX COMMITTEE ON GENERAL PRINCIPLES

**Thirty-second Session**  
**Virtual, 8-17 February 2021**

### Opening Remarks

**Mr Francesco Branca**

Director, Department of Nutrition and Food Safety, World Health Organization (WHO)

On behalf of the World Health Organization, it is my great pleasure to welcome you to the 32nd session of the Codex Committee on General Principles (CCGP).

I would like to welcome all Codex Members, Observers, authorities, and all Delegates from the different regions of the world.

I am very pleased that, despite the global challenge of COVID-19, the work of Codex is able to continue through the use of virtual meetings. I would also like to congratulate the Codex and CCGP Secretariats for their efforts to make this Session here possible.

As one of the highlights from 2020, the World Health Assembly adopted a resolution on “Strengthening efforts on food safety”.

The resolution reaffirms that food safety is a public health priority. It shows the commitment of Member States to strengthening national food safety systems and lowering the burden of foodborne disease.

The resolution also requests an update to the WHO Global strategy for food safety, in coordination with FAO and in consultation with Member States and OIE, for possible adoption at the World Health Assembly in 2022.

I am happy to announce that the 1st technical advisory group (TAG) meeting is currently being convened virtually from today to discuss the key priorities of the Global Strategy for Food Safety, based on the outcomes of the 2019 Food safety Conferences.

2021 is hopefully a year of recovery and building back better. It is going to be the time to make our food systems more efficient and capable of providing healthy and safe food to all in a sustainable manner.

As you are aware, the UN Secretary-General has convened a Food Systems Summit as part of the Decade of Action to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030.

The UNSG’s vision is that this will be a people’s and action-oriented summit with five different action tracks. WHO, as a normative agency with a global health mandate, will work tirelessly with partners to ensure that all aspects of health are addressed in the preparatory process leading to the Summit.

With concerted action, we can realize a transition to more sustainable food systems that are in better balance with nature and that support healthy and safe diets, and thus better health for all.

We look forward to a continued collaboration with the Codex in improving food safety and nutrition for everyone.

Thank you, and I wish you a very successful meeting.