

CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



World Health
Organization

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CL 2023/32/OCS-CAC
March 2023

TO: Codex Contact Points
Contact Points of international organizations having observer status with Codex

FROM: Secretariat, Codex Alimentarius Commission,
Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme

SUBJECT: **Request for comments on the draft guidance on the application of the Statements of Principle concerning the role of Science in the Codex decision making process and the extent to which other factors are taken into account (SoP)**

DEADLINE: 31 August 2023

BACKGROUND

1. CAC45 (REP22/CAC, paragraphs 12 – 22) considered the draft guidance on the application of the *Statements of Principle concerning the role of Science in the Codex Decision Making Process and the Extent to which Other Factors are taken into Account (SoP)* for Codex Chairpersons and Members and commended the progress made. CAC45 acknowledged that the draft guidance attached to the report of CCEXEC83 (REP22/EXEC2, Appendix II) was neither final nor agreed.
2. CAC45 agreed:
 - a. To refer the draft to Chairpersons of Codex subsidiary bodies to facilitate deliberations on matters that fell within the scope of the SoP and urged Members to take account of the draft guidance as appropriate during the process of standards development and advancement.
 - b. To issue a Circular Letter (CL) inviting Members specific comments on the draft guidance.
 - c. To review the comments received from Chairpersons and replies to the CL on the draft guidance and consider its next steps at CAC46.

REQUEST FOR COMMENTS

3. Considering the discussions at CAC45, Members and Observers are requested to provide specific comments on improving the draft guidance, its finalization and its possible incorporation into guidance documents for Chairpersons and Members (see REP22/EXEC2, Appendix II) in particular respond to the following questions.
 - a. Is the option to use a footnote in a standard appropriate? (Paragraph 20 of Appendix II, REP22/EXEC2)
 - b. Should the guidance also cover new work proposals?
 - c. Considering the discussions on other legitimate factors during CAC45 (such as the specific case of MRLs for Clothianidin, Quinoxifen and Thiamethoxam REP22/CAC paragraphs 78-84), is there a need for any further guidance on this aspect?
 - d. Are there any other specific issues that should be addressed in the guidance and what is the rationale for doing so?
 - e. Where should the guidance be published when finalized?
 - i. As a stand-alone Codex Guidance
 - ii. In the handbook for Chairpersons
 - iii. Other (please indicate)
4. The draft guidance and questions have been uploaded to the Codex Online Commenting System (OCS): <https://ocs.codexalimentarius.org/>, and replies should be submitted as per the guidance below.

GUIDANCE ON THE PROVISION OF COMMENTS

5. Comments should be submitted through the Codex Contact Points of Codex Members and Observers using the OCS.
6. Contact Points of Codex Members and Observers may login to the OCS and access the document open for comments by selecting “Enter” in the “My reviews” page, available after login to the system.
7. Contact Points of Codex Members and Observers organizations are requested to provide general comments at the document level. Additional guidance on the OCS comment categories and types can be found in the OCS [Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQs\)](#).
8. Other OCS resources, including the user manual and short guide, can be found at the following link: <http://www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/resources/ocs/en/>.
9. For questions on the OCS, please contact Codex-OCS@fao.org.