

CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



World Health
Organization

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Agenda Item 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7

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JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME

CODEX COMMITTEE ON GENERAL PRINCIPLES

Thirty-third Session

Bordeaux, France

2-6 October 2023

Comments of Nigeria

Agenda Item 2:

CX/GP 23/33/2

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION AND ITS SUBSIDIARY BODIES

Nigeria appreciates all the work and progress of the CCGP especially on pertinent subjects such as the Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs), guidance, and the Strategic Plan. Nigeria looks forward to receiving an update from the Codex Secretariat on the Electronic Working Group (EWG) Handbook during the CCGP33 session proceedings.

Nigeria affirms its commitment to actively engage in the activities of CCFA concerning this issue and looks forward to the Discussion Paper.

Agenda Item 3

CX/GP 23/33/3

INFORMATION ON ACTIVITIES OF FAO AND WHO RELEVANT TO THE WORK OF CCGP

Nigeria appreciates the continued support of the Codex Trust Fund. The CTF has so far contributed significantly to improving food safety in Nigeria.

Nigeria also appreciates the efforts of the Codex Secretariat in establishing and updating the Codex e-Learning course which offers substantial advantages. These courses provide a foundational understanding of Codex scientific risk analysis that will contribute to informed decision-making, which is crucial for aligning Nigeria's national food standards with global best practices.

Agenda Item 4

CX/GP 23/33/4 Appendix 1

Codex Procedural Manual: presentation of new format and observations on consistency and superseded content

Nigeria appreciates the progressive approach taken concerning the Codex Procedural Manual (PM) and acknowledges the merits of transitioning to an exclusively electronic format, in line with FAO and WHO policies. Nigeria supports the proposed amendments in the appendices which is aimed at ensuring technical consistency.

Nigeria underscores that the primary objective of this review is to update and maintain linguistic consistency, as a result gender gender-specific terminology may be considered not necessary hence the retention of He/she.

Rationale

"They" stands for plural while "he/she" is singular therefore gender specific terminology in this document maybe considered not necessary hence the retention of "he/she".

Agenda Item 5**CX/GP 23/33/5****Codex Procedural Manual: update to the Guide to the Procedure for the Amendment and Revision of Codex Standards and Related Texts**

Nigeria acknowledges the importance of harmonizing amendments and revisions to Codex text and appreciates the effort to enhance consistency and clarity in Codex procedures as it will facilitate Codex standards development process.

The introduction of the categories "correction, amendment, and new edition" are a positive step in achieving these objectives.

Agenda Item 6**CX/GP 23/33/6****REVIEW AND POSSIBLE AMENDMENTS TO THE RULES OF PROCEDURE ON SESSIONS OF THE COMMISSION**

Nigeria acknowledges the importance of adapting to changing circumstances, such as the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, which prompted the consideration of virtual meetings within the Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC). Nigeria also appreciates the efforts made to ensure the continuity of Codex work during these exceptional times. However, we also recognized the complexity of amending the Codex Rules of Procedure and the need for thorough consultations with FAO and WHO, as suggested in the working paper.

Nigeria therefore aligns with the recommendation to postpone the review of possible amendments to the Codex Rules of Procedure regarding virtual sessions, with the aim of ensuring effective and coordinated decision-making in this matter.

Agenda Item 7**CX/GP 23/33/7****REVIEW AND POSSIBLE AMENDMENT OF THE PRINCIPLES CONCERNING THE PARTICIPATION OF INTERNATIONAL NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS IN THE WORK OF THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION**

Nigeria acknowledges the significance of recognizing the valuable contributions made by NGOs with Observer Status to Codex work, especially through innovative means beyond traditional participation. However, Nigeria recommend the review "INFORMATION REQUIRED FROM INTERNATIONAL NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS REQUESTING "OBSERVER STATUS" with Codex Alimentarius Commission which is currently available on Codex website.

Nigeria therefore recommend inclusion of "letter of confirmation from Codex Contact Point" of the country the NGO is applying from.

Rationale

Most NGOs do not relate with the National Codex structures of their host country as a result do not promote national codex works, contribute or engage in strengthening capacity of its National Codex in Food safety and trade activities.

Codex secretariat shall also use the medium as a form of control for non-functional/participating NGO.