



JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME
FAO/WHO COORDINATING COMMITTEE FOR LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN
Twenty-third Session
Virtual
22-26 July 2024

CODEX WORK RELEVANT TO THE REGION

**Table 2. Proposed topics for a possible adoption of a regional position
Codex Committee on General Principles (CCGP)**

(Comments by Honduras and Costa Rica)

BACKGROUND

Under agenda item 4 of the 33rd session of the Codex Committee on General Principles (CCGP), corresponding to the Codex Procedure Manual: presentation of the new format and comments on consistency and obsolete content; the Codex Secretariat introduced the documentand " *recalling that the project, as presented at CCGP32, focused initially on the digitization of the PM. The Codex Secretariat further explained several editorial and formatting inconsistencies needed to be addressed before undertaking any work on this digitization, and that was the focus of the work to date*". (REP23/GP, para. 20).

During the discussion, " *Members noted some discrepancies in the translations of the French and Spanish versions of the PM and requested the Codex Secretariat to consider their proposals to further improve such versions....*". (REP23/GP, para. 25).

Hence, during this discussion, some members expressed concern about the translation of the term "*fair trade practices*" into the Spanish version as "*fair practices in food trade*" and suggested that the translation be replaced as "*equitable practices in food trade*" in order to improve translation and consistency with past editions of the Manual of Procedures.

In this regard, the secretary "*welcomed all comments related to translation, informing that such comments would be addressed in collaboration with the FAO translation unit*". (REP23/GP, para. 26).

Subsequently, at the 85th Session, the Executive Committee of the Codex Alimentarius Commission (CCEXEC) recommended that the Commission at its 46th Session approve: "*Issuing of a Circular Letter soliciting proposals from Members on inconsistencies in language, and superseded content of the PM, apart from section 3*". (REP23/EXEC2, para. 26).

During the 46th session, a regional coordinating committee recalled the discussions held at the 33rd session of the CCGP regarding the translation of the Procedure Manual into other languages, highlighting the impact that inaccurate translations could have on the use and understanding of a text, and requested the Codex Secretariat to ensure linguistic consistency in all the languages of the Manual. In this regard, the Codex Secretariat took note of the linguistic issue, underlined its commitment to continuously improve and ensure terminological consistency in Codex texts, and welcomed members' comments on this matter. (REP23/CAC, paras. 19 and 23, respectively).

In view of the above, Honduras and Costa Rica support the inclusion of the topic as a proposal for a regional position to be adopted by CCLAC23 and suggests modifying the term "fair practices in food trade" to "**fair**

practices in food trade". Note: This only affects the Spanish translation, as there is a difference **in the interpretation** between both terms.

Proposed Regional Position: Correction to Codex Procedural Manual Version 28

It is requested that the term "fair practices in food trade – practicas justas" be replaced by "**fair practices in food trade – practicas equitativas**" in the **Spanish version of the Procedural Manual**.

The inclusion of the term "fair practices in food trade – practicas equitativas" in version 28 of the Spanish Procedural Manual represents a discrepancy with the terminology adopted by the Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC) in its version 27 and previous versions. It is important to note that this amendment raises concern, as it alters the scope of the objective of the CAC and its subsidiary bodies to "protect the health of consumers and ensure fair practices in food trade", in force since its creation.

We invite CCLAC23 to consider amending the proposed text and to support its adoption as a regional position, to be presented at the 47th Session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC47) and the 34th Session of the Codex Committee on General Principles (CCGP34).