



## JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME

### CODEx COMMITTEE ON FOOD LABELLING

#### Forty-eighth Session

#### Quebec City, Canada

27 October – 1 November 2024

### DISCUSSION PAPER ON FUTURE WORK AND DIRECTION FOR CCFL

(Prepared by Italy)

#### INTRODUCTION

1. The 43rd meeting of the Codex Committee on Food Labelling (CCFL43, 2016) agreed to investigate possibilities for the future direction and work of CCFL. It was agreed that Canada would prepare a paper summarising previously identified work that had not been taken forward, as well as presenting current work and proposals for future work. CCFL also agreed that the paper would be kept current at each session with a different delegation taking responsibility each time. This paper was subsequently presented at the CCFL44 (2017) and updated and re-presented at CCFL45 (2019), CCFL46 (2021) and CCFL47(2023).
2. CCFL47 agreed that Italy would next update the discussion paper on future work and direction for CCFL.
3. CCFL47 also agreed that members and observers could provide information on issues for inclusion in the paper. A request for submissions, CL 2024/24-FL was issued to Codex Members and Observer organisations in February 2024, open until April 2024.
4. A total of six responses were received from five (5) Member countries: Canada, Norway, Philippines, United States of America (USA), and the United Kingdom (UK); and one (1) Observer organisation: International Chewing Gum Association (ICGA).
5. This paper presents the followings based on comments raised in response to CL 2024/24-FL:
  - potential work for CCFL;
  - emerging issues of relevance to CCFL;
  - proposals regarding work areas previously considered by the Committee; and
  - an inventory table of potential CCFL future work (Appendix II).

#### POTENTIAL WORKS FOR CCFL

6. One new potential work item for CCFL was raised by Canada in response to CL 2024/24-FL (Appendix I). Comments received on existing potential work proposals for CCFL are also summarised below. More information on those potential work areas is included in Appendix II, Inventory of future work.
  - a) “High in” claims
    7. Canada, in response to CL 2024/24-FL, has proposed a new work to revise the *Guidelines for the Use of Nutrition and Health Claims* (CXG 23-1997), as it relates to the “High in” claims. Canada submitted a project document for new work which is included in Appendix I.
    8. These guidelines could apply to all foods for which nutrition and health claims are made and support competent authorities in implementing the front of pack nutrition labelling (FOPNL) guidelines.
    9. ICGA, in response to CL 2024/24-FL, also supports the establishment of harmonized criteria for “high in” claims, based on scientific evidence.
      - b) Trans fatty acids (TFAs)
        10. The consumption of Trans fatty acids (TFAs) is strongly associated with increased health risks. Clear labelling of TFAs on food products is considered essential for protecting consumer health. Standardized guidelines on

TFA labelling can help prevent fraudulent claims and ensure transparency in food labelling practices. Developing uniform guidelines for TFA labelling can facilitate trade.

11. TFAs is an issue that has been discussed in different Codex Committees during the years. CCNFSDU41 (2019) agreed to discontinue the work on the condition for a claim for “free” of TFAs and asked CCFL to consider possible actions to support trans-fat intake reduction.
12. At CCFL47, Canada presented a discussion paper on TFAs to outline possible new works for consideration by CCFL and a CL was issued to request information that would inform the development of the paper. However, due to the need to take into account the discussions at the CCFO, any decisions were postponed to the CCFL48.
13. The Philippines believes that the TFAs issue deserves to be addressed in CCFL and, in response to CL 2024/24-FL, reiterated that the pursuing this issue within CCFL would likely result in the development of new standards or guidelines for TFA labelling.
14. A discussion paper on TFA work (CX/FL 24/48/11) will be considered at CCFL48.

#### **c) Principles and criteria for food labelling in emergencies**

15. CCFL46 agreed that the USA prepares a separate discussion paper on this topic. CCFL47 agreed to establish an EWG to develop an updated discussion paper and a project document on developing guidelines on “Application of food labelling provision in emergencies”, taking into account the need for definitions for “emergency” and “flexibility” for consideration by CCFL48.
16. The UK, in response to CL 2024/24-FL, supports moves for CCFL to focus on high-priority issues which in their view may include issues of current and potentially increasing importance such as the principles and criteria for food labelling in emergencies.
17. A discussion paper on Application of food labelling provisions in emergencies (CX/FL 24/48/10) will be considered at CCFL48.

#### **d) Review the definition of ‘small unit’**

18. Currently, the *General Standard for the Labelling of Prepackaged Foods* (CXS 1-1985) refers to ‘small units’, prepackaged foods where the main surface area is less than 10 cm<sup>2</sup>, and that uniquely in the specific context of an exemption from some mandatory labelling particulars.
19. ICGA has been a long-standing supporter for the revision of the current definition of “small packs” or the development of a new definition of ‘small units’. Moreover, ICGA suggests to CCFL to consider a dedicated definition of ‘small unit’ in the specific context of Front-of-Pack Nutrition Labelling (FOPNL) schemes. That new work would allow further convergence of countries’ legislation, towards a focal harmonization point, aiming at reducing technical barriers to international trade of foods.

#### **e) Sustainability claims**

20. At CCFL47, a discussion paper on Sustainability claims was presented. In this paper, New Zealand highlighted that sustainability is a global issue and that consumers are increasingly interested in it. In addition, New Zealand noted that there is an increasing number of sustainability claims on food labels, many of which could not meet the requirements of the *General Guidelines on Claims* (CXG 1-1979), with the risk that consumers could be misled.
21. CCFL47 agreed to establish an EWG to revise the discussion paper and project document with a focus on achieving a stocktaking work being undertaken by other international organizations on sustainability related labelling claims on food, identifying areas where CCFL could provide guidance on sustainability-related labelling claims on food, and identifying possible revisions to the *General Guidelines on Claims* (CXG 1-1979).
22. Answering CL2024/24-FL, the UK and the Philippines stressed the importance for CCFL to work on sustainability claims and asked for a prioritization of this work.
23. A discussion paper on sustainability labelling claims (CX/FL 24/48/12) will be considered at CCFL48.

#### **EMERGING ISSUES OF RELEVANCE TO CCFL**

24. No new emerging issues of relevance to CCFL were raised in response to CL 2024/24-FL.

#### **PROPOSALS REGARDING WORK AREAS PREVIOUSLY CONSIDERED BY THE COMMITTEE**

##### **a) Nutrient declaration**

25. The USA noted there have been various proposals and/or CL over the years related to nutrient declaration (e.g. added sugar, TFAs, etc.) and is of the view that these might be considered in a single work stream as part of an update to the *General Standard for the Labelling of Prepackaged Foods* (CXS 1-1985).

**b) Nutrition labelling / Sugar Labelling**

26. CCFL47 agreed that Costa Rica would prepare a discussion paper on the definition for added sugars and that:  
i) the discussion paper would take into account the need for including sugar on the nutrient declaration list;  
and ii) a CL would be issued to request for information to support the development of the discussion paper.
27. The UK, in response to CL 2024/24-FL, highlighted that sugar labelling and nutrition labelling can significantly contribute to improving public health on a global scale and supports their prioritization in CCFL's works.
28. A discussion paper on Sugar labelling - definition for 'added sugars' (CX/FL 24/48/13) will be considered at CCFL48.

**c) Updating the claims framework**

29. The USA believes that recent discussions in CCFL around claims (e.g. sustainability claims) have pointed to the need to update the *General Guidelines on Claims* (CXG 1-1979) in order to provide clearer guidance on types of claims and their substantiation. In particular, rather than developing guidance for single type of claim, this updating could aim to ensure that all claims are truthful and not misleading.

**d) Vegetarian and vegan**

30. The UK highlighted that the recent ISO standard 23662:2021 on 'vegetarian' and 'vegan' may provide sufficient guidelines for the committee members' own purposes and considers unlikely that a Codex standard for these would achieve a more precise or comprehensive text.

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

31. CCFL48 is invited to:
  - a) consider the proposals in this discussion paper for potential new work for CCFL;
  - b) consider and agree to initiate a new work to revise the *Guidelines for the Use of Nutrition and Health Claims* (CXG 23-1997), as it relates to the "High in" claims as presented in the project document (Appendix I);
  - c) request the Secretariat to issue a Circular Letter (CL) inviting new work proposals or emerging issues; and
  - d) identify a different delegation to take on responsibility for the discussion paper, who would be responsible to:
    - i. update the inventory table of CCFL future work (Appendix II), including input from the CL and removing items approved as new work; and
    - ii. prepare an updated discussion paper on future work and emerging issues for consideration by CCFL49.

**APPENDIX I****DRAFT PROJECT DOCUMENT FOR NEW WORK TO REVISE THE *GUIDELINES FOR THE USE OF NUTRITION AND HEALTH CLAIMS* (CXG 23-1997), AS IT RELATES TO THE “HIGH” CLAIMS.**

(Prepared by Canada)

**1. PURPOSE AND SCOPE OF THE NEW WORK**

The purpose of this new work is to develop guidelines for the use of “High” claims for nutrients of public health concern due to excessive intakes, specifically sodium (salt), saturated fats, and sugars. These guidelines would be added to the *Guidelines for the Use of Nutrition and Health Claims* (CXG 23-1997) and could apply to all foods for which nutrition and health claims are made.

**2. RELEVANCE AND TIMELINESS**

Currently, the *Guidelines for the Use of Nutrition and Health Claims* (CXG 23-1997) outline conditions to define “Free” or “Low” for various nutrient components that consumers are generally recommended to limit, including sodium, saturated fats and sugars; and conditions for defining “Source” or “High” for various nutrients that consumers are usually advised to consume more of, such as dietary fibre, vitamins and minerals, and protein.

The addition of “High” claims for nutrients that are public health concern due to excessive intakes is expected to help national authorities in the development of interventions that require nutrient profiling to help ensure consistency with the national dietary guidance or health and nutrition policy of the country or region of implementation. Several countries have recently completed or are in the process of advancing such interventions, including government-led front-of-package nutrition labelling or restrictions on the use of health claims or advertising.

**3. MAIN ASPECTS TO BE COVERED**

The proposal is to develop specific conditions for “High” claims on components including sodium (salt), saturated fats, and sugars to be added to the Table of conditions for nutrient content claims that appears in the *Guidelines for the Use of Nutrition and Health Claims* (CXG 23-1997). While CCFL will seek to set out claims for “high” claims, the CCNFSDU would be responsible for determining the conditions that would specify the levels of nutrients present in a food to qualify for the claims.

**4. ASSESSMENT AGAINST THE CRITERIA FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF NEW WORK PRIORITIES****General criterion****Criteria applicable to general subjects****(a) Diversification of national legislations and apparent resultant or potential impediments to international trade**

Countries have established different values for what is considered a “High” level of nutrients of public health concern due to excessive intakes using different considerations. This contrasts with the methodology for other nutrients, which appears to be more uniform.

**b) Scope of work and establishment of priorities between the various sections of the work.**

This new work would update the *Guidelines for the Use of Nutrition and Health Claims* (CXG 23-1997) to include “High” claims for nutrients of public health concern due to excessive intakes. Support from the CCNFSDU will be required to establish the conditions.

**(c) Work already undertaken by other international organizations in this field and/or suggested by the relevant international intergovernmental body(ies)**

CCNFSDU established nutrient reference values for non-communicable disease (NRVs-NCD) for sodium and saturated fat of 2000 mg and 20 g, respectively. The selection of these nutrients was based on “convincing evidence” for a relationship with non-communicable disease risk as defined in the report *Diet, Nutrition and the Prevention of Chronic Diseases* (WHO Technical Report Series 916. WHO, 2003). The updated World Health Organization (WHO) guideline on sodium intake for adults and children (WHO 2012) further supported the selection of sodium.

The WHO guideline on sugars intake for adults and children recommends that individuals reduce their intake of free sugars to less than 10% of total energy intake, which is equivalent to about 50 g per day based on a 2,000-calorie reference diet (WHO, 2015). Based on the quality of supporting evidence, these recommendations are ranked by WHO as “strong”. This means they can be adopted as policy in most situations. It may be appropriate for CCNFSDU to consider the establishment of an NRV-NCD for sugars.

(d) *Amenability of the subject of the proposal to standardization*

Many countries look to Codex for clear and unambiguous guidance on matters related to nutrition and health-related labelling. The current *Guidelines for the Use of Nutrition and Health Claims* (CXG 23-1997) already establishes claims and conditions for “Low”, “Free”, “High” and “Source” levels for several nutrients.

(e) *Consideration of the global magnitude of the problem or issue*

High sodium intake can lead to hypertension, a risk factor for cardiovascular disease. High intakes of saturated fat are correlated with increased risk of cardiovascular disease, primarily through their effect on total and low-density lipoprotein cholesterol. Excess sugars intake can lead to tooth decay and excess calorie consumption, the latter being a contributing factor to obesity. Obesity is a risk factor for hypertension, cardiovascular disease, type 2 diabetes and some forms of cancer.

According to WHO, chronic NCDs - including obesity, diabetes mellitus, cardiovascular disease, hypertension and stroke, and some types of cancer - pose serious health consequences for individuals, families and communities, and threaten to overwhelm health systems. Socioeconomic costs associated with NCDs make the prevention and control of these diseases a major development imperative (<https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/noncommunicable-diseases>).

## 5. RELEVANCE TO CODEX STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

The proposed work is in line with the Commission’s mandate for the development of international standards, guidelines and other recommendations for protecting the health of consumers and ensuring fair practices in food trade. The new work will contribute to advancing Strategic Goals 1 and 3 as described below.

**Strategic Goal 1:** *Establish international food standards that address current and emerging food issues*

The addition of “High” claims for nutrients that are public health concern due to excessive intakes is expected to help national authorities in the development of interventions that require nutrient profiling to help ensure consistency with the national dietary guidance or health and nutrition policy of the country or region of implementation. Several countries have recently completed or are in the process of advancing such interventions, including government-led front-of-package nutrition labelling or restrictions on the use of health claims or advertising.

**Strategic Goal 3:** *Facilitate the effective participation of all Codex Members*

Bringing this topic to CCFL will enable all members who have an interest in or need for “High” claims for nutrients of public health concerns to participate in discussions.

## 6. RELATION BETWEEN THE PROPOSAL AND OTHER EXISTING CODEX DOCUMENTS

The proposal is to review the *Guidelines on the Use of Nutrition and Health Claims* (CXG-23-1997) and these guidelines are applicable horizontally across all prepackaged foods.

## 7. REQUIREMENT FOR AND AVAILABILITY OF EXPERT SCIENTIFIC ADVICE

This work will require input from CCNFSDU to set the conditions for the claims.

## 8. NEED FOR TECHNICAL INPUT TO THE STANDARD FROM EXTERNAL BODIES

None identified

## 9. PROPOSED TIMELINE:

The work is expected to take the Committee at least three sessions to complete, as work will need to be referred to CCNFSDU. If approved by the Commission in 2024, it could be finished in 2029.

**APPENDIX II****INVENTORY TABLE OF POTENTIAL CCFL FUTURE WORK**

|                           | <b>Issue</b>   | <b>Year discussed</b> | <b>Description</b>   | <b>Reference</b>  |
|---------------------------|--|-----------------------|--|---|
| <b>POTENTIAL NEW WORK</b> |  |                       |  |   |
| <b>1</b>                  | <i>Alcohol Labelling and Guidance</i>                              | 2017, 2023            | <p>For most the consumption of alcohol does not cause significant harm, but for others alcohol can pose harmful health effects. Given one of the primary objectives of the Codex standards is the protection of health, could be useful to take into consideration such concerns into the Codex labelling framework. An example for consideration is the provision of information on labels around alcohol strength and content and the energy content in the product.</p> <p>At the same time, the definition for food in the Procedural Manual covers alcoholic beverages, so the General standard for the labelling of prepackaged foods and related guidelines on nutrition labelling and claims are applicable to all foods including alcoholic beverages.</p> <p>CCFL45 requested the Russian Federation to revise the discussion paper (CX/FL 19/45/10) presented at CCFL45. In CCFL46 no document were issued.</p> <p>Moreover, no discussion paper was prepared for CCFL47 and there were no offers from Members to take the lead on potential new work, the Committee discussed the item and agreed to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I. Retain the item on labelling of alcoholic beverage on its Agenda;</li> <li>II. Request the Secretariat to issues a CL on possible future actions by Codex on this matter.</li> <li>III. Request WHO to prepare a discussion paper based on the outcome of the CL.</li> </ol> | <p><a href="#">CX/FL 17/44/9</a></p> <p>CX/FL 21/46/10 NOT ISSUED</p> <p>CX/FL 23/47/8 NOT PUBLISHED</p> <p>Discussion paper: CX/FL 24/48/9</p> |
| <b>2</b>                  | <i>Sugar Labelling - Establish a definition for 'added sugars'</i> | 2017, 2023            | <p>There has been increasing international attention on added sugars, including recent developments in labelling of added sugars. However, there is no internationally agreed definition for 'added sugars' which leads to difficulties in harmonising labelling standards.</p> <p>Additionally, because "added sugars" are not chemically different to sugars naturally occurring in foods such as fruit and milk, it is difficult to distinguish between added and naturally occurring sugars using analytical methods and so there are considerations with respect to standard methods for analysing added sugar content of foods and beverages and enforcement capabilities.</p>   | <p><a href="#">CX/FL 17/44/9</a></p> <p><a href="#">CX/FL 23/47/13</a></p> <p><u>Discussion paper: CX/FL 24/48/13</u></p>                       |

|   | Issue   | Year discussed | Description   | Reference   |
|---|---|----------------|---|---|
|   |   |                | A harmonized definition for “added sugars” would facilitate the interpretation of data to determine the public health significance of such claims and that the current lack of definition may present barriers to CCFL work on harmonising nutrition labelling; and that a harmonized definition could further reduce the risks of misinterpretations which could mislead the consumer.   |   |
| 3 | <i>Nutrition Labelling / Ingredient Labelling</i>                           | 2017           | With the increasing focus on healthy diets, there is continued interest to ensure consumers have all the information they need to make informed decisions.<br><br>This is particularly the case where there are known health risks associated with high levels of consumption of certain components.  | <a href="#">CX/FL 17/44/9</a>   |
| 4 | <i>Principles and Criteria for Food Labelling Exemptions in Emergencies</i> | 2021, 2023     | CCFL could consider future work to assist countries in determining any food labelling requirements that may be temporarily relaxed or exempted to mitigate the impacts of national or global public health emergencies.<br><br>The flexibilities and guidance that countries can considering and implementing vary in scope, timing, and potential impact on fair trade and consumer protection. High-level international principles and criteria may be helpful in guiding countries’ risk based decision-making processes on what food labelling requirements may be relaxed, for whom, how long, and under what emergency circumstances.<br><br>CCFL46 agreed that the USA prepared a separate discussion paper on this topic (CX/FL 23/47/10).<br><br>CCFL47 agreed to establish an EWG, chaired by the USA to develop an updated discussion paper and a project document on developing guidelines on “Application of food labelling provision in emergencies” for consideration by CCFL48. | <a href="#">CX/FL 23/47/10</a><br><br><u>Update discussion paper:</u><br>CX/FL 24/48/10 |
| 5 | <i>Review and harmonize the definition of ‘small unit’</i>                  | 2023           | The <i>General Standard for the Labelling of Prepackaged Foods</i> (CXS 1-1985) defines “small unit” as a product with a surface area of less than 10 cm squared. These foods are exempt from mandatory labelling requirements regarding the list of ingredients, lot identification, date marking, storage instructions and instructions for use.<br><br>It has been noted that exemptions for small units regarding front of pack nutrition labelling and the back of pack nutrient declaration should also be aligned. Within Codex provisions, nutrient declaration is mandatory for all pre-packaged foods for which a nutrition or health claim is made, but certain foods  | <a href="#">CX/FL 23/47/13</a>  |

|   | Issue  | Year discussed     | Description   | Reference   |
|---|--|--------------------|---|---|
|   |  |                    | may be exempted on the basis of small packaging.  |   |
| 6 | <i>Trans Fatty Acid</i>  | 2010, 2021<br>2023 | <p>The consumption of TFA is strongly associated with increased risk of coronary heart disease (CHD) and related mortality, and any reduction in TFA intake may help decrease CHD risk. CCNFSDU41 agreed to discontinue the work on the condition for a claim for “free” of TFAs and asked CCFL to consider possible actions in CCFL to support trans-fat intake reduction.</p> <p>CCFL47 agreed to defer discussions on trans fatty acids to CCFL48, pending the outcome of the discussions in CCFO28. and reaffirmed that Canada would prepare a discussion paper outlining possible new work on trans fatty acids for consideration by CCFL48.</p>   | <p><a href="#">CX/FL 21/46/12</a><br/>Appendix I</p> <p><a href="#">CX/FL 23/47/11</a></p> <p><u>Update discussion paper:</u><br/>CX/FL 24/48/11</p>  |
| 7 | <i>Sustainability Claims</i>   | 2021, 2023         | <p>As issues related to the environment and climate change are growing in importance for consumers, there may be a need for CCFL to consider guidance on potential ‘sustainability’ claims that could be made on or about foods.</p> <p>At CCFL47 was presented a discussion paper on sustainability claims for consideration by CCFL (CX/FL 23/47/12). CCFL47 agreed to establish an EWG to revise the discussion paper and project document.</p>  | <p><a href="#">CX/FL 23/47/12</a></p> <p><u>Update discussion paper and project document:</u><br/>CX/FL 24/48/12</p>  |
| 8 | <i>Criteria for the Definition of "high in" Nutritional Descriptors for Fat, Sugar, and Sodium</i> | 2017, 2019         | <p>Currently Codex guidelines only include the "low in" criteria focused on nutritional deficiencies it is suggested that criteria be developed for “high in” fat, sugar, and sodium.</p> <p>High sodium intake can lead to hypertension, a risk factor for cardiovascular disease. High intakes of saturated fat are correlated with increased risk of cardiovascular disease. Excess sugars intake can lead to tooth decay and excess calorie consumption, the latter being a contributing factor to obesity.</p> <p>In 2017, CCFL44 identified criteria for the definition of “high in” nutritional descriptors for fats, sugars and sodium as a subject of possible new work.</p> <p>At CCFL45, the Committee agreed that while the work was valuable, it was premature to consider it at this time and it should await the progress of the work on FOPNL and the discussions in CCNFSDU on nutrient profiling. This topic would be retained in the paper on future work and direction for CCFL in order to keep track of the possible need for work at a later stage.</p> <p>At CCNFSDU43, the Committee agreed that past and ongoing work on nutrient</p> | <p><a href="#">CX/FL 17/44/9</a></p> <p><a href="#">REP19/FL, para. 121</a><br/><a href="#">FL/45 CRD/16</a></p> <p>New potential work item for CCFL48: <a href="#">CX/FL 24/48/14 APPENDIX I</a></p> |



|  | Issue   | Year discussed  | Description  | Reference                     |
|--|---|-----------------|--|-------------------------------|
|  |   |                 | <p>profiling by WHO (CRD37) may be sufficient to meet the Committee's needs. The Committee also agreed that due to the lack of support, the proposal on nutrient profiling would not be pursued at this time.</p> <p>Canada, in response to CL 2024/24-FL, suggests that following the above CCNFSDU decision and the completion of the FOPL guidelines, it is now time to re-introduce work to develop guidelines for the use of "High" claims for nutrients of public health concern due to excessive intakes, specifically sodium (salt), saturated fats, and sugars.</p>   |                               |
| <b>PREVIOUS WORK IDENTIFIED BY THE COMMITTEE</b> |   |                 |  |                               |
| <b>(no decision to undertake new work)</b>       |   |                 |  |                               |
| 9  | <i>Truthful but Misleading Claims Labelling</i> | 2001-2004       | This work identified a number of types of truthful but misleading claims, such as "cholesterol free" on a potato that would never contain cholesterol. Discussion did not lead to identification of new work items.  | <a href="#">CX/FL 17/44/9</a> |
| 10   | <i>Natural</i>                                  | 1990-1994, 2010 | This work focused on establishing a definition for "natural" and criteria for "minimal processing". It was noted that the use of these terms was already addressed by provisions in section 5.1 (claims) and the differing meanings of "natural" in various languages was also noted as a problem. In 2010, an observer proposed that the General Guidelines on Claims (CXG 1-1985) be revised to include a definition of natural; however, there was no agreement to new work due to the guidance already provided in section 5.  | <a href="#">CX/FL 17/44/9</a> |
| 11   | <i>Vegan and Vegetarian</i>                     | 1997-2000       | Proposals were presented for definitions of "Vegan", "Ovo-lacto Vegetarian" and "Lacto Vegetarian", for possible inclusion in either the General Standard for the Labelling of Prepackaged Foods (CXS 1-1985), or, as conditional claims, in the General Guidelines on Claims (CXG 1-1979). CCFL agreed to discontinue work in 2000 on Proposed Draft Guidelines for the Use of the Term "Vegetarian" as current differences in the definition and understanding of the term 'vegetarian' from country to country were too wide to allow the development of guidelines at the international level, and it was not possible to establish a common definition. In 2021, the ISO 23662:2021 on 'vegan' and 'vegetarian' was released. | <a href="#">CX/FL 17/44/9</a> |
| 12   | <i>Country of Origin Labelling</i>              | 2000-2005       | Delegates had differing opinions on whether the Codex guidance provided in the General Standard for the Labelling of Prepackaged Foods (CXS 1-1985) on origin labelling was adequate or not and if there were difficulties in interpretation of the existing provisions. There was no consensus to recommend new work.   | <a href="#">CX/FL 17/44/9</a> |
| 13   | <i>Advertising</i>                              | 1972-1990,      | Advertising had been discussed at length over the years, including whether the   | <a href="#">CX/FL 17/44/9</a> |

|    | Issue  | Year discussed | Description  | Reference   |
|----|--|----------------|--|---|
|    |  | 2004-2008      | committee should develop a code of practice for food advertising and whether advertising by the electronic or mass media was under the mandate of CCFL. In 1985, the committee discussed a working paper including legal opinions from FAO and WHO, a summary paper of CCFL's work on advertising, and a proposal for a Code of Practice for Food Advertising. It was recommended that there was no need at that time to continue work on a code of practice for advertising of food. Further discussions occurred from 1987-1989 but no new work was generated. In 2008, a definition of advertising in relation to nutrition and health claims was adopted by the 31st Session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission and included in the <i>Guidelines for the Use of Nutrition and Health Claims</i> (CXG 23-1997).  |   |
| 14 | <i>Use of the terms flavours/flavourings and other qualifier terms</i>                 | 2017           | The issue of use of the terms 'Flavour' and 'Flavouring' was raised owing to inconsistency in the use of terms as laid down in Codex Guidelines on the use of Flavourings and the standards addressing labelling of flavourings. This matter was considered in the CCFA48 which agreed to revise sections 4.1(c) and 5.1(c) of the <i>General Standard for the Labelling of Food Additives when sold as such</i> (CXS 107-1981); and to recommend to CCFL43 to consider the revision of section 4.2.3.4 of the <i>General Standard for the Labelling of Prepackaged Foods</i> (CXS 1-1985), taking into account the proposed revisions. The issue was discussed in the CCFL44 wherein, it was decided not to make any revisions to the class titles "flavours" and "flavourings" in section 4.2.3.4 as these terms were already included in various national legislations in a number of countries. The Committee also noted that there might be a need to revise the qualifiers "natural", "nature identical", "artificial" as well other related sections in the Standard, i.e. section 5, and agreed that this could be addressed as part of overall improvements of CXS 1-1985 | <a href="#">CX/FL 17/44/2-Add.1</a><br><a href="#">REP 18/FL, para. 9</a> |
| 15 | <i>Consumer preference claims</i>  | 2017           | At CCFL43 there was discussion of a proposal to revise the <i>General Guidelines for the use of the term "Halal"</i> (CXG 24-1997). The Committee agreed not to proceed with the revision as proposed but noted that the proposal raised a question on how to deal with consumer preference claims in a broader way. New Zealand suggested that CCFL may want to consider further work on consumer preference claims in this broad sense.  | <a href="#">REP 18/FL, para. 52</a>                                       |
| 16 | <i>Class Names and other labelling in guidelines and standards in need of updating</i> | 2017           | Recognizing that many of the existing CCFL-developed standards and guidelines were developed a number of years ago, it may be worthwhile in the light of new information and trends, to review these texts to determine whether updating and revision is appropriate. Class names, for example, could be reviewed for relevancy by surveying member countries to gauge the degree of   | <a href="#">CX/FL 17/44/9</a>   |

|           | <b>Issue</b>  | <b>Year discussed</b> | <b>Description</b>  | <b>Reference</b>               |
|-----------|---|-----------------------|---|--------------------------------|
|           |   |                       | consistency of national legislation with the Codex standard. Depending on the outcome, new work could be proposed to promote fair practices in food trade. Similar surveys could be carried out for other elements of the labelling standards and guidelines, such as net contents and drained weight and name and address.   |                                |
| <b>17</b> | <i>Contactless Trade of Food</i>  | <i>2021</i>           | <p>The increased importance of contactless/minimal contact trade of food and the related increase in the importance of e-commerce and internet sales of food during the COVID-19 pandemic and moving forward has been noted.</p> <p>The increase in contactless trade of food could likely increase the adoption and growth of other 'contactless' forms of technology such as 3D printing of food. The information requirements for foods produced in this way may be an area that guidance from CCFL is needed in the future.</p> | <a href="#">CX/FL 21/46/12</a> |
| <b>18</b> | <i>Harmonization of criteria for the use of additional health related mentions for specific types of food</i> | <i>2017</i>           | The suggestion is to establish general guidelines covering additional health-related mentions, (e.g. "Phenylketonuric, contains phenylalanine" and "high caffeine content, not recommended for use by children, pregnant women breastfeeding or people sensitive to caffeine"), since certain ingredients or other substances or products when used in food production, and still present in the finished product, may cause allergies or intolerances in some people.  | <a href="#">CX/FL 17/44/9</a>  |