

# CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION



Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations



World Health  
Organization

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## **JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION Forty-fifth Session**

### **Concluding remarks by Steve Wearne, Chairperson, Codex Alimentarius Commission**

Dear Codex Members and Observers,

I would like to thank those Members and Observers who submitted comments on the revised CAC45 draft report. The Codex Secretariat and I have reviewed these and I would like to describe how some of the more substantive comments received have been dealt with.

As in the first round of comments, the proposed paragraph 180bis was the subject of significant comment. You will recall that we had opened but not concluded discussion of this paragraph when we needed to suspend our virtual sessions having lost interpretation, and we now need to conclude this discussion. The revision to paragraph 180bis that I proposed in the revised CAC45 draft report was intended to strike a reasonable balance between the comments made both in the virtual report adoption session and in subsequent correspondence. The revisions that I proposed have provoked a negative response, from some Observers who favoured a more extensive text and from a Member who opposed inclusion of the paragraph and proposed its deletion. As I set out in my explanatory notes at the outset of the second round, the purpose of this round is not to invite further detailed comment, but for Members to decide whether they accept the revised report. Given the sustained opposition of a Member to inclusion of paragraph 180bis, my conclusion is that this paragraph should be deleted in its entirety.

The comments on paragraph 180bis also included general observations from several Observers regarding my proposal at the start of CAC45 that general or declaratory statements by Observers should be submitted as CRDs and would not be reflected in the text of the report. These proposals drew no objections from Members or comments from Observers when presented on Day 1 of CAC45. They are also consistent with the provisions of the Procedural Manual, which lists the privileges of international non-governmental organisations with observer status. These include the submission of written statements on matters before the Commission, the entitlement to circulate to the Commission its views in writing, and the entitlement to participate in discussions when invited by the Chairperson.

An Observer also requested that its comments relating to food safety and the impact of intrinsic contamination on infant formula be recorded in paragraphs 194 and 195, which relate to matters arising from FAO and WHO. I have reviewed the transcript of these discussions and note the significant volume of interventions, primarily from Members, on this agenda item. The Codex Secretariat have provided a high-level summary in the draft report, which has not drawn any adverse comments from Members. My conclusion is that we should maintain this approach, and the current draft text, and not attempt to capture every point made in the discussion.

The attached further revision of paragraphs 177 to 229 of the report incorporates the changes described above and an editorial change to paragraph 224.

I therefore conclude that these paragraphs are adopted and formally close CAC45.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Steve Wearne', enclosed within a thin black rectangular border.

*Steve Wearne,*  
Chairperson ([Steve.Wearne@food.gov.uk](mailto:Steve.Wearne@food.gov.uk))