

CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



World Health
Organization

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CODEX COMMITTEE ON GENERAL PRINCIPLES

Thirty-second Session

Virtual, 8, 9, 11, 12, 15 and 17 February 2021

60th Anniversary of the Codex Alimentarius Commission: 1963-2023

(Intervention by Switzerland)

The Delegation of Switzerland appreciates the opportunity to take the floor under this Agenda Item. Switzerland's intervention is related to the forthcoming 60th Anniversary of the Codex Alimentarius Commission: 1963-2023.

During the Side Event on Food Safety and SPS Measures in Africa, which took place last Wednesday on 10th February, attention was drawn to the 60th Anniversary of the Codex Alimentarius Commission, which will be celebrated in 2023. During the Side Event, it was highlighted that the Codex 60th Anniversary would be «An excellent opportunity for Codex Members and Observers to undertake activities to promote Codex standards and food safety at national, regional and global levels. »

Switzerland would like to take this opportunity to first of all recall the United Nations General Assembly Resolution that was adopted on 20th December 2018 declaring 7th June as World Food Safety Day (UN Resolution A/RES/73/250). Indeed, in this Resolution, the 73rd Session of the UN General Assembly

- Recognised « the urgent need to raise awareness at all levels and to promote and facilitate actions for global food safety. »
- It also noted « that improving food safety contributes positively to trade, employment and poverty alleviation »
- Furthermore, it acknowledged «the leading role played by the Codex Alimentarius Commission in setting international food standards to protect the health of consumers and to ensure fair practices in the food trade. »

Last year (2020), the 73rd World Health Assembly adopted the Resolution on Strengthening Efforts on Food Safety. In that Resolution, the World Health Assembly

- Recognised « that the development of standards, guidelines and recommendations by the Codex Alimentarius Commission, and their subsequent use by Member States, make a powerful contribution to food safety. »
- The WHA urged Member States, among others, «to remain committed at the highest political level: to recognise food safety as an essential element of public health and to provide adequate resources at appropriate levels to improve food systems and ensure food safety. »

In view of the above statements, Switzerland is convinced

- That the Codex 60th Anniversary is a very important milestone in the life of the Codex Alimentarius Commission as it presents an excellent platform to raise global awareness about the importance of Codex standards and related texts.
- Furthermore, the Codex 60th Anniversary is a landmark to highlight the tremendous contribution made by the Codex Alimentarius Commission towards protecting the health of consumers and ensuring fair practices in the food trade.
- Finally, the Codex 60th Anniversary is an exceptional opportunity to promote and facilitate Codex and food safety activities and initiatives at local, national, regional and global levels.

It is in this context that our Delegation wishes to inform the Committee that **Switzerland will prepare a Discussion Paper on the Codex 60th Anniversary.**

The objectives of this Discussion Paper will include the following:

1. To raise awareness amongst Codex Members, Observers and all relevant stakeholders about the important milestone of the Codex 60th Anniversary;
2. To mobilise high-level political leaders and decision makers so that they can capitalise upon the Codex 60th Anniversary to renew their commitment towards Codex, the application of Codex standards and ensuring food safety;
3. To begin the process of engagement by Codex Members, Observers and all relevant stakeholders involved in the food chain by proposing various activities and initiatives, which could be undertaken with a view to promoting Codex standards and food safety at local, national, regional and international levels.

Switzerland proposes to progress this Discussion Paper according to the following Timeline:

1. First of all, the Discussion Paper prepared by Switzerland will be brought to the attention of the 81st Session of the Executive Committee of the Codex Alimentarius Commission by the Regional Coordinator of the FAO/WHO Regional Coordinating Committee for Europe;
2. The Discussion Paper will then be presented by Switzerland to the 44th Session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission, which is scheduled to take place from 8th to 13th November 2021;
3. Finally, Switzerland will present the Discussion Paper to the 33rd Session of the Codex Committee on General Principles.

Switzerland sincerely appreciates the opportunity to take the floor and our Delegation kindly requests that this intervention is noted in the Report of this session.

We are grateful for the opportunity to make this intervention.