

CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



World Health
Organization

Viale delle Terme di Caracalla, 00153 Rome, Italy - Tel: (+39) 06 57051 - E-mail: codex@fao.org - www.codexalimentarius.org

Agenda item 3

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JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME

CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION

Forty-third Session

Comments from Canada

INTERMEDIATE REPORT OF THE SUB-COMMITTEE OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION - "CODEX AND THE PANDEMIC - STRATEGIC CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES"

General Comments:

Canada supports the use of virtual or hybrid meetings in cases where physical meetings are not possible. Canada continues to be of the view that physical meetings are especially important for discussion of complex or contentious issues and that any new mechanisms considered should not replace them.

Recognizing that it would be important to advance Codex work in 2020/21 and that physical meetings may continue to be a challenge in 2021, Canada would:

- support the use of virtual or hybrid format for those Codex Committees meeting in early 2021, where hosting physical meetings are not possible or physical participation may not be feasible;
- encourage all Members to provide feedback on their experience with virtual sessions including CAC43; and
- recommend the CCEXEC sub-committee, using that feedback from Members, to continue its analysis with the aim of developing a proposal and related recommendations on a suite of tools/actions that Codex could use as guidance to progress work during the ongoing pandemic or a similar situation in the future.

Canada is of the view that a key task is to identify any legal and/or procedural constraints, review and analyze them, so that options could be developed to address these constraints. This could be followed by addressing practical/logistical issues that have been identified based on the feedback from Members, Chairpersons of the subsidiary bodies, host country secretariats and from best practices of other international organizations.

Canada looks forward to the analysis of outcomes, best practices, suggestions for improvements, and any guidance from reflection on the experience gained through the virtual session of CAC43 to inform how, going forward, virtual or hybrid sessions may be used in the Codex context to further Codex work.