

# CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION



Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations



World Health  
Organization

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**Agenda Item 1, 2, 3, 4.3, 4.5, 4.7, 4.8, 4.9,  
4.10, 4.11, 4.12, 4.14, 4.15, 8**

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## **JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION**

**Forty-sixth Session**

**FAO Headquarters, Rome, Italy**

**27 November - 2 December 2023**

### **COMMENTS OF LIBERIA**

#### **Introduction**

The below are the final decisions on position to be taken during CAC46.

#### **ITEM 1: Adoption of Agenda**

Issue: CAC 46 will review the Provisional Agenda and consider its adoption.

Comment: Liberia supports the adoption of the Provisional Agenda items as circulated.

#### **ITEM 2: Report by the Chairperson on the 84th and 85th Sessions of the Executive Committee**

##### **Background**

The 84th session of CCEXEC was held in Geneva in July 2023 and the 85th Session will be held in November 2023, prior to CAC46. The roles of the Executive Committee include:

- a) conducting critical review of proposals to undertake work and monitoring the progress of standards development;
- b) making proposals to the Commission regarding general orientation, strategic planning and programming; and
- c) studying special problems and assisting in the management of the Commission's programme

##### **Comments:**

Standards and related texts submitted to CAC46

CCEXEC84 endorsed all the standards and related texts submitted for final approval/adoption, amendment, revocation or discontinuation as well as the new work items proposals from the different Codex Committees.

Proposed blueprint on the future of Codex

Extensive formal and informal discussions have been held through the Subcommittee on the Blueprint on the Future of Codex and the Codex Secretariat, taking into consideration the views of Chairpersons of Codex committees, Regional Coordinators, Host Government Secretariats, and Chairpersons of working groups, but not the broader Codex membership nor Observers. Sections 1–3 of the document have been shared with the Members and Observers for consultations. Section 2 will be used as a starting point for the discussions on drivers and

context in the drafting of the Strategic Plan 2026-31. CCEXEC85 will review Section 4 and the recommendations in Sections 5.1.1 and 5.2 in light of comments received from Members and Observers on Section 3.

Codex Strategic Plan 2020–2025 – Revised monitoring framework

CCEXEC84 noted the continuing evolution of the monitoring framework for the Strategic Plan 2020 – 2025 to ensure effective monitoring. Codex Member countries were invited to provide comments on the revised monitoring framework to the Secretariat as soon as possible so to inform the next report on the Strategic Plan. CCEXEC84 agreed to maintain indicator 2.3.1 on the financing of scientific advice by the core budgets of FAO and WHO and confirmed that the survey approach, piloted in 2022 should be used as part of the mechanisms to monitor the use and impact of Codex texts, considering the lessons learnt to date.

Codex Strategic Plan 2026–2031 - Timetable and Process

CCEXEC84 agreed on the development of a Strategic Plan 2026-2031, including a monitoring framework and implementation work plans before 1 January 2026 and further agreed to keep the mission, vision and core values as in the Strategic Plan 2020-2025. The Strategic Plan 2026-2031 will include two results levels: goal and outcome.

Comment:

Liberia supports the conclusions and recommendations of CCEXEC84 except on specific standards/text where reservations or comments has been provided in our submission.

### **ITEM 3: Amendments to the Procedural Manual**

Background

The background of the amendments is provided under Agenda 4.14 of this report.

Position

Liberia supports the approval of the amendments as provided in CX/CAC 23/46/2 annexes I and II.

Rationale:

The amendments are necessary in preparing to digitize the Codex procedural manual

Agenda Item 4: Work of Codex Committees (adoption, new work, revocation, discontinuation and editorial; amendments to Codex texts proposed by the Codex Committee)

### **ITEM 4.3: Codex Committee on Food Hygiene**

Standards and related texts submitted for final adoption at Step 5/8

1. GUIDELINES FOR THE CONTROL OF SHIGA-TOXIN-PRODUCING ESCHERICHIA COLI (STEC) IN RAW BEEF, FRESH LEAFY VEGETABLES, RAW MILK AND RAW MILK CHEESES, AND SPROUTED SEEDS (GENERAL SECTION, ANNEX I ON RAW BEEF AND ANNEX III ON RAW MILK AND RAW MILK CHEESES)

Background:

The development of these guidelines was approved CAC40 to control shiga toxin producing E. Coli in both animal and plant products. The Committee in its 53rd Session discussed and agreed on the guidelines and annexes 1 and 3 on raw beef and raw milk cheeses respectively. However, due to time constraints, CCFH53 did not discuss draft annexes 2 and 4 on Fresh leafy vegetables and Sprouted seeds respectively.

The Committee in its 53rd session, agreed to submit the Draft guidelines as well as the completed annex 1 and 3 to CAC46 for adoption at Step 5/8 given that there are no outstanding issues as they continue to work on the remaining annexes.

Position:

Liberia supports the adoption of the General Section and Annexes I on Raw Beef as well as Annex III on Raw Milk and Raw Milk Cheeses at Step 5/8

Rationale:

The General Section and annexes on provide useful information, guidance, and adequate guidelines for the control of shiga toxin producing E. Coli from primary production to consumption. Adoption of these guidelines will provide much needed reference for developing strategies and mitigations for managing this biological contamination.

## 2. GUIDELINES FOR THE SAFE USE AND REUSE OF WATER IN FOOD PRODUCTION AND PROCESSING (GENERAL SECTION AND ANNEX I)

Background:

CCFH51 agreed to establish guidelines for Guidelines for the Safe Use and Reuse of Water in Food Production and Processing (General Section and Annex I) with the aim of ensuring safety during primary production and processing. In CCFH52, the committee discussed terminologies while in CCFH53 JEMRA presented guidance on how to approach the clean and drinking water in the texts recommending adoption of a risk-based approach and taking appropriate measures to mitigate risks. Based on JEMRA's guidance, the committee discussed and agreed on general section of the guidelines as well as the annex on Fresh Produce. The Committee will continue working on the annex on fishery products.

CCFH53 agreed to advance the completed work for final adoption at Step 5/8 while continues working on the remaining annex.

Position:

Liberia supports the final adoption at Step 5/8 of the General Section and the Annex on Fresh Produce to Step 5/8 by CAC 46

Rationale:

Water is an increasingly becoming a scarce resource globally resulting to reuse of water in both primary production as well as during processing. It is there important to have guidelines on the appropriate safe use and reuse of available water while protecting the safety of the consumers and environment. These guidelines will go a long way in providing a risk-based decision-making for the supply, use and recycling of water fit for its intended use in primary production operations, handling, conservation, and processing.

New project proposal by CCFH

## 1. PROPOSAL FOR NEW WORK ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF GUIDELINES FOR FOOD HYGIENE CONTROL MEASURES IN TRADITIONAL FOOD MARKETS.

Background:

CCFH received a proposal by Bolivia to start new work on developing guidelines for food hygiene control measures in traditional food markets. Currently Codex has four regional guidance documents dedicated to the regulation of street food namely: Regional guidelines for the design of control measures for street foods (Africa) (CXG 22R-

1997); Regional Code of Hygienic Practice for the Preparation and Sale of Food on Public Streets (Latin America and the Caribbean) (CXC 43R-1995); Regional code of practice for foods sold on public roads (Middle East), (CXC 71R-2013); and Regional Code of Hygienic Practice for Street Food in Asia (CXC 76R-2017). However, review of each of the guidance demonstrated gaps hence the need for comprehensive document that would provide governments with advice to ensure the effective design and management of traditional food markets to promote the safety of the food sold.

CCH53 agreed to submit this work to CAC46 for approval and established an EWG chaired by Kenya with Bolivia and Nigeria being co-chairs to develop a draft for discussion in next session subject to CAC46 approval of the new work.

#### Position:

The Liberia supports the adoption of this new work on developing guidelines for food hygiene control measures in traditional food markets.

#### Rationale:

There is need for guidelines on traditional markets given that they present globally with some studies showing that in certain regions have shown that up to 85% of food is purchased at these markets. In most cases these markets often lack the infrastructure and hygienic conditions necessary for food safety and can present food-related risks hence the need for guidelines. The work is directly supporting objectives 1, 2, 3 and 4 of the Codex Strategic plan.

## 2. DRAFT REVISION DOCUMENT OF THE GUIDELINES ON THE APPLICATION OF GENERAL PRINCIPLES OF HYGIENE ON THE CONTROL OF VIBRIO SPP. IN SEAFOOD (CXG 73-2010)

### Background

The Guidelines on the Application of General Hygiene Principles on the Control of *Vibrio* spp. in Seafood (CXG 73-2010) was adopted at the 33rd Session of the Commission (2010) and provides general guidance on control measures for *Vibrio parahaemolyticus* and *Vibrio vulnificus* in bivalve molluscs. Since publication of CXG 73-2010, it has been observed that there is:

- emergence of highly pathogenic strains, in particular the *V. parahaemolyticus* strain;
- an increase in illnesses as well as a geographic spread to regions where no infections had previously been reported;
- New methods (using, for example, genomics and satellite imagery), provide recent means of complementing existing approaches;
- New approaches to best practices appear to offer effective and economical solutions to limit the risks associated with these pathogens; and
- Need to harmonize CXG 73-2010 with the General Principles of Food Hygiene (CXC 1-1969)

The main issues that will be addressed during revision include:

- updating microbiological monitoring methods, including molecular-based approaches; and
- introduce practical interventions, including pre-harvest interventions (e.g. reduced chilling times at relaying), and post-harvest treatments (e.g. high pressure treatment, freezing and pasteurization), contributing to the reduction of risks of vibriosis linked to the consumption of seafood.

## Position

Liberia supports approval this new work on the revision of the Guidelines on the application of general principles of hygiene on the control of *Vibrio* spp. in seafood (CXG 73-2010). The revision will support food business operators to implement practical interventions to reduce the risk of vibriosis. The work supports objectives 1 and 5 of the Codex strategic plan 2020-2025

**ITEM 4.5: Codex Committee on Residues of Veterinary Drugs in Foods (CX/CAC 23/46/7 & CX/CAC 23/46/7 Add.1)**

Standards and related texts submitted for final adoption at Step 5/8 NEW MRLS FOR 13 COMPOUNDS

## 1) MRLs for:

a) Ivermectin (sheep, pigs and goats – fat, kidney, liver and muscle)

Maximum Residue Limits ( $\mu\text{g}/\text{kg}$ ) Species Muscle Liver Kidney Fat Pigs 15 30 20 50 Goats and sheep 30 60 20 100

b) Nicarbazin (chicken) – Muscle (4000  $\mu\text{g}/\text{kg}$ ), Liver (15000  $\mu\text{g}/\text{kg}$ ), Kidney (8000  $\mu\text{g}/\text{kg}$ ) and Skin with fat (4000  $\mu\text{g}/\text{kg}$ ).

## 2) MRLs extrapolated to ruminants and finfish i.e.: All other Ruminants

a) Amoxicillin – muscle, fat, liver, kidney and milk

b) Benzylpenicillin – muscle, liver, kidney, milk

c) Cyhalothrin – muscle, fat, liver, kidney, milk

d) Cypermethrin – muscle, fat, liver, kidney

e) Deltamethrin – muscle, fat, liver, kidney

f) Levamisole – muscle, fat, liver, kidney

g) Moxidectin – muscle, fat, liver, kidney

h) Spectinomycin – muscle, fat, liver, kidney, milk

i) Tetracyclines – muscle, liver, kidney, milk

j) Tilmicosin – muscle, fat, liver, kidney

## All other Finfish

a) Deltamethrin – muscle

b) Flumequine – muscle

## Background:

## 1) MRLs for:

a) Ivermectin (sheep, pigs and goats – fat, kidney, liver and muscle)

In 2021, CCRVDF25 had considered the initial MRLs for Ivermectin as recommended by JECFA88 but concerns were raised by some delegations about the proposed standards. JECFA accepted to re-assess the MRLs according to the established procedures in CCRVDF, and the relevant scientific data for re-evaluation of the MRL was to be availed by EU.

The compound was re-evaluated in 2022 by JECFA94 and recommended the new MRLs. The MRLs were based on GVPs that allow shorter withdrawal periods with no associated safety concern. Based on the JECFA's recommendation, CCRVDF26 agreed to advance the MRLs for Ivermectin to CAC46 for final adoption at Step 5/8.

b) Nicarbazin (chicken)

JECFA94's assessment of nicarbazin residues in chicken tissues considered all the required areas i.e. Toxicological and Microbiological evaluation, residue evaluation and the analytical method. Concerns raised by some delegates during CCRVDF26 regarding the reduction of the safety factor from 100 to 50 for the new ADI were adequately addressed by JECFA.

2) MRLs extrapolated to ruminants and finfish

CCRVDF25 discussed the criteria for "Extrapolation of MRLs for veterinary drugs in foods". The objective was for the Committee to have an approach for the extrapolation of MRLs for species for which no data is available for a JECFA evaluation.

The proposed approach on extrapolation relied on there being confidence that metabolism in the concerned species is like that in the reference species. The uncertainty that may exist regarding the similarity of metabolism between the reference and concerned species even when they are related species was addressed under the section for "Specific criteria for extrapolation".

There was general agreement on the approach and the committee agreed to forward the approach for extrapolation to CAC44 (2021) for adoption and inclusion as Annex C to

Using the approach for extrapolation as annexed to the Risk Analysis Principle Applied by CCRVDF, CCRVDF26 extrapolated MRLs for 11 compounds in the tissues of various animal species and agreed to advance the extrapolated MRLs to the CAC46 for adoption at Step 5/8

Position:

Liberia supports the final adoption of MRLs at Step 5/8 for all the listed compounds.

Rationale:

i) The compounds are extensively used in Africa and therefore limits for residues in the different commodities need to be established by Codex to protect consumer health and to promote international trade.

ii) For the extrapolated MRLs for different compounds, the extrapolation was done in line with the rules spelt out in the "Approach for the extrapolation of maximum residue limits for veterinary drugs to one or more species" that was adopted by CAC44.

Proposals for new work

**PRIORITY LIST OF VETERINARY DRUGS FOR EVALUATION OR RE-EVALUATION BY JECFA**

Background:

The Priority List includes new proposals for evaluation or re-evaluation by JECFA; compounds for which data availability would be confirmed by the next session of CCRVDF; compounds for which additional data/information were necessary to complete JECFA evaluations; compound(s) identified for parallel review(s); and compounds identified for extrapolation.

Of interest in preparation for CAC are:

Part I - Veterinary drugs for inclusion in the Priority List for JECFA evaluation / re-evaluation Part V - Compounds identified for Extrapolation.

Part I- Veterinary drugs for inclusion in the Priority List for JECFA evaluation / re-evaluation

CCRVDF26 agreed to include Amoxicillin, Clopidol, Fumagillin, and Imidacloprid in the priority list for evaluation by JECFA and noted the offer of the Republic of Korea to submit additional residue data on amoxicillin in chicken. Further to a request for clarification by the JECFA Secretariat, the Republic of Korea confirmed commitment to generate metabolism data on Clopidol and Fumagillin.

Part V - Compounds identified for Extrapolation.

CCRVDF26 agreed to recommend Lufenuron, Emamectin benzoate and Diflubenzuron for inclusion on the priority list under Part V Extrapolation to finfish.

Position:

Liberia supports the approval of the priority list of veterinary drugs (Parts I and V) by CAC46

Rationale:

- i) The use of the compounds globally are increasing and thus the need to establish the safety MRLs applicable to them so as to assure consumers safety.
- ii) For the compounds identified for extrapolation, the approach for the extrapolation of MRLs for veterinary drugs to one or more species was already approved by CAC44.

Proposals for discontinuation of work

MRLS FOR IVERMECTIN (SHEEP, PIGS AND GOATS – FAT, KIDNEY, LIVER AND MUSCLE) AT STEP 7.

Species

Pigs, Goats and sheep

Background:

Maximum Residue Limits ( $\mu\text{g}/\text{kg}$ )

Muscle Liver Kidney Fat 20 15 15 10

The above MRLs for Ivermectin in Sheep, pig and goat tissues at Step 7 were recommended by JECFA88. The standards were considered by CCRVDF25 (2021) at Step 4. However, there were concerns that the proposed MRLs were very conservative among others. In addition to addressing some of the concerns raised, JECFA accepted to re-assess the MRLs. Re-evaluation of the MRLs for pig, sheep and goat tissues in 2022 by JECFA94 resulted in the new proposed limits that were discussed by CCRVDF26 at Step 4 with general support for the advancement of the MRLs to CAC46 for final adoption.

Position:

Liberia supports the recommendation for discontinuation of work on MRLs for Ivermectin for sheep, pigs and goats – fat, kidney, liver and muscle at Step 7.

Rationale:

New MRLs have been advanced to CAC46 for final adoption at Step 5/8.

Agenda Item 4.6: Codex Committee on Nutrition and Foods for Special Dietary Uses (CX/CAC 23/46/8 & CX/CAC 23/46/8 Add.1)

Standards and related texts submitted for final adoption at Step 5/8

1. REVIEW OF THE STANDARD FOR FOLLOW-UP FORMULA (CXS 156-1987)
2. AMENDMENTS TO THE STANDARD FOR CANNED BABY FOODS (CXS 73-1981) AND THE ADVISORY LIST OF NUTRIENT COMPOUNDS FOR USE IN FOODS FOR SPECIAL DIETARY USES INTENDED FOR INFANTS AND YOUNG CHILDREN (CXG 10-1979)

Background:

The Review of the Standard for Follow-up Formula (CXS 156-1987) has been in discussion within the Committee for last 10 years. On the onset of review, though WHO had recommended that the products are not nutritionally important to the targeted population (6 – 36 months), the Committee agreed that there is need for the standard to facilitate trade of products that are already existing. The Committee made further decision to develop the standard as Section A (older infants: 6 – 12 months) and Section B (young children: 12 – 36 months) because nutrients requirements change from age of 12 months. CCNFSDU opted to take a stepwise approach in reviewing the standard starting with clauses where consensus could easily be achieved. The review started with the scope, definition of the product and labelling provisions for both sections A and B of the standard, which was concluded in CCNFSDU41 and advanced for adoption Step 5 (REP19CAC Para 84(i) and REP20CAC Para 89). In CCNFSDU42 the Committee concluded discussion of essential nutrients for both parts and agreed to hold the provisions at Step 4 awaiting conclusion of the remaining parts (REP22NFSDU Para 53 (i)). In CCNFSDU43 the remaining parts i.e., the preamble and structure of the standards was concluded, and committee agreed to submit all sections of the standard for final adoption at Step 5/8 (for essential nutrients, preamble and structure) and Step 8 for scope, definition and labelling in CAC46.

The amendments to the Standard for Canned Baby Foods (CXS 73-1981) and the Advisory list of nutrient compounds for use in foods for special dietary uses intended for infants and young children (CXG 10-1979) related to updated scientific information. In the case of canned baby foods, the standard had prohibited the use of beetroots and spinach by infants due to concern of increased risk of methaemoglobinaemia (reduction of blood Fe<sup>2+</sup> to Fe<sup>3+</sup> hence reducing oxygen transport in body) related to high nitrate. Recent studies however shows nitrates from spinach and beetroot are unlikely expose children to this risk. Amendment of CXG10-1979 was to extend the use of Calcium-L-methyl- folate in all infant and young children's products.

Position:

Liberia supports the adoption of the texts at Steps 5/8 and 8 as proposed by the committee for both standards

Rationale: The concerns raised during review of follow-up formula were extensively discussed and consensus builds on all aspects. In the case of the amendments, there is sound scientific basis supporting the proposed amendments.

Standards and related texts submitted for adoption at Step 5

GENERAL PRINCIPLES FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF NRVS-R FOR PERSONS AGED 6 – 36 MONTHS



**Background:**

The Committee had started work on establishing Nutrient Reference Values (NRVs) for infant and young children (6 – 36 months). The Committee had agreed to modify the criteria for developing NRV for general population in establishing NRVs for 6 – 36 months and establish some NRVs for discussion. The Committee agreed on the modified criteria and resolved to submit it to CAC46 for adoption at Step 5 (REPNFSDU23 Para 72 (i)). The Committee will in future session continue improving the criteria and develop NRVs for 6 – 36 months children.

**Position:**

Liberia supports the adoption of General Principles for the establishment of NRVs-R for persons aged 6 – 36 months at Step 5.

**ITEM 4.7: Codex Committee on Food Additives (CX/CAC 23/46/9 & CX/CAC 21/46/9 Add.1)**

Standards and related texts submitted for final adoption at Step 5/8

1. Revision to the descriptors to FCs 12.2.1 (Herbs) and 12.2.2 (Condiments)
2. Inclusion of the provision for trisodium citrate (INS 331(iii)) in FC 01.1.1 in the General Standard for Food Additives (GSFA) (CXS 192-1995)
3. Inclusion of the provisions for food additives in FC 14.2.3 (CXS 192-1995)
4. Inclusion of the provisions for riboflavin, synthetic (INS 101(i)), riboflavin 5'-phosphate sodium (INS 101(ii)), riboflavin from *Bacillus subtilis* (INS 101(iii)), riboflavin from *Ashbya gossypii* (INS 101(iv)) and spirulina extract (INS 134) in Table 3 (CXS 1921995)
5. Proposed draft revision of the Class Names and the International Numbering System for Food Additives (CXG 36-1989)
6. Proposed draft Specifications for inclusion in the List of Codex Specifications for Food Additives (CXA 6-2021)
7. Draft and proposed draft food-additive provisions of the GSFA (CXS 192-1995) and revisions to adopted provisions.
8. Inclusion of mono- and diglycerides of fatty acids (INS 471) in FC 02.1.2 (CXS 192-1995)
9. Inclusion of the provisions for polyglycerol esters of fatty acids (INS 475), sorbitan esters of fatty acids (INS 491-495), and stearyl lactylates (INS 481(i), 482(i)) in FC 02.1.2 (CXS 192-1995)
10. Revision to Notes 488 and 502 (CXS 192-1995)
11. Deletion of Note 301 from the provision for BENZOATES in FC 14.1.4 (CXS 192-1995)
12. Inclusion of riboflavin from *Ashbya gossypii* (INS 101(iv)) in the group header RIBOFLAVINS in Tables 1 and 2 of the GSFA (CXS 192-1995)
13. Revised food additive provisions of the GSFA in relation to the alignment of seven standards for CCMMP, three standards for CCPFV, six standards for CCNFSDU, one standard for CCAFRICA, one standard for CCEURO, and one set of guidelines for CCNFSDU (CXS 192- 1995)
14. Revisions to the adopted provisions for sweeteners in different FCs (CXS 192-1995)
15. Revised food-additive sections of seven standards for CCMMP, three standards for CCPFV, six standards for CCNFSDU, one standard for CCAFRICA, one standard for CCEURO and one set of guidelines for CCNFSDU

#### Background:

CCFA53 received and considered several recommendations arising from JECFA for new provisions of additives, new names and specifications as well as inconsistencies identified by Codex Secretariat during updating of GSFA following conclusion and approval of additives after CCFA52. The texts presented for final adoption based on work of JECFA and Codex Secretariat are as indicated in numbers 4, 5, 6, 9, 10, 11,12 and 14 in the above list. The Committee also presents for final adoption provisions for food additives whose justification for their use has provided by the respective commodity committees as required by the procedural manual. These texts for final adoption include those listed as 8, 13 and 15 in the above list of standards. CCFA53 also concluded discussions related to standards listed above as:

- 1 Revision to the descriptors to FCs 12.2.1 (herbs and spices) and 12.2.2 (Condiments);
- 2 Inclusion of the provision for trisodium citrate (INS 331(iii)) in FC 01.1.1 in the General Standard for Food Additives (GSFA) (CXS 192-1995);
- 3 Inclusion of the provisions for food additives in FC 14.2.3 (grape wines) (CXS 192-1995); and
- 7 Draft and proposed draft food-additive provisions of the GSFA (CXS 192-1995) and revisions to adopted provisions.

#### Position:

Liberia supports adoption of the final texts as presented by CCFA for final adoption except Inclusion of the provision for trisodium citrate (INS 331(iii)) in FC 01.1.1 in the General Standard for Food Additives (GSFA) (CXS 192-1995) and Inclusion of the provisions for food additives in FC 14.2.3. However, the standard on inclusion of the provisions for food additives in FC 14.2.3 may be adopted if the part of provision that refers to OIV is deleted.

#### Rationale:

Inclusion of the provision for trisodium citrate (INS 331(iii)) in FC 01.1.1 in the General Standard for Food Additives (GSFA) (CXS 192-1995 – The use of additives in this category is not acceptable. The justification provided for use of this additive is not convincing and has the potential of misleading the consumers on the true nature of the product. Liberia notes that UHT processing of milk has been done over years without the need to use any additives for stabilization. Further, Liberia further notes the reservation of some its members during CCFA53.

Inclusion of the provisions for food additives in FC 14.2.3 – The note “The maximum level of the additive in grape wine set as Good Manufacturing Practice must not result in (i) the modification of the natural and essential characteristics of the wine and (ii) a substantial change in the composition of the wine. Some Codex Members further specify the use to be consistent with the Code of Oenological Practice of the International Organization of Vine and Wine (OIV)” introduces additional requirements from OIV whose membership does not include all Codex members raising concern of equal participation during development of the limits. It is also worth noting that similar proposal of referencing additives in wines to OIV had been rejected by CCFA (REP17/FA Para 94 – 101 of CCFA49). Further, CCEXEC75 in providing guidance to CCFNSDU on referencing of document external to Codex, advised that concepts and technical information could be incorporated into the text of the standard itself, rather than referencing sources external to Codex (REP18/EXEC2-Rev1 Para 14 (c)). The Executive noted that referencing of external documents was also common in other Committee and committed to offer guidance (REP18/EXEC2-Rev1 Para 17). This advice was re-affirmed during CCEXEC77 (REP19/EXEC 2 Para 11).

Proposals to undertake new work or revise a standard.

1. Proposals for new food additive provisions of the GSFA
2. Priority List of substances proposed for evaluation by JECFA.

Background:

CCFA received requests to include new provision for new additives. Further, the committee prioritized several food additives for re-evaluation by JECFA during CCFA53.

Position:

Liberia supports the adoption of these new works by CCFA.

Rationale:

The proposed new work items are consistent with the scope of the committee of ensuring safety of food additives and maintain GSFA.

Codex standards and related texts proposed for revocation.

Background: Based on re-evaluation of food additives by JECFA, recommendations from commodities committees, alignment activities and review by Codex Secretary, CCFA reviews existing provisions with a view of confirming, revising or revoking existing provisions. CCFA therefore presents a list of food additives in various food additives for revocation as indicated in REP23/FA, Paragraphs 29(iv), 108(ii), 116 and 117(ii), Appendix VII.

Position: Liberia supports the revocation of the food additives provisions as provided.

Rationale: The justification is based on systematic review and recommendations by JECFA as well as identified inconsistencies by the Codex Secretariat during updating of GSFA. New technical information has been provided by JECFA in line with the procedures.

**ITEM 4.8: Codex Committee on Contaminants in Foods (CX/CAC 23/45/10 & CX/CAC 23/45/10 Add.1)**

Standards and related texts submitted for final adoption at Step 5/8

1. An ML of 0.15 mg/kg for lead in soft brown, raw, and non-centrifugal sugars for adoption at Step 5/8;
2. An ML of 0.02 mg/kg for lead in ready-to-eat meals for infants and young children for adoption at Step 8
3. A Code of practice for the prevention and reduction of mycotoxin contamination in cassava and cassava-based products to CAC46 for adoption at Step 8
4. Sampling plans for total aflatoxins in certain cereals and cereal-based products including foods for infants and young children for adoption at Step 5/8
5. An ML of 20 µg/kg for aflatoxin in chili pepper and nutmeg (dry/dried) for adoption at Step 5/8.
6. An ML 20 µg/kg for OTA in chili pepper, paprika and nutmeg (dry/dried) for adoption at Step 5/8.

Position:

Liberia supports the adoption of the six (6) standards and text presented by CCCF presented for final adoption at steps 5/8 and 8

**ITEM 4.9: Codex Committee on Food Import and Export Inspection and Certification Systems (CX/CAC 23/45/11 & CX/CAC 23/45/11 Add.1)**

Standards and related texts submitted for final adoption at Step 5/8

- 1) GUIDELINES ON RECOGNITION AND MAINTENANCE OF EQUIVALENCE OF NATIONAL FOOD CONTROL SYSTEMS (NFCS)
- 2) PRINCIPLES AND GUIDELINES ON THE USE OF REMOTE AUDIT AND INSPECTION IN REGULATORY FRAMEWORKS

#### Background

Following examination of the existing texts on equivalence which identified several gaps including, lack of practical guidance on processes and procedures that could assist countries in approaching systems equivalence considerations and how to initiate and conduct systems-equivalence assessments, CAC45 approved the request from CCFICS23 to develop guidelines on recognition and maintenance of equivalence of National Food Control Systems (NFCS). The guidelines seek to expand the suite of tools that recognize the ability of competent authorities to provide assurances regarding the safety of food in addition to existing texts on equivalence which include: CXG 26-1997; CXG 34-1999; and CXG 53- 2003, in addition to complementing CXG 82-2013 and CXG 89-2016. The draft guideline was reviewed and revised at CCFICS26 and upon resolution of all technical issues, it was forward to CAC46 for adoption at Steps 5/8.

The COVID-19 pandemic served as a catalyst for remote audit and inspection activities to support the continuity of the food supply chain where national competent authorities adopted remote audit and inspection to gain necessary assurances that their National Food Control System (NFCS) operated in accordance with domestic requirements. At CCFICS25 in 2021, Australia presented a Conference Room Document (CRD) to the Committee to consider the need for Codex guidance on the use of ICT tools for alternative verification as part of modern regulatory frameworks. CCFICS26 reviewed and revised the draft text and upon resolution of the technical comments from Members, the guidelines are forwarded for adoption by CAC46 at Step 5/8.

#### Position:

Liberia supports the adoption of Guidelines on Recognition and Maintenance of Equivalence of National Food Control Systems (NFCS) and the Principles and Guidelines on the Use of Remote Audit and Inspection in Regulatory Frameworks at Step 5/8 by CAC46.

#### Rationale:

The Committee has taken into consideration the technical comments raised during committee stage with text providing practical guidance for recognition and remote audits.

#### Proposals for new work/revision

REVIEW AND UPDATE OF PRINCIPLES FOR TRACEABILITY/PRODUCT TRACING AS A TOOL WITHIN A FOOD INSPECTION AND CERTIFICATION SYSTEM (CXG 60-2006)

#### Background:

Revision of the Principles for Traceability/Product Tracing as a Tool within a Food Inspection and Certification System (CXG 60-2006) has been deemed necessary to update the text and to consider of current and emerging regulatory and industry good practices and advances in supporting technology, while remaining technologically neutral.

Position:

Liberia supports the revision of the Principles for Traceability/Product Tracing as a Tool within a Food Inspection and Certification System

Rationale:

To ensure that the principles are aligned to the current and emerging regulatory and industry good practices and advances in technology.

**ITEM 4.10: Codex Committee on Food Labelling (CX/CAC 23/45/12 & CX/CAC 23/45/12 Add.1)**

Standards and related texts submitted for adoption at Step 5

**1. REVISION TO THE GENERAL STANDARD FOR THE LABELLING OF PRE-PACKAGED FOODS (CXS 1-1985): PROVISIONS RELEVANT TO ALLERGEN LABELLING**

Background:

Allergic reactions due to food exposure is increasingly becoming a major concern for most population globally given the life-threatening outcome associated with it. As a result, there is need for consumers to provide with clear information about known allergens on products labels to make informed decisions about the products. It is against this understanding the CCFL decided to revise the standard for food labelling with a view of providing clarity on the provision of labelling of food allergen. The Committee aims at clearly distinguishing IgE-mediated or other specific immune mediated reactions and other reactions cause by other means or factors such as chemicals. In doing this work, the committee is relying on technical reports of WHO/FAO prepared by experts technical consultative group convened on the request of the Committee. It is expected that upon completion of work, foods or ingredients known to cause these reactions will clearly be labelled for the benefit of consumers.

Position:

Liberia supports the adoption of standard at Step 5.

Rationale:

The adoption of agreed text will enable the committee to progress discussions on the remaining parts in square brackets in next session without the need of opening discussion on areas where agreements has been reached and facilitate fast conclusion of the standard to address the concerns.

**2. GUIDELINES ON THE PROVISION OF FOOD INFORMATION FOR PRE-PACKAGED FOODS TO BE OFFERED VIA E-COMMERCE**

Background:

These standard aims at providing guidance of provision for e-information especially where trade happens online. The guidelines will provide the minimum information that should be availed to customers at the point of sale to make informed decision about the product. The Committee agreed that although the standard is related to the General standard for food labelling (GSLPF), it will be published as a stand-alone document but with a link to GSLPF. The Committee agreed to adopt the WTO definition of e-commerce and to great extent include the requirements and exemptions under GSLPF such as requirement for minimum durability, exemption of small units, optional information that may be added. However, the Committee did not agree on the principles for e-commerce and maintained the principles in square brackets. The Committee agreed to submit the guidelines to CAC46 for adoption in Step 5 as it continues discussions of the remaining sections.

Position:

Liberia supports adoption of the guidelines on the Provision of Food Information for Pre- packaged Foods to be offered via E-Commerce at Step 5

Rationale:

Fast conclusion of the guidelines on the Provision of Food Information for Pre-packaged Foods to be Offered via E-Commerce will be important in facilitating e-commerce which is fast gaining traction globally. This will also effectively position Codex text as relevant in facilitating trade and protecting the consumers.

### 3. GUIDELINES ON THE USE OF TECHNOLOGY TO PROVIDE FOOD INFORMATION

Background:

These guidelines aim as providing guidance on the use of technology is provision of mandatory information required by General standard for labelling of prepacked foods (GSLPF) on a product. The guideline also provides guidance on optional information's that may be added to supplement requirements of GSLPF given that limitation of space is not an issue while using technology. Examples of such technologies includes use of bar codes or QR codes. In developing these guidelines, discussion has been on minimum information that needs to be provided and the principles applicable to additional information that manufacturers may opt to add. In principle, the committee agreed that this technology is no way aimed at replacing requirements of GSLPF and that all mandatory requirements in GSLPF must be included in any technology that is used. The Committee built consensus on various sections of the guidance and agreed to submit the guidelines for adoption at Step 5 by CAC46 as discussion for the remaining sections continues.

Position:

Liberia supports adoption of the guidelines on the on the Use of Technology to Provide Food Information at Step 5

Rationale:

These guidelines will provide an opportunity for manufacturers to provide additional information about the products, which is currently limited by the space. The final publication of the will ensure relevance of Codex text in the ever changing technology environment

New project proposal:

AMENDMENTS TO THE GENERAL STANDARD FOR THE LABELLING OF PRE-PACKAGED FOODS (CXS 1-1985): LABELLING OF PRE-PACKAGED FOODS IN JOINT PRESENTATION AND MULTIPACK FORMATS

**Background:**

Colombia on request by CCFL a discussion paper highlights the need to develop guidance on labelling of multipacks. The need for the standards was to provide guidance of ensuring such as date marking and list of ingredients in these packaging formats are not hidden from consumers. The committee noted that the current trend is that food labelling of multipacks and foods jointly presented for sale are oriented to the requirements for individual units. The standard aim to harmonize labelling of pre-packaged foods in multipack formats (secondary container that includes units of the same or different products, where each unit is individually labelled) and of foods in joint presentation (contains units of different products where they are labelled jointly and the intention of its trade/sale is to present the consumer with a single label that lists the foods that compose it, which are complementary to each other or mixed for consumption). This work will provide additional clarification and expound on some requirements already in CXS 346, Codex Standard for bulk labelling.

**Position:**

Liberia supports adoption of the new work by CAC46.

**ITEM 4.11: Codex Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling (CX/CAC 23/45/13 & CX/CAC 23/45/13 Add.1)**

Standards and related texts submitted for final adoption at Step 5/8

1) METHODS OF ANALYSIS/PERFORMANCE CRITERIA/SAMPLING PLANS FOR PROVISIONS IN CODEX STANDARDS (CXS 234–1999, CXS 193-1995)

2) REVISED GENERAL GUIDELINES ON SAMPLING (CXG 50-2004) Background:

CCMAS39 agreed to continue work on updating Recommended Methods of Analysis and Sampling (CXS 234-1999), with a focus on fats and oils, supported by American Oil Chemists' Society (AOCS) through working groups. CCMAS 42 reviewed the EWG's work on fats and oils methods, with presentation of decisions and conclusion of the review process. The review focused on the provision (e.g. fatty acid composition), methods (AOAC or ISO methods), principles (e.g. liquid chromatography), and type of method (type I or type II methods etc.)

CCMAS37 deliberated on the need to simplify the General Guidelines on Sampling (CXG 50-2004). CCMAS38 decided to undertake substantial revision of CXG 50-2004 but with the need for prioritization and external expert assistance. CCMAS41 forwarded the revised CXG 50-2004 to CAC44 for adoption at Step 5 and continuing the revision with a new EWG. CCMAS42 reviewed the EWG's work, addressing comments, and forwarded the proposed revised CXG 50-2004 to CAC46 for final adoption at Step 8.

**Position:**

Liberia supports the revisions of fats and oils methods as recommended by CCMAS42 and the revised guidelines on sampling (CXG 50-2004) for final adoption at Step 8 by CAC46.

**Rationale:**

The methods of analysis/performance criteria/sampling plans are internationally validated that meet the required performance criteria, making them invaluable tools for assessing the quality and safety of fats and oils products. The revised General Guidelines on Sampling has enhanced practical applicability and the theoretical concepts therein have also been simplified.

Codex Standards and related texts proposed for revocation

- 1) METHODS OF ANALYSIS FOR PROVISIONS IN CODEX STANDARDS (CXS 234–1999)
- 2) GENERAL METHODS OF ANALYSIS FOR CONTAMINANTS (CXS 228- 2001)

Background:

CCMAS considered the recommendations on methods of analysis proposed for endorsement and other related matters as presented and agreed to revoke 100 methods listed in REP23/MAS Appendix 2 Part II and to replace them with the methods approved in Part 1 and found in CXS 234-1999. Additionally, CCMAS42 agreed to the numeric performance criteria (included Appendix II, Part A), of the Recommended Methods of Analysis and Sampling (CXS 234-199) for lead and cadmium for commodities previously covered by the General Methods of Analysis for Contaminants (CXS 228-2001). Consequently, CCMAS42 agreed that the latter standard should be revoked and the provisions of CXS 234-1999 should be used in their place.

Position:

Liberia supports revocation of CXS 234-1999 and CXS 228-2001 and endorses the listing of all methods in CXS 234-1999 and other recommended methods of analysis.

#### **ITEM 4.12: Codex Committee on Pesticide Residues (CX/CAC 23/45/14 & CX/CAC 23/45/14 Add.1)**

Standards and related texts submitted for final adoption at Step 5/8

- 1) MRLs FOR DIFFERENT COMBINATIONS OF PESTICIDE/COMMODITY(IES)
- 2) REVISION OF THE CLASSIFICATION OF FOOD AND FEED (CXA 4-1989) AND CONSEQUENTIAL AMENDMENT TO THE PRINCIPLES AND GUIDANCE ON THE SELECTION OF REPRESENTATIVE COMMODITIES FOR THE EXTRAPOLATION OF MRLS FOR PESTICIDES TO COMMODITY GROUPS (CXG 84-2012) (COMPLETION OF CLASS B - PRIMARY COMMODITIES OF ANIMAL ORIGIN AND CLASS E – PROCESSED COMMODITIES OF ANIMAL ORIGIN AND CORRESPONDING TABLE 9 AND TABLE 10 OF REPRESENTATIVE COMMODITIES)

Background:

The CCPR54 discussed the risk assessment outcome from the JMPR 2022 in which JMPR evaluated 34 pesticides including seven new compounds and 4 compounds which were re-evaluated under the periodic review program, for toxicity or residue or both. Following the review of the risk assessments, 426 MRLs for pesticides/commodities combination are submitted to CAC46 for adoption at Step 5/8 (REP23/PR54, Appendix II). Revision of the Classification of Food and Feed (CXA 4-1989) and the Consequential Amendment to the Principles and Guidance on the Selection of Representative Commodities for the Extrapolation of MRLs for Pesticides to Commodity Groups (CXG 84 2012) has been an ongoing work at CCPR and upon completion, they are forwarded to CAC for adoption.

Position:

Liberia supports the adoption, at Step 5/8, of the proposed MRLs for the different pesticides/commodities combinations as provided in REP23/PR54, Appendix II and the Revised Classification of Food and Feed (CXA 4-1989) and Consequential Amendment to the Principles and guidance on the selection of representative commodities for the extrapolation of MRLs for pesticides to commodity groups.



**Rationale:**

The JMPR 2022 evaluation report shows that the estimated long term (based on the 17 GEMs cluster diets) and short term dietary intake for the compounds submitted by CCPR for approval do not exceed the health based guidance values and therefore unlikely to pose public health concerns. Additionally, data for the crops are comparable and can be extrapolated to the subgroup to facilitate trade in these commodities.

Also, the proposed animal grouping (fresh and processed) with the representative commodities will allow the extrapolation MRLs for the commodities within the groups and subgroups. The representative commodities are commercially important and have similar residue characteristics to the other commodities in the group and subgroup.

**Standards and related texts submitted for adoption at Step 5**

1) CONSEQUENTIAL AMENDMENTS TO THE CXLs FOR PEPPERS GROUPS/SUBGROUPS TO COVER OKRA, MARTYNIA AND ROSELLE

2) CONSEQUENTIAL AMENDMENT TO THE CLASSIFICATION OF FOOD AND FEED (CXA 4- 1989) (REVISED DEFINITIONS FOR THE PORTION OF THE COMMODITY TO WHICH MRLs APPLY AND WHICH IS ANALYZED FOR GROUP 006 – ASSORTED TROPICAL AND SUBTROPICAL FRUITS OF INEDIBLE PEEL AND GROUP 023 – OILSEEDS AND OILFRUITS)

3) CONSEQUENTIAL AMENDMENT TO THE:

- CLASSIFICATION OF FOOD AND FEED (CXA 4-1989) (ADDITIONAL COMMODITY GROUPS IN CLASS A – PRIMARY FOOD COMMODITIES OF PLANT ORIGIN AND CLASS D – PROCESSED COMMODITIES OF PLANT ORIGIN; AND
- PRINCIPLES AND GUIDANCE ON THE SELECTION OF REPRESENTATIVE COMMODITIES FOR THE EXTRAPOLATION OF MRLS TO COMMODITY GROUPS (CXG 84-2012) (REVISED GROUP 12C – EGGPLANT AND EGGPLANT-LIKE COMMODITIES, TABLE 2)

**Background:**

The revision of the classification of food and feeds have been an ongoing discussion at the committee for the last 10 years. The revised vegetable commodity group (Type 02) of the classification of food and feed (CAC/MISC 4-1989) was adopted during CAC40. However, in the JMPR evaluation report of 2017, it was pointed out that there are challenges with implementation of the subgroup 012B (Peppers and pepper like commodities) because the data for okra, martynia and rossela were not comparable to the subgroup. This led to the introduction of the parenthetical qualifier statement “except okra, martynia and roselle”. CCPR54 took a risk management decision to remove the parenthetical qualifier statement “except okra, martynia and roselle” from any relevant entry of MRLs or CXLs in the Codex database awaiting new residue trial data that could allow JMPR to complete its evaluation. The committee further noted that the conclusions of JMPR were based on limited field trial data submitted and therefore MRLs for the Subgroup 12B of peppers which include okra should be applied while further data are generated (i.e. similar use pattern for okra and chili pepper/side-by-side trials) to allow for a more robust assessment by JMPR.

The Codex Secretariat explained that commodity codes had been added to Class A – Primary food commodities of plant origin and Class D – Processed products of plant origin to allow including new MRL recommendations from the 2022 JMPR Meeting into the Database for MRLs for pesticides which would be forwarded to CAC as consequential amendments to the Classification. CCPR54 agreed with the submission from the Codex Secretariat.

CCPR54 discussed to amend the portion of commodities to which MRLs apply and is analyzed to apply to the whole commodity without the peel for Group 006 (Assorted tropical and subtropical fruits i.e. passion fruits, avocado, banana, pineapple, kiwi, mango, papaya). The committee recommends the following definitions for Group 006, Whole fruit: Unless qualified, i.e.,

- Banana after removal of crown tissue and stalks. - Pineapple after removal of crown.
- Avocado, mangos, and similar fruit with hard seeds: Whole commodity after removal of stone but residue calculated and expressed on whole fruit.

The Committee further discussed a proposal to reconsider the portion to which the MRL applies to Group 023 since there is no justification for change from after removal of husk to with shell or husk. The committee recommends the following definitions for Group 023 Oilseeds: Unless otherwise specified, seed or kernels, with shell or husk.

- Peanuts: Kernels
- Castor beans: Whole product after removal of capsules - Cotton seeds: Undelimited
- Oil fruits: Whole commodity

CCPR54 considered a proposal to modify Subgroup 12C of Table 2 to reflect the extrapolation applied by JMPR for MRLs for eggplants from chili peppers and/or sweet peppers. JMPR agreed that this was in line with the extrapolation principles.

Position:

Liberia supports the approval of the consequential amendments in 1, 2 and 3 above.

Rationale:

The consequential amendment to the CXLs for peppers groups/subgroups to cover okra, martynia and roselle is a pragmatic risk management decision taken in the interim to support international trade while more data is generated to allow a more robust assessment by JMPR. The data for the crops are comparable and can be extrapolated to the sub group to benefit commodities with limited trials. In addition, the portion of the commodity to which MRLs apply (and is analyzed) is enforced on the basis of the commodity as it is traded.

Codex standards and related texts proposed for revocation

- 1) 178 CXLS FOR 18 PESTICIDES/COMMODITIES COMBINATIONS ARE PROPOSED FOR REVOCATION AS PROVIDED IN REP23/PR54, APPENDIX III.
- 2) GUIDELINES ON PORTION OF COMMODITIES TO WHICH MRLS APPLY AND WHICH IS ANALYZED (CXG 41-1993)

Background:

CCPR54 discussed risk assessment outcomes after JMPR evaluated 34 pesticides including seven new compounds and 4 compounds which were re-evaluated under the periodic review program, for toxicity or residue to determine the maximum residue level recommendations in or on food and animal feeds based on Good Agricultural Practices (GAP), taking into account information on dietary intakes, and consumption of foods derived from commodities that comply with the respective MRLs and are intended to be toxicologically acceptable. CCPR also agreed that the Guidelines on Portion of Commodities to Which MRLs Apply and Which is Analyzed (CXG 41-1993) should be revoked as these are included in CXA 4-1989.

Position:

Liberia supports revocation of the different combinations of pesticide/commodity (ies) as proposed by CCPR54 (REP23/PR54-Appendix III) as well as the revocation of Guidelines on Portion of Commodities to Which MRLs Apply and Which is Analyzed (CXG 41-1993)

Rationale:

These are CXLs that have been replaced based on review of additional data and their use no longer supported. Furthermore, the Classification of Food and Feed (CXA 4-1989) should be the single, authoritative reference of food and feed for the establishment of MRLs for pesticides.

Work proposed for discontinuation

MRLs FOR DIFFERENT COMBINATIONS OF PESTICIDE/COMMODITY(IES) WITHDRAWN FROM THE STEP PROCEDURE

Background:

Following the JMPR evaluation of 2022, the subsequent revision of MRLs for different combinations of pesticide/commodity(ies), and proposed consequential amendments, CCPR54 agreed to withdraw MRLs in the Step procedure as provided in REP23/PR54, Appendix IV.

Position:

Liberia supports the discontinuation of MRLs for different combinations of pesticide/commodity(ies) from the Step procedure.

Proposals for new work

- 1) PRIORITY LIST OF PESTICIDES FOR EVALUATION BY JMPR
- 2) DEVELOPMENT OF GUIDANCE FOR MONITORING THE STABILITY AND PURITY OF REFERENCE MATERIALS AND RELATED STOCK SOLUTIONS OF PESTICIDES DURING PROLONGED STORAGE

Background:

A priority list of pesticides for evaluation by JMPR 2024 comprising new evaluations, additional evaluations and other evaluation or periodic evaluations is provided in Appendix XIV of REP23/PR54 for approval by CAC46.

Analysis of pesticides in the food chain requires the use of specific Reference Materials (RMs) of known chemical purity within the expiry dates specified by the Reference Material Producers (RMPs) to ensure the reliability of the test results. Many RMs stay stable even after their expiry dates with no change in purity. However, the lack of data on the stability and purity of RMs during prolonged storage and absence of guidance procedures for monitoring these prevent their use beyond the expiry dates. CCPR54 therefore proposed, as a new work item, the development of a guidance document for monitoring the stability and purity of reference materials and related stock solutions of pesticides during prolonged storage

Position:

Liberia supports the approval of the priority list of pesticides for evaluation by JMPR as well as the development of the guidance for monitoring the stability and purity of reference materials and related stock solutions of pesticides during prolonged storage.

**Rationale:**

There is need for evaluation or continued evaluation of MRLs for the different pesticides/commodity(ties) combinations to facilitate trade in safe food commodities. In addition, the identified compounds meet the prioritization criteria of being registered in some countries and there is proof of both residue and toxicological data submission. Other compounds are listed for periodic review in accordance with the 15-year rule. The proposed guidance on monitoring the stability and purity of RMs will:

- a) Allow the extended use of the RMs which are stable with acceptable purity beyond their expiry dates specified by RMPs for robust pesticide residue analysis.
- b) Reduce on the budget for laboratories for RMs most countries, especially developing countries.

**Other issue for endorsement**

REVISED TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE JOINT CCPR/CCRVDF EWG ON ESTABLISHMENT OF HARMONIZED/SINGLE MRLs FOR COMPOUNDS WITH DUAL USE

**Background:**

CAC44 agreed to establish a Joint CCPR/CCRVDF EWG chaired by the United States of America, open to all Members and Observers working with the support of JECFA, JMPR and the Codex Secretariat to address procedural and technical issues related to the establishment of harmonized MRLs for compounds with dual use as described in the Terms of Reference (ToRs). In its work, the EWG made several recommendations (CX/PR 23/54/10) that were considered by both CCRVDF26 and CCPR54. CCPR54 endorsed the EWG's recommendations, as modified by CCRVDF26 and agreed to inform CAC46 of the progress of work of the Joint CCPR/CCRVDF EWG on dual-use compounds, the revision of the EWG's ToRs and the addition of Brazil and New Zealand as co-Chairs of the Joint EWG.

**Position:**

Liberia supports the revision of the ToRs for the Joint CCPR/CCRVDF EWG on establishment of harmonized/single MRLs for compounds with dual use.

**Rationale:**

Continued work of the Joint EWG between CCRVDF and CCPR with the suggested Co-Chairs facilitates the establishment of single/harmonized MRLs for edible animal tissues for compounds with dual use with wider participation of Codex Members.

**ITEM 4.14: Codex Committee on General Principles (CX/CAC 23/45/16 & CX/CAC 23/45/16 Add.1)**

Proposals submitted for approval.

1. REVIEW OF THE PROCEDURES IN SECTION 3 OF THE PM, GUIDELINES FOR SUBSIDIARY BODIES
2. ISSUING OF A CIRCULAR LETTER SOLICITING PROPOSALS FROM MEMBERS ON INCONSISTENCIES IN LANGUAGE, AND SUPERSEDED CONTENT OF THE PM, APART FROM SECTION 3

## Background:

CCGP32 had agreed with the proposal of Codex Secretariat to develop a digital version of the Codex Procedural Manual (PM) which will make it user friendly. However, the Secretariat identified several editorial and formatting inconsistencies that needs to be addressed before undertaking any work on this digitization. During the CCGP33, the Secretariat presented new format and layout of the PM, noting that among the new features introduced, were a foreword to give more visibility to the major additions/changes included in the new version of the PM, and additional front and end matter sections, e.g., list of abbreviations, to facilitate easier navigation and usability. In addition, the Secretariat advised that some contents of Section 3 of the PM would be removed. CCGP generally agreed with the proposal of the Codex Secretariat and agreed to ask CAC46 to:

- a) Approve moving of Section 6 (Membership), Membership of the Codex Alimentarius Commission of the PM to the Codex website with a link to the list provided in the PM
- b) Approve the changes to the PM as listed in Appendix II of REP23/GP.
- c) to ask the host secretariats to review the procedures in section 3 of the PM, Guidelines for subsidiary bodies, to identify text to be updated.
- d) approve the issuance of a Circular Letter soliciting proposals from Members on inconsistencies in language, and superseded content of the PM, apart from section 3, for consideration by a future session of CAC for possible referral to CCGP.

## Position:

Liberia supports the approvals as requested by CCGP

## Rationale:

Digitalization of the Codex procedural manual will improve the usability of the manual while making its update easy.

**ITEM 4.15: Draft MRLs for zilpaterol hydrochloride in cattle liver, kidney and muscle (CX/CAC 23/45/17 & CX/CAC 23/45/17 Add.1)**

## Background:

CAC45 reached the following conclusions:

- Adopted the MRLs for zilpaterol hydrochloride in cattle liver, kidney and muscle at Step 5 (by vote) as set by JECFA; automatically be circulated for comments at Step 6.
  - 0.5 µg/kg for beef muscle
  - 3.5 µg/kg for liver
  - 3.3 µg/kg for kidney
- Agreed to retain the further elaboration of MRLs for zilpaterol hydrochloride in cattle liver, kidney and muscle, in the Commission noting the reservation of one-member country;
- Advised CAC46 to note the discussions at CAC45; and
- Welcomed the prospect of further informal consultation by the CVCs prior to CAC46 to facilitate consensus (The MRLs of Zilpaterol hydrochloride are circulated to members and observers for comments at Step 6. The deadline for submission of comments was 15 September 2023).

## Next steps

- Any comments would be discussed at Step 7 by CAC46.
- The preferred path forward is for final adoption within the current rules of the Codex via consensus. For those limited Members that oppose the adoption of the draft MRLs for zilpaterol, they can simply follow Principle 4 of the Codex Statements of Principle and issue a reservation while allowing the standard to advance. These same Members have done this on numerous other standards previously - zilpaterol should be no exception.
- As consensus is unlikely given past developments, the possibility of voting is high for the CAC46 since Codex rules provide that where “efforts to reach consensus have failed”, decisions may be taken by voting (Codex Rules of Procedure, Rule XII.2)

Position:

Liberia supports the final adoption of the MRLs for zilpaterol hydrochloride set by JECFA in cattle as follows:

- o 0.5 µg/kg for beef muscle o 3.5 µg/kg for liver
- o 3.3 µg/kg for kidney

Liberia supports the science-based and progressive approach to the resolution of the issue of zilpaterol hydrochloride and the robust risk assessment of JECFA recognized by all and concerning cattle muscle, kidney and liver.

Rationale:

Liberia supports the science-based and progressive approach to the resolution of the issue of zilpaterol hydrochloride and the robust risk assessment of JECFA recognized by all and concerning cattle muscle, kidney and liver

**ITEM 8: Application of the Statements of Principle concerning the role of science in the Codex decision-making process and the extent to which other factors are taken into account (SoP) (CX/CAC 22/45/21)**

Background

A Subcommittee of the Executive Committee of Codex (CCEXEC) was charged with developing practical guidance on application of the SoP concerning the role of science in the Codex decision-making process and the extent to which other factors are taken into account to promote their consistent application without re-opening or reinterpreting them. The work was completed and presented to CAC45 with some limited text on which there was no consensus in square brackets and therefore the guidance not considered to be final.

CAC45 referred the draft guidance to the Chairpersons of Codex subsidiary bodies to facilitate deliberation on matters that fell within the scope of the SoP and Members were urged to take account of the draft guidance as appropriate during the process of standards development and advancement. A Circular Letter (CL) calling Members to provide specific comments on the draft guidance was sent and responses received from 22 Members and three Observer Organisations. Analysis of responses to the CL by the Chairperson and Vice-Chairpersons of the Commission resulted in several proposals as provided in CX/CAC 23/46/21.

Position:

Liberia supports the use of footnotes, the option of not extending the guidance document to cover new work proposals and the current framing of Other Legitimate Factors (OLFs) in the draft guidance. Liberia further supports discontinuation of work on the draft guidance pending feedback from Chairpersons of Committees and Members

on their experience with the application of the guidance and inclusion of the draft guidance in the existing Codex Chairperson's Handbook and any future handbook for delegates.

Rationale:

The use of footnotes is already an agreeable mechanism in Codex and the Commission already has well established criteria and procedures for considering concerns about OLFs as part of its critical review. The draft guidance reflects current understanding and application of Criteria for the consideration of other factors referred to in the second statement of principle and the Risk Analysis Principles for Application within the framework of Codex Alimentarius.

More experience on the use of the guidance will aid in future conclusion and inclusion of the draft guidance in the existing Codex Chairperson's Handbook and any future handbook for delegates will support Members in using and applying the guidance.