

CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



World Health
Organization

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Agenda Items 5, 6

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ORIGINAL LANGUAGE ONLY

JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME

AD HOC CODEX INTERGOVERNMENTAL TASK FORCE ON ANTIMICROBIAL RESISTANCE

Eighth Session

Comments of PHILIPPINES

Agenda Items 5 **Code of Practice to Minimize and contain Foodborne Antimicrobial Resistance - (CX/AMR 21/8/5)**

The Philippines would like to extend its great appreciation for the kind efforts of the Electronic Working Group (EWG) led by the United States of America and co-chaired by Chile, China, Kenya and the United Kingdom and for their exceptional dedication in working for the progress of this document since the last General Session in December 2019. The series of webinars held to further discuss this document with member countries is also very notable as this gave the opportunity and time to present the details of the Code of Practice (COP) and forward it to significant advancement towards adoption.

The Philippines also notes that this document should be consistent and aligned with the existing Codex document, *Risk Analysis Principles for Foodborne AMR (CXG 77-2011)* and should be complementary with the current draft being developed on the *Guidelines for integrated Monitoring and Surveillance of Foodborne AMR*. The COP should also consider other existing standards as developed by the World Organization for Animal Health in the Terrestrial Animal Health Code,

The Philippines strongly supports the adoption of the current draft of the Code of Practice and not to re-open texts that have already been extensively discussed and obtained consensus in the previous electronic, physical and virtual working groups, webinars, and plenary sessions of the Task Force in order to move forward for adoption with consensus.

Specific Comments:

Existing Codex Texts	Philippine Position
<p>3. Definition [Therapeutic use (food-producing animals or plants/crops): Administration or application of antimicrobial agents for the treatment, control/metaphylaxis or prevention/prophylaxis of disease.]</p>	<p><i>There was no consensus on deleting the definition of “therapeutic use”; therefore the definition, as amended by the EWG, was retained in square brackets for further discussion at TFAMR08</i></p> <p>The Philippines support to retain the definition of “therapeutic use” in Section 3, as presented in Appendix I of CX/AMR 21/8/5, as this is also consistent with the definition of “veterinary medical use” and this will address the use of a broader term to include plant and aquatic use.</p>
<p>4. General principles to minimize and contain foodborne antimicrobial resistance [Principle 13: Medically important antimicrobial agents should only be used for therapeutic purposes (treatment, control/metaphylaxis or prevention/prophylaxis of disease)]</p>	<p>The Philippines supports the texts as proposed by Canada in the webinar session:</p> <p><i>“Medically important antimicrobials should only be used for disease treatment or prevention/ prophylaxis and/or control/metaphylaxis purposes and only under the conditions laid down in Principles 7-10, and 14 and 15.”</i></p> <p>This text already encompasses the important concepts regarding use of medically important antimicrobials consistent with the Principles laid down in the COP.</p>
<p>5. Responsible and prudent use of antimicrobial agents</p>	<p>The Philippines is in agreement on the proposed revisions for paragraphs 24 and 64 of Section 5, which achieved consensus during the webinar as already presented in Appendix I of CX/AMR 21/8/5.</p>

AGENDA ITEM 6 CX/AMR 21/8/6-Add.1**GUIDELINES ON INTEGRATED MONITORING AND SURVEILLANCE OF FOODBORNE ANTIMICROBIAL RESISTANCE (GLIS) (AT STEP 4)****General Comments:**

The Philippines would like to extend its great appreciation for the kind efforts of the Electronic Working Group (EWG) led by the Netherlands in the significant development of this document. It is important to note that in further discussion of the document, the member countries should ensure that the language to be used is clear and concise to provide guidance for practical implementation and not overly prescriptive.

The Philippines also supports the recommendation of the Chair and Co-Chair, as follows:

- Not re-open the sections on Scope and Definitions, as these were previously agreed upon in TFAMR06;
- Ensure the guidelines are stand-alone and future-proofed.

This document should also be guided by existing published document by the World Health Organization, “Integrated Surveillance of Antimicrobial Resistance in Foodborne Bacteria: Application of a One Health Approach: guidance from the WHO Advisory Group on Integrated Surveillance of Antimicrobial Resistance (AGISAR)” and other relevant standards in the Terrestrial Animal Health Code by the World Organization for Animal Health.

The Philippines supports the adoption of the current draft at Step 5 with consensus from Member States.