



**JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME
CODEX COMMITTEE ON CONTAMINANTS IN FOODS**

**Eleventh Session
Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, 3 – 7 April 2017**

To be held at the Windsor Marapendi Hotel, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

**DISCUSSION PAPER ON NON-DIOXIN LIKE PCBs IN THE CODE OF PRACTICE FOR THE
PREVENTION AND REDUCTION OF DIOXINS AND DIOXIN-LIKE PCB**

Comments submitted by the EU, Republic of Korea and AU

EU

The European Union and its Member States (EUMS) welcome and appreciate the work done on the discussion paper on non-dioxin like PCBs in the *Code of Practice for the Prevention and Reduction of Dioxins and Dioxin-like PCBs* by the electronic working group (eWG) chaired by EU.

The EUMS agree on the recommendations made by the eWG to the CCCF as outlined in the §16 of the document CX/CF 17/11/13 and agree that all elements mentioned in §14 are considered for the update and review of the Code of Practice.

The EUMS have no comments on the draft of the Project Document as outlined in Appendix I in document CX/CF 17/11/13 to be forwarded to the 40th meeting of the Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC) for approval as new work.

REPUBLIC OF KOREA

The Republic of Korea supports the review and update of the Code of Practice for the Prevention and Reduction of Dioxin and Dioxin-like PCB Contamination in Food and Feed (CAC/RCP 62-2006) to include non-dioxin-like PCBs (NDL-PCBs) in its scope and deleting "DL" from the COP.

We also support the EWG's recommendation to update COP by including information on specific analytical methods for NDL-PCBs, recent information on the carry-over of dioxins and PCBs from feed into food of animal origin and cooking practices proven to reduce the presence of dioxins and PCBs in food, etc.

AU

Position: AU supports efforts aimed at preventing dietary exposure to NDL-PCBs, by limiting contamination of the food-chain, including exposure of food-producing animals to PCBs. AU therefore supports the review and update of the Code of Practice for the Prevention and Reduction of Dioxin and Dioxin-like PCB Contamination in Food and Feeds (CAC/RCP 62-2006) to include non-dioxin-like PCBs (NDL-PCBs) in its scope as new work for approval by CCEXEC/CAC.

Rationale: Polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) are recognized as Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) due to their long half-life in the environment. They are regarded as hazardous chemicals in foods and have a wide range of adverse health effects including endocrine disruption, dermal toxicity and chloracne, and neurocognitive development problems in children. They are classified as human carcinogens (Group 1) by International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC). Consumption of contaminated food in the diet accounts for 90% of human exposure to PCB. Fatty food such as meat, dairy, and fish are particularly known to accumulate these chemicals. The transfer of PCBs from mother to infant through breast milk is another important source of exposure. The 57th JECFA established a joint provisional maximum tolerable monthly intake (PMTMI) of 70 µg/kg body weight for dioxins, furans and dioxin-like PCBs. Exposures were widely found to be near or over this level. Non-dioxin-like PCBs (NDL-PCBs) account for the majority of the total PCB contamination in food, with the remainder being DL-PCBs. The Stockholm Convention on POPs recommends measurement of the six indicator PCBs (PCB 28, PCB 52, PCB 101, PCB 138, PCB 153 and PCB 180) to characterize contamination by PCBs (UNEP, 2013).

These are all NDL-PCB congeners, and they were chosen because they are found at high concentrations in the environment, in food or in human fluids or tissues. Considering the adverse health effect associated with exposure to NDL-PCBs, it is important to review and update the Code of Practice for the Prevention and Reduction of Dioxin and Dioxin-like PCB Contamination in Food and Feeds (CAC/RCP 62-2006) to include non-dioxin-like PCBs (NDL-PCBs).