TO:        Codex Contact Points
Contact Points of international organizations having observer status with Codex

FROM:     Secretariat, Codex Alimentarius Commission,
Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme

SUBJECT:  Request for Comments at Step 6 on the Draft Principles and Guidelines for the
assessment and use of voluntary Third-Party Assurance (vTPA) programmes

DEADLINE: 31 December 2019

BACKGROUND

1. For the background information, please refer to document REP 19/CCFICS para 53 and Appendix III
   and REP 19/CAC (paras 74 and 79).
2. Please note that the comments submitted would provide further inputs to the ongoing work by the
   EWG led by the UK, Canada and Mexico

REQUEST FOR COMMENTS

3. Codex members and observers are invited to submit comments at Step 6 on the Draft Principles and
   Guidelines for the assessment and use of voluntary Third-Party Assurance (vTPA) programmes,
   which is uploaded to the Codex Online Commenting System (OCS):
      https://ocs.codexalimentarius.org/, as per the guidance below.

GUIDANCE ON THE PROVISION OF COMMENTS

4. Comments should be submitted through the Codex Contact Points of Codex members and observers
   using the OCS.
5. Contact Points of Codex members and observers may login to the OCS and access the document
   open for comments by selecting “Enter” in the “My reviews” page, available after login to the system.
6. Contact Points of Codex members and observers organizations are requested to provide proposed
   changes and relevant comments/justifications on a specific paragraph (under the categories: editorial,
   substantive, technical and translation) and/or at the document level (general comments or summary
   comments). Additional guidance on the OCS comment categories and types can be found in the OCS
   Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs).

7. Other OCS resources, including the user manual and short guide, can be found at the following link:
8. For questions on the OCS, please contact Codex-OCS@fao.org.