



**JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME
CODEx COMMITTEE ON GENERAL PRINCIPLES**

Thirty-second Session

Bordeaux, France, 23 - 27 March 2020

MATTERS REFERRED TO THE COMMITTEE

A. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE CODEx ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION (42nd Session)

Matters for information

1. The 42nd Session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC42) endorsed the recommendations of 77th Session of the Executive Committee of the Codex Alimentarius Commission (CCEXEC77) to establish a sub-committee of the CCEXEC on the application of the Statements of Principle Concerning the Role of Science, while not reopening them¹. CAC42 also endorsed the Proposed Terms of Reference for the sub-committee².
2. CAC42 stressed that while the lead for this work would be with the CCEXEC and its sub-committee, it was desirable to reinforce transparency and the possibility for all members to give input to this work by:
 - i. Making the online exchanges and documents distributed by the sub-committee via the forum for Electronic Working Groups (EWGs) accessible to all members;
 - ii. Holding informal discussions on the issue in the margins of appropriate meetings, e.g. FAO/WHO Coordinating Committees and the Codex Committee on General Principles (CCGP);
 - iii. Issuing Circular Letters to request comments from all members in advance of both CCEXEC78 and CCEXEC79; and
 - iv. Ensuring the timely distribution of documents and in all languages where relevant.

B. MATTERS ARISING FROM SUBSIDIARY BODIES

Matters for information

77th Session of the Executive Committee of the Codex Alimentarius Commission (CCEXEC77)

3. CCEXEC77 welcomed the resumption of CCGP and noted the ongoing important work on the guidance for committees working by correspondence³.
4. CCEXEC77 noted cross-cutting issues that arose from the Critical Review discussions, including a possible proposal for an amendment to the format for commodity standards to include a section on traceability. This is relevant to the CCFICS work on food fraud.⁴

13th Session of the Codex Committee on Contaminants in Food (CCCF13)

5. In regard to the proposal on developing a pilot project through organizations providing technical assistance to evaluate the implementation of the Code of Practices, the view that the ongoing work on the monitoring of the use of Codex standards conducted at CCGP should be duly considered, was observed⁵.

51st Session of the Codex Committee on Food Additives (CCFA)

¹ REP19/CAC

² REP19/EXEC2, Appendix IV

³ REP19/EXEC2, paragraph 14

⁴ REP19/EXEC2, paragraph 33 iv

⁵ REP19/CF paragraphs 179-180

6. The Codex Secretary informed the Committee that considering the aspects or possibility of misleading consumers with the use of food additives, general concerns regarding transparency, consumer misleading and labelling could be raised in CAC, Codex Committee on Food Labelling (CCFL) or CCGP⁶.

23rd Session of the FAO/WHO Coordinating Committee for Africa (CAFRICA23)

7. CAFRICA23 agreed to inform CAC43 and its subsidiary bodies of the issues identified in the survey on current and emerging issues, namely antimicrobial resistance (AMR), pesticide residues, capacity of food control systems, food fraud, water contamination, consumer awareness, aflatoxins, and climate change⁷.

21st Session of the FAO/WHO Coordinating Committee for Asia (CASIA21)

8. CASIA21 noted the results of the survey on the use of Codex standards in the region and the recent discussions at CCGP relating to monitoring the use of Codex standards⁸.

31st Session of the FAO/WHO Coordinating Committee for Europe (CEURO31)

9. CEURO31 agreed to inform CAC and its subsidiary bodies on the usefulness of the survey current and emerging issues and the issues identified within the region, namely: food fraud, AMR, contaminants and food additives, and climate changes.⁹

10. CEURO31 recognised that while food fraud is not a new topic, due to the changing context and evolving food supply chains, it does require new ways of working to address this complex issue and acknowledged that Codex can play an important role and facilitate global discussions to support country efforts to address food fraud.¹⁰ The Committee acknowledged that Codex can support new work on developing definitions and common terminology, and encouraged the Codex Committee on Food Import and Export Certification and Inspection Systems (CCFICS) to complete its work, and noted the possibility for CCGP to consider the outcome of this work¹¹.

11. Members noted the results of the survey on the use of Codex standards in the region and that a discussion paper by France relating to monitoring the use of Codex standards was under preparation and would be presented at CCGP¹². Members saw a need to complement the survey on use of Codex Standards in the region with a monitoring mechanism that would provide insights into the overall application of Codex standards at the global level. One step for setting up such a mechanism was seen in the discussions to be held at CCGP¹³.

12. CEURO31 noted that in addition to the ongoing Codex work listed in Table 1 in document CX/EURO19/31/8, the work of CCGP, in particular on monitoring the use of Codex standards, was of interest to CEURO¹⁴.

10th Session of the FAO/WHO Coordinating Committee for the Near East (CCNE10)

13. CCNE10 agreed to inform CAC43 and its subsidiary bodies of the usefulness of the survey on current and emerging issues, the emerging issues identified within the region namely chemical contamination of food; weak food control systems/legal frameworks; antimicrobial resistance (AMR); innovation and novel foods; and food fraud.¹⁵

⁶ REP19/FA paragraph 126

⁷ REP20/AFRICA paragraphs 11 and 15

⁸ REP20/ASIA paragraph 36

⁹ REP20/EURO paragraph 20 (ii)

¹⁰ REP20/EURO paragraph 14 (iii-iv)

¹¹ REP20/EURO paragraph 11

¹² REP20/EURO paragraph 40

¹³ REP20/EURO paragraph 46

¹⁴ REP20/EURO paragraph 72

¹⁵ REP20/NE paragraphs 11 and 14