

CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



World Health
Organization

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JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME CODEX COMMITTEE ON RESIDUES OF VETERINARY DRUGS IN FOODS

Twenty-third Session

Houston, Texas, United States of America, 17 – 21 October 2016

OPENING REMARKS

Vice Chairperson CAC

Mahamadou Sako

Ladies and gentlemen,

Distinguished Delegates,

This day is important in the life of Codex. It is important because at this session, the decisions that we will take are important. And in over ten years of participation in Codex activities, I am addressing a Codex meeting in English for the first time.

All countries need Codex to create a prosperous life for continual development.

Codex is crucial for the world because it protects human health.

The issues that will be debated in the Codex Committee on Residues of Veterinary Drugs in Foods are also debated in the other committees of Codex.

All of Codex is working hard to find the best solution on Residues of Veterinary Drugs. Many committees are discussing the new strategic plan in order to have it accepted by the Codex Commission.

The Committee will also address other very important points such as: documents for risk management recommendation, maximum residues limits, and consideration of other relevant reports.

The workload is large and the Commission expects a lot from the Codex Committee on Residues of Veterinary Drugs in Foods.

We have the duty to respect and to follow the main values of Codex, namely, the advice from the independent scientific bodies, transparency from all countries, global participation, and of course the consensus of all parties involved. These values are the basis of Codex which make us successful!

Ladies and gentlemen,

What we lack a lot in Codex is time; the time to respond quickly and effectively to many requests from various Governments, from food control and inspection management, and we lack time from the foods and feeds producers and consumers.

I don't like to waste time, time is precious. We must be productive!

We are all committed to the betterment of the world we live in. We do things predominantly for the overall gain of mankind. I am convinced that Codex can be a force for positive social and economic change!

There is still more to do.

Every session of Codex is one more step to increase food safety, to promote food quality, and to protect consumer health.

Like an oasis in the desert after a long journey, there is a hope. Codex is this hope in our world.

I greet all of the delegates. I wish for full success in our work.

Thank you for attending this session.