

CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



World Health
Organization

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Agenda Item 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9

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JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME CODEX COMMITTEE ON FOOD IMPORT AND EXPORT INSPECTION AND CERTIFICATION SYSTEMS

Twenty-fourth Session

Comments of Nigeria

Agenda Item 4

**Proposed Draft Guidance on the Use of Systems Equivalence (CX/FICS 18/24/4)
- Comments at Step 3**

Nigeria supports the use of Competent Authority in the entire document.

Rationale: The use of Competent Authority is more appropriate in accordance with Codex principles.

Agenda Item 5

Proposed Draft Guidance on Paperless Use of Electronic Certificates (revision of the *Guidelines for Design, Production, Issuance and Use of Generic Official Certificates* – CXG 38-2001)

(CX/FICS 18/24/5)

Nigeria would like to thank Netherlands and Australia for leading the work on the discussion paper on electronic certification.

Nigeria supports the revised text in appendix (1) for the guidelines for design, production, issuance and use of generic official certificates to accommodate the issuance of paperless/electronic certificates.

Rationale: The proposed guidance document for implementation of paperless electronic certification is not intended to make obligatory the use of electronic certificates for food intended for international trade or to diminish the trade facilitation role of commercial or other types of certificate including third party certificates that are not issued by, or under the authority of, the government of the exporting country.

Agenda Item 6

Proposed Draft Guidance on Regulatory Approaches to Third Party Assurance Schemes in Food Safety and Fair Practices in the Food Trade (CX/FICS 18/24/6)

Nigeria wishes to appreciate the draft guidance prepared by the United Kingdom with Canada and Mexico.

Nigeria strongly supports that the 7 principles be retained.

The seven (7) principles are as under-listed;

Principle 1 [Decision making and planning]

Competent authorities retain discretion whether or not to consider information/data from vTPA programmes in their regulatory oversight, inspection and control framework, planning and decision-making process.

Principle 2 [Role and responsibilities]

Competent authorities remain responsible for maintaining appropriate oversight of the implementation of regulatory requirements and controls including enforcement actions regardless of the participation of FBOs in vTPA programmes.

Principle 3 [Process and policies]

Where the competent authority has assessed vTPA arrangements and identified information/data that aligns and indicates compliance with relevant regulatory requirements and NFCS objectives, the competent authority should establish a process for information/data sharing and handling of non-compliances with the vTPA owner to alert the competent authority of any significant public health risk.

Principle 4 [Regulatory framework]

The vTPA standard, its audit and inspection does not replace regulatory requirements or controls carried out by the competent authority.

Principle 5 [Proportionality]

The actions of the competent authority to make use of vTPA information/data should not directly or indirectly mandate additional requirements, costs or restrictions on FBOs over and above regulatory requirements.

Principle 6 [Transparency]

Competent authorities should make their approach to the use of vTPA programmes, including the assessment process and criteria publicly available in line with Principle 3 of CAC/GL 82-2013

Principle 7 [Assessment]

The depth and extent of any assessment of the vTPA programme should be commensurate with the intended use of the vTPA information/data.

Agenda Item 7**Discussion Paper on Food Integrity and Food Authenticity (CX/FICS 18/24/7)**

Nigeria would like to thank Iran, Canada and the European Union for preparing the discussion paper on food integrity and food authenticity.

Nigeria supports the new work in this area in recognition of its importance for consumer health and fair trade practices.

Rationale: Presently there is no clear distinction between the terms: food integrity and authenticity; food fraud and economically motivated adulteration. Such distinctions are essential to facilitate resolution of potential trade disputes.

Agenda Item 8**Discussion Paper on consideration of emerging issues and future directions for the work of CCFICS (CX/FICS 18/24/8)**

Nigeria supports the recommendations as stated in paragraph 19 of the document.

Rationale

The guidance document will enable the Commission to respond promptly in addressing emerging issues.

Agenda Item 9**Assessment of the experimental approach for inter-sessional PWGs (CX/FICS 18/24/9)**

Nigeria would like to thank Australia, Chile and the United Kingdom for preparing the paper on assessment of the experimental approach for inter-sessional PWGs.

Nigeria suggests that some minimum technological specifications be made available as the Committee adopts the proposed approach.