

CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



World Health
Organization

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Agenda Items 2, 4 and 5

GP/31 CRD/06

JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME

CODEX COMMITTEE ON GENERAL PRINCIPLES

Thirty-first Session

Bordeaux, France, 11 - 15 March 2019

(Comments from Ghana)

GHANA

Agenda Item 2: Matters referred to the Committee

ISSUE: Items 1-4 in CX/GP 19/31/2

COMMENTS: Ghana agrees to all the recommendations outlined in the issues. In addition, regular review of work management for electronic working groups (EWGs) would streamline and provide guidance to ensure their effectiveness.

Agenda Item 4: USE OF EXAMPLES IN CODEX STANDARDS

ISSUE: Codex committees have used explanatory material/examples in Codex texts or during the development of Codex texts for a long time. Such explanatory examples vary in length, specificity and placement (body of the text, footnote, annex or appendix). Some Codex members have raised concerns on the inclusion of examples in Codex texts since they may not be relevant in all areas of the food sector and may create unnecessary and inapplicable links to different contexts.

COMMENTS: Ghana recognizes the advantages and disadvantages of the inclusion of information materials or examples either in the main text of the document or appendix.

After a thorough review of the cases from the Codex committees and taskforces, Ghana recommends the adoption of the conclusions arrived at by CCFH which states that "provisions in Codex Codes of Hygienic Practice should be drafted in a sufficiently clear and transparent manner such that extended explanatory material is not required for interpretation".

Ghana believes that this approach will provide one stop information, ease of understanding, transparency and facilitate the use of standards with reference to the procedural manual.

Agenda Item 5: INFORMATION ON ACTIVITIES OF FAO AND WHO RELEVANT TO THE WORK OF CCGP

Issue:

The Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), World Health Organisation (WHO), African Union (AU) and World Trade Organisation (WTO) are organizing events that are relevant to the work of Codex. These include:

- a) The First FAO/WHO/AU International Food Safety Conference (12th – 13th February, 2019; Addis Ababa, Ethiopia) and the FAO/WHO/WTO International Forum on Food Safety and Trade (23th – 24th April, 2019; Geneva, Switzerland); The objectives of these two meetings are to identify the key actions and strategies to address current and future challenges to food safety globally and to strengthen commitment at the highest political level to scale up food safety in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Other initiatives being undertaken by the FAO/WHO are the:

- b) World Food Safety Day (7th June, 2019);
- c) 13th General Programme of Work (GPW13) of the WHO;
- d) Coordination and Communication between International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) and WHO/HQ.

Comment: Ghana has taken note of the above developments and advocates for active participation of Codex members in these events to promote high level commitment at all levels for greater investment in Food Safety Management Systems.