



**JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION**

Seventy-seventh Session

WHO Headquarters, Geneva, Switzerland, 1 - 5 July 2019

Organization of CAC42: Report on changes made to improve efficiency and effectiveness of the CAC

(Prepared by the Codex Secretariat)

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1. The 76th Session of the Executive Committee of the Codex Alimentarius Commission (CCEXEC76)¹, recognizing the need to improve time management during sessions of the Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC) to ensure due consideration was given to the items on its agenda, agreed that the Codex Secretariat would work with the Chairperson and Vice-Chairpersons of the Commission to identify potential solutions and report to CCEXEC77 in that regard, making pertinent materials available to CCEXEC members in advance.
- 1.2. The request from CCEXEC76 as well as concerns raised by delegations during CAC41² were taken into consideration in developing the agenda and schedule for CAC42, in order to ensure that adequate time was available for discussion. This paper provides an overview of the changes made by the Codex Secretariat in consultation with the Chairperson and Vice-Chairpersons of the Commission.

2. OVERVIEW OF CHANGES MADE FOR CAC42

Opening session

- 2.1 CAC42 will open 30 minutes earlier than previous sessions. The opening session will be limited to speaker's from FAO, WHO and the Chairperson of the Commission to ensure it is concluded in a timely manner.

Agenda

- 2.2 The agenda has been reviewed to ensure that it maximises the time for discussion of the standard setting work of the Commission.
- 2.3 Two items have been removed from the agenda: i) The item on *Regular Review of Codex Work Management* has been removed as this is also on the agenda of the CCEXEC77, which immediately precedes the CAC. Issues related to the regular review for consideration by the CAC can still be raised and discussed under Agenda Item 2. ii) The panel discussions with IGOs and NGOs will still take place but the Agenda Item to report back to CAC42 on these discussions has been removed. A new webpage on observers has been developed to provide visibility to this important group of Codex stakeholders and to share the outcome of the panel discussions.
- 2.4 As for CAC41, the presentation and discussion of the Codex Trust Fund (CTF2) and the FAO/WHO capacity development work will take place in side events at the end of the first and second days of CAC42 (17.00 - 19.00h) with only short feedback reports being presented to CAC42.

Timetable

¹ REP19/EXEC1, para 13

² REP18/CAC

- 2.5 Lunchbreaks have been reduced by 30 minutes to one and a half hours. There will be no side events during the lunch breaks so as to allow optimal time for delegates to meet and discuss agenda items. While each of the plenary sessions are scheduled for 3 hours, two teams of interpreters will be available to allow flexibility on timing where needed to conclude important discussions or to take an unscheduled break if needed.
- 2.6 Arrangements have been made for an evening session on the third day of the Session, on Wednesday 10 July, if needed. This would run from 17.00 - 20.00h in order to avoid late night discussions.

Side events

- 2.7 The schedule of side events has been reduced. Only two side events will take place during the first three days of CAC42 (see para 2.2). These will be held immediately after the session and are directly related to the agenda of CAC42. They will not reduce the discussion time of the CAC plenary for those days. Other side events, including the observer led discussion panels, will be held on Thursday 11 July, the report writing day.