

CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



World Health
Organization

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Agenda Item 8

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PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE PROCEDURAL MANUAL

(Comment of China)

The Rule V of the 28th edition of the Codex Procedural Manual reads:

Executive Committee shall consist of the Chairperson and the Vice-Chairpersons of the Commission, and the Coordinators, appointed on the basis of Rule IV together with seven further Members elected by the Commission at regular sessions from among the Members of the Commission, one each coming from the following geographic locations: Africa, Asia, Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean, Near East, North America, South-West Pacific.

China would like to suggest to add one sentence to this paragraph:

When necessary, Chairpersons of Codex general subject committees and commodity committees, and Task Forces may be invited to Executive Committee as observers.

First of all, Committee Chairs as observers may facilitate the discussion in CCEXEC. Critical review to the outputs of recent Codex Committees has always been one of the key agenda items in CCEXEC. If there are controversial issues, the Chairs may provide additional important information for the CCEXEC to consider, including the different views, the discussion in the committee, decision making process and the rationales of conclusion in the committee. This information will facilitate the discussion in the critical review. Although in the critical review working document there are comments from the Secretariat and the Chair, only limit explanation is provided. The Chairs may bring more additional information, so that CCEXEC will make more informative suggestion to the CAC.

In addition, it will help the Committee Chairs to prepare for CAC. To observe the discussion in the CCEXEC will help the them to better understand the major concerns from each area. Usually the Chairs will help to explain what happened in the Committees in the CAC when there are inquiries. To know the concerns from members before CAC will help the Chairs to recall the whole process and prepare for their answers. This will in turn also facilitate the discussion in CAC.

Last but not the least, this is a good capacity building activity for Committee Chairs, especially for new Chairs to quickly get familiar with the working principles and get involved in the Codex work management. Conclusions or recommendations to Codex work management issues in the CCEXEC will be guidance for the Chairs when they are chairing Committees, for instance, the future of Codex, application of the Statements of Principle concerning the role of Science, etc. On the other hand, the Committee Chairs, based on their experience, are the most qualified persons to comment on those issues.

In summary, to invite the Committee Chairs to the CCEXEC as observers will be beneficial, for both CCEXEC and Committee Chairs. And this can be a capacity building activity for Committee Chairs, meanwhile also allow them to make more contribution to the Codex work management.

It will be highly appreciated if this can be taken into consideration.