



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



World Health
Organization

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Opening remarks

CRD20

JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME

CODEX COMMITTEE ON FOOD IMPORT AND EXPORT INSPECTION AND CERTIFICATION SYSTEMS

Twenty-Third Session

Mexico City, Mexico, 1 - 5 May 2017

OPENING REMARKS BY THE FEDERAL COMMISSIONER FOR PROTECTION AGAINST SANITARY RISKS, MR. JULIO SÁNCHEZ Y TEPOZ

GOOD MORNING EVERYONE, PEOPLE FROM THE PRESIDUM, DISTINGUISHED GUESTS.

ON BEHALF OF THE FEDERAL COMMISSION FOR PROTECTION AGAINST SANITARY RISK (COFEPRIS), I CORDIALLY WELCOME YOU TO MEXICO AND TO THE 23RD SESSION OF THE CODEX COMMITTEE ON FOOD IMPORT AND EXPORT INSPECTION AND CERTIFICATION SYSTEMS.

I WOULD LIKE TO THANK THE FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS (FAO), THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION (WHO) AND THE GOVERNMENT OF AUSTRALIA FOR THEIR COLLABORATION IN MAKING POSSIBLE TO HELD THIS MEETING FOR THE FIRST TIME IN MEXICO.

FOR MEXICO IT IS AN HONOR TO HOST AN EVENT OF THIS MAGNITUDE, BECAUSE THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS SETS THE INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS FOR COMMERCIALIZATION OF SAFE FOOD ALL OVER THE WORLD. OUR COUNTRY HAS A VAST AGRICULTURAL RICHNESS, IT RANKS 12 GLOBALLY IN EXPORTING PRODUCE AND IS THE MAIN EXPORTER OF BEER, TEQUILA, AVOCADO, TOMATO AND CHILI, AMONG OTHER PRODUCTS; THANKS TO ITS GEOGRAPHICAL CONDITIONS AND THE GLOBALIZED WORLD.

IN MEXICO, WE ARE AWARE OF THE IMPORTANCE OF A GOOD DIET FOR A HEALTHY LIFE. THAT IS WHY WE ARE CONCERN IN STRENGTHENING OUR COORDINATION AND COOPERATION AMONG THE DIFFERENT SECTORS INVOLVED IN THE FOOD INDUSTRY TO GUARANTEE FOOD SAFETY ALONG THE FOOD CHAIN. THE MEXICAN GOVERNMENT IN CHARGE OF SURVEILLANCE FOOD SAFETY, IS COMMITTED TO WORK UNDER THE PRINCIPLES OF ETHICS, TECHNICAL COMPETENCY, EFFICIENCY, COMPETITIVELY AND GLOBAL COOPERATION.

TO BE ABLE OF FULFILL THIS COMMITMENT, 15 YEARS AGO, ON JULY 5TH 2001, THE FEDERAL COMMISSION FOR PROTECTION FROM SANITARY RISKS WAS CREATED BY PRESIDENTIAL DECREE, AS AN AUTONOMOUS BODY UNDER THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH, WITH THE MAIN OBJECTIVE OF PROTECTING PUBLIC HEALTH.

COFEPRIS WAS CONCEIVED AS A SANITARY REGULATORY AGENCY WITH BROAD FACULTIES, WHEN COMPARED TO OTHER INTERNATIONAL AGENCIES THAT REGULATES INDIVIDUALLY ONE SECTOR OF THE ECONOMY.

SPECIFICALLY, MEXICAN LEGISLATION ESTABLISHES THAT THE MAIN ACTIVITY OF COFEPRIS IS TO PROTECT THE PUBLIC FROM SANITARY RISKS IN A TRANSVERSALLY FASHION, BY REGULATING THE FOLLOWING SECTORS: FOOD AND BEVERAGES, HEALTH SUPPLIES, HEALTH SERVICES, COSMETICS, PESTICIDES AND PLANT NUTRIENTS, AMONG OTHERS.

LIKewise, COFEPRIS REGULATES 44 CENTS FROM EVERY PESO SPENT IN MEXICAN HOUSEHOLDS IN 3 CATEGORIES OF PRODUCTS: HEALTH CARE, PERSONAL CARE AND FOOD, BEVERAGES AND TOBACCO.

INTERNATIONAL TRADE OF FOOD IS AN ISSUE OF HUGE IMPORTANCE AMONG COUNTRIES, IT REPRESENTS A CHALLENGE DUE THE DIVERSITY AND VOLUME OF FOOD COMMERCIALIZED EVERY DAY AROUND THE WORLD. IN THIS REGARD, IT IS RELEVANT THAT COUNTRIES BE PART OF THIS EFFORT OF ESTABLISHING COMMON PRINCIPLES AND GUIDELINES THROUGH PARTICIPATION IN CODEX ALIMENTARIUS, BY CREATING THE TOOLS THAT WILL ENABLE THE STRENGTHENING AND OPTIMIZATION OF FAIRE TRADE ACTIVITIES OF SAFE FOOD.

WE BELIEVE THAT HARMONIZATION OF STANDARDS, GUIDELINES, CRITERIA AND REQUIREMENTS AMONG COUNTRIES FOR IMPORTING AND EXPORTING FOOD, WILL GREATLY FACILITATE ACCESS OF FOOD IN THE WORLD, GUARANTYING ITS AVAILABILITY, QUALITY AND VARIETY.

WE ARE VERY HONORED FOR HOSTING THIS MEETING, PLEASE FEEL AT HOME DURING YOUR STAY IN MEXICO.

THANK YOU.