CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION E

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

World Health Organization

Viale delle Terme di Caracalla, 00153 Rome, Italy - Tel: (+39) 06 57051 - E-mail: codex@fao.org - www.codexalimentarius.org

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JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME

CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION

43nd Session

Matters arising from FAO and WHO

(Prepared by FAO and WHO)

1. Introduction

This document highlights evolving policies and related matters of FAO and WHO that could be of interest or relevance to the work of Codex.

2. Matters arising jointly from FAO and WHO:

2.1 COVID-19

2.1.1. As the global COVID19 pandemic evolves, FAO and WHO have aimed to keep Member States informed about matters relating to COVID19 and food safety.

2.1.2 The INFOSAN Secretariat has developed guidance food businesses[1] and for authorities responsible for national food safety control systems[2] with regards to COVID-19 and food safety. This guidance has also been disseminated through the WHO Epidemic Information Network (EPI-WIN) and presented during several webinars targeted at food industry and food regulatory professionals. In addition, the INFOSAN Secretariat collected questions from members about COVID19 and food safety and posted the answers on the INFOSAN Community Website as well as publicly.[3],[4]

2.1.3 FAO and WHO have jointly and individually put out numerous policy and guidance documents to aid their members in managing the current global crisis and minimizing the impact the pandemic has. All documents are available here:

- FAO http://www.fao.org/2019-ncov/en/
- WHO: WHO's Department of Nutrition and Food Safety (NFS) has set up webpage to consolidate all documents related to COVID-19 and Nutrition and Food Safety: https://www.who.int/teams/nutrition-and-food-safety/covid-19. Questions and answers (Q&A) on nutrition and food safety related to the COVID-19 pandemic will soon be published (link forthcoming).

2.2 Tripartite work on Antimicrobial Resistance

2.2.1. Further to a two-year consultation, the Tripartite has developed a monitoring and evaluation framework for the Global Action Plan (GAP) with a harmonized list of indicators for monitoring at the national and global levels. The Tripartite is currently developing guidance to countries on developing national monitoring frameworks for NAPs through in country and country desk assessments.[5] One of the core vehicles through which data will be collected against the indicators is the tripartite country self-assessment questionnaire, which

[1] https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/technical-guidance-publications

[2] https://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/handle/10665/331842/WHO-2019-nCoV-Food_Safety_authorities-2020.1-eng.pdf (also available in other UN languages)

[3] https://www.who.int/news-room/q-a-detail/questions-relating-to-food-businesses

[4] https://www.who.int/news-room/q-a-detail/questions-relating-to-food-safety-authorities

[5] https://www.who.int/antimicrobial-resistance/global-action-plan/monitoring-evaluation/tripartite-framework/en

has now completed the third round of responses. Data collection for the fourth round of responses has been extended through May 2020.

2.2.2. FAO is also contributing to tripartite work on finalization of the Global Development and Stewardship Framework, in line with the IACG recommendations; the agreed next steps include developing a compendium of existing guidelines, standards and codes from each organization relating to AMR to facilitate their implementation and serve as a stepping stone for further discussion on the development of international instruments..

2.2.3. In May 2018, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)[6] was signed by the Directors General of FAO, OIE and WHO to formalize and strengthen cooperation on areas of work related to the human-animal-environment interface, including AMR. Given the transnational and multisectoral nature of AMR and the support requested from countries and other stakeholders, the Tripartite organizations are scaling up existing efforts to support countries to urgently counter this immediate threat through a One Health Approach and has launched the AMR-Multi-Partner Trust Fund (MPTF). The AMR-MPTF is a strategic, inter-sectoral, multi-stakeholder initiative inviting partnership and financing to leverage the Tripartite convening and coordinating power as well as mandates and technical expertise to mitigate the risk of AMR and contribute to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by catalyzing the implementation of One Health NAPs on AMR.

2.2.4. The FAO/OIE/WHO Tripartite organizations have established a standing Tripartite Joint Secretariat (TJS) to lead and coordinate the global response to AMR in close collaboration across and beyond the UN organizations. The TJS consolidates cooperation between FAO, OIE, and WHO drawing on their respective core mandates and comparative advantages to address needs of the global response across the One Health spectrum.

2.2.5. After consensus on the vision of a shared AMR data portal, the vision of The Tripartite Integrated Surveillance System (TISSA) has been reached at all levels by the Tripartite organizations and approved by Tripartite Executive meetings in 2017 and 2018, a feasibility study has been developed with technical details discussed and agreed by the Tripartite staff from the 3 organizations working on AMR surveillance-related issues on 30 April 2019. The TISSA platform represents an initial step towards an integrated system for surveillance on AMR and Antimicrobial Use (AMU).

2.3 World Food Safety Day

On December 2018 the UN General Assembly adopted a Resolution proclaiming a World Food Safety Day (WFSD) on 7 June and designated FAO and WHO to lead alternatively the celebrations. WHO led the event in 2020 under the same theme as last year “Food Safety, everyone’s business’’ with a core focus on building and maintaining safe food in market places to ensure that people can access safe food throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. FAO and WHO invited all the stakeholders from production to consumption to promote awareness and urge action by highlighting what everyone can do to ensure food safety, especially the safe food in markets and the need to reinforce hygienic practices. A joint Facebook live event[7] was celebrated on Friday 5 June. Both FAO and WHO DGs highlighted that food safety should be everyone’s business in every day. At both country and regional level, activities such as press releases, interviews on TV, videos, social media campaigns, technical webinars, and health promotion campaigns for consumers were organized. More information is available online[8].

2.4 FAO/WHO’s involvement in IAEA work on radionuclides

2.4.1. FAO/WHO and IAEA continue to work together in a joint project with a Steering Group of international experts to ‘*’Develop Guidance on the Control of Radionuclides in Food and Drinking Water in Non-Emergency Situations”*. The project is being carried out in cooperation with relevant international organizations and national authorities. The project aims at the development of a harmonized approach for the assessment and management of the radiation dose, from both naturally occurring and human-made radionuclides, in food. This includes guidance material, to be used by the relevant national authorities, that is consistent with the approach for radionuclides in drinking-water (contained in the WHO Guidelines for Drinking-water Quality).

[6] http://www.fao.org/news/story/en/item/1136645/icode/

[7] http://www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/news-and-events/news-details/en/c/1279447/

[8] http://www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/world-food-safety-day/about/en/

2.4.2 This work has supported discussions in the Codex Committee on Contaminants in Foods (CCCF). An electronic working group is producing a discussion paper to increase understanding of the presence of radioactivity in food, feed and water under normal circumstances as was agreed at CCCF13. This will enable the CCCF to determine possible follow-up actions at its next meeting. The FAO/WHO and IAEA work is on-going, with the first phase targeting naturally occurring radionuclides while the next one will focus on human-made radionuclides in food.

2.5 *UN Interagency Coordination Group (IACG) on Antimicrobial Resistance*

The Interagency Coordination Group (IACG) on Antimicrobial Resistance was convened by the Secretary-General of the United Nations after the UN High-Level Meeting on Antimicrobial Resistance in 2016. The IACG brought together partners across the UN, international organizations and individuals with expertise across human, animal and plant health, as well as the food, animal feed, trade, development and environment sectors, to formulate a blueprint for the fight against antimicrobial resistance. The Secretariat for the IACG was provided by the WHO, with contributions from the FAO, and the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE). In April 2019, the final report of the IACG was submitted to the Secretary-General of the United Nations, entitled "No time to wait: securing the future from drug-resistant infections".[9] Specific recommendations were made for the Tripartite. The Secretary-General provided a follow-up report to the UN High-Level Meeting on AMR, which was published in May 2019. The report highlights progress made by Member States and the Tripartite Organizations in addressing antimicrobial resistance, noting that urgent support and investments are required to scale up responses at the national, regional, and global levels.[10]

3. Matters arising from FAO

3.1. *Issues Arising from 163rd Session of FAO Council*

3.1.1 Selected recommendations from the 163rd Session of the FAO Council (Dec 2020) that could be of particular interest to the Codex Alimentarius Commission are noted here. Additionally, selected activities involving strategic guidance on issues of importance to food safety have also been identified.

3.1.2 The Council:

3.1.2.1. welcomed the additional resources allocated to FAO's work on the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) and on the Joint FAO/WHO food safety scientific advice programme which would address the backlog of related work; as well as the resources towards mainstreaming biodiversity; and asked that all these additional resources be incorporated in the ongoing programme of work;

3.1.2.2. with regard to FAO's work on antimicrobial resistance (AMR), welcomed the agreement to include an indicator from the Tripartite Global Action Plan results framework in the FAO strategic results framework;

3.1.2.3 welcomed the update on the Strategy and Vision for FAO's work in nutrition, and with regard to the introduction of a new concept of "sustainable healthy diet", recalled the terminology within the UN, including the Second International Conference on Nutrition (ICN2) jointly organised by FAO and WHO, and stressed the need for harmonizing with agreed UN language;

3.1.2.4. welcomed the progress report on the implementation of the Action Plan on Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR), and underlined the importance of FAO's AMR portfolio and its shared responsibility in promoting prudent and appropriate uses of antimicrobials in the environment and the agriculture sectors, appreciated FAO's cooperation with the World Health Organization (WHO) and the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) in the Tripartite Joint Secretariat (TJS);

3.1.2.5 noted the recommendations of the Report of the 46th Session of the Committee on World Food Security, underlining the importance of a number of considerations inter alia food safety, agroecological and other innovative approaches, poverty elimination, gender, youth, data, and inequalities, in the achievement of food security and improved nutrition, as well as noting the voluntary nature of the recommendations arising from the policy convergence process;

3.2 *Sustainable funding for the joint FAO/WHO Scientific Advice Programme*

While the 158th FAO Council had agreed to allocate a certain amount of unspent funds to the joint FAO/WHO scientific advice program (CX/CAC 18/41/17), the amount of unspent funds available did not trigger the stipulations of the council decision. The 161st Council has requested from FAO to ensure adequate allocations of funds from its core budget and efforts are underway to secure such funds for the 2020-2021 biennium. FAO

[9] https://www.who.int/antimicrobial-resistance/interagency-coordination-group/final-report/en/

[10] https://undocs.org/en/A/73/869

has subsequently made an additional USD 1 million per biennium available to its scientific advice programme, an action that the 163rd FAO council welcomed.

3.3 *Antimicrobial resistance*

3.3.1 The Assessment Tool for Laboratories and AMR Surveillance System (FAO-ATLASS)[11] was developed to assist countries in assessing their national surveillance system and laboratory diagnostic capacity for AMR. FAO-ATLASS has been implemented in 28 countries in Asia, Africa, Europe and central Asia and will continue to be rolled out to more countries. FAO is providing training on ATLASS to build regional communities of assessors.

3.3.2 In the ASEAN region FAO has developed regional surveillance guidelines which comprehensively describe methodologies for AMR surveillance in food-borne bacteria from healthy animals intended for food consumption (Guideline #1)[12]; Additional guidelines are under development; AMR surveillance in animal pathogens recovered from clinically or sub-clinically diseased livestock and poultry (Guideline #2), AMR surveillance in aquaculture (Guideline #3), AMR Monitoring in animal settings/environment (Guideline #4); and guidelines on AMU data collection at farm level (Guideline #5).

3.3.3 With regard to AMR in the aquaculture and fisheries sector, FAO has published "The performance of antimicrobial susceptibility testing programmes relevant to aquaculture and aquaculture products", and provided specific capacity building training workshops on fish waste management, antimicrobial residues analysis and antimicrobial susceptibility testing in fisheries and aquaculture products.[13]

3.3.4 FAO has identified 10 institutions[14]that have been (or are in the process of becoming) designated FAO AMR Reference Centres, which will support FAO and FAO Member States in the implementation of activities outlined in the FAO Action Plan. An additional four institutions [15] were selected as candidates to FAO Reference Centers on Aquaculture Biosecurity (including AMU and surveillance for AMR).

3.3.5 To improve the knowledge on the impact of AMR in the environment, the FAO Animal Health Service (AGAH) and Land and Water Division (CBL) collaborated with the Joint FAO/IAEA Division of Nuclear Techniques in Food and Agriculture (AGE) to develop an isotopic analytical toolbox that provides information on the movements and fate of antibiotics through soil and water.[16]

3.3.6 FAO Development Law Service (LEGN) has developed a methodology to assess national AMR relevant legislation in the food and agriculture sector, including veterinary legislation, food safety, AMR in crops, environment, water and waste. FAO and OIE are working collaboratively to further develop this methodology. The methodology has been applied in 18 countries of Africa[17], Asia[18] and Central Asia[19], and implemented in five countries in Latin America[20]. OIE provided input that was incorporated into the refining of the methodology and has collaborated with FAO in piloting a joint mission to the Philippines to conduct the first VLSP (Veterinary Legislation Support Programme.)

3.3.7. A Regional Workshop on Legislation and AMU/AMR was conducted in Bangkok in March 2018[21]. The workshop brought together a community of regulators and experts from the region as well as WHO, OIE, and ASEAN. Regional workshops took place also on 11-12 December 2018 in South Africa, including participants from SADC countries, as well as in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, on 11 March 2019. Support is planned for similar workshops in other regions and sub-regions, with one aim being to consider where and how regional harmonization of legislation can support improved management of AMR.

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[11] http://www.fao.org/antimicrobial-resistance/resources/tools/atlass/en/

[12] http://www.fao.org/3/ca6897en/CA6897EN.pdf

[13] http://www.fao.org/3/ca6028en/ca6028en.pdf

[14] Institutions specific for AMR from: France, Denmark, Germany, Mexico, New Zealand, Russian Federation, Senegal, Thailand, United Kingdom and United States of America.

[15] Institutions on aquaculture and biosecurity from: China, India, United Kingdom and United States of America

[16] http://www.fao.org/3/ca5386en/CA5386EN.pdf

[17] Kenya, Ghana, Ethiopia, Tanzania, Zambia, Zimbabwe, South Sudan

[18] Lao, Cambodia, Philippines, Vietnam, Bangladesh

[19] Armenia, Belarus, Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, Ukraine

[20] Guatemala, Bolivia, Peru, Ecuador, Uruguay

[21] http://www.fao.org/legal/development-law/magazine-1-2018/en/#fourth

3.3.8 FAO legal experts are working to identify AMR-relevant legislations and policies within and across countries and building an AMR dataset of FAOLEX (a comprehensive database of national legislation and policy in all areas under FAO's mandate). The dataset facilitates access and understanding of the different legal areas relevant for AMR. Based on the above experience, experts from LEGN are developing a legislative study on AMR-related legislation, including best practices and options to strengthen regulatory frameworks on AMR.

3.3.9 Approximately 12,500 legislative texts related to food safety and consumer protection are automatically harvested by the Codex Alimentarius site from FAOLEX. Data integration has been improved such that an additional 3,500 texts have been made available in 2019. Discussions are ongoing on how best to record and incorporate feedback from national Codex focal points.

3.3.10 FAO has published an AMR Policy Review and Development Framework for Asia and the Pacific[22]. The regional guide is intended for governments to review, update, and develop policies to address AMR and AMU in animal production.

3.3.11 Different modalities of stakeholder assessment studies have been completed in 10 countries across different stakeholders, mainly involving farmers and veterinarians, as well las extension workers distributing antimicrobials. A report*, Towards a bottom-up understanding of antimicrobial use and resistance on the farm: A knowledge, attitudes, and practices survey across livestock systems in five African countries*,[23] has been published. .

3.3.12 FAO has developed a stepwise approach tool to address AMR based on the FAO Action Plan called the "Progressive Management Pathway" (PMP) to help Member States with developing and operationalizing multi-sector 'One-Health' National Action Plan (NAP) to combat AMR. To achieve an optimal and sustainable use of antimicrobials, PMP expresses stages and develops in-country competencies to improve progressively better actions for improving awareness, developing monitoring and surveillance capacity, strengthening governance, promoting good practices and the prudent use of antimicrobials. The first in-country piloting of the PMP was conducted in four countries in 2019, with additional pilots planned in Latin America, Central Asia, and North Africa..

3.3.13 With regard to beekeeping (apiculture), FAO is partnering with the Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale of the Ministry of Health of Italy to gather global baseline information on bee health and antimicrobial use via an online survey, which was launched in 209 in ten languages.[24]

3.3.14 FAO launched a new AMR case study series[22] aimed at supporting countries to learn from one another and to share experiences on the responsible use of antimicrobials. The first of these publications focuses on Denmark's transformation in swine production from a regulatory and public/private partnership and veterinary services perspective and launched in early 2019 by the FAO DG and the Danish Minister of Environment and Food[25].

3.4 UN food systems summit 2021 and FAO's role in curating science and knowledge

In recognition of global challenges affecting food systems, stakeholders are beginning to take actions and to change behaviour, but their many independent initiatives lack a common framing of the complex interactions, dependencies and trade-offs intrinsic to food systems. This is constraining the ability of societies to identify and implement appropriate pathways towards more sustainable food systems. The overarching goal of the Food Systems Summit, to be convened by the United Nations Secretary- General in 2021, is to help stakeholders to better understand and manage the complex choices that affect the future of food systems and to accelerate progress toward the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Structured around engagement at the national, regional and global levels, the preparatory process towards the summit will enable stakeholders to develop, test and adapt frameworks and decision-making tools and will provide platforms for the innovative partnerships and initiatives needed to catalyse significant commitments for action and investment towards more sustainable food systems. A Summit Advisory Committee chaired by the Deputy Secretary-General and with multi-stakeholder membership including the Principals of FAO, IFAD, WFP, country representatives and representatives of the private sector and civil society will be responsible for oversight of the preparatory process and for defining the summit outcomes, expected to include a political declaration outlining principles for sustainably transforming food systems, a set of commitments of action by all stakeholder groups and a

[22] http://www.fao.org/3/CA1486EN/ca1486en.pdf
[23] https://journals.plos.org/plosone/article?id=10.1371/journal.pone.0220274
[24] http://www.fao.org/teca/forum/beekeeping/en/
[25] http://www.fao.org/director-general/newsroom/news/detail/en/c/1181473/

voluntary system of follow-up and accountability. FAO is a part of the secretariat, helping to build the science and knowledge evidence base to inform improved coordination of the collective actions of countries, cities, communities, companies, consumers, and civil society in improving the way in which food is produced, processed and consumed.

3.5 Global Code of Conduct for food loss and waste reduction

At its 26th Session of October 2018, after considering a paper on promoting the development of sustainable food systems, the FAO Committee on Agriculture (COAG) requested that FAO take the lead, in collaboration with relevant actors, to develop voluntary codes of conduct for the reduction of FLW for submission to the next session COAG in October 2020. In response to the COAG request, FAO has been leading the preparation of a Code of Conduct (CoC) on FLW reduction addressing both food loss and food waste within the same document, in view of the need to take a food-systems approach and facilitate alignment with the interconnected SDGs.

3.6 Development of a route map by FAO and IOC-UNESCO for the establishment of a Global Early Warning System for Harmful Algal Blooms

FAO and IOC UNESCO are working together for the development of a route map for the establishment of a Global Early Warning System for Harmful Algal Blooms. The last session of the IOC Intergovernmental Panel on Harmful Algal Blooms established a Task Team on the Early Detection, Warning and Forecasting of HAB Events to support this joint effort, that aims to improve reporting of toxic algal blooms globally.

3.7 New FAO's publication "Climate change: Unpacking the burden on food safety"

While the impacts of climate change on the global food production and food security are widely known, the effects of climate change on food safety are much less so. To address this, FAO had published in 2008 a first report on the subject: "*Climate change: Implications for food safety"*. The publication drew global attention to the complex association between climate change and some specific food safety hazards. Since this first publication, mounting evidence has continued to provide a better understanding of the extent to which climate change can influence global food safety. Quantification of current and anticipated climate change's impacts on selected food safety hazards is attempted in the new FAO's report "*Climate change: Unpacking the burden on food safety"* which is expected to be published in the coming weeks. The food safety hazards covered in the publication include foodborne pathogens and parasites, algal blooms, mycotoxins, heavy metals with emphasis on methylmercury and pesticides. Cognizant of the fact that drivers like climate change are influencing the global food systems landscape, FAO is cultivating foresight approaches to help countries identify and address emerging food safety issues. Some of these approaches are also discussed in this new publication along with certain emerging issues related to climate change.

3.8 Literature review on the impact on the Human gut microbiome of substances of interest to food safety

As part of an organization-wide review of the impact of food systems on diet-related non communicable diseases, a literature review has been imitated on the impact on the human gut microbiome of substances of interest to food safety. As a first step, a methodology for systematic literature research and review has been established as well as a priority list of substances by categories (e.g. food additives, veterinary drugs residues, pesticides residues, micro plastics etc.). Evidence of impact on human health, if any, is also documented. The review is ongoing and while references and findings are compiled, a list of research and knowledge gaps is also built to inform future potential discussions on challenges in research and how these can be addressed. FAO aims to publish the study in early 2021.

3.9 Harmonization with Codex Pesticide MRLs: A case study on rice to understand implications on trade and reasons for non-alignment

3.9.1. For many years, countries have highlighted trade problems linked to differences in regulatory limits for pesticide residues imposed by different countries. In this context, FAO decided to carry out an initial study to assess the extent of harmonization with Codex Maximum Residue Limits (MRLs) for pesticides in a number of selected countries. The results showed a very low degree of alignment with Codex MRLs. To better understand the nature and implications of this issue, FAO continued the study on pesticide MRLs by investigating two main areas: 1) the technical reasons behind low harmonization levels; and 2) the impact that limited harmonization of pesticide MRLs has on international trade, and in particular on the economies of developing countries.

3.9.2 The analysis on the technical reasons behind low harmonization levels was carried out by FAO in collaboration with an international pesticide expert and with inputs from the JMPR Secretariat. To study the

impact of poor harmonization of pesticide MRLs on international trade, an economic model was developed on trade in rice, which was chosen as a case study. The analysis considers Codex rice MRLs established since 1971 and their level of harmonization in 19 countries, covering main rice producing-, exporting- and importing-countries. All the countries considered in the analysis were consulted throughout the study implementation for clarification and confirmation of relevant information.

3.9.3 The study is currently being finalized with the aim of publishing it later this year.

3.10 *Laboratory methods supporting Codex standards*

3.10.1 The Joint FAO/IAEA Division, through its Agriculture and Biotechnology Laboratories in Seibersdorf, provides support to FAO/WHO's work in the area of food authenticity using Laboratory-led applied research and development and coordinated research involving institutes from Member Countries. There are currently two coordinated research projects focusing on food authenticity; "Field Deployable Analytical Methods to Assess the Authenticity, Safety and Quality of Food" (D52040, 2017-2022) and "The Implementation of Nuclear Techniques for Authentication of Foods with High Value Labelling Claims (INTACT Food, D52042, 2019-2024)". Each has participants from approximately 15 institutes around the world. The outputs of these projects, including analytical methods, procedures and databases, will be of relevance mainly to the Codex Committees on Methods of Analysis and Sampling (CCMAS) and on Food Import and Export Inspection and Certification Systems (CCFICS).

3.10.2. A new coordinated research projects (D52043) "Depletion of Veterinary Pharmaceuticals and Radiometric Analysis of their Residues in Animal Matrices" has been initiated for the period 2020-2025. Stemming from deliberations of the 23rd and 24th CCRVDF sessions, particularly on the database on countries' needs for MRLs, this project aims to support the establishment MRLs for certain veterinary drugs in food and enable developing countries to play a greater role in the process. The project so far involves 14 research/regulatory institutions from Bangladesh, Brazil, Canada, China, Chile, Costa Rica, Korea (Republic of), Morocco, Pakistan, Uganda, Uruguay and USA. Collaborations and partnerships are sought, especially for the synthesis or provision of radiolabelled veterinary compounds, access to animal facilities and good laboratory practice (GLP)-certified laboratories, as well as provision of some specialized training and/or benchmarking opportunities to the participants. The 1st research coordination meeting will take place from 09-13 November 2020 in Vienna, Austria, to fine-tune workplans.

4. Matters arising from WHO

4.1 ***Transformation of WHO***

4.1.1. In March 2019, WHO announced reforms to strengthen the WHO's role as the world's leading authority on public health and to effectively support countries in achieving the "triple billion" targets. In this context, the Food Safety department and the Nutrition department were merged in one single department under the UHC/Healthier Populations Division to enhance synergies, reaffirm WHO's commitment to supporting Codex and ultimately to provide safe and nutritious food to the most vulnerable populations.

4.2 ***World Health Assembly resolution and The Update of WHO Global Strategy for Food Safety***

4.2.1. Member States agreed a new resolution (WHA73.5) that aims to strengthen global efforts on food safety. The resolution urges Member States to apply a "One Health" approach that promotes the sustainability and availability of safe, sufficient and healthy food for all populations. Recognizing food safety threats, including foodborne antimicrobial resistance and climate change, the resolution also calls upon Member States to invest in national food safety systems and innovations, and to share timely data and evidence on foodborne disease outbreaks and hazards to the International Network of Food Safety Authorities (INFOSAN). The Secretariat is requested to update the Global Strategy for Food Safety to address current and emerging challenges and incorporate new technologies and innovative approaches for strengthening food safety systems. It also calls on the WHO Director-General to strengthen the Organization's leadership in the Codex Alimentarius Commission and INFOSAN, and produce updated global foodborne disease estimates by 2025.

4.2.2 With the endorsement of the resolution, ''Strengthening Efforts on Food Safety'' by the World Health Assembly in late July, WHO is mandated by Member States to update the WHO Global Strategy for Food Safety (''the strategy''), in coordination with FAO and in consultation with Member States and OIE, eventually report back to WHA75 in 2022. This strategy is aiming to address current and emerging challenges, incorporate new technologies and include innovative approaches for strengthening food safety systems. WHO Director-General already approved the establishment of a new Technical Advisory Group (TAG) on Food Safety: safer food for better health. This TAG will be composed of twenty renowned international food safety experts encompassing different technical areas. One of the functions of this TAG is to advise WHO on the update of the strategy in the coming two years. Besides the establishment of the TAG, WHO also identified FAO focal

points with coordination mechanisms working on the strategy; TAG meetings, Member States and other relevant stakeholders' consultations are also planned in this year and in 2021.

4.3 *Antimicrobial resistance*

4.3.1. The WHO, FAO and OIE Tripartite Joint Secretariat (TJS) has been established to lead and coordinate the global response to antimicrobial resistance in close collaboration with the UN system and other organizations. The TJS consolidates cooperation between WHO, FAO and OIE, drawing on their core mandates and comparative advantages to address needs of the global response across the One Health spectrum. The TJS is hosted by WHO and contains dedicated staff in FAO and OIE.

4.3.2. The establishment of a One Health Global Leaders Group on Antimicrobial Resistance was recommended by the IACG. Web-based consultations and face-to-face discussions were held in October and November 2019 with Member States, civil society organizations and the private sector to solicit feedback on the draft Terms of Reference. Based on the feedback received a common position was agreed by the Tripartite Directors-General on the way forward in collaboration with the UN Secretary-General's office. Terms of reference of the Independent Panel on Evidence for Action Against Antimicrobial Resistance are being developed by the Tripartite in line with the recommendations of the IACG.

4.3.3. The AMR Multi-Partner Trust Fund (AMR MPTF) has raised over 13 million USD of catalytic funding to support national action. Nine countries will be supported in the first wave of project proposals currently under development. The AMR MPTF has been recognized by the UN Secretary-General as the mechanism to secure consistent and coordinated development financing to support One Health National Action Plans and Tripartite Workplans on AMR.

4.3.4. The UN Inter-Agency and Expert Group on the SDG Indicators (IAEG-SDGs) held its tenth meeting from 21-24 October 2019, in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. Among the new indicators approved was an AMR-specific indicator for SDG target 3.d. aimed at reducing the percentage of bloodstream infections due to selected antimicrobial-resistant organisms.

4.3.5. WHO developed the ESBL Ec Tricycle protocol as initiative to support countries the implementation of an Integrated Multisectoral Surveillance System on AMR with a One Health approach. The ESBL Ec Tricycle protocol is based in one indicator the ESBL Ec producing E coli in three main sectors, human, food animals and environment. The protocol has been piloted and implemented in 8 countries in 4 WHO Regions, in African Region, Ghana and Madagascar, in Eastern Mediterranean Region, Pakistan and Jordan, in South East Asia, Indonesia, Nepal and India and in Western Pacific Region, Malaysia. In 2020, the protocol will be implemented in Zambia, Zimbabwe, Kenya and Lao PDR. The protocol will be launched in June 2020 to be implemented in any country especially in those with low resources settings.

4.4 *WHO guideline development on efficacy, safety, and effectiveness of ready-to-use therapeutic foods (RUTF) with reduced milk-protein content*

4.4.1 WHO has started the process to review the efficacy, effectiveness, and safety of the new RUTF formulations (containing alternative sources of protein (non-dairy) or less than 50% of proteins coming from milk or other dairy products) for treating infants and children aged 6 months or older with severe acute malnutrition who have appetite and no medical complications. The WHO normative process also includes retrieval, assessment and summary of evidence on values and preferences (i.e. cultural, religious), inter/intra-household sharing, acceptability, adherence, equity, feasibility, accessibility, sustainability and cost-effectiveness in different settings. For this purpose, WHO convened the first meeting of the WHO guideline development group – RUTF on 7 November 2019. The main objectives of this meeting were to: i) introduce members of the guideline development group to the WHO guideline development process, including Grading of Recommendations Assessment, Development and Evaluation (GRADE) methodology; ii) discuss PICO questions and prioritization of the outcomes; iii) agree on the timeframe for the guideline process. The second meeting of the WHO guideline development group was held virtually on 21 – 24 July 2020, with the objective to review and discuss the results of the systematic reviews and formulate recommendations for the efficacy, safety, and effectiveness of ready-to-use therapeutic foods (RUTF) with reduced or no milk-protein content.

4.5 *Elimination of industrially produced trans-fatty acids*

4.5.1 In May 2018, WHO called for the global elimination of industrially produced of trans-fatty acids (TFA) by 2023, highlighting as a priority target of the WHO's 13th General Programme of Work (GPW13) which guides the work of WHO during 2019 – 2023, and released the REPLACE action framework to serve as a roadmap for countries to implement the prompt, complete and sustained elimination of industrially produced TFA from the food supply. In May 2019, WHO released the first progress report (https://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/handle/10665/331300/9789241516440-eng.pdf), together with six

REPLACE modules (https://www.who.int/nutrition/topics/replace-transfat) which provide technical background information and propose practical steps to support governments to achieve the elimination of industrially produced TFA from their national food supply. To achieve successful elimination, governments should pass either of the two best-practice policy measures: 1) Mandatory limit of 2 grams of TFA per 100 grams of total fats and oils in all foods; and 2) Mandatory ban on the production or use of partially hydrogenated oils (PHO) as an ingredient in all foods which are outlined in the L and E modules.

4.5.2 On 9 September 2020, WHO held a high-level launch event to release the second progress report, ***Countdown to 2023: WHO report on global trans fat elimination 2020*** (https://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/handle/10665/334170/9789240010178-eng.pdf). The progress report escribes the current global, regional and national situations and progress over the past year in countries; and discusses challenges and opportunities for future action. Some key messages of the report include developing and implementing best-practice policy measures, strengthen national regulatory capacities including laboratory capacities to measure TFA content in food and advocating for regional or sub-regional regulations to expand the benefits of TFA elimination policies.

4.6 *Alcohol*

4.6.1. The WHO Executive in its 146th meeting in Geneva in February 2020 requested, in its decision EB146(14), the WHO Director-General, inter alia, "to develop an action plan (2022-2030) to effectively implement the Global strategy to reduce the harmful use of alcohol as a public health priority, in consultation with Member States and relevant stakeholders, for consideration by the 75th World Health Assembly through the 150th session of the WHO Executive Board in 2022", and "to develop a technical report on the harmful use of alcohol related to cross-border alcohol marketing, advertising and promotional activities, including targeting youth and adolescents, before the 150th session of the WHO Executive Board, which could contribute to the development of the action plan". The process for developing the action plan and the report is available on WHO`s web page[26].

4.6.2 Following the publication of the Global Status Report on Alcohol and Health in 2018[27], the WHO Secretariat implemented the Global survey on progress attained with SDG 2030 health target 3.5 with a substantial alcohol policy section that included the questions about the labelling of alcoholic beverages with a focus on practices of displaying consumer information and health warnings and legal requirements for that. Besides, the WHO EURO undertook in-depth analysis of the situation with alcohol beverage labelling in the European region that highlights the need for specific labelling policies to be developed as a part of a larger policy package.[28] The issue of alcohol beverage labelling and provision of health-related consumer information is on the agenda of annual dialogues of WHO Secretariat with producers, distributers and marketers of alcoholic beverages.

5. Recommendations

The Committee/Commission is invited to note the information given in this document and take necessary actions to best take into consideration of the policies of the parent organizations.

[26] https://www.who.int/news-room/detail/28-03-2020-who-to-accelerate-action-to-reduce-the-harmful-use-of-alcohol
[27] https://www.who.int/substance_abuse/publications/global_alcohol_report/en/

[28] https://www.euro.who.int/en/health-topics/disease-prevention/alcohol-use/news/news/2020/06/alcohol-labelling-policies-most-countries-lagging-behind-in-promoting-healthier-choices