

CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



World Health
Organization

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**SUMMARY OF AN INFORMAL DISCUSSION IN THE MARGINS OF CCEURO31 ON THE
OPERATIONALISATION OF THE STATEMENTS OF PRINCIPLE CONCERNING THE ROLE OF
SCIENCE**

CCEURO held an informal discussion on the *Statements of Principle concerning the Role of Science* (SoP) to address the recommendation that Members of the region should coordinate their efforts in contributing to the work of the related CCEXEC sub-committee.¹

The informal discussion was facilitated by a co-chairperson of the CCEXEC sub-committee who introduced, in broad terms, the scope of the first Circular Letter that would shortly be issued by the chairperson of that sub-committee. The informal discussion was open to Members of the CCEURO region and observers, with interpretation in English, French, Spanish and Russian.

The following points were agreed:

- Advice is required to Members, subsidiary bodies, and Chairpersons and the CCEXEC sub-committee should take into account each of the ways forward proposed in the conclusions of CCEXEC 19/77/10, namely adoption by vote, holding a standard at step 8, building differences of application into the text, not approving new work or discontinuation of work because of non-amenability to standardization, and reservations/SoP. This paper provides useful indications of where further guidance may be helpful. Each of these proposals for further guidance and criteria should be explored by the sub-committee.
- The Terms of Reference for the Sub-committee refer explicitly to the SoP and measures to facilitate consensus. However, these texts do not exist in isolation. Guidance may be needed on the effective operation of the Step Procedure.
- Guidance is considered essential for the discussion and advancement of standards where consensus is difficult to reach, including in addressing the ongoing discussion on the complex issues in relation to MRLs for growth promoting substances.
- Statement of Principle 4 is about the Members of Codex and an efficient and transparent standard adoption process; and Members are looking for guidance in the Procedural Manual which should be a complete and authoritative source of advice for all Codex stakeholders.
- It is important for the sub-committee to be guided by the goals and objectives set in the Strategic Plan.

¹ CX/EURO 19/31/8, paragraph 2.1 (i)