

CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION



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

Agenda Item 4, 7

GP/32 CRD/05

Original language only

JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME

CODEX COMMITTEE ON GENERAL PRINCIPLES

Thirty-second Session

Virtual, 8, 9, 11, 12, 15 and 17 February 2021

Comments of the Republic of Korea

Agenda item 4 - Procedural guidance for committees working by correspondence

Recommendation i :

Consider the analysis and proposals on criteria and procedural guidance for committees working by correspondence contained in this document and its annex;

Annex 8. Roles of the Chairperson and the Codex Secretariat in CWBC:

Interpretation of silence

The interpretation of silence in deliberations of CWBC should be clearly established. Specifically, this means that silence, the absence of specific contrary views or objections, will be taken to mean tacit agreement or no objection to proceed. This point should be clearly communicated to all members of the committee to avoid any misunderstanding when seeking comment on specific matters under discussion including proposed conclusions on progression of a standard through the step process. Chairpersons should allow sufficient time for response to assure that silence is not the result of temporary technical problems.

Specific comments

- The Republic of Korea basically supports that silence in the absence of specific contrary views or objection will be taken to mean tacit agreement or no objection to proceed. Also, we support that Chairpersons should allow sufficient time for response to assure that silence is not the result of temporary technical problems.
- However, in order to make the interpretation of silence clear, we would like to suggest that specific verification of views and minimum time for sufficient time should be specified.

Recommendation ii :

[Note that given the divergent views on whether virtual meetings and use of virtual technology falls within the ToR of this work, any proposal to include this issue within the current work will require the approval of the CAC].

Specific comments

- The Republic of Korea supports that any proposals to include this issue on whether virtual meetings and use of virtual technology falls within the ToR of this work within the current work will require the approval of the CAC.
- With this opinion, we would like to propose that the issue of virtual and hybrid meetings is a separate issue from working by correspondence. And the issue is beyond the scope of this work.

Agenda item 7 - Discussion paper on monitoring the use of Codex standards

Recommendation 4:

Reflect on the resource(s) to be allocated, if appropriate, to implementing the various recommendations which may be supported by the Committee. Due to the problems experienced by Codex Members in responding to the surveys conducted in the context of the RCCs, it would appear inadvisable to send out additional questionnaires. For instance, the following options (non-exclusive between themselves) could be discussed:

6.9.1 Task the Codex Secretariat with carrying out the preliminary definition and/or mapping work. Additional staff may need to be assigned for this purpose.

6.9.2 Set up an electronic working group (EWG) to carry out the preliminary definition and/or mapping work

6.9.3 Commission a specialist structure in one of the parent organisations (i.e.: FAO's Office of Chief Statistician) to carry out the preliminary definition and/or mapping work

6.9.4 Study the opportunities provided by new ICTs to facilitate processing of large volumes of data and to address the challenge of interpreting disparate information. Partnerships with universities or research institutes could be considered.

Specific comments

- The Republic of Korea supports the recommendation 4.
- In addition, if the survey be conducted, we would like to suggest that future surveys should provide a more specific and sufficient review period. Regarding to several surveys conducted at 2019, survey item was subjective and the survey period was insufficient to respond to multiple questionnaires.