

# CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION



Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations



World Health  
Organization

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Opening

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## JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME CODEX COMMITTEE ON GENERAL PRINCIPLES

Thirty-second Session  
Virtual, 8-17 February 2021

### Opening Remarks

**Mr Markus Lipp**

Senior Food Safety Officer, Food Systems and Food Safety Division, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

Dear Excellencies,

Dear Chair and co-Chair

Good morning, Ladies and Gentlemen

It is my privilege to welcome you on behalf of Dr Qu Dongyu, Director-General of the Food and Agricultural Organization of United Nations, to this, the 32<sup>nd</sup>, meeting of the Codex Committee of General Principles.

Firstly, I would like to thank the French Government for the courage to be the first to host a virtual meeting of a technical committee of the Codex Alimentarius Commission. This is certainly a great step forward that allows the international community to progress its critical work on texts that govern food safety internationally.

2021 bears the promise to become an interesting year and the year of many new initiatives. Of course, the beginning of the global vaccination efforts against COVID-19 is on all our minds, but there are other events that all shape our future.

We all have learned to fully integrate virtual working, which will have a lasting impact on how we work together from here on out.

And from now until September, when the Secretary General of the United Nations will host the Food Systems Summit, we will engage in dialogue that will shape the future of our whole food system, and food safety will be at the core of these dialogues – dialogues in which all of us can and will have to engage in order to provide sufficient safe food to all people.

The challenge is big and we can only succeed if all of us work together.

In this regard, I would also like to highlight the World Food Safety Day on June 7 for which preparation are under way and FAO and WHO will launch the campaign materials very soon. Stay tuned – and join us for to raise awareness of the simple fact that all of us need “safe food today for a healthy tomorrow”. To quote the motto of the 2021 World Food Safety Day: Food Safety is everyone’s business.

Finally, please allow me to express a personal interest in the deliberations of the 32<sup>nd</sup> meeting of CCGP. I am much looking forward to listening to your views on how we can best monitor the use of food safety standards. It is a very pertinent topic and of great personal interest to me.

With that, I would like to wish us all a very productive meeting and thank you very much for your attention.