

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

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

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CODEX PROCEDURAL MANUAL: PRESENTATION OF NEW FORMAT AND OBSERVATIONS ON CONSISTENCY AND SUPERSEDED CONTENT

(Comments of EU, Kenya, Russian Federation, Uganda, and United Republic of Tanzania)

European Union

Member States Competence
Member States Vote

The Member States of the European Union (MSEU) welcome the new format of the 28th edition of the Codex Procedural Manual (PM).

Furthermore, the MSEU would like to stress the need that an up-to-date version in all Codex languages of the PM remains available, also in a printable format.

Finally, the MSEU appreciate the work done to identify additional changes that could be made to the PM to align with modern technology and current working practices. The MSEU agree on the principle to proceed with such changes before moving to an electronic format. However, the MSEU note that only a selection of these changes is brought to the attention of the committee. The MSEU are of the opinion that such changes should not be implemented without a careful review by the CCGP of all proposed changes to ensure they are relevant and comprehensive.

Kenya

CCGP33 is recommended to consider the new format of the 28th edition of the PM and provide feedback on its usability and make suggestions for further improvement to the layout;

Comment: Kenya takes note and appreciates the improvements of the new format of the 28th edition of the PM and recommendations by the Codex secretariat, and proposes the inclusion of interactive page thumbnails indicating subtitles containing a summary of the contents of each section of the PM.

Rationale: To further ease navigation of the PM. This will make the PM more user-friendly and will enhance the interaction between the user and the manual.

CCGP 33 is also invited to take note that with changes in technology, the move to paperless meetings, and the evolution of processes to ensure efficiency, some aspects of the PM no longer reflect current practice and accordingly:

i) Advise the Codex secretariat on how to proceed with changes identified in Appendix II

Comment: Kenya appreciates the valuable contributions by the Codex Secretariat towards reviewing the PM taking note of the proposed changes in Appendix II and further proposes the following amendments as pertains to the proposed changes;

- Section 3: Guidelines for subsidiary bodies, Subsection: Guidelines to host governments of Codex, page 79 para 28:

Comment: Kenya proposes the retention of 'May be' instead of 'can be'

Rationale: To be consistent with the current text.

- Section 3: Guidelines for subsidiary bodies, Subsection: Guidelines on the conduct of meetings of Codex Committees and ad hoc intergovernmental task forces alternate page 80 para 37.

Comment: Kenya proposes to consider option 2: After the first reference to Joint FAO/WHO Codex Secretariat, indicate that it would thereafter be referred to as 'Codex Secretariat'.

- ii) Determine how to identify and consider further updates to ensure that the PM is in line with current practice

Comment: Kenya proposes the revision of the PM to be a standing agenda in all CCGP meetings.

Rationale: This is one way of continuously identifying issues in which review, revision, or amendment of the PM may be considered.

Russian Federation

The Russian Federation would like to highlight the timeliness of developing the digital version of the Codex Procedural Manual.

We also support the following changes to the document:

- exclusion of redundant terms such as telex and facsimile;
- consistency in references to the Codex Secretariat;
- simplification of language in the English version;
- exclusion of mentioning the distribution of a certain number of copies of working documents/reports. At the same time, it is advisable to maintain a link about the availability of working documents on the Codex website.

The Russian Federation also agrees, that sections of the Codex Procedural Manual which are likely to change such as List of Members and List of Codex Committees but do not directly impact the procedures, could be housed directly on the Codex website, and that there is no need to issue a new edition for these purposes. We also support the idea to provide in the PM the Codex website link to the updated List of Members and List of Codex Committees.

The Russian delegation also would like to ask the Codex Secretariat to give information about the timing of the revision and editing of the 28th edition of the Codex Procedural Manual in the three remaining languages (Russian, Chinese and Arabic) to bring them into line with the English version.

Uganda

Uganda appreciates the opportunity to provide comments on the different agenda items to be discussed at the 33rd Session of Codex Committee on General Principles.

AGENDA ITEM 4: Codex Procedural Manual: presentation of new format and observations on consistency and superseded content (CX/GP 23/33/4)

General comment: Uganda acknowledges the contribution of the Codex secretariat towards reviewing and making changes to the Procedural Manual.

APPENDIX II

Examples of additional changes that could be made to the Codex Procedural Manual to align with modern technology and current practice

comment on:

- i. Section 2. Elaboration of Codex Standards and related texts. Page 37 paragraph 54.

Position: Uganda proposes to replace "ask" with "seek" on the first line of paragraph 54

Rationale: The proposed change enhances the appropriateness and precision of the language used within the Procedural Manual. By replacing "ask" with "seek," the emphasis shifts to actively pursuing advice from a particular source, which aligns more effectively with the intent of seeking expert guidance and input.

ii. Section 3: Guidelines for subsidiary bodies

Position: Uganda proposes to consistently use "Codex secretariat "

Rationale: Codex is a joint organization of FAO and WHO. For simplicity, Uganda proposes to stick with Codex Secretariat.

United Republic of Tanzania

URT agreed with all proposed changes.