

CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



World Health
Organization

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Agenda Item 6

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

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REVIEW AND POSSIBLE AMENDMENTS TO THE RULES OF PROCEDURE ON SESSIONS OF THE COMMISSION

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

Kenya

General Comment: Kenya supports the proposal by the secretariat to defer the amendment of the Codex rules of Procedure until a comprehensive approach to virtual meetings is developed by the two parent Organizations.

Russian Federation

The Russian Federation will appreciate it, if the Codex Secretariat could provide position of the FAO and WHO Legal Offices regarding the online participation in Codex meetings, including the Codex Commission.

At the same time we believe, that although changes to Codex Rules of Procedure regarding the remote participation may be deferred, it is important to continue discussions on the possibility of holding virtual meetings. To our mind, the remote participation option, once available in the future, will contribute to a more wide representation of Member states and the comprehensive approach in Codex standards development.

To begin with, we propose to distinguish between the “virtual” and “hybrid” meetings, and to consider the appropriate terminology for these two types of meeting formats.

Thailand

Thailand does not object the proposal of Codex Secretariat to defer the amendment of Rules of Procedures in regards to virtual meeting of the Commission. Nonetheless, Thailand would like to encourage Codex Secretariat to continue the study to seek for appropriate approaches for future meetings, taking into consideration different settings of the meetings, namely virtual only, hybrid, and physical meeting with broadcast. The Rules and approaches to be developed should accommodate these differences to ensure they achieve the core values of Codex.

Uganda

Position: Uganda supports deferring the review of a possible amendment to the Codex Rules of Procedure allowing virtual sessions of the Commission.

Rationale: To provide more time for wider consultations that will enable development of a comprehensive approach by both FAO and WHO for the use of virtual sessions.

United Republic of Tanzania

URT recommends codex rules of Procedure allowing virtual sessions of the Commission not to be deferred.

Rationale: Financial constraints to most developing countries which sometimes make them difficult to participate physically.