

CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



World Health
Organization

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Agenda item 9

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JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME CODEX COMMITTEE ON FOOD IMPORT AND EXPORT INSPECTION AND CERTIFICATION SYSTEMS

Twenty-third Session

DISCUSSION PAPER ON CONSIDERATION OF EMERGING ISSUES AND FUTURE DIRECTIONS FOR THE WORK OF THE CODEX COMMITTEE ON FOOD IMPORT AND EXPORT INSPECTION AND CERTIFICATION SYSTEMS

Comments of European Union, Kenya, Philippines and Thailand

European Union

The European Union and its Member States (EUMS) would like to thank Australia for preparing a very useful paper on future CCFICS work.

Overall, the EUMS support the proposed approach for considering new work for CCFICS as it provides a structured framework for the identification of prioritising of new work.

The EUMS have the following specific comments on Appendices A and B:

Appendix A

The following three "Emerging Global Issues" in the Table could be merged to a single issue:

- New food production, processing, transport and distribution technologies;
- Given the rapidly changing technologies and processes supporting food production, globalisation, and the emergence of other risks - there is an ever increasing need to ensure consumers are protected from unsafe foods.
- Evolving global food production systems

The title of the new merged issue could read:

- New and evolving food production, processing, transport and distribution systems and technologies

The issue of private standards has been thoroughly discussed in the past at CCGP, regional coordinating committees and at CAC, for the last time at the 34th session of CAC in 2011. No requests were made in those discussions for CCFICS to tackle the issue. It is therefore not appropriate to include it in the Table under issues that CCFICS should consider.

Appendix B

Concerning the criteria given in the table in paragraph 6, the rating for the "Impact on fair trade practices" refers to global, regional or no trade impact. If the trade impact is only regional or there is no trade impact then there is no justification to develop a Codex text. It would more appropriate to have a similar rating for the "Impact on fair trade practices" as for the other criteria, i.e. high, medium or low.

Concerning paragraph 8, the Committee should use the prioritisation criteria with the scoring when it is considering new work proposals in order to put them in the order of priority. However, there is no need to propose new work proposals to CAC in the order of priority.

Further guidance on appeal mechanism

The WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement provides for appeals in its Article 4. There is probably no need for further guidance from Codex.

Kenya

Kenya would like to thank Australia for the discussion paper. We support the work as an approach on tackling the emerging issues and future direction for the work of the CCFICS. Kenya approves the following recommendations, as presented in Appendix A and Appendix B. However, we seek clarification on bullet 3 of para 18 in appendix A “Issues identified in Appendix A be assessed against the prioritization tool at Appendix B, including further guidance on an appeals mechanism in the context of rejections as requested by the Delegation of Nigeria and the issue of food integrity/authenticity as presented by the Delegation of the Islamic Republic of Iran (para. 65 REP16/FICS).” We also clarification in appendix B on para 6.

Philippines

The Philippines supports the current efforts of CCFICS in identifying emerging issues. CCFICS has to maintain its relevance in global food trade by drafting relevant documents that will facilitate institutionalization of appropriate mechanisms. CCFICS texts have to reflect new disciplines like Good Regulatory Practices and its practical implementation in its texts and include newer approaches and technologies.

We concur with the 1st recommendation that Appendix A be considered as a standing document for consideration under relevant agenda item in future CCFICS meetings and for its custodianship to rotate among members. For the prioritization tool that will be used by CCFICS, this tool should be consistent with the Procedural Manual *Proposals to Undertake New Work or Revise a Standard*.

Thailand

Thailand would like to express our appreciation for the efforts of Australia for preparing a Discussion Paper on Consideration of Emerging Issues and Future Directions for the Work of the Codex Committee on Food Import and Export Inspection and Certification Systems (CX/FICS 17/23/9).

Our comments on specific sections of the mentioned document are as follows:

Specific comments

Appendix A

Global Issues relevant to the work of CCFIC

Table: Emerging Global Issue

Referring to the first emerging global issue shown in the table which states “New food production, processing, transport and distribution technology”, we would like to request for clarification that whether “novel food” fall within and considered in this issue.

Appendix B:

Criteria for Evaluating and Prioritising New Work

Paragraph 6

Considering the criteria for rating proposed new work shown in the table, our proposal on the criterion for “Impact on fair trade practices” is as follows:

Criterion	Rating
Impact on fair trade practices	Global Trade Impact: 9 High: 9 Low: 6 Regional Trade Impact: 6 High: 6 Low: 3 No trade impact: 0