



## JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME

### CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION

#### Forty-eighth Session

#### Rome, Italy

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### POSITION OF THE FAO/WHO COORDINATING COMMITTEE FOR NEAR EAST (CCNE) REGARDING THE PROPOSAL OF THE UNITED ARAB EMIRATES FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF AN INTERNATIONAL STANDARD FOR PASTEURIZED CAMEL MILK

(Submitted by the Regional Coordinator for the Near East)

1- With reference to paragraph (4) of item (70) of the report of the Twelfth Session of the FAO/WHO Coordinating Committee for the Near East (CCNE12), held in Muscat, Sultanate of Oman, the members of the Near East region expressed their support for the proposal submitted by the United Arab Emirates to the Codex Alimentarius Commission, concerning the development of an international standard for pasteurized camel milk, as per Circular Letter CL 2025-50-CAC, and in accordance with the established Codex procedures.

2- Camel milk is considered as a unique food product consumed in many Near East and North African countries and, in recent years, its consumption has expanded globally due to its high nutritional value and scientifically proven health benefits. With the growing international trade and increasing demand for this product in global markets, there is an urgent need for an international standard to ensure the safety and quality of all camel milk products and to facilitate fair trade among countries.

The United Arab Emirates presented a detailed discussion paper at the 88th Session of the Codex Executive Committee, highlighting the technical, commercial, and health-related aspects that underscore the importance of adopting an international standard for camel milk within the Codex framework.

3- The Near East Region's support for the UAE proposal is based on its alignment with the Codex criteria for new work, as outlined in the Codex Procedural Manual, for the following considerations:

- **Regional and economic importance:** Camel milk is a key product in many member countries of the region and beyond, contributing to food security and rural development.
- **Need for an international reference:** Currently, there is no unified international standard for camel milk covering its compositional, nutritional, quality, and safety characteristics. This absence poses challenges to international trade and creates a gap in regulatory oversight at the global level.
- **Rising global demand:** The global market for camel milk is witnessing rapid growth, driven by dietary and health-related uses.
- **Consumer protection:** An international standard will ensure the safety and quality of camel milk products and strengthen consumer confidence.
- **Prevention of fraud:** Given the susceptibility of camel milk to adulteration, such as through mixing or alteration of its characteristics, the establishment of an internationally recognized standard will serve as a key tool to ensure product integrity and protect markets and consumers from unfair practices.

4-The Near East Region members express their appreciation to the Codex Alimentarius Commission being the food standards reference body for the member countries, for its continued efforts and support in developing standards aligned with the priorities of members and regions, thereby helping to protect consumer health and facilitate fair trade.