

CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



World Health
Organization

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CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION

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PROPOSALS FOR NEW WORK

COMMENTS ON THE PROPOSAL FOR DEVELOPMENT OF A STANDARD FOR CASHEW KERNELS

BACKGROUND

1. This appendix compiles the comments on the proposal for development of a standard for cashew kernels, as indicated in the relevant circular letter (CL 2026/23-CAC). The comments include those received through the Codex Online Commenting System (OCS)¹, or via email by the time this document was issued. The comments are as shown in the Annex to this Appendix.

EXPLANATORY NOTES ON THE ANNEX

2. The comments received are presented in a table format, with two columns as follows:
 - **First column** – Presents the comments with the rationale.
 - **Second column** – Presents the provider of the comments (name of Member or Observer).

¹ OCS is an online tool that enables Codex Contact Points to submit comments on draft texts in a standardised way, thus providing more transparency and better management of comments on different Codex texts as requested through Circular Letters. Since its launching at CAC39 (2016), the OCS has been used for different Codex Committees.

ANNEX

COMMENTS IN REPLY TO CL 2026/23-CAC

Submitted by

Cambodia, Chile, Cote d'Ivoire, Egypt, European Union, India, Iran, Malaysia, Qatar, Republic of Korea, United Arab Emirates, the United States of America (USA), and International Nut and Dried Fruit Council Foundation (INC) and United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE)

GENERAL COMMENTS

| COMMENT | MEMBER / OBSERVER |
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| Comentario general: Chile agradece la invitación para participar. Chile apoya el avance del trabajo. No habiendo comentarios. | Chile |
| Malaysia would like to thank India for its updated proposal to undertake new work on the development of a Codex standard for cashew kernels. Malaysia agrees in principle that all new work proposals that have been approved by CAC should be worked on. Codex Committee should complete its work and consider appropriate working modalities, including available expertise and Members' interest during consideration of its work priorities. In this regard, Malaysia has no objection on the new work proposal by India. | Malaysia |
| The United States thanks India for the new work proposal. We note that REP25/CAC states: 193. CAC48 noted the ongoing interest in this area of work and that, given the recent designation of a new host for CCPFV, the transition period needed, and that there would be further consideration of CCPFV's terms of reference (ToR) at CAC49, it would be premature to take any decision to change the status of the committee at CAC48. CCPFV is currently adjourned sine die. The United States believes that the Commission's decision from CAC48 should be honoured and, therefore, the new work proposal should be retained until the Commission reactivates the Committee (in consultation with the new CCPFV host country) and when the new host country (with the help of the Codex Secretariat) reconvenes the Committee. As such, the United States looks forward to the discussing the technical merits of this new work proposal at the next meeting of the Committee. | USA |

SPECIFIC COMMENTS

| COMMENT | MEMBER / OBSERVER |
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| Area 1: Need for this work | |
| <p>Cambodia fully agrees with and supports the proposal to include Cashew Kernels as a New Work Item for Codex standardization. The following reasons outline why Cambodia identifies this crop as a strategic priority:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A Strategic Crop of the Royal Government of Cambodia The Royal Government of Cambodia has established the "National Policy on Cashew Nuts 2022-2027" with the ambitious goal of transforming Cambodia into a leading global supplier—often referred to as a "Cashew King." Establishing an international Codex standard is a vital tool to support this national strategy, enhancing the brand reputation of Cambodian products on the global stage. 2. Facilitation of International Trade A harmonized international Codex standard will: Reduce Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT): It prevents importing countries from imposing arbitrary or overly restrictive technical requirements that deviate from international norms. Simplify Negotiations: It provides a common benchmark for both buyers and sellers regarding quality parameters such as moisture content, sizing, and food safety. 3. Ensuring Food Safety and Quality Cashew kernels are susceptible to contaminants such as Aflatoxins if drying and storage conditions are suboptimal. Supporting a Codex standard aims to: Establish clear Maximum Levels (MLs) for contaminants. Guarantee that cashew kernels in international trade meet rigorous safety standards for consumer health. | Cambodia |

| COMMENT | MEMBER / OBSERVER |
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| <p>4. Enhancing Value Addition Currently, a large portion of Cambodia's cashew production is exported as raw nuts. Developing standards for processed kernels encourages: Local Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) to upgrade their processing capabilities to meet global requirements. Increased profit margins by shifting from raw exports to high-quality, standardized processed goods.</p> <p>5. Promoting Fair Competition A Codex standard prevents market confusion and the blending of inferior products. it ensures a "level playing field" for all producing nations, particularly developing countries like Cambodia, by protecting the integrity of the product and its origin. Summary: Cambodia's support for this new work item is a strategic move to protect national economic interests, align with government policy, and ensure that Cambodian agricultural products remain competitive, safe, and of the highest quality in the global market.</p> | |
| <p>Considering the expansion of global trade and the increasing market demand for cashew kernels, as well as the absence of relevant international standards, the Republic of Korea considers that there is sufficient necessity and justification for this work. Discussion of this matter within Codex is consistent with its founding objectives of protecting consumer health and ensuring fair practices in international food trade. Furthermore, this proposal is aligned with Goal 1 and Objective 1.2 of the Codex Strategic Plan (2026–2031). Accordingly, Korea supports the initiation of this new work.</p> | Republic of Korea |
| <p>UNECE has already a standard for cashew kernels (DDP-17, adopted 1999 last revised in 2023). As UNECE standards are international standards, suggest to assess if a Codex standard is needed in addition to the UNECE standard.</p> | United Nations Economic Commission for Europe |
| Area 2: Whether the issue at hand is clearly described, i.e., the food safety concern(s) and/or commercial quality aspect(s) requiring attention | |
| <p>La Côte d'Ivoire estime que les préoccupations sont clairement identifiées. Il est impératif d'harmoniser les critères de qualité commerciale (calibrage, taux d'humidité, amandes défectueuses) et de sécurité sanitaire (limites de contaminants, résidus de pesticides) pour stabiliser le marché mondial.</p> | Cote d'Ivoire |
| <p>Egypt considers that the issue has been clearly described, as there are concerns related to both food safety and product quality, particularly in light of the variability in national requirements for cashew kernels, which justifies the need for a harmonized international framework.</p> | Egypt |
| <p>The EUMS acknowledge that the project document clearly describes commercial aspects, in particular differences in quality parameters (e.g. size, colour, defects) and the resulting need for clearer classification and grading. However, the EUMS note that the scope of the product is not yet sufficiently clear, in particular whether the proposed standard is intended to cover only unprocessed kernels (unroasted, unsalted etc., as in the case of the UNECE standard) or whether it is also intended to apply to further processed kernels (as in the case of CXS 181-1981 for pistachio kernels). Clarification would be important to ensure a focused and workable standard.</p> | European Union |
| <p>Yes.</p> <p>The project document highlighted the food safety and quality aspects in section-2, section-4 of the project document</p> | India |
| <p>The Islamic Republic of Iran agrees that the food safety and commercial quality concerns related to cashew kernels have been adequately described in the Project Document. Cashew kernels constitute an important imported commodity in Iran's food supply chain and are susceptible to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mycotoxin contamination, particularly aflatoxins B1, B2, G1, and G2, which pose significant public health risks; • Oxidative rancidity due to high lipid content, affecting product shelf-life and sensory quality; | Iran |

| COMMENT | MEMBER / OBSERVER |
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Microbiological hazards associated with improper handling, storage, or processing conditions. <p>Iran's Technical Recommendation: The proposed Codex standard should establish mandatory maximum limits for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aflatoxin B1 and total aflatoxins, aligned with provisions in Codex Stan 193-1995 and Iran's national standard ISIRI 2248 for dried nuts; Moisture content (maximum 5% w/w) to mitigate microbial growth and spoilage; Peroxide value and free fatty acids as indicators of oxidative deterioration. | |
| <p>The proposal clearly describes the need to address variations in national legislations regarding quality and safety (e.g., moisture and total ash content, as well as provisions concerning additives, contaminants, pesticide residue limits and hygiene). It correctly identifies that the lack of harmonized standards leads to non-compliance issues at import points.</p> | Malaysia |
| <p>UAE confirms that according to the discussion paper, the issue is clearly identified since the food safety concerns will be reflected in the standard.</p> | United Arab Emirates |
| <p>Area 3: whether Codex is the appropriate forum to address these in line with its mandate to protect consumer health and ensure fair practices in international trade. This includes whether there is a clear link between the proposal for new work and the goals of the Codex Strategic Plan 2026–2031, particularly Goal 1: Address current, emerging and critical issues in a timely manner; Objective 1.2: Prioritize needs and emerging issues</p> | |
| <p>Egypt confirms that Codex Alimentarius is the appropriate forum to address this matter, given its mandate to protect consumer health and ensure fair practices in international food trade. The proposal is also aligned with the Codex Strategic Plan 2026–2031, particularly in addressing emerging issues.</p> | Egypt |
| <p>The EUMS recognize the proponent's argument that divergent national standards may create trade frictions and that increasing global trade justifies further harmonization. At the same time, the EUMS note that existing international standards (ISO, UNECE) already address key quality aspects.</p> <p>Codex may therefore add value mainly in specific areas such as additives, contaminants and pesticide residues, which are not covered by those standards. In this context, the EUMS see some relevance, but no clear indication of an urgent or emerging issue under Goal 1 / Objective 1.2 of the Codex Strategic Plan.</p> <p>The UNECE standard could provide a suitable basis for further work, including possible amendments, should these be considered necessary. It should be recalled that UNECE is open to the participation of all countries wishing to engage in its work. If the aspects to be addressed relate to commercialization, the EUMS believe that, in order to avoid duplications, it would be appropriate to propose any necessary amendments within the UNECE framework. Should the work to initiate the negotiation and development of a standard within CODEX ultimately be approved, special attention should be paid to ensuring that aspects related to commercialization are aligned with the UNECE standard.</p> | European Union |
| <p>Yes.</p> <p>Codex is the appropriate forum to address these issues, as they fall directly within its mandate to protect consumer health and ensure fair practices in international food trade.</p> <p>Several member countries and international organizations (i.e., ISO, UNECE, ASEAN and AFI) have developed standards for cashew kernels. Some variance has noted in these standards both in terms of quality and safety. The proposed work concerns establishment of harmonized international requirements relating to food safety, quality, labelling, and trade specifications for a widely traded food commodity. Such matters are best addressed through Codex, which serves as the globally recognized intergovernmental body for development of international food standards.. The new work proposal is very much in line with the goals of the Codex Strategic Plan 2026–2031.</p> | India |

| COMMENT | MEMBER / OBSERVER |
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| <p>The proposal aligns with Goal 1: Address current, emerging and critical issues in a timely manner, as increasing global production, consumption, and trade have created an immediate need for internationally harmonized standards. It further aligns with Objective 1.2: Prioritize needs and emerging issues, since growing trade volumes, divergent national standards, and potential market access barriers demonstrate a clear priority area requiring timely Codex intervention.</p> <p>Accordingly, Codex is both the competent and appropriate forum for undertaking this work.</p> | |
| <p>Iran confirms that the Codex Alimentarius Commission constitutes the appropriate international forum for this work, in accordance with its mandate to protect consumer health and ensure fair practices in international trade. The development of a harmonized Codex standard for cashew kernels would:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide a scientifically sound reference for national regulatory authorities in assessing the safety and quality of imported products; • Reduce the proliferation of divergent national requirements that may constitute unnecessary technical barriers to trade; • Support the implementation of Goal 1, Objective 1.2 of the Codex Strategic Plan 2026–2031: "Prioritize needs and emerging issues." | Iran |
| <p>Codex is the appropriate forum as this work directly supports the mandate to protect consumer health and ensure fair practices in food trade. The proposal aligns with Goal 1 (Objective 1.2) of the Codex Strategic Plan 2026–2031 by prioritizing a commodity with significant global trade growth.</p> | Malaysia |
| <p>UAE confirms that the development of a standard for cashew kernels is in line with the Codex Strategic Plan 2026-20321 allowing for the prioritization of needs and emerging issues for members and regions.</p> | United Arab Emirates |
| <p>At present, the INC is not aware of any trade barriers related to cashew kernels, and we lack clear evidence showing that developing a Codex standard would improve market access, reduce trade disruptions, and eliminate inconsistencies between national or regional standards. However, should work on such a standard proceed, Codex can count on the INC to provide relevant information and collaborate as appropriate. The purpose of this new initiative is to establish a global food safety and quality standard for cashew kernels that supports fair international trade while ensuring the protection of consumer health.</p> <p>Currently, numerous cross-border standards exist to facilitate the trade of cashew kernels. These standards define quality requirements applicable both locally and internationally, such as the UNECE Standard DDP-17 for cashew kernels, ISO 6477:1988, and the US Association of Food Industries AFI Standard (2023), which may also be used. In addition, national standards exist in countries such as India, Viet Nam, and the Philippines, which are applied in trade contracts. This wide range of standards already enables largely smooth international trade. At the same time, however, it also leads to a certain degree of fragmentation, as different requirements must be met depending on the destination country.</p> <p>Depending on the destination market, the products must comply with the respective national regulations, food safety requirements, and applicable standards; particularly within European Union regulations, generally stricter requirements tend to apply. Therefore, it is important for relevant institutions to assess whether the global trade volume of cashew kernels justifies the development of a worldwide Codex standard, and whether such a standard would improve international trade.</p> | INC |
| Area 4: Whether global trade volumes, existing market demand, and any gaps in current international standards for cashew kernels justify the development of a worldwide Codex standard | |
| <p>Egypt considers that the increasing global trade in cashew kernels, together with the existing variability in current standards, justifies the development of an international Codex standard.</p> | Egypt |

| COMMENT | MEMBER / OBSERVER |
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| <p>The EUMS acknowledge the significant and growing global trade volumes described in the project document.</p> <p>However, given the existence of well-established international standards, the need for a fully new Codex commodity standard is not evident, as core quality aspects are already addressed internationally.</p> | European Union |
| <p>Yes.</p> <p>Cashew kernels are a globally traded commodity exceeding 700,000 MT annually, with significant participation from Côte d'Ivoire, India, Vietnam, Benin, Benin, Republic of Tanzania, Philippines, Brazil. The commodity is commercially important to producing, exporting, and importing countries; including many developing economies. It is to note that, from last decade trade of cashew kernel doubled indicating the increased market demand and market access across the globe. At present, all the regulatory requirements are addressed through different national, regional, and some private international specification. This creates gaps in consistency relating to grading, quality parameters, defects, sizing, labelling, and certain safety requirements. The absence of a single globally accepted benchmark may lead to trade disputes, inconsistent compliance expectations, and avoidable barriers to market access.</p> <p>A Codex standard would provide internationally recognized reference framework/standards, facilitate fair trade practices, enhance regulatory harmonization, and support consumer protection. Hence there is need for worldwide codex standard.</p> | India |
| <p>Iran acknowledges the data presented in the Appendix to the Circular Letter, which indicates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Global production of cashew nuts exceeding 3.9 million metric tons (FAOSTAT, 2023); International trade in cashew kernels exceeding 780,000 metric tons annually, with consistent growth in Asian import volumes (from 98,283 tons in 2013 to 244,554 tons in 2023); Significant economic importance of cashew kernels for producing countries, many of which are developing economies. <p>These figures substantiate the economic rationale for developing a worldwide Codex standard.</p> <p>Iran's Observation: As a net importer of cashew kernels, Iran emphasizes that the standard should include transparent provisions for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grading and classification criteria; Labeling requirements, including country of origin. | Iran |
| <p>Based on input from project document, the absence of a worldwide Codex standard justifies this development to streamline international trade.</p> | Malaysia |
| <p>UAE admits that cashew kernels are widely traded internationally, with significant market demand. Differences in national and regional specifications suggest a gap in harmonized international standards, supporting the justification for Codex work for this commodity</p> | United Arab Emirates |
| <p>The global trade volume of cashew kernels is high and continues to grow in market importance. In this context, the need for internationally harmonized requirements is clearly justified. The UNECE standard can be used as a basis for the legal assessment of cashew kernel quality. Should Codex decide to develop a standard for cashew kernels, it would be interesting to include a precise color scale or a reference point indicating when a color deviation should be considered no longer uniform. Regarding superficially damaged kernels, the AFI standard specifies that damage on the inner side of the curve should not be counted, whereas the UNECE standard does not address this aspect. This can lead to varying interpretations and, consequently, discrepancies between producers, traders, and buyers. The UNECE standard is cited in many regulations and is therefore often treated as a de facto framework for assessing quality attributes. Most cashew companies consulted by the INC reported that the most commonly used standard is AFI's.</p> | INC |

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| Area 5: Whether developing a Codex standard for cashew kernels would provide clear evidence of, or contribute to, increased market access for producing countries and mitigate trade disruptions caused by divergent national, or other regional or international standards | |
| Egypt confirms that establishing a Codex standard would facilitate international trade, improve market access, and reduce trade disputes arising from differing standards. | Egypt |
| The EUMS recognize that a Codex standard could support further harmonization and potentially facilitate market access, particularly for producing countries. At the same time, the EUMS consider that the current level of standardization already limits major trade disruptions, and that the additional benefit of a new Codex standard should be carefully weighed. | European Union |
| The WTO-SPS/TBT clearly states that codex standards are reference standards for the international trade and most of the countries are members in the WTO. A globally recognized Codex standard would establish common requirements for quality, grading, defects, labelling, hygiene, contaminants, and other relevant parameters. This would reduce the need for exporters to comply with multiple differing national or regional specifications, thereby lowering compliance costs and administrative burdens. Hence a harmonized standard will reduce trade disputes, eliminate reclassification costs, and enhance market access for producing/exporting countries, particularly for developing countries. Adoption of a Codex benchmark would provide a neutral international reference point, thereby reducing unnecessary trade friction and promoting fair practices. | India |
| A harmonized standard will benefit producing countries, many of which are developing nations, by mitigating trade disruptions caused by divergent national standards and increasing overall market access. | Malaysia |
| Yes, developing a Codex standard for cashew kernels will contribute to, increased market access for producing countries and mitigate trade tissues that could emerge as a consequence of divergent national, or other regional or international standards. This standard will also enhance transparency and predictability in the international trade of this commodity. | United Arab Emirates |
| We lack clear evidence showing that such a standard would improve market access, reduce trade disruptions, and eliminate inconsistencies between national or regional standards. It would serve as a supplement to existing standards, which are applied at the customer's request but are not legally binding. The Codex standard would need to incorporate all stricter quality requirements from the various standards in order to establish a uniform standard for the evaluation of cashew kernels. | INC |
| Area 6: How harmonization with relevant standards (e.g., ISO, UN/ECE) can be ensured to avoid overlaps, inconsistencies, or contradictory provisions that could negatively impact trade | |
| Consistency can be ensured by taking into account existing international standards (such as ISO and UNECE) and aligning them with the Codex standard to avoid duplication or inconsistencies. | Egypt |
| <p>Harmonization with relevant standards such as ISO and UN/ECE can be ensured by undertaking a detailed comparative review of existing standards at the time of drafting and aligning the Codex standard with internationally accepted provisions wherever appropriate. Common elements such as terminology, product definitions, grades, sizing, defect classifications, tolerances, packaging, sampling methods, and test procedures should be adopted or adapted to the maximum extent feasible, while maintaining the consistency with Codex principles and objectives.</p> <p>The Codex standard should also have a clear scope, focusing on food safety, labelling, and internationally relevant commodity requirements while maintaining the compatibility with the codex frameworks already in use.</p> <p>Such an approach would minimize contradictory provisions, reduce compliance burdens, and prevent negative impacts on international trade.</p> | India |

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| To avoid inconsistencies, existing technical information from the UNECE standard DDP-17 Cashew Kernels and ISO 6477:1988 Cashew Kernels – Specification could be used as part of references during development of the Codex standard. Strengthening cooperation through regular technical consultations with these bodies will ensure the standards remain mutually complementary | Malaysia |
| UAE emphasizes that the development of a Codex standard for cashew kernels should be aligned with relevant ISO and UNECE standards. It also should avoid duplication and conflicting requirements and to build upon existing classification and quality frameworks where appropriate. | United Arab Emirates |
| If a Codex standard for cashew kernels is introduced, it should be ensured that all existing quality requirements from current standards, particularly the UNECE standard for cashew kernels, ISO 6477:1988, and the AFI standard, are largely adopted or consistently integrated. Here, it should be ensured that the stricter quality tolerances of the standards listed above, in particular the UNECE standard, are adopted. Harmonization can be achieved in particular through adoption of existing definitions and classification systems, avoidance of conflicting limit values or assessment criteria, clear references to existing standards and coordination with relevant standardization bodies within the Codex development process. | INC |
| Area 7: How could cooperation with existing standard-setting bodies (e.g., ISO, UN/ECE) be strengthened to ensure that the standards remain harmonized and mutually complementary | |
| Egypt encourages strengthening cooperation with relevant international standard-setting bodies to ensure complementarity and avoid duplication. | Egypt |
| The EUMS recommend that the Codex Secretariat establishes contact with the relevant Secretariats at ISO and UNECE to identify potential issues early on and align approaches, terminology, classification systems, etc. To the extent feasible, the EUMS may support the inclusion of liaison staff or experts working on these bodies in Codex work, should work as proposed be agreed to commence. This approach, aligned with Codex Strategic Plan Goal 3, would help mitigate negative impacts on trade. | European Union |
| <p>All existing national, regional, and international standards to be taken into consideration while developing the Codex Standard for Cashew Kernels. Regular consultation with ISO, UN/ECE, producing countries, importing countries, and industry stakeholders should be invited for consultation throughout the development process to identify and resolve overlaps or inconsistencies at an early stage.</p> <p>Cooperation with these stakeholders can be strengthened through formal liaison arrangements, active observer participation, regular technical consultations, and exchange of relevant data, standards, and best practices during the drafting and review process. Joint or coordinated expert working groups may be used to identify common provisions relating to terminology, grading, sizing, defects, sampling, packaging, and analytical methods, so that duplication of work is avoided and consistency is maintained. Such sustained collaboration would ensure that the respective standards remain harmonized, mutually complementary, and supportive of fair international trade.</p> | India |
| The cooperation between the different standard setting bodies is highly recommended some of them such as ISO and UNECE are codex observers and could actively participate with their expertise in the development of this standard based on their experiences in developing their standards for cashew too. | United Arab Emirates |
| Cooperation between these bodies could take place through the exchange of developed documents in electronic working groups. This would help to avoid inconsistencies, overlaps, and potentially conflicting provisions from the outset. | INC |
| Area 8: Based on the information provided in the Appendix to this CL and the considerations above whether a Codex standard—as opposed to a Code of practice or another type of Codex text—would be the most appropriate means of addressing the identified concerns. | |
| Egypt considers that developing a Codex standard is the most appropriate approach to address this issue, alongside the possible development of a code of best practices. | Egypt |

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| The EUMS consider that, in light of existing standards, a more targeted Codex approach (focusing on safety-related aspects and harmonization gaps) could be more appropriate than developing a fully comprehensive commodity standard. If a commodity standard is to be developed, clear distinction should be maintained between whole kernels and pieces as well as between unprocessed and processed products. | European Union |
| <p>The standards for Cashew kernel comes under the preview of the commodity committee A Codex standard would be the most appropriate means of addressing the identified concerns, as the issues primarily relate to the need for harmonized product requirements for a widely traded commodity rather than only guidance on practices. Cashew is highly traded commodity, other codex texts such as Codes of Practice(COP), Codex Guidelines, will not overcome the non-compliances at importer end and potential impediments in international trade.</p> <p>The standards include product definition, quality grades, sizing, defects, tolerances, labelling, contaminants, hygiene, and other criteria that require internationally recognized specifications to facilitate fair trade and consistent regulatory application. A Code of Practice would mainly provide guidance on Good agricultural practice and good manufacturing/ hygienic practices which would require for reduction of any contaminants, production, handling, or processing practices, but would not adequately address the need for uniform commodity specifications used in international trade.</p> <p>Therefore, a Codex standard, supported where necessary by relevant horizontal Codex texts, would be the most suitable and effective instrument.</p> | India |
| A Codex standard is the most appropriate means (rather than a Code of Practice) because it establishes specific, enforceable quality and safety parameters. | Malaysia |
| UAE considers that a Codex commodity standard could be appropriate, to particularly address the product definition, quality factors and labelling elements where relevant. However, the scope should be clearly defined to ensure the standard adds value beyond existing frameworks. | United Arab Emirates |
| UNECE has already a standard for cashew kernels (DDP-17, adopted 1999 last revised in 2023). As UNECE standards are international standards, if a Codex standard is developed suggest to use the UNECE standard as a starting point, aiming for harmonization to the degree possible. | United Nations Economic Commission for Europe |
| Area 9: If a standard is to be developed, whether it should take a horizontal approach covering all aspects of the presentation and processing of cashew kernels, in line with CAC's recommendation to move toward more general and simplified commodity standards where possible | |
| Egypt supports that the standard should focus on product presentation, without covering processing aspects, while ensuring simplicity and flexibility in line with Codex approaches. | Egypt |
| An approach should be established for core provisions relating to product definition (which would include processing), styles or forms, quality factors, sizing, defects, tolerances, hygiene, contaminants, labelling, packaging, and presentation requirements applicable across traded cashew kernel as per the existing format.categories. This would reduce unnecessary complexity, avoid multiple narrow segmented standards, and facilitate easier implementation by countries and industry. | India |
| <p>Iran supports a Horizontal Commodity Standard for cashew kernels, provided that it comprehensively addresses:</p> <p>Aspect Recommended Provision</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Product Forms: Coverage of whole, split, and broken kernels • Processing Types: Clear distinction between raw, roasted, salted, and flavored products • Quality Parameters: Defect tolerances, size classification, color specifications • Safety Parameters: Mycotoxins, pesticide residues, microbiological criteria | Iran |

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Labeling Mandatory: declaration of origin, net weight, production/expiry dates, allergen information, and storage conditions | |
| <p>The standard should adopt a horizontal approach, covering all styles e.g. whole, split, or broken; and processing aspects including salted, roasted, honey coated, etc.; as well to explore possibility for 'grouping standards' in the future, as already being practised by some of the Codex Commodity Committees; to align with the Commission's goal for simplified commodity standards.</p> | Malaysia |
| <p>Taking into consideration the workload allocated to codex, the decision taken by the CAC to consider a horizontal approach covering all aspects of the commodity looks wise and effective to develop new and simplified commodity standard in a timely manner</p> | United Arab Emirates |
| <p>Area 10: Whether comparison with other Codex standards for nuts, such as the Standard for Unshelled Pistachio Nuts (CXS 181 1981), could help identify common provisions applicable to nuts, thereby facilitating the development of a standard for cashew kernels that may support future consolidation into a single standard for nuts; and, in this regard, whether templates from other standard setting bodies such as the UNECE layout for standards for dry and dried produce¹ could support harmonization and focused discussion within the Committee</p> | |
| <p>Egypt considers that reference to existing standards for nuts (such as pistachios) could support the development of a consistent standard, and that the use of UNECE models may contribute to further harmonization.</p> | Egypt |
| <p>The EUMS see value in identifying common elements across nut standards, including the Standard for Unshelled Pistachio Nuts (CXS 181-1981), for aspects such as labelling and general quality provisions. However, product-specific characteristics of different nuts require differentiated treatment. In this regard, the UNECE standard layout, which distinguishes clearly between product categories (incl. nuts in shell and kernels), could usefully support the work.</p> | European Union |
| <p>Comparison with existing Codex standards for nuts, including the Standard for Unshelled Pistachio Nuts (CXS 131-1981) may be useful for identifying certain general or common provisions applicable across nut commodities, such as requirements related to hygiene, contaminants, labelling, sampling, and general quality principles. Such references may assist the Committee in ensuring consistency in structure and terminology among Codex texts.</p> <p>However, it is considered that a separate product-specific Codex standard is required for cashew kernels, as the provisions contained in CXS 131-1981 do not adequately cover the specific characteristics and commercial descriptions applicable to cashew nuts. In particular:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The pistachio standard applies to unshelled nuts, whereas international trade in cashew is primarily conducted in shelled kernel form, requiring distinct quality and grading parameters. Cashew kernels possess unique physical and commercial classifications, including kernel grades based on size, colour, and condition (e.g. whole, splits, pieces), which are not addressed under the pistachio standard. Processing methods for cashew nuts, involving shell removal, peeling, drying, and grading, differ significantly from those applicable to pistachios and necessitate commodity-specific provisions. Quality factors such as parameters on defect tolerances, and presentation styles are specific to cashew kernels and therefore cannot be adequately regulated through CXS 131-1981. <p>Accordingly, comparison with other Codex nut standards may help to identify general drafting elements but would not be sufficient to regulate cashew kernels comprehensively, and therefore a dedicated Codex standard for cashew kernel is justified.</p> <p>With regard to templates from other standard-setting bodies, including the UNECE layout for standards for dry and dried produce, such formats may be useful as structural references to facilitate harmonization and focused technical discussions within the</p> | India |

| COMMENT | MEMBER / OBSERVER |
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| Committee. Nevertheless, the technical content should remain commodity-specific and aligned with Codex procedures and the trade and quality characteristics of cashew kernels. | |
| Comparing this work with the Standard for Unshelled Pistachio Nuts (CXS 131-1981) is a practical step toward exploring a future consolidated standard for nuts. Using the UNECE layout for dry produce will further support harmonization and facilitate focused discussions. | Malaysia |
| The standard of Unshelled Pistachio Nuts (CXS 131 1981) was developed in 1981; several updated requirements may be discussed while developing a codex standard for cashew kernels including technical criteria. The standard template could also be updated. The new standard could be aligned as deemed suitable with UNECE STANDARD DDP-17 concerning the marketing and commercial quality control of CASHEW KERNELS since this standard has been recently developed in 2023. | United Arab Emirates |
| Instead of starting with UNECE standard layout, suggest to start with UNECE standard for cashew kernels (DDP-17) https://unece.org/trade/documents/1999/02/standards/cashew-kernels . | United Nations Economic Commission for Europe |
| Area 11: Mechanism for undertaking any future work | |
| Considering that the development of the cashew kernel standard had already been approved as new work prior to the adjournment of CCPFV, Korea considers it appropriate to advance this work within the existing framework of CCPFV. In addition, Korea considers that further consideration of the appropriate approach is necessary, taking into account the possibility of discussions on the reactivation of CCPFV at CAC49 (2026). | Republic of Korea |
| Area 12: If considered a priority and approved by CAC, what the appropriate mechanism would be for undertaking the proposed new work | |
| Egypt considers that establishing an Electronic Working Group (EWG), led by an interested Member, followed by discussion within the relevant committee, would be an appropriate approach. | Egypt |
| The EUMS consider that any work should be undertaken within CCPFV, with a clearly defined and limited scope, close cooperation with ISO and UNECE and a focus on complementarity rather than duplication. | European Union |
| Once the CAC approves the proposal, the Committee (CCPFV) should be re-activated by the Codex Alimentarius Commission to carry forward the work on the standard through correspondence. Thereafter, an EWG should be established at the committee level comprising member countries and observer organizations for the development of the standard. The draft may be considered in physical committee sessions or virtual/hybrid meetings for detailed discussion, resolution of outstanding issues, and advancement through the Codex step procedure. Inter-sessional written consultations and targeted technical meetings may also be utilized, where necessary, to expedite progress and ensure broad participation. | India |
| Should the Commission approve the initiation of this new work, Iran proposes the following implementation mechanism: Should risk assessment be required for mycotoxins, pesticide residues, or microbiological hazards, Iran recommends that the Commission request scientific advice from the Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Food Additives (JECFA) and/or the Joint FAO/WHO Meeting on Pesticide Residues (JMPR), as appropriate | Iran |
| Given that the Codex Committee on Processed Fruits and Vegetables (CCPFV) has adjourned, the work should be undertaken by CCPFV under a newly designated host country, possibly by correspondence. | Malaysia |
| The CAC 48 recommended that the TORs of the CCPFV to be further considered by CAC49, UAE recommends that the development of standard for cashew kernels to be added to the ToRs of the CCPFV. | United Arab Emirates |

| COMMENT | MEMBER / OBSERVER |
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| Area 13: Based on the replies to the above points, whether the development of a worldwide Codex standard for cashew kernels is a priority for your country or organization | |
| Egypt confirms that the development of a Codex standard for cashew kernels is a priority. | Egypt |
| The EUMS consider that this work is not a high priority at this stage, given that key quality aspects are already covered by existing standards and no urgent food safety concern has been identified. | European Union |
| India is one of the highest producing countries of cashew nuts, and the development of a Codex standard will enhance export opportunities and improve the income of farmers, processors, and other stakeholders in the cashew industry. The development of a worldwide Codex standard for cashew kernels is considered a priority for our country. The absence of a harmonized global standard may lead to divergent quality and safety requirements, unnecessary trade barriers, compliance uncertainty, and market access challenges. Development of an internationally recognized Codex standard would promote consumer protection, facilitate fair practices in trade, improve regulatory consistency, and support producers, particularly in developing countries. Hence, this work needs priority consideration. | India |
| The development of a Codex standard for cashew kernels is not a priority for Malaysia. | Malaysia |
| considers this work to be of high priority, given its relevance to trade and food safety, particularly in the context of the UAE's role as a major importer and re-export hub | United Arab Emirates |
| At present, we are not aware of any trade barriers related to cashew kernels. | INC |
| Area 14: If so, whether your country or organization would be willing to participate in this work should the Commission agree to undertake new work on cashew kernels. | |
| Egypt expresses its willingness to actively participate in this work, including contributing to working groups and providing technical input. | Egypt |
| While the EUMS are generally willing to participate constructively, this decision remains subject to availability of resources/experts at the time of the start of the work. | European Union |
| India has proposed the new work proposal for the development of a standard for cashew kernels and is willing to Chair the work as well as actively contribute to the development of the standard. | India |
| Malaysia will follow the discussion in the CCPFV and CAC. | Malaysia |
| expresses its willingness to participate in the development of this work, particularly in areas related to the trade facilitation, labelling and consumer information as well as the harmonization with international best practices | United Arab Emirates |
| Should work on such a standard proceed, Codex can count on the INC to provide relevant information and collaborate as appropriate. | INC |
| Area 15: Any additional relevant issues | |
| No additional comments at this stage. | Egypt |
| India wishes to bring to the attention of Codex Executive Committee and Codex Alimentarius Commission that the new work proposal for development of a Codex standard for cashew kernels was already approved at CAC40 (2017). Subsequent discussions in Regional Coordinating Committees and CCEXEC reflected continued support for commencing this work, including support from Asia, Africa and Near East regions. The Codex Committee on Processed Fruits and Vegetables (CCPFV) was adjourned sine die in 2020; however, it was noted that the Committee may be reactivated in the future based on identified needs and sufficient workload. Considering that cashew kernels are a globally traded commodity with growing consumption, and major importance to producing countries such as India, African countries, Brazil, Vietnam and Cambodia, there is a clear and continuing need for this work. | India |

| COMMENT | MEMBER / OBSERVER |
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| <p>Therefore, it is requested that the Commission consider reactivating Codex Committee on Processed Fruits and Vegetables, , to undertake the development of the standard for cashew kernels and other pending proposals. Precedents exist within Codex where committees have remained active or been reactivated for limited agenda items through correspondence.</p> <p>India remains willing to lead and actively contribute to the development of the Codex standard for cashew kernels</p> | |
| <p>The Islamic Republic of Iran supports, subject to the conditions outlined above, the initiation of work on the development of a Codex standard for cashew kernels. Iran's support is contingent upon:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Harmonization: Full alignment with existing international standards (UNECE DDP-17, ISO 6477) to avoid regulatory overlap; 2. Science-Based Provisions: Inclusion of mandatory, risk-based food safety criteria for mycotoxins, microbiological hazards, and chemical contaminants; 3. Equity: Balanced consideration of the interests of importing countries and developing economies throughout the standard-setting process; 4. Efficiency: Adoption of a streamlined, cost-effective work mechanism, preferably utilizing electronic working modalities. <p>Iran reaffirms its commitment to constructive engagement in this process and stands ready to contribute technical expertise and national experience to support the successful development of this important international standard.</p> | Iran |
| <p>Iran wishes to bring the following supplementary matters to the attention of CCEXEC90 and CAC49:</p> <p>Reference Methods and Laboratory Capacity</p> <p>The standard should specify internationally recognized reference methods (e.g., ISO, AOAC) for key analytical parameters, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Moisture determination (e.g., ISO 6496); • Aflatoxin analysis (e.g., ISO 16050 or validated LC-MS/MS methods); • Microbiological enumeration (e.g., ISO 4833 series). <p>Such specifications are essential to ensure implement ability in laboratories of developing countries and to support mutual recognition of test results.</p> | Iran |
| <p>العمل هذا إلى الحاجة: أولاً</p> <p>ال تجارية؟ الجودة أو/أو الأغذية ب سلامة ت تعلق مخاوف ت وجد وهي ب وضوح؟ موصوفة المسألة هي واسع، نطاق على عالمياً م تداوله غذائية سدلة تُعد الكاجو حبوب إن إذ ب وضوح موصوفة المسألة ن عم، الجودة متطل بات حيث من الوطنية والمواصفات الت تشرية عات ب بين ملحوظة اختلافات وت وجد ذلك، ومع الملوثات وحدود النظافة، متطل بات الأحجام، العيوب، وجود الرطوبة، نسبة متل وال سلامة، أنواع جمبع ت شمل كانت إذا ما ت حديد متل أدق، ب شكل المواصفة نطاق ت وضوح الم ف يد من ب كون قد مع التداخل وت فادي الت ب يق وضوح ل ضمان (المعالج أو المملح، المحمص، الخام)، الكاجو أشكال وجدت إن أخرى مواصفات</p> <p>عمل بات في الام ت ثال من الت تحقق عند صعوبات إحداث في موحدة دول ية مواصفة غ ياب وي سهم الف ذية المتطل بات ب ين الت ب اين ن تيجة ضرورية غير ت جارية ذراعات إلى ي يؤدي وقد الاس ت يراد، الدول مخ تلف في الامع تمدة</p> <p>المسألة؟ هذه لمعالجة المنا سب المن تدي الغذاء في الدس تور يُعد هي حماية في الم تم ثلة لولاي ته نظراً المسألة، هذه لمعالجة الأذ سب المن تدي الغذاء في الدس تور يُعد ن عم، ل د بوب مواصفة وضع اق تراخ أن كما الدول ية التجارة في العادلة الممارسات و ضمان المس تهلك صحة ، 2026-2031 ل ف ترة الغذاء في ل دس تور الاس ترات ي جية الخطه بأهاف مباشرًا ارتباطًا ي رت بط الكاجو : سد يما ولا</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • المناسب؛ الوقت في وال حرجة وال ناشئة الحالية القضاء لمعالجة 1 الهدف • الناشئة والقضايا اللاحد ت باجات الأولى وية إسناد 12 الغاية <p>العمل أولويات ت حديد ب معايير الال تزام: ثانياً</p> <p>موحدة؟ عالمية مواصفة وضع الحالي وال طلب العالمية التجارة حجم يبرز هي ات ساع جاذب إلى ،عالمياً والاس تهلاك والتجارة الإن تاج في مستمراً نمواً تظهر المتاحة ف ال ب يانات ن عم،</p> | Qatar |

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| <p>دموَح دولي مع ياري إطار إلى الحاجة ي عزز ما والمس تورد، والمصدرة المذتجة إلى بلدان رقة</p> <p>ال تجارية؟ اضطرابات من والحد الأسواق إلى الوصول ت سبيل في المواصفة سئسهم إلى</p> <p>في الكاجو ب حبوب الخاصة الغذاء في الدس تور مواصفة شهم أن الم توقع من نهم،</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • والإق ليمية؛ الوطنية المواصفات ب بين الاخ تلافات من الحد • الاس تيراد؛ عند الشدات رفس مخاطر تقليل • سيما ولا الأسواق، إلى المذتجات نفاذ رص ت عزز واضحة دول مرجعية توفير <p>والمصدرة المنتجة النامية ل ل بلدان بال نسبة</p> <p>ال صدة؟ ذات المواصفات مع التوافق ضمان يمكن كيف</p> <p>(وجدت إن) ال صدة ذات الدول ية المنظمات عن الصادرة القائمة المواصفات من الاس تفادة</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ال فنية؛ الأحكام في ال تعارض أو الازدواجية تجنب • بها المعمول الدولي ال ممارسات أفضل الاع تبار في يأخذ ت كامل نهج اعتماد <p>القائمة؟ المعايير وضع هيات مع ال تعاون ت عزز يمكن كيف</p> <p>عبر ال تعاون ت عزز يمكن</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • المواصفة؛ تطوير أثناء ال فنية المعلومات تبادل • خبير؛ أو مراقب ب صفة ال صدة ذات الجهات إشراك <p>به الاضطلاع سيجري الذي العمل ط ب بعة؛ ثلثاً</p> <p>ممارسات؟ ب مدونة مقارنة الأن سب الأداة الغذاء في الدس تور مواصفة تُعد إلى</p> <p>أحكام إلى ل الحاجة نظراً المحددة، القضايا المعالجة الأن سب الأداة الغذاء في الدس تور مواصفة تُعد نهم،</p> <p>مدونات توفره لا ما هو وال توسيم، والتصدف والسلامة بال جودة ت تعلق نسبياً وملزمة واضحة</p> <p>نفسها بالدرجة الممارسات</p> <p>شاملاً؟ نهجاً المواصفة ت تبع أن ي نبعي إلى</p> <p>الكاجو، حبوب وتجهيز ل عرض الرئ ي سدية الجوانب ي غطي شاملاً نهجاً المواصفة ت تبع أن يستحسن نهم،</p> <p>حيثما وب ساطة عمومية أكثر سلعية مواصفات نحو الغذاء في الدس تور هيئة ت وجه مع ي تماشي ب ما</p> <p>الأساسية المتطلبات على ال تركيز مع أمكن،</p> <p>الأخرى؟ الجوزيات مواصفات من الاس تفادة يمكن إلى</p> <p>مواصفة مثل الأخرى، بال جوزيات الخاصة الغذاء في الدس تور مواصفات مع ل لمقارنة يمكن نهم،</p> <p>قابلية مشتركة أحكام تحديدي ت ساعد أن، (CX 131 1981) المقشر غير الحلببي ال فستق</p> <p>من الاس تفادة يمكن كما بال جوزيات الخاصة المواصفات توحيد مستقبل دعم قد ب مال لتطبيقات،</p> <p>مناقشات لدعم والمجفة الجافة المذتجات لمواصفات لأوروبا الاق تصادية المتحدة الأمم لجنة نموذج</p> <p>ال لجنة داخل مركزة فنية</p> <p>المس تة ب لية الأعمال ت نفيذ آليات رابعاً</p> <p>الجديد؟ بال عمل للاضطلاع الأن سب الالية هي ما</p> <p>بال فواكه المذتصة ال فنية ال لجنة إلى العمل إسناد يُقترح أولوية، المسألة اع تبار حال في</p> <p>ل ضمان الحاجة، عند حضورية ب امجتماعات مدعوم إلكتروني عمل فريقي إن شاء إمكانية مع، والخضروات</p> <p>والموارد الوقت إدارة وحسن الكفاءة</p> <p>توق يته وحسن العمل جدوى خامساً</p> <p>أولوية؟ الكاجو ل حبوب علامة مواصفة وضع يُعد إلى</p> <p>النمو ضوء في أولوية، الكاجو ب حبوب خاصة الغذاء في ل لدس تور علامة مواصفة وضع يُعد نهم،</p> <p>مس تهلك ب نال صحة حماية إلى والحاجة الوطنية، التشريعات ونوع والتجارة، الإن تاج في الم تزايد</p> <p>الدولية التجارة وتيسير</p> <p>العمل؟ في ل لمشاركة اس تعداد على منظم تكمل لكم سيكون إلى</p> <p>على س تكون قطر دولة فإن العمل، هذا في الشروع على الغذاء في الدس تور هيئة موافقة حال في نهم،</p> <p>الم تاحة الإمكانيات حدود في اللازمة، المداخلات وت قديم ال فنية المناقشات في ل لمشاركة اس تعداد</p> <p>صدة ذات إضاف ية مسائل أي سادساً</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • الأف قية النصوص مع المواصفة في الغذاء ية السلامة أحكام مواعمة على التأك يذ يُقترح <p>والنظافة المبيدات، ومخلفات بالملوثات، ي تعلق فيما سيما ولا الغذاء في، ل لدس تور</p> | |
| highly appreciate the commitment of India in suggesting this work and is keen to actively participate in developing this standard | United Arab Emirates |
| <p>Area 16: The characteristics of cashew kernels from its cultivation to retail sale such as cultivar varieties, composition, quality and packaging all lead to adequate parameters for the standardization of the product. There already exists a UNECE standard for cashew kernels. Taking into account that technical information is available and certain degree of work at regional / international level has already been achieved on certain aspects as mentioned in point (g). This product is amenable to standardization.</p> | |
| Please note that the UNECE standards are international (not regional). | United Nations Economic |

| COMMENT | MEMBER / OBSERVER |
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| | Commission for Europe |