

CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



World Health
Organization

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Agenda Item 11

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JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME

CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION

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COMMENTS ON COMMITTEES WORKING BY CORRESPONDENCE AND PILOT FOR A COMMITTEE ON STANDARDS ADVANCEMENT

Comments of Egypt, Thailand, India, Philippines

Correspondence and pilot for a Committee on Standards Advancement

(CL 2018/48-CAC)

EGYPT

Egypt would like to thank you for the clarification about CCSA and approves the proposal submitted on the establishment of this committee to start its work experimental in the beginning, that will enable us to assist the advantages and disadvantages of its work and how to improve activities for further continuing work by it or not.

THAILAND

Thailand appreciates the hard work of the Executive Committee and Codex Secretariat to come up with all the options to proceed work for which no Committee exists that presently hold physical meetings.

Thailand recognizes the importance of using both physical and electronic manners to drive the success of a Standard. Physical meeting is an important step to facilitate inclusive discussion and reach consensus in a transparent manner. Still, electronic working group is an essential tool to gather all comments prior to physical meeting as it is a fast and cost-effective mean to include the comments from all member countries. Thailand, therefore, would like to propose that Committees working by correspondence should make every effort to reach consensus prior to deciding the necessity to hold a physical meeting.

Thailand agrees that the mechanisms proposed in CX/CAC 18/41/12, especially the establishment of CCSA, will essentially provide great benefits to the work of Codex. Applicability and suitability of different approaches to different works depend on the nature and the complexity of the issues. For example, CCSA may not have enough expertise to finalize a very technical and complicated agenda, in this case Task Force may be more appropriate forum. Consideration should also be taken on how CCSA should deal with the diverse agendas that may fall upon the Committee in future.

To conclude, Thailand does not object the pilot for a Committee on Standards Advancement and agrees if the CCSA would look into the current work of the Committee on Sugar and use it as a case study for the pilot.

INDIA

General Comment

India feels that there is a need of clear guidance for the Committee working by correspondence in order to bring more clarity in respect of the role of host country particularly specifying the approach to deal with the country comments submitted.

Specific Comment

India supports establishment of a pilot subsidiary body under Rule XI.1 (a) of the Rules of Procedure "Codex Committee on Standard Advancement" and therefore starting new work on the development of TORs for this Committee.

PHILIPPINES

On item 1.3.4 Create or re-establish a Committee or Task Force working by correspondence:

The Philippines supports Option 3: Establishing a pilot subsidiary body under Rule XI.1 (a) of the Rules of Procedure "Codex Committee on Standard Advancement: CCSA".

Rationale:

As there are Codex Committees like CC on Sugar with no physical meetings conducted, there is no venue to resolve contentious issues. Thus, the Philippines support Option 3.