

CODEx ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



World Health
Organization

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Agenda Items 3, 5, 6, 11, 12, 13

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JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME

CODEx ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION

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COMMENTS OF UGANDA

Agenda Item 3: Amendments to the Procedural Manual (CX/CAC 24/47/2)

Uganda would like to appreciate the effort of the Codex Secretariat for the issuance of the 29th edition of the Codex Procedural manual with the amendments that have been included. We welcome the amendments given that they are mainly of editorial in nature and look forward to effective application of the Manual consistent with the Statutory purpose of Codex.

Agenda Item 5: Proposals for new work (CX/CAC 24/47/16)

Uganda takes note of the new proposals for new work that have been submitted by the different subsidiary bodies. We further note the increased demand for development of new standards deliverables through Codex. While supporting the approval of the new work we wish to recognize the need for continued engagement at Committee level to ensure effective prioritization and efficient work management practices in order to ensure that sufficient tools and resources are available to undertake new work in a sustainable manner. Our specific interest is drawn to key new areas of work such as the Revision to Codex standards on fats and oils to reduce trans-fatty acid intake, Revision of the Guidelines for the control of *Campylobacter* and *Salmonella* in chicken meat, Revision of the Code of practice for the prevention and reduction of aflatoxin contamination in peanuts as well as Revision of the Code of practice for the prevention and reduction of aflatoxin contamination in peanuts.

Agenda Item 6: Other matters relating to Codex subsidiary bodies (CX/CAC 24/47/17)

Uganda would like to recall that at CAC46 agreed to establish an electronic working group to consider the amendment of the General Standard for Fruit Juices and Nectars (CXS 247-2005) with respect to the Brix level for grape juice from *Vitis labrusca* and its hybrids. We further note that the EWG was unable to reach consensus on lowering of the Brix level whilst recognizing that the Chairperson of the EWG had recommended for final adoption of the proposal by CAC47. Considering the effort that has been undertaken on the matter, we support the possibility of the Commission defining a mechanism and modality that will be deployed to consider the proposed amendment to the brix level grape juice from *Vitis labrusca* and hybrids in the General Standard for Fruit Juices and Nectars (CXS 247-2005) such as processing the potential new work through correspondence should the relevant subsidiary body be activated. Generally, the provision of lowering the Brix does not present potential adulteration and by extension fraud as there are existing analytical methods to determine added water in grape juice. We believe that the proposal is trade facilitative and consistent with the Codex core value of inclusivity.

Agenda Item 11: Codex strategic plan 2026-2031 (CX/CAC 24/47/21)

Uganda appreciates the progress that has been made on the process for developing of a Codex Strategic Plan for the period 2026 – 2031, including the formal and informal consultations with Members and Observers and progressive discussions held at CCEXEC86 and CCEXEC87. Uganda supports the adoption of the Codex Strategic Plan that will be followed by the development of a monitoring framework and implementation plan. The proposed strategic goals and outcomes in the new Strategic plan are forward looking and position Codex as a critical player and contributor to the broader global challenges such as climate change, food fraud, food security, food loss and waste. It is worth noting that Codex remains focussed on achieving the UN Sustainable Development Goals within its statutory purpose while strongly contributing to the Food Systems Transformation and Agrifood system. As the current regional coordinator for Codex in Africa we wish to commit

our continued engagement with the members in the region to ensure the effective implementation of the Codex Strategic Plan.

Agenda Item 12: Matters arising from FAO and WHO (CX/CAC 24/47/22)

Uganda welcome the initiatives and matters arising from FAO and WHO which are important for advancing food safety globally. We believe that there is significant contributions of FAO and WHO to capacity development efforts at regional level as well as activities undertaken at national level. We further call for enhanced targeted assistance that will be useful in building resilient food safety systems and ultimately contributing to the broader food safety objectives.

Agenda Item 13: Potential webcasting of the Executive Committee (CX/CAC 24/47/23)

Recalling the recent Legal Advice prepared by the Legal Office of FAO in consultation with the Codex Secretariat, the Executive Committee of the Codex Alimentarius Commission (CCEXEC) is a committee of restrictive membership as outlined in Rule V of the Codex Rules of Procedure and that unlike for the Commission, the rules do not provide that CCEXEC meetings are public. The composition of the Executive Committee includes representation from all the different geographical regions who participate in the sessions on behalf of the Commission as a whole or for the different regions as is required by the Regional Coordinators. Additionally, CCEXEC's functions as per the procedures are mostly advisory in nature as the decision making body remains the Commission in which all Codex members are represented. We find the current practice that has been developed to hold CCEXEC sessions in private still tenable considering the composition and role of the Executive Committee, the absence of a specific rule in the Codex Procedural Manual regarding its meeting modality, and the FAO rules and practice in other similar committees of FAO Governing and Statutory Bodies. We finally consider that the area of transparency and consultation processes are duly ensured through the participation of Members and Regional Coordinators, the timely publication of the reports of the Committee, as well as the practice of audio recording", which has been in place since 2005, as noted at CCEXEC80.