TO: Codex Contact Points  
Contact Points of international organizations having observer status with Codex

FROM: Secretariat, Codex Alimentarius Commission,  
Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme

SUBJECT: Request for comments on:
(i) Maximum level for cadmium in chocolates containing or declaring <30% total cocoa solids on a dry matter basis (At Step 8).
(ii) Maximum level for cadmium in chocolates containing or declaring ≥30% to <50% total cocoa solids on a dry matter basis (At Step 5/8).
(iv) Code of practice for the prevention and reduction of cadmium contamination in cocoa beans (At Step 5).

DEADLINE: 5 November 2021

BACKGROUND
1. See REP21/CF, paragraphs 26, 39, 59 and 106 as well as Appendices II, III and V.

REQUEST FOR COMMENTS
2. The above-mentioned appendix is uploaded to the Codex Online Commenting System (OCS): https://ocs.codexalimentarius.org/. Codex members and observers are invited to submit comments as per the guidance below as per the guidance below.

3. Comments should address whether the MLs for cadmium in different categories of chocolates, the Code of practice for the prevention and reduction of lead contamination in foods and the Code of practice for the prevention and reduction of cadmium contamination in cocoa beans are ready for adoption or not; and if not, provide the rationale and proposals to facilitate adoption. Comments should be provided in conformity with the Procedure for the Elaboration of Codex Standards and Related Texts (Part 3 – Uniform Procedure for the Elaboration of Codex Standards and Related Texts), Procedural Manual of the Codex Alimentarius Commission.

GUIDANCE ON THE PROVISION OF COMMENTS
4. Comments should be submitted through the Codex Contact Points of Codex members and observers using the OCS.

5. Contact Points of Codex members and observers may login to the OCS and access the document open for comments by selecting “Enter” in the “My reviews” page, available after login to the system.

6. Contact Points of Codex members and observers organizations are requested to provide general comments at the document level. Additional guidance on the OCS comment categories and types can be found in the OCS Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs).

7. Other OCS resources, including the user manual and short guide, can be found at the following link: http://www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/resources/ocs/en/.

8. For questions on the OCS, please contact Codex-OCS@fao.org.