The International Dairy Federation (IDF) wishes to thank the Codex Alimentarius Commission for the opportunity to provide this update on relevant IDF activities.

Since 1903, IDF has been setting standards to ensure the safety of milk and dairy products and to facilitate their trade. IDF’s member countries represent the entire dairy chain, including farmers, processors, traders, input providers and academia. In several countries, the government is also involved in the IDF National Committee. IDF’s member countries cover approximately 75% of global milk production and 85% of trade in milk and dairy products.

IDF has defined four strategic priorities: standard setting; food safety and quality; nutrition; and sustainability. Thus, there is considerable synergy with the mandate of Codex.

IDF has served as an essential technical advisor to Codex since Codex was established, providing technical support on all aspects related to milk and dairy products as well as their use in other foods, such as the new Codex standard on dairy permeate powders. IDF strongly supports the Codex Committee on Milk and Milk Products, which originated from an IDF Committee of Experts. Currently over 30 specific Codex Standards regarding milk and milk products exist and over 50 guidelines and codes of practice affect the way these products are manufactured and traded.

IDF also contributes to the work of several horizontal Codex committees, engaging Codex across more than a dozen committees on many topics. IDF representatives have attended, commented on or otherwise contributed to the following Codex groups:

- CAC (IDF has attended all Codex Alimentarius Commission meetings for decades)
- CCASIA (FAO/WHO Coordinating Committee for Asia). IDF is involved in e.g. the Regional Standard for Non-Fermented Soybean Products (CODEX STAN 322R-2015)
- CCCF (Codex Committee on Contaminants in Food), e.g. maximum level for melamine for liquid infant formulae
- CCEURO (FAO/WHO Coordinating Committee for Europe), e.g. the discontinued Draft Regional Standard for Ayran
- CCFA (Codex Committee on Food Additives), e.g. the Revision of food categories, descriptors and food additives provisions for milk and milk products of the GSFA (General Standard for Food Additives)
- CCFH (Codex Committee on Food Hygiene), e.g. the Revision of the Codex General Principles of Food Hygiene and the HACCP annex
- CCFICS (Codex Committee on Food Import and Export and Certification Systems), e.g. the Revision of the Principles and Guidelines for the Exchange of Information in Food Safety Emergency Situations (CAC/GL 19-1995)
- CCFL43 (Codex Committee on Food Labeling), e.g. the draft Revision of the General Standard for Labeling of Prepackaged Food: Date Marking
- CCGP30 (Codex Committee on General Principles)

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1 Document prepared by and under the responsibility of the IDF.
Recent IDF publications relevant to the work of Codex include:

- Bulletin of the IDF N° 478/2015: Interlaboratory collaborative study on a flow cytometry method for lactic acid bacteria quantification in starter cultures, probiotics and fermented milk products according to ISO 19344/IDF 232
- IDF Special Issue 1401 – The importance of salt in the manufacture and ripening of cheese.
Relationship of IDF with other key intergovernmental organizations

IDF has been in official relations with FAO since 1952. FAO and IDF have jointly published several guidance documents, such as the FAO/IDF Guide on good dairy farming practice that is available for free in seven languages (https://store.fil-idf.org/?s=guide+to+good+dairy+farming+practice&post_type=product). Currently, FAO has assigned observers in the IDF Standing Committee (SC) on Animal Health and Welfare, the SC Environment, the SC Dairy Policy and Economics and the IDF Task Force Antimicrobial Resistance.

IDF is committed to help achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) defined by the United Nations. In 2016, FAO and IDF signed the “Dairy Declaration of Rotterdam”. The Declaration serves as a framework for the contributions of the dairy sector to the achievement of key SDGs such as ending poverty (SDG1) and hunger (SDG2) while promoting responsible consumption and production (SDG12) to protect the environment (SDG13, SDG14, SDG15). Investments in innovation and infrastructure (SGD9) will be essential to achieve environmental sustainability as well as decent work and economic growth (SDG8).

IDF is in official relations with the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE), and participates as stakeholder in the work of the UN Committee on World Food Security (CFS).

IDF and the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) formally collaborate since 1963 on standardization of methods and analysis and sampling for milk and milk products. More than 180 joint ISO/IDF standards have been published thus far. As detailed in the information provided by ISO to CAC39 (CAC/39 INF/6 paragraph 24), IDF, ISO and AOAC are collaborating in keeping the methods for milk and milk products in CODEX-STAN 234-1999 and CODEX-STAN 72-1981 up to date.

Conclusion

IDF commits significant resources to Codex activities because Codex is an internationally recognized, independent, strongly supported, science-based and highly effective organization that has a key role to play in protecting the health of consumers and facilitating international food trade.