OTHER BUSINESS (Agenda Item 11)

60th Anniversary of the Codex Alimentarius Commission; 1963-2023

The Delegation of Switzerland introduced the discussion paper, emphasizing the opportunity that the 60th Anniversary of Codex presented to Codex Members, observers and other relevant stakeholders to undertake activities to promote the use of Codex standards and related texts, and to raise awareness about food safety at national, regional and global levels. She also highlighted the importance of using this opportunity to reflect on the successes of 60 years of Codex, to highlight key issues such as the role of water in food safety and to build partnerships and promote youth engagement to secure the future of Codex. The Delegation proposed the establishment of a 60th Anniversary Organizing Committee, which would be co-chaired by one of the Vice-Chairpersons and Switzerland and include as members the Regional Coordinators, the Codex Secretariat, FAO and WHO, to work between CAC44 and CAC46 to collect ideas, support organization and progress and final reports on the 60th Anniversary.

The Codex Secretariat welcomed the initiative to use the occasion of the 60th Anniversary to build awareness of and engagement in Codex and outlined plans already underway to celebrate the event. The Secretariat noted that the 7 June date of the annual World Food Safety Day (WFSD), which coincided with the period of the 60th Anniversary, was an excellent opportunity to raise the level of awareness of Codex work and food safety in general and that Members and observers could use this as a natural launch pad for their own initiatives to promote Codex.

The Codex Secretariat described some of the activities planned including the preparation of a Codex publication reflecting on 60 years of Codex and a project to enhance the visibility of Codex standards, in line with Goal 3 of the Codex Strategic Plan 2020-2025.

The Codex Secretariat confirmed that all Codex Members and observers would be updated on its plans for the celebration, which would hopefully have a strong in-person component supported by virtual events using the experience gained over the last 18 months.

In terms of a mechanism to facilitate preparations for the 60th Anniversary, it was noted that Codex already had a number of tools at its disposal to facilitate engagement and planning for the Anniversary including the RCCs, and the CCEXEC, which would also be leading the preparation of the blueprint for the future of Codex to be considered on the occasion of the 60th Anniversary.

The Codex Secretariat further explained that over the course of the past 18 months in developing a series of interactive and engaging events related to Codex meetings, the values of flexibility, agility and pragmatism in planning with finite resources had been fully recognized and Codex now had at its disposal numerous communication tools to facilitate an inclusive celebration.

The Representatives of FAO and WHO noted their strong support for the celebration of the 60th Anniversary of Codex and the importance of Member engagement in that celebration, the opportunity to use WFSD to raise awareness and engage with Members, and to maintain an agile organization mechanism as proposed by the Codex Secretariat.

There was strong support for preparing an appropriate celebration of the 60th anniversary of Codex with suggestions to include national level events and activities, and engage all stakeholders along the food chain from primary producers through to consumers.

The important role of Members to assure high-level governmental support to the celebrations was emphasized.

The possibility to use the event as an opportunity for reflection on Codex and where it sees itself in the context of its core values and principles as well as the broader context of global trade was also highlighted e.g. issues of inclusiveness in terms of the language coverage of EWGs.

With regards to the mechanisms to organize the celebrations, both the proposal to use an organizing committee or a lighter structure of existing mechanisms, found support. There was an overall agreement on the need to ensure inclusivity and the important role the RCCs could play to assure this.

1 CRD03 (Switzerland); CRD05 (China)
Following some discussion, CAC44:

- thanked Switzerland for raising this issue and enabling the Commission to have a timely discussion on the 60th Anniversary;
- agreed that the celebration of the 60th Anniversary of Codex would be a wonderful occasion to raise awareness about food safety and quality also in connection with the 5th celebration of World Food Safety Day;
- encouraged all Members and observers to use the opportunity of the 60th Anniversary to plan and implement activities to build awareness of Codex and to engage high level political support for Codex work;
- requested the Codex Secretariat in cooperation with FAO, WHO, the Chairperson and Vice-Chairpersons of the Commission and CCEXEC (including the Regional Coordinators) to reach out to all Members and observers in their preparations for the 60th anniversary and provide regular reports; and
- to include the 60th Anniversary on the agenda of the next sessions of the CCEXEC and CAC45 which would be the final session before the 60th anniversary session.

**Proposal for the development of a Codex standard for yeast**

The Coordinator for Asia introduced the topic recalling the wide applications of yeast worldwide, and requested guidance regarding which Codex Committee could undertake the proposed new work on yeast since such a product fell outside of the ToR of existing Committees. It was clarified that although yeast may be used to produce alcoholic beverages, this was excluded from the scope of the new work proposal. It was also suggested that the work proposal consider the revision of the GFSA Category 12.8 on yeast and yeast products to include yeast containing cultures for kefir in the Standard for Fermented milks (CXS 243-2003) and to note that ISO was beginning work on microbial food cultures including yeast and that such work be considered by Codex moving forward.

The Chairperson recalled the recommendation of the Codex Secretariat at CCEXEC81 that a discussion paper on the development of a standard for yeast be presented at the next session of CCFA, which could then take a decision accordingly.

CAC44 endorsed this approach.

**Dr Claude Mosha, 15th Chairperson of the Codex Alimentarius Commission**

CAC44 recalled the recent passing of Dr Mosha and reflected on his life and service to Codex. The Chairperson reminded CAC44 of his unwavering commitment and deep passion for Codex and food safety, and that he would be remembered for his hard work, dedication, astute leadership, and positivity, and for his mentoring of the next generation of Codex supporters in Africa.

**Thanking the outgoing Chairperson and Vice-Chairpersons**

CAC44 expressed deep appreciation to the outgoing Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson of the Commission for their dedication and excellent contribution to the work of Codex, including through the very special and challenging time of the COVID-19 pandemic.