



🕒 **29 July 2022**
12:00 – 13:30 CEST

45th Session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC45)

Information note

Background

At the recent 82nd session of the Executive Committee of the Codex Alimentarius Commission (CEXEC82)¹ Members expressed the wish to be informed as soon as possible of the proposed arrangements for the 45th session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC45).

Planned format for CAC45

General considerations

In light of the request of CAC44 that “*all tools, including voting, are at the disposal of CAC45*”² and recent approaches of FAO and WHO, it is expected that CAC45 be held as a physical in-person session.

Pursuant to Rule VI (1) of the Rules of Procedure of the Codex Alimentarius Commission and bearing in mind that the last physical session of the Commission (CAC42) was convened at WHO Headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland, CAC45 will be held at FAO Headquarters in Rome.

Members are expected to plan for at least one member of their delegation to attend in-person.

However, it is acknowledged that the international travel situation remains complex and virtual meetings have increased inclusivity in Codex since 2020. To maintain these high levels of inclusivity members will have the option for additional delegates to participate through virtual means.

The applicable Rules on the composition of delegations allow Members to include any person to their delegation, including nationals from other countries. The only limitation that applies is that no delegate to CAC45 can also be included in the CAC45 delegation of another Member.

This means that members who cannot travel to Rome could exercise their voting rights by including a person already based in Rome on their delegation or a person that has the opportunity to travel to Rome for the purpose of voting (e.g. from their diplomatic Representation in a nearby city or country).

1 <https://www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/sh-proxy/en/?lnk=1&url=https%253A%252F%252Fworkspace.fao.org%252Fsites%252Fcodex%252FMeetings%252FCX-702-82%252FFinal%252520Report%252FFinal%2BReport%2Bof%2BEXEC82.pdf>

2 REP21/CAC, par. 29 (vii).

Dates and times

Monday 21 to Friday 25 November 2022 for plenary discussions (in-person with option for virtual participation) and 12-13 December 2022 for report adoption (virtual only – see 2.3).

10:00 to 13:00 and 15:00 to 18:00. (CET) each day, with a health break during each session.

Location

Plenary Hall, FAO Headquarters, Rome. Overflow: Green and Red Rooms, FAO Headquarters, Rome for plenary discussions with virtual participation through the Zoom-based videoconferencing platform. Report adoption would be by virtual participation only on 12 and 13 December 2022, subject to approval of the Members at the beginning of CAC45.

Delegations may also opt to participate partly virtually, i.e. with representatives present in-person and others attending virtually through the Zoom-based videoconferencing platform.

In-person participation

In line with the COVID-19 prevention measures currently in place in FAO, in-person participation in the Plenary Hall is limited to one representative from each Member. Members are able to rotate their chosen representatives over the duration of the meeting on a daily basis, with the Green and Red Rooms available for an additional representative from each Member.

Due to space limitations related to health and safety measures only virtual participation is currently available to Observers.

Health and safety measures – such as a minimum distance between participants – must be observed pursuant to FAO protocols. More specific details on the COVID-19 safety measures applicable at the CAC45 venue will be provided in due course. In case of any changes to FAO protocols due to the evolution of the COVID-19 pandemic, Members and Observers will be informed as soon as possible.

Virtual participation

Participation of Member delegates and Observer delegations wishing to follow the sessions virtually is ensured through the dedicated Zoom platform. Participants connected virtually are responsible for the quality of their connection. If participants lose connectivity during the meeting, they are required to inform the secretariat accordingly.

To prevent technical issues during the virtual meeting, participants are strongly encouraged to familiarize themselves with the guidance available on the Codex Information for Delegates webpage³.

Management of Interventions

Interventions will be managed in the order in which delegations request the floor, irrespective of whether the Member of the delegation is present in the room in person or virtually.

Voting

Considering that CAC45 will be held physically in Rome, the three standard voting options are available as provided for in Rule XII of the General Rules of FAO.

These are as follows:

- a. The default method of voting would be a vote by show of hands, conducted through the electronic voting system in the Plenary Hall of FAO. The votes of each member are not included in the report of the Session;
- b. If one or more Members so request, a nominal vote would be conducted. A nominal vote is similar to a roll-call vote, except that it is held through the electronic voting system. The votes of each Member in a roll-call vote would be reflected in the record of the meeting.
- c. A secret ballot could be held if the Commission so determines.

Information event

An information event aimed at addressing any questions you may have regarding the format of CAC45 will be held on 29 July at 12:00 to 13:30 CEST. To join the event please register [here](#).

