Dear CCNFSDU Delegates,

We are delighted to welcome you to the 44th session of the Codex Committee on Nutrition and Foods for Special Dietary Uses (CCNFSDU), hosted by Germany in the historical city of Dresden. Serving as Co-Chairpersons of CCNFSDU this year, we are both very much looking forward to your active engagement and your willingness to jointly strive for consensus.

By way of introduction: Martine will be chairing the Committee for the second time. With previous professional experience mainly in bilateral trade negotiations and capacity building, she attaches great importance to international standardisation and global consensus-building in food safety. Her current focus is on supporting CCNFSDU in setting future work topics. She has a background in law. For Carolin, a food chemist by training, it will be the first time serving as Co-Chairperson. She has familiarized herself with the Committee and its work in her previous capacity as a member of both the German and European Union delegations to CCNFSDU and will contribute her scientific expertise to make the meeting a success.

For this session, we are especially committed to assisting the Committee in defining a new work mechanism, as per the mandate received from CCEXEC in 2018, as well as its future work priorities. As agreed at CCNFSDU43, all existing CCNFSDU standards are currently being screened for need of revision. In this respect, we would like to thank all those colleagues working on identifying standards requiring revision and those who have chaired and contributed to the different electronic working groups. Secondly, we wish to advance the General Principles for the establishment of NRVs-R for persons aged 6 to 36 months during this session.

This year will mark the return of CCNFSDU to a fully in-person meeting, including the report adoption. Our plenary session will be preceded by two days of physical working group meetings on the Committee’s new work and its Guideline as well as on the establishment of General Principles of NRVs-R for persons aged 6 to 36 month, to be held on 30 September and 1 October 2024 respectively. Consequently, the plenary will be opened on Tuesday, 2 October 2024, and the report adoption will conclude the session on Sunday, 6 October, 2024. We strongly encourage you to arrive in Dresden in time to actively participate in the physical working group meetings.

The pWGs as well as the session will be webcast live in listening mode only, without any possibility for delegates to intervene or participate in the deliberations taking place there. Kindly note that you should register in the Online Registration System via your Codex Contact Point only if you intend to attend in person in Dresden. Early registration is encouraged, especially to proceed to visa application if necessary.

All documents will be made available on the CCNFSDU44 webpage on the Codex website, which we invite you to check regularly. Interpretation from and into the Committee working languages will be available in English, French, Spanish and German, including for the abovementioned pWGs.

The Information Notes for Delegates also offer guidance pertaining to your visit to Dresden.

Should there be anything you wish to discuss or on which you require further information, we are available at ccnfsdu@bvl.bund.de or codex@fao.org.

We look forward to a fruitful 44th session of the CCNFSDU and to seeing you in person this autumn in Dresden.

Yours sincerely,

Martine Püster and Dr. Carolin Bendadani