

# CODEx ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION



Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations



World Health  
Organization

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## JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME CODEX COMMITTEE ON CONTAMINANTS IN FOODS

15th Session

Virtual

9-13 and 24 May 2022

### Opening remark by Mr Steve Wearne, the Chairperson of the Codex Alimentarius Commission

Distinguished representatives of FAO and WHO, Madame Chairperson, Codex secretariat colleagues, distinguished delegates – good morning, good afternoon and good evening to you all.

It is my great pleasure and honour to be here in Utrecht, the Netherlands with the Chairperson and host country secretariat and to address you briefly at the opening of this, the fifteenth session of CCCF. Warmest wishes to you all from me and from vice-chairpersons Allan Azegele, Diego Varela and Raj Rajasekar, all of whom are registered to participate in this meeting. We are keen to demonstrate our continuing commitment to work in the service of the Codex membership, ensuring we are close to members, to committees and committee chairs, so that we understand your issues and the debates and can help guide the Codex family through them.

Our work continues to be facilitated by our virtual working environment and our continuing adaptation to it. It has allowed greater levels of participation by members in our discussions, contributing to enhanced transparency and collaboration. We must retain these benefits, which are vital for a vibrant and inclusive Codex.

But as we look forward, we should also ensure that we nurture, renew and grow the personal and professional relationships, and the opportunities for informal discussion, that characterise the Codex family when working at its best. We will be discussing this topic at the Codex Executive Committee next month, before wider discussions with the Codex membership. The experience of this Committee will be key – you are the first to meet for a second time virtually and I am keen to hear your reflections on this session and how it has developed from the previous virtual session. I look forward to discussing with your Chairperson and host country secretariat throughout this week how, as part of our continuing adaptation, together we can ensure that this Committee goes from strength to strength.

As we turn now to the agenda for CCCF15, I want to record the appreciation of current and past chairpersons and vice-chairpersons of the Commission for all the work undertaken by this committee and its working groups to develop standards and texts and prepare for their adoption.

I recognise the appetite there is across many delegations to move forward the standards for environmental- and mycotoxins at this session and also the active engagement in the pre-session working groups on the future work programme of the committee. I applaud this appetite for advancement of consensus-driven and science-based standards and texts, and for the continued strong contribution of this committee to the overall work programme of Codex Alimentarius, in the interests of Codex and the people everywhere that our work will protect.

Thank you, Madame Chairperson.