

codex alimentarius commission



FOOD AND AGRICULTURE
ORGANIZATION
OF THE UNITED NATIONS

WORLD
HEALTH
ORGANIZATION



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Agenda Item 3

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JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME FAO/WHO COORDINATING COMMITTEE FOR AFRICA

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COMMENTS ON THE “PROPOSED DRAFT AFRICAN REGIONAL GUIDELINES FOR CODEX CONTACT POINTS AND NATIONAL CODEX COMMITTEES”

SOUTH AFRICA

South Africa appreciates the opportunity to comment and wishes to extend our support for the document. There are, however, a few amendments which we would like to propose.

Introduction

Third paragraph: It is the understanding that not only Codex standards, but all texts elaborated by Codex are regarded as reference points and thus in order to reflect this, we suggest that the **second sentence** be amended to read as follows:

“Codex standards **and other texts** are now regarded as the **international reference points** by the World Trade Organisation (WTO) and are also being adopted by many countries as minimum food standards.”

Functions of the Codex Contact Point

It is proposed that an additional function be added to read as follows:

“(f) establishing a website (or webpage within an existing website) for the promotion of Codex activities.

Renumber the rest of the text accordingly.

NATIONAL CODEX COMMITTEE

COMPOSITION AND STRUCTURE

It is our view that the rotation of the chairperson is too prescriptive and may not always be practical. Each committee should make its own rules of operation including the chairpersonship, which includes the frequency of electing the chairperson. We would thus propose that the wording be rephrased to read:

“The position of the chairperson **may** be rotational, maybe on a two-year term.”

NOMINATION TO THE NATIONAL CODEX COMMITTEE

Second bullet point, correct “continuos” to read “continuous”.

GHANA

Ghana has no serious objections to the provisions made in the guideline document. It therefore endorses the paper to proceed to the next step.