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# codex alimentarius commission



FOOD AND AGRICULTURE  
ORGANIZATION  
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**Agenda Item 3**

**CX/GP 09/25/3**

## JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME CODEX COMMITTEE ON GENERAL PRINCIPLES

### Twenty-fifth Session

Paris, France, 30 March to 3 April 2009

#### PROPOSED DRAFT REVISED CODE OF ETHICS FOR INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN FOODS

**Note by the Secretariat:** The text was reproduced from the report of the 24<sup>th</sup> Session of the Committee (see ALINORM 07/30/33, Appendix IX).

**PROPOSED DRAFT CODE OF ETHICS FOR INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN FOOD**  
**(AT STEP 3)**

**ARTICLE 1 - OBJECTIVE**

1.1 The objective of this Code is to establish principles for the ethical conduct of international trade in food, thereby protecting the health of the consumers and ensuring fair practices in the food trade.

**ARTICLE 2 - SCOPE**

2.1 This Code applies to all food introduced into international trade<sup>1</sup>

2.2 This Code establishes principles of ethical conduct to be applied by all those concerned with international trade in food.

**ARTICLE 3 - PRINCIPLES**

3.1 International trade in food should be conducted on the principle that all consumers are entitled to safe, sound and wholesome food and to protection from unfair trade practices.

3.2 No food (including re-exported food) should be in international trade which<sup>2</sup>:

- a) has in or upon it any substance in an amount which renders it poisonous, harmful or otherwise injurious to health; or
- b) consists in whole or in part of any filthy, putrid, rotten, decomposed or diseased substance or foreign matter, or is otherwise unfit for human consumption; or
- c) is adulterated; or
- d) is labelled or presented in a manner that is false, misleading or deceptive; or
- e) is prepared, packaged, stored, transported or marketed under unsanitary conditions.

**ARTICLE 4 – REQUIREMENTS FOR FOOD IN INTERNATIONAL TRADE**

Food that is traded internationally should conform:

- a) to the requirements of Codex Alimentarius Commission's relevant standards and related texts; or
- b) to such food legislation as may be in force in the exporting and/or importing country; food standards and safety requirements of importing countries should be transparent and available to exporting countries; or
- c) to the provisions contained, regarding food, in bilateral or multilateral agreements signed by the exporting country and the importing country; or
- d) in the absence of such provisions, to such standards and requirements as may be agreed upon, taking into account the provisions of Codex Standards and related texts wherever possible.

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<sup>1</sup> It is understood that the principles of this code should also apply, *mutatis mutandi*, to concessional and food aid transactions.

<sup>2</sup> The provisions of Article 3.2 do not prevent the export of raw or semi processed foods which are not edible as such in order to be further processed, re-processed or reconditioned in the importing country for the purpose of human consumption.