

CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



World Health
Organization

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Agenda Items 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, and 10

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JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME

CODEX COMMITTEE ON FOOD ADDITIVES

Fifty-Fifth Session

COMMENTS OF Panama

Panama appreciates the work done and the opportunity to participate in this meeting. We value the effort and dedication of all members in preparing the documents and managing the topics discussed. We are committed to advancing regulations that impact the safety and quality of food products, and we hope this meeting will be an opportunity to strengthen our strategies and collaborate in the continuous improvement of international standards.

Agenda item 2

Panama agrees with the issues raised by the Subsidiary Bodies, as well as the documents submitted by the various Codex Committees for review.

Agenda item 3

JECFA conducted its last evaluation in 2006, establishing an Acceptable Daily Intake (ADI). A subsequent re-evaluation in 2018 confirmed these conclusions, indicating that no adjustments were necessary and that dietary exposure did not pose any health risks. Therefore, Panama does not consider a new study necessary in the near future.

Although the FDA's decision was not based on new scientific evidence, this measure will significantly impact all countries that export to the United States, creating the need to reformulate products to comply with this regulation.

Regarding "ultra-processed" foods, caution must be exercised when proposing a new definition to encompass this concept. Currently, the approach is unclear, and some examples create confusion when differentiating between processed and ultra-processed foods. This affects the entire food industry, potentially affecting food safety and generating uncertainty among consumers.

For Panama, the publication of the LSSS-related guideline is of great importance, as it will contribute to the development of health policies aimed at combating noncommunicable diseases.

Regarding the elimination of trans fatty acids, our country is still working together with the industry to achieve this goal so that our consumers can purchase healthier options in the future.

Agenda item 4

Panama supports the review of maximum doses and the harmonization of provisions, provided they are based on updated toxicological data and risk assessments that take into account cumulative exposure.

Panama also expresses its compliance with the provisions of Section 8 of the Lulo de Castilla standard regarding food additives.

Agenda item 5

Panama supports the updates to the NGAA, highlighting the importance of establishing clear criteria for the evaluation of new additives, as well as for the review of those with concerns, supported by solid scientific evidence.

Agenda item 6

Panama believes the system should be transparent and periodically updated to reflect changes in the classification and use of additives.

Agenda item 8

Panama supports the advancement of this standard, highlighting its importance in ensuring the quality and safety of basic products.

Agenda item 10

Panama proposes including in future work the evaluation of additives with a history of toxicological concern and their impact on public health.