

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 FOOD LABELLING

Forty-ninth Session

Ottawa, Canada

11 – 15 May 2026

MATTERS OF INTEREST FROM FAO AND WHO

Comments by Burundi, Kenya and United Republic of Tanzania

Burundi

Burundi takes note of the matters of interest arising from FAO and WHO, particularly the Ad hoc Joint FAO/WHO Expert Consultation on Risk Assessment of Food Allergens and the ongoing update of nutrient requirements for infants and young children from birth to 3 years of age. The region recognizes the critical importance of this scientific work in protecting consumer health, preventing allergen-related risks, and addressing malnutrition among infants and young children.

Burundi reaffirms that FAO/WHO scientific advice remains the foundation of Codex standard-setting and underscores the importance of targeted capacity-building and technical support for developing countries to facilitate effective uptake and implementation of such guidance, including ongoing work on nutrient profile models.

With respect to commodity-specific standards, Burundi supports the endorsement of labelling provisions advanced by the relevant Codex subsidiary bodies, including those relating to fresh fruits and vegetables, regional products such as quick frozen dumplings, spices and culinary herbs, and microbial omega-3 oils, where such provisions are consistent with the General Standard for the Labelling of Prepackaged Foods (GSLPF) and established Codex precedent.

Burundi further emphasizes the need for clarity, consistency, and practical enforceability in mandatory declarations, particularly that the “name of the product” should remain the principal labelling requirement in line with the GSLPF, while avoiding overly prescriptive mandatory use of trade names where common names may sufficiently identify the product. This approach promotes consumer understanding, legal certainty, and ease of implementation across diverse markets.

Kenya

Kenya takes note of the matters of interest arising from FAO and WHO, particularly the Ad hoc Joint FAO/WHO Expert Consultation on Risk Assessment of Food Allergens and the ongoing update of nutrient requirements for infants and young children from birth to 3 years of age. Kenya recognizes the critical importance of this scientific work in protecting consumer health, preventing allergen-related risks, and addressing malnutrition among infants and young children.

Kenya reaffirms that FAO/WHO scientific advice remains the foundation of Codex standard-setting and underscores the importance of targeted capacity-building and technical support for developing countries to facilitate effective uptake and implementation of such guidance, including ongoing work on nutrient profile models.

United Republic of Tanzania

The United Republic of Tanzania (URT) takes note of the matters of interest arising from FAO and WHO, particularly the Ad hoc Joint FAO/WHO Expert Consultation on Risk Assessment of Food Allergens and the ongoing update of nutrient requirements for infants and young children from birth to 3 years of age. The United Republic of Tanzania recognizes the critical importance of this scientific work in protecting consumer health, preventing allergen-related risks, and addressing malnutrition among infants and young children.

The United Republic of Tanzania reaffirms that FAO/WHO scientific advice remains the foundation of Codex standard-setting and underscores the importance of targeted capacity-building and technical support for developing countries to facilitate effective uptake and implementation of such guidance, including ongoing work on nutrient profile models.

With respect to commodity-specific standards, the United Republic of Tanzania supports the endorsement of labelling provisions advanced by the relevant Codex subsidiary bodies, including those relating to fresh fruits and vegetables, regional products such as quick frozen dumplings, spices and culinary herbs, and microbial omega-3 oils, where such provisions are consistent with the General Standard for the Labelling of Prepackaged Foods (GSLPF) and established Codex precedent.

The URT further emphasizes the need for clarity, consistency, and practical enforceability in mandatory declarations, particularly that the “name of the product” should remain the principal labelling requirement in line with the GSLPF, while avoiding overly prescriptive mandatory use of trade names where common names may sufficiently identify the product. This approach promotes consumer understanding, legal certainty, and ease of implementation across diverse markets.