

CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



World Health
Organization

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Agenda Item 8

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JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME

CODEX COMMITTEE ON FOOD IMPORT AND EXPORT INSPECTION AND CERTIFICATION SYSTEMS

Twenty-seventh Session

DISCUSSION PAPER ON THE STANDARDIZATION OF SANITARY REQUIREMENTS

(Comments submitted by European Union, Ghana, Kenya, Nigeria, Rwanda, United Republic of Tanzania, and East African Community)

European Union

Mixed Competence European Union Vote

The European Union and its Member States (EUMS) support the continuity of the project.

A standard of this nature could help overcoming challenges associated with electronic certification, including non-unique requirements, repetitive information, and lack of consistency and transparency in communication. This could, in turn, improve food safety and simplifying and expediting clearance processes while maintaining the flexibility of countries to define specific requirements.

For clarity, the project document only addresses the development of a uniform codified way to present existing sanitary requirements in certificates. It does not focus on harmonisation of requirements itself, or the level of the terms agreed between importing and exporting countries.

Ghana

Position

Ghana supports the commencement of work on standardization of sanitary requirements.

Rationale:

The proposed new work will help to standardize sanitary requirements and develop a global standard for requirements that can be digitally processed, which would contribute to international food safety standards and facilitate trade.

Kenya

Position: Kenya appreciates the discussion paper prepared by Brazil with the assistance of Australia, New Zealand, Spain and the United States of America and Supports:

a) the proposal for the new work on the standardization of sanitary requirements as set out in the attached project document (Appendix I).

b) to establish an Electronic Working Group (EWG) to define the criteria and method to evaluate the existing requirements to propose the taxonomy and ontology on the standardization to represent sanitary requirements that can be applied to any type of product.

Nigeria

Nigeria welcomes and appreciates the work by Brazil with the assistance of Australia, New Zealand, Spain and the United States of America) for preparing a discussion paper on the Standardization of Sanitary Requirements.

Nigeria also supports the establishment of an Electronic Working Group (EWG) to define the criteria and method to evaluate the existing requirements in order to propose the taxonomy and ontology on the standardization.

Rationale

It is a critical issue that facilitates trade, helps reduce rejections and improves certification system.

Rwanda

Rwanda supports the proposal for the new work on the standardization of sanitary requirements as set out in the project document in Appendix I

Tanzania

Position: TANZANIA appreciates the discussion paper prepared by Brazil with the assistance of Australia, New Zealand, Spain, and the United States of America and Supports:

a) The proposal for the new work on the standardization of sanitary requirements as set out in the attached project document (Appendix I) for CX/FICS 24/27/8.

b) to establish an Electronic Working Group (EWG) to define the criteria and method to evaluate the existing requirements to propose the taxonomy and ontology on the standardization to represent sanitary requirements that can be applied to any type of product.

Justification:

TANZANIA supports the proposal for NWI as this standardization will enable new processes to be designed and implemented based on data collection and reuse, private-public interoperability, and track and trace strategies. It will also enable to manage hundreds of certificate models that lead to errors and inefficient processes and controls. Thirdly it will assist countries that are having difficulties implementing the electronic certification systems mainly related to the incorporation of the eCERT document into the existing processes

East African Community

Position: EAC appreciates the discussion paper prepared by Brazil with the assistance of Australia, New Zealand, Spain, and the United States of America and Supports:

a) The proposal for the new work on the standardization of sanitary requirements as set out in the attached project document (Appendix I) for CX/FICS 24/27/8.

b) to establish an Electronic Working Group (EWG) to define the criteria and method to evaluate the existing requirements to propose the taxonomy and ontology on the standardization to represent sanitary requirements that can be applied to any type of product.

Justification:

EAC supports the proposal for NWI as this standardization will enable new processes to be designed and implemented based on data collection and reuse, private-public interoperability, and track and trace strategies. It will also enable to manage hundreds of certificate models that lead to errors and inefficient processes and controls. Thirdly it will assist countries that are having difficulties implementing the electronic certification systems mainly related to the incorporation of the eCERT document into the existing processes.