



**JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME**  
**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION**  
**Eighty-first Session**

**CRITICAL REVIEW - PART I<sup>1</sup>**

**1. Procedural background for the Critical Review**

1.1 According to the *Procedures for the Elaboration of Codex Standards and Related Texts Part 2*. Critical Review in the Codex Procedural Manual, “An on-going critical review shall ensure that proposals for new work and draft standards submitted to the Commission for adoption continue to meet the strategic priorities of the Commission and can be developed within a reasonable period of time, taking into account the requirements and availability of scientific expert advice”. Furthermore, “The Commission decides, taking into account the outcome of the ongoing critical review conducted by the Executive Committee, that a standard should be elaborated and also which subsidiary body or other body should undertake the work”.

1.2 In line with this, CCEXEC is invited to critically review the work of the committees, taking into account the recommendations of the Secretariat and the comments of the chairpersons to:

- Review standards and related texts submitted to the Commission for adoption;
- Monitor the progress of standards development;
- Review proposals for new work or revision of standards.

**2. Examining proposed standards before submission to the Commission for adoption**

The critical review process shall ensure that draft standards submitted to the Commission for adoption have been fully considered at Committee level. The Executive Committee examines proposed standards from Codex committees before they are submitted to the Commission for adoption:

- for consistency with the mandate of Codex, the decisions of the Commission, and existing Codex texts;
- to ensure that the requirements of the endorsement procedure have been fulfilled, where appropriate;
- for format and presentation; and
- for linguistic consistency.

**3. Monitoring progress of standards development**

3.1 The Executive Committee reviews the status of development of draft standards against the timeframe agreed by the Commission and shall report its findings to the Commission. CCEXEC may propose an extension of the timeframe; cancellation of work; or propose that the work be undertaken by a Committee other than the one to which it was originally entrusted, including via the establishment of a limited number of subsidiary bodies, if appropriate.

**3.2 *Criteria to facilitate the conduct of monitoring progress of standards development*<sup>2</sup>**

3.2.1 When progress on a standard is delayed due to the need for scientific advice, the Executive Committee could encourage FAO and WHO to schedule an expert consultation to provide such advice in a timely manner, and recommend suspension of work until such time as scientific advice became available;

3.2.2 When scientific advice has been provided and a standard has been under consideration for more than five years, the Executive Committee should urge the Committee concerned to take action within a specified timeframe;

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<sup>1</sup> This document addresses the Codex Committees that met during the first half of 2021

<sup>2</sup> CCEXEC58 (2006)

3.2.3 When an item has been considered for several sessions without any progress and there is no prospect of reaching consensus, the Executive Committee could propose suspension of work at a particular Step in the Elaboration Procedure for a specified period of time or discontinuation of work, or corrective action to be taken to achieve progress, fully taking into consideration the information provided by the subsidiary body concerned.

### 3.3 Discussion papers<sup>3</sup>

Discussion papers contribute to the workload of a committee and are important discussion tools for committees before requesting new work. A list of discussion papers is included for information purposes only, in order to present a complete view of the workload of each Committee, but will not be discussed as such.

## 4. Proposals to undertake new work or to revise a standard

4.1 Prior to approval for development, each proposal for new work or revision of a standard shall be accompanied by a project document, prepared by the Committee or Member proposing new work or revision of a standard. The decision to undertake new work or to revise standards shall be taken by the Commission taking into account a critical review conducted by CCEXEC.

4.2 The critical review includes:

- Examination of proposals for development/revisions of standards, taking into account the “*Criteria for the Establishment of Work Priorities*”, the strategic plan of the Commission, and the required supporting work of independent risk assessment;
- Identifying the standard setting needs of developing countries;
- Advice on the need for coordination of work between relevant Codex subsidiary bodies;
- Advice on establishment and dissolution of committees and task forces, including *ad hoc* cross-committee task forces (in areas where work falls within several committees); and
- Preliminary assessment of the need for expert scientific advice and the availability of such advice from FAO, WHO or other relevant expert bodies, and the prioritisation of that advice.

4.3 The decision to undertake new work or revision of individual maximum residue limits for pesticides or veterinary drugs, or the maintenance of the General Standard on Food Additives (including methods of analysis and sampling), the General Standard on Contaminants and Toxins in Food and Feed (including methods of analysis and sampling), the Food Categorization System and the International Numbering System, shall follow the procedures established by the Committees concerned and endorsed by the Commission.

## 5. Further development of the critical review

5.1 CCEXEC72<sup>4</sup> welcomed a new structure for the Critical Review which consisted of one document instead of three documents and also agreed for the information to be delivered in instalments to ensure timely availability. CCEXEC72 also indicated that it would be useful to have more information and insights from the Chairpersons on committee work and that the Secretariat give more guidance to the Chairpersons as to the inputs needed to allow CCEXEC to be more effective in the Critical Review. The importance of maintaining a horizontal view of the work of committees and the interactions between committees was highlighted.

5.2 A slightly revised structure for the critical review of the work in Codex committees was piloted for the review undertaken by CCEXEC77. The revised structure aimed at improving readability and giving more prominence and emphasis on information and insights from the Chairpersons. As the feedback on the revised structure has been positive, this structure is being maintained.

5.3 The Codex Secretariat has also examined the Critical Review as part of the ongoing regular review of Codex work management. Further information on this can be found in documents CX/EXEC 19/77/5 and CX/EXEC 20/78/4.

## 6. Structure of appendices

The work of the different Committee is addressed in separate appendices.

The structure of the appendices for each Committee is as follows:

1. General information on the Committee and Session
2. Overall comments (Secretariat / Chairperson)
3. Status of work items (Overview)
4. Specific comments on individual work items (Secretariat/Chairperson)

<sup>3</sup> CCEXEC63 (2009)

<sup>4</sup> CCEXEC72 (2016), REP17/EXEC1 paras. 7-14

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**7. List of appendices**

Appendix 1: Codex Committee on General Principles (CCGP32)

Appendix 2: Codex Committee on Spices and Culinary Herbs (CCSCH5)

Appendix 3: Codex Committee on Contaminants in Foods (CCCF14)

Appendix 4: Codex Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling (CCMAS41)

Appendix 5: Codex Committee on Food Import and Export Inspection and Certification Systems (CCFICS25)

## Appendix 1

## 1. General

<b>Committee</b>	<b>Codex Committee on General Principles (CCGP32)</b>		
<b>Host</b>	France	<b>Chairperson</b>	Dr. Jean-Luc Angot
<b>Session reported on</b>	CCGP32	8-17 February 2021	
<b>Next Session</b>	CCGP33	TBC	
<b>Report</b>	<u>REP21/GP</u>		

## 2. Overall comments

**Secretariat's comments:**

CCGP32 was the first ever virtual session of a technical Codex committee. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the session had been postponed from the originally scheduled dates in March 2020. CCGP32 was successfully conducted as a virtual session and had high participation, both in number of delegations and number of participants. The session was constructive and productive as all agenda items were thoroughly discussed and consensually concluded. CCGP32 agreed to forward the draft Procedural Guidance for Committees Working by Correspondence (CWBC) to CAC44 for adoption and inclusion in the Codex Procedural Manual (PM), preferably in section III. Furthermore, CCGP32 supported that the Codex Secretariat would prepare a document for the next session of CAC for possible referral to CCGP indicating the amendments to the *Guide to the Procedure for the Amendment and Revision of Codex Standards and Related Texts*. Also, CCGP32 agreed that the Codex Secretariat proceed with the development of a digital version of the PM, which would be made available for testing and review by the Members before being published online. Regarding the discussion papers on monitoring the use of Codex standards and monitoring Codex results in the context of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), CCGP32 agreed to forward its considerations and discussions to the CCEXEC Strategic Planning subcommittee and CAC for further guidance/consideration, respectively.

**Chairperson's comments:**

CCGP32 was the first Codex subsidiary body to re-start work through plenary session after the interruption due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The fact that this session was also the first virtual meeting of a Codex subsidiary body, and that it was able to finalize the Procedural Guidance for CWBC and recommend its adoption by the CAC, was a positive signal reassuring that Codex is able to fulfill its mandate, even in the most challenging situations.

CCGP32 allowed for in-depth procedural work, that showed strong interest from the whole Codex working community. It initiated a way forward to update the Procedural Manual in order to make sure that Codex procedures offer a diversity of options to manage its work with flexibility, and in accordance with the Codex core values of inclusiveness, participation and consensus-building. Further consideration that might occur, e.g. with the assessment of the *Guide to the Procedure for the Amendment and Revision of Codex Standards and Related Texts*, could build on this constructive approach. I am confident that CCGP will also support any future effort to take into account lessons learnt from the COVID-19 crisis.

The virtual setting was overall appropriate. Even if everybody missed the friendliness and pleasure of being together, CCGP32 was, in my view, a very inclusive, and productive session.

**3. Status of work items**

Topic	Recommendation of the Committee
<b>For decision by the Commission</b>	
1. Draft Procedural Guidance for Committees working by Correspondence	Adoption and inclusion in the Codex Procedural Manual
2. Process for amendments to the <i>Guide to the Procedure for the Amendment and Revision of Codex Standards and Related Texts</i>	Document to be prepared by the Codex Secretariat for CAC44 followed by possible referral to CCGP
<b>For information</b>	
3. Development of a digital version of the Codex Procedural Manual	Should be made available for testing and review by the Members before being published online
4. Discussion paper on monitoring the use of Codex standards	Forward the considerations of CCGP to the CCEXEC Strategic Planning subcommittee and CAC for further guidance
5. Discussion paper on monitoring Codex results in the context of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)	Forward the results of CCGP's discussions to the CCEXEC Strategic Planning subcommittee and CAC for consideration

**4. Specific comments**

<b>1. Draft Procedural Guidance for Committees working by Correspondence, paragraph 23, Appendix II</b>
<b>Secretariat's comments:</b>  The Electronic Working Group (EWG) had progressed very well the work following CCGP31 and had effectively used the additional time available due to the postponement of CCGP32 to further advance the work and ensure that the delay in convening CCGP32 did not negatively impact on progress. Constructive and efficient work during CCGP32 ensured that the draft guidance document could be forwarded for adoption. The format and presentation as well as language is according to the Codex style, and the Legal Offices of FAO and WHO have undertaken a review. CCGP32 agreed to forward the draft Procedural Guidance for Committees working by Correspondence (Appendix II of REP21/GP) to CAC44 for adoption and inclusion in the Codex Procedural Manual (PM), preferably in section III.
<b>Chairperson's comments:</b>  In close cooperation with the chair and co-chairs of the EWG, an interactive drafting process took place during the plenary and built on the very good work achieved within the EWG.  The virtual setting allowed for informal discussions between the plenary sessions. This facilitated the refinement of the original text, resulting in achieving consensus on the Draft procedural Guidance for CWBC. The Legal offices of FAO and WHO will propose CAC44 guidance regarding the inclusion of the latter within the Procedural Manual.  I thus see this work as completed, but discussions within the EWG, reiterated during the plenary, indicated that delegates are questioning the need to check, and possibly, to update, Codex procedural rules, to allow the soft running of virtual meetings. The content and format of the Draft procedural guidance for CWBC could be a useful basis for such discussions.
<b>2. Document to be prepared by the Codex Secretariat on Amendments to the <i>Guide to the Procedure for the Amendment and Revision of Codex Standards and Related Texts</i>, paragraph 27</b>
<b>Secretariat's comments:</b>  CCGP32 welcomed the document prepared by the Codex Secretariat and expressed willingness to continue working on this topic following agreement of the Commission and referral to CCGP. Delegations also highlighted the need to see examples of different cases in order to better understand the implication of the limited changes that the Secretariat proposed to the procedure. CCGP32 supported the preparation of a

document indicating the amendments to the *Guide to the Procedure for the Amendment and Revision of Codex Standards and Related Texts*, by the Codex Secretariat, including examples for the different changes and workflows, and the version numbering and history, taking into account the comments made at CCGP32, for the next session of CAC for possible referral to CCGP.

**Chairperson's comments:**

Discussions during CCGP32 showed overall interest for the Codex Secretariat's effort towards the clarification of the *Guide to the Procedure for the Amendment and Revision of Codex Standards and Related Texts*. The document prepared for CCGP32 received positive appreciation and a technical assessment could take place at CAC44 to decide on the need to undertake changes to the Guide.

**3. Development of a digital version of the Codex Procedural Manual, paragraph 33**

**Secretariat's comments:**

CCGP32 appreciated the proposal by the Codex Secretariat of having a digital, user-friendly version of the PM and noted that the Codex Secretariat would present a document to CAC44 on possible changes to the PM to improve the consistency and clarity of the text. Following the agreement of CCGP32, the Codex Secretariat is proceeding with the development of a digital version of the PM, and as requested this will be made available for testing and review by the Members before being published online.

**Chairperson's comments:**

CCGP32 showed special interest for the publication of an online version of the PM, as long as the "old" pdf version remains available, and that the content remains unchanged.

**4. Discussion paper on monitoring the use of Codex standards, paragraph 39**

**Secretariat's comments:**

The extensive discussion on this paper in CCGP32 led to delegations raising points on the challenges and opportunities associated with monitoring the use of Codex standards. CCGP32 noted the interest of Members in the issue and the need to "increase impact through the recognition and use of Codex standards" at national level as articulated in the Codex Strategic Plan 2020-2025. It also acknowledged the experience of other standard-setting organizations and encouraged further exchanges with them and agreed to forward the considerations of CCGP to the CCEXEC Strategic Planning subcommittee and CAC for further guidance.

**Chairperson's comments:**

CCGP32 hosted a great discussion on monitoring the use of Codex standards. The extent and possible diversity of "uses" of Codex standard was recognized as an important topic, but there were diverging views about the relevant forum to gather data and generate information. This agenda item also proved great cooperation between Codex and other international organizations. Specific considerations, especially regarding the gap between resources and needs in terms of technology and resources, will be useful for the work of the Strategic Planning subcommittee.

**5. Discussion paper on monitoring Codex results in the context of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), paragraph 46**

**Secretariat's comments:**

CCGP32 acknowledged the importance of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs and the contribution of Codex work to country efforts in achieving the SDGs, and highlighted the importance of ensuring visibility and awareness of Codex work in this context. It was also noted that the annual reporting by the Codex Secretariat to the High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF), which the Codex Secretariat will continue to do, and the recent publication on Codex and the SDGs, fulfilled the recommendations of CCEXEC74 to the Secretariat and provided Members with information and case studies for use in their national advocacy efforts regarding Codex and the SDGs. The Secretariat has noted that these efforts could be complemented with further case studies related to the contribution of Codex standards to the SDGs. CCGP32 agreed to forward the results of its discussions to the CCEXEC Strategic Planning subcommittee and CAC for consideration.

**Chairperson's comments:**

This agenda item was a great opportunity to raise awareness among the Codex working community, in an inclusive forum, about the efforts in progress at the UN level. I think this was especially timely in the road between the 2019' conferences on food safety in Addis and in Geneva, and the 2021 UN Food system summit. The plenary welcomed with appreciation the presentation by the Codex secretariat on the work it realizes on the monitoring of Codex results in the context of the SDG, as well as the recent publication on Codex and the SDGs.

## Appendix 2

## 1. General

<b>Committee</b>	<b>Codex Committee on Spices and Culinary Herbs (CCSCH)</b>		
<b>Host</b>	India	<b>Chairperson</b>	Dr MR Sudharshan
<b>Session reported on</b>	CCSCH5	20-29 April 2021	
<b>Next Session</b>	CCSCH6	October 2022	
<b>Report</b>	<u>REP21/SCH</u>		

## 2. Overall comments

**Secretariat's comments:**

CCSCH5 was the first ever virtual session of a Codex commodity committee. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the session had been postponed from the originally scheduled time, April 2020. CCSCH5 was successfully conducted as a virtual session and had high participation, both in number of delegations and number of participants. The session was constructive and productive and despite a very full agenda and big workload, all agenda items were thoroughly discussed (both formally and informally through in-session virtual consultations) and consensually concluded. CCSCH5 agreed to forward to CAC44 four draft standards for final adoption, one draft standard for adoption at Step 5, and three items for approval as new work. Extension of the deadline for completion of the work was requested for three draft standards. The Committee has a big workload and the work on developing group standards as well as updating the template for group standards is therefore timely and useful as it will eventually help the work become more efficient. Concerns and food safety implications of including tolerances on excreta and insect fragments in spices and culinary herbs were expressed.

**Chairperson's comments:**

The progress of the committee has been satisfactory, the work is on track, and works proposed including the new works could be delivered in time. In a virtual environment the workload appears to be heavy, however spending some additional time out of Plenary in informal discussions helps in resolving sticky issues and covering the entire Agenda Items and achieve consensus. Wherever consensus could not be achieved, extension of time for completion of work has been requested. Some concerns have been raised regarding the tolerance limits prescribed for filth in Spices and Culinary Herbs, however the food safety aspects have been amply covered in the proposed standards. Overall accomplishment is good; out of five draft standards discussed, four have been recommended for adoption, and out of two proposed draft standards discussed, one is proposed for adoption at step 5. Three new work proposals have also been agreed upon. The lesson learnt is that the EWGs have to be encouraged to have at least one virtual meeting to resolve most of the outstanding issues before submitting the documents to the Plenary. This being the first virtual meeting of a commodity committee, ways and means have been found through in-session Working Groups and informal discussions to find compromises and resolve the issues, though it has been taxing for the delegates from the disadvantageous time zones. The provisions under Food Additives, Methods of Analysis and Food Labelling are being sent to relevant committees for endorsement. EWGs play a major role especially in the virtual mode, and it is desirable to encourage EWGs to have virtual meetings before finalising the drafts for the Plenary as this reduces time taken for discussion in the Plenary and helps make progress.

**3. Status of work items**

Topic	Job No	Target year	Recommendation of the Committee
<b>For decision by the Commission</b>			
1. Draft standard for dried oregano	N06-2014	2017/ 2021	Adoption at Step 8
2. Draft standard for dried roots, rhizomes and bulbs — dried or dehydrated ginger	N02-2017	2021	Adoption at Step 8
3. Draft standard for dried floral parts – dried cloves	N08-2017	2021	Adoption at Step 8
4. Draft standard for dried leaves - dried basil	N05-2017	2021	Adoption at Step 8
5. Draft standard for dried seeds - nutmeg	N07-2017	2021	Adoption at Step 5 Approval of extension of timeline
6. Proposal for new work on the development of a standard for small cardamom			Approval
7. Proposal for new work on the development of a standard for turmeric			Approval
8. Proposal for new work on the development of a group standard for spices in the form of dried fruits and berries (All spice, Juniper berry, Star anise and Vanilla)			Approval
9. Draft standard for saffron			Approval of extension of timeline
10. Draft standard for dried chilli peppers and paprika			Approval of extension of timeline
<b>For information</b>			
11. Template for group standards			Continue updating the template

**4. Specific comments**

<b>1. Draft standard for dried oregano, Para. 36 (I), Appendix II</b>
<b>Secretariat's comments:</b>
<p>The EWG had progressed very well the work following CCSC4, and had effectively used the additional time available due to the postponement of CCSC5 to further advance the work and ensure that the delay in convening CCSC5 did not negatively impact on progress. Constructive and efficient work during CCSC5 ensured that the draft standard, which had been on the Committee's agenda since 2015, could be forwarded for final adoption. A challenge had been to agree on the product definition of oregano, and the active use on informal virtual meetings during CCSC5 helped ensure that consensus could be reached. The format and presentation as well as language is according to Codex style. CCSC5 agreed to forward the draft standard to CAC44 for adoption at Step 8 and to forward for endorsement the provisions on labelling (Section 8.3 – Country of Origin and Country of Harvest) and methods for analysis and sampling to the Codex Committee on Food Labelling (CCFL) and Codex Committee on Methods for Analysis and Sampling (CCMAS), respectively. CCMAS41 endorsed the methods related to oregano at the session held in May 2021.</p>
<b>Chairperson's comments:</b>
<p>Oregano is one of the important Herbal Spice traded and consumed across the globe. This standard has been under the consideration of the Committee since 2<sup>nd</sup> Session. The current EWG did very good work in resolving many issues and the Plenary could achieve consensus after a round of informal consultations. Though the time lines have been extended twice, consensus was achieved and the standard could be sent</p>



for adoption at Step 8. Inclusion of more than one species under one trade name was an issue which was resolved in the current Session. Provisions under Food Labeling and the Methods of Analysis are being sent for endorsement by the relevant committees.

**2. Draft standard for dried roots, rhizomes and bulbs — dried or dehydrated ginger, paragraph 65 (I), Appendix III**

**Secretariat's comments:**

The EWG had progressed very well the work following CCSC4, and had effectively used the additional time available due to the postponement of CCSC5 to further advance the work and ensure that the delay in convening CCSC5 did not negatively impact on progress. Constructive and efficient work during CCSC5 helped ensure that consensus could be reached. The format and presentation as well as language is according to the Codex style. CCSC5 agreed to forward the draft standard to CAC44 for adoption at Step 8 and to forward for endorsement the revised provisions on food additives and labelling (Section 8.3 – Country of Origin and Country of Harvest) to CCFL and CCMAS, respectively.

**Chairperson's comments:**

Elaboration of this standard has been within the time frame prescribed. The EWG did good work and there were no contentious issues for the Plenary to resolve, however, use of Calcium Oxide and Sulphur Dioxide as processing aides had to be agreed upon by the committee. There was consensus CCSC5 which recommended the standard for dried or dehydrated ginger for adoption at Step 8. Provisions under Food Additives, Labelling and Methods of Analysis provisions are being sent to the relevant committees for endorsement.

**3. Draft standard for dried floral parts – dried cloves, paragraph 81 (I), Appendix IV**

**Secretariat's comments:**

The EWG had progressed very well the work following CCSC4, and had effectively used the additional time available due to the postponement of CCSC5 to further advance the work and ensure that the delay in convening CCSC5 did not negatively impact on progress. Constructive and efficient work during CCSC5 helped ensure that consensus could be reached. The format and presentation as well as language is according to the Codex style. CCSC5 agreed to forward the draft standard to CAC44 for adoption at Step 8 and to forward for endorsement the revised provisions on labelling (Section 8.3 – Country of Origin and Country of Harvest) and methods for analysis and sampling to CCFL and CCMAS, respectively.

**Chairperson's comments:**

Elaboration of this standard has been within the time frame prescribed. The EWG did good work and there were no contentious issues for the Plenary to resolve. There was consensus in CCSC5 which recommended the standard for Dried Cloves for adoption at Step 8. Labelling and Methods of Analysis provisions are being sent to the relevant committees for endorsement.

**4. Draft standard for dried leaves - dried basil, paragraph 115 (I), Appendix V**

**Secretariat's comments:**

The EWG had progressed very well the work following CCSC4, and had effectively used the additional time available due to the postponement of CCSC5 to further advance the work and ensure that the delay in convening CCSC5 did not negatively impact on progress. Constructive and efficient work during CCSC5 helped ensure that consensus could be reached. The format and presentation as well as language is according to the Codex style. CCSC5 agreed to forward the draft standard to CAC44 for adoption at Step 8 and to forward for endorsement the revised provisions on labelling (Section 8.3 – Country of Origin and Country of Harvest) and methods for analysis and sampling to CCFL and CCMAS, respectively.

**Chairperson's comments:**

Elaboration of the standard for Dried Basil has been within the time frame prescribed. The EWG did good work and there were no contentious issues for the Plenary to resolve. There was consensus in CCSC5 which recommended the standard for Dried Basil for adoption at Step 8. Labelling and Methods of Analysis provisions are being sent to the relevant committees for endorsement.

<p><b>5. Draft standard for dried seeds - nutmeg, paragraph 149, Appendix VI</b></p>
<p><b>Secretariat's comments:</b></p> <p>The EWG had progressed well the work following CCSCH4, and constructive and efficient work during CCSCH5, including the use of an informal in-session virtual meeting, helped ensure that consensus could be reached. CCSCH5 agreed that the draft standard be forwarded to CAC44 for adoption at Step 5 and the provisions on food additives, labelling, and methods for analysis and sampling be forwarded to CCFA, CCFL and CCMAS, respectively, for endorsement. Furthermore, an extension of the deadline for completion of the work until CCSCH6 was requested as the pandemic situation had slowed down the work. CCSCH5 agreed to re-establish an EWG, chaired by Indonesia and co-chaired by India, working in English, to consider those parameters or values in square brackets, taking into account the comments submitted at Step 6 as well as discussions at the current session.</p>
<p><b>Chairperson's comments:</b></p> <p>The EWG had series of pre-session consultations and submitted revised text for the consideration of Plenary. However, one round of in-session virtual meeting had to be held to further refine the proposed draft standard. Good progress was made in the Plenary also and the draft standard has been recommended for adoption at Step 5. Extension of the timeline is requested for completion of work until CCSCH 6 as a few values still remained in square brackets.</p>
<p><b>6. Proposal for new work on the development of a standard for small cardamom, paragraph 158, Appendix VII</b></p>
<p><b>Secretariat's comments:</b></p> <p>CCSCH4 had considered the new work proposal, but had due to its heavy workload declined to submit it to CAC for approval. An updated proposal was resubmitted to CCSCH5 by India and Iran. Considering the good progress made with other agenda items, CCSCH5 agreed to forward the new work proposal to CAC44 for approval. While this work is related to the group standard for spices in form of dried fruits and berries, CCSCH5 agreed that the work should continue in parallel and would be merged in the future.</p>
<p><b>Chairperson's comments:</b></p> <p>Small Cardamom is one of the important spices traded and consumed across the globe. It is important to elaborate a worldwide standard for this important spice. The EWG headed by India and Co-chaired by Iran is going to work on developing a proposed draft Standard after approval by CAC44. The work on group standard for spices in the form of dried fruits and berries is a new concept being taken up as a new work by the committee. If this progresses well, then the proposed draft standard on small cardamom could be merged at a future date.</p>
<p><b>7. Proposal for new work on the development of a standard for turmeric, paragraph 158, Appendix VIII</b></p>
<p><b>Secretariat's comments:</b></p> <p>CCSCH4 had considered the new work proposal, but had due to its heavy workload declined to submit it to CAC for approval. An updated proposal was resubmitted to CCSCH5 by India. Also Iran made a separate proposal for new work on turmeric. Considering the good progress made with other agenda items, CCSCH5 agreed to forward the proposal for new work on a standard for turmeric to CAC44 for approval.</p>
<p><b>Chairperson's comments:</b></p> <p>Turmeric is an important rhizomatous spice crop traded and consumed across the globe. Elaboration of a standard for this important spice is going to be taken up by the EWG headed by Iran and Co-chaired by India once it is approved by CAC 44.</p>
<p><b>8. Proposal for new work on the development of a group standard for spices in the form of dried fruits and berries (All spice, Juniper berry, Star anise and Vanilla), paragraph 158, Appendix IX</b></p>
<p><b>Secretariat's comments:</b></p> <p>There is an overall acknowledgement of and support for that the work of CCSCH is undertaken on the basis of grouping as this will help increase efficiency and expedite the work of the Committee. It was noted that spices and culinary herbs that do not fit into the identified groups could be elaborated as individual stand-alone standards and that spices that come under different denominations according to the regions could be excluded from the scope of the standard for spices. CCSCH5 agreed to forward the proposal for new work</p>

<p>on the development of a group standard for spices in the form of dried fruits and berries (All spice, Juniper berry, Star anise and Vanilla) to CAC44 for approval.</p>
<p><b>Chairperson's comments:</b></p> <p>The group standard format is going to be developed for the first time by the committee. There was consensus and good support for this work. As suggested by CAC, this work has been taken up in a phased manner and by prioritizing the group as well as the spices under each group. The first group standard proposed for elaboration is the spices in the form of dried fruits and berries. The EWG chaired by USA and co-chaired by India is going to work on this once CAC44 approves this new work.</p>
<p><b>9. Draft standard for saffron, paragraph 98</b></p>
<p><b>Secretariat's comments:</b></p> <p>The EWG had progressed well the work following CCSC4. Despite constructive work during CCSC5, including the use of an informal in-session virtual meeting, the draft standard could not be forwarded to CAC44 for final adoption at Step 8 as consensus could not be reached on a few issues, in particular whether declaration of country of harvest should be mandatory or optional and regarding the requirements for taste strength (picrocrocin) and coloring strength (crocin). The draft standard was held at Step 7, while some sections, including the labelling section, was returned to Step 6 for redrafting. Furthermore, an extension of the deadline to for completion of the work to CCSC6 was requested since the pandemic situation had slowed down the work.</p>
<p><b>Chairperson's comments:</b></p> <p>The EWG on Saffron made good progress. The draft standard was discussed in the plenary as well as in the informal meetings more than once, however consensus could not be reached on whether the country of harvest should be mandatory or optional and regarding the values for chemical characteristics and classification of saffron. Hence the committee agreed to withhold the draft at step 7 and send some sections where consensus could not be reached to step 6 for further consultations and redrafting. This has also necessitated extension of the timeline for the completion of work until CCSC 6. Re-drafting work shall be taken up by the EWG chaired by Iran and co-chaired by Greece once it is approved by CAC44.</p>
<p><b>10. Draft standard for chilli peppers and paprikas, paragraph 131</b></p>
<p><b>Secretariat's comments:</b></p> <p>The EWG had progressed well the work following CCSC4 and constructive discussions took place at CCSC5. As there were still a number of unresolved, issues including physical and chemical parameters, CSCH5 agreed to return the draft standard to step 2/3 and to establish an EWG, chaired by India and working in English only, to redraft the document taking into account comments submitted at the session for circulation for comments at Step 3. Furthermore, an extension of the deadline to for completion of the work to CCSC6 was requested since the pandemic situation had slowed down the work.</p>
<p><b>Chairperson's comments:</b></p> <p>The EWG had made good progress and further refined the draft after an in-session working group meeting. However, there were a number of unresolved issues in the physical and chemical characteristics and hence the committee agreed to return the document for redrafting by an EWG chaired by India. This necessitates extension of the timeline for the completion of work until CCSC6.</p>
<p><b>11. Template for group standards, paragraph 159</b></p>
<p><b>Secretariat's comments:</b></p> <p>CCSC5 agreed that a small working group chaired by United States of America, assisted by Brazil, Ghana, India, Islamic Republic of Iran and United Kingdom, be tasked with revising the template for group standards taking into account the discussions held at CCSC5 and make recommendations to CCSC6 on the possible changes.</p>
<p><b>Chairperson's comments:</b></p> <p>CCSC5 agreed that a small working group chaired by United States of America, assisted by Brazil, Ghana, India, Islamic Republic of Iran, and United Kingdom, be tasked with revising the template for group standards taking into account the discussions held at CCSC5 and make recommendations to CCSC6.</p>

## Appendix 3

## 1. General

<b>Committee</b>	<b>Codex Committee on Contaminants in Foods (CCCF)</b>		
<b>Host</b>	The Netherlands	<b>Chairperson</b>	Ms. Sally Hoffer
<b>Session reported on</b>	CCCF14	3 - 13 May 2021	
<b>Next Session</b>	CCCF15	May 2022	
<b>Report</b>	<u>REP21/CF</u>		

## 2. Overall comments

**Secretariat's comments:**

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, CCCF14 had been postponed from the originally scheduled time, May 2020. The EWGs had effectively used the additional time available due to the postponement of CCCF14 to further advance the work and ensure that the delay in convening CCCF14 did not negatively impact on progress. CCCF14 was successfully conducted as a virtual session and had high participation, both in number of delegations and number of participants. The session was constructive and productive, and all agenda items were thoroughly discussed and consensually concluded within the time allocated to the plenary session, i.e. with no additional sessions to discuss items due to extensive coordination of work between the Codex Secretariat and the EWG Chairs besides the additional time available due to the postponement of the session. CCCF14 agreed to forward to CAC44 four MLs and a revised Codex of Practice for final adoption, a proposed Codex of Practice for adoption at Step 5, and two work items for approval as new work.

**Chairperson's comments:**

CCCF14 was conducted as a virtual session for the first time and proved to be fruitful, thanks to all the participants who, through their dedication and perseverance, contributed while weathering the COVID-19 pandemic period. The session was attended by 92 Member Countries, one Member Organization, and 32 observer organizations, with an increased attendance compared to CCCF13 (2019). However, we also faced challenges such as unstable connections, but we managed and had robust and efficient discussions throughout the session. The sessions and the adoption of the report were even finished within the limited time we set ourselves.

The MLs for cadmium in chocolates containing or declaring <30% total cocoa solids on a dry matter basis is a good example of a robust discussion within the Codex process. The CCCF has struggled for years with MLs for the category. In CCCF14, it became clear that there was a consensus in the committee to accept the MLs, and three of the Members (European Union, Norway and Egypt) reiterated their reservations. The Committee agreed to forward the MLs to CAC44 for adoption at step 8. This is exactly how the Codex process works and also the discussions and resolution reflected the passion those involved brought to the appropriate risk management for a public health concern and to the Codex procedure.

As for lessons learned, the Chair would like to emphasise that she values the efforts of new and inexperienced EWG chairpersons, which may have at first a lesser result from the work of the EWG, but who may have a more effective participation to CCCF after finalization of the work due to the whole experience. Also, always more experienced co-chairs are invited to work with inexperienced co-chairs of EWGs in order to keep the work on track. In addition, the strategy of the last years to develop discussion papers first with proposals for MLs or COPs before starting up new work has proven to be effective in advancing the work faster through the Step procedure.

Regarding the overall workload of the CCCF, the Host Country secretariat has performed an analysis of previous work of the Committee and has come to the conclusion that the expected work load for CCCF15 is not out of line with previous experiences. The Committee has managed even more agenda items in the past and has always finished the discussions on the third day of the Session. Even in the COVID-19 pandemic period, CCCF14, which was conducted as the first virtual session in the committee, turned out to be constructive and productive, and all agenda items were thoroughly discussed and consensually concluded. Also, some discussions are extensive and require several years, however it can be shown that the Committee has mostly used the accelerated Step procedure (5/8) for the final adoption, thus gaining time. Discussion papers are used efficiently by including a preliminary proposed draft to show feasibility of developing of a new standard. In addition, it has been shown that the Committee critically assesses the discussion papers, as not all topics from the discussion papers are started as new work. Based on these

previous experiences in the Committee, it is expected that the workload for next Session is well manageable. To have a clear strategy for the practical management of the work of the Committee, the Codex Secretariat and Host Country Secretariat will develop a work plan based on the existing guidance and procedures.

### 3. Status of work items

Topic	Job No.	Target year	Recommendation of the Committee
<b>For decision by the Commission</b>			
1. Proposed MLs for cadmium in chocolates containing or declaring <30% total cocoa solids on a dry matter basis (CXS 193-1995)	N15-2014	2019	Adoption at Step 8
2. Proposed MLs for cadmium in chocolates containing or declaring ≥30% to <50% total cocoa solid on a dry matter basis (CXS 193-1995)	N15-2014	2019	Adoption at Step 5/8
3. Proposed Code of practice for the prevention and reduction of cadmium contamination in cocoa beans.	N07-2019	2021	Adoption at Step 5 Approval of extension of timeline
4. Proposed amendment to the MLs for lead in fruit juices (CXS 193-1995)			Adoption
5. Proposed revision of the <i>Code of practice for the prevention and reduction of lead contamination in foods</i> (CXS 56-2004)	N06-2019	2021	Adoption at Step 5/8
6. Project document for new work on MLs for methylmercury in orange roughy and pink cusk eel (CXS 193-1995)			Approval
7. Project document for new work on development of a Code of practice for the prevention and reduction of mycotoxins contamination in cassava and cassava-based products			Approval
<b>For monitoring</b>			
8. Maximum levels for lead in certain food categories (CXS 193-1995)	N06-2019	2021	2/3/4 Approval of extension of timeline
9. Maximum levels for total aflatoxins in certain cereals and cereal-based products including foods for infants and young children (CXS 193-1995)	N08-2019	2022	2/3/4
10. Maximum level for total aflatoxins in ready-to-eat peanuts and associated sampling plan	N14-2014	2017	2/3/4 Approval of extension of timeline
11. Maximum levels for total aflatoxins and ochratoxin A in nutmeg, dried chili and paprika, ginger, pepper and turmeric and associated sampling plans	N20-2017	2022	2/3/4

<b>Other matters (information, ongoing work, etc.)</b>	
12. Cadmium and lead in quinoa	Awaiting work by JECFA
13. Radioactivity in feed, food and drinking water in normal circumstances	Awaiting an informative document by IAEA, FAO and WHO
14. Food safety aspects of edible insects	For discussion by/advice from CCEXEC
15. Guidance on data analysis for development of maximum levels and for improved data collection	For further consideration by CCCF15
16. Identification of the need for revision of standards and related texts for contaminants in foods and feed	For further consideration by CCCF15
17. JECFA evaluations (Follow-up to JECFA evaluations and priority list of contaminants for evaluation/re-evaluation by JECFA)	Ongoing
18. Forward work-plan for CCCF	For further consideration by CCCF15

#### 4. Specific comments

<p><b>1. Proposed MLs for cadmium in chocolates containing or declaring &lt;30% total cocoa solids on a dry matter basis (CXS 193-1995), paragraphs 18-27, Appendix II</b></p> <p><b>Status:</b></p> <p>CCCF13 (2019) had advanced the ML to Step 5/8, however the Commission had adopted the ML at Step 5 only but underlined that the concept of proportionality as agreed by CCCF13 with respect to the adopted MLs by CAC41 (2018) should be maintained. If new additional information provided did not justify a change to the ML, CCCF14 would recommend the adoption of the ML of 0.3 mg/kg by CAC at its next session. CAC42 confirmed that upon such recommendation by CCCF14, CAC shall adopt the ML without further discussion. JECFA91 (2021) had performed a new exposure assessment of cadmium in all food sources and the conclusions were that the major foodstuffs that contribute to dietary cadmium exposure continue to be the same, and that cadmium in cocoa does not constitute a significant source of exposure within the human diet on a global level. There was also no new additional information received to justify a change to the ML proposed.</p> <p>CCCF14 agreed to advance the ML of 0.3mg/kg for chocolates containing or declaring less than 30% of total cocoa solids on a dry matter basis.</p> <p>The Chairperson reminded CCCF that all technical issues had been thoroughly discussed and urged Codex Members to respect the decision made at this session and not to reopen such discussions at CAC44.</p> <p><b>Chairperson's comments:</b> The Chairperson agrees with the above.</p>
<p><b>2. Proposed MLs for cadmium in chocolates containing or declaring ≥30% to &lt;50% total cocoa solid on a dry matter basis, paragraphs 28-40, Appendix II</b></p> <p><b>Status:</b></p> <p>CCCF13 had agreed that the EWG continue work on MLs for the categories in question using a proportional approach recognizing the need for some flexibility in the proportionality between the MLs for the different chocolate categories to avoid very high rejection rates.</p> <p>Following the presentations of two scenarios and a thorough discussion, CCCF14 agreed to advance the ML of 0.7mg/kg for chocolates containing or declaring ≥30% to Step 5/8 for adoption by CAC44 noting the reservations of the European Union, Switzerland, Norway and Egypt.</p> <p>The Chairperson reminded CCCF that all technical issues had been thoroughly discussed and urged Codex Members to respect the decision made at this session and not to reopen such discussions at CAC44.</p>

<p><b>Chairperson's comments:</b></p> <p>The Chairperson agrees with the above. Adoption of MLs for cadmium in chocolates containing or declaring &lt;30% total cocoa solids and on a dry matter basis (CXS 193-1995) and cadmium in chocolates containing or declaring ≥30% to &lt;50% total cocoa solid on a dry matter basis (CXS 193-1995) were challenging risk management questions for the Committee. After a robust discussion, CCCF14 agreed to advance the ML of 0.3 mg/kg for chocolates containing or declaring &lt;30% total cocoa solids to Step 8 and ML of 0.7 mg/kg for chocolates containing or declaring ≥30% to &lt;50% total cocoa solids to Step 5/8 for adoption by CAC44. This was an excellent example of problem-solving by the Committee and of cooperation across a board range of Members, achieved with clear consensus in the Committee.</p>
<p><b>3. Proposed Code of practice for the prevention and reduction of cadmium contamination in cocoa beans, paragraph 59, Appendix III</b></p>
<p><b>Status:</b></p> <p>CCCF14 noted general support for the development of the Code of Practice, but that further work was needed to bring it for finalization at the next session of the Committee.</p> <p>CCCF14 agreed to advance the proposed Code of Practice for the Prevention and Reduction of Cadmium Contamination in Cocoa Beans for adoption at Step 5 by CAC44, on the understanding that the COP will be further revised by the EWG as per the general comments provided by CCCF14 and the specific written comments submitted to this session.</p> <p>CCCF14 also agreed to re-establish the EWG, chaired by Peru and co-chaired by Ecuador and Ghana to further the work.</p> <p>CCEXEC81 is requested to approve an extension of the envisaged timeframe for the work to 2023.</p>
<p><b>Chairperson's comments:</b></p> <p>The Chairperson agrees with the above. There was a good sense of consensus in the CCCF14 regarding the advancement of the COP but that further work needed to be done in the EWG to bring the COP for finalization at the next session of the Committee.</p>
<p><b>4. Proposed amendment to the MLs for lead in fruit juices (CXS 193-1995), paragraphs 98 and 101, Appendix IV</b></p>
<p><b>Status:</b></p> <p>CCCF14 agreed to clarify that the MLs for fruit juices and grape juices in the GSCFF also apply to infants and young children and to advance this ML to CAC44 for adoption noting the reservations of the European Union and Norway.</p>
<p><b>Chairperson's comments:</b></p> <p>The Chairperson agrees with the above.</p>
<p><b>5. Proposed revision of the Code of practice for the prevention and reduction of lead contamination in foods (CXS 56-2004), paragraph 106, Appendix V</b></p>
<p><b>Status:</b></p> <p>CCCF14 agreed to forward the revised <i>Code of Practice for the Prevention and Reduction of Lead Contamination in Foods</i> (CXS 56- 2004) (Appendix V) to CAC44 for adoption at Step 5/8.</p> <p>CCCF14 furthermore recommended to CCFA to request JECFA to review the lead specifications for diatomaceous earth and charcoal (activated carbon) and evaluate available data to support development of a lead specification for bentonite.</p>
<p><b>Chairperson's comments:</b></p> <p>The Chairperson agrees with the above.</p>
<p><b>6. Project document for new work MLs for methylmercury in orange roughy and pink cusk eel (CXS 193-1995), paragraphs 163 and 166, Appendix VI</b></p>
<p><b>Status:</b></p> <p>Following an provision of key points in relation to the proposals for the establishment of MLs for methylmercury in additional fish species of and a constructive discussion, there was general support to start new work for orange roughy and pink cusk eel. Hence, CCCF14 agreed to submit the project document for</p>

new work on MLs for methylmercury in orange roughy and pink cusk eel to CAC44 for approval. In view of the lack of sufficient data for Patagonian toothfish, it was agreed that a further review was needed on the feasibility for setting an ML for this species.

CCCF14 also agreed to consider further data to establish the feasibility of setting an ML for Patagonian toothfish and to discontinue the review of MLs for any other additional species.

**Chairperson's comments:**

The Chairperson agrees with the above. In addition, CCCF14 agreed to establish an EWG chaired by New Zealand, and co-chaired by Canada to:

- a. develop MLs for orange roughy and pink cusk eel;
- b. consider further data to establish the feasibility of setting an ML for Patagonian toothfish;
- c. develop the sampling plan and
- d. conduct a literature review to assess the feasibility of developing guidance for the management of methylmercury in fish.

CCCF14 also agreed to request the JECFA Secretariat to issue a call for data specific for orange roughy, pink cusk eel and all toothfish.

**7. Project document for new work on the development of a Code of practice for the prevention and reduction of mycotoxins contamination in cassava and cassava-based products, paragraph 169, Appendix VII**

**Status:**

CCCF14 agreed to submit the project document on the development of a Code of Practice for the prevention and reduction of mycotoxins contamination in cassava and cassava-based products to CAC44 for approval as new work.

CCCF14 also agreed to discontinue the discussion on the establishment of MLs for hydrogen cyanide in cassava/cassava-based products and to await new/additional data to become available in the future, especially from ongoing studies in this field, to reassess the need and feasibility to establish new MLs for this contaminant in cassava and cassava-based products.

**Chairperson's comments:**

The Chairperson agrees with the above. In addition, CCCF14 agreed to establish an EWG chaired by Nigeria and co-chaired by Ghana to work on the development of a Code of Practice for the prevention and reduction of mycotoxins contamination in cassava and cassava-based products, with focus on aflatoxins and OTA, and the stages of production as identified in the project document, based on the data and information provided in Appendix II to CX/CF 21/14/12.

**8. Maximum levels for lead in certain food categories, paragraph 101**

**Status:**

CCCF14 agreed to discontinue work on an ML for herbal teas, yoghurt, cheese and milk-based products for infants and young children at this time.

CCCF14 furthermore agreed to re-establish the EWG, chaired by Brazil, to continue working on MLs for lead in dried spices and culinary herbs, including dried bulbs, rhizomes and roots; fresh culinary herbs; eggs; sugars and sugar-based candies; cereal-based products for infants and young children and ready-to-eat meals for infants and young children taking into account the written comments submitted, comments and decisions made at CCCF14 and new data from GEMS/Food.

CCCF14 also agreed to request JECFA to issue a call for data to get more (geographically representative) data available to the EWG, with the aim to finalize the MLs next year.

CCEXEC81 is requested to approve an extension of the envisaged timeframe for the work to 2023.

**Chairperson's comments:**

The Chairperson agrees with the above.



**9. Maximum levels for total aflatoxins in certain cereals and cereal-based products including foods for infants and young children (CXS 193-1995), paragraph 134**

**Status:**

CCCF agreed to re-establish the EWG, chaired by Brazil and co-chaired by India, to continue working on MLs for total aflatoxins in maize grain; flour, meal, semolina and flakes derived from maize; husked and polished rice; sorghum grain destined for further processing and cerealbased food for infants and young children, as well as associated sampling plans, taking into account the written comments submitted, comments, conclusions and decisions made at CCF14 and new data from GEMS/Food.

**Chairperson's comments:**

The Chairperson agrees with the above. In addition, CCCF14 also agreed to request the JECFA Secretariat to issue a call for data on all the categories under discussion with a view to obtaining more geographically representative data and to include a request for country of origin and if possible, to differentiate between maize for food or feed with the aim to finalize the MLs next year and if no data are submitted, the MLs would be finalized on the existing data set by CCCF15.

**10. Maximum level for total aflatoxins in ready-to-eat peanuts and associated sampling plan, paragraph 143**

**Status:**

CCCF14 agreed to re-establish the EWG, chaired by India to:

- a. consider new or additional data available on GEMS/Food only and take into account old and new data for comparison;
- b. update the working paper that was last presented at CCCF12 (2018) (CX/CF 18/12/10) and
- c. prepare revised proposals for MLs for total aflatoxins in Ready-To-Eat Peanuts and associated sampling plan for comments and consideration by CCCF15 (2022), taking into consideration the outcome of the impact assessment conducted by JECFA83 and the new and old datasets available on GEMS/Food.

CCCF14 also agreed to request the JECFA Secretariat to issue a call for data to collect data for further consideration by the EWG.

CCEXEC81 is requested to approve an extension of the envisaged timeframe for the work to 2023.

**Chairperson's comments:**

The Chairperson agrees with the above.

**11. Maximum levels for total aflatoxins and ochratoxin A in nutmeg, dried chili and paprika, ginger, pepper and turmeric and associated sampling plans, paragraph 145**

**Status:**

Consideration of these items was suspended in 2018 to ensure implementation of the respective codes of practice for the prevention and reduction of aflatoxin contamination in peanuts (CXC 55-2004) and mycotoxins in spices (CXC 17-2017) and to resume discussion in 3 years' time to reconsider the MLs based on new/additional data submitted to GEMS/Food.

Delegations generally supported to resume work on the establishment of MLs for nutmeg, dried chili and paprika, ginger, pepper and turmeric and associated sampling plans.

CCCF agreed to prepare revised proposals for MLs for total aflatoxins and ochratoxin A in spices: nutmeg, chili and paprika, ginger, pepper and turmeric, respectively, for comments and consideration by CCCF15 (2022).

**Chairperson's comments:**

CCCF14 agreed to re-establish the EWG, chaired by India to:

- a. consider new or additional data available on GEMS/Food;
- b. update the working paper that was last presented at CCCF12 (2018) (CX/CF 18/12/11) and
- c. prepare revised proposals for MLs for total aflatoxins and ochratoxin A in spices: nutmeg, chili and paprika, ginger, pepper and turmeric, respectively, for comments and consideration by CCCF15 (2022) and associated sampling plans taking into account the new and old datasets available on GEMS/Food.

<p>CCCF14 also agreed to request the JECFA Secretariat to issue a call for data to collect data for further consideration by the EWG.</p>
<p><b>12. Cadmium and lead in quinoa, paragraphs 179-180</b></p>
<p><b>Status:</b></p> <p>CCCF14 expressed diverse views on whether or not to establish MLs, and if MLs were to be established, whether to extend the MLs for cadmium and lead in cereals to quinoa in CXS193 or whether to have separate MLs for quinoa. Furthermore, the limited data available and the need to consider the different cultivars and growing conditions, and ongoing work on data generation, was noted. Hence, the Chairperson proposed to postpone the discussion on MLs for cadmium and lead in quinoa for 3 years to allow data generation and submission to GEMS/Food, which was supported by the Committee.</p> <p>CCCF14 agreed to request the JECFA Secretariat to issue a call for data on cadmium and lead in quinoa and quinoa-based products, including foods for infants and young children, in two-years' time and prepare an analysis of the new data and a paper for consideration by CCCF17.</p>
<p><b>Chairperson's comments:</b></p> <p>The Chairperson agrees with the above.</p>
<p><b>13. Radioactivity in feed, food and drinking water in normal circumstances, paragraph 185</b></p>
<p><b>Status:</b></p> <p>CCCF14 agreed that no further work was required to be done by CCCF at this time given that naturally occurring radionuclides in food, feed and water did not seem to be an issue for food safety and trade.</p> <p>CCCF14 welcomed the offer of IAEA to elaborate with the collaboration of FAO and WHO an informative document for the food safety regulators community, providing the state of the art of natural radioactivity in food/feed/water, thereby also reflecting regional variations. CCCF14 agreed to request IAEA to keep CCCF informed of any development in the field of naturally occurring and artificially produced radioactivity, in particular on the FAO/IAEA/WHO work to develop methodologies that could be used to produce criteria with which to assess radionuclides in food.</p>
<p><b>Chairperson's comments:</b></p> <p>The Chairperson agrees with the above.</p>
<p><b>14. Food safety aspects of edible insects, paragraphs 234-235</b></p>
<p><b>Secretariat's comments:</b></p> <p>An interest from Codex members to consider work in CCCF on edible insects was expressed. However, since food safety of edible insects is a cross-cutting matters that might require actions in other Codex committees such as CCFH and CCRVDF, the Codex Secretariat advised not to consider this issue in isolation in each committee and proposed that guidance should be sought from CCEXEC on how to cohesively approach risk management measures to ensure safety of edible insects. The Codex Secretariat further noted that edible insects could be considered as an emerging food safety issue where Codex should give a timely response in line with Goal 1 of the Codex Strategic Plan 2020-2025, a recommendation CCCF concurred with. CCCF14 agreed to request guidance from CCEXEC on the best approach to address the safety of edible insects in Codex.</p>
<p><b>Chairperson's comments:</b></p> <p>The Chairperson agrees with the comments from the Codex Secretariat.</p>
<p><b>15. Guidance on data analysis for development of maximum levels and for improved data collection, paragraph 208</b></p>
<p><b>Status:</b></p> <p>A discussion paper on the topic was presented to and thoroughly discussed. CCCF14 agreed that the work should be focused on data collection, data analysis and data presentation as a priority in the coming year and that discussion on elements for consideration such as appropriate rejection rates would not be taken up for now. CCCF14 further agreed to re-establish the EWG, chaired by the European Union and co-chaired by Japan, the Netherlands and USA, to prepare guidance on data analysis for development of MLs and for improved data collection based on the comments provided at this session and those in reply to a CL that will be issued requesting comments on the topics identified.</p>

**16. Identification of the need for revision of standards and related texts for contaminants in foods and feed, paragraph 218, CX/CF 21/14/16**

**Status:**

CCCF13 (2019) had agreed to establish an EWG to prepare a proposal for an approach to identify the need for review of existing standards and related texts developed CCCF as there currently was no structured approach to to determine the need for their revision.

CCCF14 was presented with three options for a practical approach and expressed general support to implement Option 2 on a 3-year trial basis.

CCCF14 agreed to implement a pilot on the review of Codex standards for contaminants in food and feed (Option 2) on a three-year basis as outlined in paragraphs 9-13 of CX/CF 21/14/16 using the prioritization criteria as presented in Appendix I of CX/CF 21/14/16. CCCF14 further agreed to issue a CL requesting comments on the tracking lists and that the comments be considered in an in-session WG at CCCF15, chaired by Canada, in order to make recommendations to CCCF on the need to revise Codex standards and related texts for contaminants in food and feed. CCCF14 also noted that the pilot (Option 2) could be evaluated to further improve the procedures for review on a needed basis.

**17. JECFA evaluations (Follow-up to JECFA evaluation and priority list of contaminants for evaluation/re-evaluation by JECFA), paragraphs 231, 235, Appendix VIII**

**Status:**

***Priority list of contaminants for evaluation/re-evaluation by JECFA***

Based on a working document prepared by the Codex Secretariat to update the priority list, CCCF14 agreed to endorse the priority list as amended. CCCF14 furthermore agreed to keep scopoletin in the priority list awaiting feedback from CCNASWP16 on the provision of necessary data and studies to perform evaluation of scopoletin and to encourage Codex members to generate and submit data to GEMS/Food. CCCF15 also agreed to continue to request comments and/or information on the priority list for consideration by CCCF15 and re-convene the in-session WG at CCCF15.

***Follow-up to JECFA evaluations***

CCCF14 was presented with a working document highlighting the recently concluded JECFA evaluations and FAO/WHO expert consultations relevant to the work of CCCF.

CCCF14 agreed to establish an EWG chaired by European Union to prepare a discussion paper on pyrrolizidine alkaloids to look into the feasibility of possible follow-up actions for consideration by CCCF15. CCCF15 furthermore agreed to issue a CL requesting comments on possible follow-up actions to the outcomes of the JECFA evaluations and FAO/WHO expert consultations in particular those for which the full report was already available, such as ciguatera poisoning and tropane alkaloids, for consideration by the in-session WG at CCCF15.

**18. Forward work-plan for CCCF, paragraphs 223, 226 and 228**

**Status:**

***Review of contaminant-staple food combinations for future work of CCCF***

As agreed by CCCF13, a discussion paper on the review of staple food-contaminant combinations for future work of CCCF prepared by the Host Secretariat, the Codex Secretariat and JECFA was presented to CCCF14. The intent of the paper was to provide an approach/methodology (screening method) so that a list of contaminant-staple food combinations could be identified for further follow-up by CCCF.

CCCF14 agreed that a CL be issued requesting comments on the approach/methodology proposed and that the Host Country Secretariat, JECFA and Codex Secretariats would consider the comments received and further develop the paper for consideration by CCCF15.

***Project plan for the evaluation of implementation of COPs of CCCF***

CCCF13 had agreed with a proposal on developing a pilot project to evaluate the implementation of COPs in the context of the forward workplan discussion. However, a more detailed proposal had not been prepared in light of ongoing discussions among the Host Country Secretariat, FAO, WHO and the Codex Secretariat on how to approach the pilot. The project falls within the purview of FAO and WHO in terms of its technical assistance programmes and also with the Codex Secretariat especially in light of the ongoing discussion on the monitoring of use of standards in Codex as one of the objectives of the Codex Strategic Plan 2020-2025.

CCCF agreed that the Codex Secretariat, in consultation with FAO and WHO, and also with the Host Country Secretariat, will continue looking at ways of taking this project forward in the context of monitoring the use of Codex standards and would keep CCCF informed on progress.

## Appendix 4

## 1. General

<b>Committee</b>	<b>Codex Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling (CCMAS)</b>		
<b>Host</b>	Hungary	<b>Chairperson</b>	Mr. Attila Nagy
<b>Session reported on</b>	CCMAS41	17 – 25 May 2021	
<b>Next Session</b>	CCMAS42	23 – 27 May 2022	
<b>Report</b>	<u>REP21/MAS</u>		

## 2. Overall comments

**Secretariat's comments:**

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, CCMAS41 had been postponed from the originally scheduled time in May 2020. CCMAS41 was successfully conducted as a virtual session and had high participation, both in number of delegations and number of participants. The session was constructive and productive, and all agenda items were thoroughly discussed and consensually concluded. The EWGs had also progressed very well the work following CCMAS40 and had effectively used the additional time available due to the postponement of CCMAS41 to further advance the work and ensure that the delay in convening CCMAS41 did not negatively impact on progress. CCMAS also used additional tools available, such as informal online forums, additional requests for comments through Circular Letters and very well-structured reports and recommendations to facilitate discussion and agreements. CCMAS was the first committee to hold a webinar to assist delegations in their preparation for ongoing work in EWGs, informal discussions, and the CCMAS41 virtual session. Preparation for the virtual session and its success was thanks to the excellent cooperation of chairpersons of WGs or leads of work, the host country secretariat, the Chairperson of the Committee, and the Codex Secretariat; as well as good responses from Members and observers to CLs, participation in EWGs/informal discussions and participation in CCMAS41.

Overall, the work of the Committee is on track. The review of methods in the *Recommended Methods of Analysis and Sampling* (CXS 234-1999), which has been the major focus of CCMAS for the past few years, is progressing very well. The review of the dairy package was consensually completed by CCMAS41 while the review of other workable packages is continuing constructively. In view of the completion of work on the dairy package, CCMAS was able to initiate work on a new workable package, i.e.g. methods of analysis for provisions in processed fruits and vegetables standards. CCMAS continues to benefit from the excellent cooperation and inputs from the standards-setting organizations (SDOs).

CCMAS41 agreed to forward to CAC44 many methods of analysis / performance criteria for provisions, concerning several general and commodity committees, for adoption or revocation in CXS234-1999, and two revised guidelines (*Guidelines on Measurement Uncertainty* and *General Guidelines on Sampling*) for adoption at Step 8 and Step 5/8, respectively.

CCMAS also confirmed its continued liaison with other Codex committees on the use of the *Recommended Methods of Analysis and Sampling* (CXS 234-1999) as the single reference for methods of analysis and sampling as requested by CCEXEC77.

CCMAS will continue working on guidance (rules) for the selection of Type II methods from multiple Type III methods which forms part of the work to ensure transparent and consistent approaches to the work on endorsement and the review of methods of analysis; and the information document to support the implementation of the revised *Guidelines on Measurement Uncertainty*.

**Chairperson's comments:**

In 2020 we had an informal meeting using the Zoom platform to inform every Member of the ongoing work. In 2021, we continued working in an electronic way.

During the Session, we used the common method: 3 hours every day, 5 days session, and 1 additional day to finalise the report.

During the two years period every expert group have been working properly, so that we could step forward in many topics:

- - finish the structure of database of CXS 234-1999.
- - finish the revision of methods related with dairy products
- - step forward with guidelines: measurement uncertainty and sampling strategies
- - continue the work with CXS 234-1999: Fats and oils, cereals/legumens/pulses
- - start a new CXS 234-1999 revision work: Processed fruit and vegetable products.

Summing up the experience, I can say that the virtual Session went smoothly and with the helpful activity of the participants. My deputy, the expert leaders on the topics, and the staff of the Secretariat were very helpful in this work.

The changes brought about by COVID-19 have presented challenges, but also the opportunity to involve more Members who are unable to attend the physical conference.

**3. Status of work items**

Topic	Job No.	Target year	Recommendation of the Committee
<b>For decision by the Commission</b>			
1. Adoption, revocation and amendments to the methods of analysis/ performance criteria for provisions in <i>Recommended Methods of Analysis and Sampling</i> (CXS 234-1999)	Ongoing	-	Adoption / Revocation
2. Editorial amendment to the provision in Section 3.3 of the <i>Standard for Edible Casein Products</i> (CXS 290-195)	-	-	Adoption
3. Draft revised <i>Guidelines on Measurement Uncertainty</i> (CXG 54-2004)	N07-2018	CCMAS40/2019	Step 8
4. Proposed Draft revised <i>General Guidelines on Sampling</i> (CXG 50-2004)	N08-2018	CCMAS42	Step 5
<b>For information</b>			
5. Discussion paper on the criteria (rules) for selection of Type II methods from multiple Type III methods	-	-	-
6. Information document to support the application of <i>Guidelines on Measurement Uncertainty</i> (CXG 54-2004)	-	-	-
7. Review of the methods of analysis in CXS 234-1999: Fats and oils; Cereals, pulses and legumes; Processed fruits and vegetables	Ongoing	-	-

#### 4. Specific comments

##### 1. Adoption/revocation and amendments to methods of analysis/ performance criteria for provisions in *Recommended Methods of Analysis and Sampling (CXS 234-1999)*, paragraphs 24(i) and 42(i), Appendix II

###### Secretariat's comments:

A major task of CCMAS is the review of the methods in CXS 234-1999 to ensure that they are current. This task has been divided into workable packages to facilitate the work. The review of the dairy package was consensually completed by CCMAS41, and progress was made on the fats and oils package. CCMAS will continue reviewing this package and the cereals, pulses and legumes package and has added the processed fruits and vegetables package to its methods review work.

CCMAS41 also thoroughly considered the recommendations on methods of analysis proposed for endorsement, committee by committee.

CCMAS41 agreed to submit the methods and numeric performance criteria as contained in REP21/MAS Appendix II Part 1 for adoption by CAC44 and request revocation of the methods as contained in REP21/MAS Appendix II Part 2.

CCMAS41 also agreed to submit for adoption by CAC44 the proposed amendments to CXS 234-1999 as contained in REP21/MAS Appendix II Part 3.

###### Chairperson's comments:

CCMAS agreed to submit for adoption and revocation the methods. We had a long discussion on special topics, but finally we always reached consensus.

##### 2. Editorial amendment to the provision in Section 3.3 of the *Standard for Edible Casein Products (CXS 290-1995)*, paragraph 24(ii)

###### Secretariat's comments:

As part of the review of the methods in the *Recommended Methods of Analysis and Sampling (CXS 234-1999)*, CCMAS41 completed the dairy package.

The need to amend the provision for "acids, free" to "free acidity" in Section 3.3 of the *Standard for Edible Casein Products (CXS 290-1995)* was noted. However, CXS 290-1995, apart from the methods, is under the purview of the Codex Committee on Milk and Milk Products (CCMMP). Since CCMMP is adjourned *sine die*, the proposed editorial amendment is submitted to Commission for consideration and decision.

CCMAS41 agreed to request CAC44 to make an editorial amendment to the provision in Section 3.3 of the *Standard for Edible Casein Products (CXS 290-1995)* by changing "maximum free acid" to "maximum free acidity" as this was a more appropriate description of the provision.

###### Chairperson's comments:

CCMAS41 agreed to request CAC44 to make an editorial amendment to the provision in the *Standard for Edible Casein Products (CXS 290-1995)*.

##### 3. Draft revised *Guidelines on Measurement Uncertainty (CXG 54-2004)*, paragraph 70(i), Appendix III

###### Secretariat's comments:

CAC42 had adopted the Guidelines at Step 5 and advanced it to Step 6. The additional time at the disposal of the Committee due to the postponement of CCMAS41 from 2020 to 2021 had helped progress the work and address the comments in reply to the different circular letters issued. The aim of CXG 54-2004 is to provide basic information and orientation on estimating measurement uncertainty while remaining concise, and for this reason, more in-depth information and examples will be made available in an information document.



CCMAS41 focused its discussion on CXG 54-2004. Noting that all the concerns and comments raised by Members and observers had been addressed, CCMAS41 agreed to advance the revised Guidelines to Step 8 for adoption by CAC44.

CCMAS41 also agreed that CCMAS42 will consider the information document based upon a revised version to be prepared by Germany.

**Chairperson's comments:**

CCMAS41 focused its discussion on CXG 54-2004. Noting that all the concerns and comments raised by Members and observers had been addressed, CCMAS41 agreed to advance the revised Guidelines to Step 8 for adoption by CAC44.

**4. Proposed Draft revised *General Guidelines on Sampling* (CXG 50-2004), paragraph 110(i), Appendix IV**

**Secretariat's comments:**

The aim of the revision is to provide simpler and more easily understandable Guidelines, in particular for use by Codex commodity committees, which is presented as a package consisting of the Guidelines with two supporting documents. The revised Guidelines focuses on principles of sampling, whereas an information document will provide a step-by-step procedure to the design of the sampling plan, and an e-book will provide user-friendly technology in the form of apps.

Following a constructive discussion, CCMAS41 agreed to forward the revised *General Guidelines on Sampling* (CXG 50-2004) to CAC44 for adoption at Step 5.

CCMAS41 also agreed to re-establish the EWG chaired by New Zealand and co-chaired by Germany, to continue the revision of the *General Guidelines on Sampling* and to develop the supporting documents, i.e the e-book and the guide to the selection and design of sampling plans, and to provide a revised draft package for consideration by CCMAS42.

CCMAS41 further agreed to inform other relevant Codex Committees of the ongoing work on the revision of the *General Guidelines on Sampling* and invite any comments as relevant.

**Chairperson's comments:**

Following a constructive discussion, CCMAS41 agreed to forward the revised *General Guidelines on Sampling* (CXG 50-2004) to CAC44 for adoption at Step 5 and CCMAS41 also agreed to re-establish the EWG chaired by New Zealand and co-chaired by Germany.

**5. Discussion paper on the criteria (rules) for selection of Type II methods from multiple Type III methods, paragraph 119, Appendix V**

**Secretariat's comments:**

In relation to the review of methods in *Recommended Methods of Analysis and Sampling* (CXS 234-1999) and the endorsement of methods from other Committees and the need for a clear uniform and transparent process, CCMAS40 (2019) had agreed that a discussion paper would be prepared on criteria (rules) for the selection of Type II methods from multiple Type III methods in CXS 234-1999.

Following a constructive discussion, CCMAS41 agreed to circulate the proposed rules for selection of Type II methods from multiple Type III methods for comments, further revision by Switzerland and consideration at CCMAS42.

This guidance will form part of *Comprehensive guidance for the process of submission, consideration and endorsement of methods for inclusion in CXS 234*, which is for internal use by CCMAS and is published as an information document.

**Chairperson's comments:**

CCMAS41 agreed to circulate the proposed rules for selection of Type II methods from multiple Type III methods for comments, further revision by Switzerland and consideration at CCMAS42.

**6. Information document to support the application of *Guidelines on Measurement Uncertainty* (CXG 54-2004), paragraph 70, Appendix III.**

**Secretariat's comments:**

To support the revision and application of CXG 54-2004, CCMAS39 had agreed that an information document be developed. While CXG 54-2004 provides basic information and orientation on estimating measurement uncertainty, the information document will contain more in-depth information and examples. The information document as presented to CCMAS41 supported the finalization of the revision of CXG 54-2004.

CCMAS41 agreed that a revised version of the information document be prepared by Germany for consideration by CCMAS42.

**Chairperson's comments:**

The information document as presented to CCMAS41 supported the finalization of the revision of CXG 54-2004. CCMAS41 agreed that a revised version of the information document be prepared by Germany for consideration by CCMAS42.

**7. Review of the methods of analysis in CXS 234-1999: Fats and oils; Cereals, pulses and legumes; Processed fruits and vegetables, paragraphs 24(iv), 43, 51(iv), 55, Appendix II, Part 4.3.**

**Secretariat's comments:**

A major task of CCMAS is the review of the methods in CXS 234-1999 to ensure that they are current. This task has been divided into workable packages to facilitate the work.

CCMAS41 made good progress on the fats and oils package and re-established the EWG, chaired by The Netherlands, which will continue reviewing the remaining methods and prepare proposals for CCMAS42. CCMAS41 agreed to refer the endorsed methods to CCFO for their comments and/or agreement (Appendix II, Part 4.3) and if there is agreement on the methods, these could go directly to CAC44 for adoption.

CCMAS41 also agreed to establish an EWG chaired by Canada to continue the review of the methods concerning cereals, pulses and legumes in close coordination with the relevant SDOs (AACCI, AOAC and ISO).

CCMAS41 also agreed to commence review of the processed fruits and vegetables package and to establish an EWG Chaired by the United States of America to prepare proposals for consideration by CCMAS42.

**Chairperson's comments:**

CCMAS41 continued the work with methods related with fats and oils, cereals, pulses and legumes. CCMAS41 agreed to commence review of the processed fruits and vegetables package and to establish an EWG Chaired by the United States of America.

## Appendix 5

## 1. General

<b>Committee</b>	<b>Codex Committee on Food Import and Exports Inspection and Certification Systems (CCFICS)</b>		
<b>Host</b>	Australia	<b>Chairperson</b>	Ms. Fran Freeman
<b>Session reported on</b>	CCFICS25	31 May – 8 June 2021	
<b>Next Session</b>	CCFICS26	November 2022	
<b>Report</b>	<u>REP21/FICS</u>		

## 2. Overall comments

<p><b>Secretariat's comments:</b></p> <p>Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, CCFICS25 had been postponed from the originally scheduled time, April 2020. CCFICS25 was successfully conducted as a virtual session and had high participation, both in number of delegations and number of participants. The session was constructive and productive, and all agenda items were thoroughly discussed (both formally and informally through pre-meetings and in-session virtual consultations) and consensually concluded. CCFICS25 agreed to forward to CAC44 two draft guidelines for final adoption and one work item for approval as new work. Extension of the deadline for completion of the work was requested for one draft guideline.</p>
<p><b>Chairperson's comments:</b></p> <p>The Chairperson concurs with the Secretariat's comments. CCFICS25 was a constructive and productive session attended by over 300 participants from over 600 registrants from 88 Member Countries, one Member Organization (European Union) and 20 observers of international governmental (IGOs), non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and United Nations agencies. This represents a significant increase in participation by both countries, delegates and organisations compared to previous physical meetings. While, as always, time zones impact some participants, that did not deter many from engaging in both the plenary and intersessional meetings.</p> <p>The intersessional meetings were invaluable in progressing multiple agenda items.</p> <p>Notable outcomes from CCFICS25 include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Recommending the Draft principles and guidelines for the assessment and use of voluntary Third-Party Assurance (vTPA) programmes for adoption at step 8.</li> <li>○ Recommending the Proposed Draft Guidance on Paperless Use of Electronic Certificates (Revised Guidelines for Design, Production, Issuance and Use of Generic Official Certificates (CXG 38-2001)), progressing for adoption at step 5/8.</li> <li>○ Agreeing to recommend to the Commission a project document for new work on the development of guidance on the prevention and control of food fraud.</li> <li>○ Agreeing to develop a discussion paper on Guidance on Remote Audit and Verification in Regulatory Frameworks.</li> <li>○ Agreeing to develop a discussion paper on Principles for Traceability/Product Tracing as a Tool Within a Food Inspection and Certification System.</li> </ul> <p>Whilst acknowledging the progress made to bridge differing views, the draft guidelines on recognition and maintenance of equivalence of National Food Control Systems (NFCS) was returned for redrafting and clarification at step 2/3. The Committee did agree to progress the work on the consolidation of Codex Guidelines related to equivalence.</p>

**3. Status of work items**

Topic	Job No.	Target year	Recommendation of the Committee
<b>For decision by the Commission</b>			
1. Draft principles and guidelines for the assessment and use of voluntary Third-Party Assurance (vTPA) programmes	N27-2017	2020	8
2. Proposed draft guidance on paperless use of electronic certificates ( <i>Revised Guidelines for Design, Production, Issuance and Use of Generic Official Certificates (CXG 38-2001)</i> )	N26-2017	2020	5/8
3. Project document for new work on the development of guidance on the prevention and control of food fraud			Approval
<b>For monitoring</b>			
4. Proposed draft guidelines on recognition and maintenance of equivalence of National Food Control Systems (NFCS)	N25-2017	2020	2/3
5. Proposed draft consolidated Codex Guidelines related to equivalence	NX-2019	CCFICS28	2/3
<b>For information</b>			
6. Review and update, Appendix A - the list of emerging global emerging issues	For further development		
7. Discussion paper on "Use of remote audit and verification in regulatory frameworks"	For further development		
8. Discussion paper on review and update of the " <i>Principles for Traceability/Product Tracing as a Tool Within Food Inspection and Certification System (CXG 60-2006)</i> "	For further development		

#### 4. Specific comments

<p><b>1. Draft principles and guidelines for the assessment and use of voluntary Third-Party Assurance (vTPA) programmes, paragraph 37, Appendix II</b></p>
<p><b>Secretariat's comments:</b></p> <p>The draft guidelines had been adopted at Step 5 by CAC42 (2019). The EWG had progressed very well the work following CCFICS24 and had effectively used the additional time available due to the postponement of CCFICS25 to further advance the work and ensure that the delay in convening CCFICS25 did not negatively impact on progress. Consensus was easily reached at CCFICS25, and it was agreed to forward the draft text to CAC44 for adoption at Step 8. The format and presentation as well as language is according to the Codex style.</p>
<p><b>Chairperson's comments:</b></p> <p>The Chairperson concurs with the Secretariat's comments and notes with appreciation the hard work of the EWG chair and co-chairs that resulted in the work progressing to Step 8.</p>
<p><b>2. Proposed Draft Guidance on paperless use of electronic certificates (revised <i>Guidelines for Design, Production, Issuance and Use of Generic Official Certificates (CXG 38-2001)</i>, paragraph 67, Appendix III</b></p>
<p><b>Secretariat's comments:</b></p> <p>The draft guidelines had been returned to Step 2/3 by CCFICS24. The EWG had progressed very well the work following CCFICS24 and had effectively used the additional time available due to the postponement of CCFICS25 to further advance the work and ensure that the delay in convening CCFICS25 did not negatively impact on progress. Constructive and efficient work during CCFICS25 helped ensure that consensus could be reached. CCFICS25 agreed to forward the draft text to CAC44 for adoption at Step 8. The format and presentation as well as language is according to the Codex style.</p>
<p><b>Chairperson's comments:</b></p> <p>The Chairperson concurs with the Secretariat's comments and appreciates the support rendered by the chair and co-chairs of the EWG. There was an informal intersessional meeting during the plenary session to discuss the draft guidance in detail. The intersessional meeting was geared towards resolving diverse views expressed by the delegates and helped advance the document so that the proposed draft guidance could be forwarded for adoption at Step 8.</p>
<p><b>3. Project document for new work on the development of guidance on the prevention and control of food fraud, paragraph 101, Appendix IV</b></p>
<p><b>Secretariat's comments:</b></p> <p>CCFICS has been discussing a proposal for new work on food fraud since CCFICS22 (2016) in response to the strong interest in food fraud both within Codex and beyond. The EWG established by CCFICS24 had progressed very well the work and had effectively used the additional time available due to the postponement of CCFICS25 to further advance the work. Constructive and efficient work during CCFICS25 helped ensure that consensus could be reached. CCFICS25 agreed to forward the project proposal to CAC44 for approval as new work. The format and presentation as well as language is according to the Codex style.</p>
<p><b>Chairperson's comments:</b></p> <p>The Chairperson concurs with the Secretariat's comments. Once approved by the Commission, an EWG chaired by the United States of America and co-chaired by China, EU, Iran and United Kingdom will prepare draft guidance on the prevention and control of food fraud for consultation. The working languages will be English and Spanish.</p>
<p><b>4. Proposed draft guidelines on recognition and maintenance of equivalence of National Food Control Systems (NFCS), paragraph 84</b></p>
<p><b>Secretariat's comments:</b></p> <p>Following approval as new work by CAC40 (2017), extensive discussions have taken place in developing the proposed draft guidelines. CCFICS24 (2018) discussed the first draft text and decided to return it to Step 2/3. The EWG established by CCFICS24 had effectively used the additional time available due to the postponement of CCFICS25 to further advance the work. Despite progress made, CCFICS25 could not reach consensus and agreed to return the draft text to Step 2/3 for redrafting and clarification to resolve</p>

<p>fundamental differences including aspects related to WTO multilateral agreements on SPS/TBT. CCFICS also requested an extension for completion of the work to CCFICS26.</p>
<p><b>Chairperson's comments:</b></p> <p>The Chairperson concurs with the Secretariat's comments. An informal intersessional meeting was also held to discuss the diverse opinions expressed by the delegates. Unfortunately, while respecting the rule of silence is acceptance – not very many interventions were made, those that were made it very clear that there was no consensus on the outstanding issues. The main issue of contention was the articulation of WTO SPS and TBT provisions as they applied to equivalence assessments. Due to the lack of consensus, it was agreed to return the work to Step 2/3. In addition, Chile noted its intention to step down as co-chair and Kenya agreed to take on the role of co-chair going forward.</p>
<p><b>5. Proposed draft consolidated Codex Guidelines related to equivalence, paragraph 90</b></p>
<p><b>Secretariat's comments:</b></p> <p>Following approval as new work by CAC42 (2019), the EWG established by CCFICS24 had progressed very well the work and had effectively used the additional time available due to the postponement of CCFICS25 to further advance the work. CCFICS25 agreed to further progress the work on consolidation of the guidance noting that its completion would first require the finalization of the ongoing work developing draft guidelines on recognition and maintenance of equivalence in NFCS.</p>
<p><b>Chairperson's comments:</b></p> <p>The Chairperson concurs with the Secretariat's comments. For this work too, Chile stepped down as co-chair with Kenya stepping into this role.</p>
<p><b>6. Review and update, Appendix A - the list of emerging global emerging issues, paragraph 114</b></p>
<p><b>Secretariat's comments:</b></p> <p>CCFICS25 noted the broad support for keeping Appendix A as a standing agenda item for CCFICS, but that it should be limited to issues within the remit of CCFICS's mandate and not include issues that are already addressed by another Codex Committee or Task Force. It also noted the need to update the list of emerging issues, also in light of the experiences gained from the COVID-19 pandemic, and that use of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) tools was of increasing importance. The delegation of India expressed its intent to develop a discussion paper along with a project document on guidance on appeals mechanism in the context of rejection of imported food for consideration by CCFICS26, which was welcomed by CCFICS25.</p>
<p><b>Chairperson's comments:</b></p> <p>CCFICS25 supported that Australia and Kenya will be the custodians of Appendix A of the 'Emerging issues and future direction of CCFICS' paper and will be responsible for preparing an updated document for CCFICS26. Furthermore, to form part of Appendix A, the Codex secretariat will be issuing a CL requesting input from Members on emerging global issues. It was also agreed that a working group meeting would be held prior to the next CCFICS session to address Appendix A and the prioritization of new work in order to provide recommendations to the CCFICS26.</p>
<p><b>7. Discussion paper on "Use of remote audit and verification in regulatory frameworks", paragraph 114</b></p>
<p><b>Secretariat's comments:</b></p> <p>The COVID-19 pandemic has altered the trading landscape and accelerated the development and use of alternative audit and verification measures and an increased uptake of new technologies. CCFICS25 agreed to establish an EWG to develop a discussion paper on "Use of remote audit and verification in regulatory frameworks" with the possibility of also developing a new project document for consideration by CCFICS26.</p>
<p><b>Chairperson's comments:</b></p> <p>The Chairperson concurs with the Secretariat's comments. The Committee supported the new work in relation to <i>develop a discussion paper on Guidance on Remote Audit and Verification in Regulatory Frameworks</i> for presentation at CCFICS26. An EWG chaired by Australia and co-chaired by Singapore and Canada will be established to develop this discussion paper.</p>

**8. Discussion paper on review and update of the “*Principles for Traceability/Product Tracing as a Tool Within Food Inspection and Certification System (CXG 60-2006)*”, paragraph 114(v)****Secretariat’s comments:**

Given that the current Codex text (CXG 60-2006) did not provide further information on traceability and product tracing as part of the NFCS and the text reflects the thinking at the time of its approval (2006), it would be timely to revisit the document to ensure the scope and content were fit for purpose. CCFICS25 agreed to establish an EWG to develop a discussion paper with the possibility of developing a new project document to consider whether the *Principles for Traceability/Product Tracing as a Tool Within a Food Inspection and Certification System (CXG 60-2006)* needs to be revised and updated and report their recommendations to CCFICS26.

**Chairperson’s comments:**

The Chairperson concurs with the Secretariat’s comments. The discussion paper will be developed by an EWG chaired by the United States of America and co-chaired by the United Kingdom