

CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



World Health
Organization

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Agenda Item 6.1

GP/31 CRD/09

JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME

CODEX COMMITTEE ON GENERAL PRINCIPLES

Thirty-first Session

Bordeaux, France, 11 - 15 March 2019

Discussion paper on emerging and future issues of relevance to CCGP

(Comments from the Philippines)

PHILIPPINES

BACKGROUND

Having jurisdiction to deal with procedural and general matters, the Codex Committee on General Principles (CCGP) is tasked with facilitating the handling of questions involving all Codex Alimentarius committees and/or members.

Previously, the CCGP has been responsible for drawing up the Working Principles for Risk Analysis for Food Safety for Application by Governments (CAC/GL 62-2007) and the Code of Ethics for International Trade in Food including Concessional and Food Aid Transactions (CAC/RCP 20-1979). It has also drafted the general definitions set out in the Procedural Manual and added various sections that are of use for all Codex members (Core functions of Codex Contact Points, Relations with other organizations, etc.). Over the years, it has also overseen changes to the standard-setting procedure by factoring in the international context (cooperation between the Codex and the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) on food safety from “farm to fork”, collaboration between the Codex’s general subject committees and commodity committees, criteria for the establishment of work priorities, etc.).

Although each Codex committee has its own role in the constant elaboration of standards, current changes relating to food worldwide, sustainable development challenges and new technologies, for instance, are now causing issues that are common to all committees to emerge. All Codex members need to consider new cross-cutting work perspectives.

This document sets out, and suggests to the Committee, a non-exhaustive list of the fields which the members of the CCGP may consider relevant in terms of improving or facilitating the work of all Codex bodies. Subsequently, the conclusions of this discussion could be subject to recommendations for new or future CCGP work and be referred to the Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC) for approval.

POSITION

6.1 Facilitating the elaboration of standards by the Codex

The Philippines supports the use of webinar technology and other new Information Communication Technologies (ICTs) to enable member countries to participate in the elaboration of standards by Codex. The Philippine experience during the CCFICS 24th webinar on May 2018 validates the importance of the use of these new technologies and provides option for member countries to still actively participate in the elaboration of standards even though they are unable to attend physical meetings.

6.3 Food fraud / food integrity and food authenticity

The Philippines acknowledges the importance of this issue and its effect on food safety and fair practices in trade. The Philippines supports the conduct of new work on this area specifically on the use of a risk-based approach to food fraud, including commodity specific risks. The Philippines expresses its willingness to participate in electronic working groups.

6.4 Consumer Information

The Philippines supports this agenda but aside from food labeling, we would also like to include food advertisements and/or statements that have no scientific basis made in social media and similar platforms.