

# CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION



Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations



World Health  
Organization

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Agenda Item 12

CAC/39 CRD/26

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## JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME

### CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION

39<sup>th</sup> Session

FAO Headquarters, Rome, Italy, 27 June – 1 July 2016

#### MATTERS REFERRED TO THE COMMISSION BY CODEX COMMITTEES AND TASK FORCES

*(COMMENTS OF THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN)*

#### Background

At CAC38<sup>1</sup> (July 2015), Iran requested the inclusion of a proposal on Food Integrity / Food Authenticity under other business. In this respect, Iran submitted CRD08 explaining its views on the issue.

Due to time constraints, the proposal was not discussed. The Commission therefore concluded that this issue shall be discussed at CAC39 (July 2016).

After consultation with some delegations at CAC, Iran decided to submit this proposal to CCFICS22<sup>2</sup> (February 2016). This decision was made, as CCFICS is one of the cross-frontiers committees in Codex where issues related to Food Integrity / Food Authenticity, are most relevant.

CCFICS22 agreed that Iran, with assistance of Netherlands and Canada, would develop a discussion paper on this issue. The paper should identify possible new work on Food Integrity / Food Authenticity that could relate (and possibly supplement) to current CCFICS texts. CCFICS22 also agreed to seek guidance from CCFL<sup>3</sup> and CCMAS<sup>4</sup> on issues related to Food Integrity / Food Authenticity relevant to their mandates.

CCMAS37 (March 2016) noted that Food Integrity / Food Authenticity is an important issue that may need to be addressed by the Committee, but would wait on the outcome of the discussion at CAC39.

CCFL43 (May 2016) noted that the matter was due for further consideration by CCFICS. The Committee thus agreed not to consider this matter further, but to wait for the discussion and decision from CCFICS.

During CCGP30<sup>5</sup> (April 2016) and CCFL43, Iran had two separate meetings with the Netherlands and Canada to establish the framework for the task based on a revised proposal prepared by Iran. After an intensive discussion with them, Iran decided to only follow-up the discussion paper at CCFICS for the time being.

#### Conclusion

As stated in CCFICS, Iran believes that food integrity and authenticity is not limited to the mandate of CCFICS, and therefore it is necessary to continue the follow up on this issue in CAC and other general subject committees notably CCFL, CCMAS and even CCGP. However, it is both time-consuming and costly to follow-up this issue in parallel in CAC and other four committees. As Food Integrity / Food Authenticity is a transversal issue to several committees in Codex and impacts on both food quality and safety, it would be useful to look into ways to discuss this issue in an over-arching way in Codex.

Possible avenues in the future could be (i) to establish an electronic working group of the Commission or (ii) to establish an *Ad Hoc Intergovernmental Task Force on Food Integrity / Authenticity*.

Iran looks forward to the successful conclusion of the consideration of Food Integrity / Food Authenticity in CCFICS to come back on the above proposal and how this issue could be further followed-up in Codex. Iran also thanks CAC and Codex members for the opportunity and support to consider this important issue for consumer protection in Codex.

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<sup>1</sup> Codex Alimentarius Commission

<sup>2</sup> Codex Committee on Food Import and Export Inspection and Certification Systems

<sup>3</sup> Codex Committees on Food Labeling

<sup>4</sup> Codex Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling

<sup>5</sup> Codex Committee on General Principles