

CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



World Health
Organization

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Agenda Item 8

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JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME

CODEX COMMITTEE ON FOOD LABELLING

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Ottawa, Canada

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FUTURE WORK AND EMERGING ISSUES

Comments by Burundi, Kenya, United Republic of Tanzania, and Institute of Food Technologists (IFT)

Burundi

Burundi supports the prioritization of emerging food-labelling issues, particularly digital labelling, sustainability-related claims, and One Health considerations, as these areas reflect evolving global priorities, technological advancement, and the growing interlinkages between food systems, health, and environmental stewardship.

Burundi welcomes the future work in these areas and appreciates the contributions of members that have supported the development of the discussion paper. Burundi further emphasizes the importance of targeted capacity-building and technical support for developing countries to ensure meaningful participation in the standard-setting process and effective national implementation of any future guidance.

Kenya

Kenya supports the prioritization of emerging food-labelling issues, particularly digital labelling, sustainability-related claims, and One Health considerations, as these areas reflect evolving global priorities, technological advancement, and the growing interlinkages between food systems, health, and environmental stewardship.

Kenya welcomes the future work in these areas and appreciates the contributions of members that have supported the development of the discussion paper. Kenya further emphasizes the importance of targeted capacity-building and technical support for developing countries to ensure meaningful participation in the standard-setting process and effective national implementation of any future guidance.

United Republic of Tanzania

The United Republic of Tanzania (URT) supports the prioritization of emerging food-labelling issues, particularly digital labelling, sustainability-related claims, and One Health considerations, as these areas reflect evolving global priorities, technological advancement, and the growing interlinkages between food systems, health, and environmental stewardship.

The United Republic of Tanzania welcomes the future work in these areas and appreciates the contributions of members who have supported the development of the discussion paper. The United Republic of Tanzania further emphasizes the importance of targeted capacity-building and technical support for developing countries to ensure meaningful participation in the standard-setting process and effective national implementation of any future guidance.

IFT

The Institute of Food Technologists (IFT), a global scientific organization of individual members committed to advancing the science of food, thanks Kenya for preparing the updated discussion paper for the committee to review. We would like to address the potential new work item presented by the European Federation of the Associations of Dietitians (EFAD) on Ultra Processed Foods (UPF) found in paragraph 6 of the paper.

IFT believes that it is prudent for CAC to discuss the topic of UPF and the lack of a globally harmonized definition for UPF. We note EFAD's point that both WHO and the USA have ongoing work on this topic and that a science-based, consensus definition adopted by CAC is necessary for CCFL to proceed with initiating a new work on the UPF topic regarding front of pack nutrition labeling (FOPNL), a point which IFT agrees upon with EFAD.

IFT would like to remind the committee of the UPF discussion at CAC48 in November of 2025. Specifically, agenda item 14 regarding Advancing Science-Based Classification on Ultra Processed Foods. We submitted

CRD44¹ at that meeting regarding the topic that outlined our position on Science-Based Classification for UPF and that we believe that CAC will need to address the issue, especially as there are an increasing number of schemes about labeling “non-UPF” or “UPF” warnings.

Any Codex development of a science-based food classification system to improve human health should be grounded in guiding scientific principles. Such a classification system should utilize “Guiding Principles for Science- Based Food Classification Systems Focused on Processing and Formulation”.² Such a system would need a consensus definition that is supported by robust scientific data beyond epidemiological studies, which are the primary basis for the current WHO initiative on UPF. IFT has contributed to the scientific discussion on the UPF topic,^{3 4} and continuously provides input to national agencies regarding the topic.⁵

The need for the development of additional scientific research makes it premature for CCFL to undertake an initiative on the labeling of UPF as part of FOPNL. Further, if Codex is to undertake a proper risk assessment and management evaluation on UPF, it should start with the CCNFSDU as the appropriate owners of the process to evaluate human health risks associated with UPF within Codex, to provide appropriate guidance to CCFL regarding labeling. Currently, it is premature for CCFL to discuss UPF, but if discussion is to occur, we encourage CCFL to discuss the challenges and necessary foundational work on the UPF topic.

¹ [fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/sh-proxy/en/?lnk=1&url=https%253A%252F%252Fworkspace.fao.org%252Fsites%252Fcodex%252FMeetings%252FCX-701-48%252FCRDs%252Fcac48_crd44x.pdf](https://www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/sh-proxy/en/?lnk=1&url=https%253A%252F%252Fworkspace.fao.org%252Fsites%252Fcodex%252FMeetings%252FCX-701-48%252FCRDs%252Fcac48_crd44x.pdf)

² [https://advances.nutrition.org/article/S2161-8313\(25\)00215-7/fulltext](https://advances.nutrition.org/article/S2161-8313(25)00215-7/fulltext)

³ [Defining Ultra-Processed Foods](#)

⁴ [IFT's Journal of Food Science Releases Special Issue on Ultra-processed Foods](#)

⁵ [ift-comments-on-request-for-information-on-ultra-processed-foods-oct-2025.pdf](#)