

CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



World Health
Organization

Viale delle Terme di Caracalla, 00153 Rome, Italy - Tel: (+39) 06 57051 - E-mail: codex@fao.org - www.codexalimentarius.org

Agenda items 4.1, 4.2, 5, 6 and 8

GP34/CRD15

Original Language Only

JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME

CODEX COMMITTEE ON GENERAL PRINCIPLES

Thirty-fourth Session

Lille, France

2–6 June 2025

COMMENTS OF UGANDA

Uganda appreciates the opportunity to provide comments on the different agenda items to be discussed at the 34th Session of Codex Committee on General Principles.

Agenda item 4.1

- i. **Paragraph 32 of Section 3: mentioning of Observer countries having the right to record an opposition to a committee decision as Observer countries do not have the right to vote or to move motions either of substance or of procedure.**

Position: Uganda acknowledges the important role of Observers in enhancing transparency and inclusivity in Codex work. Their input contributes technical insights and stakeholder perspectives. However, Uganda emphasizes the need to maintain a clear distinction between the rights of Codex Members and Observers.

Uganda notes the confusion that could be caused by Paragraph 32 given that Observers do not have voting rights or the ability to move motions. Uganda therefore recommends seeking legal clarification from FAO and WHO on the consistency of this provision with the Codex Procedural Manual and Commission statutes.

Rationale: Uganda believes that clarity in procedural rights is essential to maintaining the integrity and credibility of Codex decision making processes. Legal clarification will help avoid misinterpretation of Observer roles and ensure alignment with established Codex rules and statutes

- ii. **Consider the need to engage further revisions of the PWG and EWG guidelines, taking into account the suggestions and information presented in paragraph 10.**

Position: Uganda recommends Option 2, in-depth revisions to the PWG and EWG guidelines to align them with current working practices, especially virtual modalities

Agenda item 4.2

Position: Uganda supports the proposals to address the superseded content in Section 1.2 Rules of procedure of the Codex Alimentarius Commission, Section 1.3 General principles of the Codex Alimentarius, Section 2.1 Procedures for the elaboration of Codex standards and related texts, 2.2 Criteria for the establishment of subsidiary bodies of the Codex Alimentarius Commission, 2.11 Principles for the establishment or selection of Codex sampling procedures, 4.8 Risk analysis principles applied by the Codex Committee on Pesticide Residues,

6.1 Core functions of Codex contact points, and Section 7.2 Principles concerning the participation of international non-governmental organizations in the work of the Codex Alimentarius Commission

Agenda item 5

Position:

Uganda welcomes the clear definitions of “revision,” “amendment” and “correction,” as well as the adoption of FAO publication guidelines to ensure transparent version numbering and traceability of all Codex texts. Uganda supports the removal of the term “New Edition” to avoid confusion when multiple document versions coexist. In addition, Uganda proposes that for any Latin texts phrased in the procedures, for example *mutatis mutandis* in Section 2 paragraph 8, their meaning should clearly be highlighted in Section 1.4, Definitions for the purposes of the Codex Alimentarius.

Rationale: These improve clarity and alignment with current Codex procedures. Including explanations of Latin terms like *mutatis mutandis* in the definitions section will enhance accessibility and understanding, particularly for members less familiar with legal terminology.

Agenda item 6

Position: Uganda supports the proposal to amend the principles concerning the participation of international NGOs by inserting a separate heading entitled “Relations between international non-governmental organizations holding observer status with Codex” above paragraph 24.

Recognizing the vital contributions of INGOs in the work of Codex, Uganda proposes that the Commission also develops concise guidance outlining: 1) how the double-representation clause will be monitored in practice; and 2) the process for INGOs to notify the Secretariat of their membership overlaps. Such implementation safeguards will enhance transparency.

Rationale: This will guard against advantaging the perspective of one group regardless of its relationship with FAO and/or WHO.

Agenda item 8

Position: Uganda supports the proposed amendments to the guidance on CWBC as they enhance clarity and flexibility in the operation of Committees Working by Correspondence (CWBC). The changes reflect lessons learned from recent experiences and address the need for updated virtual participation options.