

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 item 4.1, 4.2, 5, 6, 7 and 8

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JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME

CODEX COMMITTEE ON GENERAL PRINCIPLES

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COMMENTS OF GHANA

AGENDA ITEM 4.1: REVIEW OF THE PROCEDURES IN SECTION 3: GUIDELINES FOR SUBSIDIARY BODIES (CX/GP 25/34/4)

Position

Ghana thanks the host secretariat working group chaired by the United States of America and co-chaired by France for leading this work. Ghana welcomes the overall effort to update Section 3 and commends the Chairs for streamlining outdated, paper-centric processes. Ghana would like to make the following comments:

Virtual Modalities: Ghana encourages the Commission to seek formal FAO/WHO legal advice to re-introduce “virtual modalities” as an explicit option to ensure equitable participation for Member Countries with limited travel budgets or infrastructure.

EWG/PWG Guidelines: Recognizing the divergent needs of correspondence-based and meeting-based groups, Ghana supports **Option 2:** undertake in-depth, separate revisions of the EWG and PWG texts to integrate virtual components, rather than a single, catch-all guideline, to preserve clarity around convening, quorum, and decision-making protocols.

Editorial correction- in clause 3.5 section 99 of the document by deletion “**of**” from the statement. (While selecting **of** the appointee(s), the host and co-host(s) may consider applying, where relevant, the Codex criteria for the appointment of chairpersons).

Step 5/8 Consistency: To reflect the routine use of accelerated procedures Ghana proposes updating Section 2.1 in parallel with paragraph 36, explicitly defining “adoption at Step 5/8” in the uniform step process.

Harmonization of Terminology: Ghana supports consistent use of “standards and related texts,” “Codex Secretariat,” “Member country/nation,” and a clear distinction between “host/co-host” and “WG lead.” Such uniform language will reduce confusion and uphold the integrity of Codex’s basic texts.

Conference-Room Documents & Reporting: Ghana welcomes the new CRD provisions and the dedicated paragraph on draft-report preparation, and encourages retention of clear workflow steps for document registration, notification and distribution to ensure transparency.

AGENDA ITEM 4.2: CODEX PROCEDURAL MANUAL: REVIEW OF INCONSISTENCIES IN LANGUAGE AND SUPERSEDED CONTENT, APART FROM SECTION 3 (CX/GP 25/34/5)

Position:

Ghana 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: CODEX PROCEDURAL MANUAL: UPDATE TO THE GUIDE TO THE PROCEDURE FOR THE AMENDMENT AND REVISION OF CODEX STANDARDS AND RELATED TEXTS (CX/GP 25/34/6)

Position

Ghana 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. Ghana supports the removal of the term “New Edition” to avoid confusion when multiple document versions co-exist. At the same time, Ghana seeks confirmation that the new amendment-and-revision indicators will apply consistently to both existing standards (retrospective application) and any documents issued in the future, thereby preserving historical clarity while ensuring ongoing transparency.

AGENDA ITEM 6: PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE PRINCIPLES CONCERNING THE PARTICIPATION OF INTERNATIONAL NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS IN THE WORK OF THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION (CX/GP 25/34/7)

Position

Ghana supports the insertion of a standalone heading to ensure that the double-representation restriction unambiguously covers all INGOs holding observer status, thereby safeguarding procedural equity and preventing any inadvertent privileging some INGOs. Recognizing the vital contributions of INGOs in the work of Codex we propose 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.

AGENDA ITEM 7: REVIEW OF THE POTENTIAL USE OF EXISTING PROVISIONS TO PROMOTE MORE RESOURCE-EFFICIENT PRACTICES IN THE REVIEW OF NEW WORK PROPOSALS WHICH DO NOT FALL WITHIN THE REMIT OF AN ACTIVE CODEX COMMITTEE (CX/GP 25/34/8)

Position

Ghana supports a pragmatic, flexible, and resource-efficient approach to handling new work proposals falling outside the remit of active Codex committees.

Rationale

1. Promoting Inclusive, Technical Deliberation

Ghana recognizes that CCEXEC and CAC alone cannot provide the necessary **technical scrutiny** for specialized topics. Ensuring that **subject-matter experts** have a forum to engage before proposals reach these bodies is critical for credibility and consensus-building.

2. Leveraging Existing Structures for Efficiency

Ghana supports flexibly utilizing active Codex committees by slightly broadening their terms of reference where appropriate. This avoids the resource burden of forming entirely new bodies or reconvening dormant ones.

3. Supporting Use of ICT Tools

Given resource constraints, especially for developing countries, Ghana strongly supports the expansion of virtual tools—webinars, online consultations, and hybrid discussions—as low-cost methods for early engagement and technical dialogue.

Ghana will also like the request the codex secretariat to support the CCAfrica to be able to provide a lot of technical training to member countries on the use and application of Codex online tools

AGENDA ITEM 8: REVIEW OF THE APPLICATION OF THE CRITERIA AND PROCEDURAL GUIDELINES FOR CODEX COMMITTEES AND AD HOC INTERGOVERNMENTAL TASK FORCES WORKING BY CORRESPONDENCE (CX/GP 25/34/9)

Position

Ghana recognizes the value of CWBCs as a cost-effective tool for focused standard-development work but emphasizes the need for robust guardrails to safeguard inclusivity and manageability. Ghana in general 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. Ghana further supports the proposed flexibility for limited simultaneous virtual discussions on the understanding that they remain exceptional. To prevent scope drift, Ghana also endorses the new paragraph limiting CWBC terms of reference strictly to CAC-mandated tasks.