

CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



World Health
Organization

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

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JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME

CODEX COMMITTEE ON GENERAL PRINCIPLES

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COMMENTS OF BURUNDI

Burundi appreciates the opportunity to provide comments on the different agenda items to be discussed by the thirty-four Session of the Codex Committee on General Principles.

Agenda item 4.1

CX/GP 25/34/4, CX/GP 25/34/4 Add. 1 Codex

Procedural Manual: Review of the procedures in Section 3: Guidelines for subsidiary bodies

Position: Burundi thanks the task force of the host secretariat, chaired by the United States of America and co-chaired by France, for leading this work. Burundi welcomes the overall effort to update section 3 and congratulates the chairs for streamlining outdated and paper-centered processes. Burundi would like to make the following observations:

Virtual modalities: Burundi encourages the Commission to seek the official legal advice of FAO and WHO to reintroduce “virtual modalities” as an explicit option to ensure equitable participation of member states whose travel budgets or infrastructures are limited.

GTE/GTP Guidelines: Recognizing the differing needs of correspondence-based groups and meeting-based groups, Burundi supports Option 2: to undertake thorough and separate revisions of the GTE and GTP texts to incorporate virtual components, rather than a single, catch-all guideline, in order to maintain clarity regarding convening protocols, quorum, and decision-making.

Observers' rights: Burundi recommends removing the text in brackets in paragraph 32 regarding the “opposition” rights of observers and clarifying that observers can submit written observations but do not have a formal right of objection or voting rights.

Consistency of step 5/8: To take into account the common use of expedited procedures, Burundi proposes to update section 2.1 in parallel with paragraph 36, by explicitly defining “adoption at step 5/8” in the uniform step-by-step procedure.

Harmonization of terminology: Burundi supports a consistent use of the terms “standards and related texts”, “Codex Secretariat”, “member country/nation”, and a clear distinction between “host/co-host” and “lead of the working group”. This uniform language will reduce confusion and preserve the integrity of the Codex’s foundational texts.

Conference room documents and reports: Burundi welcomes the new provisions of the CRD and the paragraph dedicated to preparing draft reports, and encourages the maintenance of clear work steps for the registration, notification, and distribution of documents to ensure transparency.

Agenda item 4.2**CX/GP 25/34/5****Codex Procedural Manual: Review of inconsistencies in language and superseded content, apart from Section 3**

Position: Burundi supports the proposals aimed at addressing the outdated content of section 1.2 of the Rules of Procedure of the Codex Alimentarius Commission, section 1.3, General Principles of the Codex Alimentarius, section 2.1, Procedures for the Development of Codex Standards and Related Texts, section 2.2, Criteria for the Establishment of Subsidiary Bodies of the Codex Alimentarius Commission, section 2.11, Principles Governing the Establishment or Selection of Codex Sampling Procedures, section 4.8, Principles of Risk Analysis Applied by the Codex Committee on Pesticide Residues, section 6.1, Essential Functions of the Central Liaison Services with Codex, and section 7.2 Principles Regarding the Participation of Non-Governmental International Organizations in the Work of the Codex Alimentarius Commission.

Agenda item 5**CX/GP 25/34/6****Codex Procedural Manual: Update to the Guide to the procedure for the amendment and revision of Codex standards and related texts**

Position: Burundi welcomes the clear definitions of the terms "revision," "amendment," and "correction," as well as the adoption of FAO guidelines on publication to ensure the transparency of version numbering and the traceability of all Codex texts. Burundi is in favor of eliminating the term "new edition" in order to avoid any confusion when multiple versions of documents coexist. At the same time, Burundi seeks confirmation that the new amendment and revision indicators will apply consistently to both existing standards (retroactive application) and any documents published in the future, thus preserving historical clarity while ensuring ongoing transparency.

Agenda item 6**CX/GP 25/34/7 Proposed****amendment to the Principles concerning the participation of international non-governmental organizations in the work of the Codex Alimentarius Commission**

Position: Burundi supports the inclusion of a standalone title to ensure that the restriction related to double representation unequivocally covers all NGOs so that none are inadvertently favored. Recognizing the vital contributions of NGOs to the work of the Codex, we propose that the Commission also develop concise guidelines describing:

- 1) how the double representation clause will be monitored in practice; and
- 2) the procedure for NGOs to notify the Secretariat of their membership overlaps. Such implementation guarantees will enhance transparency.

Agenda item 8**CX/GP 25/34/9 Review of the****application of the Criteria and procedural guidelines for Codex committees and ad hoc intergovernmental task forces working by correspondence**

Position: Burundi recognizes the value of CWBC as a cost-effective tool for targeted standard-setting work, but emphasizes the need for strong safeguards to maintain inclusivity and manageability. In general, Burundi supports the proposed changes to the guidelines regarding correspondence working groups, as they enhance the clarity and flexibility of the operation of these groups. The modifications reflect lessons learned from recent experiences and address the need to update options for virtual participation. Burundi further supports the proposed flexibility for limited simultaneous virtual discussions, provided that remains exceptional. To avoid any drift, Burundi also approves the new paragraph limiting the CWBC's mandate strictly to tasks mandated by the CAC.