

APPENDIX V**Principles concerning the participation of international non-governmental organizations in the work of the Codex Alimentarius Commission**

(...)

Procedure for obtaining observer status**International non-governmental organizations having status with FAO and/or official relations with WHO**

18. Observer status shall be accorded to those INGOs in consultative status, specialized consultative status or liaison status with FAO or INGOs having official relations with WHO that inform the Secretary of the CAC of their desire to participate in the work of the Commission and/or any or all of the Commission's subsidiary bodies¹ on a regular basis. They may also request invitations to participate in specific sessions of the Commission or its subsidiary bodies on an ad hoc basis.

International non-governmental organizations neither having status with FAO nor official relations with WHO

19. Before any form of formal relationship is established with a non-governmental organization, such organization shall supply the Secretary of the Commission with the information outlined in the Annex to these procedures.

20. The Secretary of the Commission will verify the completeness of the information provided by the organization and will also perform an initial assessment of whether the organization appears to meet the requirements indicated in paragraph 16 of these principles. In case of doubt, he or she will consult with the Directors-General of FAO and WHO and may seek further information and clarifications from the organization as appropriate.

21. Upon satisfactory completion of the verification and assessment referred to in the previous paragraph, the Secretary of the Commission will submit the application and all relevant information received from the applicant to the Executive Committee for its advice, pursuant to Rule IX.6 of the Rules of Procedure of the CAC.

22. The Secretary of the Commission will transmit the application, together with all relevant information received from the applicant and the advice of the Executive Committee, to the Directors-General who will decide whether an organization is to be granted observer status. In case of rejection of an application, a re-application by the same organization shall not normally be considered until two years have elapsed since the Directors-General's decision on the original application.

23. The Secretary of the Commission shall inform each organization of the Directors-General's decision on its application and shall provide a written explanation of the decision in case of rejection.

Relations between international non-governmental organizations holding observer status with Codex

24. Observer status at specific meetings will not normally be granted to individual organizations that are members of a larger organization authorized and that intends to represent them at these meetings.

¹ The term "subsidiary bodies" means any body established under Rule XI of the Commission's rules of procedure.