



**JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME
CODEX COMMITTEE ON SPICES AND CULINARY HERBS**

Eighth Session

**INFORMATION ON ACTIVITIES OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS RELEVANT TO
THE WORK OF CCSCH**

(Comments of Canada, Kenya)

Canada

Canada thanks the International Organization for Standardization (ISO), and in particular ISO/TC 34/SC 7, for the comprehensive update on its activities and the continued engagement with Codex work.

Canada also acknowledges the valuable contribution of ISO/TC 34/SC 7 in developing international standards for spices, culinary herbs, and condiments, and appreciate the extensive portfolio of product specifications, test methods, sampling procedures, and guidelines that have been made available. These resources are indeed relevant to the mandate of CCSCH and provide a strong technical foundation for standard-setting in this domain.

In response to ISO's proposal *CX/SCH 25/8/2 Add.2*, Canada supports continued collaboration through existing Codex mechanisms and offers the following views:

1. Use of ISO Standards as Reference

CCSCH recognizes the utility of ISO standards, particularly in areas where Codex standards are not yet developed. ISO standards may be considered as useful starting points or reference materials during the elaboration of Codex texts, subject to Codex procedures and consensus among Members. However, this collaboration should not be interpreted as an endorsement of adopting ISO standards as Codex standards. Codex standards are developed through a consensus-based 8-step process involving Member countries and observers, ensuring broad international agreement.

2. Endorsement of Analytical Methods

The Committee could explore the possibility of using ISO-developed methods of analysis and sampling, where appropriate, through the Codex procedural framework and in consultation with relevant Committees such as CCMAS, the Codex Committee responsible to endorse any methods.

3. Establishing cross-liaison mechanisms

Canada could support enhancing the collaborative information exchange between ISO/TC 34/SC 7 and CCSCH. CCSCH already welcomes ISO participation at meetings and EWGs as an Observer, providing ample opportunity to share expertise, be informed of the works undertaken, and be able to comment on the documents drafted throughout the process. Canada would support ISO to continue engaging actively through these established channels, which are well suited to fostering cooperation, promoting complementarity.

Canada does not believe that a formal liaison mechanism is needed at this time, as enhanced collaboration can be effectively achieved through existing Codex structures and minimizing duplication.

Canada looks forward to continued collaboration and constructive engagement with ISO/TC 34/SC 7 in the interest of advancing harmonized international standards for spices and culinary herbs.

Kenya

General Comment: Kenya appreciates the important work of ISO/TC 34/SC 7 in developing international standards for spices and culinary herbs, which complement Codex efforts to ensure quality and fair trade. Kenya supports enhanced collaboration between ISO and CCSCH to avoid duplication, promote harmonized analytical methods, and share technical data.

While ISO standards can serve as valuable references, Kenya emphasizes that Codex should remain the primary body for setting food standards to ensure global consensus, transparency, and consumer protection.

Kenya therefore supports continued cross-liaison between ISO/TC 34/SC 7 and CCSCH to strengthen coordination and inclusivity, particularly for developing countries.