CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

World Health Organization

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**Agenda item 1** **EXEC88/CRD02**

**Original language only**

**JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME**
**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION**

**Eighty-eighth Session**

**FAO headquarters, Rome, Italy**

**14–18 July 2025**

# OUTCOMES OF THE 34TH SESSION OF THE CODEX COMMITTEE ON GENERAL PRINCIPLES REGARDING THE CODEX PROCEDURAL MANUAL AND RELATED ISSUES

*(Prepared by the Codex Secretariat)*

1. The 34th session of the Codex Committee on General Principles (CCGP34)[1] as requested by CAC considered updates to various sections of the *Codex Procedural Manual*. Based upon comments received and discussions held, CCGP34 agreed to forward for adoption by the upcoming session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC48) updates to the following sections of the *Codex Procedural Manual*.

**Proposed edits to superseded text (apart from Section 3)**

2. Based upon a review by the Codex Secretariat regarding superseded content and linguistic inconsistencies in the *Codex Procedural Manual* (apart from Section 3), CCGP34 proposed edits to Sections 2.1, 2.11, 6.1 and 7.2 (REP25/GP, Appendix III).

3. Of specific relevance to CCEXEC are proposed edits to Section 2.1, Procedures for the elaboration of Codex standards and related texts, Part 2 Critical review, paragraph 12(i) regarding the proposed timeline for completion to focus on the number of sessions foreseen to develop the standard rather than the date for adoption by the Commission; and paragraph 19b(ii) to refer to endorsement by the relevant committee and not endorsement procedure.

4. CCEXEC should also note that in the introduction to Section 2.1, Procedures for the elaboration of Codex standards and related texts, paragraph 6, a clarification of what adoption at Step 5/8 means has been proposed.

**Proposed edits to Section 2.1, Part 7: Guide to the procedure for the amendment and revision of Codex standards and related texts**

5. In relation to the review of this guide, the objective of which was to clarify the terms “amendment” and “revision” within Codex procedures, CCGP34 proposed edits to paragraph 8, paragraph 12 and Part 7 of Section 2.1 Procedures for the elaboration of Codex standards and related texts of the *Codex Procedural Manual* (REP25/GP, Appendix IV).

6. CCGP34 also proposed that CCEXEC monitor the application of Part 7, Guide to the procedure for the amendment and revision of Codex standards and related texts, of Section 2.1 of the *Codex Procedural Manual* in the critical review process, and if needed request CAC to refer the issue back to CCGP for further consideration.

**Proposed edits to Section 3: Guidelines for subsidiary bodies**

7. Based upon a review of this section conducted by host secretariats, CCGP34 proposed edits to Sections 3.1-3.3 (REP25/GP, Appendix II). CCGP will through an electronic working group (EWG) continue reviewing Sections 3.5 and 3.6, Guidelines on physical and electronic working groups, respectively.

[1] REP25/GP

8. Based upon a specific review of Section 3.4, Criteria and procedural guidelines for Codex committees and ad hoc intergovernmental task forces working by correspondence, conducted by the Codex Secretariat and the Legal offices of FAO and WHO, CCGP34 proposed changes to this section to allow for specific issue(s) to be discussed by simultaneous virtual presence of participants if deemed necessary and to clarify that committees working by correspondence would address only the task(s) assigned by CAC (REP25/GP, Appendix VI). CCGP34 also recommended that CAC provide a clear statement of tasks and timeframe when assigning work to be conducted by correspondence. The latter is of relevance to CCEXEC's critical review and should be taken into consideration when addressing issues from committees working by correspondence or work that might be assigned to a committee working by correspondence.

**Proposed edits to Section 7.2: Principles concerning the participation of international non-governmental organizations in the work of the Codex Alimentarius Commission**

9. As recommended by CCEXEC86 and subsequently requested by CAC47, the Codex Secretariat and the legal offices of FAO and WHO conducted a review of Section 7.2, Principles concerning the participation of international non-governmental organizations (INGOs) in the work of the Codex Alimentarius Commission. Based upon this review, CCGP34 proposed edits to clarify that the double representation clause applied to all INGOs with Observer status with Codex (REP25/GP, Appendix VI).

10. CCGP34 also requested the Codex Secretariat to consider in collaboration with the legal offices of FAO and WHO the proposals for further amendments of the double representation clause in light of the request from CCEXEC86 and to consider the application of the double representation clause under the next review of INGOs with Observer status with Codex, scheduled to be presented to CCEXEC by the end of 2026, and present this for consideration by a future session of CCGP.

**Other issues**

11. Based upon a recommendation from CCEXEC87 and a request of CAC47, the Codex Secretariat had prepared a review of the potential use of existing provisions in the *Codex Procedural Manual* 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. CCGP34 held an engaged discussion and noted that the existing provisions could promote this. CCGP34 recommended that CCGP continue the discussion on resource-efficient practices in the review of new work proposals, including those for which there may not be a relevant existing or active committee that might undertake their technical review based upon an updated document from the Codex Secretariat taking into account the proposals and feedback from delegates at CCGP34.

12. A proposal was made to undertake a review of text relating to new work proposals in the *Codex Procedural Manual's* Section 2.1, Section 2.3 and the criteria applicable to commodities described in Section 2.4. It was agreed that it was better to first finalize the ongoing work on developing practical guidelines for new work proposals and let Members gain experience with those before considering procedural updates.

**Recommendations**

CCEXEC88 is invited to:

i. note the good progress made at CCGP34 and that discussions will continue on the Guidelines for physical and electronic working groups and on resource-efficient practices in the review of new work proposals including those which do not fall within the remit of an existing or active Codex committee

ii. indicate to CAC its willingness to monitor the application of Part 7, Guide to the procedure for the amendment and revision of Codex standards and related texts, of Section 2.1 of the *Codex Procedural Manual* in the critical review process, and note the request of CCGP that any issue related to the application of Part 7 be brought to CCGP's attention via CAC; and

iii. note that further amendments may be required to Section 7.2, Principles concerning the participation of international non-governmental organizations (INGOs) in the work of the Codex Alimentarius Commission, following the next review of INGOs with Observer status with Codex, scheduled to be presented to CCEXEC by the end of 2026.