



CCEURO32

Distinguished Members and Observers of the FAO/WHO Coordinating Committee for Europe

I am glad to welcome everyone to the 32nd session of the FAO/WHO Coordinating Committee for Europe (CCEURO32) and invite you to actively engage in what will be the first coordinating committee to meet formally in a virtual mode. The session will take place **from 16 to 20 May, 2022**, with plenary discussions on 16-18 May and report adoption on 20 May. A side event on the management of food fraud is scheduled on Thursday 19 May 2022.

It will have been almost three years since we all came together in Kazakhstan for CCEURO31 and in the meantime the COVID19 pandemic has significantly changed the way we work and interact. While we may not be able to meet physically on this occasion, over the past two years we have become increasingly proficient at using the virtual tools available to us to progress our work and I trust that these tools will enable us to have an interactive and productive session.

The agenda of the forthcoming session includes priority issues for our region.

The keynote speech of the 32nd session is the “Sustainability of food systems and the role of Codex”. The COVID-19 pandemic has exposed the vulnerability and fragility of the world’s food systems to millions of people around the world and the role of Codex in the sustainability of food systems is undeniable.

We will also address priority issues for our region, including current and emerging food safety and quality issues, One Health and specific ongoing work across Codex committees. There will also be nomination of the next Regional Coordinator as the term of Kazakhstan is coming to an end. As we approach the 60th anniversary of the Codex Alimentarius Commission, I believe the Regional Coordinator will continue to play a very important role in ensuring the engagement of all Members in the region in the work of Codex and in shaping a Codex for the future that will be of benefit to all.

Returning to our agenda, particular attention will be paid to the discussion of the regional work plan for 2022-2023 as part of the regions’ support to the implementation of the Codex Strategic Plan 2020-2025. During my time as Chairperson I had the honour to visit many countries in our region. The implementation of the Codex Strategic Plan is the means by which such work can be continued and I encourage all Members to review the proposal Kazakhstan has prepared as Regional Coordinator so that CCEURO32 can agree on a pragmatic and effective workplan for 2022-2023.

Dear friends, we will have a busy and interesting week.

I am sure that engagement of the delegates of the region in this session will make a significant contribution to the solution of various Codex-related food safety issues, which will help improve human health and ensure fair practices in the food trade, not only in the region, but for the Codex family as a whole.

I am looking forward to seeing you at CCEURO32!

Sincerely,

Dr Nailya Karsybekova

