

CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



World Health
Organization

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Agenda Item 5

EXEC72 CRD/03

JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION
72nd Session, WHO Headquarters
Geneva, Switzerland, 30 August - 1 August 2016

Global Harmonization Initiative (GHI)

Global Harmonization Initiative (GHI)**(a) Official name of the organization in different languages (with initials):**

Global Harmonization Initiative (GHI)

(b) Full postal address, Telephone, Facsimile and Email, as well as Telex and website addresses as appropriate.

GHI Association

C/o Dr. Gerhard Schleining

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ZVR: 453446383

(c) Aims and subject fields (mandate) of organization, and methods of operation. (Enclose charter, constitution, by-laws, rules of procedures, etc.). Date of establishment

Established 2004 Vienna, Austria. Influence harmonization of legislation and regulations related to food and food safety

The goal of the initiative is to ensure the global availability of safe and wholesome food products for all consumers.

To achieve this, undue barriers to free trade that masquerade as food safety protections must be vanquished. Such barriers include differences in regulations and legislation between countries globally. The international scientific community must, therefore, work towards achieving global consensus on the science underpinning food regulations and legislation.

This will be achieved through attainment of the following objectives:

Identifying relevant scientific organizations

Inviting and encouraging the participation of these scientific societies in the global harmonization initiative and inviting their members to join in this activity in their field of expertise.

Identifying relevant non-scientific stakeholders

Establishing effective communication between non-scientific and scientific organizations.

Inviting all stakeholders (organizations and individuals) to identify and submit key issues requiring attention.

Prioritizing key issues with the subsequent formation of working groups to draft white papers or consensus statements regarding the scientific validity of these issues.

Steering working groups to assess the best available evidence and discuss their findings with the scientific community, working towards building consensus.

Publishing results on a per issue basis in journals, magazines and newspapers.

Publishing collections of resulting consensus statements in book form.

Presenting results and participating in appropriate conferences.

Making results available to all stakeholders, particularly those responsible for developing or amending regulations and legislation, global communicators, risk managers and assessors.

All of these will be done in an open, transparent manner, to avoid bias or the appearance of bias, political or otherwise.

- (d) Member organizations (name and address of each national affiliate, method of affiliation, giving number of members where possible, and names of principal officers. If the organization has individual members, please indicate approximate number in each country. If the organization is of a federal nature and has International Non-Governmental Organizations as members, please indicate whether any of those members already enjoy observer status with the Codex Alimentarius Commission).**

GHI has an established network of 55 ambassadors representing more than 43 nations. GHI's expert professional members are internationally regarded food safety scientists, chemists, engineers, toxicologists, microbiologist, mycologists, animal scientists, veterinarians, nutritionists, regulatory officials and academicians. Currently GHI has upwards of 400 members representing Asia, Africa, Europe, North, South and Central America and Oceania. GHI's current leadership as confirmed in August 2015 consist of members from The Netherlands, The United States, Croatia, Korea, Austria, and India. Global Harmonization Initiative (GHI) is a network of scientific organizations and individual scientists working together to promote harmonization of global food safety regulations and legislation.

- (e) Structure (assembly or conference; council or other form of governing body; type of general secretariat; commissions on special topics, if any; etc.).**

Supervisory board, Executive Committee, Executive Director, General Secretariat and global membership of food scientists.

- (f) Indication of source of funding (e.g. membership contributions, direct funding, external contributions, or grants).**

External donations and member donations. We do not have a fee for membership but we accepted charitable donations from external sources and members provided that there is no appearance of conflict of interest associated with the donation. We also apply for grant funding for other NGOs globally.

- (g) Meetings (indicate frequency and average attendance; send report of previous meeting, including any resolutions passed) that are concerned with matters covering all or part of the Commission's field of activity.**

Meetings of the Executive Committee are held on a monthly basis to review activities of the organization and to comply with terms of our constitution. General meetings (ad hoc) are held several times during the year and are typically associated with congresses and or conferences. For example on an annual basis since 2005 GHI has held a meeting in the USA to correspond with the Annual Meeting and Expo of the Institute of Food Technologist. Similar meetings have been associated with EFFosT and IUFosT and INUS meetings.

- (h) Relations with other international organizations:**

UN and its organs (indicate consultative status or other relationship, if any)

- None

Other international organizations (document substantive activities)

- None

(i) Expected contribution to the Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme.

Subject matter experts (SMEs) and expert critique of Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards and other proposal and official guidance documents. Our international network of scientists and scientific organization anticipate working closely in an advisory capacity relating to FAO/WHO activities and programs in those areas related to the safe production, distribution and regulation of human food, food ingredients, food packaging materials, food processing aids and other additives. GHI has amongst its membership, experts in food processing technologies and advanced novel and emerging preservation methods. These SMEs will support and provide comment where applicable in supporting the programs of the FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme.

(j) Past activities on behalf of, or in relation to, the Codex Alimentarius Commission and the Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme (indicate any relationship by national affiliates with the Regional Coordinating Committees and/or the National Codex Contact Points or Committees for at least the last three years preceding the application).

None

(k) Area of activity in which participation as an observer is requested (Commission and/or Subsidiary Bodies). If more than one organization with similar interests is requesting observer status in any field of activity, such organizations will be encouraged to form themselves into a federation or association for the purpose of participation. If the formation of such a single organization is not feasible, the application should explain why this is so.

Food Safety and Hygiene, Chemical Additives, Food Contact Materials, General Standards on Zoonotic Disease, Pesticides and Agricultural Chemicals. Global Harmonization Initiative (GHI) is a network of scientific organizations and individual scientists working together to promote harmonization of global food safety regulations and legislation. GHI, with its broad international membership and extensive network of ambassadors intends to engage in the scientific discourse and to provide unique, expert, scientific, (provided by GHI membership) perspective on global food safety issues raised and discussed by the Codex Commission and or its subsidiary organizations and bodies. GHI is in a unique position to provide Codex expert, objective, scientific opinion, while not being influenced by national interest or international political considerations.

(l) Previous applications for observer status with the Codex Alimentarius Commission, including those made by a member organization of the applicant organization. If successful, please indicate why and when observer status was terminated. If unsuccessful, please indicate the reasons you were given.

None – Not Applicable

(m) Languages (English, French or Spanish) in which documentation should be sent to the International Non-Governmental Organization.

English and Spanish.

(n) Name, Function and address of the person providing the information.

Larry Keener Vice President and Co-Chair

(o) Signature and date.

July 7, 2016

