CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

World Health Organization

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CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION

Forty-fourth Session

Comments of AFRICAN UNION (AU)

AGENDA ITEM 2: Report of the 81st session of the Executive Committee - REP21/EXEC

- ***MRLs for zilpaterol hydrochloride (cattle fat, kidney, liver, muscle)***

Background: CCEXEC81 recalled that the Chairperson of CCRVDF had noted that the Committee was unable to reach consensus on either advancing the MRLs for zilpaterol hydrochloride to Step 5 or 5/8 or to retain them at Step 4. He had further noted that all efforts had been exhausted in CCRVDF to reach consensus and observed that CCRVDF had reiterated the views that there were no public health concerns regarding the proposed MRLs and supported the JECFA scientific evaluations while recognizing that some Members disagreed. The CCRVDF Chairperson had thus requested CCEXEC81 to provide a recommendation on the way forward in the framework of the critical review and to inform a CAC decision on the path forward for the proposed MRLs in the Codex step process (REP21/RVDF, paragraph 87).

Decision of CCEXEC81 *:* CCEXEC81 recommended that the Codex Secretariat circulate the proposed draft MRLs for zilpaterol for comments at Step 5 to be considered in the next critical review of CCEXEC together with the outcome of the discussion on the SoP and subsequent discussion at, and adoption by CAC, noting that:

i. the proposed draft MRLs for zilpaterol had met all the procedural and scientific requirements for advancement
ii. delegations at CCRVDF which remained opposed to advancement had provided reasons for their position which were legitimate within their national regulatory contexts, but which could not be taken into account by CCRVDF because they were not “other legitimate factors” for Codex as they were not acceptable on a worldwide basis
iii. advancement to Step 5 was a compromise, it would still allow for further comments at Step 6 through which Members could submit any new scientific information if/as available for consideration by CCRVDF26

Position: African Union supports the recommendations of CCEXEC81 and recommends that CAC41 adopts the MRL for zilpaterol as step 5.

Rationale: African Union recalls the scientific evaluations conducted by JECFA on the issue of MRL for zilpaterol and the outcome that there were no public health concerns regarding the proposed MRLs. AU notes that this veterinary drug is already being used in international trade, adopting the proposed MRL will ensure the availability of an international reference for regulation. African Union therefore supports a science-based and progressive approach to the resolution of the issue of zilpaterol. AU considers the CCEXEC81 recommendations to be a progressive pathway in advancing work on MRL for zilpaterol.

AGENDA ITEM 3: Amendment to the Procedural Manual (CX/CAC 21/44/2)

Position: African Union supports the amendment to the Codex Procedural Manual. This amendment sets out the criteria and procedural guidelines for Codex Committees and ad hoc Intergovernmental Task Forces Working by Correspondence. The amendment is necessary to ensure uniform application of Codex procedures for committees working by correspondence.

AGENDA ITEM 4: FINAL ADOPTION OF CODEX TEXTS

AGENDA ITEM 4.1: Codex Committee on Spices and Culinary Herbs - CX/CAC 21/44/3

Part 1 – Standards and related texts submitted for final adoption

- ***Draft standard for dried oregano REP21/SCH Para. 36, Appendix II N06-2014 (At Step 8)***

Background: The committee considered and resolved the outstanding issues related to Section 2.1 - Product Definition, the Tables for Physical and Chemical Characteristics and Section 8 in a virtual meeting of CCSCH5 in April 2021. The committee had advanced other section for adoption at step 5 by CAC 42 as it awaited conclusion of the remaining sections. The issues related to visible mould/insect damage, mammalian excreta and other excreta are applicable to whole oregano. Based on this consensus, CCSCH5 agreed to forward the draft Standard for Dried Oregano to CAC 44 for adoption at Step 8.

Position: African Union supports the adoption of the Draft Standard for Dried Oregano at Step 8.

Rationale: The concern AU was the inclusion of requirements related to tolerance levels for the insect fragments parameter, visible mould/insect damage, mammalian excreta and other excreta in ground oregano instead of the whole oregano which would then be an input to this product. Based on the consensus by the CCSCH committee to remove the requirements, it acceptable to have the standard adopted at step 8.

- ***Draft standard for dried roots, rhizomes and bulbs — dried or dehydrated ginger REP21/SCH Para. 65, Appendix III (At Step 8)***

Position: African Union supports the adoption of the Draft Standard for dried roots, rhizomes and bulbs – dried or dehydrated ginger at Step 8.

Rationale: Ginger is grown throughout Africa and is consumed widely. The standard provide adequate provisions that will promote consumer health and fair trade.

- ***Draft standard for dried floral parts – dried cloves REP21/SCH Para. 81, Appendix IV (At Step 8)***

Position: African Union supports the adoption of the Draft standard for dried floral parts – dried cloves at Step 8.

Rationale: The points of contentions which AU had with the proposed Draft Standard for dried cloves were resolved during the discussions at CCSCH5. Cloves are an important crop in Africa with several AU member states involved in large-scale commercial production of cloves. The provisions in the standard provide adequate health protection and will help facilitate trade.

- ***Draft standard for dried leaves - dried basil REP21/SCH Para. 115, Appendix V (At Step 8)***

Position: African Union supports the adoption of the Draft Standard for dried leaves – dried basil at Step 8.

Rationale: The provisions in the standard provide adequate health protection and will help facilitate trade.

Part 2 – Standards and related texts submitted for adoption at Step 5

- ***CCSCH Draft standard for dried seeds - nutmeg1 REP21/SCH Para. 149, Appendix VI (At Step 5)***

Position: African Union supports the adoption of the Draft standard for dried seeds – nutmeg at Step 5.

Rationale: Nutmeg is grown across Africa and is important for trade. Progress was made at CCSCH5 in addressing issues raised by the AU. Advancing the Proposed Draft Standard for adoption at Step 5 will move the proposed Draft Standard along the Step process and ensure that the remaining work can be completed within the proposed timeline extension to CCSCH6.

Part 3 – Proposals to elaborate new standards and related texts

- ***Proposal for new work on the development of a standard for small cardamom (REP21/SCH, Appendix VII Annex I)***

Position: African Union supports the approval of the Proposal for new work on a CODEX Standard for Small Cardamom.

Rationale: Small Cardamom is an important crop for African economies. Development of a Codex standard for small cardamom will help set out the international reference standard required for the safe trade in this product.

- ***Proposal for new work on the development of a standard for turmeric (REP21/SCH, Appendix VIII, Annex II)***

Position: African Union supports the approval of the Proposal for new work for a CODEX Standard for Dried and Dehydrated Tumeric.

Rationale: Tumeric is grown in Africa and Ethiopia is amongst the top ten exporters of Tumeric. With a renewed interest in healthy eating, diets, and wellbeing turmeric is being produced in countries across Africa. The development of a Codex standard on dried and dehydrated turmeric will help set out the international reference standard required for safe trade in this product.

AGENDA ITEM 4.2: Codex Committee on Contaminants in Foods - CX/CAC 21/44/4

Part 1 – Standards and related texts submitted for final adoption

- ***Proposed MLs for cadmium in chocolates containing or declaring <30% total cocoa solids on a dry matter basis (CXS 193-1995) REP21/CF Paragraphs 18-27, Appendix II (At Step 8)***

Background: CCCF13 (2019) advanced the ML of 0.3mg/kg for cadmium in chocolates containing or declaring <30% total cocoa solids on a dry matter basis to Step 5/8 for adoption by CAC42 (2019). The Commission however adopted the ML at Step 5 only, for comments at Step 6 and further consideration by CCCF14. CAC42 in addition endorsed the concept of proportionality agreed upon by CCCF13 and that earlier adopted MLs (0.8mg/kg for chocolates containing 50% to 70% total cocoa solids and 0.9mg/kg for chocolates containing over 70% total cocoa solids) by CAC41 (2018) be maintained. CAC 42 (2019) decided that the proposed ML of 0.3mg/kg be returned to CCCF for further comments and consideration with the understanding that unless new additional information is provided to justify a change to the ML, CCCF14 will recommend the adoption of the ML of 0.3mg/kg by CAC44. In the interim, JECFA in February 2021 conducted an exposure assessment (JECFA 91) for cadmium from all food sources particularly cocoa products including chocolate. JECFA further evaluated 44 national studies conducted worldwide in 32 countries (including Benin, Cameroon, Mali and Nigeria) and a country grouping. The results confirmed that the main sources of cadmium exposure were from grain and grain-based products, vegetables, fish and seafood especially molluscs. None of JECFAs evaluations (64th, 73rd, 91st) have identified cocoa products as major contributors to dietary cadmium exposure.

Position: African Union supports the adoption (At Step 8) of proposed draft ML of 0.3mg/kg for cadmium in chocolates containing or declaring <30% total cocoa solids on a dry matter basis.

Rationale: JECFA 91 (2021) evaluation of the GEMS/Food contaminants database showed that of the 4008 records for chocolates it was only possible to establish percentage cocoa solids for 638 (15.9%). Of this number, 114 samples of chocolate contained less than 30% total solids on a dry weight basis. Using the proposed ML of 0.3mg/kg, a rejection rate of 2.6% was obtained which is well below the 5% normally accepted in Codex. CCCF14 (2021) therefore agreed to advance the ML of 0.3mg/kg to Step 8 for adoption by CAC44 (Appendix II), noting the reservations of the European Union, Norway and Egypt to this decision. Based on this low rejection rate of 2.6% and the fact that no new information has been brought forward to justify a change in the ML by CCCF14, African Union supports that CAC44 adopts the ML of 0.3mg/kg for cadmium in chocolates containing or declaring <30% total cocoa solids on a dry matter basis at Step 8.

- ***Proposed MLs for cadmium in chocolates containing or declaring ≥30% to <50% total cocoa solid on a dry matter basis (CXS 193-1995) CCCF REP21/CF Para. 28-40, Appendix II (At Step 5/8)***

Background: Exposure assessments to cadmium from consumption of cocoa and cocoa-derived products conducted by JECFA 64 and 73 both concluded that total cadmium exposure for high consumers of cocoa and cocoa products was not a health concern. CCCF 8 (2014) however decided that the lack of MLs could threaten the exports of some member countries thus the decision to set MLs for cadmium.

CCCF12 reached consensus on a proposed ML of 0.8mg/kg for Chocolate containing or declaring ≥ 50% to <70% total cocoa solids on a dry matter basis. An ML of 0.9mg/kg was also proposed and accepted for chocolate containing or declaring greater than 70% total cocoa solids on a dry matter basis. Both MLs have been adopted by CAC41 (2018). In deriving the ML for cadmium in chocolates containing or declaring ≥30% to <50% total cocoa solids on a dry matter basis, CCCF13 decided to use a proportional approach whilst recognizing the need for some flexibility in the proportionality between the MLs for the different chocolate categories to avoid very high rejection rates.

CCCF14 (2021) considered two scenarios: the proportional approach and the analysis of data from GEMS/Food. The proportional approach resulted in a ML range of 0.5 – 0.6mg/kg for which the ML of 0.5 mg/kg accounts for rejection rates of 16.2% (worldwide basis) and 20.5% (Latin America and the Caribbean) and 0% (Africa). Analysis of GEMS/Food data produced a range of 0.6 – 0.7mg/kg, with 0.6mg/kg accounting for rejection rates of 10.4% (worldwide basis), 13.2% (Latin America and the Caribbean) and 0% (Africa). The ML of 0.7 mg/kg accounts for rejection rates of 5.7% (worldwide basis) and 7.3% (Latin America and the Caribbean) and 0% (Africa). CCCF14 agreed to advance the ML of 0.7mg/kg to Step 5/8 for adoption by CAC44 (Appendix II), noting the reservations of the European Union, Switzerland, Norway and Egypt.

Position: African Union supports the adoption (At Step 5/8) of the proposed draft ML of 0.7mg/kg for cadmium in chocolates containing or declaring ≥30% to <50% total cocoa solid on a dry matter basis

Rationale: JECFA91 (2021) has further confirmed that the presence of cadmium in chocolate was not a significant public health concern. The ranges of MLs (0.5 – 0.6mg/kg; 0.6 – 0.7mg/kg proposed for this category of chocolates were all protective of consumers' health on a global basis and therefore the focus was on considering an ML with a minimum negative impact on trade that could best accommodate all regions concerned. The ML of 0.7mg/kg accounts for rejection rates of 5.7% (worldwide basis) and 7.3% (Latin America and the Caribbean) and 0% (Africa) which gives a reasonable compromise both globally and regionally bearing in mind that a rejection rate of 5% is what is usually acceptable in Codex.

- ***Revision of the Code of practice for the prevention and reduction of lead contamination in foods (CXS 56-2004) REP21/CF Para. 106, Appendix V (At Step 5/8)***

Background: Following the information by the 73rd session of JECFA that lead exposure is associated with neurodevelopmental effects, mortality (mainly due to cardiovascular diseases), impaired renal function, hypertension, impaired fertility, and adverse pregnancy outcomes, JECFA withdrew the previously established provisional tolerable weekly intake (PTWI) of 25 µg/kg bw and concluded that it was not possible to establish a new PTWI that would be considered health protective. JECFA therefore recommended that measures should be taken to identify major contributing sources and methods to reduce dietary exposure that are commensurate to the level of risk. In line with these recommendations, CCCF12 set up an EWG chaired by USA and co-chaired by UK to prepare this discussion paper, including a project document for a proposal for new work on revision of the existing COP (CXC 56-2004).

Position: African Union supports adoption at step 5/8 of the revisions to the Code of Practice for the Prevention and Reduction of Lead Contamination in foods (CXS 56-2004). The revision was comprehensive enough for the revised CoP to be considered for adoption at step 5/8.

Rationale: The discussion paper which was submitted at CCCF 13 provided enough additional information available on lead sources and mitigation strategies to justify the revision of the 15 years old COP. The additional sources of exposure to lead and mitigation strategies identified in the document are applicable and achievable in Africa. Invariably, the implementation of the revised COP will be protective of public health and international trade of the continent.

Part 3 – Proposals to elaborate new standards and related texts

- ***Proposal for new work on MLs for methylmercury in orange roughy and pink cusk eel (CXS 193-1995) (REP21/CF, paragraphs 163 and 166, Appendix VI, Annex I of CX/CAC 21/44/4)***

Background: The current MLs for methylmercury in fish (tuna: 1.2 mg/kg, alfonsino: 1.5 mg/kg, marlin: 1.7 mg/kg and shark: 1.6 mg/kg) were adopted in 2018. These MLs replaced Guideline Levels (GLs) encompassing all predatory and non-predatory fish species, with the decision of the CAC that consideration should be given to establishment of MLs rather than GLs (REP18/CF, paragraph 81). With the establishment of an agreed upon framework at CCCF12 to apply the "as low as reasonably achievable" (ALARA) principle in the establishment of MLs for methylmercury in fish, it is timely to

undertake work to derive MLs for additional fish species. Discussion have commenced on considering MLs for other species in the GEMS/Food database, with a preliminary analysis presented in discussion paper (CX/CF 17/11/12, paragraph 15) and CCCF14 agreed to start new work on MLs for methylmercury in orange roughy and pink cusk eel and the project document has been amended accordingly (ANNEX 1, CX/CAC 21/44/4) and it is forwarded to CAC44 for approval.

Position: African Union supports the proposal for new work on the establishment of MLs for methylmercury in orange roughy and pink cusk eel. The AU further encourages member states to participate in the EWG.

Rationale: CCCF12 (2018) agreed that consistent with the approach taken for the establishment of MLs for lead, the methylmercury ML proposal that would be agreed upon would be those based on the next higher ML resulting in a trade rejection rate lower than 5%. Having established criteria for development of ML, based on ALARA principle and considering the trade volumes of this species on the international market, it is important to prioritize establishment of the ML in the species.

– ***Proposal for new work on development of a Code of practice for the prevention and reduction of mycotoxins contamination in cassava and cassava-based products (REP21/CF, paragraph 169, Appendix VII, Annex II of CX/CAC 21/44/4)***

Background: At CCCF14 (2021) Nigeria, as Chair of the EWG, highlighted the funding that, based on the replies to CL 2019/74-CF and CL 2020/51-CF, as well as data and information provided by members of the EWG, the available data, risk mitigation measures were identified and that have proven to be cost-effective and applicable worldwide by large, medium and small-scale farmers and producers. The replies also provided the scope of the COP as to the relevant mycotoxins (i.e. aflatoxins and ochratoxin A) and the stages of the production chain to be covered by the COP (ANNEX II, CX/CAC 21/44/4). At CCCF14 (2021), the committee agreed to the following as provided in REP21/CF, para 169.

• submit the project document on the development of a Code of Practice for the prevention and reduction of mycotoxins contamination in cassava and cassava-based products to CAC44 for approval as new work (ANNEX II, CX/CAC 21/44/4); and

• establish an EWG, chaired by Nigeria and co-chaired by Ghana, working in English, to work on the development of a Code of Practice for the prevention and reduction of mycotoxins contamination in cassava and cassava-based products, with focus on aflatoxins and ochratoxin A (OTA), and the stages of production as identified in the project document, based on the data and information provided in Appendix II to CX/CF 21/14/12.

Position: African Union support the proposal for new work on the development of code of practices (CoP) for the prevention and reduction of mycotoxins in cassava and cassava based products. The AU further encourages member states to participate in the EWG.

Rationale: The discussion papers considered by the Codex Committee on Contaminants in Foods (CCCF) have described the fast growing global profile of cassava, a root crop commodity commonly used as food, raw material for human foods, animal feeds, pharmaceutical and confectionary industries. The obvious significance in export trade, especially in regional trade such as amongst members of the FAO/WHO Coordinating Committee for Africa (CCAFRICA) is worthy to note. The health impact of aflatoxins and OTA in cassava and cassava-based products was considered by CCCF13 (2019) (CX/CF 19/13/14). Summary of data from a WTO/FAO/WHO supported regional total diet study involving four sub-Sahara African countries amongst others, showed that aflatoxins and OTA contamination in cassava is of public health concern.

Aflatoxins are known hepatotoxins causing the death of people and have been documented as naturally occurring carcinogens, which are primarily associated with high incidence of liver cancer. Aflatoxin B1 has particularly been identified as causative factor in the development of hepatocellular carcinoma, an emerging chronic disease of global concern.

The toxicity of ochratoxin A (OTA) has been reviewed by the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC), which classified OTA as a possible human carcinogen (Group 2B) and also by the Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Food Additives (JECFA). OTA is a mycotoxin that occurs naturally worldwide in food commodities including roots and tubers and their products. In roots and tubers, Fusarium species have been implicated as pre-harvest fungi that produce contaminants mycotoxins, while Aspergillus and Penicilium species have been implicated as post-harvest fungi that produce mycotoxins, when conditions are favourable.

AGENDA ITEM 4.3: Codex Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling - CX/CAC 21/44/5

Part 1 – Standards and related texts submitted for final adoption

- ***Adoption of methods of analysis / performance criteria for provisions in Recommended Methods of Analysis and Sampling (CXS 234-1999) REP21/MAS Paragraphs 24(i), 42(i), Appendix II (At step 8)***

Background: CCMAS is mandated to consider, amend, if necessary, and endorse, as appropriate, methods of analysis and sampling proposed by Codex (Commodity) Committees. CCMAS41 considered the recommendations on methods of analysis proposed for endorsement and other related matters and agreed to recommend to CAC44 to adopt those methods of analysis that met the performance criteria.

Position: African Union supports final adoption of the recommended methods of analysis for adoption by CAC44 (Appendix II), as these methods satisfy the performance criteria.

- ***Editorial amendment to the provision in Section 3.3 of the Standard for Edible Casein Products (CXS 290-195)1 REP21/MAS Paragraphs 23 and 24(ii)***

Background: CCMAS41 agreed to amend the provision for “acids, free” to “free acidity” in edible casein products and agreed to request CAC44 to make an editorial amendment to the provision in Section 3.3. Standard for Edible Casein Products (CXS 290-1995) by changing “maximum free acid” to “maximum free acidity” as this was a more appropriate description of the provision.

Position: African Union supports adoption of the editorial amendment.

- ***Draft revised Guidelines on Measurement Uncertainty (CXG 54-2004) REP21/MAS Paragraph 70(i), Appendix III (At Step 8)***

Background: CCMAS40 (2019) had advanced the revised Guidelines (REP 19/MAS, Appendix IV) to CAC42 (2019) for adoption at Step 5. CAC42 had adopted the Guidelines at Step 5 and advanced it to Step 6. In view of the additional time at the disposal of the Committee due to the postponement of CCMAS41 from 2020 to 2021, another circular letter was issued to accommodate more comments based on which Germany (Chair of the eWG) produced a revised draft as presented in CX/MAS 21/41/7. Noting that all technical issues had been resolved, CCMAS41 agreed to advance the revised Guidelines to Step 8 for adoption by CAC44.

Position: African Union supports adoption at Step 8 of the Revised Guidelines on Measurement Uncertainty at Step 8. The guidelines will to a robust assessment of whether food products meet relevant specifications.

- **Proposed Draft revised General Guidelines on Sampling (CXG 50-2004) REP21/MAS Paragraph 110(i), Appendix IV at Step 5**

Background: CCMAS is revising the General Guidelines on Sampling for presentation as a package. The first package relates to revision of the Guidelines and the second relates to development of two supporting documents. These supporting documents are the guide to the selection and design of sampling plans and the e-book. The revised Guidelines focus on principles of sampling, the information document on selection and design of sampling plans provides a step by step procedure to the design of the sampling plan and the e-book provide user-friendly technology in the form of apps.

Position: African Union supports adoption at Step 5 of the revised General Guidelines on Sampling at step 5 and further work on the e-book and the guide to the selection and design of sampling plans.

Rationale: The revisions will provide simpler and easily understandable Guidelines in particular for use by Codex commodity committees and Governments.

AGENDA ITEM 4.4: Codex Committee on Food Import and Export Inspection and Certification Systems - CX/CAC 21/44/6

Part 1 – Standards and related texts submitted for final adoption

- ***Draft principles and guidelines for the assessment and use of voluntary Third Party Assurance (vTPA) programmes REP21/FICS Para. 37, Appendix II (At Step 8)***

Position: African Union supports the adoption of the draft principles and guidelines for the assessment and use of voluntary third party assurance programmes at step 8.

Rationale: The guidelines provide the necessary framework and criteria for assessing the integrity and credibility of the governance structures of vTPA programmes and the reliability of information/data generated by such programmes to support NFCS objectives.

- ***Proposed draft guidance on paperless use of electronic certificates (Revised Guidelines for Design, Production, Issuance and Use of Generic Official Certificates) REP21/FICS, para 64 Appendix III (At Step 5/8)***

Position: African Union supports the adoption of the proposed draft guidance at step 5/8. The document provides useful pathway to paperless use of electronic certificates. It provides useful guidance to enable paperless exchange of electronic certificates for food between Competent Authorities. Its implementation will contribute to strengthening food controls as well as reduce the time and costs of trade.

AGENDA ITEM 4.5: Codex Committee on Residues of Veterinary Drugs in Foods - CX/CAC 21/44/7

Part 1 – Standards and related texts submitted for final adoption

- ***Maximum residue limit for flumethrin (honey) REP21/RVDF Paragraph 39, Appendix II (At Step 8)***

Background: During the 24th CCRVDF (2018) meeting, JECFA Secretariat clarified that when flumethrin is used according to GVP, the amount of residue that could be expected in honey is at or below the limit of quantification of currently available analytical methods and that there was very little risk of movement of residues from the wax to honey. This is because flumethrin is highly lipophilic. Residues resulting from the use of this substance as an insecticide in accordance with good veterinary practice are unlikely to pose a hazard to human health.

In this regard, the CCRVDF took a risk management decision that MRL as “unnecessary” for flumethrin which was adopted by CAC41(2018) at step 5. CCRVDF 25 agreed to advance the MRL of “unnecessary” for flumethrin in honey to CAC44 (2021) for adoption at Step 8.

Position: African Union supports the adoption of MRL of “unnecessary” for flumethrin in Honey at the CAC44

Rationale: This is based on the very low risk posed by this compound in honey and also based on the very low residues found.

- ***Maximum residue limits for diflubenzuron (salmon - muscle plus skin in natural proportion) CCRVDF REP21/RVDF Paragraph 43, Appendix II (At Step 5/8)***

Background: The committee was informed by the codex secretariat that the MRL proposal are from the JECFA88 (2019) evaluations for consideration by CCRVDF at Step 4 following circulation for comments at Step 3. CCRVDF 25 noted general support for the advancement of this MRL for final adoption by CAC44.

Position: African Union supports adoption of the MRL for diflubenzuron in salmon of 10 µg/kg in muscle plus skin in natural proportion to CAC44 (2021) for adoption at Step 5/8.

Rationale: The drug has low acute oral toxicity on account of JECFA 88.

- ***Maximum residue limits for halquinol (in swine - muscle, skin plus fat, liver and kidney) REP21/RVDF Paragraph 50, Appendix II 5/8 (At Step 5/8)***

Background: Halquinol is a compound used in feed for dual use as a growth promoter and for the treatment of scours /wet diarrhea in poultry and swine. It is not a critically important antimicrobial for human medicine. Concerns have been expressed regarding the use of antimicrobial agents for growth promotion and that such use did not correspond to a prudent use of antimicrobials, which was necessary to fight antimicrobial resistance. Varying positions for and against advancement of Halquinol were expressed during CCRVDF25 especially with regard to the use of the compound for growth promotion.

The committee agreed to forward MRLs for halquinol (swine - muscle, skin plus fat, liver and kidney) to CAC44 (2021) for adoption at Step 5/8.

Position: African Union supports adoption of the MRL for halquinol (in Swine-mucle, skin plus fat, liver and kidney) at step 5/8 at CAC44.

Rationale: This compound is used significantly in swine and poultry in the Asian and South American countries. Products of poultry and swine are greatly traded between Africa and these countries. It is therefore prudent to have an MRL established to protect public health and enable countries within the African region to have a reference MRL when evaluating these animal products.

- ***Amendment to the Glossary of Terms and Definitions (CXA 5-1993): Definition of edible offal REP21/RVDF Paragraph 116 (i), Appendix IV***

Background: CCRVDF established an EWG for the purpose of harmonization and the elaboration of maximum residue limits. The definition for edible offal would help to identify edible offal tissues that were widely consumed and most frequently traded to guide JECFA in the development of MRL recommendations for consideration by CCRVDF. It is important to note that the current definition was developed in the framework of cooperation between CCPR and CCRVDF through the parallel work between the CCRVDFEWG on edible offal and the CCPR EWG on the revision of the Classification of Food and Feed (CXA 4-1989) for the purpose of harmonization and to facilitate the establishment of single MRLs for compounds with dual uses.

CCRVDF discussed the proposed definition and considered a question on how skin would be treated as there were situations where skin was consumed separately from the muscle, which would be considered as edible offal, and situations where the skin was consumed attached to the muscle/fat, which would not be considered as edible offal, especially for meats potentially consumed with skin such as pork, poultry and fish for which MRLs are usually accompanied by notes indicating e.g. “fat/skin”, “skin + fat” in normal/natural proportion, etc. In order to better describe the situation where skin is considered as edible offal, CCRVDF agreed to amend the definition by indicating that edible offal comprises those parts of the animal considered fit for human consumption apart from the skeletal muscle, fat and attached skin and to incorporate this definition in the Glossary of Terms and Definitions (CXA 5-1993).

In conclusion, the CCRVDF agreed to forward the definition of edible offal as amended by the Committee for inclusion in the Glossary of Terms and Definitions (CXA 5-1993) to CAC44 (2021) for adoption.

Position: African Union supports adoption of the proposed definition for edible offal as “Those parts of an animal, apart from the skeletal muscle, fat and attached skin that are considered fit for human consumption”. AU further support inclusion of this definition in the Glossary of Terms and Definitions (CXA 5-1993) for adoption at CAC44.

Rationale: The adoption of the definition will facilitate identification of offal tissues for elaboration of MRL and establishment of single MRLs for compound with dual uses (as veterinary drugs and as pesticides)

Part 2:Standards and related texts submitted for adoption at Step 5

- ***Maximum residue limits for ivermectin (sheep, pigs and goats – fat, kidney, liver and muscle) REP21/RVDF Paragraph 59, Appendix II***

Background: Ivermectin is a compound used against internal and external parasites in livestock and humans. JECFA evaluated the compound for elaboration of MRLs in sheep, pigs, goats –fat, kidney, liver and muscle and the recommended levels circulated for comments at step 3.

Concerns were expressed by various delegations with the EU informing the committee that they had submitted a concern form stating that the proposed MRLs for ivermectin are considerably lower than those established in the EU and, while not representing a consumer-safety concern, they could pose trade difficulties vis-à-vis established GVP. The EU indicated that had identified a sponsor(s) which would provide the relevant data, e.g. labelling information, residue depletion data, etc., to allow JECFA to re-assess the MRLs according to the established procedures in CCRVDF.

Delegations generally favored the advancement of the MRLs in the Step Procedure. However, there were split views as to advance the MRLs for final adoption to Step 5/8 or to Step 5 only. In both cases, delegates agreed that if new data became available for JECFA which reflect more updated veterinary practices (i.e. shorter withdrawal periods leading to higher residues that still do not pose health concerns) to conduct the reassessment of this compound, the revised MRLs could be considered by CCRVDF in light of the outcomes of the JECFA review as appropriate. Some of these delegations expressed their concern on the significant difference between the proposed MRLs for sheep, goats and pigs as compared to those established for cattle for the same tissues.

In reply to the concerns expressed on the significant differences between the MRLs assigned for the same tissues for cattle and sheep/goats/pigs, the WHO JECFA Secretariat noted that the data available was sufficient to establish health guidance values for both toxicological and microbial endpoints (e.g.

ADI/ARfD), and that the difference in MRL values for these two sets of commodities resided in large part to the different GVPs used to derived MRLs for cattle (shorter withdrawal period) and sheep/goats/pigs (longer withdrawal periods). In reply to the comments on data available from labels and other sources, the FAO JECFA Secretariat highlighted the importance of submitting all relevant data and information (including residue data and GVPs) in response to the call for data, in order to feed into the JECFA evaluation and ensure an effective and timely process. In conclusion the CCRVDF agreed to forward the MRLs for ivermectin (sheep, goats, pigs – fat, kidney, liver and muscle) to CAC44 (2021) for adoption at Step 5.

Position: African Union supports adoption of the MRL for Ivermectin (sheep, pigs and goats – fat, kidney, liver and muscle) to step 5 by the CAC44.

Rationale: Ivermectin is widely used in African countries. against external and internal parasites of livestock and humans. Codex in 2017 adopted MRL for ivermectin in cattle (muscle 30 µg/kg, liver 800 µg/kg, Kidney 100 µg/kg and fat 400 µg/kg). The proposed MRL for ivermectin in Sheep, pig and Goat are substantially lower (muscle 10 µg/kg, Liver 15 µg/kg, kidney 15 µg/kg and fat 20 µg/kg) than the Codex adopted 2017 MRL for cattle. The adoption of the MRL at step 5 will allow for submission of additional data to JECFA for consideration and also allow for another round of comments and consideration by the committee.

AGENDA ITEM 4.6: Codex Committee on Pesticide Residues - CX/CAC 21/44/8

- ***Revised Classification of Food and Feed (CXA 4-1989), Class D – Processed foods of plant origin; and revised Principles and Guidelines for the Selection of Representative Commodities for the extrapolation of MRLs for Pesticides to Commodity Group (CXG 84-2012) Table 8 - Representative commodities for Class D REP21/PR, paragraph 173 (i), Appendix VIII 5/8***

Background: CCPR51 (2019) agreed to continue work on the revision of Class D TOR (ii) and to transfer commodities to Class C in accordance to the TOR (iii) and to work further on the allocation of additional commodities in Class D. Class D includes 4 Types of commodities: 12 (Secondary food commodities of plant origin), 13 (Derived products of plant origin),14(Manufactured Foods (single -ingredient) and 15(Manufactured foods (multi-ingredients) of plant origin).

Position : African Union supports adoption at step 5/8 of the revised Classification of Food and Feed (CXA 4-1989), Class D as this will facilitate the establishment of maximum residue limits

Part 2 – Standards and related texts submitted for adoption at Step 5

- ***Proposed draft Guidelines for compounds of low public health concerns that may be exempted from the establishment of Codex Maximum Residue limits or do not give rise to residues REP21/PR, paragraph 194(i), Appendix XII N03-2019 (Adoption at Step 5)***

Issue: CCPR50 (2018) agreed to prepare a discussion paper to provide guidance for pesticides which do not give rise to residues or whose residues do not give rise to public health concern and could therefore be exempted from the establishment of Codex maximum residue limits (CXLs). The committee noted that this was a new area, which lacked internationally harmonized guidelines and yet was increasing growth in the use of these compounds globally and therefore it merited exploring. CCPR51 (2019) considered the discussion paper and agreed to recommend new work to provide an international reference for harmonized concepts and criteria for the recognition of this set of pesticides. CAC42 (2019) approved the new work as contained in the project document submitted by CCPR50. CCPR52 discussed various aspects of the draft Guidelines and proposed that the Guidelines be advanced to Step 5 for adoption by CAC44. The Committee further agreed to re-establish the EWG to further refine the document taking into account all the written comments submitted to the session and additional comments made during the pre-meeting session and the plenary session.

Position: African Union supports adoption at Step 5 of the Proposed draft Guidelines for compounds of low public health concerns that may be exempted from the establishment of Codex Maximum Residue limits or do not give rise to residues.

Rationale: The proposed Guidelines will provide internationally harmonized approach to dealing with compounds that do not leave residues or whose residues do not give rise to public health concerns to facilitate their use without disrupting trade.

AGENDA ITEM 4.7: Codex Committee on Food Additives - CX/CAC 21/44/9

Part 1 – Standards and related texts submitted for final adoption

- Proposed draft Specifications for the Identity and Purity of Food Additives
- Draft and proposed draft food-additive provisions of the General Standard for Food Additives (GSFA) (CXS 192- 1995)
- Revisions to adopted provisions of the GSFA (CXS 192- 1995)
- Proposed draft revision of the Class Names and the International Numbering System for Food Additives (CXG 36- 1989)
- Inclusion of xanthan gum (INS 415) and pectins (INS 440) in FC 13.1.3 "Formulae for special medical purposes for infants" of the GSFA (CXS 192- 1995)
- Changes related to the group header STEVIOL GLYCOSIDES in the GSFA (CXS 192- 1995)
- Revised provisions of the GSFA in relation to the amendments to title and food category number for CXS 283 in Annex C of the GSFA (CXS 192- 1995)
- Revised food-additive provisions of the GSFA in relation to the alignment of nine standards for CCMMP, six standards for CCFO and three standards for CCSCH
- Revised food-additive provisions of the GSFA in relation to the partial alignment of CXS 249-2006, CXS 273-1968, CXS 275- 1973 and CXS 288-1978 to include tamarind seed polysaccharide (INS 437)
- Proposed revised food-additive provisions of the GSFA in relation to the linked entry for food category 12.5 in the References to Commodity Standards for GSFA Table 3 Additives in the Annex to Table 3
- Revised provisions for sweeteners in different food categories (CXS 192- 1995)
- Revised food-additive sections of the nine standards for milk and milk products, i.e. Group Standards for Cheeses in Brine (CXS 208-1999); Unripened Cheese including Fresh Cheese (CXS 221-2001); Standards for a Blend of Evaporated Skimmed Milk and Vegetable Fat (CXS 250- 2006); a Blend of Skimmed Milk and Vegetable Fat in Powdered Form (CXS 251-2006); a Blend of Sweetened Condensed Skimmed Milk and Vegetable Fat (CXS 252-2006); Standards for Cottage Cheese (CXS 273-1968); Cream Cheese (CXS 275-1973); Extra Hard Grating Cheese (CXS 278-1978); and General Standard for Cheese (CXS 283-1978)
- Revised food-additive sections of the six standards for fats and oils, i.e. Standards for Edible Fats and Oils not covered by Individual Standards (CXS 19-1981); Olive oils and olive pomace oils (CXS 33-1981); Named vegetable oils (CXS 210-1999); Named animal fats (CXS 211-1999); Fat spreads and blended spreads (CXS 256- 2007); and Fish oils (CXS 329-2017)
- Revised food-additive sections of the three standards for spices and culinary herbs, i.e. Standards for Black, White and Green Peppers (CXS 326-2017); Cumin (CXS 327- 2017); and Dried Thyme (CXS 328- 2017)
- Amendments to Standards for Bouillons and Consommés (CXS 117-1981) and Wheat Flour (CXS 152-1985) due to alignment of methylate copolymer, basic (INS 1205)

Background: The CCFA works through four working groups namely: Working group on GSFA; Working group on International Numbering Systems; Working group on alignment of provisions of additives in commodity standards to GSFA; and Working group on Priority list for JECFA evaluation. These working groups prepare recommendations in the form of CRDs for consideration during the plenary session of CCFA thus enabling the committee to discuss and make progress on agenda items. During the CCFA52, the session considered the above listed standards, proposed INS numbering, JECFA evaluation reports as well as alignment of food additives provisions, resolved the outstanding issues and agreed to forward them to CAC44 for adoption at step 8 of the procedure.

Position: African Union supports the final adoption of the above standards and texts at step 8

Rationale: The committee by consensus resolved all issues on the standards as well as agreed with the reports of JECFA on the food additives evaluations and purity specifications

Part 3 – Proposals for revocation and discontinuation of standards and related texts

- Revocation of food additive provisions of the GSFA
- Discontinuation of the work on draft and proposed draft food additive provisions of the GSFA

Background: CCFA agreed to revoke provisions for sucroglycerides, sucrose esters of fatty acids and sucrose oligoesters, type i and type 2, alitame, acesulfame potassium, aspartame, neotame, saccharins and sucralose together with accompanying notes in various food categories. This was based on the committee's agreed position to take a horizontal approach to sweeteners and fatty acids where note 161 had been used. This revocation will enable Codex Secretariat to undertake a task of providing a discussion paper for CCFA53 to ensure the ongoing effort of horizontal approach does not introduce conflicts within the GSFA. The CCFA52 also agreed to discontinue work on a number of food additives as there was no technological justification for their use in proposed food category

Position: African Union supports the revocation and discontinuation of the additives as proposed by CCFA52

Rationale: This revocation will enable the Codex Secretariat to prepare the administrative discussion paper as requested by CCFA52 to facilitate horizontal approach discussion within the committee. Any food additive used should have a technological justification for its use in accordance to the Codex Procedural manual.

AGENDA ITEM 4.8: Codex Committee on Food Labelling - CX/CAC 21/44/10

Part 1 – Standards and related texts submitted for final adoption

- ***Draft General standard for the labelling of non-retail containers of foods; and consequential amendment to the Procedural Manual***

Background: This Codex text was originally intended to be developed as a guideline. CCFL46 noted that the content was structured as a standard as opposed to a guideline. However, the Codex secretariat clarified that naming a Codex Text as either a guideline or a standard was an internal classification. Both guidelines and standards have the same meaning and application at the WTO. Based on this advice the committee agreed to name it as a General Standard and adopt the use of the words 'shall' instead of 'should'. The committee agreed with the improvements and forwarded the text to CAC44 for final adoption at step 8. As a consequential amendment, the committee noted that the procedural manual had a provision for non-retail packages and the committee proposed a text to be included in the procedural manual to make reference to the new standard to avoid possible conflict between the manual and the standards.

Position: Africa Union supports the adoption of the general standards at step 8 as well as the adoption of the consequential changes.

- ***Proposed draft Guidelines on front-of-pack nutrition labelling and inclusion as an Annex to the Guidelines on Nutrition Labelling (CXG 2-1985); and consequential amendment to Section 5 of the Guidelines on Nutrition Labelling (CXG 2-1985)***

Background: Front of the Pack Nutrition Labelling (FoPNL) is considered as one form of supplementary information as provided for under clause 2 (Definition) of guidelines for Nutrition labelling (CAC/GL 2-1985). The purpose of FoPNL is mainly to assist consumers make quick and informed decision on health and nutrition in relation to managing or preventing Non Communicable Diseases (NCDs) such as overweight, obesity, diabetes and hypertensions. FoPNL standards may be voluntary or mandatory depending on the national legislations. The committee agreed that given that it is a supplementary information to CXG 2-1985, the text will be included as annex to the existing guidelines of nutrition labelling. Having resolved all the outstanding issues and noting the reservations of Russia, the committee agreed to progress the guidelines for adoption at step 5/8.

Position: Africa Union supports the adoption of the FoPNL at step 5/8.

Rationale: Globally, there is increase in NCDs among various populations. To reverse these trends, consumers' education on healthy eating and lifestyle is critical and this FoPNL will contribute to supporting consumer education.

AGENDA ITEM 4.9: Ad hoc Codex Intergovernmental Task Force on Antimicrobial Resistance - CX/CAC 21/44/11

- ***Draft revised Code of practice to minimize and contain foodborne antimicrobial resistance (CXC 61-2005) REP21/AMR, paragraph 89, Appendix II at Step 8***
- ***Proposed draft Guidelines on integrated monitoring and surveillance of foodborne antimicrobial resistance REP21/ AMR , paragraph 152, Appendix III at Step 5/8***

Position: African Union supports adoption of the Code of Practice (at Step 8) and the Guidelines (at Step 5/8)

Rationale: African Union notes the significant compromises that have led to progression of these two Codex texts in the step process. This progress is particularly welcomed given the urgent need for State of Knowledge Codex references on foodborne AMR. The Code of Practice and the Guidelines are science-based, they provide enough flexibility for countries in terms of implementation options and therefore expected to facilitate trade.