

CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



World Health
Organization

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Agenda Item 4.7, 4.8, 4.15, 7, 8

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JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME

CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION

Forty-sixth Session

FAO Headquarters, Rome, Italy

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COMMENTS OF UGANDA

Agenda item 4.7: Codex Committee on Food Additive

Uganda would like to appreciate the extensive and elaborate work that has been undertaken by Codex Committee on Food Additives following the last 53rd successful session in Hong Kong. Whereas we support the outcomes from the session, we remain concerned with the inclusion of trisodium citrate in Food Category 01.1.1 for Fluid milk (plain). We further note that following extensive discussions and open exchange on the matter, a compromise note to support the use of the additive was negotiated. Effectively, as per Codex procedures, Uganda wishes to express a reservation on the inclusion of trisodium citrate for the stated Food Category without necessarily preventing the final adoption of the additive at Step 8. We believe this is the natural and preferred way of working in Codex that does not stifle progress and advancement.

Agenda item 4.8: Codex Committee on Contaminants in Foods

Uganda welcomes the outcomes of the 16th Session of the Codex Committee on Contaminants in Foods and subsequent critical review by CCEXEC84. Uganda is keen on the ongoing developments regarding the setting of Maximum Limits in ready-to-eat peanuts and associated sampling plans considering the wide consumption of the product. It is encouraging to note that there is still an opportunity to provide comments to influence the outcomes. We would like to further recall the conclusion made at CAC45 during the adoption of MLs of Aflatoxins for different food categories "*requested CCCF to undertake a review of all the MLs for total aflatoxins in three years' time, if sufficient data were submitted by Members through GEMS/Food, but in any event to undertake this review in no more than five years' time*". We would appreciate to receive any plans that may be in the pipeline in view of the foregoing CAC45 conclusion.

Agenda item 4.15: Draft MRLs for zilpaterol hydrochloride in cattle liver, kidney and muscle

Uganda would like to recall the extensive discussions held on the issue of MRLs for Zilpaterol hydrochloride (cattle fat, kidney, liver, muscle) at CAC45 and the innovative mechanisms that were established to seek for possible consensus on the matter through the open information engagements of regions made by the Chairperson and Vice Chairpersons of the Commission. We further note the robust scientific evaluation that was undertaken by JECFA and the conclusion that there were no public health concerns regarding the proposed MRL. Uganda supports the potential progression in the Codex step-wise process and final adoption of the MRLs on account of the solid and robust scientific basis. We believe that science is key anchoring element within the Codex infrastructure, a lasting pillar within the Codex mandate and key tenet in securing the future of Codex.

Agenda item 7: Reports from FAO/WHO Coordinating Committees

Following a successfully held CCAFRICA24 meeting held in 2022 in which the guideline for developing harmonized Food Safety Legislation for the region was considered and adopted during CAC45. We believe the guideline is timely and important for the effective implementation of the African Continental Free Trade Area as it contributes to members efforts in developing or updating Food Safety legislation along the food chain which ultimately contributes to national, regional and international trade in safe food products. We believe that members in the region could be supported to adopt and utilize the guidelines within their national systems leveraging on the ongoing programmes of FAO and WHO as well as potential direct donor support. Additionally, practical hands-on support to members especially in the effective implementation of the guideline on the application of the criteria for the establishment of work priorities and preparation of discussion papers and project documents is a proposed sustainable approach as this will result in generating robust new work items for potential development of regional standards.

Agenda item 8 : Application of the Statements of Principle concerning the role of science in the Codex decision-making process and the extent to which other factors are taken into account (SoP)

Uganda recalls the previous agreement that the text in the current form provides significant practical guidance that should be available for use by the Chairperson's of subsidiary bodies as it provides an excellent opportunity to test and deploy the current provisions in real Codex activities. We note that the draft guidance reflects the present understanding and application of Criteria for the consideration of other factors referred to in the second statement of principle and the Risk Analysis Principles for Application within the framework of Codex Alimentarius. We are still in favour of generating more experience on the use of the guidance which we believe will aid in future conclusion and potential inclusion of the draft guidance in the existing Codex Chairperson's Handbook and any future handbook for delegates will support Members in using and applying the guidance. Finally, we would recommend that discussions on the matter be paused until a time when we have learnt from practice.