

CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



World Health
Organization

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CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION

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COMMENTS OF AFRICAN UNION

AFRICAN POSITIONS FOR THE 47TH SESSION OF THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION, 25 TO 30 NOVEMBER 2025, GENEVA, SWITZERLAND

Agenda Item 1: Adoption of the agenda (CX/CAC 24/47/1)

Issue: CAC47 to review and adopt the meeting's provisional agenda together with the proposed methods of work.

Position: African Union supports the adoption of the provisional agenda and the proposed methods of work for CAC47.

Agenda Item 3: Amendments to the Procedural Manual (CX/CAC 24/47/2)

Background:

The 29th edition of the Procedural Manual was issued in English, and translations into Arabic, Chinese, French, Russian and Spanish are ongoing. The 29th edition reflects, as approved at the 46th Session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC46):

- a) amendment to Section 2 (Elaboration of Codex standards and related texts, Relations between commodity committees and general subject committees, Food labelling, paragraph 57) and formalization of the submission of labelling provisions for non-retail containers to the Codex Committee on Food labelling for endorsement;
- b) editorial changes to Section 2 (Elaboration of Codex standards and related texts), Section 3 (Guidelines for subsidiary bodies), and Section 7 (Relations with other organizations) of the Procedural Manual as listed in Annex I of CX/CAC 23/46/2;
- c) movement of the former first part of Section 6 (Membership), entitled "Membership of the Codex Alimentarius Commission", from the Procedural Manual to the Codex website and a link to the list provided in the Procedural Manual; and
- d) editorial changes to cater for important linguistic consistencies and errors in the Arabic, Chinese, French, Russian and Spanish translations.

Position:

African Union notes the issuance of the 29th edition of the Codex Procedural Manual and the amendments contained therein. AU welcomes the amendments and looks forward to the continued and consistent application of the Procedural Manual to Codex work to advance the purpose of the Codex Alimentarius Commission.

Agenda Item 4: Work of Codex Committees (Adoption, New Work, Revocation, Discontinuation and Editorial; Amendments to Codex Texts Proposed by the Committee)

Agenda Item 4.1: Codex Committee on Spices and Culinary Herbs (CX/CAC 24/47/3 & CX/CAC 24/47/3 Add.1)

Standard for spices derived from dried or dehydrated fruits and berries – small cardamom

Reference: REP24/SCH, paragraph 30(i), Appendix III, Step 8

Background: At CCSCH7 (2024), the development of the standard for small cardamom was finalized under

the leadership of the Indian delegation. The session concentrated on resolving outstanding provisions in square brackets and addressing technical queries raised by CCMAS.

African Position: African Union supports the adoption of the small cardamom standard at Step 8.

Standard for spices derived from dried or dehydrated fruits and berries – allspice, juniper berry, and star anise (REP24/SCH, paragraph 48(i), Appendix IV, Step 5/8)

Background: To expedite the development of CCSC standards, this standard was initiated with a focus on creating group standards based on the specific plant parts from which spices or culinary herbs are derived. The successful completion of this first group standard highlights the effectiveness of this method. Following its finalization, the standard was submitted to CAC47 for approval.

African Position: African Union supports the adoption of the standard at Step 5/8.

Standard for spices derived from dried or dehydrated roots, rhizomes and bulbs – turmeric

Reference: REP24/SCH, paragraph 85(i), Appendix V, Step 5/8

Background: The standard was advanced for adoption during its initial discussion at the first meeting. Most of the preparatory work was completed by the Electronic Working Group (EWG) before the plenary session. This included incorporating certain provisions from the Codex standard for dried and dehydrated ginger and simplifying the text.

Position: African Union supports the adoption of the standard at Step 5/8.

Draft standard for spices derived from dried or dehydrated fruits and berries – vanilla (REP24/SCH, paragraph 70(i), Appendix V)

Background: After vanilla was excluded from the group standard for spices derived from dried or dehydrated fruits and berries, the CCSC established a separate standard (Part B) specifically for vanilla. During CCSC7 in 2024, the standard was reviewed and progressed to Step 5. It was also agreed that discussions at the next session (CCSC8, 2025) would be limited to the unresolved sections currently enclosed in square brackets.

African Position: African Union supports the adoption of the standard at Step 5.

New work proposal on standard for sweet marjoram (REP24/SCH, Appendix VII), Project Document: Annex I of CX/CAC 24/47/3

- New work proposal on standard for dried seeds-coriander, REP24/SCH, Appendix VIII Project Document: Annex II of CX/CAC 24/47/3
- New work proposal on standard for large cardamom, REP24/SCH, Appendix IX, Project Document: Annex III of CX/CAC 24/47/3
- New work proposal on standard for cinnamon, REP24/SCH, Appendix X, Project Document: Annex IV of CX/CAC 24/47/3

African Positions on the new work proposals

The African Union welcomes the opportunity to develop Codex standards for sweet marjoram, dried seeds-coriander, large cardamom, and cinnamon. These standards play a vital role in facilitating international trade by promoting harmonization, ensuring quality, and addressing technical barriers. We encourage the CCSC to explore methods that optimize the standard-setting process and effectively prioritize key trade and market considerations.

Agenda Item 4.2: Codex Committee on Fats and Oils (CX/CAC 24/47/4)

Standards and related texts submitted for final adoption

Background:

CCFO28 discussed and agreed with no objection to submit the following standards to CAC47 for final adoption:

- 1) Revision to the Standard for named vegetable oils (CXS 210-1999): Inclusion of avocado oil (*Step 8*);
- 2) Amendment/revision of the Standard for named vegetable oils (CXS 210-1999) to include camellia seed oil, sacha inchi oil and high oleic acid soya bean oil (*Step 5/8*);
- 3) Revision to the Standard for olive oils and olive pomace oils (CXS 33-1981): Update essential composition, quality factors and methods of analysis and sampling (*Step 5/8*); and
- 4) Revision to the Standard for fish oils (CXS 329-2017) to include calanus oil (*Step 5/8*).

Position:

African Union supports final adoption of the above revisions/amendments to standards and related texts on fats and oils by CAC47.

Rationale:

The standards are based on sound science, their adoption will promote consumer protection and safe trade.

- 5) **Amendments to the labelling provisions for non-retail containers in the six existing fats and oils standards (CXS 19-1981; CXS 33-1981; CXS 210-1999; CXS 211-1999; CXS 256-1999; and CXS 329-2017)**

Background:

CCFO28 agreed to amend the mentioned standards so as to include a provision of bulk labeling, making reference to CXS 346-2021 as required by the procedural manual. CCFO has requested CCFL to endorse these labeling provisions, hence forwarding the amendment to CAC47 for final adoption and inform CCFL accordingly.

Position:

African Union supports adoption of the draft amendments to the labelling provisions of non-retail containers in the 6 existing fats and oils standards.

Rationale:

The amendments are aligned to the procedures established for elaboration of Codex standards.

- 6) **Amendments/revisions to the Code of practice for the storage and transport of edible fats and oils in bulk (CXC 36-1987) and associated data needs**

Background:

CCFO28 reviewed JECFA safety evaluations for 23 substances for acceptability as previous cargoes which informed amendments to CXC 36-1987. Of the 23, 19 met the criteria for acceptability as previous cargoes while 4 did not. The 4 are: Montan wax, Non-food-grade calcium lignosulfonate, Acetic anhydride and Cyclohexane.

Position:

African Union supports the proposed amendment to CXC 36-1987.

Rationale:

The decision to amend/revise the Code of practice is based on sound scientific advice from JECFA evaluation.

Proposals to elaborate new standards and related texts

- 1) **New work on the proposed revision to Codex standards on fats and oils to reduce trans-fatty acid intake**

Background:

Recalling the history of discussions on trans fatty acids (TFAs) in several Codex subsidiary bodies, recommendations of WHO with regard to TFAs reduction, and the different approaches countries taken by countries to reach the WHO global target of elimination of industrially produced TFAs (iTfAs) from the global food supply, CCFO28 evaluated a discussion paper on the proposal for new work focused on three fats and oils standards, namely, Standard for Edible Fats and Oils Not Covered by Individual Standards (CXS 19-1981), Standard for Fat Spreads and Blended Spreads (CXS 256-1999), and Standard for Named Animal Fats (CXS 211-1999) to include a prohibition on partially hydrogenated oils (PHO) and/or limits on industrially produced trans-fatty acids. There was general support for the new work proposal. Discussion of the proposal highlighted the need to consistently refer to iTfAs, which Members considered to be the main objective of the work. It was also noted that countries may take different approaches to reduce iTfAs and the revision of the standard should be sufficiently flexible to reflect that, thus referring to either prohibition of PHOs or limits on TFAs.

Position:

African Union supports the approval of the project document to initiate work on revision of the 3 Codex standards to reduce trans-fatty acid intake TFAs.

Rationale:

TFAs are a public health concern and there is a need to establish harmonized international measures to reduce their intake.

2) New work on a standard for microbial omega-3 oils

Background:

At CCFO28, the Global Organisation for EPA and DHA omega 3s (GOED) presented the proposal noting that omega-3 oils from single celled microalgae for human consumption were a high value commodity with both production and global trade of these oils increasing. With a high content of EPA and/or DHA these oils were an important ingredient in an increasing variety of foods and food supplements. There was general support for this proposal. However, a few Members indicated that as the proposal did not take into account the safety aspects of this new commodity, they could not support the proposal. It was noted that different countries have different authorization processes for such products so that should not prevent the development of a standard. The Codex Secretariat clarified that the review of the project document was an opportunity for Members to add aspects they considered should be included in the proposal including the option of indicating that scientific advice was needed to support the work. It could also be identified in the course of elaboration of the standard. The Committee agreed to forward the work to CAC47 for adoption.

Position:

African Union supports approval of the project document to initiate work on a standard for microbial omega-3 oils

Rationale:

There is a need to establish an international standard for microbial omega-3 oils to avoid the current state where these oils are traded with differences in information which present challenges for regulators. Thus, development of a Codex standard with quality, safety and compositional factors will ensure the protection of consumer's health and fair practices in trade of these oils.

Agenda Item 4.3: Codex Committee on Food Hygiene (CX/CAC 24/47/5 & CX/CAC 24/47/5 Add.1)

Standards and related texts submitted for final adoption

CCFH54 discussed and agreed to submit the following standards and related texts to CAC47 for final adoption:

- 1) Annex II on Fresh leafy vegetables and Annex IV on Sprouts of the Guidelines for the control of shiga toxin-producing *Escherichia coli* (STEC) in raw beef, fresh leafy vegetables, raw milk and raw milk cheeses, and sprouts (CXG 99-2023) (Step 5/8)

Background:

Work on these guidelines began at CCFH49 (2017) and it includes a general section and four annexes focusing on specific food commodities. The general section, Annex I on raw beef and Annex III on raw milk and raw milk cheeses were adopted at CAC46 (2023) and published as CXG 99-2023. Subsequent work on Annexes II and IV was undertaken through an Electronic Working Group and a Physical Working Group at CCFH54 where consensus was established to forward the proposed draft Annex II on Fresh Leafy Vegetables and Annex IV on Sprouts for adoption at Step 5/8, noting that these two annexes would be subsequently included as Annex II and Annex IV in CXG 99-2023.

Position:

African Union supports the final adoption of Annexes II and IV and their subsequent inclusion in CXG 99-2023.

Rationale:

The Annexes were finalized taking into consideration comments from Members and it ensures that publication of a consolidated CXG 99-2023 which is in accordance with the Committee's terms of reference to control STEC which poses a health burden worldwide in addition to being an economic burden with negative impacts on food trade.

- 2) Annex III on Milk and milk products of the Guidelines for the safe use and reuse of water in food production and processing (CXG 100-2023) (Step 5/8)

Background:

The General Section and Annex I of these Guidelines (CXG100-2023) were adopted by CAC46 and the work was underpinned by scientific advice from JEMRA. The Guidelines respond to the need for a document outlining a risk-based approach to safe sourcing, use, and reuse of water fit for purpose, rather than focusing on the use of potable water or water of other quality types (e.g. clean water). Subsequent work on the Guidelines was undertaken through an Electronic Working Group and a Physical Working Group at CCFH54, including Annex II: Fish and Fishery Products and Annex III: Milk and Milk Products and agreement to create Annex IV that captures both new technologies and information removed from Annex III related to water fit-for-purpose assessment and water safety management.

CCFH54 agreed to forward the draft Annex III on Milk and Milk Products to CAC47 for adoption at step 5/8 and its subsequent inclusion in CXG 100-2023.

Position:

African Union supports the final adoption of Annex III on Milk and milk products and its inclusion in CXG 100-2023.

Rationale:

The Guidelines provide a risk-based approach for specific assessment of the fitness of the water for the intended purpose. The Guidelines will further contribute to the sustainable use of water in food production and processing.

3) Guidelines for food hygiene control measures in traditional markets for food (Step 5/8)

Background:

CCFH54 agreed to forward the proposed draft guidelines for food hygiene control measures in traditional markets for food to CAC47 for adoption at Step 5/8.

Position:

African Union supports the adoption of Guidelines for food hygiene control measures in traditional markets for food at step 5/8.

Rationale:

The guidelines will provide competent authorities, food business operators (FBOs) and consumers with knowledge necessary to strengthen food hygienic capacities in these markets to assure food safety in the framework of a One Health approach. It's estimated that over 70% of consumers in the African and Asian regions source food for household consumption from traditional markets, while these same regions experience very high rates of foodborne disease, hence it was critical that such markets were addressed in Codex texts.

Standards and related texts submitted for adoption at Step 5

1) Revised Guidelines on the application of the general principles of food hygiene to the control of pathogenic *Vibrio* species in seafood (CXG 73-2010)

Background:

The revision was conducted by an EWG and Virtual Working Group (VWG) chaired by Japan, and co-chaired by Chile. CCFH53 had decided to initiate the revision, subsequently approved by CAC46, of the Guidelines and established an EWG. After CCFH53, the EWG conducted one round of consultations, followed by a VWG meeting on February 26, 2024. CCFH54 agreed to forward the proposed draft revised guidelines to CAC47 for adoption at Step 5, noting that all references to water remained in square brackets and that the document was aligned with CXC 1-1969. CCFH54 also agreed to revisit this text as soon as Annex II on Fish and Fishery Products of the Guidelines for the Safe Use and Reuse of Water in Food Production and Processing (CXG 100-2023) is completed.

Position:

African Union supports adoption of the Revised Guidelines on the application of the general principles of food hygiene to the control of pathogenic *Vibrio* species in seafood (CXG 73-2010) at step 5.

Rationale:

The increase in cases of foodborne disease attributed to pathogenic *Vibrio* species, particularly presence of pathogenic *Vibrio* spp. in seafood has led to a disruption in international trade. The guidelines provide specific guidance on risk management strategies for control of related food safety concerns. In addition, completion of this work is related to the finalization of Annex II on Fish and fishery products of CXG 100-2023 and thus the adoption at step 5.

Proposals to elaborate new work or revise standards

1) New work proposal on the revision of the Guidelines on the application of general principles of food hygiene to the control of viruses in food (CXG 79-2012)

Background:

Since the publication of CXG 79-2012, new scientific information for the control of viruses in food has been made available. Risk assessment models have been developed, including a quantitative risk model on norovirus (NoV) in bivalve molluscan shellfish. FAO/WHO published technical guidance for the development of the growing area aspects of bivalve mollusc sanitation programmes. There have been technical

advancements in viral detection in specific commodities and in assessing potential infectivity of viruses, as well as new scientific findings on the use of indicators to monitor seawater quality of molluscs growing areas. CXG 79-2012 currently covers human enteric viruses, more specifically hepatitis A virus (HAV) and norovirus (NoV) and is applicable to all foods, with a focus on ready-to-eat food. It also contains two Annexes for the control of HAV and NoV in specific commodities i.e. bivalve molluscs (Annex I) and fresh produce (Annex II).

Position:

African Union supports approval of work for the revision of the Guidelines on the application of general principles of food hygiene to the control of viruses in food (CXG 79-2012).

Rationale:

The revision will provide updated guidance to competent authorities and food business operators on a framework for the control of human foodborne viruses in food based on the latest scientific advice from FAO/WHO. It will also ensure alignment of CXG 79-2012 with the revision of the General Principles of Food Hygiene (CXC 1-1969) in addition to expansion of the scope to address other foodborne viral infections such as hepatitis E (HEV).

- 2) **New work proposal on the revision of the Guidelines for the control of Campylobacter and Salmonella in chicken meat (CXG 78-2011)**

Background:

At the request of CCFH, FAO/WHO through JEMRA brought together two expert panels to provide scientific advice on Campylobacter and Salmonella in chicken meat (on September 12-16, 2022 and February 6-10, 2023 respectively) and noted several critical developments in the last decade such as biosecurity and production management approaches that employ multiple good production practices, such as hygiene practices and sanitation, that can enhance control of Campylobacter in meat chickens and the need to include controlled access to breeding flocks, recognizing the heightened risk factors of access and the downstream impacts of flocks contaminated with Salmonella and clarification of the use of cleaning compounds and disinfectants as Good Hygienic Practices (GHP), etc.

Position:

African Union supports approval of work for the revision of the Guidelines for the control of Campylobacter and Salmonella in chicken meat (CXG 78-2011).

Rationale:

The revision will provide risk management options based on the latest scientific advice from FAO/WHO and will incorporate relevant aspects of the latest revision of the General Principles of Food Hygiene (CXC 1-1969).

- 3) **New work proposal on the revision of the Guidelines on the application of general principles of food hygiene to the control of *Listeria monocytogenes* in foods (CXG 61-2007).**

Background:

In 2020, a virtual JEMRA meeting reviewed recent data on *L. monocytogenes* to assess the need to modify, update, or develop new risk assessment models and tools for this pathogen. CCFH52 (2022) supported the proposal that JEMRA undertake full primary-production-to-consumption risk assessments of *L. monocytogenes* in foods. In response, a call for data and experts was issued in 2022 to inform two meetings, in 2022 and 2023. Summaries and conclusions of the meetings were published thereafter, which included recommendations and considerations to inform a possible revision of CXG 61-2007.

Position:

African Union supports approval of work for the revision of the Guidelines on the application of general principles of food hygiene to the control of *Listeria monocytogenes* in foods (CXG 61-2007).

Rationale:

New scientific information provided by JEMRA justifies the need and timeliness for revision of CXG 61-2007.

Agenda Item 4.4: Codex Committee on Contaminants in Foods (CX/CAC 24/47/6 & CX/CAC 24/47/6 Add.1)

Standards and related texts submitted for final adoption

- 1) MLs for lead in spices, dried aril; dried seeds (including a separate ML for celery seeds); dried rhizomes and roots; dried floral parts; and spices, dried fruit and berries (including separate MLs for Sichuan pepper, star anise, paprika and sumac) for inclusion in the General standard for contaminants and toxins in food and feed (CXS 193-1995) (*Step 5/8*)

Background:

CCCF17 (2024) agreed to establish MLs for lead in several products as summarized in the table below.

Product/category	Proposed ML (mg/kg)	Comments
Spices, dried aril	0.9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Removing the note on mace and to include it in the information document following 3 rounds of calls for data and if new information is available in the future, CCCF could revisit the ML
Spices, dried seeds, excluding dried celery seeds	0.9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Request the Codex Secretariat to issue a CL requesting comments on the necessity and content of further guidance for multi-ingredient products Request the JECFA Secretariat to review data in the GEMS/Food database that is available on products labelled as spice mixtures and to present an analysis of the data for discussion at CCCF18
Spices, dried celery seeds	1.5	
Spices, dried rhizomes and roots, including galangal	2.0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Remove garlic from the notes/remarks column ML of 1.5 mg/kg presents a rejection rate $\geq 5\%$ for a number of commodities
Spices, dried floral parts	2.5	
Spices, dried fruit, and berries, excluding dried Sichuan pepper, star anise, paprika and sumac	0.6 - Dried paprika and sumac (0.8) - Dried Sichuan pepper and star anise (3.0)	

Position:

African Union supports the adoption at step 5/8 of the proposed MLs for Spices, dried aril, Spices, dried seeds, excluding dried celery seeds, and Spices, dried fruits and berries.

- 2) MLs for lead and cadmium in quinoa for inclusion in the General standard for contaminants and toxins in food and feed (CXS 193-1995)

Background:

At the request of CCCF16 (2023), a call for data on cadmium and lead contamination in quinoa was issued. JECFA undertook analysis of the data points obtained through the GEMS/Food database and concluded that MLs of 0.1 or 0.2 mg/kg for cadmium and lead in quinoa would have little impact on dietary exposure to both heavy metals.

CCFL17 proposes MLs of 0.15 mg/kg for cadmium and 0.2 mg/kg for lead for adoption as they represent the lowest rejection rates worldwide.

Position:

African Union supports the adoption of the proposed MLs for cadmium (0.15 mg/kg) and lead (0.2 mg/kg) in quinoa.

Rationale:

Available scientific data that was evaluated support the establishment of the MLs and the MLs have been established in accordance with the ALARA principle. The proposed MLs will safeguard public health and facilitate international trade.

- 3) **Code of practice for the prevention and reduction of ciguatera poisoning (Step 5/8)**

Background:

CAC46 (2023) approved new work on a Code of Practice (CoP)/Guidelines for the prevention or reduction of ciguatera poisoning. Work was undertaken through an EWG and the EWG concluded that a CoP was appropriate. A PWG prior to CCCF17 reviewed and revised the draft CoP and subsequently, the Committee agreed to forward the code of practice for the prevention and reduction of ciguatera poisoning to CAC47 for adoption at Step 5/8. It was further agreed that the Codex Secretariat publishes the information on resources (examples of monitoring programmes, training and guidance resources) with the relevant links, as an information document.

Position:

African Union supports the adoption of the Code of practice for the prevention and reduction of ciguatera poisoning at step 5/8.

Rationale:

Ciguatotoxic poisoning (CP) is a global health concern and is increasing in prevalence, especially in coastal communities that rely on local fishing as a food supply and as a source of income. The code of practice provides guidance on recommended practices to prevent or reduce CP for different types of stakeholders including competent authorities, fish sector operators (fishers, seafood processors, and seafood retail workers), health care professionals, and consumers.

4) Sampling plan for methylmercury in fish for inclusion in the General standard for contaminants and toxins in food and feed (CXS 193-1995) (Step 5/8)**Background:**

Upon progression of the MLs for methylmercury in fish, CCCF11 (2017) determined that appropriate sampling plans should be established. A general sampling plan for methylmercury in fish was developed using European Union (EU): Commission Regulation (EC) No 333/2007 as a basis. CCCF12 agreed to send the sampling plan to the CCMAS. The sampling plan has been a discussion at the subsequent CCCF and CCMAS sessions with CCMAS43 endorsing it and agreed to submit it for adoption by CAC47 at step 5/8 in addition to including it in the General Standard for Contaminants and Toxins in Food and Feed (CXS 193-1995).

Position:

African Union supports the adoption of the sampling plan for methylmercury in fish at step 5/8 for inclusion in CXS 193-1995.

Rationale:

The sampling plan has undergone adequate evaluation by CCCF and CCMAS and is supported by adequate data. It defines conditions for representative sampling and reliable analytical results to support decision-making.

Standards and related texts submitted for adoption at Step 5**1) MLs for lead in dried bark and dried culinary herbs for inclusion in the General standard for contaminants and toxins in food and feed (CXS 193-1995)****Background:**

CCCF17 (2024) agreed to establish an ML of 2.5 mg/kg to be advanced to Step 5 for dried culinary herbs, to change “humidity” with “moisture content” in the note to the ML, and to request the JECFA Secretariat to issue a call for data for lead in dried culinary herbs and that the EWG should consider new available data in their review.

CCCF17 (2024) further agreed to advance the ML of 2.5 mg/kg for dried bark to Step 5 and to further consider new data in the following year should such data be made available.

Position:

African Union supports the adoption of ML of 2.5 mg/kg for lead in both dried bark and dried culinary herbs at step 5.

Rationale:

While there was general agreement on proposals for MLs of 2.5 mg/kg for dried culinary herbs and dried bark, some Members expressed that data available should support a lower ML i.e. 1.5 mg/kg for dried culinary herbs while consideration is also provided for new data on lead contamination in dried bark.

1) Sampling plans for total Aflatoxins and Ochratoxin A in certain spices (dried chilli pepper and paprika, and nutmeg) for inclusion in the General standard for contaminants and toxins in food

and feed (CXS 193-1995)**Background:**

CCCF17 (2024) discussed sampling plans for total Aflatoxins and Ochratoxin A in certain spices (dried chilli pepper and paprika, and nutmeg), including definition of the different sizes of particles, of sampling modes, decision rules, numerical performance criteria for analysis methods, etc. The Committee agreed to:

- Forward the sampling plan to CAC47 for adoption at Step 5
- Re-establishment of the EWG chaired by India to address outstanding issues
- Request CCEXEC86 to extend the deadline for completion of the work to 2025

Position:

African Union supports the adoption of the sampling plans for total Aflatoxins and Ochratoxin A in certain spices at step 5.

Rationale:

To address outstanding issues with a view of finalizing the work at CCCF18.

Proposals to elaborate new work or revise a standard**1) New work on the revision of the Code of practice for the prevention and reduction of aflatoxin contamination in peanuts (CXC 55-2004)****Background:**

CCCF16 (2023) identified revision of the Code of practice (CoP) for the prevention and reduction of aflatoxin contamination in peanuts (CXC 55-2004) as part of an overall work on the review of Codex standards for contaminants. An ML for total aflatoxins of 15 µg/kg for peanuts for further processing is adopted by the Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC) and a proposed ML for ready-to-eat (RTE) peanuts is under consideration by CCCF. Aflatoxins were last evaluated by JECFA83 (2017) which reaffirmed the conclusions of JECFA49 (1997) that aflatoxins are genotoxic human liver carcinogens.

Position:

African Union supports approval of the new work on the revision of CXC 55-2004.

Rationale:

Revision of the CoP will ensure that new scientific information is considered to enhance risk management measures to prevent and/or reduce aflatoxin contamination in peanuts, supported by scientific data..

2) New work on a code of practice for the prevention and reduction of cadmium contamination in foods**Background:**

JECFA73 (2011) conducted a re-evaluation of cadmium and established a provisional tolerable monthly intake (PTMI) of 25 µg/kg bw, reflecting the long half-life of cadmium in humans. Dietary exposure estimates indicated that cereals and cereal products, vegetables, seafood, and meat, including offal, were the major contributors to cadmium dietary exposure. JECFA77 (2013) assessed dietary exposure to cadmium from cocoa and cocoa products following a request from CCCF6 (2012). JECFA estimated total dietary cadmium exposure as 30-69% of the PTMI for adults and 96% for children aged 0.5 – 12 years. JECFA91 (2021) conducted a new exposure assessment that included the contribution of cadmium from all food sources, in particular cocoa products. This assessment was based on more comprehensive occurrence data, including a wider geographical range of occurrence data in cocoa products. JECFA concluded that the major contributors to dietary cadmium exposure were cereals and cereal products, vegetables, and seafood, while the contribution of cocoa products to dietary cadmium exposure was minor (0.1-9.4%). Between 2018 and 2022, CCCF adopted MLs for cadmium in chocolate containing or declaring < 30%, ≥ 30% to < 50%, ≥ 50% to < 70%, and ≥ 70% total cocoa solids, and 100% cocoa powder, as well as the Code of Practice for the Prevention and Reduction of Cadmium Contamination in Cocoa Beans (CXC 81-2022).

Position:

African Union supports approval of the new work on a code of practice for the prevention and reduction of cadmium contamination in foods

Rationale:

The new work can help to reduce exposures to cadmium in food. In addition, development and implementation

of this CoP will provide practical measures, supported by scientific data, to prevent or reduce cadmium contamination in wide range of foods other than cocoa beans.

Work proposed for discontinuation

1) Draft MLs for lead in dried spices, flowers; and fresh culinary herbs in CXS 193-1995

Background:

CCCF17 (2024) expressed general support to discontinue work on the ML for lead in for spices, dried flowers because Members considered that in most countries, chamomile is mostly used as herbal infusions.

CCCF17 (2024) further agreed to discontinue work on lead in fresh culinary herbs, in light of continuation of the development of an ML for dried culinary herbs.

Position:

African Union supports discontinuation of the draft MLs for lead in dried spices, flowers; and fresh culinary herbs.

Rationale:

Chamomile (spices, dried flowers) is mostly used in herbal infusions while the ML for lead in fresh culinary herbs can be derived from the ML for dried culinary herbs, taking into account the moisture water content of the fresh and the dry herbs.

Agenda Item 4.5: Codex Committee on Food Additives (CX/CAC 24/47/7 & CX/CAC 24/47/7 Add.1)

Standards and related texts submitted for final adoption

1) Specifications for the identity and purity of food additives (Step 5/8)

Background:

Due to complex nature of the subject of food additives and the procedural requirement of ensuring the general standard for food additives becomes the single most authoritative Codex text for food additives, the Codex Committee on Food Additives (CCFA) works through four working groups namely: General standard for food additives (GSFA), Alignment, International Numbering System and an in session working group on prioritization of food additive evaluations. The four WG either physically or electronically develop proposals for discussion and adoption during plenary sessions.

As a result, CCFA will be presenting the following projects for adoption by CAC47:

1. CXA 6 - Proposed Draft Specifications for the Identity and Purity of Food Additives
2. Draft and proposed draft food-additive provisions of the GSFA and revisions to adopted provisions
3. Revisions to the descriptors to the Annex B of the GSFA preamble (FC 01.4.3) and Annex C of the GSFA preamble
4. CXG 36- 1989 Proposed draft revision of the Class Names and the International Numbering System for Food Additives
5. Revised food additive provisions of the GSFA in relation to the alignment of two standards from CCMMP, four standards from CCPFV, two standards from CCNE, two standards from CCASIA and one standard from CCLAC
6. Revised food additive sections of two standards from CCMMP, one standard from CCPFV, one standard from CASIA and one standard from CCLAC
7. Revisions to the food additives provisions to the Standard for Pickled Cucumbers (Cucumber Pickles) (CXS 15-1981) and Standard for Jams, Jellies and Marmalades (CXS 296-2009)
8. Editorial corrections to the General Standard for Cheese
9. Consequential amendments to the Standard for Aqueous Coconut Products – Coconut Milk and Coconut Cream due to the change of INS number for gellan gum to INS 418(i)
10. Revocation of food additive provisions of the GSFA namely Azodicarbonamide (INS 927a) – used as whitening agent in flours, and Fast Green FCF in bakery wares, Brilliant Blue FCF in bread and ordinary wares and Caramel IV - Sulfite Ammonia in herbs and spices
11. Discontinuation of several draft and proposed draft food additive provisions of the GSFA

Position:

Africa Union supports the adoption of all the provisions presented by CCFA

Rationale:

The revision of provision in the General standard of food additives is based on sound scientific basis supported by evidence generated by JECFA. The alignment of GSFA to commodity standards will ensure compliance to the requirement of the procedural manual. The revocation of Azodicarbonamide is informed by safety concerns that recent evaluations link the food additive to cancers with fast green, brilliant blue and caramel IV- Sulphite ammonia being not technologically justifiable in the specific food categories.

Proposals to undertake new work or revise a standard

1) Priority list of substances proposed for evaluation by JECFA

Background:

The In-session Working Group (IWG) on priority lists develops and maintains an inventory of food additives, flavoring agents and processing aids that need to be either evaluated or re-evaluated by JECFA based on request received by CCFA. This list once adopted by CCFA is presented to CAC for adoption from which it is formally communicated to JECFA through FAO for evaluation based on available resources. Once the results of evaluation are presented to CCFA by JECFA, the committee proposes the additives as new work for inclusion into GSFA at step 2. As a result, CCFA is presenting 46 food additives to be considered for inclusion in various food categories of the GSFA and evaluation/re-evaluation by JECFA of 25 food additives, 22 processing aids and 111 flavoring agents. The meeting will also be presenting a project document to initiate work on baker's yeast

Position:

Africa Union support the new proposed provision for food additives for discussion by CCFA and well as the priority list for evaluation/re-evaluation

Rationale:

All the proposed food additives for discussion at step 2 have been evaluated for safety by JECFA and approved to be used as food additives in various food categories. The updated priority list of evaluation will inform the Committee on the decision to be made regarding the food additives, processing aids and flavouring agents.

Agenda Item 4.6: Codex Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling (CX/CAC 24/47/8 & CX/CAC 24/47/8 Add.1)

Standards and related texts submitted for final adoption

- 1) Methods of analysis/performance criteria for provisions in Codex standards for inclusion in the Recommended methods of analysis and sampling (CXS 234-1999)**
- 2) Sampling plan for methylmercury in fish for inclusion in the General standard for contaminants and toxins in food and feed (CXS 193-1995)**
- 3) Inclusion of "Nitrogen to protein conversion factors" as an Annex to the Recommended methods of analysis and sampling (CXS 234-1999)**

Background:

CCMAS43 agreed to submit to CAC47, for final adoption:

- (i) the methods of analysis and numeric performance criteria for sorbates and benzoic acid for selected processed fruits and vegetables for adoption by CAC47, incorporating them into CXS 234;
- (ii) the methods of analysis and sampling plans for processed fruits and vegetables, cereals, pulses and legumes, fish and fishery products, methods for detection of irradiated foods, spices and culinary herbs and fats and oils (REP24/MAS, Appendix II Parts 1 and 2); and
- (iii) the sampling plan for methylmercury in fish for adoption by CAC47 for inclusion in the General Standard for Contaminants and Toxins in Food and Feed (CXS 193-1995);
- (iv) integration of the numeric performance criteria for methyl mercury and total mercury in the sampling plan into the numeric performance criteria table developed in the fish and fishery product workable package for inclusion in CXS 234; and
- (v) the document titled "Nitrogen to protein conversion factors" as an Annex to CXS 234-1999 to provide clarity and accessibility, especially food laboratories that would need to determine the protein content of samples using methods that require calculation.

In addition, CCMAS43 agreed to submit the updated CXS 234 by including example methods and principles that meet the numeric performance criteria for lead and cadmium in foods and to forward them to CAC47 for information, as well as requesting CAC47 to task the Codex Secretariat with reviewing the current nitrogen conversion factors in commodity standards from the relevant Codex commodity committees, which have been adjourned sine die, and propose the revocation of the corresponding Nx values.

Position:

African Union supports the final adoption of the standards and related texts as submitted to CAC47 by CCMAS

Rationale:

The methods of analysis are validated and meet performance criteria. Related sampling plans define conditions for representative sampling and reliable analytical results to support decision-making and have undergone adequate evaluation by CCMAS and other relevant Codex subsidiary bodies.

Codex standards and related texts proposed for revocation

1) General methods for the detection of irradiated foods (CXS 231-2001)

Background:

CCMAS43 agreed to endorse the methods in CRD03 Appendix IV for inclusion in CXS 234; and subsequently proposed to CAC47 to revoke General Methods for the Detection of Irradiated Foods (CXS 231-2001).

Position:

African Union supports the proposed revocation of General methods for the detection of irradiated foods (CXS 231-2001)

Rationale:

The methods provided for in CXS 231-2001 present limitations in practical application and they are to be replaced by the methods elaborated in CRD03 Appendix IV of CCMAS43 proposed for inclusion in CXS 234.

Codex standards and related texts proposed for consideration/advice by CAC

- (i) Provision of assistance to CCMAS on ashing temperature and/or acceptability to endorse two ash provisions for relevant cereals, pulses and legumes standards (CXS 152-1985, CXS 154-1985, CXS 155-1985, CXS 172-1989, CXS 173-1989 and CXS 202-1995)**

Background:

CCMAS43 did not endorse the methods for ash in cereal, pulses and legumes such as sorghum flour, sorghum grains, maize (corn) grits, etc. as there was no consensus on these methods and noted that:

- a) the current methods for ash for the aforementioned commodities in CXS 234 would remain unchanged; and
- b) further information on the intent of ashing temperatures in the relevant commodity standards, would be needed to assist CCMAS to endorse the proposed methods or approval would be needed to change the provisions for ash, e.g. ash at 550°C and ash at 900°C, to allow endorsement of both sets of methods as Type I.

CCMAS agreed to request advice from CAC47 on whether CCMAS could have assistance in determining the original intent for ashing temperature in cereals, pulses and legumes standards, and if not, whether two provisions for ash at 550°C and 900°C for some commodities (i.e. CXS 152, CXS 154, CXS 155, CXS 172, CXS 173, CXS 202) could be acceptable to allow CCMAS to endorse recommended methods for these provisions as Type I;

Position:

African Union supports the approval for the two provisions for ash at 550°C and 900°C.

Rationale:

The determination of ash content at 900°C requires the use of expensive platinum dishes which are not readily available. However, ashing at 550°C has been found to be fit for purpose. The two temperatures can be considered fit for purpose as long as validation studies indicate insignificant differences in results of analysis.

Agenda Item 4.7: Codex Committee on Pesticide Residues (CX/CAC 24/47/9 & CX/CAC 24/47/9 Add.1)

Standards and related texts submitted for final adoption

1) MRLs for different combinations of pesticide/commodity(ies) (Step 5/8)

Background:

CCPR55 considered recommendations of MRLs proposed by JMPR 2023 for adoption. 259 MRLs are proposed for adoption the following 29 pesticides commodities combination i.e. Thiophanate-Methyl, Dinocap, Phosmet, Iprodione, Cypermethrins (including alpha- and zeta- cypermethrin), Diflubenzuron, Deltamethrin, Propiconazole, Boscalid, Difenoconazole, Clothianidin, Fluopyram, Thiamethoxam, Acetamiprid, Dinotefuran, Cyantraniliprole, Imazapyr, Cyflumetofen, Oxathiapiprolin, Mefentrifluconazole, Tetraniliprole, Broflanilide, Isoflucypram, 1,4-Dimethylnaphthalene, Florylpicoxamid, Isocycloseram, Isotianil, Mepiquat Chloride, Tricyclazole.

2) Consequential amendments to the CXLs for peppers groups/subgroups: MRLs for okra**Background:**

CCPR54 (2023) agreed to keep okra in Subgroup 12B (Pepper and pepperlike commodities) in the Classification of Food and Feed (CXA 4-1989) while awaiting the generation of data on okra and subsequent evaluation by JMPR. To implement this decision, consequential amendments were then made to the relevant CXLs for the pepper groups and subgroups. The Codex Secretariat noted that for two compounds, namely pyrethrin (063) and permethrin (120), the parenthetical qualifier statement “MRL provisionally applies to okra, martynia, and roselle” was not applied, and these entries in the database may need to be corrected to ensure consistency.

3) Consequential amendment to the Classification of food and feed (CXA 4-1989) – Additional commodities for Class D – Processed Foods of Plant Origin**Background:**

The Codex Secretariat advised CCPR55 (2024) that JMPR (2023) had recommended MRLs for two commodities for which there are no Codex commodity numbers in either the old or the current (revised) Classification of Food and Feed (CXA 4-1989). The Secretariat further proposed replacing the temporary code CP 0448 Tomato ketchup with DM 3527 under Group 069 Miscellaneous derived edible products of plant origin.

Position:

African Union supports the adoption of the proposed MRLs for different pesticide/commodity(ies) at step 5/8 and consequential amendments to the CXLs for peppers groups/subgroups: MRLs for okra as well as consequential amendment to the Classification of food and feed (CXA 4-1989) – Additional commodities for Class D – Processed Foods of Plant Origin

Rationale:

- 1) The proposed MRLs present no public health concerns according to the JMPR evaluations and have been identified as result of risk characterization and will facilitate international trade in these commodities.
- 2) The MRLs provisionally apply to okra, roselle and martynia, extrapolating from the subgroup of peppers.
- 3) Code 0448 was a temporary code.

Standards and related texts submitted for adoption at Step 5

- 1) Guidelines for monitoring the stability and purity of reference materials and related stock solutions of pesticides during prolonged storage

Background:

Virtual Working Group (VWG) prior to CCPR55 and the in-session Working Group (ISWG) at CCPR55 further revised the guidelines based on written comments submitted to the Session in reply to a Circular Letter (CL 2024/45-PR) and comments made by Members participating in the VWG and ISWG. CCPR55 (2024) considered the output of the VWG and ISWG and noted the general support for the work done so far and on expanding the scope of the guidelines to cover mixed pesticide standard solutions. Members agreed to:

- (i) Forward the draft guidelines for advancement in the Step Procedure for adoption by CAC47 at step 5, and further consideration by CCPR56;
- (ii) Expand the scope of the guidelines to cover mixtures of pesticides and to inform CCEXEC and CAC accordingly; and
- (iii) re-establish the EWG, chaired by India, and co-chaired by Canada, Iran, and Singapore, working in English to include provisions for monitoring the stability and purity of mixed pesticide standard solutions, refine relevant sections in the document as necessary, and submit the revised guidelines for consideration at CCPR56.

Position:

African Union supports the adoption of the Guidelines for monitoring the stability and purity of reference materials and related stock solutions of pesticides during prolonged storage by CAC47 at step 5.

Rationale:

The guidelines will provide support in monitoring the stability and purity of individual and mixed pesticide standard solutions during prolonged storage and identify expired materials with continued stability and purity.

Proposed priority list of pesticides for evaluation by JMPR for approval

1) Priority list of pesticides for evaluation by JMPR

Background:

CCPR agreed to:

- (i) endorse and submit to CAC47 for approval, the proposed priority list of pesticides for evaluation by JMPR comprising compounds for new evaluations (8), new uses and other evaluations (24), and periodic evaluations; and
- (ii) re-establish the EWG on Schedules and Priorities, chaired by Australia, working in English, to provide a report on the Schedules and Priority Lists for consideration at the next meeting of CCPR.

Position:

African Union supports approval of the proposed priority list of pesticides for evaluation by JMPR and the re-establishment of the EWG on Schedules and Priorities.

Rationale:

Continued evaluation or re-evaluation of compounds and/or corresponding MRLs ensures trade facilitation while safeguarding public health. The listed compounds meet the prioritization criteria of being registered in some countries and there is proof of both residue and toxicological data submission. In addition, compounds listed for periodic review comply with the 15-year rule.

Codex standards and related texts proposed for revocation

- (i) **CXLs for different combinations of pesticide/commodity(ies)**

Background:

CCPR55 considered recommendations of MRLs proposed by JMPR 2023 for revocation. 122 MRLs for the following 16 pesticides/commodities combination are being proposed for revocation i.e. Carbaryl, Dinocap, Carbofuran, Phosmet, Iprodione, Cypermethrins (including alpha- and zeta- cypermethrin), Carbosulfan, Propiconazole, Difenoconazole, Clothianidin, Fluopyram, Dinotefuran, Cyantraniliprole, Imazapyr, Broflanilide, Quinclorac, Spiromesifen, Fenazaquin, Afidopyrifen.

Position:

African Union supports the proposed revocation of CXLs for different combinations of pesticide/commodity(ies).

Rationale:

Either the CXLs have been deemed to potentially have dietary intake concerns with no alternative Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) or are being replaced based on review of additional data, and therefore their use is no longer supported.

Work proposed for discontinuation

1) **MRLs for different combinations of pesticide/commodity(ies) withdrawn from the step procedure**

Background:

CCPR55 agreed to submit to CAC47:

- a) MRLs in the Step procedure that have been withdrawn (discontinuation of work) and to inform CAC accordingly as listed in REP24/PR55 – Appendix IV; and
- b) MRLs retained at Steps 4 and 7 as listed in REP24/PR55 – Appendices VI and V (for information).

Position:

African Union supports the withdrawal from the step procedure or discontinuation of work on MRLs for the proposed compounds.

Rationale:

Either the MRLs have been deemed to potentially have public health concerns with no alternative Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) or are being replaced based on review of additional data and evaluation.

Agenda Item 4.9: Codex Committee on Food Import and Export Inspection and Certification Systems (CX/CAC 24/47/11 & CX/CAC 24/47/17)

Standards and related texts submitted for adoption at Step 5

1) Draft guidelines on the prevention and control of food fraud

Background:

The CCFICS27 (2024) recognized the significant progress made in building consensus on the different sections of the Draft Guidelines on the prevention and control of food fraud. It was then resolved that the draft guidelines be forwarded to CAC47 for adoption at Step 5 and the EWG re-established to consider comments received at Step 6, and all outstanding issues, noting the following general views:

- (i) There was general agreement on the importance of progressing this work;
- (ii) The guidelines would support the establishment of measures, where justified by risk, for prevention and mitigation of food fraud and the protection of food integrity, especially in developing countries;
- (iii) Concerns were expressed about the lack of clarity on the scope of the guidelines.

Position:

African Union supports advancement of the Draft guidelines on the prevention and control of food fraud at step 5.

Rationale:

Adoption of this work at step 5 shall consolidate on the significant progress made so far, as well as its advancement to Step 6 for further comments and consideration by CCFICS28. In addition, progressing the draft guideline would affirm the recognition and importance of the guidance to competent authorities and food business operators on the prevention, detection, mitigation, and control of food fraud.

Proposals to undertake new work or revise a standard

1) New work on developing guidance on appeals mechanism in the context of rejection of imported food

Background:

CCFICS27 considered a discussion paper, prepared by India and Nigeria, addresses the critical issue of border rejections in global food trade. The paper highlights that while the primary goal of food control authorities is to protect public health and ensure a reliable global food supply chain, the rejection of food consignments at borders often leads to significant economic losses, food waste, and a decline in trust in the safety and quality of the exporting country's produce. Rejections occur due to various reasons, some unrelated to food safety, such as labeling or documentation issues, which underscores the need for a fair appeal mechanism to allow stakeholders to demonstrate compliance and avoid unnecessary food loss.

CCFICS27 (2024) resolved to forward the new work proposal to CAC47 for approval and to establish an EWG, chaired by India and co-chaired by Nigeria, Australia, Chile, and Kenya, subject to approval of new work by CAC47 to draft the guidance.

Position:

African Union supports the development of a Codex guidance on appeals mechanism in the context of rejection of imported food as well as the creation of an EWG for this work to facilitate wider participation of Codex Members and Observers.

Rationale:

The proposed work addresses critical challenges that disproportionately affect global food trade. Rejections at borders often result from issues unrelated to food safety, e.g. documentation errors, leading to significant economic losses, wasted food, and diminished trust in exports, even when the products are otherwise safe for consumption. By establishing a transparent and standardized appeal process, trading partners can mitigate these unnecessary losses, and ensure that products can be reconditioned or relabeled to meet import requirements rather than being rightly discarded.

2) New work on developing guidance on the standardization of the representation of sanitary requirements

Background:

CCFICS27 considered a discussion paper on the standardization of sanitary requirements, prepared by Brazil with the assistance of Australia, New Zealand, Spain, and the United States. The paper, initially introduced at CCFICS26 (2023) points to challenges in the current system of electronic certification for food imports and exports such as inconsistent requirements, repetitive information, and a lack of transparency, all of which complicate the processing and validation of sanitary certificates.

CCFICS27 agreed to forward the new work proposal to CAC47 for approval as new work and establish an EWG working in English, chaired by Brazil and co-chaired by Australia, India, Kenya, Spain, and Uganda, subject to approval of new work by CAC47 to develop the draft guidance document.

Position:

African Union supports the commencement of work on the standardization of sanitary requirements as well as the creation of an EWG for this work to facilitate wider participation of Codex Members and Observers.

Rationale:

The current system of non-standardized sanitary requirements poses significant challenges particularly in managing the complexities of international trade. Standardizing these requirements would reduce the risk of errors, streamline certification processes, and enhance transparency, thereby improving market access for exports.

3) New work on revision to the Principles and guidelines for the exchange of information between importing and exporting countries to support the trade in food (CXG 89-2016)

Background:

At CCFICS27, Norway introduced a discussion paper and new work proposal, on revising the Principles and guidelines for the exchange of information between importing and exporting countries to support the trade in food (CXG 89-2016) to develop principles and guidelines to harmonize the use (the drivers), development (content and format) and implementation (mechanisms including digitalization) of establishment listings, which could be annexed to CXG 89-2016. The work seeks to simplify and lessen the burden of establishment lists in order to decrease the requirements for data gathering. Members expressed support for the new work proposal as they considered that it addressed a need for NFCSs and that the work was timely. They supported the work to be an annex to CXG 89-2016 as this would avoid opening up the existing guidelines for a more extensive review on other issues. It was also proposed that aspects such as prelisting, list of products and establishments, and necessity of lists could be taken into account.

CCFICS27 agreed to:

- (i) Forward to CAC47 for approval the proposal for new work on revising the Principles and guidelines for the exchange of information between importing and exporting countries to support the trade in food (CXG 89-2016) to develop principles and guidelines to harmonize the use, development and implementation of establishment listings.
- (ii) Establish an EWG, working in English, chaired by Norway and co-chaired by Australia, India, Morocco, Saudia Arabia and Spain, subject to approval of the new work by CAC47, to prepare the draft revision to CXG 89-2016.

Position:

African Union supports the approval and commencement of work on the revision of CXG 89-2016 as well as the creation of an EWG for this work to facilitate wider participation of Codex Members and Observers.

Rationale:

Principles and guidelines for establishment listings will facilitate harmonized, streamlined, and timely information sharing when such lists are justified. This could decrease the requirement for burdensome data gathering, contribute to saving resources such as time and money, ensure updated information is readily available for trading partners, and consequently facilitate fair practices in food trade and trade in safe food.

4) New work on the development of principles for the digitalization of National Food Control Systems (NFCSs)

Background:

CCFICS27 considered a discussion paper by Australia on the new work proposal on digitalization of NFCSs. The new work is aimed at developing high-level flexible guiding principles by capturing relevant universal themes, providing an overarching framework, identifying existing digital-related international standards and guidance, and establishing relevant digital-related definitions.

CCFICS27 agreed to forward the proposal for new work for the digitalisation of NFCSs to CAC47 for approval and to establish an EWG working in English, chaired by Australia and co-chaired by Canada, Jamaica, the Netherlands, and the UK, subject to approval of new work by CAC47 to prepare the draft principles.

Position:

African Union supports approval of work on the digitalization of National Food Control Systems and its commencement and the creation of an EWG to facilitate wider participation of Codex Members and Observers.

Rationale:

Development of Codex principles and guidelines for digitalization of National Food Control Systems will provide a clear pathway for digitalizing their NFCS and encourage broader adoption of digital tools and technologies that will promote faster, secure and efficient exchange of data and information and thus facilitate global food trade.

Agenda Item 4.10: Codex Committee on Nutrition and Foods for Special Dietary Uses (CX/CAC 24/47/12 & CX/CAC 24/47/12 Add. 1)

Standards and related texts submitted for final adoption

- 1) **General principles for establishing Nutrient Reference Values - Requirements (NRVs-R) for persons aged 6 – 36 months (inclusion in CXG 2-1985 as Annex 1, Part B) - (Step 8)**
- 2) **NRVs-R for persons aged 6 – 36 months: Vitamins A, B6, D and E, thiamin, riboflavin, niacin, pantothenic acid, calcium, copper, iodine, potassium, zinc and protein (CXG 2-1985) - (Step 5/8)**

Background:

The Draft General Principles for establishing Nutrient Reference Values (NRVs-R) were adopted by CAC46 at Step 5 and advanced to Step 6. An EWG chaired by Ireland, and co-chaired by Costa Rica and USA was established to:

- a) Revise the draft Stepwise Process taking into account the revisions to the draft General Principles and to develop an approach to propose NRVs-R for the combined age range of 6 to 36 months; and
- b) Apply the revised draft Stepwise Process to propose NRVs-R for persons aged 6 – 12 months, 12-36 months and 6 – 36 months, for the following nutrients: a. Vitamins A, D, C, K and E, thiamine, riboflavin, niacin, vitamins B6 and b12, folate, pantothenic acid and biotin; b. Calcium, magnesium, iron, zinc, iodine, copper, selenium, manganese, phosphorus and potassium.

Following EWG discussions, comments in response to a circular letter and a PWG, the following outstanding areas were discussed at CCNFSDU44:

- a) Definition for adequate intake (AI) – Agreement with the recommendation of the PWG to adopt the definition of AI provided by FAO/WHO and to remove the square brackets from the definition for AI; and
- b) Basis for establishing combined NRVs-R for persons aged 6-36 months – CCNFSDU44 considered the recommendation of the PWG for a revised option 3: “NRVs-R should be derived for persons aged 6 – 12 months and 12 – 36 months from suitable data sources and consensus was established on the use of the mean value for the combined NRVs-R for persons aged 6 – 36 months (option 3) and to remove the square brackets.

CCNFSDU44 further agreed to retain the amended text to describe the stepwise process together with the schematic outline presented in Appendix II figure from CRD03. The EWG/PWG categorized the NRVs-R in two groups for consideration by the Committee:

- the ‘green light’ NRVs-R, listed in Table 1, 2 and 3 of Appendix III, CRD03 that were recommended to be adopted; and
- the ‘amber light’ NRVs -R, listed in Table 4 of Appendix III which the PWG did not discuss values and a deeper review by an EWG would be needed.

Consequently, CCNFSDU44 agreed to:

- (i) advance the General principles for establishing nutrient reference values for persons aged 6 to 36 months to Step 8 for adoption by CAC47 and inclusion in CXG 2-1985 as Annex 1, Part B; and
- (ii) advance the NRVs-R for Vitamins A, B6, D and E, thiamin, riboflavin, niacin, pantothenic acid, calcium, copper, iodine, potassium, zinc and protein to Step 8 for adoption by CAC47 and inclusion in CXG 2- 1985 (section 3.4.4.2);

CCNFSDU44 further agreed to request the Codex Secretariat to publish the Stepwise Process as an information document on the Codex website for internal use by CCNFSDU and to return to Step 2/3 the remaining NRVs-R for Vitamins C, B12, and K, folate, biotin, selenium, manganese, magnesium, phosphorous and iron for development using the stepwise process through an EWG chaired by Ireland and co-chaired by the United States of America and Costa Rica.

Position:

African Union supports the adoption of the General principles for establishing Nutrient Reference Values - Requirements (NRVs-R) for persons aged 6 – 36 months (inclusion in CXG 2-1985 as Annex 1, Part B) at (Step 8)

Rationale:

There was unanimous support for the adoption of the FAO/WHO definition of adequate intake (AI) and majority of Members supported using the mean to determine the NRVs-R for the combined age range. The General principles for establishing nutrient reference values also allow for the use of the highest or lowest requirements if national authorities choose not to use the mean. In addition, agreement was obtained on the NRVs for Vitamins A, B6, D and E, thiamin, riboflavin, niacin, pantothenic acid, calcium, copper, iodine, potassium, zinc and protein proposed for adoption at step 8.

All other vitamins with sustained concerns were held at step 2/3 for further discussion by the Committee prior to CCNFSDU45.

3) Amendments to the Standard for infant formula and formulas for special medical purposes intended for infants (CXS 72-1981)

Background:

At CCNFSDU44, the Chairperson noted that consequential amendments to CXS 72-1981 had been identified and proposed by a Member during the finalization of work on the revision of the Standard for follow-up formula (CXS 156-1987), renamed Standard for follow-up formula for older infants and product for young children and requested CCNFSDU to consider these amendments. In the development of CXS 72-1981 and the review of CXS 156-1987, essential composition values per 100 kcal were agreed to and subsequently converted to a value per 100 kJ. However, during the review of CXS 156-1987, it was identified that there were inconsistencies in the conversion of essential compositional requirements from kcal to kJ, partly due to rounding inconsistencies in the development of CXS 72-1981.

Position:

African Union supports the consequential amendments to the Standard for infant formula and formulas for special medical purposes intended for infants (CXS 72-1981).

Rationale:

A systematic approach was followed to determine the essential composition per 100 kcal to ensure that the values converted from per 100 kcal to per 100 kJ are nutritionally equivalent to a reasonable level of specificity.

4) Inclusion of the nitrogen to protein conversion factor for follow-up formula for older infants and products for young children in the annex in CXS 234-1999

Refer to Agenda Item 4.6

Proposals to undertake new work

1) New work proposal for the development of a standard for foods for older infants and young children

Background:

The Codex Secretariat issue a CL requesting for proposals for new work using the revised draft guideline, which would be implemented on a trial basis. A physical working group (PWG), chaired by Canada and co-chaired by Germany, working in English, French and Spanish was established and held in the margins of CCNFSDU44 to consider the revised draft guideline on a trial basis and assess any new work proposals received in response to CL 2024/52-NFSDU.

CCNFSDU44 considered the report of the PWG and the new work proposals in light of the Committee's prioritization mechanism.

Position:

African Union supports approval of new work for the development of a standard for foods for older infants and young children and subject to approval of the new work item at CAC47, establish an EWG to prepare the

proposed draft standard for circulation for comments at Step 3 and consideration at CCNFSDU45, including the title of the standard.

Rationale:

Complementary feeding of children between the ages of 6 and 36 months is necessary for healthy growth and development at this critical period.

Agenda Item 4.11: Codex Committee on Fish and Fishery Products (CX/CAC 24/47/13 & CX/CAC 24/47/13 Add. 1)

Standards and related texts submitted for final adoption

1) Inclusion of *Sardinella lemuru* in the list of sardine species under Section 2.1 in the Standard for canned sardines and sardine-type products (CXS 94-1981)

Background:

CAC43 (2020) reactivated the Codex Committee on Fish and Fishery Products (CCFFP) to work by correspondence and evaluate if the Standard for Canned Sardines and Sardine -Type Products (CXS 94-1981) could be amended to include the fish species *Sardinella lemuru* (*Bali Sardinella*) in the list of *Sardinella* species under section 2.1. An Electronic Working Group (EWG), chaired by the Philippines and co-chaired by the European Union (EU) was established to support the sensory evaluation.

The EWG concluded that:

- a) canned sardines (*Sardinella lemuru*, *S. aurita*, *S. pilchardus*, *S. maderensis*) in brine and oil had revealed consistent findings.
- b) As for frozen, thawed and cooked sardines, the different species did not exhibit significant discrepancies from one another.
- c) Regarding cooked fillets, *S. lemuru* showed intermediate characteristics compared to *S. aurita* and *S. pilchardus*.
- d) The analysis of variance and F-test of the three laboratories showed very little difference.

Based on the conclusions of the EWG report and its recommendation, CCFFP36 agreed to forward for adoption by CAC47, the inclusion of *Sardinella lemuru* in the list of sardine species under Section 2.1 in the Standard for canned sardines and sardine-type products (CXS 94-1981)

Position:

African Union supports the inclusion of *Sardinella lemuru* in the list of sardine species under Section 2.1 in the Standard for canned sardines and sardine-type products (CXS 94-1981).

Rationale:

The procedure for inclusion of new species in the standards for fish and fishery products according to the Codex procedural manual was duly followed and the EWG report concerning the sensory evaluation indicated no significant differences in results for sardine species.

2) Editorial amendments of the following scientific names in Section 2.1 of CXS 94-1981:

- a) *Sardinops neopilchardus* and *Sardinops caeruleus* replaced by *Sardinops sagax*;
- b) *Clupea bentincki* replaced by *Strangomera bentincki*; and
- c) *Etrumeus teres* replaced by *Etrumeus sadina*

Background:

CCFFP36 evaluated the proposal to update the scientific names of four sardine species included in Standard for Canned Sardines and Sardine-type Products (CXS 94-1981) to ensure alignment with the current nomenclature. The proposal was confirmed by The Representative of FAO and the Codex Secretariat clarified that updating the scientific names in Codex texts was considered an editorial amendment.

Position:

African Union supports the proposed editorial amendments to scientific names of four sardine species in Section 2.1 of CXS 94-1981.

Rationale:

To ensure alignment with the current scientific nomenclature.

3) Consequential amendments to the labelling provisions for non-retail containers in fish and fishery products standards

Background:

CAC44 (2021) adopted the General Standard for the Labelling of Non-Retail Containers of Foods (CXS 346-2021), as proposed by the CCFL46. CAC44 also adopted consequential amendments to the section on Labelling in the Format for Codex Commodity Standards in the Procedural Manual. CCFFP36 (2024) was invited to review the labelling provisions for fish and fishery products standards and to consider whether the existing labelling provision for non-retail containers can be wholly replaced by reference to CXS 346-2021, if specific requirements should be retained or added in addition to the reference to CXS 346-2021, or if a labelling provisions for non-retail containers should be added. As at July 2024, 24 standards under CCFFP are affected by the consequential amendments (REP24/FFP – Appendix II).

Position:

African Union supports the consequential amendments to the 24 fish and fisheries products standards.

Rationale:

The consequential amendments ensure that the fish and fisheries products standards are in alignment with the provisions of the General Standard for the Labelling of Non-Retail Containers of Foods (CXS 346-2021) and to the section on Labelling in the Procedural Manual.

Agenda Item 4.12: Codex Committee on Residues of Veterinary Drugs in Foods (CX/CAC 24/47/14 & CX/CAC 24/47/14 Add. 1)

Standards and related texts submitted for final adoption

1) Code of Practice on Good Animal Feeding (CXC 54-2004)

Background:

CCRVDF27 noted that the Code of Practice on Good Animal Feeding (CXC 54-2004) refers to the Code of Practice for Control of the Use of Veterinary Drugs (CAC/RCP 38-1993) under footnote 9, which has been superseded by the Guidelines for the Design and Implementation of National Regulatory Food Safety Assurance Programmes Associated with the Use of Veterinary Drugs in Food-Producing Animals (CXG 71-2009) and therefore the footnote should be updated accordingly. CCRVDF further acknowledged that this was an editorial amendment with no impact on the technical content of the CoP.

Position:

African Union supports the adoption of the Code of Practice on Good Animal Feeding with an update of Footnote 9

Rationale:

Updating the Code of Practice aligns it with current standards, improving clarity and supporting safe, consistent use of veterinary drugs in animal feed.

2) MRLs for:

- (i) Clopidol (chicken – skin/fat (2600 µg/kg), kidney (8800µg/kg), liver (10400ug/kg), and muscle 4100µg/kg) (Step 5/8); and
- (ii) Imidacloprid (finfish (fillet) (muscle with skin in natural proportions and/or muscle)) (600 µg/kg)(Step 5/8).

Background:

CCRVDF27 noted that JECFA had completed the safety assessment of clopidol and there were safety concerns. In addition, some countries have already registered the compound. CCRVDF27 further recalled that CCRVDF26 requested JECFA to consider an MRL for finfish. JECFA98 evaluated Atlantic salmon and rainbow trout based on the data/information submitted and assigned an MRL of 600 µg/kg for Atlantic salmon and rainbow trout and, in addition, recommended extrapolating this MRL to all finfish. An extrapolated MRL for finfish (fillet) was therefore considered and there was general support to advance the MRL to CAC47 for adoption at Step 5/8.

Position:

African Union supports the adoption of MRLs for Clopidol (chicken – skin/fat, kidney, liver, and muscle) and Imidacloprid (finfish (fillet) (muscle with skin in natural proportions and/or muscle)) at step 5/8.

Rationale:

JECFA evaluations for the two compounds indicate no safety concerns at the established MRLs. The establishment of the MRLs promotes food safety and facilitates international trade.

Extrapolation of MRLs for lufenuron, emamectin benzoate and diflubenzuron in finfish, extrapolated MRL for ivermectin in milk to all other ruminants

Background:

CCRVDF27 supported the EWG and PWG's recommendation to extrapolate the MRLs for lufenuron to finfish, as all extrapolation criteria had been met. In addition, the EWG/PWG Chair noted that emamectin benzoate did not meet Criterion 2b of the established extrapolation rules as the marker residue was only part of the parent compound, and indicated that the view of the EWG/PWG was that the intent of Criterion 2b was not to exclude the possibility of extrapolation for substances that were made up of homologous compounds. CCRVDF27 thus supported the recommendation that Criterion 2b be amended to allow for the possibility of extrapolation in cases where the marker residue was a homolog that constituted a major part of the parent substance, and the subsequent extrapolation of the MRLs for emamectin benzoate to finfish.

Position:

African Union:

- Supports the advancement of the proposed extrapolated MRL (1350µg/kg) for lufenuron in finfish for adoption at Step 5/8.
- Supports the amendment to Criterion 2b in Annex C – Approach for the extrapolation of MRLs for veterinary drugs to one or more species of the Risk Analysis Principles applied by CCRVDF (Appendix V);
- Supports the advancement of the proposed extrapolated MRL (100µg/kg) for emamectin benzoate in finfish to CAC47 for adoption at Step 5/8, upon acceptance of the amendment to Criterion 2b (Appendix IV); and (iv)
- Supports the advancement of the proposed extrapolated MRL (10µg/kg) for milk tissues of all other ruminants upon acceptance of the additional criterion for milk extrapolation.

Rationale:

The MRLs provide evidence-based risk management decisions to ensure safe residue levels and hence promote food safety and facilitate international trade.

Standards and related texts submitted for adoption at Step 5

1) MRLs for fumagillin dicyclohexylamine (DCH) (fish fillet and honey)

Background:

CCRVDF27 noted the commitment to provide concern forms within one month of the end of the plenary with respect to the evaluation of the MRLs. If adopted by CAC at Step 5, a circular letter at Step 6 will include questions based on the information provided by Members in the concern forms to facilitate the submission of comments and discussion at CCRVDF28 (2026).

Position:

African Union supports adoption of the MRLs for fumagillin dicyclohexylamine (DCH) in fish fillet (10 (µg/kg for the marker residue (MR) fumagillin) and honey 20 (µg/kg for the marker residue (MR) DCH) at step 5.

Rationale:

Setting MRLs upon substantially addressing Member's concerns ensures evidence based risk management decisions to ensure safe residue levels and hence promote food safety and facilitate international trade.

Agenda Item 12: Matters arising from FAO and WHO (CX/CAC 24/47/22)

Background:

The FAO and WHO have presented several key issues to the 47th session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission that reflect developments in food safety and nutrition globally. Noteworthy topics include the observance of World Food Safety Day, the progress under the UN Decade of Action on Nutrition, and updates on WHO's Global Strategy for Food Safety. Additionally, FAO and WHO's collaborative work spans essential areas such as Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR), healthy diets, scientific advice to Codex Alimentarius, and several emerging food safety challenges. The agenda being advanced by the two organizations emphasizes the need for continued global cooperation, research, and strategic interventions to address the evolving risks in food safety, such as novel production systems, indoor farming, and precision fermentation, which are

shaping future food systems.

Members are requested to take note of the matters and ongoing projects by FAO, WHO and/or executed jointly by the two Codex parent organizations and to take necessary actions to in line with activities going on in their respective countries or Regional Economic Communities.

Position:

Africa Union appreciates the invaluable support from FAO and WHO in advancing food safety across the continent. However, Africa faces distinct challenges that require further targeted assistance. To build sustainable food safety systems, Africa calls for strengthened collaboration, technical capacity building, and additional resources. These efforts will ensure that food safety interventions and regulatory frameworks are robust, equitable, and aligned with the region's food security and trade objectives, fostering a transparent and competitive environment that empowers African nations to safeguard public health and participate fully in global markets.