

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 GHANA

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

Position: Ghana does not have any proposed changes to recommend on the provisional agenda.

Agenda Item 4: Work of Codex committees

Agenda Item 4.1: Codex Committee on Spices and Culinary Herbs REP24/SCH, CX/CAC 24/47/3, and CX/CAC 24/47/3 Add.1

Part 1 – Standards and related texts submitted for final adoption

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

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

Position: Ghana 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)

Position: Ghana 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

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

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

Draft standard for spices derived from dried or dehydrated fruits and berries – vanilla

(REP24/SCH, paragraph 70(i), Appendix V)

Position: Ghana supports the adoption of the standard at Step 5.

Part 3 – New work proposals

- i. New work proposal on standard for sweet marjoram (REP24/SCH, Appendix VII), Project Document: Annex I of CX/CAC 24/47/3
- ii. New work proposal on standard for dried seeds-coriander, REP24/SCH, Appendix VIII
Project Document: Annex II of CX/CAC 24/47/3
- iii. New work proposal on standard for large cardamom, REP24/SCH, Appendix IX, Project Document: Annex III of CX/CAC 24/47/3
- iv. New work proposal on standard for cinnamon, REP24/SCH, Appendix X, Project Document: Annex IV of CX/CAC 24/47/3

Position on the new work proposals

Ghana 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 CCSCCH 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

Standards and related texts submitted for final adoption

Position: Ghana 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.

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

Position: Ghana 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.

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

Position: Ghana 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

Position: Ghana 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

Position: Ghana 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 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)

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, leafy vegetables, raw milk and raw milk cheeses, and sprouts (CXG 99 – 2023) (step 5/8)

Position: Ghana 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 ensure 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) (Step5/8)

Position: Ghana supports the final adoption of Annex III on Milk and ilk 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)

Position: Ghana 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)

Position: Ghana 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)

Position: Ghana 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)

Position: Ghana 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)

Position: Ghana 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)

Position: Ghana supports the adoption of the proposed MLs for Spices, dried aril, Spices, dried seeds, excluding dried celery seeds, and Spices, dried fruits and berries.

Rationale: Concerning the proposed MLs for Spices, dried celery seeds, Spices, dried rhizomes and roots, and Spices, dried floral parts, some members in the meeting observed that data presented in support of the

MLs was limited and not geographically representative. Ghana supports the establishment of a Working Group comprising Senegal, Morocco, Uganda, Kenya, South Africa and any other Member State to further evaluate the proposed MLs for Spices, dried celery seeds, Spices, dried rhizomes and roots, and Spices, dried floral parts. in the lead up to and in the margins of CAC47.

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)

Position: Ghana 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)

Position: Ghana 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)

Position: Ghana 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)

Position: Ghana 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)

Position: Ghana 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)

Position: Ghana 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

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

Position: Ghana 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)

Position: Ghana 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

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 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)

Position: Ghana supports the 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)

Position: Ghana 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

1) 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)

Position: Ghana 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 adoption

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

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

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

Position: Ghana 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

Position: Ghana 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

Position: Ghana supports approval of the proposed priority list of pesticides for evaluation by JMPR and the reestablishment 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)

Position: Ghana 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

Position: Ghana 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)**1) Draft guidelines on the prevention and control of food fraud**

Position: Ghana 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**

Position: Ghana 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

Position: Ghana 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)

Position: Ghana 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 digitalisation of National Food Control Systems (NFCSs)

Position: Ghana 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)

Position: Ghana 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)

Position: Ghana 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

Position: Refer to 4.6

Rationale: Refer to 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

Position: Ghana 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)

Position: Ghana 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*

Position: Ghana 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

Position: Ghana 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.

Matters for information

1) The insertion of *Sardinella fimbriata* and *Amblygaster sirm* (formerly known as *Sardinella sirm*) in CXS 94-1981 based on previous CAC decisions

Position: Ghana does not support the insertion of *Sardinella fimbriata* and *Amblygaster sirm* (formerly known as *Sardinella sirm*) in CXS 94-1981.

Rationale: The procedure for including new species in standards for fish and fishery products was adopted in 2013 by the Codex Alimentarius Commission. Consequently, from this date, any addition of species to the standard must comply with this procedure. Several data have been modified and additional information, especially a recent stock status, must be examined before making a decision to include in 2024. The inclusion of these two species must respect the inclusion procedure in compliance with the provisions of the procedures manual.

2) Future Codex work on seaweed and other algae

Position: Ghana supports future work on seaweed and other algae.

Rationale: The global production of algae continues to increase and these algae contribute significantly to international trade.

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)

Position: Ghana 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).

Position: Ghana 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

Position: Ghana

- 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)

Position: Ghana 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 6: Other matters relating to Codex subsidiary bodies (CX/CAC 24/47/17 & CX/CAC 24/47/17 Add.1.1)**(i) Proposed amendment of the General Standard for Fruit Juices and Nectars (CXS 247-2005)**

Position: Ghana Supports adoption of the proposed amendment to the brix level grape juice from *Vitis labrusca* and hybrids in the General Standard for Fruit Juices and Nectars (CXS 247-2005).

Rationale: The discussions at the EWG exhausted the issues that were raised by some of the Members. The provision of lowering the Brix does not present potential adulteration as there are existing analytical methods to determine added water in grape juice. The proposal is trade facilitative and consistent with the Codex core value of inclusivity

Agenda Item 13: Potential webcasting of the Executive Committee (CX/CAC 24/47/23)

Position: The Current practice should be maintain