

CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



World Health
Organization

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Agenda Item 4, 5, 6, 7

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JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME CODEX COMMITTEE ON GENERAL PRINCIPLES

Thirty-third Session

Bordeaux, France

2-6 October 2023

Comments of India

Agenda Item 4: Codex Procedural Manual: presentation of new format and observations on consistency and superseded content

Appendix II: Examples of additional changes that could be made to the Codex Procedural Manual to align with modern technology and current practice (page numbers refer to the English version of the 28th edition)

India appreciates the work done by the Codex secretariat and supports the changes proposed in the

- Section 2: para 54 (page 37)
- Section 3: para's 16 (page 37), 22 (page 78), 27 (page 29), 28 (page 79), 38 (page 81) and 142 (page 94)
- Section 7: para 2 (page 191)

In reference Section 3:

- para 7 (Page 76), India proposes to use "information technology tools" instead of information technology equipment as the term tools broadly includes both the software and hardware and better reflects the nature of technology required for the meetings and it is commonly known/used terminology.
- Para 37 (Page 80), India proposes that the term Codex Secretariat should be used in all references instead of Joint FAO/WHO Codex Secretariat as the nomenclature codex Secretariat is very much known to the members and is being used by the members for a long period of time. Accordingly, the term Codex secretariat should be used in all other references mentioned in the PM.

Agenda Item 5: Codex Procedural Manual: Proposed update to the Guide to the Procedure for the Amendment and Revision of Codex Standards and Related Texts

While appreciating the important work lead by the Codex secretariat, India feels that the use of term 'revision' may be retained which is well known and accepted instead of introducing the new term 'new edition'. Further, the confusion in the usage of term 'amendment' is being addressed by introducing the terms 'corrections and amendment.' As per the definition, use of the term 'new edition' also includes changing the titles of sections or sub-section that may also be considered as 'correction' and the same may create confusion.

However, if the committee agrees to change the term 'Revision' to 'New Edition. India proposes the following:

In the appendix II, we found that word 'update' is being used in place of 'revision' instead of 'new edition' in the Para 8 of introduction, title of part 2 and in para 24, 26, 28 of part 7 interchangeably which is contradictory to the proposal explained in the analysis part. We understand that the term update is being used to explain the process of revision/new edition. However, in addition, the para 24 explains that "This guide provides more detailed guidance on the procedure for **updating** of Codex standards: the corrections, amendments and new editions of Codex standards and related texts" which contradicts the Para 28 wherein the term 'updating' clearly excludes correction and amendment.

The above confusion needs to be clarified or the new edition should be used appropriately across the document as proposed.

Accordingly, the term 'new edition' should also replace the term 'revise/revision in the subsequent para's 13,14 and 15 of part 2 as is done in Para 12.

- In paragraph 24, India suggests to replace the text with the following:
- The procedure for amending or develop a new edition of a Codex standard is consistent with paragraph 8" where the procedure for amendment or new edition is mentioned.
- Further, in the third line of Paragraph 24, India suggests following modification to avoid confusion and simplification of the text;
- This guide provides more detailed guidance on the existing procedure for updating of Codex standards:the corrections, amendments and revision developing new editions of Codex standards and related texts.
- In paragraph 26, India proposes to delete the second sentence 'Omit steps 1-7 when making a correction. A corrigendum itemizing the changes made is required.' and the same to be shifted-to Para 30 wherein the process for amendment and new editions has been specified.
- In paragraph 28, India proposes to revise the definition: New edition applies to any change to a standard made in the spirit of updating the content, and for anything not covered by a correction or amendment, so as to avoid confusion and align with para 24 above.
- In paragraph 29, India proposes to add the term 'correction' before the amendment of a new edition in the second line so that the commission has the authority to decide on these categories. Accordingly, India propose to modify as below;
- The Commission has the final authority to determine whether a proposal made constitutes a correction, an amendment or a new edition.
- In paragraph 30, as mentioned in the definition of the 'correction' , India propose to include last sentence in Paragraph 30 as:
- In case of correction, the preparation of a project document and the steps 1-7 are not required. In such case, a corrigendum itemizing the changes made is required.
- India proposes the following amendments in line 9-12 for Paragraph 32 for more alignment:
- ...for proposing amendments or new edition and the wording of such amendments or new edition as appropriate, and request comments from Members of the Commission: a) on the need to proceed with such an amendment or new edition and b) on the proposed amendment or new edition itself. If the majority of the replies received from Members of the Commission is affirmative on both the need to amend the standard or make to develop a new edition, and the suitability of the proposed wording for the amendment or new edition or an alternative proposed wording, the proposal should be submitted to the Commission for consideration and adoption.

Agenda Item 6: Review and possible amendments to the rules of procedure on Sessions of the Commission

While agreeing with the recommendation of Codex Secretariat for deferring the said amendment at present, India suggests that the Codex Secretariat should continue to work on the amendments considering the past experiences/difficulties faced during pandemic and if possible, the findings of the same maybe shared to the parent organization for consideration.

Agenda Item 7: Review and possible amendment of the principles concerning the participation of international non-governmental organizations in the work of the Codex Alimentarius Commission

- India agrees with the explanations mentioned in the paragraph 14and 15.
- With regard to Paragraph 17, India submits that as per para 5.1.a of the principle, the member NGO should only represent the organization for which they have registered for the meeting.