



**JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME**  
**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION**

**Eighty-third Session**

**FAO Headquarters, Rome, Italy**

**14 – 18 November 2022**

**Opening remarks**

**Dr QU Dongyu, Director-General, FAO**

*Ladies and gentlemen,*

1. I warmly welcome you to the forty-fifth session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission.
2. I am very pleased that you are able to meet physically again.
3. And I welcome too the virtual attendance of many countries around the world.
4. Technology has advanced rapidly in making such meetings possible in full transparency.
5. Technology and innovation are vital in ensuring no one is left behind and of course this goes far beyond virtual meetings.
6. The recent World Food Forum highlighted the pivotal role of science, technology and innovation for agrifood systems transformation globally.
7. The systematic use of science and data in Codex is a strong example of what this means.
8. You were pioneers, with Codex standards based on science provided by FAO and WHO expert bodies.
9. I call on all Members to continue to support the exceptional work of our scientific advice programmes.
10. Allow me to share some of the main achievements and contributions of FAO to the work relevant to CODEX.
11. We have formulated the Strategic Priorities for Food Safety that will be considered and eventually endorsed by the upcoming session of the Council in December.
12. This key document encourages a more consistent integration of food safety in the development of sustainable and inclusive agrifood systems, food security and nutrition and agriculture development policies.
13. Last Friday we launched the AMR Multi-Stakeholder Partnership Platform, under the Quadripartite umbrella and the leadership of FAO that will bring all relevant voices and mobilize action to preserve antimicrobials as lifesaving medicines across all sectors.
14. Finally under FAO's Chair, the One Health Quadripartite developed the One Health Joint Plan of Action, launched in October 2022.
15. Dear friends

16. As you hold your discussions this week.
17. I encourage you to continue to work together as partners even if some of your discussions will be complex and challenging.
18. Never forget. We are all in this together.
19. I often say we are living together on a small planet and have no choice but to face our challenges together.
20. Remember this as you play your part to create healthier populations, healthier prosperity, and a healthier planet.
21. Codex Standards are essential to achieve the transformation to MORE efficient, inclusive, resilient and sustainable agrifood systems.
22. For better production, better nutrition, a better environment, and a better life, leaving no one behind.
23. When you begin to explore new food sources and production systems.
24. And when you discuss topics that are not new.
25. I am certain a productive spirit of collaboration will guide your standard-setting.
26. I wish you a successful meeting.

**Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, Director-General, WHO**

Dr Qu Dongyu,

Chair of the Codex Alimentarius Commission, Steve Wearne,

Excellencies, dear colleagues and friends,

Welcome to the 45th Session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission.

I am pleased that you are once again able to meet face-to-face.

But you meet at a time of unprecedented challenges. Conflicts and climate change are exacerbating food insecurity and malnutrition;

Most people around the world who have access to food cannot afford healthy diets;

Deforestation and habitat loss are increasing the risk of zoonotic pathogens;

Antimicrobial resistance, environmental contamination and degradation, occupational hazards, unsafe and adulterated foods – the list goes on.

A transformation of the world's food systems is needed urgently, based on a One Health approach that protects and promotes the health of humans, animals and the planet.

The Codex Alimentarius has a critical role to play in guiding country regulations that promote health, while facilitating fair trade.

WHO remains committed to working with FAO to develop and deliver high-quality scientific advice and evidence-based Global Food Safety Guidelines and standards.

Thank you all for your support and commitment to healthier, safer food, and a healthier, safer world.

I thank you.

**Mr Steve Wearne, CAC Chairperson**

Your Excellency Director-General of FAO, Dr Qu Dongyu, Director of WHO, Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, distinguished representatives of FAO and WHO, distinguished delegates, colleagues, and friends, I would like to add my own welcome to the 45<sup>th</sup> session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission.

There was a buzz of excitement in the hall as we were each meeting in person this morning, for the first time in three years or more for some of us. I too am excited by the prospect of meeting again physically, this time with the potential for virtual participation. Hello and welcome to you all, physical and virtual delegates alike!

This is a landmark session. Our first physical session since 2019, with over eleven hundred delegates in total from a record 175 Member countries and many observers. It is also my first session as your chairperson, and joining me here are vice-chairpersons Allan Azegele, Diego Varela and Raj Rajasekar. Later in our session, they will each be briefing you on the work they have been leading.