

CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



World Health
Organization

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Agenda Item 12

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JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME

CODEX COMMITTEE ON FOOD LABELLING

Forty-seventh Session

Gatineau, Canada

15 – 19 May 2023

Discussion paper on sustainability labelling claims

(Comments from Burundi, Ghana, Nigeria, South Africa, Thailand, United Republic of Tanzania)

Burundi

Comment: Burundi thanks New Zealand and the European Union for preparing the document and notes that the CCEXEC is currently discussing the issue of sustainability under the broader theme of “blueprint for the future of codex”. It will therefore be useful to wait for the outcome of the discussions before any future work is undertaken by the Codex committee.

Ghana

Ghana appreciates New Zealand and the European Union for the development of this discussion paper. We however, note that, the discussion on sustainability is broad and needs expertise which goes beyond the scope of CCFL. We look forward to the discussions on the topic at the plenary.

Nigeria

DISCUSSION PAPER ON SUSTAINABILITY LABELLING CLAIMS CX/FL 23/47/12

General comment:

Nigeria appreciates the work done by New Zealand and the European Union in preparing the discussion paper on sustainability labelling claims.

Nigeria supports the proposal to develop guidelines on sustainability claims as that would assist government in developing regulations on sustainability related, and this will contribute to achieving the United Nation sustainable development goals (SDG.s) in particular SDG12, ensuring consumption and production patterns.

South Africa

Recommendation:

APPENDIX 1

The Committee is invited to:

(a) Consider and agree to initiate new work on sustainability-related labelling as presented in the project document in Appendix 1.

South Africa believes it is premature to address sustainability considerations in Codex standards at CCFL and other technical committees before there is an overarching fundamental discussion and agreement from Members on whether and how Codex will include sustainability in its mandate, such as how sustainability-related standards development and adoption procedures will be kept consistent with the Codex commitment to science and risk-based standard setting. It is also important to understand how the Committees' work ladders up to the overarching mandate that should facilitate more focused discussions and potentially faster text adoption, which align with Codex Strategic Goal 1.

Thailand

Thailand does not have any objection to the new work on sustainability-related labelling. We support this work as high-level principles to cover the various uses of sustainability claims in the current food labelling. The claim should follow the definition of claim as specified in General Guideline on Claims to provide the information in a manner that is not false nor misleading. Ultimately, this work will create consumer's trust to the food product with sustainability-related labelling or claim.

However, we submitted the comments on the OCS Platforms and we note that our comments were not included in the CX/FL 23/47/12 add.1.

United Republic of Tanzania

a. The URT supports the initiation of the new work on sustainability-related labeling as presented in the project document in Appendix 1

b. The URT agrees that such work be limited to high-level guidance and principles for developing sustainability-related labeling on food.

Justification:

The work should be limited to high-level guidance and principles for developing sustainability-related labeling on food. to prevent misuse of sustainable labelling