

CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



World Health
Organization

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Agenda item 8

CRD3

JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME

CODEX COMMITTEE ON FOOD IMPORT AND EXPORT INSPECTION AND CERTIFICATION SYSTEMS

Twenty-fourth Session

Brisbane, Australia, 22 - 26 October 2018

DISCUSSION PAPER ON CONSIDERATION OF EMERGING ISSUES AND FUTURE DIRECTIONS FOR THE WORK OF CCFICS

Comments from Philippines and African Union

Philippines

The Philippines welcomes the discussions for new work at the CCFICS and we are particularly interested on how a guidance document will be developed surrounding private standards (Appendix A, row E) considering the intensive discussions on it at the WTO SPS Committee.

African Union

Issue

At its 20th Session in 2013, the Codex Committee on Food Import and Export Inspection and Certification Systems (CCFICS20) recognized that emerging global challenges were impacting approaches and technologies relating to food safety controls, and these trends were likely to continue. As a result, the Committee requested a discussion paper be prepared to enable CCFICS to take a strategic approach to its area of work.

At its 23rd Session (2017), the Committee considered an updated discussion paper (CX/FICS 17/23/9) comprising two distinct components: Appendix A, presenting emerging global issues relevant to the work of CCFICS; and Appendix B, outlining a framework for the preliminary assessment and identification of priority areas for CCFICS. The Committee agreed to further work to update Appendix A to take into account members comments for consideration at CCFICS24. Regarding Appendix B, the Committee agreed to further work to revise the framework for the preliminary assessment and identification of priority areas for CCFICS for consideration at its next session.

The purpose of this agenda item is to facilitate a strategic, outward-looking discussion by the committee, to routinely undertake a global scan, identifying potential future issues, challenges and advancements. This will ensure the Committee is strongly positioned to consider new work or revision of Codex standards and ensure members are well prepared to contribute to these discussions

General Comment

African Union finds the document relevant and important; and supports the development of a permanent mechanism which could be used as a platform to accommodate and address future issues.

Position

African Union supports the recommendations as contained in para 19 of the document.

Rationale

The guidance document will enable the commission to respond to and promptly address emerging issues.