JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME

CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION

Thirty-ninth Session

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27 June - 1 July 2016

REPORT
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Commission:

a) Adopted new and revised food quality and safety standards and related texts for application by Governments and

b) Adopted amendments to texts in the Codex Procedural Manual

c) Approved items for new work, including priority lists for pesticides for evaluation or re-evaluation by JMPR.

d) Approved proposals for discontinuation of work and proposals for revocation of existing standards and related texts.

e) Agreed to establish an Ad Hoc Intergovernmental Task Force on Antimicrobial Resistance (TFAMR) to be hosted by the Republic of Korea.

f) Agreed to discontinue discussion on the ToR of the internal Secretariat-led review and requested the Secretariat to regularly review Codex work management as part of the monitoring of the Codex Strategic Plan and regularly inform both CCEXEC and CAC on the findings and recommended actions.

g) Took note of the report on expenditure for the biennium 2014-15 and of the budget proposal for the biennium 2018-19 and adopted the new work plan and budget for the biennium 2016-17. Expressed appreciation for the contributions of host governments and governments seconding staff to the Codex Secretariat.

h) Thanked FAO and WHO for their continued support to develop national capacities to plan for, assess, and manage food safety and consumer protection issues.

i) Expressed appreciation to FAO and WHO for the scientific advice provided and reaffirmed its trust in the scientific rigor and independence of the FAO/WHO scientific advice as the preeminent scientific support to the work of Codex; requested FAO to further protect the budget for scientific advice and to WHO to find suitable mechanisms to secure a higher level of funding for its scientific advice programme within the regular budget; and called on Members to provide additional resources in such a way that would increase the funding of the scientific advice programme in a predictable manner until a long-term solution is found.;

j) Reiterated appreciation to FAO/WHO and the CTF Secretariat for the effective management of CTF1 during 2004-2015, and acknowledged the important financial and in-kind contributions made by the CTF1 donors and noted the report received regarding CTF2 initial activities and acknowledged the work being undertaken.

k) Re-elected as Chairperson Mrs Awilo Ochieng Pernet (Switzerland), and as Vice-Chairpersons: Mr Guilherme Antonio da Costa Jr. (Brazil), Ms Yayoi Tsujiyama (Japan) and Mr Mahamadou Sako (Mali).

l) Adjourned sine die the Committee on Fish and Fishery Products expressing its gratitude to Norway.

m) Proposed that CCEXEC73 further discuss the document on relations between FAO and WHO policies, strategies and guidelines and Codex work; and agreed to consider at its next session issues related to the change of domain of the Codex webpage.
INTRODUCTION

1. The Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC) held its Thirty-ninth Session in Rome, Italy, from 27 June to 1 July 2016. Mrs Awilo Ochieng Pernet (Switzerland), Chairperson of the Commission, presided over the session, assisted by the Vice-Chairpersons Dr Guilherme Antonio da Costa Jr. (Brazil), Dr Yayoi Tsujiyama (Japan) and Mr Mahamadou Sako (Mali). The session was attended by delegates from 123 Member countries and one Member Organisation, and observers from 38 international governmental and non-governmental organizations, including UN agencies. A list of participants, including FAO, WHO and the Codex Secretariat, is given in Appendix I.

OPENING

Welcome addresses by FAO and WHO

2. Director General of FAO Dr José Graziano da Silva, opened the meeting by welcoming all participants and in particular the latest Codex Members South Sudan and San Marino. The Director General acknowledged the importance of the Codex Alimentarius in the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The Director General informed the participants about a Symposium on Nutrition to be held at FAO in December 2016 and expressed his appreciation for the recently launched Decade of Action on Nutrition. The Director General recalled the emphasis placed on the urgent need to address Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) at the recent G7 meeting in Japan and welcomed the fact that this issue was prominently featured on the CAC39 agenda. He stressed that a reinforcement of the scientific basis for Codex texts on AMR was vital for ensuring a credible and effective response to the complex causes of this issue of global magnitude and that more capacity building and expertise in the area of AMR was needed to help prepare countries at all levels of development.

3. The Director General invited the Commission to also consider how Codex could enhance its work on animal protein (e.g. through the establishment of a dedicated Committee) underlining that access to sustainably produced animal protein was a challenging area in need of visionary action. He highlighted the importance of securing funding for scientific advice to support the work of Codex and also noted the value of consensus in Codex work, stressing that timely decisions were imperative to prevent the proliferation of private standards. Lastly, the Director General informed delegates about the strengthened collaboration between WTO and FAO on food safety matters and thanked all those who provided support in the effort to guarantee safe and nutritious food.

4. Dr Bruce Aylward, Deputy Director General of WHO, Executive Director ad interim of Outbreaks and Health Emergencies and Special Representative of the Director General for the Ebola Response, welcomed the participants, on behalf of WHO Director General Dr Margaret Chan, and stated that WHO considered Codex one of the most unique joint ventures of the entire UN system. He identified four recent major developments of great importance to WHO and its Member States: (i) the opportunity created by the publication by WHO in December 2015 of the estimates of the global burden of foodborne diseases to mainstream food safety in the political agenda and catalyse resource mobilization for lowering the disease burden worldwide; (ii) the need to ensure sustainable funding for the Codex Trust Fund successor initiative (CTF2) that entered into being in January 2016; (iii) the adoption by the World Health Assembly (WHA) in May 2015 of a Global Action Plan to combat antimicrobial resistance which called upon Codex to consider new work in this area; and (iv) the support Codex could make to reduce malnutrition in all its forms and promote food safety in the framework of the Decade of Action on Nutrition of the United Nations in line with relevant WHA resolutions. Dr Aylward also stressed the urgency for all Codex members to ensure sustainable financial support to the scientific advice jointly provided by WHO and FAO for Codex.

5. Dr Jane Ruth Aceng, Minister of Health of Uganda, expressed her deep appreciation and full support for Codex, which she would continue to promote on the national and regional level. She informed delegates about Uganda’s efforts to streamline the national food control system and to create a national food and drug authority and, in conclusion, called upon all African countries to ensure adequate funding was allocated to work on Codex matters.

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6. The Chairperson stressed the importance for the Commission to finalize the Codex standards development process through the adoption of the relevant draft standards and related texts at this session and to focus discussions on the essential tasks before the Commission. She underlined the importance of scientific advice which is the backbone of Codex food standards as the Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Food Additives (JECFA) celebrated its 60th anniversary. Noting that foodborne diseases are a global health concern and an important cause of morbidity and mortality as well as being a significant impediment to socio-economic development worldwide, the Chairperson appealed to all relevant stakeholders to contribute to ensuring food safety along the food chain: from primary production to consumption. Noting that foodborne diseases are preventable, the Chairperson appealed to Members to raise the profile of food safety worldwide by putting it high on the political agenda. Furthermore, she appealed to Members to increase the visibility of Codex and to raise awareness about the importance of ensuring food safety amongst all stakeholders. Finally, she encouraged Members to give financial support to CTF2.

**Launching Ceremony of new FAO/WHO Codex Trust Fund**

7. The new FAO/WHO Codex Trust Fund (CTF2) was officially launched. CTF2 replaced the former Codex Trust Fund in January 2016. Achievements of the former Codex Trust Fund were highlighted in a video. Ms Maria-Helena Semedo, FAO Deputy Director General, underlined the continuing importance of the Codex Trust Fund in ensuring that Codex standards were universally relevant and globally used. The Deputy Director General of WHO called attention to the large number of applications that had been submitted, which demonstrated the high interest in the initiative. The majority of applications were very robust, which was a good sign for the success of an increased number of strong applications in subsequent rounds. For all future applications to be supported within the 12-year life of CTF2, increased and sustained donor funding was critical.

8. The first countries in which implementation would take place were: Ghana, Kyrgyzstan, Madagascar and Senegal. Ghana and Senegal briefly shared with Codex members the outcomes they would like to see at the end of the three years of support from the Codex Trust Fund. The Chairperson of the Codex Alimentarius Commission thanked all donor countries, which have already shown continuing commitment, and called on all member countries to consider supporting the Codex Trust Fund.

**Division of Competence**

9. The Commission noted the division of competence between the European Union and its Member States, according to paragraph 5, Rule II, of the Rules of Procedure of the Codex Alimentarius Commission, as presented in CRD1.

**ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA (Agenda Item 1)**

10. The Commission adopted the Provisional Agenda as its Agenda for the session with the following additions under Agenda Item 21:

   (i) Actions to promote the visibility of Codex (Proposal from Costa Rica);

   (ii) Late availability of working documents (Proposal from Uruguay);

   (iii) Migration of Codex webpage to the FAO domain (Proposal from Chile).

11. The Commission noted further that:

   - Agenda Item 8 would be discussed under the relevant standards from CCFFP in Agenda Item 3;
   - Agenda Item 20.1 would not be discussed as this document had not been distributed, and that the Islamic Republic of Iran would give an update on discussions on Food Integrity/Food Authenticity under Agenda Item 12 (CRD26).

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2 CRD1 (Provisional Annotated Agenda Division of Competence)
3 CX/CAC 16/39/1
4 CRD37 (Proposal from Costa Rica)
In accordance with Rule V.7 of the Rules of Procedure, the Chairperson reported on the outcome of CCEXEC71, noting that the recommendations on specific items would be considered under the relevant agenda items. These included the critical review; reviewing Codex work management; antimicrobial resistance; financial and budgetary matters; relationship between Codex work and FAO/WHO policies; and CTF.

CCEXEC71 had undertaken the critical review for the monitoring of standards development and made a number of recommendations to different committees. CCEXEC71 had also considered the implementation status of the Strategic Plan 2014-2019 and Communications Strategy 2015-2017, discussed the preparation of the next Strategic Plan and Communications Strategy, and had recommended that both activities should be based on the current ones.

CCEXEC71 also discussed applications from, and the status of, international non-governmental organizations for observer status in Codex and made relevant recommendations to the Directors General of FAO and WHO.

The Commission adopted the draft and proposed draft standards and related texts submitted by its subsidiary bodies at Step 8 (including those submitted at Step 5/8 with a recommendation to omit Steps 6 and 7), as well as other standards and related texts submitted for adoption as endorsed by the relevant general subject committees, taking into account the critical review of CCEXEC71 (Appendices II and III).

In addition to editorial corrections to the other language versions of the texts, the Commission noted the following comments and decisions.

**Additional comments and decisions**

**Committee on Fresh Fruits and Vegetables (CCFFV)**

**Standard for Aubergines**

The Commission noted the recommendations of the CCEXEC71 critical review.

**Discussion**

Delegations supporting the adoption of the proposed draft standard at Step 5 only, rather than at Step 5/8, expressed the following views:

(i) Having a tolerance for decay in “Extra” Class is not in line with the concept of “Extra” Class, where the products classified “Extra” must be of an exceptional nature;

(ii) With the same tolerance for decay (1%) in both “Extra” Class and Class I, there is no meaningful distinction between the two classes;

(iii) The general topic of allowing decay in “Extra” Class is under consideration in CCFFV and it is prudent to decide on this issue in the layout for Codex standards for fresh fruits and vegetables before including such tolerances in individual standards;

(iv) Discussions on the technical provisions concerning sizing and tolerances, allowances of mixtures of varieties / commercial types in the same container are still ongoing.

Delegations in favour of the adoption of the proposed draft standard at Step 5/8 expressed these views:

(i) Inclusion of allowances for decay in “Extra” class is realistic and reflected current industry and trade practices for fresh fruits and vegetables;

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Subcommittee on Standards and Rules (CSSR)

15. The CSSR, recognizing the need for greater flexibility and providing options for more nuanced approaches to harmonization, recommended the adoption of the draft standard on Bacillus cereus (Appendices IV and V).

16. The CSSR also noted the following comments and decisions.

**Additional comments and decisions**

**Committee on Food Additives and Contaminants (CCFA)**

**Clinical” text amendments**

The CSSR noted the comments of the CCEXEC71 critical review.

**Discussion**

Delegations supporting the adoption of the draft standard at Step 5 only, rather than at Step 5/8, expressed the following views:

(i) The adoption of the draft standard at Step 5 only is realistic and would align with current industry and trade practices for fresh fruits and vegetables;

(ii) The adoption of the draft standard at Step 5/8 is not necessary as the technical provisions concerning sizing and tolerances are still ongoing.

Delegations in favour of the adoption of the proposed draft standard at Step 5/8 expressed these views:

(i) Inclusion of the “Clinical” text amendments is realistic and reflects current industry and trade practices for fresh fruits and vegetables;

(ii) The “Clinical” text amendments are necessary to ensure the safety of fresh fruits and vegetables for human consumption.

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Subcommittee on Food and Nutrition (CSSN)

17. The CSSN noted the comments of the CSSR critical review.

**Discussion**

Delegations supporting the adoption of the draft standard at Step 5 only, rather than at Step 5/8, expressed the following views:

(i) The adoption of the draft standard at Step 5 only is realistic and would align with current industry and trade practices for fresh fruits and vegetables;

(ii) The adoption of the draft standard at Step 5/8 is not necessary as the technical provisions concerning sizing and tolerances are still ongoing.

Delegations in favour of the adoption of the proposed draft standard at Step 5/8 expressed these views:

(i) Inclusion of the “Clinical” text amendments is realistic and reflects current industry and trade practices for fresh fruits and vegetables;

(ii) The “Clinical” text amendments are necessary to ensure the safety of fresh fruits and vegetables for human consumption.
(ii) The absence of allowances for decay in “Extra” class implies “0” tolerance (which is unrealistic for perishable products such as fruits and vegetables subject to transport and storage before reaching final destination) and might create a technical barrier to trade, contrary to the objective of Codex standards; 

(iii) Inclusion of allowances for decay in the “Extra” class prevents rejection or downgrading of the whole lot which is consistent with the Guidelines for Food Import Control Systems (CAC/GL 47-2003);

(iv) The proposed tolerances for decay of 1% in “Extra” Class and 1% in Class I apply to different percentages of tolerances in the two classes for the whole lot and therefore, there is a distinction between the allowances for decay in “Extra” Class and Class I;

(v) All the technical issues had been thoroughly examined by CCFFV and the proposed draft standard is the compromise position.

20. Mexico, as host country of CCFFV, indicated that the technical issues should be submitted to CCFFV for further consideration.

Conclusion

21. The Commission noted that the proposed draft standard was ahead of schedule and there was still sufficient time to deal with the technical issues. The Commission agreed to adopt the standard at Step 5 and requested that all comments submitted at the present session should be re-submitted to CCFFV to finalize the text by the next session.

Committee on Fish and Fishery Products (CCFFP)

Code of Practice for Processing of Fish Sauce

Conclusion

22. The Commission adopted the Code of Practice for Processing of Fish Sauce noting the following:

- The reservation of Peru with respect to the size of uneviscerated fish used as raw material in fish sauce processing, which in their view should be not greater than 15 cm rather than 12 cm as indicated in the Code of Practice;
- The view of the Russian Federation that the list of organisms used in the preparation of fish sauce should have been indicated in order to reduce risk.

Code of Practice for Fish and Fishery Products (Section on Sturgeon Caviar)

23. The Commission noted the concerns of China on the use of hormones and the need for safety assessment before such use can be allowed. It was clarified that this matter had been discussed in CCFFP and that the Code of Practice had been aligned with the related Standard for Sturgeon Caviar (CODEX STAN 291-2010) which allowed for the use of hormones.

Conclusion

24. The Commission adopted the Section on Sturgeon Caviar.

Amendments to Food Additive Provisions in Standards for Fish and Fishery Products (Standard for Canned Tuna and Bonito (CODEX STAN 70-1981) and Standard for Canned Crab Meat (CODEX STAN 90-1981))

25. The Commission noted the clarification that the maximum level for disodium diphosphate (INS 450(i)) and phosphoric acid (INS 338) was 10 g/kg and not 10 mg/kg (see CX/CAC16/39/9). In view of this clarification, the Commission considered a proposal to amend the proposed level for the two food additives from 5 g/kg to 4 400 mg/kg as a more accurate conversion of P₂O₅ to phosphorous.

Conclusion

26. The Commission adopted an amended level of 4 400 mg/kg, as phosphorous.

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9 REP16/FFP, Appendix III
10 REP16/FFP, Appendix V
11 REP16/FFP, Appendix VI
Amendments to Section 7.4 Estimation of fish content of the Standard for Quick Frozen Fish Sticks (Fish Fingers), Fish Portions and Fish Fillets – Breaded or in Batter (CODEX STAN 166-1989)\textsuperscript{12}

27. One delegation requested clarification from FAO on how it intended maintaining the table of nitrogen factors and how countries could participate in this process. The Representative of FAO clarified that FAO had recently launched a call for data to which very few replies were received and FAO intended relaunching this call for data. The table of nitrogen factors will continue to be updated through periodic calls for data using the Codex system as well as through FAO’s fisheries networks.

**Conclusion**

28. The Committee adopted the amendments noting that FAO will maintain the table of nitrogen factors.

Amendment to Section 11 – Processing of salted and dried salted fish of the Code of Practice for Fish and Fishery Products (CAC/RCP 52-2003)\textsuperscript{13}

29. One delegation proposed to extend the list of fish species in this amendment. It was clarified that the list of species had not been discussed in CCFFP. The amendment to Section 11 was the culmination of work on the Code of Practice for Fish and Fishery Products whereby a decision was taken to integrate those essential safety or quality aspects from various appendices into the main text of the Code of Practice. Furthermore, CCFFP had agreed to discontinue work on these appendices in light of the fact that optional trade specifications (or requirements contained in them) were an issue for agreement among trade partners and should not be part of a Codex text.

**Conclusion**

30. The Commission adopted the amendment.

Committee on Food Hygiene (CCFH)

Guidelines for the Control of Non-typhoidal Salmonella spp. In Beef and Pork Meat\textsuperscript{14}

31. The Commission noted the concern of one delegation to the inclusion of certain substances, such as chlorine, without assessing the impact of such use. The Commission noted that the guidelines provided examples or options of measures to control non-typhoidal Salmonella which could be used by countries based on their national situation.

**Conclusion**

32. The Committee adopted the Guidelines.

Guidelines on the Application of General Principles of Food Hygiene to the Control of Foodborne Parasites\textsuperscript{15}

33. Norway, with reference to their comments in CX/CAC 16/39/3, expressed strong concerns with paragraph 43 under section 3.1 on environmental hygiene as the indicated measure was not based on sound science. Norway noted that the text covered wild-catch of seawater fish and it was commonly accepted that fishing grounds worldwide could normally not be considered free of parasites being of public health significance. In their view the reference to “infection” could imply any parasite larvae and therefore proposed to amend this paragraph to replace “infection” with “disease”, to reduce the consequences for normal wild fish operations.

34. The Commission noted that this matter had been thoroughly discussed in CCFH. The Commission further noted that the Guidelines were flexible, consensus had been reached and there was support from other members of the Commission.

**Conclusion**

35. The Commission adopted the Guidelines noting the strong concerns of Norway to paragraph 43 for the reasons expressed above.

\textsuperscript{12} REP16/FFP, Appendix VII
\textsuperscript{13} REP16/FFP, Appendix VIII
\textsuperscript{14} REP16/FH, Appendix II
\textsuperscript{15} REP16/FH, Appendix III
Annex I: “examples of microbiological criteria for low-moisture foods when deemed appropriate in accordance with the Principles and Guidelines for the Establishment and Application of Microbiological Criteria Related to Foods (CAC/GL 21-1997)”

36. Colombia, supported by Costa Rica proposed deletion of the microbiological criteria as such examples should not be part of a Codex text, but could be published as an information document on the Codex website. The delegation also asked for guidance on the use of examples in Codex texts to ensure consistency across different standards.

37. The European Union and its Member States, while supporting the adoption of the Annex, expressed their concerns with the inclusion of the examples of microbiological criteria for low-moisture foods since the relatively low risk of low moisture foods as compared to other foods did not justify microbiological criteria. Microbiological criteria would put a disproportionate burden on producers.

38. It was clarified that CCFH had had extensive discussion on the inclusion of the microbiological criteria examples noting that such examples could be useful for countries and should be an annex to the Code of hygienic practice for low-moisture foods (CAC/RCP 75-2015). It was also clarified that their inclusion in the annex did not make the microbiological criteria mandatory.

Conclusion


Committee on Nutrition and Foods for Special Dietary Uses (CCNFSDU)

Additional or Revised Nutrient Reference Values for Labelling Purposes in the Guidelines on Nutrition Labelling (CAC/GL 2-1985)

Vitamin E

40. Malaysia, supported by Indonesia, proposed to return the NRV for Vitamin E to Step 3 until the work on the related conversion factor was finalised. These delegations pointed out that there were divergent views and lack of consensus in CCNFSDU on whether to identify all forms of Vitamin E isomers or only alphatocopherols as exhibiting Vitamin E activity. They noted that work should proceed in a logical order and that the first part of the task should be to adopt the conversion factor for the vitamin before proceeding to adopt the NRV for Vitamin E. Returning the NRV to Step 3 would allow discussion on the NRV to be carried out in parallel with the discussion on the conversion factor. These delegations further proposed that JEMNU should be requested to look at the NRV for Vitamin E and its conversion factor.

41. Two observers also noted that the proposed NRV for Vitamin E was not based on the latest science; that Vitamin E was made up of eight isomers not only alpha tocopherol, and that the NRV should be higher than the proposed 9 mg level.

42. The Representative of FAO clarified that FAO would welcome requests for scientific advice, but that requests to JEMNU should come from the relevant technical committee.

43. The Chairperson of CCNFSDU clarified that at the last session of the Committee, the NRV had been extensively discussed and that CCNFSDU had agreed to submit the NRV for adoption while noting reservations from three countries. CCNFSDU had also agreed to postpone discussion on the conversion factor and dietary equivalents. However, noting the concerns expressed and that the conversion factor should be agreed first before finalising the NRV, the Chairperson proposed that the NRV be adopted at Step 5 as a compromise. The next session of CCNFSDU would then consider Vitamin E dietary equivalents and conversion factor and in this context could consider if there was an effect on the NRV value.

Conclusion

44. The Commission adopted the NRV for Vitamin E at Step 5 noting that any request for scientific advice from JEMNU should be sent through CCNSFDU.

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16 REP16/FH, Appendix IV
17 REP16/NFSDU, Appendix II Part I
Amendments to the Annex of CAC/GL 2-1985: definition for Recognised Authoritative Scientific Bodies (RASB)

Conclusion
45. The Commission adopted the amendments to the Annex, with the modifications recommended by CCEXEC71.

Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling (CCMAS)

Methods of analysis: Infant Formula and Formulas for Special Medical Purposes Intended for Infants

46. The Commission noted that CCEXEC71 had supported the adoption of three methods of analysis in their critical review (methods of analysis for Vitamin A, total nucleotides and pantothenic acid), but that two other methods, which had also been endorsed by CCMAS, were inadvertently omitted from the critical review process and were ready for adoption. These were the methods of analysis for iodine, endorsed as Type II, and for chromium, selenium and molybdenum, endorsed as Type III. It was further noted that the proposed criteria for methods of analysis for chromium, selenium and molybdenum for consideration by CCNFSDU did not affect the endorsement of these methods by CCMAS.

Conclusion
47. The Commission adopted the methods of analysis as proposed by CCNFSDU and endorsed by CCMAS.

Committee on Food Additives (CCFA)

Specifications for the Identity and Purity of Food Additives

48. The European Union and Norway reiterated their general reservation expressed at CAC36 and CAC37 on including references in the specifications to food additives used in food additives (i.e. secondary additives) as in their view the specifications should be related to the substances themselves and not to the preparations.

Conclusion
49. The Commission adopted the Specifications and noted the general reservations of the European Union and Norway.

Revision of the GSFA food category 01.1 “Milk and Dairy Based Drinks” (renamed “Fluid milk and milk products”) and its consequential changes

50. The Commission noted several editorial comments to the Spanish version of the document, e.g. translation of “plain”, “ultra-high temperature”. The Commission noted the concerns expressed by Ecuador as detailed in CRD21.

51. With regard to the comments made by one delegation on the descriptors of several food categories (FC) of the GSFA, the Chairperson of CCFA clarified that CCFA48 had agreed that all products in FC 01.1 were for further processing; that concentrated and evaporated milks were included in FC 01.3.1 and therefore did not need to be included in FC 01.1.2; that “composite milk product” was defined in the Standard for the Use of Dairy Terms (CODEX STAN 206-1999); and that there was no indication that buttermilk was UHT-processed.

Conclusion
52. The Commission adopted the revision of the GSFA food category 01.1 and noted that the editorial comments to the Spanish version of the document would be addressed when publishing the revision of the GSFA.

Food additive provisions of the General Standard for Food Additives (GSFA)

53. The Commission adopted the food additive provisions and noted:

(i) The reservation of the European Union and Norway for lauric arginate ethyl ester (INS 243) and nisin (INS 234) due to potential intake concerns;

18 REP16/NFSDU Appendix II part II
19 REP16/EXEC para. 17
20 REP16/NFSDU Appendix V Part II
21 REP16/FA Appendix III, Part A
22 REP16/FA Appendix XII
23 REP16/FA Appendix VII, Parts A-F
(ii) The concern of the European Union and Norway that the ML of 250 mg/l for benzoates in FC 14.1.4 was still excessive and therefore a further discussion on the appropriate ML for benzoates in this food category was necessary;

(iii) The concern of other delegations that the ML for benzoates in FC 14.1.4 was too low and higher levels might be necessary to effectively preserve products in FC 14.1.4 in order to take account of different climatic and transport conditions in different regions of the world in addition to considering a grace period for reformulation.

Revision of Sections 4.1.c and 5.1.c of the General Standard for the Labelling of Food Additives When Sold as Such (CODEX STAN 107-1981)

Conclusion

54. The Commission adopted the revision of the General Standard and noted the reservation of Argentina with regard to the use of the term “artificial” which in their view was not consistent with the Guideline for the Use of Flavourings (CAC/GL 66-2008) and did not improve consistency among Codex texts.

Revised food additives section of the Standards for Cocoa Butter (CODEX STAN 86-1981), Chocolate and Chocolate Products (CODEX STAN 87-1981), Cocoa (Cacao) Mass (Cocoa/Chocolate Liquor) and Cocoa Cake (CODEX STAN 141-1983) and Cocoa Powders (Cocoas) and Dry Mixtures of Cocoa and Sugars (CODEX STAN 105-1981)

55. One delegation noted that the provisions for gold (INS 175) and silver (INS 174), which were originally included in the Standard for Chocolate and Chocolate Products (CODEX STAN 87-1981), had not been included in the GSFA when aligning the provisions of the standard with the relevant provisions of the GSFA.

56. With regard to gold and silver, the Commission noted that JECFA had come to the conclusion that the use of gold would not represent a hazard due to its small amount likely to be ingested and that JECFA had not been able to complete the evaluation of silver due to insufficient data.

Conclusion

57. The Commission adopted the revised food additive sections of the standards for chocolate and cocoa products and agreed to request CCFA to examine the use of gold (INS 175) and silver (INS 174).

Committee on Contaminants in Food (CCCF)

Maximum level for inorganic arsenic in husked rice

58. The Commission noted different views on the adoption of an ML of 0.35 mg/kg for inorganic arsenic in husked rice.

59. Delegations in favour of an ML lower than 0.35 mg/kg indicated that the proposed ML would not result in a significant reduction of the intake of inorganic arsenic and would not be coherent with the ML for polished rice.

60. Delegations in favour of an ML of 0.35 mg/kg indicated that rice was an internationally traded commodity and a staple food in many countries/regions. Therefore, there was a need to establish an ML for inorganic arsenic in this commodity to ensure public health and fair trade practices. These delegations also indicated that the ML was based on data currently available; provided a good balance between reducing exposure to inorganic arsenic, protection of consumer health, and minimum impact on trade (availability of husked rice); was consistent with the ML for polished rice; and reflected current production practices.

61. India indicated that more data should be sought before deciding on an ML for inorganic arsenic in husked rice (especially from different seasons) to have a more complete picture of the variation of the concentrations of arsenic in rice. This would avoid the establishment of a stringent ML that could have the potential to become a technical barrier to trade. The Delegation further indicated that India had submitted data on arsenic contamination in rice to CCCF, however not all the concentration data, that could have supported a less stringent ML, had been taken into account.

62. Sri Lanka reserved its position on the adoption of the ML, as they would have preferred a lower ML as rice was a staple food in their country. Philippines also reserved its position, as there was a need to have more geographically representative data to support a worldwide-based ML.

24 REP16/FA Appendix XV
25 REP16/FA Appendix V
26 REP16/CF Appendix II
63. The Chairperson of the Commission noted that this matter had been extensively discussed at CCCF for several sessions. The Chairperson further noted that the proposed ML was a compromise solution between those delegations favouring a higher or lower ML and that the alternative option was discontinuation of work. It was noted, however, that discontinuation of work had not been supported by the Committee as an ML for inorganic arsenic in husked rice was necessary to ensure consumer health protection and fair trade practices. The Chairperson also reminded the Commission that the proposal had been made by CCCF on the understanding that the Committee would revisit the ML following implementation of the Code of Practice for the Prevention and Reduction of Arsenic Contamination in Rice to be finalized at the next session of CCCF in 2017.

64. Two observers expressed their views that the proposed ML did not represent a compromise solution, as the ML did not represent the middle ground between the upper and lower MLs (in the range of MLs considered by CCCF) but rather represented the higher value. They also supported the views of those delegations in favour of a lower ML (see paragraph 59).

**Conclusion**

65. The Commission adopted the ML of 0.35 mg/kg for inorganic arsenic in husked rice on the understanding that the ML would be reviewed three years after the implementation of the Code of Practice, as agreed by CCCF, and would take into account all available data from all regions.

66. Reservations to this decision were expressed by Egypt, European Union and Norway (para. 59), India (para. 61), Philippines and Sri Lanka (para. 62). Consumers International and the National Health Federation expressed their strong concern on this decision for the reasons given in paragraphs 59 and 64.

The Commission noted the concern of several delegations in relation to the adoption of MLs for preserved tomatoes and jams, jellies and marmalades. These delegations pointed out that in paragraph 74 of REP16/CF it was clearly stated that there were not sufficient data available to be able to examine the proposed level for these products. These delegations requested more time to gather data to review the existing MLs in order to ensure both consumer health protection and fair trade practices and proposed to adopt these MLs at Step 5 only.

68. The Chairperson of the Commission recalled that work on MLs for fruits and vegetables had been discussed since 2013 in CCCF; finalization of the MLs had been delayed until 2015 to give countries concerned the opportunity to submit relevant data to GEMS/Food on the understanding that the MLs would be finalized by CCCF for adoption by CAC38 (2015); no countries had indicated that new/additional data were available at the time CCCF10 (2016) finalized the MLs (except for a few fruits and vegetables that would be further considered at CCCF11 (2017)); no reservations had been recorded in REP16/CF as the decision taken in regard to all the MLs for fruits and vegetables submitted for final adoption by CAC39.

69. The Chairperson therefore proposed to adopt the MLs as proposed by CCCF; to note the concerns of those Members in relation to the MLs for preserved tomatoes and jams, jellies and marmalades; to request CCCF to consider their revision in future should new/additional data become available; and to encourage Members to urgently work on the generation and submission of data so that the MLs could be revisited based on all the data and information available.

70. The Secretariat noted that without a clear commitment and deadline for submission of new/additional data there was little value in sending these MLs back to CCCF for further consideration.

71. Delegations in favour of adopting the MLs for preserved tomatoes and jams, jellies and marmalades at Step 5 only were of the view that the reduction of the ML from 1 mg/kg to 0.1 mg/kg (jams, jellies and marmalades) and from 1 mg/kg to 0.05 mg/kg (preserved tomatoes): (i) Was not practicable to implement with immediate effect/in the short-term and would therefore impact negatively on trade with no scientific evidence of further gains in public health protection including vulnerable groups such as children;

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27 REP16/CF, Appendix III
(ii) The number of samples available was not sufficient to carry out a statistical analysis of the worldwide production. Moreover in the case of jams, jellies and marmalades, the analysis was based on data provided by one country where samples came from products that were not domestically produced but imported from different regions and not from raw occurrence data. Therefore, such samples could not be acceptable as the levels could have been adjusted to comply with the technical requirements of the importing country;

(iii) The risk assessment could not be concluded as there was not enough geographical spread data to carry out the statistical analysis hence there was not a solid scientific basis to reduce the MLs if the MLs were adopted as proposed by CCCF, it would be difficult to justify an increase the ML in light of new data.

72. The JECFA Secretariat clarified that the risk analysis process had been followed. Following the JECFA73 risk assessment an electronic work group was established by CCCF to analyse, following a public call for data, all available data to propose revised MLs for lead in various commodities in the General Standard for Contaminants and Toxins in Food and Feed (GSCTFF).

73. Delegations in favour of the adoption of these MLs indicated that:

(i) The revised MLs were based on data currently available;

(ii) They had been extensively discussed in CCCF over several sessions;

(iii) Lead is a highly toxic chemical with great impact on public health especially in young children, therefore measures to reduce the risk of exposure to lead in all targeted products (i.e. reduce the MLs) should be taken as soon as possible and the level should be set as low as possible;

(iv) If more data become available, the MLs could be revised at a later time following the Codex procedures in place for the revision of standards, however at this point there was no benefit in sending the MLs back to CCCF for further consideration as no commitment to submit new/additional data had been identified by CCCF at the time the MLs were finalized for adoption by the present session of CAC.

Conclusion

74. The Commission agreed with the proposal of the Chairperson to adopt the MLs at Step 5/8 as proposed by CCCF with the exception of the MLs for preserved tomatoes and jams, jellies and marmalades which would be adopted at Step 5 only, on the understanding that countries concerned would submit relevant data in reply to a call for data to be issued shortly in order to finalize these MLs at CCCF11 (2017).

Committee on Pesticide Residues (CCPR)

75. The Delegations of the European Union and Norway making reference to CRD2 reiterated reservations they had put forward at CCPR48 on different combinations of pesticides/commodities.

Conclusion

76. The Commission adopted the MRLs for different combinations of commodities/pesticides at Step 5/8 noting the reservations of the European Union and Norway.

Standards and related texts held at Step 8 by the Commission

Draft MRLs for Bovine Somatotropins (bSTs)

77. The Commission noted the comments of Ecuador, in CRD21, which reiterated the importance for Codex to base its decision on science as well as to respect and recognize the work of JECFA. Therefore, in their view it was not necessary to continue holding the MRLs for bSTs at Step 8.

Conclusion

78. The Commission noted that no request had been received to change the status of the draft MRLs for bSTs.

28 REP16/PR, Appendix II
29 ALINORM 95/31 Appendix II
ADOPTION OF CODEX TEXT AT STEP 5 (Agenda Item 4)\textsuperscript{30}

79. The Commission adopted the proposed draft standards and related texts submitted by its subsidiary bodies at Step 5 and advanced them to Step 6 noting that technical comments should be resubmitted at Step 6 for consideration by the relevant committees, taking into account the critical review of CC.EXEC71 (Appendix IV).

Additional comments

Committee on Spices and Culinary Herbs (CCSCH)

Standard for cumin\textsuperscript{31}

80. The Commission considered the standard and noted the following technical comments:
- The physical and chemical requirements for cracked and ground cumin (i.e. the aroma; classification; extraneous matter, etc.) should be part of the standard;
- The reference to test method ISO 939 should be changed to ISO 938;

81. With regards to the proposal to return the standard to Step 2, the Secretariat clarified that the issues raised could be addressed by CCSCH and might not warrant returning the standard to Step 2.

Conclusion

82. The Commission adopted the standard for cumin at Step 5.

Standard for Thyme\textsuperscript{32}

83. One delegation noted that the name of the product should not be “dried thyme” and should be in accordance with the customary nomenclature system for fruit and vegetable standards.

84. The Commission noted the comments of Ecuador regarding the methods of analysis in the standards for cumin and thyme, as presented in CRD\textsuperscript{21}.

Conclusion

85. The Commission adopted the standard for thyme at Step 5.

Committee on Fresh Fruits and Vegetables (CCFFV)

Standard for Garlic\textsuperscript{33}

86. The Commission noted the concerns regarding the inclusion of “smoked” garlic based on the view that “smoked” garlic was a processed product rather than a fresh product because the “smoking” process altered the organoleptic characteristics of the product. The product should therefore be under the mandate of CCPFV.

87. The Secretariat informed the Commission that this issue had been discussed at length in the Committee and was one of the outstanding issues to be resolved when finalizing the standard at the next session of CCFFV. The Secretariat further noted that CCFFV had the technical competence to determine whether this product could be considered as “fresh” garlic and therefore be covered by the scope of the standard.

88. The Commission further noted comments on the need to clarify provisions for commercial types, presentation, sizing and their tolerances.

Conclusion

89. The Commission agreed to adopt the standard at Step 5.

\textsuperscript{30} CX/CAC 16/39/4; CX/CAC 16/39/4 Add.1; CX/CAC 16/39/4 Add.2; CX/CAC 16/39/5 (Comments of Argentina, Colombia, Costa Rica, El Salvador, European Union; New Zealand, Uruguay); CX/CAC 16/39/5 Add.1 (Comments of Iran); CRD\textsuperscript{3} (Comments of India, Indonesia, Philippines; Senegal); CRD\textsuperscript{14} (Comments of African Union); CRD\textsuperscript{18} (Comments of Mali); CRD\textsuperscript{17} (Comments of Tanzania); CRD\textsuperscript{18} (Comments of Gambia); CRD\textsuperscript{19} (Comments of Benin); CRD\textsuperscript{21} (Comments of Ecuador); CRD\textsuperscript{24} (Comments of Egypt); CRD\textsuperscript{25} (Comments of Cameroon); CRD\textsuperscript{28} (Comments of Sierra Leone); CRD\textsuperscript{29} (Comments of Guinea-Bissau)

\textsuperscript{31} REP\textsuperscript{16}/SCH, Appendix III

\textsuperscript{32} REP\textsuperscript{16}/SCH, Appendix IV

\textsuperscript{33} REP\textsuperscript{16}/FFV para 70, Appendix IV
Standard for Kiwifruit

90. The Commission noted views that:

(i) Some technical issues related to maturity requirements (°Brix / percentage of dry matter), sizing and tolerances, should be further examined by CCFFV;

(ii) The tolerance for decay in the “Extra” class could be considered in the work on the layout for Codex standards for fresh fruits and vegetables instead of in individual standards (see also aubergines);

(iii) The inclusion of hybrids was not a common practice in Codex standards for fresh fruits and vegetables.

Conclusion

91. The Commission agreed to adopt the standard at Step 5.

Committee on Food Import and Export Inspection and Certification Systems (CCFICS)

Guidance for Monitoring the Performance of National Food Control Systems

92. The Commission noted that the text would be useful for monitoring the performance of national food control systems and suggested that further consideration should be given to developing guidance on establishing indicators and methods to measure them.

Conclusion

93. The Commission adopted the text at Step 5.

REVOCATION OF CODEX TEXTS (Agenda Item 5)  

94. The Commission revoked the texts in CX/CAC 16/39/6 and CX/CAC 16/39/6 Add.1, with the exception of:

- The specifications for glycerol ester of gum rosin (INS445(i)), which had never been adopted by Codex;
- The MLs for lead in preserved tomatoes and in jams (fruit preserves) and jellies, for which revisions were only adopted at Step 5 (see Agenda Item 3).

PROPOSALS FOR NEW WORK (Agenda Item 6)

95. The Commission approved the elaboration of new standards and related texts taking into account the critical review of CCEXEC71 (Appendix V).

Additional comments and decisions

Committee on Fresh Fruits and Vegetables (CCFFV)

Standard for Fresh Dates

96. The Commission noted the request of delegations to further define the scope and other technical issues and encouraged countries concerned to actively participate in the development of the standard.

Conclusion

97. The Commission approved the new work.

34 REP16/FFV para 76, Appendix V
35 REP16/FICS, Appendix III
36 CX/CAC 16/39/6; CX/CAC 16/39/6 Add.1; CRD4 (Comments of El Salvador, Indonesia, Senegal); CRD14 (Comments of African Union); CRD17 (Comments of Tanzania); CRD19 (Comments of Benin); CRD21 (Comments of Ecuador); CRD22 (Comments of Guinea); CRD24 (Comments of Egypt); CRD25 (Comments of Cameroon); CRD28 (Comments of Sierra Leone); CRD29 (Comments of Guinea-Bissau)
37 CX/CAC 16/39/7; CX/CAC 16/39/7 Add.1; CX/CAC 16/39/7 Add.2; CRD5 (Comments of El Salvador, Indonesia, Nigeria, Philippines, Senegal, Singapore); CRD12 (Comments of Norway); CRD14 (Comments of African Union); CRD17 (Comments of Tanzania); CRD18 (Comments of Gambia); CRD21 (Comments of Ecuador); CRD23 (Comments of India); CRD24 (Comments of Egypt); CRD25 (Comments of Cameroon); CRD28 (Comments of Sierra Leone); CRD29 (Comments of Guinea-Bissau)
38 REP16/FFV para. 95; CX/CAC 16/39/7 Annex I
Committee on Fish and Fishery Products (CCFFP)

Guidance for histamine control in the Code of Practice for Fish and Fishery Products (CAC/RCP 52-2003) and sampling plans for histamine in standards for fish and fishery products\(^39\)

98. The Commission noted the wide support for the new work, and that it should be assigned to CCFH. Delegations in particular pointed out that assigning the work to CCFH was the appropriate option as opposed to working by correspondence (as proposed by CCFFP), especially since there was a lack of procedural guidance for working by correspondence. The Commission also noted confirmation by the Chairperson of CCFH that the Committee would be able to undertake the work.

Conclusion

99. The Commission approved the new work and agreed, as recommended by CCEXEC, that the work should be assigned to CCFH. The Commission further agreed to recommend that CCFH start work immediately, i.e. that the work be included on the agenda of CCFH48, and that CCFH consider the timeline for completion of work in light of its forward workplan.

Committee on Food Hygiene (CCFH)

Revision of the General Principles of Food Hygiene (CAC/RCP1-1969) and its HACCP Annex\(^40\)

100. One delegation, while supporting the work, emphasized the need for the revised text to consider all stakeholders, in particular small and medium enterprises.

Conclusion

101. The Commission approved the new work.

Committee on Nutrition and Foods for Special Dietary Uses (CCNFSDU)

Guideline for Ready-to-Use Therapeutic Foods (RUTF)\(^41\)

102. The Commission noted the wide support for this new work especially in view of the fact that there was a need for guidance for governments and producers on RUTF used in the management of severe acute malnutrition (SAM). Delegations indicated that these products were already produced in some of their countries and/or used in the management of SAM not only in refugee populations, but also for malnourished infants and geriatrics and thus the guidance would be helpful.

103. The Delegation of India did not support the proposal due to the lack of sufficient scientific data in favour of using RUTF in the management of SAM in community settings and noted that the review from WHO on the safety and efficacy of using this product was not yet available.

104. The Representative of WHO explained that the ongoing systematic reviews, which WHO was undertaking, would not develop guidance on the nutrient composition of RUTF. WHO was more comfortable with the proposal now as it no longer included ready-to-use supplementary foods (RUSF) for which there was little evidence of their effectiveness in the treatment and prevention of moderate acute malnutrition.

105. She also noted that FAO and WHO had worked closely with UNICEF to provide this proposal for consideration to CCNFSDU and supported this new work to go ahead.

106. Noting the clarification from WHO, India expressed support for the new work.

Conclusion

107. The Commission approved the new work.

Committee on Food Labelling (CCFL)

Guidance for the Labelling of Non-retail Containers of Food\(^42\)

108. One delegation felt that it was not necessary to develop guidance for the labelling of non-retail containers as such information was dealt with on a customer supply basis and could lead to trade barriers and if work were to proceed, it should be very general guidance. The delegation proposed that the electronic working group (EWG) established by CCFL should also work in Spanish and offered to co-chair the EWG.

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\(^{39}\) REP16/FFP paras 72 and 80, Annex II of CX/CAC 16/39/7

\(^{40}\) REP16/FH, Appendix V

\(^{41}\) REP16/NFSDU, Appendix IV

\(^{42}\) REP16/FL, Appendix III
109. The Chairperson of CCFL clarified that there had been strong support for this work in CCFL. More work was necessary to identify what would be reasonable to include in the guidance.

110. Regarding the EWG, the Secretariat clarified that the WG established by CCFL would be led by India and work in English only, but that if Costa Rica wished the work to also be conducted in Spanish, it could arrange to co-host with India and arrange to have Spanish as a second working language.

**Conclusion**

111. The Commission approved the new work.

**FAO/WHO Regional Coordinating Committee for Africa (CCAFRICA)**

112. The Commission adopted the recommendations of CCEXEC71 that the regional standard would cover only:

- Dried meat produced and traded in the Africa region only, while products like biltong that are currently traded in the international markets would be excluded from the standard;
- Quality aspects, while safety aspects (i.e. hygiene, contaminants and pesticide and veterinary drugs residues) would be addressed by reference to existing Codex texts).

**Conclusion**

113. The Commission approved the new work.

**DISCONTINUATION OF WORK (Agenda Item 7)**

114. The Commission approved discontinuation of the work (Appendix VI) on the items presented in CX/CAC 16/39/8 and CX/CAC 16/39/8 Add.1 and noted the following points.

**Committee on Fish and Fishery Products (CCFFP)**

115. One delegation expressed their opposition to the discontinuation of work on the appendices to the *Code of Practice for Fish and Fishery Products* (CAC/RCP 52-2003) as the information they contained was useful for trade.

116. The Commission noted the clarification given earlier on the discontinuation of work on the appendices (para. 29) and further noted that at CCFFP34, FAO had offered to house any necessary technical specifications on the FAO website.

**Conclusion**

117. The Commission approved the discontinuation of the work.

**Other**

118. The Commission noted the views expressed by Colombia, supported by other countries from the Latin American and Caribbean region, for discussion on a standard for pirarucú to continue in CCFFP. These delegations expressed the view that such a standard was needed due to difficulties faced in the production and marketing of these fish products; that further consideration should be given to developing a standard; and that a proposal was ready for consideration.

119. The Secretariat and the Chairperson of CCFFP clarified that this work was not for discussion under this Agenda Item as the work had never been approved by the Commission. The Commission noted that this matter had been on the agenda of CCFFP and that the Committee had requested a paper and project proposal to be submitted for further consideration by CCFFP34. However, since no document had been submitted, CCFFP34 had agreed not to continue consideration of the matter.

**Conclusion**

120. The Commission noted that CCFFP had agreed not to continue discussion of a possible standard for pirarucú, and that if any country were interested in pursuing this work, a proposal could be made to the Commission, through CCEXEC, for consideration as new work.

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43 Annex 1, CX/CAC 16/39/7 Add.1
44 REP16/EXEC para. 48
45 CX/CAC 16/39/8; CX/CAC 16/39/8 Add.1; CRD6 (Comments of Kenya and Indonesia); CRD14 (Comments of African Union); CRD17 (Comments of Tanzania); CRD21 (Comments of Ecuador); CRD28 (Comments of Sierra Leone)
46 REP16/FFP, para. 66b
AMENDMENTS TO CODEX STANDARDS AND RELATED TEXTS (Agenda Item 8)\textsuperscript{47}

121. This Agenda Item was discussed under Agenda Item 3 (para. 26).

**CODEX WORK MANAGEMENT AND FUNCTIONING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

(Agenda Item 9)\textsuperscript{48}

122. The Secretariat introduced the item recalling that CAC38 had noted that the Strategic Plan 2014-2019 was to serve as the basis for designing the internal Secretariat-led review of the work management and functioning of the Executive Committee\textsuperscript{49}.

123. The Commission noted that the matter had been considered by CCEXEC71\textsuperscript{50} which had recommended to:

\begin{enumerate}
\item Discontinue discussion on the Terms of Reference (ToR) of the internal Secretariat-led review, and instead;
\item Request the Secretariat to regularly review Codex work management as part of the monitoring of the Codex strategic plan and regularly inform both the CCEXEC and CAC on the findings and recommended actions.
\end{enumerate}

124. The Commission further noted that it was the prerogative of FAO and WHO to conduct an evaluation of the Codex programme whenever they consider it necessary and appropriate.

**Discussion**

125. Delegations supported the recommendations of CCEXEC71 and noted that the internal Secretariat-led review was not necessary because the Commission had already adopted an approach for continuous monitoring of Codex work management as part of the Strategic Plan, i.e. Strategic Goal 4 (SG4) and the internal Secretariat-led review could lead to inconclusive discussions.

126. Delegations also considered a regular review as a tool for addressing basic work management issues and implementing incremental improvements.

127. While supporting the recommendations, some delegations questioned the capacity of the Secretariat in terms of expertise, time and financial resources to take on this task without impacting on their ongoing work. They also underlined the need for members to have the opportunity to make proposals on work management issues to be reviewed (e.g. timely distribution of documents; dealing with emerging issues; working by correspondence).

128. Other delegations also noted that it was important to start reviewing work management issues and prepare concrete proposals with an opportunity for inputs from members. It should also be clarified what methods would be used to implement this process and how the CAC and CCEXEC would be informed for reasons of transparency.

129. The Representative of FAO expressed her full agreement with the conclusion of CCEXEC that the monitoring of implementation of the Strategic Plan was the responsibility of the Codex Secretariat which should, therefore, regularly review Codex work management. She noted the doubts expressed by some members about the capacity of the Secretariat to carry out this function given their existing work load, however, she pointed out that the Secretariat had already shown their ability to take on additional tasks, such as the development and implementation of the new communication platform and the communication strategy, alongside their routine functions. The Representative further noted that FAO and WHO have a role in overseeing and facilitating the work of the Codex Secretariat to ensure that they accomplish their programme of work.

\textsuperscript{47} CX/CAC 16/39/9; CRD7 (Comments of Indonesia); CRD14 (Comments of African Union); CRD17 (Comments of Tanzania); CRD28 (Comments of Sierra Leone)

\textsuperscript{48} REP16/GP Appendix II; CX/CAC 16/39/10 (Comments of Brazil, Canada, Chile, Costa Rica, Cuba, Ghana, Kenya, Member States of European Union; Mexico; Norway; Thailand); CRD8 (Comments of India, Japan, Nicaragua, Senegal, Uruguay); CRD17 (Comments of Tanzania); CRD18 (Comments of Gambia); CRD21 (Comments of Ecuador); CRD24 (Comment of Egypt); CRD25 (Comments of Cameroon)

\textsuperscript{49} REP15/CAC para. 106

\textsuperscript{50} REP16/EXEC, paras 74-76
The Representative of WHO, fully concurring with the points made by the Representative of FAO, stated that the ongoing review and monitoring should in principle be borne by the regular Codex budget and that WHO and FAO would in addition be willing to provide guidance and other forms of support to the Codex Secretariat on the planning and implementation of review and monitoring activities through the technical as well as evaluation units of WHO and FAO. It was more likely that these activities would cover a specific area(s) in a given year to match the level of resources available. In so far as these activities took place in the framework of the monitoring of the implementation of the Strategic Plan, the subject matter would regularly be on the agenda of CCEXEC, ensuring an iterative dialogue between the Secretariat and Codex members.

The Secretary expressed appreciation for the trust given to the Secretariat. He noted the importance of the support and expertise of FAO and WHO and the need to have work management as a standing item on CCEXEC agenda opening an opportunity for members to provide suggestions for areas for improvements. Concerning the capacity of the Secretariat, he underlined that currently the Secretariat was fully staffed and could manage regular reviews. He also noted that the current scheduling of Codex meetings (12, 18 or 24 month intervals) led to periods in which the workload for Secretariat was extremely high. This and other factors caused delays in the distribution of working documents and could therefore be considered in the regular review. Improved management could lead to better use of Secretariat resources. However, it was important that Members prioritise issues to be addressed by the regular review.

Cameroon while supporting discontinuation of the discussion on the ToR, expressed reservations about entrusting the Secretariat with the task of the regular review as in their view this would give the Secretariat too much power in managing Codex.

The Secretary underlined that the regular review would deal with practical problems of work management in the framework of the Strategic Plan, and not with matters of Codex governance.

**Conclusion**

The Commission:

(i) Agreed to discontinue the discussion on the ToR of the internal Secretariat-led review;

(ii) Requested the Secretariat to regularly review Codex work management as part of the monitoring of the Codex Strategic Plan and regularly inform both CCEXEC and CAC on the findings and recommended actions;

(iii) Further noted that Members could identify specific topics for improvement, which could be brought to the attention of CCEXEC and CAC. This approach would also allow the Commission to explore alternative options for improving Codex work management and practices;

(iv) Also agreed to continue monitoring in this context the Strategic Plan activity 4.1.4 “Enhance timely distribution of all Codex working documents in the working languages of the Committee/ Commission”.

The Commission noted that FAO and WHO had a prerogative to conduct an evaluation of the Codex programme whenever they consider it necessary and appropriate.

Argentina and Cameroon expressed their reservations on part (ii) of the conclusion for the reasons expressed above.

RELATIONS BETWEEN FAO AND WHO POLICIES, STRATEGIES AND GUIDELINES AND CODEX WORK (Agenda Item 10)

The Chairperson presented the conclusions of CCEXEC71 and noted that CCEXEC had not been in a position to discuss the item in detail due to the late availability of the document.

Several delegations thanked the parent organisations for initiating this discussion, acknowledging that there was a need to ensure awareness of FAO and WHO policies and guidelines at the national level when coordinating positions for Codex. It was also stressed that the mandate of Codex differed from that of FAO and WHO, meaning that issues raised by FAO and WHO would be taken into consideration when relevant to Codex work. They noted that existing mechanisms for communication generally worked well.

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51 CX/CAC 16/39/11
52 REP16/EXEC, paras 121-122
139. The Representative of WHO referred to the discussion at CCEXEC71 and recalled that over the past ten years the WHA had made several requests to Codex to strengthen its work in supporting public health efforts. Simultaneously WHA had encouraged Member States to use Codex standards and guidelines to protect and promote human health, the latter being the common mandate of WHO and Codex.

140. The Representative noted that there were challenges in discussions at WHA concerning the use of Codex standards and guidelines at the national level and their reputation at the international level. These challenges were linked to the fact that Codex standards and guidelines were not always developed taking into account WHO policies, strategies and guidelines aimed at addressing the high-priority public health concerns of Member States such as obesity and diet-related noncommunicable diseases (NCDs).

141. The Representative noted further that the need for Codex to fully take into account the WHO policies, strategies and guidelines had been raised at CAC38 by Papua New Guinea as the Chair of CCNASWP. The document recommended that Codex take action to reduce salt/sodium intake to control NCDs (as recommended by the NCD Action Plan 2013–2020 adopted by WHA in 2013), through developing maximum levels of sodium contents in selected food products. The matter could not be discussed at CAC38 due to lack of time.

142. The Representative further recalled the status of Codex as an intergovernmental body operating under the auspices of FAO and WHO. This status permitted adopted Codex standards to be published with the FAO and WHO emblems. This privileged status of Codex underscored the need for coherence between the work of Codex and WHO policies, strategies and guidelines which Codex members, as WHO Member States, had signed up to. Codex could only benefit from demonstrating to the governing bodies of WHO greater coherence of its standards with WHO policies, strategies and guidelines, which in turn would help secure ongoing financial and technical support from WHO to the work of Codex. The Representative recommended that the Commission take practical steps forward as described in paragraph 15 of CX/CAC 16/39/11.

143. The Representative of FAO thanked the members for their reflective and considered feedback and apologised for the late availability of the working document. She noted that the interventions had demonstrated a high level of awareness of the relevance of FAO and WHO policies to the work of Codex and a recognition of the importance of these policies being fully considered in carrying out the standard-setting work of Codex. She agreed with the observations made by countries that, in many cases, there was a need for better communication at national level to engage all relevant stakeholders in discussions of Codex issues. She considered, however, that the examples and analysis contained in the working document had demonstrated some scope for improving systematic and effective communication at global level as well. She underlined that while Codex existed under the umbrella of FAO and WHO, the substantive standard-setting work of Codex was member driven: it was the Commission’s decision which standards to set. She concluded by noting that administrative matters related to the Codex Secretariat were governed by the relevant FAO rules and procedures in accordance with the Codex Statutes.

Conclusion

144. In spite of the very late availability of the document, the Commission noted that:

(i) The main aim of the document was to raise awareness so that Codex fully consider FAO and WHO policies, strategies and guidelines when it undertakes its work;

(ii) Codex is a unique member-driven organization with a specific mandate to develop internationally harmonized food standards to protect consumer health and ensure fair practices in food trade;

(iii) FAO and WHO adopt and implement policies, strategies and guidelines, which might be relevant to the work of Codex;

(iv) There is a need to increase the dialogue and communication between FAO, WHO and Codex experts at the national, regional and global levels;

(v) Codex has always given due consideration to relevant policies, strategies and guidelines in undertaking its work being thereby enabled to make informed decisions.

145. The Commission proposed to CCEXEC to further discuss the working document at its 73rd session; noted the need to increase the visibility of Codex in WHO governing bodies, and noted the proposal by IFPRI for Codex to organize side events at WHA.

53 REP16/EXEC, paras 115-116
54 CRD4
CODEX WORK ON ANTIMICROBIAL RESISTANCE (Agenda Item 11)\textsuperscript{55}

146. The Secretariat introduced the item recalling that FAO and WHO had brought relevant decisions of FAO and WHO on Antimicrobial (AMR) issues to the attention of CCEXEC70. Subsequently, the Secretariat, in collaboration with FAO and WHO, prepared a Circular Letter (CL 2015/21-CAC) requesting information on the use of and gaps in Codex texts on AMR and the need for FAO and WHO scientific advice and capacity development. The Secretariat prepared proposals as appropriate for consideration by CCEXEC71 and CAC39.

147. The Commission noted that the document on Codex work on AMR, prepared by the Secretariat in collaboration with FAO and WHO, had been considered by CCEXEC71\textsuperscript{56}.

**Discussion**

148. Delegations acknowledged that AMR is a serious public health threat, which required urgent attention by Codex, and a multisectoral and coordinated approach was needed at the international and national level to combat AMR. Delegations highlighted the WHO Global Action Plan on AMR, the specific resolutions of FAO and OIE and the linkage with the Sustainable Development Goals. Furthermore, delegations underscored the importance of applying the One Health approach to tackle AMR.

149. Delegations generally supported the CCEXEC71 recommendations regarding:

   (i) The establishment of an *Ad-Hoc* Intergovernmental Task Force on AMR (TFAMR) and noted the offer of the Republic of Korea to host the TFAMR if established;

   (ii) The proposed work i.e. revision of the *Code of Practice to Contain and Minimise Antimicrobial Resistance* (CAC/RCP 61-2005) and the development of guidelines on integrated surveillance system;

   (iii) The request to FAO and WHO for scientific advice and for a capacity development programme.

150. Regarding the establishment of a TFAMR, delegations noted that:

   (i) A dedicated Task Force was the most appropriate mechanism to address this urgent issue in a timely manner;

   (ii) The new work should be conducted within the mandate of Codex;

   (iii) The TFAMR should work in close collaboration with FAO, WHO and OIE and should have a strong and ambitious mandate;

   (iv) For a better use of resources it would be advisable before establishing the TFAMR to clearly define the scope of its work, which should be relevant and useful (a PWG/EWG could assist in defining the scope of work);

   (v) The establishment of an EWG would be more inclusive allowing the participation of more developing countries;

   (vi) A PWG/EWG would allow the participation and contribution of experts, ensuring clear and defined ToR and that the work had a solid scientific basis;

   (vii) The TFAMR work should take into consideration the ongoing work in FAO, WHO and OIE in order to identify the gaps to be addressed and avoid conflicts and duplication;

   (viii) It was premature for Codex to undertake this work as many countries were still developing national action plans on AMR.

151. Regarding the offer of the Republic of Korea to host the TFAMR, the Commission noted:

   - The interest of the Netherlands to co-host the TFAMR;
   - The desire of Cameroon that a developing country co-host the TFAMR.

\textsuperscript{55} CX/CAC 16/39/12; CX/CAC 16/39/12 Add.1 (Comments of Argentina, Brazil, Costa Rica, Canada, Cuba, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, European Union, Ghana, Japan, Kenya, Malaysia, New Zealand, Norway, Republic of Korea, United States of America, Consumers International, International Poultry Council, Health for Animals); CRD9 (Comments of El Salvador, India, Papua New Guinea, Senegal, Thailand, Health for Animals); CRD13 (Comments of the United States of America); CRD16 (Comments of Mali); CRD17 (Comments of Tanzania); CRD18 (Comments of Gambia); CRD19 (Comments of Benin); CRD21 (Comments of Ecuador); CRD22 (Comments of Guinea); CRD24 (Comments of Egypt); CRD25 (Comments of Cameroon); CRD27 (Comments of European Union); CRD30 and CRD31 (Comments of Australia)

\textsuperscript{56} REP16/EXEC, paras 65-66 and Appendices II and III
The Secretariat clarified that co-hosting arrangements should be determined bilaterally between the host country and any interested country. The Secretariat also noted that when proposing the establishment of the Task Force, attention was given to the impact that an additional body would have on the participation of countries and that with the adjournment of the CCFFP (see Agenda Item 19) the number of active subsidiary bodies would remain the same.

Regarding the proposed work, delegations noted that:

(i) The revision of CAC/RCP 61-2005 would ensure that the document remain relevant in view of the many developments since its completion;

(ii) Guidance on integrated surveillance was an important tool for countries to underpin their efforts to address AMR;

(iii) Guidance on the development of national action plans would also be useful for many countries, in particular developing countries;

(iv) Little was known about the use of antimicrobials in crops and their impact on AMR;

(v) The proposed work should also address aspects of communication to facilitate countries’ efforts to access adequate financial and human resources to support work on AMR;

(vi) The proposed work should address the entire food chain and also consider AMR aspects related to contaminants and food additives;

(vii) It was essential that FAO, WHO and OIE provide guidance and advice to support the proposed work of the TFAMR;

(viii) The proposed work should provide countries with mitigation strategies to be used at national level as well as consider the potential trade implications of AMR.

The Representative of WHO recalled the work completed since the 1990s by WHO on AMR. WHO work addressing AMR arising from and spreading through the food chain had been implemented in close coordination with FAO and OIE and covered such areas as AMR arising from use of antimicrobials in food producing animals including aquaculture, the strengthening of integrated surveillance of AMR along the food chain and the development of a list of critically important antimicrobials for human medicine, while the OIE had developed a list of antimicrobials of veterinary importance. In 2015, the WHA, again in collaboration with FAO and OIE, adopted a Global Action Plan (GAP) for AMR, which called upon Codex to review existing Codex guidance documents. The Representative wished to see concrete and immediate action being taken by the Commission at its current session in reply to this call and reassured the Commission that WHO would continue to provide support to countries, as needed, in developing national action plans to combat AMR and national surveillance plans for effective integrated surveillance of AMR.

The Representative of FAO confirmed the longstanding relationship between FAO, WHO and OIE, the mechanisms in place to facilitate interaction and collaboration among the three organizations and their efforts to promote and demonstrate the One Health approach. Referring to the unprecedented events in 2015, when all three organizations adopted Resolutions on AMR, he noted the importance of coherence at national level in preparing for meetings of the three organizations to facilitate progress on AMR at a global level. Describing FAO’s strategy to support the implementation of the GAP, with its focus on the four areas of awareness raising, evidence and surveillance, governance and best practices, he assured countries that FAO itself was working on AMR in a multidisciplinary manner, and being a development organization was committed to and already providing support to countries to address AMR in a coherent and structured manner.

Referring to the forthcoming high level discussions on AMR at the UN General Assembly in September 2016, and reflecting on the clear support of delegations to address AMR, the Representative of FAO reminded the Commission, that Codex now had an opportunity to demonstrate its leadership in the area of foodborne AMR and take concrete action on those aspects within its mandate to show its commitment to address this global emergency. A prompt response from Codex would contribute to raising its visibility globally and to increasing policy makers’ attention on the work of Codex.
157. The Representative of OIE reiterated that AMR was a high priority topic for the OIE and that they were very active in this area both through the Tripartite mechanism and in the development of OIE standards and recommendations. She highlighted relevant OIE work on AMR including ten relevant chapters in the Terrestrial and Aquatic Codes; the OIE List of antimicrobial agents of veterinary importance; two Resolutions adopted by the OIE World Assembly in 2015 and 2016 that specifically addressed AMR through the prudent use of antimicrobial agents in animals and an OIE strategy to fight AMR. She urged the Commission to consider all relevant OIE work in any future work to ensure the development of complementary standards and guidelines that respect the mandates of the respective organizations. She also urged the Commission to respect the Tripartite mechanism, in particular the proposal for the provision of scientific advice by WHO/FAO in collaboration with OIE to ensure a coordinated One Health approach.

158. The Commission recognised the need for Codex to make concrete steps to address the urgency of AMR, proceed in an expeditious way and show the leadership that was expected from Codex as the preeminent international food standard setting body.

159. The Commission acknowledged the need to establish at its current session the TFAMR, which would start working after CAC40, and further acknowledged the need to revise the proposed ToR of the TFAMR to highlight that:

(i) The work of the TFAMR would focus on the management of foodborne antimicrobial resistance and would fully take into account the WHO Global Action Plan on AMR (in particular objectives 3 and 4);

(ii) The revision of CAC/RCP 61-2005 would address the entire food chain in line with the mandate of Codex;

(iii) The work would also take into account relevant texts of OIE.

160. The Commission noted that at its first session the TFAMR would have the possibility to propose revision to its own ToR if necessary.

161. In order to further refine the specific work to be carried out by the TFAMR, the Commission recognised the need to establish a PWG which would review and refine the project documents and the request for scientific advice for consideration and approval by CAC40. It was noted that an electronic process could facilitate the work of the PWG.

162. It was suggested by a number of delegations that an EWG as opposed to a PWG would facilitate the participation of developing countries.

163. Colombia, taking into account the possible imminent holding of several physical meetings, requested that CTF2 consider the possibility of enhancing the participation of developing countries.

Conclusion

164. The Commission agreed to:

i) Establish an Ad Hoc Intergovernmental Task Force on Antimicrobial Resistance (TFAMR), with the ToR as presented in Appendix VIII, to be hosted by the Republic of Korea;

ii) Establish a PWG, chaired by United Kingdom and co-chaired by Australia and the United States of America, to work in English, French and Spanish and open to all Members and Observers, with the following tasks:

- Revise the project documents for new work (CX/CAC 16/39/12, Appendix 1, part 1 and 2)
- Revise the terms of reference for the request for scientific advice to FAO and WHO in collaboration with OIE (CX/CAC 16/39/12, Appendix 3)

iii) Request FAO and WHO to develop a capacity development programme to respond to the needs identified.
165. The Delegation from the Republic of Iran recalled that at CAC38 a proposal on Food Integrity/Food Authenticity had not been discussed due to time constraints.

166. The proposal was subsequently submitted to CCFICS22 which had agreed that Iran, with assistance of the Netherlands and Canada, would develop a discussion paper on this issue.

167. Iran believed that food integrity and authenticity was not limited to the mandate of CCFICS, and therefore it was necessary to continue the follow up on this issue at the Commission and other general subject committees notably CCFL, CCMAS and even CCGP. In the future it might be appropriate to establish either an EWG of the Commission or an Ad Hoc Intergovernmental Task Force on Food Integrity/Authenticity.

Conclusion

168. The Commission noted the intervention.

Committee on General Principles (CCGP)

Consistency of the Risk Analysis Texts across the Relevant Committees

169. Delegations who spoke supported the recommendation of CCGP that CCNFSDU should revise the text on nutritional risk analysis and consider how to include JEMNU as a primary source of scientific advice noting that the model of jointly convened expert bodies would be in line with the practice followed by other committees.

170. Delegations from Latin America expressed their concern that the task given to the CCGP by CAC30 (2007) to review all relevant texts on risk analysis principles applied by Codex committees as a whole in order to ensure consistency throughout Codex had not been completed, especially with regard to the periodic review of pesticides applied by CCPR. They referred in particular to the decision of CAC37 (2014) whereby at its next session “CCGP would address the concerns raised when considering the consistencies of risk analysis principles of different committees” 58. In their view, therefore the item should be maintained on the agenda of CCGP.

171. These delegations highlighted the inconsistencies between the risk analysis principles applied by the Committees on Residues of Veterinary Drugs in Foods, Food Additives and Pesticide Residues, noting that these committees were all responsible for assessing risks related to chemicals. They also stated that, in some instances, CCPR and CCRVDF applied different risk analysis principles to the same substance. In particular they noted that the only risk analysis document that established the obligation for a periodic review of maximum residue limits, and their withdrawal due to the mere passing of time, was the Risk Analysis Principles Applied by CCPR. They highlighted the inconsistency of the risk analysis principles of CCPR with the Working Principles for Risk Analysis of Codex Alimentarius.

172. The Secretariat stated that in the revised Risk Analysis Principles, the periodic review included two lists for pesticides for periodic review by JMPR:

- A list of pesticides that have not been reviewed toxicologically for more than 15 years. These pesticides should be considered for scheduling for period review when concerns, including public health concerns, are identified, and then be nominated for inclusion in (ii);

- A list of pesticides for periodic review for which health concerns or other concerns have been identified by a country and ratified by JMPR.

173. The periodic review of pesticides did not therefore apply automatically and the number of years since a review only called for attention to be paid to the pesticide in question. If no public health concern was identified, the pesticide could remain on the waiting list for periodic review.

57 CX/CAC 16/39/13; CX/CAC 16/39/13 Add.1; CX/CAC 16/39/13 Add.2; CRD10 (Comments of Costa Rica, Ecuador, Egypt, Kenya, Sudan, Uruguay, United States of America; AOCS; EUVEPRO); CRD21 (Comments of Ecuador); CRD24 (Comments of Egypt); CRD20 (Proposal from New Zealand); CRD26 (Information from Iran); CRD35 (Comments from U.S. Pharmacopia); CRD36 (Comments from Ecuador)

58 REP14/CAC, para. 45
174. The delegations acknowledged the efforts made by CCPR on the revision of the *Risk Analysis Principles* and the improvements made in this regard to the periodic review procedure. However as the inconsistency remained, they requested clarification on the scientific and legal basis for this procedure. They proposed that the legal departments of FAO and WHO provide a legal analysis of the consistency between the risk analysis principles applied by CCFA, CCPR and CCRVDF.

175. The Representative of WHO clarified that the review of food chemicals was common practice in Codex committees e.g. CCFA had decided to review food colours that had been assessed by JECFA many years previously, in a systematic way. There was no inconsistency in the treatment of different food chemicals, and as had been explained at CCGP, due to different hazard profiles of different chemicals, different approaches were justified, and it was up to the technical committees to define the level of detail in which such practice is mentioned in the risk analysis document.

176. The Representative of FAO supported the view of WHO adding that the need of the different review processes was also connected to the unique mode of action of plant protection products (pesticides). These products were designed to control pests and were intrinsically vulnerable to an increase in tolerance in these pests to the plant protection products. Good Agricultural Practices were subsequently modified to continue to guarantee the efficacy. This would support the need for a regular review for plant protection products by CCPR and JMPR. Such an effect was not typically relevant for food additives.

177. The Representative noted that FAO had initiated discussions with countries of the Latin America and Caribbean region to assist in analysing the situation and better understanding the practical implications.

178. The Secretariat noted that the review carried out in the paper prepared by the Secretariat did not enter into the technical issues specific to each committee. The Secretariat noted that CCPR was the competent subsidiary body of CAC to develop their risk analysis principles and policies and that to give further advice on the appropriateness of the application of specific procedures for the risk assessment of pesticides was beyond the competency of the Secretariat.

**Conclusion**

179. The Commission endorsed the recommendations of the CCGP that:

- CCNFSDU should revise the text on nutritional risk analysis and consider how to include JEMNU as a primary source of scientific advice;
- The Secretariat should address minor numbering issues in the texts for CCCF, CCRVDF and CCPR with the relevant Committees. 59

180. The Commission further noted that CCGP had completed work on the consistency of the risk analysis principles within Codex.

181. The Commission noted the reservations of Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Honduras, Paraguay, Peru, and Uruguay in relation to the risk analysis principles applied by CCPR for the reasons given above (paras 170) and to the discontinuation of the discussion on the consistency of the risk analysis principles across Codex committees in CCGP because they considered that the mandate given by CAC to CCGP had not been completed and therefore requested that the matter continue to remain on the agenda of CCGP.

**Committee on Fish and Fishery Products (CCFFP)**

182. The Commission noted that with the adoption of the texts from CCFFP and the decision to assign the work on histamine to CCFH, the Committee had completed its work and could be adjourned *sine die*. The Commission noted the willingness of Norway to continue hosting the Committee in the future should the need arise (see also Agenda Item 19).

**Conclusion**

183. The Commission adjourned the Committee on Fish and Fishery Products *sine die*.

**Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling (CCMAS)**

**Protein Conversion Factors**

184. The Commission noted the reply from CCMAS that it was not in a position to reply to the question posed by CAC38 on the appropriate protein conversion factors for soy products as this was in the remit of other Codex committees; and noted that it might be timely for FAO and WHO to convene an expert panel to review available literature to assess the scientific basis for protein conversion factors.

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59 REP16/GP, para. 55
185. Some members, while not opposed to the idea to request FAO/WHO to convene a panel to review the scientific literature, cautioned that such a request would have to take into account the overall scientific advice needs, budgetary constraints being faced and a need to prioritize work.

186. The Representative of FAO noted the request for FAO and WHO to convene an expert panel to review available literature in order to assess the scientific basis for protein conversion factors. However, she noted that given the current workload of FAO and WHO and the resource constraints, the proposed work could not be considered at this stage. She underlined that work could be considered at a later stage if the scope and the expected impact could be better defined.

187. One delegation not in support of the need for scientific review in particular pointed out that the FAO/WHO/UNU expert consultation, Protein and Amino Acid Requirements in Human Nutrition was a fairly recent report and therefore a review was not warranted at this stage.

188. An observer further noted that the standard conversion factor 6.25 was currently in use without any negative impact on human health and nutrition and that the use of this factor should be more appropriately re-evaluated in the appropriate technical committee.

189. One delegation noted that CCNFSDU would be considering the conversion factor within the context of its work, and that this matter could be addressed there.

Conclusion

190. The Commission noted the interest for a scientific review. Consideration could be given to convening an expert panel at a later stage with a more defined scope in light of the need for prioritisation of work on scientific advice and financial constraints.

Committee on Food Labelling (CCFL)

191. The Commission considered the recommendation of the CCEXEC to discontinue the work60.

192. Those delegations opposed to discontinuation, were of the opinion that the work was of great importance, especially to developing countries, and that an alternative forum should be identified to proceed with the work. CCFL had recommended that a different subsidiary body continue the work if it was not discontinued. It was noted that several countries were considering proposals for an alternative forum, such as an ad hoc Intergovernmental Task Force, but that they were not ready to make a proposal at this time.

193. Delegations in support of discontinuation of work acknowledged the efforts made to reach consensus in CCFL and that many technical issues and general principles remain, but emphasised that the main reason for not being able to make progress was a lack of a common view of the concept of organic aquaculture. These delegations also expressed the view that there was a need to better understand the need for the work, noting that other international guidance was already available.

194. The Representative of FAO noted that after several discussions on how to support this work, the Fisheries and Aquaculture Specialists of FAO had concluded that preliminary work would be needed to reach international consensus on what could be considered organic aquaculture. Furthermore, the Representative pointed out that this issue had never been raised as a priority by the Subcommittee on Aquaculture, the Subcommittee on Fish Trade, or the Committee on Fisheries (COFI). She noted that if this changed in future, work could be considered, but at this stage, FAO’s recommendation would be to discontinue work.

195. The Chairperson noted the interest to continue work, but that there were also those in favour of discontinuation, and the intervention of FAO, and proposed that the Commission postpone the decision on discontinuation awaiting a proposal by interested members on how and where to take this work forward. This would be considered by the CAC41 in 2018.

Conclusion

196. The Commission agreed to consider this matter at CAC41 (2018) and that this item would not be on the agenda of CCFL.

60 REP16/EXEC para. 35
Committee on Milk and Milk Products (CCMMP)

**Standard for Mozzarella**

**Conclusion**

197. The Commission agreed to discuss this item at CAC40 (2017).

**General Standard for Processed Cheese**

**Discussion**

198. Some delegations expressed the intention to open a debate on the issue given the importance of the matter to developing countries and considered that the lack of time during the current session should not be the reason for not doing so. The Chairperson noting the recommendation of CCEXEC71\(^{61}\) suggested continuing the debate next year so as to have more time for discussion and analysis.

**Conclusion**

199. The Commission agreed to discuss this item at CAC40 (2017), noting the offer of New Zealand as host country of CCMMP to collate any substantial new ideas provided by members in the interim.

Committee on Sugars (CCS)

**Standard for Non-Centrifuged Dehydrated Sugar Cane Juice**\(^{62}\)

200. The Commission noted the recommendation of the CCEXEC71 i.e. to request CCS, working by correspondence, to clarify the scope of the standard only and to provide evidence of the international support for the defined scope.\(^{63}\) CCS would subsequently report on the findings to the next session of the Commission in order to determine how to proceed further with this work e.g. discontinuation, finalisation as a worldwide or regional standard.

201. Colombia, as host country of CCS, agreed with the recommendation of CCEXEC71 and encouraged interested countries to actively participate in clarifying the scope of the standard in order to facilitate work on this issue.

202. Some delegations supported the recommendation of CCEXEC71 while one delegation supported discontinuing the work referring to the recommendation of CAC38\(^{64}\) which had also recommended discontinuation if no consensus could be reached on final adoption of the standard.

**Conclusion**

203. The Commission endorsed the recommendation of the CCEXEC71.

**Emerging Issues: A proposed risk management approach to address detection in food of chemicals of very low public health concern**\(^{65}\)

204. The Commission noted the recommendation of CCEXEC71\(^{66}\) on the importance of the issue; the need for Codex to address it; and that the issue should be further examined by CCCF based on CRD20 prepared by New Zealand.

205. New Zealand offered to continue to work closely with interested members and support the further consideration and advancement of the discussion paper and project document through the Codex system.

206. Japan noted the following:

(i) Chemicals discussed in the paper present very low exposure and were of very low toxicity;

(ii) Such chemicals were present inadvertently in food and were consumed without any public health implications;

(iii) A problem might arise from different regulatory systems between exporting and importing countries rather from a strict safety concern;

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\(^{61}\) REP16/EXEC, para. 43

\(^{62}\) CX/CAC 16/39/13 Add.2

\(^{63}\) REP 16/EXEC, para. 47

\(^{64}\) REP15/CAC, para 48.

\(^{65}\) CRD20 (Proposal from New Zealand)

\(^{66}\) REP 16/EXEC, para. 54
(iv) The matter raised in CRD20 was more of a trade than a safety issue and could be better handled by CCFICS whose mandate included the development of principles and guidelines for food import and export inspection and certification systems with a view to harmonizing methods and procedures to protect consumer health, ensure fair trade practices, and facilitate international food trade;

(v) CCFICS had also developed *Guidelines for the exchange of information between countries on rejection of imported food* (CAC/GL 25-1997) which might be relevant to the issue raised in CRD20;

(vi) A FAO/WHO expert meeting should be convened to better hone the question, which will provide more information for Codex to decide on the scope of this work and on the best forum to handle this issue due to its broader and complex nature rather than putting the question to CCCF.

**Conclusion**

207. The Commission agreed with the recommendation of CCEXEC to forward the document (CRD20) to CCCF for further examination.67

**CODEX BUDGET PLANNING (2016-17 and 2018-19) AND REPORT ON EXPENDITURE (2014-15) (Agenda Item 13)**68

208. The Secretariat presented the budget report for 2014-15 and noted that in contrast to the biennium 2012-13 in which around eight percent of the budget remained unspent, in 2014-15 around 96 percent of the total budget had been spent. Recalling that CAC38 encouraged the Secretariat to adopt a more effective and realistic process when developing the budget,69 the Secretariat also presented the budget planning for the biennium 2016-17 and 2018-19 respectively and explained that efforts had been made by the Secretariat to develop a more detailed work plan, which links the estimated expenditure to activities foreseen in the Codex Strategic Plan 2014-2019.

**Conclusion**

209. The Commission noted that the Secretariat had made a more detailed presentation of resource management and implemented a clearer, more transparent system of budget planning.

210. The Commission thanked FAO and WHO for the continued financial support, the Committee host governments for their voluntary resource investments, and members that made extra-budgetary contributions through staff secondments to the Secretariat in 2014-15 and 2016-17 (Japan, Republic of Korea and Germany).

211. The Commission:

(i) Took note of the report on expenditure for the biennium 2014-15;

(ii) Adopted the new work plan and budget developed by the Secretariat for the biennium 2016-17;

(iii) Took note of the budget proposal for the biennium 2018-19.

**FAO/WHO SCIENTIFIC SUPPORT TO CODEX (REPORT ON ACTIVITIES) (Agenda Item 14.1)**70

212. The Representative of WHO presented the document describing (i) Recent FAO/WHO expert meetings and consideration by Codex; and (ii) Status of requests for FAO/WHO scientific advice. She further highlighted continuing efforts by FAO and WHO to improve risk assessment methodology, which is seen as important for the international harmonisation of risk assessments. In concluding, she noted that the scientific advice provided by FAO and WHO through expert meetings remains a high priority for both organizations, and serves as a crucial basis for developing Codex food safety standards.

**Conclusion**

213. The Commission endorsed the conclusion of CCEXEC71 and:

- Noted the significant amount of work undertaken as well as the number of pending requests requiring further funding, a matter that needed to be addressed in order not to delay the work of Codex;

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67 REP 16/EXEC, para. 54
68 CX/CAC 16/39/14, CX/CAC 16/39/14 Add.1
69 REP15/CAC para.133 b)
70 CX/CAC 16/39/15
71 REP16/EXEC, para 97
• Expressed appreciation to FAO and WHO for the scientific advice provided and reaffirmed its trust in the scientific rigor and independence of the FAO/WHO scientific advice as the preeminent scientific support to the work of Codex.

FAO/WHO SCIENTIFIC SUPPORT TO CODEX (BUDGET AND EXPENDITURE) (Agenda Item 14.2)\textsuperscript{72}

214. The Representative of WHO introduced the item and noted that expenditures of WHO for the biennium 2014-15 had amounted to approximately USD 4 million and USD 2 million for the provision of scientific advice for food safety and nutrition, respectively. Referring to the estimated budgets for 2016-17 she noted that the budget gap for nutrition would increase when JEMNU work would be initiated since the cost of JEMNU was not currently included in the estimates. She gratefully acknowledged the extra-budgetary contributions that had been received from Japan, China, Canada, Republic of Korea and the United States of America. She further noted that at the FAO side the expenditure for the biennium 2014-15 totalled USD 3.1 million for food safety and approximately USD 300,000 for nutrition. FAO gratefully acknowledged the extra-budgetary contributions from Sweden and the United States of America, as well as the secondment from Canada for the 2016-17 biennium.

215. The Representative concluded that overall the contribution of FAO and WHO to the provision of scientific advice amounted to approximately USD 10 million per biennium. She further noted that to ensure the ability of the joint scientific advice program to deliver even at the current rate, it would be of paramount importance ensure this level of stable and predictable funding from both organizations.

Conclusion

216. The Commission endorsed the conclusion of CCEXEC\textsuperscript{73} and requested:

• FAO to further protect the budget for scientific advice to maintain the neutrality and the sustainability of the scientific advice in support of Codex;
• WHO to find suitable mechanisms to secure a higher level of funding for its scientific advice programme within the regular budget, to guarantee the neutrality and increase the sustainability of the scientific advice in support of Codex.

FAO/WHO SCIENTIFIC SUPPORT TO CODEX (INCREASING SUSTAINABILITY) (Agenda Item 14.3)\textsuperscript{74}

217. The Representative of FAO introduced the item, noting that timely scientific advice is crucial to the work of the Commission and that requests for ever more complex scientific advice were predicted to increase. He further noted that the long-term solution for ensuring adequate funding and staffing levels for the provision of scientific advice to Codex was to increase the appropriate budgets of FAO and WHO, but that in the meantime the provision of additional resources should be sought through alternative channels. He reminded delegates that the ownership for the successful funding for the scientific advice programme lies with the members of the Commission.

218. The United States of America endorsed the need for both long and short term solutions to secure the provision of scientific advice from the joint expert committees, calling for an expansion of the donor base.

219. The Representative of FAO, in response, reiterated the plan to make available a project document for long-term planning of the joint FAO/WHO scientific advice programme in food safety, for stronger engagement of donors.

220. Japan also expressed concern over the narrow donor base, and further noted that less than a fourth of the WHO total programme budget was funded through the regular budget\textsuperscript{75}. Japan called for food safety to be recognized as a key scientific area of work by WHO in order to reduce the funding gap. A way to achieve this could be to arrange for a side event on Codex at WHA.

Conclusions

221. The Commission endorsed the conclusion of CCEXEC\textsuperscript{76} and:

(i) Encouraged FAO to continue their efforts to protect the current funding levels for the scientific advice programme (including the Secretariat);
(ii) Encouraged WHO to provide support to the scientific advice programme through the regular budget;

\textsuperscript{72} CX/CAC 16/39/16
\textsuperscript{73} REP16/EXEC, para 103
\textsuperscript{74} CX/CAC 16/39/17
\textsuperscript{75} http://apps.who.int/gb/ebwha/pdf_files/WHA69/A69_45-en.pdf
\textsuperscript{76} REP16/EXEC, para 107
(iii) Called on Members to provide additional resources in such a way that would increase the funding of the scientific advice programme in a predictable manner until a long-term solution is found;

(iv) Strongly encouraged Codex Members to increase in-country communication between the health and agriculture sectors with a view to heightening awareness within the governing bodies of FAO and WHO on the urgent need for critical core funding.

FAO AND WHO CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES (REPORT ON ACTIVITIES) (Agenda Item 15)77

222. The Representative of FAO welcomed the opportunity to briefly present some elements of the FAO/WHO food safety capacity development programmes. She noted that global advances in food safety would only be achieved if increasing numbers of countries were able to implement Codex standards. In introducing the working document, she highlighted that food safety was very much a shared responsibility and stated that the approaches taken by FAO and WHO in their food safety capacity development programmes reflected this. In implementing these programmes FAO/WHO work across sectors, engage with public and private sectors and work very much in partnership with national and regional institutions. There was also an emphasis on collaboration with global partners.

223. The Representative of FAO went on to highlight ongoing work to finalise the FAO/WHO food control assessment tool. She informed the Commission that a technical review meeting held in December 2015 confirmed a high level of satisfaction with the tool and that it would be placed in the public domain by the end of this year to be used by countries for self-assessment of their food control systems. She also drew attention to ongoing work on whole genome sequencing which was having an increasing impact on food safety management and noted that the report of a technical meeting, held in May 2016, was available on the FAO website. FAO was also finalising a guidance document to support countries in the development of evidence-based food safety policy. This would be available by the end of 2016. She informed the meeting that upcoming areas of FAO focus included analyses of the impact of food safety on trade and enhanced efforts at improving the Foresight approach on predicting plant health, animal health and food safety issues affecting food chains and trade. She encouraged members to consult the FAO food safety web pages, use the tools that are provided there and provide feedback so as to ensure continuous improvement in the delivery of capacity development tools.

224. The Representative of WHO noted the importance of the year 2015 for food safety with the World Health Day in April and the publication of the WHO first estimates of the burden of foodborne diseases later. She encouraged members to use the information and tools available online which could help countries estimate the foodborne disease burden and prioritise action at the national level. The Representative also provided information on International Health Regulations (“all hazards” approach) and Emergency Preparedness and explained the involvement of INFOSAN in providing input and support for the evaluation tool that countries could use at the national level to transparently, clearly and consistently evaluate the status of their country’s capacity in this area. Both FAO and WHO will continue to strengthen the INFOSAN network across emergency activities, enhancing national capacities for preparedness and emergency response and improving communication within the network – also to strengthen interaction at the regional level. She stated that these initiatives emphasised the importance FAO/WHO place on both building emergency response capacity and also the preventive aspect of the work. In closing she encouraged countries to use the tools available, distribute the information to all relevant interested parties and provide FAO/WHO with feedback on the tools.

Conclusion

225. The Commission thanked FAO and WHO for their continued support to develop national capacities to plan for, assess, and manage food safety and consumer protection issues. Appreciation was expressed for the high quality, peer reviewed publications and tools produced by FAO and WHO, available at their respective websites, and the Commission encouraged their use by members. Furthermore, the Commission expressed thanks for the recently concluded work on the Burden of Foodborne disease (FERG), innovative work and leadership related to foresight and identification of emerging food safety, animal and plant health issues, and the development of the food control system assessment tool.

77 CX/CAC 16/39/18
226. The Representative of WHO highlighted that this would be the last chance for Codex members to comment on the first Codex Trust Fund (CTF1) which had ceased operation on 31 December 2015. The Codex Trust Fund Administrator called attention to document CX/CAC 16/39/19 which included figures for 2015 as well as cumulative figures showing total participations supported in Codex meetings and FAO/WHO training courses and workshops for the entire lifespan of CTF1. CTF will continue to assess selected indicators to evaluate long-term effect.

227. Document CX/CAC 16/39/19 Add.1 contained the 2015 and Final Monitoring Report of CTF1. In addition to updated information on indicators included in the Monitoring and Evaluation framework, the report included a final assessment of all indicators from the framework. Five indicators were assessed as very satisfactory, eight were assessed as satisfactory and two were assessed as unsatisfactory. These indicators dealt with the submission of written comments and the submission of fully completed applications on time.

228. Delegations commenting registered their appreciation for the CTF1, to the work of the CTF Secretariat, and called attention to some of the changes that had been effected in their countries as a result of support from the Trust Fund.

Conclusion

229. The Commission:

(i) Reiterated its appreciation to FAO/WHO and the CTF Secretariat for the effective management of CTF1 during 2004-2015, and acknowledged the important financial and in-kind contributions made by the CTF1 donors;

(ii) Acknowledged that CTF1 had led to an increase in developing country participation in Codex work and that it had also resulted in more visibility of Codex in many countries;

(iii) Recognised that due to CTF1, developing countries had succeeded in raising awareness about Codex and food safety work at national and regional levels and that beneficiaries of CTF1 had developed their national food safety legislation and food safety management;

(iv) Noted that the final monitoring report gave an opportunity to reflect on the monitoring and evaluation (M&E) framework that was used for CTF1 and see what lessons could be learned for the M&E framework for CTF2. In this context the comments expressed in the six bullet points of document CX/CAC 16/39/19-Add.1 Item 2 – Introduction should be also take into account.

FAO/WHO PROJECT AND TRUST FUND FOR ENHANCED PARTICIPATION IN CODEX (STATUS REPORT OF THE SUCCESSOR INITIATIVE STARTED IN JANUARY 2016) (Agenda Item 16.2)

230. The Representative of WHO informed delegates that the CTF2 bore the same name as the previous one to facilitate donor contributions. But it was a new initiative with a completely different focus, scope and governance. The CTF Administrator called attention to the first Progress Report of CTF2 contained in CX/CAC 16/39/20. The activities of CTF2 that had taken place in the first six months of 2016 would be covered in a dedicated side event on Thursday 30 June. The funding gap of USD 4.7 million over the period 2016-2018 was highlighted based on the updated liquidity forecast tabled at the CTF donor meeting on 28 June.

231. The Representative of FAO briefed delegates on the beneficial and important exchanges that had taken place over the past two weeks on CTF2 related to funding, operational and implementation aspects. These exchanges would continue to inform the thinking as CTF2 moves forward. Of particular note was the first meeting of the CTF Advisory Group; an important part of the new governance structure which will allow for exchange with stakeholder groups and play a key role in providing feedback on CTF and contribute to strategic thinking. The summary report of the Advisory Group meeting is available in CRD34.

232. The European Union highlighted the pledges made by EU members to CTF2 totalling EUR 2.8 million. Within this, the Netherlands announced a contribution in principle of EUR 2 million over 5 years. The funding conditions include: i) alignment with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs); ii) development of indicators to measure the results of CTF2 to contribute to the SDGs; iii) matched funding from other donors to close the funding gap.
233. Delegations expressed their appreciation for donor funding. One delegation expressed their continuing support for the Trust Fund, the need for the Trust Fund to continue to evolve, the need to continue to support physical participation in Codex meetings and the welcome addition of the Advisory Group to the governance structure.

Conclusion

234. The Commission:

- Noted the report received regarding CTF2 initial activities and acknowledged the work being undertaken;
- Welcomed the information from donors regarding the contributions made to CTF2.

RELATIONS BETWEEN THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS (Agenda Item 17)\(^{80}\)

235. The Commission noted the information provided by international intergovernmental and non-governmental organisations as presented in their respective information documents and in addition noted presentations made at the session as follows.

World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE)\(^{81}\)

236. The Director General, Dr Monique Eloit, informed the Commission that she had commenced her first term of office as Director-General of the OIE on 1 January 2016 and that the Sixth Strategic Plan (2016-2020) would form the framework of the OIE’s programme of activities during her term of office. The development of science-based standards for animal production food safety continues to be an important objective addressed in this strategic plan, as is the continued engagement with international organizations such as WHO, FAO and the Codex Alimentarius, in areas of common interest.

237. She highlighted the many cooperation mechanisms that had helped to improve the coverage by official standards of the whole food production continuum, including the establishment of the OIE Animal Production Food Safety Working Group (APFSWG); and the fact that the secretariats of OIE and Codex and experts nominated by OIE regularly participated in each other’s standards development work. She further emphasized that the OIE continued to collaborate with WHO and FAO through the Tripartite approach to minimize the development and spread of antimicrobial resistance. She noted the new Global Action Plan, developed by WHO with strong support from FAO and OIE, which encouraged countries to develop national action plans and recognized the standards of the OIE and Codex.

238. She also noted the importance for OIE and Codex delegations of collaborating on and coordinating their positions at the national level. She concluded by informing the Commission that she would ensure that OIE continues to collaborate closely with Codex in order to ensure the safety of foods of animal origin worldwide.

Organisation internationale de la vigne et du vin (OIV)\(^{82}\)

239. The President of OIV, Prof Monika Christmann, highlighted the Organisation’s participation in several ongoing projects in Codex including active involvement in the review of food additives provisions in the GSFA. She stressed the need for ensuring consistency between food additives provisions in the GSFA for use in grape wine with OIV recommendations.

240. Further, she stated that OIV was looking for a close collaboration with Codex and JECFA to avoid duplication of work and establishing different international standards since a number of references to the Codex standards were already included in OIV documents. The President concluded by stressing the need for continued collaboration and coordination of the activities of common interest to both OIV and Codex.

International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)\(^{83}\)

241. The Representative of IAEA highlighted activities of the Joint FAO/IAEA Division (CAC/37 INF/7) relevant to Codex work, including collaboration with the Codex Secretariat and Codex Committees, such as CCCF, CCPR and CCRVDF.
The Representative noted that IAEA in collaboration with FAO and WHO had finalized and published a Technical Document (TECDOC) i.e. “Criteria for Radionuclide Activity Concentrations for Food and Drinking Water”, for use by Member Countries to develop national radionuclide reference levels for existing exposure situations. The document was disseminated to delegates at CCCF10.

The Representative also reported that the Joint Division had set up Coordinated Research Projects (CRP) on development of a complete end-to-end system for food traceability and authenticity, using dairy milk as an example commodity. It is anticipated that these activities will contribute to the future revision of CODEX STAN 234-1999; as well as assisting in the general development of methods and procedures to establish the authenticity of products or identify adulteration.

The Representative further reported that the Joint Division will continue to support the activities of the Member Countries in their efforts to ensure food safety, quality and authenticity and, also continue to collaborate with Codex and relevant committees in their efforts to address these issues.

**World Trade Organisation (WTO)**

The Representative of WTO provided information on food safety related concerns that had been raised at recent Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) Committee meetings and highlighted information that governments had reported on food safety. She noted the number of notifications by governments of planned new or revised food safety requirements and informed the Commission about upcoming SPS-related technical assistance activities, including a Workshop on Maximum Residue Levels to be held on 24-25 October 2016. The Representative briefly described activities of relevance to Codex that had been brought to the Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) Committee over the past year, and also introduced the report from the Standards, Trade and Development Facility (STDF).

**International Organisation for Standardisation (ISO)**

The Representative of ISO informed the Commission that the new ISO Strategy 2016-2020 had been approved and that it included the engagement of stakeholders and partners including Codex. The Representative highlighted some of ISO’s ongoing work of interest to Codex including the revision of ISO 22000 (the ISO standard on food safety management system) to continue the integration of the HACCP Principles developed by Codex. She further mentioned that ISO develops fully validated methods of analysis that are adopted by different Codex Committees such as CCFH. Finally, the Representative called for reinforcing the link between those in charge of ISO standardisation nationally and the Codex Contact Points.

**Conclusion**

The Commission thanked the international organizations for the information provided on their activities and for their collaboration with Codex.

The Commission noted the support for strengthened cooperation between Codex and IPPC (especially the online commenting system), which was a good way to maximise use of resources; thanked the Secretariat for its continued participation in the meetings of other international governmental and non-governmental organizations; and, in line with the Strategic Plan, encouraged members, especially those that chair committees, to strengthen cooperation.

**ELECTION OF THE CHAIRPERSON AND VICE-CHAIRPERSONS (Agenda Item 18)**

The Commission elected the following persons to hold office from the end of its present Session to the end of the next regular (40th) Session of the Commission:

- **Chairperson:** Ms Awilo Ochieng Pernet (Switzerland)
- **Vice-Chairpersons:**
  - Mr Guilherme Antonio da Costa Jr. (Brazil)
  - Ms Yayoi Tsujiyama (Japan)
  - Mr Mahamadou Sako (Mali)

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84 CAC/39 INF/3 and CAC/39 INF/4  
85 CAC/39 INF/6  
86 CX/CAC 16/39/22
DESIGNATION OF COUNTRIES RESPONSIBLE FOR APPOINTING THE CHAIRPERSONS OF CODEX COMMITTEES (Agenda Item 19)\(^{87}\)

250. The Commission confirmed the designation of the Host Governments, as listed in the Appendix IX to this report and recalled its earlier decision to activate an \textit{ad Hoc} Intergovernmental Task Force on Antimicrobial Resistance, hosted by the Republic of Korea. The Commission further agreed to adjourn the Committee on Fish and Fishery products \textit{sine die} expressing its gratitude to Norway as host country of the committee and to Mr Bjørn Røthe Knudtsen for serving as a Chairperson for sixteen years.

251. Norway, as host country of CCFFP, in light of the decision to adjourn the Committee expressed their willingness to continue hosting CCFFP if new work would be needed and the committee were to be reactivated.

252. The Delegation of the United States of America, as host country of CCPFV, informed the Commission of the possibility of adjourning \textit{sine die} the Committee after its 28\textsuperscript{th} Session in September 2016 if current priority work will have been completed and no new work submitted.

253. The Commission expressed its appreciation to all Committees and Host Governments. It also acknowledged the contributions of Mr Paul Mayers, former Chairperson of CCFL, Dr Steven Vaughn, former Chairperson of CCRVDF and Dr Árpad Ambrus, former Chairperson of CCMAS and welcomed Ms Lyzette Lamondin and Dr Kevin Greenlees as Chairpersons of CCFL and CCRVDF respectively.

FOOD INTEGRITY/AUTHENTICITY (Agenda Item 20.1)

254. See Agenda Item 12

VISA ISSUE FOR ATTENDANCE AT CODEX MEETINGS (Agenda Item 20.2)\(^{88}\)

255. In April 2016, the Secretariat requested information on visa issuance problems that Members might have encountered in attending Codex Meetings over the last five years. Issues faced by the delegates included the lack of an embassy of the country hosting the Codex meeting on their national territory and delays in the issuance of visas from some host countries.

256. Several delegates expressed appreciation for the commitment of the Secretariat in solving the issue. They noted that receiving a visa to attend Codex committees could be facilitated by host countries and by exploring granting delegates visas “on arrival” at local airports.

257. Several delegates supported the recommendation proposed in the working document and requested the assistance of FAO and WHO with visa facilitation letters (or \textit{note verbale}) to assist them in the visa application process.

Conclusion

258. The Commission took note of this matter and encouraged host countries, the Secretariat and FAO/WHO to explore ways to facilitate requests for visas for delegates especially “visas on arrival”.

OTHER BUSINESS (Agenda Item 21)\(^{89}\)

Actions to promote the visibility of Codex (Proposal from Costa Rica)\(^{90}\)

259. The Commission discussed two proposals from Costa Rica aimed at promoting the work of Codex:

- The establishment of a recurrent “World Food Safety Day”;
- The invitation of relevant ministers of the countries of different regions to participate in the opening session of the Commission on a rotating basis.

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\(^{87}\) CX/CAC 16/39/23

\(^{88}\) CX/CAC 16/39/25; CRD14 (Comments of African Union); CRD16 (Comments of Mali); CRD17 (Comments of Tanzania); CRD21 (Comments of Ecuador); CRD24 (Comments of Egypt); CRD25 (Comments of Cameroon); CRD28 (Comments of Sierra Leone); CRD32 (Comments of Sudan); CRD33 (Comments of Senegal)

\(^{89}\) CRD15 (Comments of Senegal)

\(^{90}\) CRD37 (Proposal from Costa Rica)
260. The Representative of WHO welcomed member states’ desire to raise the political profile of food safety worldwide. The Representative expressed the view that the cost-effectiveness of different options, including the celebration of a National Day, should be carefully considered. Recalling the World Health Day celebrated in 2015 by WHO on the theme of food safety, he questioned whether establishment of an annual World Food Safety Day would fall under the purview of the Commission or of the parent organizations. If the latter was the case, specific conditions should be met and procedures followed.

261. The Representative of FAO stated that a decision would be needed by the FAO Conference and the WHA for such a day. She noted further that these events were coordinated at UN level. An optimistic timeframe for the process would be two to three years.

262. While supporting the proposals of Costa Rica delegations noted that:

(i) The expected timeframe for the establishment of a World Food Safety Day was acceptable;
(ii) Other opportunities to raise the visibility of Codex such as the International Food Safety Conference proposed by the African Union and the already existing World Food Day should also be considered;
(iii) The invitation of ministers from the six Codex regions to address the Commission could help to identify emerging issues of concern in line with the Codex Strategic Plan 2014-2019.

Conclusion

263. The Commission welcomed and supported the proposal for the establishment of a World Food Safety Day on a permanent basis as suggested by the Chairperson of the Commission, Mrs Awilo Ochieng Pernet, in December 2015 and re-proposed by Costa Rica at the current Session. The Commission noted that the establishment of such a day would require the proposal by Codex Members for the decision of the FAO Conference and WHA as well as a decision at UN headquarter level with an estimated timeframe of three years.

264. The Commission further noted the proposal of Costa Rica to invite political representatives from the six regions to the opening ceremony of the sessions of the Commission with a view to raising awareness of food safety amongst all relevant stakeholders worldwide. The Commission also noted the need to raise awareness of food safety and Codex both at the national and international level and in this regard highlighted the need for a standing item on food safety and Codex in the respective regional and international fora of FAO and WHO.

Late availability of documents (Proposal from Uruguay)

265. The Commission took note of Uruguay’s proposal to ensure that when relevant documents become available they should be promptly shared with the membership, in particular when the documents contain technical matters to be used as a reference by a specific Committee.

Migration of the Codex webpage to the FAO domain (Proposal from Chile)

266. Due to time constraints this item was not discussed and deferred to the next session of the Commission.
LIST OF PARTICIPANTS
LISTE DES PARTICIPANTS
LISTA DE PARTICIPANTES

CHAIRPERSON - PRÉSIDENTE - PRESIDENTCHAIR

Mrs Awilo Ochieng Pernet
Chairperson, Codex Alimentarius Commission
Federal Food Safety and Veterinary Office FSVO
International Affairs
Bern
Switzerland
Tel: + 41 58 462 00 41
Email: awilo.ochieng@blv.admin.ch

VICE-CHAIRPERSONS – VICE-PRÉSIDENTS – VICEPRESIDENTES

Dr Guilherme Antonio Costa Junior
Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Food Supply
Esplanada dos Ministerios Bl.D Ed.Sede 3 andar-Sala 300
Brasilia
Brazil
Email: guilherme.costa@agricultura.gov.br

Dr Yayoi Tsujiyama
Director for International Affairs
Food Safety Policy Division
Food Safety and Consumer Affairs Bureau
Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries
1-2-1, Kasumigaseki, Chiyoda-ku
Tokyo
Japan
Tel: +81-3-3502-8732
Email: yayoi.tsujiyama170@maff.go.jp

Dr Mahamadou Sako
Directeur Général par intérim
Ministère de la Santé et de l'Hygiène Publique
Agence Nationale de la Sécurité Sanitaire des Aliments
Centre Commercial, Rue 305 Quartier du Fleuve BPE: 2362
Bamako
Mali
Tel: +223 20230188 /+ 223 66 79997
Email: mahamadosako@yahoo.fr
MEMBERS NATIONS AND MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS
ÉTATS MEMBRES ET ORGANISATIONS MEMBRES
ESTADOS MIEMBROS Y ORGANIZACIONES MIEMBROS

ANGOLA
Dr Maria Antónia Sanazenge
2ª Vice-Presidente do Codex
Instituto Nacional de Saúde Pública
Codex-Angola/Ministério da Saúde
Rua Amílcar Cabral, Instituto Nacional de saúde Pública
Luanda
Angola
Tel: +244 923 65 36 95
Email: sanazenge@hotmail.com

Mr Carlos Amaral
Deputy Permanent Representative
Embassy of Angola
Via Druso 39
Rome
Italy
Email: carlosamaral@gmail.com

Mr Manuel Do Nascimento
Trade Representative of Angola
Embassy of Angola
Via Druso 39
Rome
Italy
Email: papalala1952@hotmail.com

Mr Franco Gamboa Cardoso
Multilateral Assistant
Embassy of Angola
Via Druso 39
Rome
Italy
Email: gf@angolitrc.com

Mr Angelo Rafael
Counsellor
Embassy of Angola
Via Druso 41
Rome
Angola
Email: rafaelangelo856@gmail.com

ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA - ANTIGUA-ET-BARBUDA
- ANTIGUA Y BARBUDA
Mrs Dianne Lalla-Rodrigues
Director
Antigua and Barbuda Bureau of Standards
Old Parham Road P O Box 1550
St. John’s
Antigua and Barbuda
Tel: 1 (268) 5624011
Email: dianne.rodrigues@ab.gov.ag

ARGENTINA - ARGENTINE
Ms Gabriela Alejandra Catalani
Director
Cooperación y Negociaciones Bilaterales
Ministerio de Agroindustria
Azopardo 1025. Piso 11. Oficina 1
Buenos Aires
Argentina
Tel: +54 11 4363 6290
Email: gcatal@magyp.gob.ar

AUSTRALIA - AUSTRALIE
Mr Greg Read
First Assistant Secretary, Exports Division
Department of Agriculture and Water Resources
GPO Box 858
Canberra ACT
Australia
Tel: +61 2 6272 3594
Email: greg.read@agriculture.gov.au

Ms Ann Backhouse
Director Codex International Standards
Department of Agriculture and Water Resources
GPO Box 858
Canberra ACT
Australia
Tel: +61 2 6272 5692
Email: ann.backhouse@agriculture.gov.au

AUSTRIA - AUTRICHE
Mrs Bettina Brandtner
Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management
Stubenring 1
Vienna
Austria
Tel: +43 1 71100-606713
Email: bettina.brandtner@bmlfuw.gv.at

Mrs Lisa-Maria Urban
Executive Officer
Federal Ministry of Health
Vienna
Austria
Tel: +43 1 71100 644793
Email: lisa-maria.urban@bmvg.gv.at

Mr Karl Schober
Animal Products
Ministry Agriculture Forestry Environment and Water Management
Stubenring 1
Vienna
Austria
Tel: 0043 1 71100 602844
Email: karl.schober@bmifuw.gv.at
**BAHAMAS**

Ms Rachel Williams  
Senior Microbiologist  
Marine Resources  
Ministry of Agriculture  
PO Box 3028  
Nassau  
Bahamas  
Tel: 242 361 3985  
Email: rachelwilliams@bahamas.gov.bs

**BARBADOS - BARBADE**

Mrs Anthea Ishmael  
Director (Ag)  
Barbados National Standards Institution  
Flodden, Culloden Road St. Michael  
Barbados  
Tel: (246) 426 3870  
Email: aishmael@bnsi.com.bb

**BELGIUM - BELGIQUE - BÉLGICA**

Mr Carl Berthot  
General Advisor  
Food, Feed and Other Consumption Products  
FPS Public Health, Food Chain Safety and Environment  
Eurostation - Place Victor Horta, 40 boîte 10  
Brussels  
Belgium  
Tel: +3225247369  
Email: codex.be@health.belgium.be

Mr Johan Hallaert  
Directeur Politique Alimentaire  
Politique Alimentaire  
FEVIA - Fédération de l’industrie alimentaire  
Avenue des Arts 43  
Bruxelles  
Belgium  
Tel: +3225501760  
Email: jh@fevia.be

Mr Leslie Lambregts  
Directeur International Zaken  
DG Controlebeleid  
Federal Agency for the Safety of the Food Chain  
Kruidtuinlaan, 55  
Brussels  
Belgium  
Tel: +3222118622  
Email: leslie.lambregts@favv.be

Mr Luc Ogiers  
Director  
General directorate international economy  
FPS Economy, SME  
Rue du Progrès, 50  
Bruxelles  
Belgium  
Tel: +3222777481  
Email: luc.ogiers@economie.fgov.be

**BELIZE - BELICE**

Dr Miguel Figueroa  
Director  
Food Safety Services  
Belize Agricultural Health Authority  
Saint Joseph and Saint Thomas Streets  
Belize  
Tel: +1 (501) 224-4794  
Email: miguel.figueroa@baha.org.bz

**BENIN - BÉNIN**

Dr Gbemenou Joselin Benoit Gnonlonfin  
Food Safety and Nutrition Specialist  
Benin  
Email: bgnonlonfin74@gmail.com

**BOLIVIA (PLURINATIONAL STATE OF) – BOLIVIE (ETAT PLURINATIONAL DE) – BOLIVIA (ESTADO PLURINACIONAL DE)**

Ing Yamil Alejandro Mattos Villarroel  
Jefe Nacional de Inocuidad Alimentaria  
SENASAG  
Trinidad  
Bolivia (Plurinational State of)  
Tel: (591)34623778  
Email: ale_matt13@hotmail.com

**BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA - BOSNIE-HERZÉGOVINE - BOSNIA Y HERZEGOVINA**

Dr Dzemil Hajric  
Director  
Food Safety Agency  
Kneza Viseslava bb  
Mostar  
Bosnia and Herzegovina  
Tel: +38736336950  
Email: hajric@fsa.gov.ba

**BOTSWANA**

Ms Malebogo Ralefala  
Senior Research Scientist  
Food Microbiology and Biotechnology  
National Food Technology Research Centre  
Private Bag 008 1840 Mpuutsane Industrial Area  
Lobatse Road Kanye  
Botswana  
Tel: 00267 544 5540  
Email: Malebogo@naftec.org

**BRAZIL - BRÉSIL - BRASIL**

Ms Gianina Müller Pozzebon  
Alternate Permanent Representative of Brazil to FAO, WFP and IFAD  
Permanent Representation of Brazil to the United Nations Rome-based Agencies for Food and Agriculture  
Via Santa Maria dell’ Anima, 32 00186 Rome - Italy  
Tel: +39 06 68307576/06 6789353  
Email: gianina.pozzebon@itamaraty.gov.br
Mr Carlos Amorim  
Director of External Relations  
Associação Brasileira de Normas Técnicas (ABNT)  
Rua Minas Gerais, 190  
São Paulo  
Brazil  
Tel: +55 (11) 3017-3618  
Email: csamorim@abnt.org.br

Ms Thalita Lima  
General Manager of the Food Office  
Brazilian Health Regulatory Agency - ANVISA  
SIA Trecho 5, Área Especial 57, Bloco D, 2º andar  
Brasilia - DF  
Brazil  
Tel: + 55 61 3462-6514  
Email: thalita.lima@anvisa.gov.br

Mr Rogério Pereira Da Silva  
Coordinator for Codex Alimentarius Matters  
Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Food Supply  
Esplanada dos Ministérios, Bloco "D", Edifício Sede, 3º andar, sala 349,  
BRASILIA  
Brazil  
Tel: +55 61 3218-2416  
Email: rogerio.silva@agricultura.gov.br

Ms Bianca Zimon  
Health Regulation Expert  
Brazilian Health Regulatory Agency - ANVISA  
SIA Trecho 5, Área Especial 57, Bloco D, 2º andar  
Brasília  
Brazil  
Tel: +55 (61) 3462 6894  
Email: bianca.zimon@anvisa.gov.br

BURKINA FASO  
Ms Alice Sidibe Anago  
Permanente Representative  
Embassy of Burkina Faso  
Email: g_anago@yahoo.fr

BURUNDI  
Mr Jean Bosco Ndinduruvugo  
Premier Conseiller  
Embassade de Burundi  
Via Enrico Acini 63  
Rome  
Burundi  
Tel: 0636381687  
Email: ambabu.roma@yahoo.fr

CAMEROON - CAMEROUN - CAMERÚN  
Mr Charles Booto A Ngon  
Directeur Général de l’ANOR  
Agence des Normes et de la Qualité  
Yaoundé  
Cameroon  
Tel: 00237 222206368  
Email: bootoangon@yahoo.fr

Mr Polycarpe Ateba  
Chef de Division du Développement de la Qualité  
Ministère des Mines, de l’Industrie et du Développement Technologique  
Yaoundé  
Cameroon  
Tel: +237 677 69 72 87  
Email: pateba@ymail.com

Mr Awal Mohamadou  
Chargé d’étude assistant  
Direction Générale  
Agence des Normes et de la Qualité  
Yaoundé  
Cameroon  
Tel: +237 699420780  
Email: moawaln@yahoo.fr

Mr Medi Moungui  
Représentant Permanent adjoint auprès de la FAO  
Ambassade de la République du Cameroun  
Rome  
Italy  
Email: medimoungui@yahoo.fr

Mr Pouedo  
Chargé d'étude, Membre du Comité National du Codex  
Direction de l'Industrie et du Commerce  
Services du Premier Ministre  
Yaoundé  
Cameroon  
Tel: 00237 699897733  
Email: pouedo@yahoo.com

CANADA - CANADÁ  
Dr Richard Arsenault  
Executive Director  
Domestic Food Safety Systems and Meat Hygiene Directorate  
Canadian Food Inspection Agency  
1400 Merivale Road, Tower 1, floor 6  
Ottawa  
Canada  
Tel: 613-773-6156  
Email: richard.arsenault@inspection.gc.ca

Ms Pamela Harrod  
General Counsel  
Dairy Farmers of Canada  
21 Florence Street  
Ottawa, ON  
Canada  
Tel: 613-236-9997  
Email: pamela.harrod@dfc-plc.ca

Ms Nancy Ing  
Regulatory Policy & Risk Management Specialist  
Bureau de Policy, Intergovernmental and International Affairs  
Health Canada  
251 Sir Frederick Banting Driveway (2204C)  
Ottawa  
Canada  
Tel: 613-941-5163  
Email: nancy.ing@hc-sc.gc.ca
Mrs Lyzette Lamondin  
Executive Director  
Food Import Export and Consumer Protection Directorate  
Canadian Food Inspection Agency  
1400 Merivale Rd. Tower2, floor 6, room 350  
Ottawa  
Canada  
Tel: 613-773-6189  
Email: Lyzette.Lamondin@Inspection.gc.ca

Ms Marie-Pierre Parenteau  
Manager  
International, Interagency Intergovernmental Affairs  
Health Canada  
251 Sir Frederick Banting Driveway, AL 2204C  
Ottawa  
Canada  
Tel: 613-941-4616  
Email: Marie-Pierre.Parenteau@hc-sc.gc.ca

Ms Anne-Christine Poulin  
Senior Trade Policy Analyst  
Technical Trade Policy Division  
Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada  
1305 Baseline Road Tower 5, Floor 5, Room 343  
Ottawa  
Canada  
Tel: 613-773-3561  
Email: Anne-Christine.Poulin@AGR.GC.CA

Mrs Amélie Vega  
Senior Policy Analyst - Codex  
Canadian Food Inspection Agency  
1400 Merivale Road, T1-5-337  
Ottawa  
Canada  
Tel: 613-773-6018  
Email: amelie.vega@inspection.gc.ca

Mrs Alison Wereley  
Senior Policy Analyst - Codex  
Canadian Food Inspection Agency  
1400 Merivale Road, Tower 2, Floor 6, Room 130  
Ottawa  
Canada  
Tel: 613-773-6450  
Email: Alison.Wereley@Inspection.gc.ca

CHAD - TCHAD

Mr Mamadi N’garkelo Gaourang  
Secrétaire Permanent du CONCILSS  
Ministère de l’Agriculture  
CONACILSS  
Secrétaire permanent du CONACILSS/Ministère de l’Agriculture (Tchad)  
N’Djamena  
Chad  
Tel: 00235 66389898  
Email: gaourang@yahoo.fr

CHILE - CHILI

Dr Michel Leporati Néron  
Secretario Ejecutivo  
Agencia Chilena para la Calidad e Inocuidad Alimentaria, ACHIPIA  
Ministerio de Agricultura  
Nueva York 17, piso 4  
Santiago  
Chile  
Tel: +56 2 27979900  
Email: michel.leporati@achipia.gob.cl

Ms María Alejandra Guerra Ferraz De Andrade  
Consejera, Representante Adjunta de Chile ante FAO  
Embajada de Chile en Italia  
Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores  
Viale Liegi 21, 00198  
Roma  
Italy  
Tel: +39 06 844091  
Email: aguerra@minrel.gob.cl

Ms Ana Cristina Canales Gómez  
Asesor  
Dirección  
Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores  
Teatino 180, piso 11  
Santiago  
Chile  
Tel: +56 2 28275237  
Email: acanales@direcon.gob.cl

Ms Roxana Vera Muñoz  
Coordinadora Unidad de Acuerdos Subdepartamento de Negociaciones División de Asuntos Internacionales  
Servicio Agrícola y Ganadero (SAG)  
Ministerio de Agricultura  
Bulnes 140, piso 5.  
Santiago  
Chile  
Tel: +56 2 23451167  
Email: roxana. vera@sag.gob.cl

Ms Margarita María Vigneaux Roa  
Asesora Asuntos Multilaterales  
Embajada de Chile en Italia  
Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores  
Viale Liegi 21, 00198  
Roma  
Italy  
Tel: +39 06 844091  
Email: mvigneaux@minrel.gob.cl

CHINA - CHINE

Prof Junshi Chen  
Researcher  
China National Center for Food Safety Risk Assessment  
29 Nanwei Road, Xuanwu District  
Beijing  
China  
Tel: +86-10-83132922  
Email: chenjunshi@cfsa.net.cn
Mr Zhiqiang Zhang
Deputy Director-General
Department of Food Safety Standards, Risk
Surveillance and Assessment
National Health and Family Planning Commission, PRC
No.1 South Road Xizhimenwai
Beijing
China
Tel: +86-10-68792613
Email: Zhangzq215@126.com

Mr Linye Cong
Deputy Director
General Administration of Quality Supervision,
Inspection and Quarantine of the P.R. China (AQSIQ)
No. Madian East Rd, Haidian District
Beijing
China
Tel: +86-10-82262425
Email: congly@aqsiq.gov.cn

Mr Guoqiang Gong
Deputy Director
National Health and Family Planning Commission of the
People's Republic of China
No.1, Nan Road, Xizhimenwai, Xicheng District
Beijing
China
Tel: +86-10-68792985
Email: gonggq@nhfpc.gov.cn

Mr Fazhong Jin
Deputy Director-General
Bureau of Quality and Safety Supervision for Agro-
products, Ministry of Agriculture, China
No.11, Nong Zhan Guan Nanli,
Beijing
China
Tel: +86-10-59193156
Email: scszlc@agri.gov.cn

Prof Peiwu Li
Director
Oilcrops Research Institute, Chinese Academy of
Agricultural Science
No.2 Xu Dong 2nd Road
Wuhan
China
Tel: +86-27-86812943
Email: Lipeiwu@caas.cn

Mr Fugen Li
Senior Agronomist
Institute for the Control of Agrochemicals, MOA,
P.R.China
MaiZiDian Street No.22, ChaoYang District
Beijing
China
Tel: +86-10-59194739
Email: lifugen@agri.gov.cn

Mr Le Li
Vice-director
Quality and Standards Research Center, Chinese
Academy of Fishery Sciences
Qingta No.150, Yongding Road South, Fengtai District
Beijing
China
Tel: +86-10-68673928
Email: lili@cafs.ac.cn

Dr Sau King Carole Tam
Head (RAS)
Centre for Food Safety, Food and Environmental
Hygiene Department, HKSAR Government
43/F, Queensway Government Offices, 66 Queensway
HongKong
China
Tel: +852-28675526
Email: csktam@fehd.gov.hk

Ms Jing Tian
Associate Researcher
China National Center for Food Safety Risk
Assessment
Building 2, No.37 Guangqu Road, Chaoyang District
Beijing
China
Tel: +86-10-52165402
Email: tianjing@cfsa.net.cn

Mr Fengzhong Wang
Deputy Director General
Institute of Food Science and Technology, Chinese
Academy of Agricultural Science
No. 1 Nunda South Road, Xibeiwang, Haidian District
Beijing
China
Tel: +86-10-62817417
Email: wangfegnzhong@caas.cn

Mr Qiang Wang
Director of the Institute
Zhejiang Academy of Agricultural Sciences
Sciences, NO.198, Shiqiao Road, Zhejiang
Hangzhou
China
Tel: +86-571-86404356
Email: wq13575733860@126.com

Mr Xuewan Xu
Deputy Division Director
Development Center of Science and Technology, MOA
Nongfengdasha, no.96 Dongsanhuannanlu, Chaoyang
District
Beijing
China
Tel: +86-10-59199375
Email: xuxuewan@126.com
Ms Chung Wan Joan Yau  
Scientific Officer  
Centre for Food Safety, Food and Environmental Hygiene Department, HKSAR Government  
3/F, 4 Hospital Road, Sai Ying Pun, HKSAR HongKong  
China  
Tel: +852-39622067  
Email: jcwau@fehd.gov.hk

COLOMBIA - COLOMBIE

Ing Javier Muñoz Ibarra  
Asesor MinCIT  
Ministerio de Comercio, Industria y Turismo  
Bogota  
Colombia  
Tel: Teléfono: 6067676, ext. 1205  
Email: jmunoz@mincit.gov.co

Ing María Del Pilar Santofimio  
Food Engineer "Official Food Inspection Functionary"  
INVIMA  
Carrera 10 Número 64 - 28  
Colombia  
Email: msantofimios@invima.gov.co

Mr Felipe Steinert  
First Secretary  
Embajada de Colombia  
Via G. Pisanelli 4  
Roma  
Italy  
Email: felipe.steinert@cancilleria.gov.co

COSTA RICA

Ms Isabel Cristina Araya Badilla  
Directora  
Dirección Mejora Regulatoria y Reglamentación Técnica  
Ministerio de Economía, Industria y Comercio  
San José  
Costa Rica  
Tel: (506) 2291-1936  
Email: iaraya@meic.go.cr

Mr Lorenzo Daniele  
Pasante  
Misión Permanente de Costa Rica ante las Agencias de Naciones Unidas con sede en Roma.  
Largo Ecuador 6  
Roma  
Italy  
Tel: (0039) 0680660390  
Email: miscr-fao@rree.go.cr

Mrs Maria Jose Sansalone  
Representante  
Misión Permanente de Costa Rica ante las Agencias de Naciones Unidas con sede en Roma  
Largo Ecuador 6  
Roma  
Italy  
Tel: (0039) 0680660390  
Email: miscr-fao@rree.go.cr

CYPRUS - CHYPRE - CHIPRE

Dr Anna Kouppari  
Chief Agricultural Officer  
Ministry of Agriculture, Rural Development and Environment  
Strovolos  
Cyprus  
Tel: 0035799646858  
Email: akouppari@da.moa.gov.cy
Mr George F. Poulides  
Ambassador, Permanent Representative  
Permanent Representation of the Republic of Cyprus to the UN Agencies in Rome  
Rome  
Italy  
Email: faoprcyp@tin.it

Mr Spyridon Ellinas  
Agricultural Attaché/Alternate Permanent Representative of the Republic of Cyprus to the UN Agencies, Rome  
Permanent Representation to the UN Agencies  
Rome  
Italy  
Email: faoprcyp@tin.it

Dr Dana Triskova  
Head of Food Chain Unit  
Department of Foodstuffs  
Ministry of Agriculture of the Czech Republic  
Tesnov 17  
Prague 1  
Czech Republic  
Tel: +420725772533  
Email: dana.triskova@mze.cz

CÔTE D’IVOIRE  
Mr Anon Bertin  
Directeur des Productions Vivrières et de la Sécurité Alimentaire  
Point de Contact du Codex Alimentarius Côte d’Ivoire  
Abidjan  
Côte d’Ivoire  
Tel: +225 07 68 71 94 / 20 22 24 81  
Email: anonbertin@yahoo.fr

Mr Brou Comoe Marius Rodriguese  
Président du Conseil d’Administration  
Fédération des Associations de Consommateurs Actifs de Côte d’Ivoire (FACACI)  
Abidjan  
Côte d’Ivoire  
Email: micopci@yahoo.fr

Prof Ardjouma Dembele  
Directeur General du Laboratoire National d’Appui au Développement Agricole  
LANADA  
Abidjan  
Côte d’Ivoire  
Email: ardjouma@yahoo.fr

Mr Kouame Kanga  
Permanent Representative  
Embassy of Côte d’Ivoire  
Email: kcom1@yahoo.fr

Mrs Patricia N Goran-theckly  
Directeur Coordonnateur Programme National de Nutrition  
Ministère de la Santé et de l’Hygiène Publique  
Abidjan  
Côte d’Ivoire  
Tel: +225 07794541  
Email: patricianty@yahoo.fr

DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE’S REPUBLIC OF KOREA - REPUBLIQUE POPULAIRE DEMOCRATIQUE DE COREE - REPUBLICA POPULAR DEMOCRÁTICA DE COREA  
Mr Song Chol Rim  
Deputy Permanent Rep. to FAO  
Embassy of Democratic People’s Republic of Korea  
Email: ekodpr@alice.it

Mr Jong Hyok Kim  
Alternate Permanent Representative to FAO  
Embassy of the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea  
Email: ekodpr@alice.it

DENMARK - DANEMARK - DINAMARCA  
Mr Knud Østergaard  
Head of Division  
International Coordination  
Danish Veterinary and Food Administration  
Stationsparken 33  
Glostrup  
Denmark  
Tel: +45 7227 6705  
Email: koe@fvst.dk

Mr Claus Heggum  
Technical Adviser  
Danish Agriculture and Food Council  
Axelborg 3  
Copenhagen V  
Denmark  
Tel: +45 4028 6594  
Email: chg@lf.dk

Mrs Linda Jensen  
Chief Adviser, Food Scientist  
Danish Agriculture and Food Council  
Axeltorv 3  
Copenhagen V  
Denmark  
Tel: +45 33394000  
Email: lmj@lf.dk

Mrs Jytte Kjærgaard  
Head of Section  
International Coordination  
Danish Veterinary and Food Administration  
Stationsparken 33  
Glostrup  
Denmark  
Tel: +45 7227 6705  
Email: jk@fvst.dk
DJIBOUTI
Mrs Ron Osman Omar
Secrétaire Générale
Commerce
Ministère du commerce
Cité Ministérielle
Djibouti
Djibouti
Tel: 00253 21 325 442
Email: ronosman@yahoo.fr

DOMINICA - DOMINIQUE
Mr Ryan Anselm
Plant Protection & Quarantine Officer
Plant Protection & Quarantine Unit
Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries
Botanical Gardens
Roseau
Dominica
Tel: 1 (767) 266 3820
Email: rlanselm@gmail.com

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC - DOMINICAINE, RÉPUBLIQUE - DOMINICANA, REPÚBLICA
Dr Fátima Del Rosario Cabrera T.
Encargada
Departamento de Alimentos en Dirección General de Medicamentos, Alimentos y Productos Sanitarios
Ministerio de Salud Pública y Asistencia Social (MSP)
Ave. H. Homérez esq. Ave. Tiradentes, Ens. La Fe
Santo Domingo, D.N.
Dominican Republic
Tel: +18098562151
Email: codexsespas@yahoo.com

Mr Mario Arvelo
Embajador, Representante Permanente
Misión Permanente Republica Dominicana
Lungotevere dei Sangallo 1
Roma
Italy
Tel: 066875850
Email: marioarvelo@marioarvelo.com

Mrs Diana Infante Quinones
Consejera, Representante Alterna
Mision Permanente Republica Dominicana FAO
Lungotevere dei Sangallo 1
Rome
Italy
Tel: 066875850
Email: dianainfanteq@gmail.com

Mrs Maria Cristina Laureano
Primera Secretaria, Representante Alterna
Mision Permanente Republica Dominicana FAO
Lungotevere dei Sangallo 1
Roma
Italy
Tel: 066875850
Email: marialaureano313@gmail.com

Ms Julia Vicioso
Ministra Consejera, Representante Alterna
Mision Permanente Republica Dominicana
Lungotevere dei Sangallo 1
Roma
Italy
Tel: 066875850
Email: juliaavicioso@gmail.com

ECUADOR - ÉQUATEUR
Ing Rommel Aníbal Betancourt Herrera
Coordinador General de Inocuidad de los Alimentos Agencia Ecuatoriana de Aseguramiento de la Calidad del Agro - AGROCALIDAD
Avenida Eloy Alfaro y Amazonas
Quito
Ecuador
Tel: 593 2 567 232
Email: rommel.betancourt@agrocalidad.gob.ec

EGYPT - ÉGYPTE - EGIPTO
Dr Nermeen El Fadeel
Scientific and Regulatory Affairs Manager, Egypt Region
Scientific
Coca-Cola Company
1 Amin Elrahany St., Nasr City
Cairo
Egypt
Tel: 00222722187
Email: nermeenkhalifa@outlook.com

Ms Zienab Abdelrahman
Food Standards Specialist
Egyptian Organization for Standardization and Quality (EOS)
Nasr City
Cairo
Egypt
Tel: 01069069520
Email: mokhtarmohamed50@yahoo.com

Ing Ahmed El-helw
Food Standards Specialist
Food Standard
Egyptian Organization for Standardization and Quality (EOS)
Nasr City
Cairo
Egypt
Tel: 01224083536
Email: helws_a@hotmail.com
Dr Ahmed Fawzy Ahmed Farag
General Manager of Exports and Imports
7 Al Inshirah Alsagheer-Alagouza
Giza
Egypt
Tel: 01002457929
Email: dr_ahmedfawzy@hotmail.com

Ing Mustafa Kasem
Research and Quality Affairs Manager
Quality Department
Food Industries Company
1 Elswah square-Saray El koba
Cairo
Egypt
Tel: 22845571
Email: mghonamy2002@yahoo.com

EL SALVADOR
Ms Mariana Gómez
Directora
Punto de Contacto Codex-El Salvador
Organismo Salvadoreño de Reglamentación Técnica
1a Calle pte., Final 41 Av. nte. No. 18, Col. Fior Blanca
San Salvador
El Salvador
Tel: (503) 2590-5331
Email: mgomez@osartec.gob.sv

EQUATORIAL GUINEA - GUINÉE ÉQUATORIALE - GUINEA ECUATORIAL
Mr Silvestre Abaga Eyang
Director General de los Servicios Veterinarios y Alimentación
Email: mateonsogo@gmail.com

Mr Mateo Nsogo Nguere Micue
Consejero de la Misión Permanente de Guinea Ecuatorial ante la FAO
Email: mateonsogo@gmail.com

Mrs Cecilia Obono Ndong Nchama
Embajadora y Representante Permanente de Guinea Ecuatorial ante la FAO en Roma
Email: mateonsogo@gmail.com

Mr Salvador Sabas Bolekia
Viceministro de Agricultura
Email: mateonsogo@gmail.com

Mrs Mercedes Seriche Wiabua
Segunda Secretaria de la Misión Permanente de Guinea Ecuatorial ante la FAO
Email: mateonsogo@gmail.com

ESTONIA - ESTONIE
Mrs Katrin Löhmus
Chief specialist
Food Safety Department
Ministry of Rural Affairs
Lai 39/41
Tallinn
Estonia
Tel: +372 6256509
Email: katriin.lohmus@agri.ee

ETHIOPIA - ÉTHIOPIE - ETIOPÍA
Mr Tarekegn Tsegie Haile
Alternate Permanent Representative Ethiopia
Ethiopian Embassy Rome
Email: taretsegie@gmail.com

EUROPEAN UNION - UNION EUROPÉENNE – UNIÓN EUROPEA
Ms Ella Strickland
Head of Unit
Health & Food Safety Directorate-General
European Commission
Rue Froissart 101 - Office 02/060
Brussels
Belgium
Tel: +32 2 299 30 30
Email: ella.strickland@ec.europa.eu

Mr Marco Castellina
Administrator
DG Sante D 2
European Commission
Rue Froissart 101
Brussels
Belgium
Tel: +32 229-87443
Email: marco.castellina@ec.europa.eu

Ms Bernadette Klink-khachan
Assistant - EU Codex Contact Point
DG SANTE D 2
European Commission
Rue Froissart 101 2/50
Brussels
European Union
Tel: 0032 2 295 79 08
Email: bernadette.klink-khachan@ec.europa.eu

Ms Barbara Moretti
Administrator
DG SANTE
European Commission
Rue Froissart 101
Brussels
Belgium
Tel: +32 229-92362
Email: barbara.moretti@ec.europa.eu

Ms Eva Maria Zamora Escribano
Head of Unit
Health & Food Safety Directorate-General
European Commission
Rue Froissart 101 - Office 02/068
Brussels
Belgium
Tel: +32 2 299 86 82
Email: eva-maria.zamora-escribano@ec.europa.eu
FINLAND - FINLANDE - FINLANDIA
Ms Anne Haikonen
Legislative Counsellor
Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry
P.O.Box 30 FI-00023 Government
Helsinki
Finland
Tel: +358-50-3697618
Email: anne.haikonen@mmm.fi
Dr Marjatta Rahkio
Veterinary Counsellor
Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry
P.O.Box 30 FI-00023 Government
Helsinki
Finland
Tel: +358-505690522
Email: marjatta.rahkio@mmm.fi

FRANCE - FRANCIA
Ms Claire Servoz
Adjointe au chef du bureau en charge de la qualité et
de la valorisation des denrées alimentaires
Ministère de l'économie, de l'industrie et du numérique
DGCCRF
59 boulevard Vincent Auriol
PARIS Cedex 13
France
Tel: (0)1 44 97 28 76
Email: claire.servoz@dgccrf.finances.gouv.fr
Prof Michel Thibier
Président CCGP
Ministry of Agriculture
5 Rue Clodion
Paris
France
Tel: + 33 6 98 13 11 36
Email: michel.thibier@outlook.fr
Ms Nathanaëlle Chélélékian
Adjoint au chef de secteur CIAA (Codex)
Comité interministériel de l'agriculture et de
l'alimentation - CIAA
SGAE - Premier ministre
68, rue de Bellechasse
Paris
France
Tel: 0144871287
Email: nathanaelle.chelelekian@sgae.gouv.fr
Ms Louise Dangy
Official Veterinarian
General Directorate for Food
Ministry of Agriculture
251 rue de Vaugirard
Paris
France
Email: louise.dangy@ensv.vetagro-sup.fr

GERMANY - ALLEMAGNE - ALEMANIA
Mr Paul Ney
Head of Division
Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture
Wilhelmstr. 54
Berlin
Germany
Tel: +49 30 18 529 3186
Email: codex.germany@bmel.bund.de
Mr Niklas Schulze Icking
Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture
Wilhelmstr. 54
Berlin
Germany
Tel: +49 30 18 529 3515
Email: niklas.schulze-icking@bmel.bund.de
Dr Christian Busse
Deputy Head of Unit
Federal Ministry for Food and Agriculture
Rochusstr. 1
Bonn
Germany
Tel: +49 228 99529-3270
Email: 432@bmel.bund.de
Ms Marie Dubitsky
Managing Director
Maria Dubitsky Consulting GmbH
Gottfried-Böhm-Ring 67
München
Germany
Tel: +49 89 6804131
Email: marie@dubitsky.de
Ms Angelika Mrohs  
Managing Director  
German Federation for Food Law and Food Science (BLL e.V.)  
Claire-Waldoff-Strasse 7  
Berlin  
Germany  
Tel: +49 30 206 143-133  
Email: amrohs@bll.de

Dr Pia Noble  
Chair of CCNFSDU  
c/o Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture  
Rochusstr. 1  
Bonn  
Germany  
Tel: +49 228 99 529 4459  
Email: CCNFSDU@bmel.bund.de

Dr Jörg Rieke  
Executive Director  
Association of the German Dairy Industry (MIV)  
Jägerstraße 51  
Berlin  
Germany  
Tel: +49 30 4030445-23  
Email: rieke@milchindustrie.de

Dr Alexander Tolkach  
R&D Director  
BMI e.G. (Bavarian Dairy Industrie coop)  
Kloetzlmuelerstr. 140  
Landshut  
Germany  
Tel: +49 871 685 176  
Email: a.tolkach@bmi-eg.com

Ms Marie-luise Trebes  
Head of Division  
Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture  
Rochusstr. 1  
Bonn  
Germany  
Tel: +49 228 99 529 3394  
Email: CCNFSDU@bmel.bund.de

GHANA

Mr Michael Ekow Amoah  
Research Manager  
Ghana Cocoa Board  
P. O. M54  
Accra  
Ghana  
Tel: +233 244 619102  
Email: amoah2002@yahoo.com

Mr William Azalekor  
Deputy Research Manager  
Quality Control Company Ltd (Ghana Cocoa Board)  
P. O. Box M 54  
Accra  
Ghana  
Tel: +233 244 267242  
Email: wewinky2001@yahoo.com

Mr Dawarnoba Baeka  
Chief Director  
Ministry of Trade and Industry  
P. O. Box MB 47  
Accra  
Ghana  
Tel: +233 244 799019  
Email: dbaeka@yahoo.com

Ms Gwendy Miranda Bannerman  
Deputy Director  
Legal Quality Control Company Ltd (Ghana Cocoa Board)  
P. O. Box M54  
Accra  
Ghana  
Tel: +233 202 014464  
Email: gwendybannerman@gmail.com

Mr Mrinal Sen Gupta  
Director  
Ministry of Agriculture  
P. O. Box MB 47  
Accra  
Ghana  
Tel: +233 261 175420  
Email: coxjm@yahoo.com

Ms Netta Gyamfi Mensah  
Principal Research Officer  
Quality Control Company Ltd (COCOBOD)  
P. O. Box M54  
Accra  
Ghana  
Tel: +233 243 464414  
Email: nettamensah26@yahoo.com
Mr Joseph Jorie Mensah-kane Jnr  
Chief Revenue Officer  
Customs Laboratory  
Customs Division Ghana Revenue Authority  
P. O. BOX 68  
Accra  
Ghana  
Tel: +233 208 155148  
Email: jayjayme99@yahoo.com

Mr John Oppong-otoo  
Codex Contact Point Manager  
Standards Division  
Ghana Standards Authority  
P. O. BOX MB 245  
Accra  
Ghana  
Tel: +233 208 185377  
Email: stephenopuni@gmail.com

Mr Thomas Kwame Osei  
Managing Director  
Quality Control Company Ltd (Ghana Cocoa Board)  
P. O. Box M54  
Accra  
Ghana  
Tel: +233 208 117073  
Email: tkosei20@yahoo.com

Mr Nii Quaye-kumah  
Alternate Permanent Representative to the Rome-Based UN Food and Agriculture Organizations  
Embassy of Ghana  
Via Ostriana, 4  
Rome  
Italy  
Tel: +39 06 86219307  
Email: nii.quaye.kumah@gmail.com

Mrs Phyllis Sekyi-djan  
Customs Laboratory HQ  
Ghana Revenue Authority  
P. O. Box 68  
Accra  
Ghana  
Tel: +233 244 321184  
Email: auntieablah@yahoo.co.uk

Mr Amadu Bukari Sorogho  
Board Chairman  
Ghana Standards Authority  
P. O. BOX MB 245  
Accra  
Ghana  
Tel: +233 277 273131  
Email: passpanga@yahoo.com

Mrs Barbara Apefa Wuttor-asem  
Head Legal  
Ghana Standards Authority  
Accra  
Ghana  
Tel: +233 244 238554  
Email: bwutter-asem@gsa.gov.gh

Mr Alexios Marios Lyberopoulos  
Minister Counsellor  
Embassy of Greece - Rome  
Email: lyberopoulos.marios@mfa.gr

Dr Danai Papanastasiou  
Scientific Officer  
Nutrition Policy and Research Directorate  
Hellenic Food Authority  
124, Kifisias Ave & 2, Iatridou str  
Athens  
Greece  
Tel: 00302132145841  
Email: dpapanastasiou@efet.gr

Mr Paul Graham  
Pest Management Officer  
Pest Management Unit  
Ministry of Agriculture  
C/o Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment; Ministerial Complex; Botanical Gardens; Tanteen  
St. George's  
Grenada  
Tel: 1-473-416-2908  
Email: paulgraham1957@gmail.com

Mrs Sylvia Wohlers De Meie  
Representante Permanente Adjunta  
Embajada de Guatemala  
Via Giambattista Vico 20  
Roma  
Guatemala  
Email: swohlers@minex.gob.gt

Mrs Cisse Minte  
Directrice Generale  
Ministere Industrie-Pme et Promotion Secteur Prive  
Institut Guineen de Normalisation et de Metrologie  
Quartier Almamya Rue Ka 003 Bat N°819/ C-Kaloum  
Conakry  
Guinea  
Tel: 00 224 622 57 23 08  
Email: hmciss@gmail.com

Mr Abdoulaye Traore  
Conseiller Economique  
Ambassade Republique de Guinee  
Via Adelaide Ristori 9b/13  
Rome  
Italy  
Email: abdoulayetraore05@yahoo.fr

Mr Injai Julio Malam  
Directeur General de la Securite Alimentaire  
Secretariat d’Etat de la Securite Alimentaire  
Ministere de l’Agriculture et du Developpement Rural  
BP-71- Bissau Palais de Gouvernement  
Bissau  
Guinea-Bissau  
Tel: 00(245)662 11 82 / 542 72 29  
Email: jumaingw@hotmail.com
GUYANA
Mrs Andrea Mendonca
Technical Officer/ Codex Coordinator
Guyana National Bureau of Standards
Flat 15 Sophia Exhibition Complex Sophia
Georgetown
Guyana
Tel: 592-219-0062/65
Email: codexguyana@yahoo.com

HAITI - HAÏTI - HAITÍ
Mrs Haim Corvil Joseph
Director of Safety
Ministerio de Agricultura
Route National 1 Damien
Port au prince
Haiti
Email: haimejoseph@yahoo.es

HONDURAS
Ing Yolandina Lambur Valle
Punto Focal Codex Alimentarius
División de Inocuidad de Alimentos
SENASA SAG
Avenida la FAO, Boulevard Miraflores, Edificio SENASA
Tegucigalpa
Honduras
Tel: 504-2232-6213, 504-9925-1569
Email: honduras.codex2013@hotmail.com

HUNGARY - HONGRIE - HUNGRÍA
Ms Marianna Dömölki
Quality Expert
Department of Food Processing
Ministry of Agriculture
Kossuth tér 11.
Budapest
Hungary
Tel: +36 1 795 3908
Email: marianna.domolki@fm.gov.hu

Ms Dóra Egri
Assistant
Permanent Representation of Hungary to the UN Food and Agriculture Agencies in Rome
Via dei Villini, 16
Rome
Italy
Tel: (+39) 06-4423-1952
Email: hufaorep@gmail.com

INDIA - INDE
Mr Ashish Bahuguna
Chairperson
DELHI
Food Safety and Standards Authority of India
FDA Bhawan, Near Bal Bhawan
New Delhi
India
Tel: 011-23220991
Email: chairperson@fssai.gov.in

Mr Tarun Bajaj
General Manager
Agricultural & Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA)
3rd Floor, NCUI Building, 3, Siri Institutional Area,
August Kranti Marg,
New Delhi
India
Tel: 91-11- 26526186
Email: tarunbajaj@apeda.gov.in

Mr Sunil Bakshi
Advisor Codex
DELHI
Food Safety and Standards Authority of India
FDA Bhawan, Near Bal Bhawan
New Delhi
India
Tel: +91-11-23237439
Email: sbakshi@fssai.gov.in

Ms Padmaparna Dasgupta
Director, Regulatory and Government Affairs
Kelloggs
Tel: 9811306509
Email: parma.dasgupta@kellogg.com

Ms Meetu Kapur
Executive Director
Confederation of Indian Industry
Email: meetu.kapur@cii.in

Mr Perumal Karthikeyan
Assistant Director (Codex and Regulations)
Food Safety and Standards, Authority of India
FDA Bhawan Near Bal Bhavan Kotla Road
New Delhi
India
Tel: 91-11- 23237419
Email: baranip@yahoo.com

INDONESIA - INDONÉSIE
Mr Kukuh Syaefudin Achmad
Deputy Director General for Standard Implementation and Accreditation
Deputy of Standards and Accreditation
National Standardization Agency of Indonesia (BSN)
Gedung I BPPT, Lantai 10 Jl. M.H. Thamrin 8
Jakarta
Indonesia
Tel: +62-21-3927422
Email: kukuhs@bsn.go.id
Mrs Refina Christine  
Head of Section for Intellectual Property Right  
Trade, Industry, Investment and IPR's Directorate  
Indonesia Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
Jl. Taman Pejambon No. 6  
Jakarta  
Indonesia  
Tel: +6221 3812133  
Email: crefina@gmail.com

Prof Purwiyatno Hariyadi  
Indonesia National Codex Committee  
Department of Food Science & Technology  
Bogor Agricultural University  
IPB Campus, Darmaga  
Bogor  
Indonesia  
Tel: +62 251 8629903  
Email: phariyadi@ipb.ac.id

Ms Lia Sugihartini  
Head of Section for Conformity Assessment  
Directorate of Fishery Product Quality and Diversification  
Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries  
Mina Bahari 3 Building, 13th Floor, Jl. Medan Merdeka Timur No. 16 Central Jakarta  
JAKARTA  
Indonesia  
Tel: +62213500187  
Email: liaduta@yahoo.com.au

Mrs Artati Widiarti  
Director of Fishery Product Quality and Diversification  
Directorate of Fishery Product Quality and Diversification  
Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries  
Mina Bahari 3 Building, 13th Floor, Jl. Medan Merdeka Timur No. 16 Central Jakarta  
JAKARTA  
Indonesia  
Tel: +62213500187  
Email: artati.widiart77@gmail.com

Prof Florentinus Winarno  
Indonesia National Codex Committee  
MBRIO BIOTEKINDO  
Mbrio Food Laboratory Pulai Armein  
Bogor  
Indonesia  
Tel: +62251 8332403  
Email: fgwinar@gmail.com

Mr Tinus Zainal  
Second Secretary  
Embassy of Indonesia  
Via Campania 55  
Rome  
Italy  
Tel: 3248034332  
Email: tinus.zainal@kemlu.go.id

IRAN (ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF) -  
IRAN (REPUBLIQUE ISLAMIQUE D') -  
IRÁN (REPÚBLICA ISLÁMICA DEL)

Mrs Nayereh Sadat Pirouzbakht  
President  
Institute of Standards & Industrial Research of Iran (ISIRI)  
P.O. BOX 14155-6139  
Tehran  
Iran (Islamic Republic of)  
Tel: 982188879473-4  
Email: codex_office@inso.gov.ir

Dr Majid Dehghan Shoar  
Ambassador, Permanent Representative to FAO  
Permanent Representation of the Islamic Republic of Iran to FAO  
Via Aventina 8  
Rome  
Italy  
Tel: 0039- 065780334  
Email: secretary1@iranrepfao.org

Mr Shahin Ghorashizadeh  
Alternate, Permanent Representative to FAO  
Permanent Representation of the Islamic Republic of Iran to FAO  
Via Aventina 8  
Rome  
Italy  
Tel: 0039- 065780334  
Email: secretary1@iranrepfao.org

Ms Mahbon Hirbod  
Member of Committee  
Institute of Standards  
Teheran  
Iran (Islamic Republic of)  
Tel: 00982188654059  
Email: CODEX_OFFICE@INSO.GOV.IR

Ms Keyvandokht Pirmohammadi  
ISIRI head of Int'l Relations Office  
Institute of Standards  
Teheran  
Iran (Islamic Republic of)  
Email: keyvandokht1@yahoo.com

Mrs MasoumehSadat Pirouzbakht  
Member of Committee  
Institute of Standards  
Teheran  
Iran (Islamic Republic of)  
Tel: 00982188654059  
Email: codex_office@inso.gov.ir

Mr Mohammad Shojaaddini  
Director  
Ministry of Agriculture  
Teheran  
Iran (Islamic Republic of)  
Tel: 00982188654059  
Email: codex_office@inso.gov.ir
Dr Mohammad Hossein Shojaee Aliabadi  
Senior Scientific Adviser Institute of Standard & Director  
and Laboratory Manager Faroogh Life Sciences  
Research Laboratory  
Institute of Standard & Industrial Research of IRAN  
No: 96; Parcham Street Tohid Square  
Teheran  
Iran (Islamic Republic of)  
Tel: +0989121591766  
Email: farooghlab@gmail.com

Mrs Leila Zinatbakhsh  
Secretary, N.C.C. of IRAN, Head of Codex standards  
cooperation group  
Codex Secretariat of Iran  
Institute of Standards & Industrial Research of IRAN (ISIRI)  
P.O.box 14155-6139  
Tehran  
Iran (Islamic Republic of)  
Tel: 00982188654059  
Email: codex_office@insu.gov.ir

IRELAND - IRLANDE - IRLANDA

Mr Richard Howell  
Senior Inspector  
Research & Codex Division  
Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine  
6E Agriculture House Kildare Street Dublin 2  
Dublin  
Ireland  
Tel: +353 1 6072572  
Email: richard.howell@agriculture.gov.ie

Dr Pamela Byrne  
CEO  
Food Safety Authority of Ireland  
Abbey Court Lower Abbey Street  
Dublin  
Ireland  
Tel: +353 1 8171315  
Email: pambyrne@fsai.ie

ITALY - ITALIE - ITALIA

Mr Ciro Impagnatiello  
Codex Contact Point  
Department of the European Union and International  
Policies and of the Rural Development  
Ministry of Agricultural Food and Forestry Policies  
Via XX Settembre, 20  
Rome  
Italy  
Tel: +39 06 46654058  
Email: c.impagnatiello@politicheagricole.it

Mr Giulio Cardini  
Department of the European Union and International  
Policies and of the Rural Development  
Ministry of Agricultural Food and Forestry Policies  
Via XX Settembre, 20  
Rome  
Italy  
Tel: 0646655143  
Email: g.cardini@politicheagricole.it

Mrs Silvia Nicoli  
Department of the European Union and International  
Policies and of the Rural Development  
Ministry of Agricultural Food and Forestry Policies  
Via XX Settembre, 20  
Rome  
Italy  
Tel: 0646654130  
Email: s.nicoli@politicheagricole.it

Dr Stefano Angotzi  
Uff. 3° - Dirigente delle professionalità sanitarie -  
Medico  
Segretariato generale  
Ministero della Salute  
Viale Giorgio Ribotta, 5  
Roma  
Italy  
Tel: +390659943710  
Email: s.angotzi@sanita.it

Dr Pier Giuseppe Facelli  
Direttore Ufficio 3° - Prevvenzione sanitaria, ricerca,  
affari internazionali, comunicazione, alimenti,  
veterinaria e organi collegiali  
Segretariato generale  
Ministero della Salute  
Viale Giorgio Ribotta, 5  
Roma  
Italy  
Tel: +390659946613  
Email: pg.facelli@sanita.it

Dr Alessandra Di Sandro  
Direttore Ufficio 8° - Sistema di allerta, emergenze  
alimentari e pianificazione dei controlli  
Direzione Generale per l’igiene e la Sicurezza degli  
Alimenti e la Nutrizione  
Ministero della Salute  
Viale Giorgio Ribotta, 5  
Roma  
Italy  
Tel: +3959946796  
Email: a.disandro@sanita.it

Dr Pietro Noe’  
Direttore dell’Ufficio 8° - Igiene degli alimenti ed  
esportazione  
Direzione Generale per l’igiene e la Sicurezza degli  
Alimenti e la Nutrizione  
Ministero della Salute  
Viale Giorgio Ribotta, 5  
Roma  
Italy  
Tel: +390659946890  
Email: p noe@sanita.it

Dr Simone Magnino  
Dirigente - Veterinario  
Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale della Lombardia e  
dell’Emilia Romagna “Bruno Ubertini”  
Strada Campelli, 59  
Pavia  
Italy  
Tel: +39 0382 422006 / 526529  
Email: simone.magnino@izsler.it
JAMAICA - JAMAÏQUE
Dr Linnette Peters  
Policy & Program Director  
Veterinary Public Health  
Ministry of Health  
14-16 Grenada Way RKA Building  
Jamaica  
Tel: 876-317-7872  
Email: lmpeters2010@hotmail.com

JAPAN - JAPON - JAPÓN
Dr Ai Koba(sato)  
Director  
Office of International Food Safety  
Department of Environmental Health and Food Safety  
Pharmaceutical Safety and Environmental Health B  
Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare  
1-2-2, Kasumigaseki, Chiyoda-ku  
Tokyo  
Japan  
Tel: +81-3-3595-2326  
Email: codexj@mhlw.go.jp

JORDAN - JORDANIE - JORDANIA
Dr Haydar Alzaben  
Director General  
Jordan Standards and Metrology Organization  
Dabouq area, #50 Khair Al-Din Al-Ma ani St.  
Amman  
Jordan  
Tel: +96265301231  
Email: haydar.zeben@jsmo.gov.jo

KAZAKHSTAN - KAZAJSTÁN
Mr Matishev Aliakpar  
Chairman  
Committee for Consumer Protection of Ministry of National Economy of the Republic of Kazakhstan  
Orynbor Street, 8. 10th Entrance  
Astana  
Kazakhstan  
Tel: +7 (7172) 74 17 08  
Email: vramazanov@gmail.com

---

JAPAN - JAPON - JAPÓN
Mr Yusuke Shimizu  
Associate Director  
Food Safety Policy Division  
Food Safety and Consumer Affairs Bureau  
Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries  
1-2-1, Kasumigakdeki, Chiyoda-ku  
Tokyo  
Japan  
Tel: +81-3-3502-8732  
Email: yusuke_shimizu450@maff.go.jp

JORDAN - JORDANIE - JORDANIA
Ing Fiesal R.s. Al Argan  
Permanent Representative of Jordan to UN agencies based in Rome  
Embassy of Jordan  
Via Giuseppe Marchi 1/p  
Rome  
Italy  
Email: embroma@jordanembassy.it

KAZAKHSTAN - KAZAJSTÁN
Ms Rula Madanat  
Director of Accreditation and Standardization Systems  
Jordan Standards and Metrology Organization  
Dabouq area, #50 Khair Al-Din Al-Ma ani St.  
Amman  
Jordan  
Tel: +96265301238  
Email: rula.madanat@jsmo.gov.jo

---

JAMAICA - JAMAÏQUE
Dr Hiroshi Yoshikura  
Adviser  
Department of Environmental Health and Food Safety  
Pharmaceutical Safety and Environmental Health B  
Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare  
1-2-2, Kasumigaseki, Chiyoda-ku  
Tokyo  
Japan  
Tel: +81-3-3595-2326  
Email: codexj@mhlw.go.jp

JORDAN - JORDANIE - JORDANIA
Mr Yusuke Shimizu  
Associate Director  
Food Safety Policy Division  
Food Safety and Consumer Affairs Bureau  
Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries  
1-2-1, Kasumigakdeki, Chiyoda-ku  
Tokyo  
Japan  
Tel: +81-3-3502-8732  
Email: yusuke_shimizu450@maff.go.jp

KAZAKHSTAN - KAZAJSTÁN
Ms Imanbayeva Dinara  
Chief Expert  
Office of Veterinary Inspection and Risk Analysis of the Spread of Diseases  
Committee of Veterinary Control and Supervision, Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Kazakhstan  
Kenessary street, 36  
Astana  
Kazakhstan  
Tel: +7 (7172) 555 432  
Email: imanbayeva.d@minagri.gov.kz
KENYA

Mr Charles Ongwae Ogega
Managing Director
Standard Development for Kenya
Kenya Bureau of Standards
P.O. Box 54974 00200 Popo Road off Mombasa
Nairobi
Kenya
Tel: +254 20 6948000
Email: ongwae@kebs.org

Mrs Alice Okelo Akoth Onyango
FAO/WHO CCAFRICA Coordinator Contact Point
FAO/WHO CCAFRICA Contact Point
Kenya Bureau of Standards
P.O. Box 54974
Nairobi
Kenya
Tel: +254 722268 225/+254206948303
Email: akothe@kebs.org

Mr Njoronge Eddy
Director
ABCON LTD
Nairobi
Kenya
Tel: +254721277777
Email: eddy@njoroge.com

Mr Charles Gachahi
Director
Standard Division
Kenya Bureau of Standards
Nairobi
Kenya
Tel: +254 20 6948000
Email: gachahic@kebs.org

Dr Moses Gathura Gichia
Deputy Director of Veterinary Services
Directorate of Veterinary Services
P.O. Private Bag Kangemi
Nairobi
Kenya
Tel: +254 722439224
Email: ochodoc@yahoo.com

Mr Magara Mkenye
Head of Directorate
Horticultural Crops Department Authority
BOX 42601
Nairobi
Kenya
Tel: +254-020-2131560
Email: zmmagarah@yahoo.com

Mr Fabian S. Muya
Alternate Permanent Representative
Embassy of Kenya
Email: fabiansmuya@gmail.com

Dr Kabwit Nguz
SMAP-Secretariat-Technical Assistant
Directorate of Veterinary Services
Private Bag 00625, Kangemi
Nairobi
Kenya
Tel: +254-706233247
Email: a-nguz@aesasmap.eu

Dr Charles Ochodo
Head of Veterinary Public Health and Animal
VETERINARY SERVICES
Directorate of Veterinary Services
Private Bag Kangemi
Nairobi
Kenya
Tel: +254 722439224
Email: ochodoc@yahoo.com

Mr Ombajo Peter Simon Opiyo
Chief Executive Officer
Pest Control Board of Kenya
Pest Control Board
Box Number 13794
Nairobi
Kenya
Tel: +254 722767647
Email: peteopiyo@yahoo.com

KUWAIT - KOWEIT

Mr Al Bazzaz Salahuddin
Technical Advisor
Representation of the State of Kuwait
Via della Ponte di Fauno 26
Roma
Kuwait
Tel: 065754598
Email: kuwait_fao@tiscali.it

LATVIA - LETTONIE - LETONIA

Mrs Dace Ugare
Deputy Director
Veterinary and Food Department
Ministry of Agriculture
Republikas square 2
Riga
Latvia
Tel: +371 29903889
Email: dace.ugare@zm.gov.lv
LEBANON - LIBAN - LÍBANO

Ing Lena Dargham
Director General
The Lebanese Standards Institution - LIBNOR
Sin El-Fil, City Rama Street, LIBNOR bldg
Beirut
Lebanon
Tel: +9611485927
Email: libnor@libnor.org

Ing Mariam Eid
Head of Agro-Industries Department
Ministry of Agriculture
Bir Hassan - Beirut - Ministry of Agriculture Building
Beirut
Lebanon
Tel: +9611824100
Email: meid@agriculture.gov.lb

LESOTHO

Mrs Mofalali Mable Malimabe
First Secretary/Alternate
Permanent Rep of Lesotho to UN Agencies
Embassy of the Kingdom of Lesotho
Via Serchio
Rome
Italy
Tel: + 39 06 8542496-19
Email: dsqa.gov@gmail.com

LIBERIA - LIBÉRIA

Dr Mohammed S. Sheriff
Permanent Representative of Liberia
Piazzale Medaglie d'Oro 7
Rome
Italy
Tel: 0635453399
Email: liberiaembassyrome1@gmail.com

Mr A. Haruna-rashid Kromah
Secretary
Permanent Representation of Liberia
Piazzale Medaglie d'Oro 7
Rome
Italy
Tel: 0635453399
Email: liberiaembassyrome1@gmail.com

Ms Paola Tripodo
Secretary
Permanent Representation of Liberia
Piazzale Medaglie d'Oro 7
Rome
Italy
Tel: 0635453399
Email: liberiaembassyrome1@gmail.com

LITHUANIA - LITUANIE - LITUANIA

Ms Loreta Malciene
Chief Specialist
Department for European Union and International Affairs
Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Lithuania
Gedimino av. 19
Vilnius
Lithuania
Tel: +370 5 2391116
Email: loreta.malciene@zum.lt

LUXEMBOURG - LUXEMBURGO

Mr Michel Grethen
Représentant permanent adjoint auprès des Organisations internationales à Rome
Ministry of Health/Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Ambasciata del Lussemburgo a Roma
Via Santa Croce in Gerusalemme, 90
Rome
Luxembourg
Tel: (+39) 06 7720 1178
Email: michel.grethen@mae.etat.lu

MADAGASCAR

Mr Suzelin Ratoharijaona
Representant Permanente Adjoint
Ambassade de Madagascar
Via Riccardo Zandonai 84
Rome
Italy
Email: r_suzelin@yahoo.fr

MALAYSIA - MALAISIE - MALASIA

Ms Shamsinar Abdul Talib
Director of Planning, Policy Development and Codex Standard
Food Safety and Quality Division
Ministry of Health Malaysia
Level 4, Menara Prisma, No. 26, Jalan Persiaran Perdana, Precinct 3
Putrajaya
Malaysia
Tel: +603-8885 0787
Email: shamsinar@moh.gov.my

Ms Zailina Abdul Majid
Principal Assistant Director
Food Safety and Quality Division
Ministry of Health Malaysia
Level 4, Menara Prisma, No. 26, Jalan Persiaran Perdana, Precinct 3
Putrajaya
Malaysia
Tel: +603-8885 0786
Email: zailina.am@moh.gov.my
Mr Mohamad Nazrain Nordin
Alternate Permanent Representative of Malaysia to FAO
Embassy of Malaysia
Via Nomentana 297
Rome
Italy
Tel: +390684115764
Email: aaa.rome@ambasciatamalaysia.it

Mrs Azulita Salim
Alternate Permanent Representative of Malaysia to FAO
Embassy of Malaysia
Via Nomentana 297
Rome
Italy
Tel: +390684115764
Email: aa.rome@ambasciatamalaysia.it

Dr Kanga Rani Selvaduray
Head of Nutrition Unit
Product Development and Advisory Services Division
Malaysian Palm Oil Board
No 6, Persiaran Institusi, Bandar Baru Bangi
Kajang, Selangor
Malaysia
Tel: +603-87694216
Email: krani@mpob.gov.my

Mali - Malí
Prof Boubacar Sidiki Cisse
Président du Comité National du Codex
Ministère de la Santé et de l’Hygiène Publique
Agence Nationale de la Sécurité Sanitaire des Aliments
Centre Commercial Rue 305 Quartier du Fleuve
Bamako
Mali
Tel: 223 20220754/ +223 66751815
Email: scodexmail@yahoo.fr

Mr Mahmoud Abdoul Camara
Chargé du Service Central de Liaison du Codex pour le Mali
Ministère de la Santé et de l’Hygiène Publique
Agence Nationale de la Sécurité Sanitaire des Aliments
Centre Commercial, Rue 305 Quartier du Fleuve
Bamako
Mali
Tel: +223 20 22 07 54 , +223 663245
Email: camara27@hotmail.com

Mr Mamadou Sogodogo
Second Counsellor
Embassy of Mali
Email: m.sogodogo@diplomatie.ml

Malta - Malte
Mr John Attard Kingswell
Environmental Health Service Manager
Superintendent of Public Health
Ministry of Health
Floor 1, Outpatients Dept, St. Lukes Hospital
Pieta
Malta
Tel: 356 25953316
Email: john.attard-kingswell@gov.mt

Prof Everaldo Attard
Expert
Food Safety Commission
Ministry of Health
c/o Food Safety Commission Continental Business
Centre Old Railway Track
Sta Venera
Malta
Tel: 356 2340 2321/2
Email: everaldo.attard@um.edu.mt

Ms Ann Marie Borg
Senior Policy Officer
Permanent Representation of Malta to the EU
Rue Archimède 25
Brussels
Belgium
Tel: +32478198469
Email: ann-marie.borg@gov.mt

MEXICO - MEXIQUE - MÉXICO
Mr Alberto Ulises Esteban Marina
Director General
Dirección General de Normas
Secretaría de Economía
Av. Puente de Tecamachalco 6 Col. Lomas de Tecamachalco
Naucalpan de Juárez
Mexico
Tel: +52 55 52296100 Ext. 43201
Email: alberto.esteban@economia.gob.mx

Ms Bertha Iliana Giner Chávez
Consultora de Asuntos Regulatorios y Corporativos
Investigación y Desarrollo Enriqueciendo la Vida
ELANCO
Tel: +52 871 193 5249
Email: giner_bertha@elanco.com

Mr Daniel González Sesmas
Email: daniel.gonzalezs@economia.gob.mx

Mr Benito Santiago Jiménez Sauma
Representante Alterno
Embajada de Mexico
Via Lazzaro Spallanzani
Rome
Italy
Email: bjmenez@emexitalia.it

Mrs Angélica Carmina Martínez Méndez
Coordinadora de la Comisión de Normalización
Cámara Nacional de Industriales de la Leche, CANILEC
Mario Pani No. 400, Col. Santa Fé Cuajimalpa,
Distrito Federal
Mexico
Tel: 525552712100
Email: AngelicaKarmina.MARTINEZ@danone.com
Appendix I

Ing Alfonso Moncada Jiménez
Presidente de la Comisión de Normalización
Dirección General de Normalización Agroalimentaria
Cámara Nacional de Industriales de la Leche,
CANILEC
Av. División del Norte No. 1419, Col. Santa Cruz
Atotyac,
Distrito Federal
Mexico
Tel: +(52) (55) 5271-2100
Email: amoji@prodigy.net.mx

Mr Álvaro Israel Perez Vega
Comisionado de Operación Sanitaria
Secretaría de Salud
Comisión Federal para la Protección contra Riesgos Sanitarios
Oklahoma no. 14, Colonia Nápoles, Delegación Benito Juárez C.P. 03810
Ciudad de México
Mexico
Tel: +(5255) 5080 5200
Email: aiperez@cofepris.gob.mx

Ms Pamela Suárez Brito
Directora Ejecutiva de Programas Especiales
Dirección Ejecutiva de Operación Internacional
Comisión Federal para la Protección contra Riesgos Sanitarios (COFEPRIS)
Oklahoma #14, Col. Nápoles
Distrito Federal
Mexico
Tel: 525550805389
Email: psuarez@cofepris.gob.mx

Mr Aldo Heladio Verver Y Vargas Duarte
Director General Adjunto
Comisión Federal para la Protección Contrar Riesgos Sanitarios
Oklahoma 14, Col. Nápoles, Delegación Benito Juárez Distrito Federal
Mexico
Tel: +52 55 50805200
Email: aververyvargas@cofepris.gob.mx

MONTENEGRO

Mr Aleksandar Drljevic
The First Counselor
Embassy of Montenegro Rome
Via delle Quattro Fontane 29
Roma
Italy
Tel: + 39 327 195 10 16
Email: aleksandar.drljevic@mfa.gov.me

MOZAMBIQUE

Mrs Maria Manuela Dos Santos Lucas
Ambassador
Embassy of Mozambique
Email: maria.manuelalucas09@gmail.com

Mr Mohammed Bachaouch
Secrétaire Général
Association Marocaine des Boissons COBOMI
Technopole Aéroport Mohamed V, zone industrielle
Nouaccer
Casablanca
Morocco
Tel: +212 522 435107
Email: mbachaouch@mena.ko.com

Mrs Sara El Habti
Alternate
Embassy of Morocco
via Brenta, 12
Rome
Italy
Email: elhabti.sara@gmail.com

Mr Mostafa Khalfa
Chef de section Café et Epices
Laboratoire Officiel d'Analyses et de Recherches Chimiques
25, rue Nichakra
Casablanca
Morocco
Tel: 00212608848589
Email: khilfasarc@gmail.com

Mr Mostafa Nahi
Deputy Permanent Representative
Embassy of Morocco
Email: nahidbel@gmail.com

Mr Rachid Tadili
Chef du Département des Etudes et Prospection
Ministère de l'Agriculture et de la Pêche Maritime
Etablissement Autonome de Contrôle et de Coordination des Exportations
72, Angle Boulevard Mohamed Smiha et rue Mohamed El Baâmrani
Casablanca
Morocco
Tel: +212 618532309
Email: tadili@eacce.org.ma

MOZAMBIQUE

Mrs Maria Manuela Dos Santos Lucas
Ambassador
Embassy of Mozambique
Email: maria.manuelalucas09@gmail.com
Mr Melquisedec Muapala  
Assistant to the Ambassador  
Embassy of Mozambique  
Via Filippo Corridoni 14  
Rome  
Italy  
Tel: 0637514675  
Email: comercial@ambasciatamozambico.it

Ms Ana Mariza Ribeiro  
Codex Alimentarius  
Mozambique Embassy Rome  
Email: anaribeiro28@yahoo.it

Netherlands - Pays-Bas - Países Bajos

Mr Martijn Weijtens  
Chair CCEURO  
Plant Agri Chains and Food Quality Department  
Ministry of Economic Affairs  
P.O. Box 20401  
The Hague  
Netherlands  
Tel: +31 70 3798950  
Email: info@codexalimentarius.nl

Ms Marie-Ange Delen  
Coordinator Codex Alimentarius Netherlands  
Ministry of Economic Affairs  
PO Box 20401  
The Hague  
Netherlands  
Tel: +31 6 4615 2167  
Email: m.a.delen@minez.nl

Mr Robert Dautzenberg  
Policy Officer - Member of the Dutch delegation  
DGB2B  
General Secretariat of the Council of the European Union  
Rue de la Loi/Wetstraat 175  
Brussels  
Belgium  
Email: robert.dautzenberg@consilium.europa.eu

Ms Rosa Peran I Sala  
Senior Advisor  
Department of International Affairs  
Ministry of Health, Welfare and Sport  
PO Box 20350  
The Hague  
Netherlands  
Tel: +31 6 46 00 00 09  
Email: rm.peransala@minvws.nl

Ms Heleen Van Rootselaar  
Policy Officer  
Plant Supply Chain and Food Quality Department  
Ministry of Economic Affairs  
PO Box 20401  
The Hague  
Netherlands  
Tel: +31 70 378 5042  
Email: h.vanrootselaar@minez.nl

Ms Tanja Akesson  
Codex Contact Point  
Ministry of Economic Affairs  
PO Box 20401  
The Hague  
Netherlands  
Tel: +31 6 2724 9788  
Email: t.z.j.akesson@minez.nl

New Zealand - Nouvelle-Zélande - Nueva Zelanda

Mr Raj Rajasekar  
Senior Programme Manager  
Codex Coordinator and Contact Point for New Zealand  
25 The terrace  
Wellington  
New Zealand  
Tel: +64 4 8942576  
Email: raj.rajasekar@mpi.govt.nz

Mr Steve Hathaway  
Director Food Science & Risk Assessment  
Regulation & Assurance  
Ministry for Primary Industries  
25 The Terrace  
Wellington  
New Zealand  
Email: steve.hathaway@mpi.govt.nz
NICARAGUA
Ms Miriam Carolina Canda Toledo
Punto de Contacto del Codex
Dirección de Normalización y Metrología
Ministerio de Fomento, Industria y Comercio
Km 6, carretera a Masaya
Managua
Nicaragua
Tel: +505 2489300
Email: codex@mific.gob.ni

Mr Junior Escobar Fonseca
Representante Alterno Ante los Organismos Internacionales en Roma
Embajada de la República de Nicaragua en Italia
Via Ruffini 2/A
Rome
Italy
Email: embanianitalia@gmail.com

Dr Mónica Robelo Raffone
Embajadora de le República de Nicaragua en Italia
Representante Permanente ante los Organismos Internacionales en Roma
Via Ruffini 2/A
Rome
Italy
Email: embanianitalia@gmail.com

NIGERIA - NIGÉRIA
Dr Paul Tavershima Angya
Ag. Director General/Chief Executive
Standards Organisation of Nigeria
52 Lome Crescent Wuse, Zone 7
Abuja
Nigeria
Email: pangy2002@yahoo.com

Dr Yaya Olaitan Olaniran
Nigeria Permanent Representative to UN/FAO
Nigeria Permanent Representation to FAO
Via Cassiodoro 2C
ROME
Italy
Tel: +39066875803
Email: nigeriapermrep@email.com

Mrs Margaret Efiong Eshiett
Head, Codex Contact Point (Nigeria)
Standards Organisation of Nigeria
Plot 13/14 Victoria Arobieke Street, Off Admiralty Way, Lekki Peninsula- Lekki Phase 1
Lagos
Nigeria
Tel: +2348023179774
Email: megesciett@yahoo.com

Mrs Oluwatoyin Motunrayo Jegede
Principal Science Officer
Health and Biomedical Science Dept.
Federal Ministry of Science and Technology
Maitama
Abuja
Nigeria
Tel: +23481091930624
Email: linktovyenyn@yahoo.com

Mr Ibrahim Yahaya
Standards Officer
Codex Contact Point, Nigeria
Standards Organisation of Nigeria
52, Lome Crescent, Wuse, Zone 7
Abuja
Nigeria
Tel: +2347052694865
Email: libro736@yahoo.com

NORWAY - NORVÈGE - NORUEGA
Mrs Vigdis S. Veum Moellersen
Senior Advisor
Head Office
Norwegian Food Safety Authority
Felles Postmottak P.O.Box 383
Brumunddal
Norway
Tel: +47 22779104
Email: visvm@mattilsynet.no

Mr Knut Berdal
Specialist Director
Department of Food Policy
Ministry of Agriculture and Food
Oslo
Norway
Tel: +47 22249202
Email: knut.berdal@lmd.dep.no

Mr Bjørn Røthe Knudtsen
Regional Director
Regional Office of Trondelag-More and Romsdal
Norwegian Food Safety Authority
P.O Box 383
Brumunddal
Norway
Tel: +4790158524
Email: bjrk@mattilsynet.no

PAKISTAN - PAKISTÁN
Mr Alamgir Ahmad Khan
Joint Secretary
Ministry of National Food Security and Research
Tel: 0092-51-9208376
Email: mafk22@yahoo.com
PANAMA - PANAMÁ

Dr Yuri Huerta Vásquez
Administrador General
Autoridad de Protección al Consumidor y Defensa de la Competencia (ACODECO)
Vía Ricardo J. Alfaro, Edificio Sun Tower, Piso 2
Panama
Tel: (507) 522-0025
Email: yhuerta@aupsa.gob.pa

Ms María De Los Angeles Escalona
Jefa de Registro de Alimentos
Registro de Alimentos
Autoridad de Protección al Consumidor y Defensa de la Competencia
Vía Ricardo J. Alfaro, Edificio Sun Tower, Piso 2
Panama
Tel: (507) 522-0061
Email: mescalona@aupsa.gob.pa

Ms Edilma López
Jefa del Departamento de Metrología
Metrología
Vía Fernandez de Córdoba, Plaza Cordoba
Plaza Córdoba
Panama
Tel: (507) 5101373
Email: elopec@acodeco.gob.pa

Mr Meredith Itzel Perez Quinzada
Autoridad Panamena de Seguridad de Alimentos
Email: mpezr@aupsa.gob.pa

PARAGUAY

Mr Octavio Ferreira
Director de Organismos Económicos Multilaterales
Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores
Palma y 15 de Agosto.
Asunción
Paraguay
Tel: 595 21 414 8800
Email: oferreira@mre.gov.py

Ms Ana Maria Viedma Ayala
Jefa de Departamento
Dpto. Negociaciones América Latina
Servicio Nacional de Calidad y Salud Animal - SENACSA
Calle Ciencias Veterinarias 265
San Lorenzo
Paraguay
Tel: (+595 21) 505 727
Email: roccovedma@gmail.com

PERU - PÉROU - PERÚ

Mrs Mónica Patricia Saavedra Chumbe
Presidenta del Comité Nacional del Codex Alimentarius
Directora General
Ministerio de Salud - Dirección General de Salud Ambiental e Inocuidad Alimentaria
Lima
Peru
Tel: 0511-4402333
Email: msaavedra@digesa.minsa.gob.pe

PHILIPPINES - FILIPINAS

Ms Amparo C. Ampil
Division Chief
Department of Agriculture
Food, Agriculture and Fisheries Policy Division
3rd flr. Office of the Undersecretary for Policy and Planning, Department of Agriculture,
Elliptical Rd., Diliman
Quezon City
Philippines
Tel: +6329267439
Email: acascolan@yahoo.com

Mr Adrian Bernie C. Candolada
Deputy Permanent Representative
Department of Foreign Affairs
Permanent Representation of the Republic of the Philippines
Viale delle Medaglie d’Oro 112-114
Rome
Italy
Tel: (+39) 06-39746621
Email: romepe2007@gmail.com
Mr Alberto R Cariso Jr
Assistant Director
NFA-FDC
Department of Agriculture
Food Development Center, FTI Corner DBP AVE., FTI Complex (Arca South)
Quezon City
Philippines
Tel: 6328384715
Email: arcariojr@gmail.com

Ms Candy S. Cypres
Third Secretary
Department of Foreign Affairs
Permanent Representation of the Republic of the Philippines
Viale delle Medaglie d’Oro 112-114
Rome
Italy
Tel: (+39) 06-39746621
Email: romepe2007@gmail.com

Mr Lupiño J. Lazaro, Jr.
Agriculture Attaché
Department of Agriculture
Office of the Agriculture Attaché
Viale delle Medaglie d’Oro 112-114
Rome
Italy
Tel: (+39) 06-39746621
Email: romepe2007@gmail.com

Ms Perlita M. Palicpic
Senior Research Specialist
NFA- Food Development Center
Department of Agriculture
Food Development Center FTI Ave, Taguig, Metro Manila
Taguig
Philippines
Tel: 6328384715
Email: pearlmpic@gmail.com

Ms Ma. Celia M. Raquepo
Division Chief III
Philippine Coconut Authority
Research and Development Branch
No. 6 Gremville Subdivision Tandang Sora
Quezon City
Philippines
Tel: (632) 928-45-01
Email: ma.celiamr@yahoo.com

Mr Marion L. Reyes
Attaché
Department of Foreign Affairs
Permanent Representation of the Republic of the Philippines
Viale delle Medaglie d’Oro 112-114
Rome
Italy
Tel: (+39) 06-39746621
Email: romepe2007@gmail.com

POLAND - POLOGNE - POLONIA
Ms Marzena Chacinska
Head
International Cooperation Department
Agricultural and Food Quality Inspection
30, Wspolna Str.
Warsaw
Poland
Tel: +48226232902
Email: mchacinska@ijhars.gov.pl

Ms Magdalena Kowalska
Main expert
International Cooperation Department
Agricultural and Food Quality Inspection
30, Wspolna Str.
Warsaw
Poland
Tel: +48226232904
Email: mkowalska@ijhars.gov.pl

REPUBLIC OF KOREA - RÉPUBLIQUE DE CORÉE - REPÚBLICA DE COREA
Mr Jung Bae Park
Director General
Agro-Livestock and Fishery Products Safety Bureau
Ministry of Food and Drug Safety
187, Osongsaengmyeong 2-ro, Osong-eup, Heungdeok-gu, Cheongju-si, Chungbuk
Republic of Korea
Tel: 82-43-719-3201
Email: mtb002@korea.kr

Mr Haeng Soo Cheon
Assistant Director
International Cooperation Bureau
Ministry of Agriculture, Food And Rural Affairs
94, Dasom 2-ro Sejong-si
Republic of Korea
Email: jsan506@korea.kr

Ms Jooheyh Jang
Researcher
Food Policy Coordination Division
Ministry of Food and Drug Safety
187, Osongsaengmyeong 2-ro, Osong-eup, Heungdeok-gu, Cheongju-si, Chungbuk
Republic of Korea
Tel: 82-43-719-2023
Email: jangj@korea.kr

Dr In Sun Joo
Senior Scientific Officer
Food Microbiology Division
National Institute of Food and Drug Safety Evaluation
187, Osongsaengmyeong 2-ro, Osong-eup, Heungdeok-gu, Cheongju-si, Chungbuk
Republic of Korea
Tel: 82-43-719-4302
Email: jis901@korea.kr
Mr Dae Jin Kang  
Director  
Bureau of Food Integrity  
Ministry of Food and Drug Safety  
187, Osongsaengmyeong 2-ro, Osong-eup,  
Heungdeok-gu, Cheongju-si, Chungbuk  
Republic of Korea  
Tel: 82-43-719-1903  
Email: daejin.kang@korea.kr

Dr Heesun Kim  
Senior Scientific Officer  
Hazardous Substances Analysis Division, Seoul  
Regional Office of Food and Drug Safety  
212 Mokdong Joongangro, YangChungu  
Seoul  
Republic of Korea  
Tel: 82-2-2640-1461  
Email: heesun.kim@korea.kr

Ms Gyu Na Park  
Deputy Director  
Agro-Livestock and Fishery Products Policy Division  
Ministry of Food and Drug Safety  
187, Osongsaengmyeong 2-ro, Osong-eup,  
Heungdeok-gu, Cheongju-si, Chungbuk  
Republic of Korea  
Tel: 82-43-719-3220  
Email: gyuna@korea.kr

Dr Jong Seok Park  
Senior Scientific Officer  
Food Standard Division  
Ministry of Food and Drug Safety  
187, Osongsaengmyeong 2-ro, Osong-eup,  
Heungdeok-gu, Cheongju-si, Chungbuk  
Republic of Korea  
Tel: 82-43-719-2415  
Email: johnspak@korea.kr

Ms Da Hye Park  
Assistant Manager  
International Trade Team  
Korean Agency of Education, Promotion and  
Information Service in Food, Agriculture, Forestry and  
Fisheries  
93, Guncheong-ro, Gochiwon-eup  
Sejong-si  
Republic of Korea  
Tel: 82-44-861-8874  
Email: pdhye@epis.or.kr

Mr Woo Sang Sung  
Assistant Director  
National Agricultural Products Quality Management Service  
Ministry of Agriculture, Food And Rural Affairs  
141, Yongjeon-ro, Gimcheon-si, Gyeongsangbuk-do  
Republic of Korea  
Tel: 82-10-9973-3826  
Email: testament@korea.kr

Mr Yaroslav Fedosov  
Head of CRA Rosselhoznadzor  
Moscow  
Russian Federation  
Email: CENTER@CRARF.RU

Dr Oleg Kobiakov  
First Counselor  
Economic Section  
Russian Mission to FAO  
Via Magenta, 19  
Rome  
Italy  
Tel: (+39 06)-902-357-44  
Email: kobiakov@hotmail.com

Mr Ivan G. Konstantinopoljskiy  
Third Secretary  
Permanent Mission of the Russian Federation to FAO  
and other UN Agencies in Rome  
Rome  
Italy  
Email: asitana@mail.ru

Ms Elena Melnichuk  
Vet. Specialist  
CRA Rosselhoznadzok  
Moscow  
Russian Federation  
Email: CENTER@CRARF.RU

ROMANIA - ROUMANIE - RUMANIA  
Mrs Neagu Monica Mariana  
Director  
Division for Food Safety of Non Animal Origin Products  
National Sanitary Veterinary and Food Safety Authority  
Bucharest  
Romania  
Email: neagu.monica@ansvsa.ro

RUSSIAN FEDERATION - FÉDÉRATION DE RUSSIE  
- FEDERACIÓN DE RUSIA  
Dr Irina Bragina  
The Deputy Head of Rospotrebnadzor  
Federal Service for Surveillance on Consumer Rights  
Protection and Human Well-being (Rospotrebnadzor)  
18/5 and 7, Vadkovskiy per.  
Moscow  
Tel: +7 499 973 26 44  
Email: Bragina_iv@gsen.ru

Mr Nikolay Balan  
Head of division  
International Cooperation Division  
Federal Service for Surveillance on Consumer Rights  
Protection and Human Well-being  
18/20, Vadkovskiy pereulok  
Moscow  
Russian Federation  
Tel: +7 499 973 3012  
Email: balan_ng@gsen.ru

Mrs Olga Barannikova  
General Director  
Consumer Market Participants Union  
1-y Schipkovsky per., 20, 403a  
Moscow  
Russian Federation  
Email: olga.barannikova@np-supr.ru

Mr Yaroslav Fedosov  
Head of CRA Rosselhoznadzor  
Moscow  
Russian Federation  
Email: CENTER@CRARF.RU
Mrs Zoya Sereda  
Head of the Division  
Department of Health and Sanitary-Epidemiological Well-Being  
Ministry of Health of the Russian Federation  
3, Rakhmaninovsky pereulok  
Moscow  
Russian Federation  
Email: SeredaZS@rosminzdrav.ru  

Dr Victor Tutelian  
Director of the Institute  
Institute of Nutrition  
2/14 Ustinsky proezd  
Moscow  
Russian Federation  
Email: tutelyan@ion.ru  

Mrs Tatiana Zavistyeva  
Deputy Director of the Department  
Department of Science and International Cooperation  
Federal Service for Surveillance on Consumer Rights Protection and Human Well-being  
18/20, Vadkovskiy pereulok  
Moscow  
Russian Federation  
Email: Zavistyaeva ty@gsen.ru  

SAINT KITTS AND NEVIS - SAINT-KITTS-ET-NEVIS - SAINT KITTS Y NEVIS  
Mr Jermine Mike  
Chemist/ Standards Officer  
Bureau of Standards  
St. Kitts and Nevis Bureau of Standards  
La Guerite  
Basseterre  
Saint Kitts and Nevis  
Tel: 8694655279  
Email: jerminemike@gmail.com  

SAINT LUCIA - SAINTE LUCIE - SANTA LUCÍA  
Ms Tzarmallah Haynes  
Head of Department  
Standards Development  
Saint Lucia Bureau of Standards  
Bisee Industrial Estate  
Castries  
Saint Lucia  
Tel: 17584530049  
Email: T.HAYNES@slbs.org  

SAINT MARINO - SAINT-MARIN  
Mrs Daniela Rotondaro  
Ambassador. Permanent Representative  
Embassy of San Marino  
Roma  
Italy  
Email: asmarino@ambrcm.it  

Mr Marco Ciambotta  
Consultant  
San Marino Embassy  
Via Elobona Duse, n. 35  
Roma  
Italy  
Email: asmarino@ambrcm.it  

Mrs Marina Emiliani  
Embassy of San Marino  
Via Elobona Duse, n. 35  
Roma  
Italy  
Email: m.emiliani@ambrcm.it  

SAUDI ARABIA - ARABIE SAOUDITE - ARABIA SAUDITA  
Mr Abdulaziz Alshuwaish  
Executive Director for Technical Regulations and Standards  
Executive Dept. For Technical Regulations and Standards  
Saudi Food and Drug Authority  
Saudi Arabia, 3292 North Ring Road-Alnafel  
Riyadh  
Saudi Arabia  
Tel: 0096612038222  
Email: CODEX.CP@sfda.gov.sa  

Mr Awaji Abualgith  
Agricultural Specialist  
Ministry of Environment, Water and Agriculture  
65 King Abdulaziz Road  
Riyadh  
Saudi Arabia  
Tel: +966114172000  
Email: CODEX.CP@sfda.gov.sa  

Mr Abdullah Alkhathami  
Agricultural Researcher  
Ministry of Environment, Water and Agriculture  
65 King Abdulaziz Road  
Riyadh  
Saudi Arabia  
Tel: +966114172000  
Email: CODEX.CP@sfda.gov.sa  

Mr Meshal Almotairi  
Standards Dept. Manager  
Executive Dept. for Technical Regulations and Standards – Food Sector  
Saudi Food and Drug Authority  
North Ring Road - Al Nafal Unit (1)  
Riyadh  
Saudi Arabia  
Tel: +966112038222  
Email: Codex.cp@sfda.gov.sa
Dr Ali Alsarar  
Agricultural Services and Prevention Works Supervisor  
Ministry of Environment, Water and Agriculture  
65 King Abdulaziz Road  
Riyadh  
Saudi Arabia  
Tel: +966114172000  
Email: CODEX.CP@sfda.gov.sa

SENEGAL - SÉNÉGAL

Prof Amadou Diouf  
Président du Comité national du Codex alimentarius  
Centre Anti Poison  
Ministère de la Santé et de l'Action sociale  
Hôpital de Fann  
Dakar  
Senegal  
Tel: +221 77 644 98 23  
Email: amdiouf@refer.sn

Mr Diouma Thiaw  
Chef de Bureau  
Ministere de la Pêche et de l'Economie Maritime  
Direction des Industries de Transformation de la Peche  
Aéroport de Dakar  
Dakar  
Senegal  
Tel: 00221 77 659 57 46  
Email: dioumathiaw1@yahoo.fr

Mr Moustapha Kane  
Chef de Division  
Ministère Sante et Action Sociale  
Service National de l'Hygiène  
Terminus TATA 34 Nord Foire Dakar  
Dakar  
Senegal  
Tel: 00221 77 616 42 72  
Email: mkndbkane@yahoo.fr

Mrs Faye Mame Diarra  
Point de Contact National Codex  
Centre AntiPoison/ministère de la Santé  
Comité national du Codex alimentarius  
Hôpital Fann Dakar  
Dakar  
Senegal  
Tel: +221 77 520 09 15  
Email: mamediarrafaye@yahoo.fr

Mr Amadu Jogor Bah  
Deputy Director  
Standards  
Sierra Leone Standards Bureau  
Wahman AbuCompound CTBox 11 Kelsey Road  
Freetown  
Sierra Leone  
Tel: 0023276202010  
Email: codexcontactpoints@gmail.com

SINGAPORE - SINGAPOUR - SINGAPUR

Dr King Tiong, Paul Chiew  
Group Director, Laboratories Group  
Agri-Food & Veterinary Authority of Singapore  
10 Perahu Road  
Singapore  
Email: paul_chiew@ava.gov.sg

Ms Yi Ling Tan  
Senior Manager  
Regulatory Programmes Department, Regulatory Administration Group  
Agri-Food & Veterinary Authority of Singapore  
52, Jurong Gateway Road, #14-01  
Singapore  
Email: tan_yi_ling@ava.gov.sg
SLOVAKIA - SLOVÁQUIE - ESLOVAQUIA
Ms Katarína Janeková
State Officer
Food Safety and Nutrition
Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development
Dobrovičova 12
Bratislava
Slovakia
Tel: +421 2 592 66 654
Email: codex@land.gov.sk

Mr Milan Kovac
State consultant
Food Safety and Nutrition
Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development
Dobrovičova 12
Bratislava
Slovakia
Tel: 00421 910405983
Email: milan.kovac@land.gov.sk

SLOVENIA - SLOVÉNIE - ESLOVENIA
Dr Blaža Nahtigal
Codex Contact Point
Administration for Food Safety, Veterinary Sector and Plant Protection
Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food
Dunajska cesta 22
Ljubljana
Slovenia
Tel: 00 386 1 300 1330
Email: codex.mkgp@gov.si

SOMALIA - SOMALIE
Dr Mohamed Noor
Head of Food and Drugs
Quality Control
Ministry of Health
Puntland State
Garowe
Somalia
Tel: +252907793526
Email: ssomaliacodex@gmail.com

SOUTH AFRICA - AFRIQUE DU SUD - SUDÁFRICA
Dr Boitshoko Ntshabele
Minister Counsellor Agriculture
South African Embassy to Belgium and Mission to the EU
Rue Montoyer 17-19
Brussels
Belgium
Tel: +32 (0)2 285 4419
Email: NtshabeleB@dirco.gov.za

Mrs Meisie Katz
General Manager: Food and Associated Industries
Food and Associated Industries
National Regulator for Compulsory Specifications
PO BOX 36558
Cape Town
South Africa
Tel: +27 21 5263400
Email: Katzmn@nracs.org.za

Dr Moshibudi Priscilla Rampedi
Alternate Permanent Representative of South Africa to the UN Agencies
South African Embassy - Rome
Rome
Italy
Tel: +39 06 85254211
Email: Rampedi@sudafrica.it

SOUTH SUDAN - SOUDAN DU SUD - SUDÁN DEL SUR
Dr David S. Adwok
Codex Focal Point
Veterinary Public Health and Food Safety
Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries Industries
Gudele 2- Mundari Road P.O BOX 126
Juba
South Sudan
Tel: +211 956 439 392
Email: davidojwok@yahoo.com

SPAIN - ESPAGNE - ESPAÑA
Mrs Maria Luisa Aguilar Zambalamberri
Jefe de Servicio
Punto de Contacto Codex España
Agencia Española de Consumo, Seguridad Alimentaria y Nutrición
C/ Alcala, 56
Madrid
Spain
Email: maguilar@msssi.es

SRI LANKA
Mr Dolugala Watte Jinadasa
Minister (Commercial), Deputy Permanent Representative of Sri Lanka to FAO,
Sri Lanka Embassy
Via Adige 2
Rome
Italy
Tel: 0039- 6- 69342017
Email: minister.comslemrome@gmail.com

Mrs Wewala Appuhamilage Udum Positha Perera
Minister Counselor, Alternate Permanent Representative to FAO
Sri Lanka Embassy
Via Adige 2
Rome
Italy
Tel: 0039- 6- 85545560
Email: minister.comslemrome@gmail.com

SUDAN - SOUDAN - SUDÁN
Mrs Abla Malik Osman
Alternate Permanent Representative of Sudan to FAO
Embassy of Sudan
Via Panama 48
Roma
Sudan
Email: permrepsudanembassyrome@yahoo.it
SURINAME
Mrs Soenita Parbhoe
Economist
Planning and Development
Ministry of Agriculture Animal Husbandry and Fisheries
Letitia Vriesde Laaan 8-10
Paramaribo
Suriname
Tel: 597-8521487
Email: rosannasoen@yahoo.com

SWEDEN - SUÈDE - SUECIA
Dr Annica Sohlström
Director General
National Food Agency
Box 622
Uppsala
Sweden
Tel: +46 722349555
Email: annica.sohlstrom@slv.se
Dr Fredrik Alfer
Swedish Deputy Permanent Representative to FAO
Embassy of Sweden, Rome
Piazza Rio de Janeiro 3
Rome
Italy
Tel: +39 3356404603
Email: fredrik.affer@gov.se
Ms Svanhild Foldal
Senior Administrative Officer
Ministry of Enterprise and Innovation
The Swedish Government
Mäster Samuelsgatan 70
Stockholm
Sweden
Tel: +46 72206834 (cell)
Email: svanhild.foldal@gov.se
Mrs Carmina Ionescu
Codex Coordinator
National Food Agency
Box 622
Uppsala
Sweden
Tel: +46 709245601
Email: carmina.ionescu@slv.se

SWITZERLAND - SUISSE - SUIZA
Dr Thomas Jemmi
Ambassador
Deputy Director General
Head International Affairs
Federal Food Safety and Veterinary Office FSVO
Bern
Switzerland
Email: Thomas.Jemmi@blv.admin.ch
Dr Himanshu Gupta
Regulatory & Scientific Affairs
Nestec SA
Avenue Nestlé 55 Post Box
Vevey
Switzerland
Email: Himanshu.Gupta@nestle.com
Mr Martin Mueller
Swiss Codex Contact Point
Scientific Officer
International Affairs
Federal Food Safety and Veterinary Office FSVO
Bern
Switzerland
Email: martin.mueller@blv.admin.ch
Dr Hervé Nordmann
Director
Ajinomoto
Scientific and Regulatory Affairs
Ajinomoto Switzerland AG
Apples
Switzerland
Tel: +41 21 800 37 63
Email: herve.nordmann@asg.ajinomoto.com
Mr François Pythoud
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of Switzerland to FAO, IFAD, WFP
Via Aventina 32
Rome
Italy
Email: francois.pythoud@eda.admin.ch
Mrs Ursula Trüeb
Representative
Swiss Consumer Organizations
Bözioni 1
Magden
Switzerland
Tel: +41 61 841 12 56
Email: ursula.trueb@vtxmail.ch
Mr Paul Zwiker
Representative
Swiss Consumer Organizations
Post Box 45
Bischofszell
Switzerland
Tel: +41 71 420 06 44
Email: zwiker@bluewin.ch

THAILAND - THÂILANDE - TAILANDIA
Mr Pisan Pongsapitch
Deputy Secretary General
National Bureau of Agricultural Commodity and Food Standards
50 Paholyothin Rd., Ladyao, Chatuchak,
Bangkok
Thailand
Tel: +66 2561 3717
Email: pisan@acfs.go.th
Ms Namaporn Attaviroj
Standards Officer
National Bureau of Agricultural Commodity and Food Standards (ACFS)
Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives
50 Phahonyothin Rd., Ladyao, Chatuchak
Bangkok
Thailand
Tel: +66 2 561 2277 ext. 1422
Email: jzanamaporn@gmail.com

Mr Paisarn Dunkum
Deputy Secretary General
Food and Drug Administration
Ministry of Public Health
Mueang Nonthaburi District
Nonthaburi
Thailand
Tel: +6625907006
Email: paisarn@fda.moph.go.th

Dr Panisuan Jamnarawej
Honorary President
Thai Frozen Foods Association
150 Rajbopit Rd., Wat Rajbopit sub-District, Pranakhorn District
Bangkok
Thailand
Tel: +662356622
Email: panisuan@yahoo.com

Ms Malee Jirawongsy
(Acting) Expert in Food Standard
Food and Drug Administration
Ministry of Public Health
Mueang Nonthaburi District
Nonthaburi
Thailand
Tel: +6622355622
Email: panisuan@yahoo.com

Ms Chanakarn Kanchanakun
Trade and Technical Manager of Fruit and Vegetable Products
Thai Food Processors’ Association
170/21-22 9th Floor Ocean Tower 1 Bldg., New Ratchadapisek Road, Klongtoey
Bangkok
Thailand
Tel: 66 2 261 284-6
Email: thaidamasy@fda.moph.go.th

Mr Charoen Kaowsuksai
Vice-Chairman of Food Processing Industry Club
The federation of Thai Industries
Queen Sirikit National Convention Center, Zone C, 4th Floor, 60 New Rachadapisek Rd., Klongtoey
Bangkok
Thailand
Tel: 662-9763088
Email: charoen@cpram.co.th

Mr Visit Limlurcha
President of Thai Food Processors’ Association
Thai Food Processors’ Association
170/21-22 9th Floor Ocean Tower 1 Bldg., Klongtoey
Bangkok
Thailand
Tel: 662-2612684
Email: thaidamasy@fda.moph.go.th

Ms Chaisiri Mahantachaisakul
Senior Expert
National Bureau of Agricultural Commodity and Food Standards
Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives
50 Phaholyothin Rd. Ladyao, Chatuchak
Bangkok
Thailand
Tel: 66-2-5612277
Email: chaisiri@acfs.go.th

Ms Kingduean Somjit
Chief of Inspection Development Unit
Department of Fisheries
Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives
50 Phaholyothin Road., Ladyao Chatuchak
Bangkok
Thailand
Tel: +6625580143
Email: kingduean.s@dof.mail.go.th

Ms Naraya Tangsirisap
Veterinary Officer, Senior Professional Level
Department of Livestock Development
Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives
91 Moo 4, Tiwanond Rd., Muang Patumthani
Thailand
Tel: +6629679700 ext. 2135
Email: ntangsirisap@gmail.com

Prof Kraisid Tontisirin
Senior Advisor
National Bureau of Agricultural Commodity and Food Standards, Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives
50 Phaholyothin Road, Lad Yao, Chatuchak
Bangkok
Thailand
Tel: +66 (2) 561 2277
Email: kraisid.tontisirin@gmail.com

TURKEY - TURQUIE - TURQUÍA

Mr Selman Ayaz
Head of Department
Food Establishments and Codex
Ministry of Food Agriculture and Livestock - General Directorate of Food and Control
Eskişehir Yolu 9. Km Lodumlu
Ankara
Turkey
Tel: +903122587713
Email: selman.ayaz@tarim.gov.tr
Mr Ilhami Sahin  
Head of Division  
Food Establishments and Codex  
Ministry of Food Agriculture and Livestock-General  
Directorate of Food and Control  
Eskisehir yolu 9.Km Lodumlu  
Ankara  
Turkey  
Tel: +903122587757  
Email: ilhami.sahin@tarim.gov.tr

UGANDA - OUGANDA
Dr Jane Ruth Aceng  
Minister of Health  
Plot 6 Lourdell Road, Wandegeya P.O. Box 7272  
Kampala  
Uganda  
Tel: +256 772 664690  
Email: janeaceng@gmail.com

Mr Robert Sabiti  
Alternate Permanent Representative to FAO  
Embassy of the Republic of Uganda  
Viale Giulio Cesare 71, Scala B Int 9A, 9B  
Rome  
Italy  
Tel: +39 063225220/  +39 063207232  
Email: robertsabiti47@gmail.com

Ms Irene Wanyenya  
Deputy Food Desk Coordinator  
Food Desk  
National Drug Authority  
Plot 46-48 Lumumba Avenue P.O. Box 23096  
Kampala  
Uganda  
Tel: +256 712 478333  
Email: iwayeny@nda.or.ug

Dr Sam Zaramba  
Chairman  
National Drug Authority  
Plot 46-48 Lumumba Avenue P.O. Box 23096  
Kampala  
Uganda  
Tel: +256 772 436990  
Email: zarambasam@yahoo.co.uk

UKRAINE - UCRAVIA
Prof Mykola Prodanchuk  
Director  
L.I. Medved's Research Center of Preventive  
Toxicology, Food and Chemical Safety, Ministry of Health  
6, Heroiv Oborony str.  
Kyiv  
Ukraine  
Tel: +380503107826, +380445269700  
Email: ecohyntox@gmail.com

Dr Olga Bobyleva  
Deputy director  
L.I. Medved's Research Center of Preventive  
Toxicology, Food and Chemical Safety, Ministry of Health  
6, Heroiv Oborony str.  
Kyiv  
Ukraine  
Tel: +380952828030, +380442597628  
Email: office@medved.kiev.ua

Dr Nadiia Nedopytanska  
Scientific secretary  
L.I. Medved's Research Center of Preventive  
Toxicology, Food and Chemical Safety, Ministry of Health  
6, Heroiv Oborony str.  
Kyiv  
Ukraine  
Tel: +380952828030, +380442597628  
Email: utox@medved.kiev.ua

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES - ÉMIRATS ARABES UNIS - EMIRATOS ARABES UNIDOS
Ms Khadija Qalandri  
Standards Committees Coordinator  
Standard Department  
Emirates Authority for Standardization and Metrology  
Email: khadija@esma.gov.ae

UNITED KINGDOM - ROYAUME-UNI - REINO UNIDO
Ms Pendi Najran  
Senior Scientific Officer  
Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs  
Area 1A, Nobel House 17, Smith Square  
London  
United Kingdom  
Tel: +44 (0)20 8026 3867  
Email: pendi.najran@defra.gsi.gov.uk

Mr Mike O'Neill  
Head of EU and International Strategy  
Food Standards Agency  
Aviation House 125  
London  
United Kingdom  
Tel: + 44 (0) 20 72768664  
Email: Mike.Onell@foodstandards.gsi.gov.uk

UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA - RÉPUBLIQUE-UNIE DE TANZANIE - REPÚBLICA UNIDA DE TANZANIA
Mrs Agnes Njau Mneney  
Director of Testing, Calibration and Packaging Services  
Directorate of Testing, Calibration and Packaging Services  
Tanzania Bureau of Standards  
P O Box 9524  
Dar-es-Salaam  
United Republic of Tanzania  
Tel: +255 754 562850  
Email: agnes.mneney@fbs.go.tz
Mr Ayoub Jones Mndeme  
Agriculture Attaché  
Embassy of United Republic of Tanzania  
Viale Cortina d’Ampezzo 185  
Roma  
Italy  
Email: info@embassyoftanzaniarome.info

Dr Claude Mosha  
CEO & Chief SPS (Food Feed Safety & Quality) Consultant  
Private  
Nderyingo Food Feed Consulting International (T)  
P.O.Box 24850  
Dar-es-Salaam  
United Republic of Tanzania  
Tel: +255 765 087 187/ 713 324495  
Email: cjmoshar@yahoo.co.uk

Mr Lazaro Henry Msasalaga  
Head of Agriculture and Food Standards Section  
Process Technology Standards  
Tanzania Bureau of Standards  
P.O. Box 9524  
Dar-es-Salaam  
United Republic of Tanzania  
Tel: +255 22 2450206  
Email: codex@tbs.go.tz

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA - ÉTATS-UNIS D’AMÉRIQUE - ESTADOSUNIDOS DE AMÉRICA

Dr Jose Emilio Esteban  
Executive Associate for Laboratory Services  
Food Safety and Inspection Service, Office of Public Health Science  
United States Department of Agriculture  
950 College Station Rd.  
Athens, GA  
United States of America  
Tel: +1 (706) 546-3420  
Email: Emilio_esteban@fsis.usda.gov

Ms Mary Frances Lowe  
Manager, U.S. Codex  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
U.S. Codex Office  
Room 4861 - South Building 1400 Independence Avenue  
Washington, D.C.  
United States of America  
Tel: +1 202 720 2057  
Email: MaryFrances.Lowe@fsis.usda.gov

Mr Kyd Brenner  
Senior Consultant  
DTB Associates LLP  
1700 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW Suite 200  
Washington, D.C.  
United States of America  
Tel: +1202-684-2508  
Email: kdbrenner@dtbassociates.com

Ms Camille Brewer  
Director, International Affairs Staff  
Health and Human Services  
U.S. Food and Drug Administration  
5100 Paint Branch Parkway, HFS-550  
College Park, MD  
United States of America  
Tel: +1 240-402-1723  
Email: Camille.brewer@fda.hhs.gov

Mr Travis Coberly  
Economic/Commercial Officer  
U.S. Department of State  
2201 C Street NW  
Washington, DC  
United States of America  
Tel: +12026473059  
Email: CoberlyT@state.gov

Dr Kevin Greenlees  
Senior Advisor for Science and Policy, Chair, CCRVDF  
Center for Veterinary Medicine, HFV-100  
U.S. Food and Drug Administration  
7500 Standish Place  
Rockville, Maryland  
United States of America  
Tel: +1-240-402-0638  
Email: kevin.greenlees@fda.hhs.gov

Mr Clay Hough  
Senior Group Vice President and General Counsel  
International Dairy Foods Association  
1250 H. St. NW., Suite 900  
Washington, DC  
United States of America  
Tel: +1 (202) 737-4332  
Email: chough@idfa.org

Ms Courtney Knupp  
Deputy Director of International Trade Policy  
Trade Department  
National Pork Producers Council  
122 C Street, NW., Suite 875  
Washington, DC  
United States of America  
Tel: +1-202-347-3600  
Email: knuppc@nppc.org

Mr Kenneth Lowery  
International Issues Analyst  
U.S. Codex Office  
1400 Independence Avenue SW Room 4861-South Building  
Washington DC  
United States of America  
Tel: +1 202 690 4042  
Email: kenneth.lowery@fsis.usda.gov
Ms Cathy Mckinnell  
Director  
International Regulations and Standards Division  
Department of Agriculture  
Foreign Agriculture Services  
1400 Independence Ave., SW  
Washington, DC  
United States of America  
Tel: 202-690-0929  
Email: Cathy.McKinnell@usda.gov

Mrs Barbara Mcniff  
Senior International Issues  
Food Safety and Inspection Service; Office of CODEX  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
1400 Independence Ave; SW  
Washington, DC  
United States of America  
Tel: 202-690-4719  
Email: Barbara.McNiff@fsis.usda.gov

Mr Joel Newman  
President & CEO  
American Feed Industry Association  
2101 Wilson Blvd., Suite 916  
Arlington, VA  
United States of America  
Tel: +1 703-558-3562  
Email: jnewman@afia.org

Dr Kathryn Simmons  
Chief Veterinarian, NCBA  
DC Policy Office  
National Cattlemen’s Beef Association  
1301 Pennsylvania Avenue., NW, Suite 300  
Washington, DC  
United States of America  
Tel: +1-202-879-9131 (work)  
Email: ksimmons@beef.org

Ms Caroline Smith Dewaal  
International Food Safety Policy Manager, International Affairs Staff  
Health and Human Services  
U.S. Food and Drug Administration  
5100 Paint Branch Parkway  
College Park, MD  
United States of America  
Tel: +1(240) 402-1242  
Email: Caroline.DeWaal@fda.hhs.gov

Ms Karen Stuck  
Principal  
KDS Associates  
148 North Carolina Ave.  
Washington, DC  
United States of America  
Tel: +1-202-544-0395  
Email: karenstuck@comcast.net

URUGUAY  
Mr Oscar Piñeyro  
Consejero  
Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores  
Email: negociaciones.organismos@mrree.gub.uy

Ing Pedro Friedrich  
Punto de Contacto Codex para Uruguay  
Departamento de Evaluacion de la Conformidad  
Laboratorio Tecnológico del Uruguay  
Avda Italia 6201  
Montevideo  
Uruguay  
Email: pfriedri@latu.org.uy

Mr Leonardo Veiga  
Director de Defensa Comercial y Salvaguardias  
Ministerio de Industria, Energía y Minería  
Sarindi 620 CP 11000  
Montevideo  
Uruguay  
Tel: 28401234  
Email: leonardo.veiga@dni.miem.gub.uy

VANUATU  
Mr Timothy Tekon Tumukon  
Director  
Department of Biosecurity  
Private Mail Bag 9086  
Port Vila  
Vanuatu  
Tel: (678) 23519 or (678) 33580  
Email: ttumukon@vanuatu.gov.vu

VENEZUELA (BOLIVARIAN REPUBLIC OF) - VENEZUELA (REPÚBLIQUE BOLIVARIENNE DU) - VENEZUELA (REPÚBLICA BOLIVARIANA DE)  
Dr Elias Rafael Eljuri Abraham  
Embajador  
Representación Permanente de la República Bolivariana de Venezuela ante la FAO  
Via G. Antonelli 47  
Rome  
Italy  
Tel: 06 808 1407  
Email: embavenefao@iol.it

Mr Porfirio Pestana De Barros  
Ministro Consejero  
Representación Permanente de la República Bolivariana de Venezuela ante la FAO  
Via G. Antonelli 47  
Rome  
Italy  
Tel: 068081407  
Email: fatorama@embavenefao.org
Mr Luis Gerónimo Reyes Verde  
Primer Secretario  
Representación Permanente de la República Bolivariana de Venezuela ante la FAO  
Via G. Antonelli 47  
Rome  
Italy  
Tel: 068081407  
Email: faoroma@embavenefao.org

VIET NAM

Mrs Nguyen Thi Minh Ha  
Deputy Head  
Vietnam Food Administration  
Ministry of Health - Vietnam Codex Office  
Lane 135 nui truc street, Ba Dinh District  
Hanoi  
Viet Nam  
Tel: 0904214230; 3 8464489 (Ext.307  
Email: codexvn@vfa.gov.vn

Mr Bui Sy Doanh  
Deputy Director  
Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development  
Plant of Protection Department  
149 Ho Dac Di Street  
Hanoi  
Viet Nam  
Email: doanhbvtv@yahoo.com

Mrs Hoang Thanh Ha  
Officer  
Vietnam Food Administration  
Ministry of Health  
135 Lane, Nui Truc Street Ba Dinh District  
Hanoi  
Viet Nam  
Tel: 3 8 464489  
Email: event0707@yahoo.com

Mr Pham Thanh Liem  
Deputy Head  
Standard and Analysis Management Division  
Vietnam Food Administration, Ministry of Health  
135 Lane, Nui Truc Street, Ba Dinh District  
Hanoi  
Viet Nam  
Tel: 3 8 464489 (Ext. 5020)  
Email: phamthanhliem1605@gmail.com

Mrs Ma Thi Xuan Thu  
Head  
Vietnam Food Administration  
Ministry of Health  
135 Nui Truc Street, Ba Dinh District  
Hanoi  
Viet Nam  
Tel: 3 8464489 (Ext. 3020)  
Email: codexvn@vfa.gov.vn

ZAMBIA - ZAMBIE

Mr Mulonda Mate  
Deputy Director Environmental Health and Occupational Health  
Disease Surveillance Control and Research Ministry of Health  
P.O. Box 30205  
Lusaka  
Zambia  
Tel: 260 977411988  
Email: mate_ljsl@yahoo.com

Mr Koyoya Mashuwa  
Alternate Permanent Representative  
Embassy of Zambia  
Email: koyoyamashuwa@googlemail.com

Mr Kayoya Mashuwa  
Alternate Permanent Representative  
Permanent Representative of Zambia  
Email: kayoyamasuhwa@gmail.com

Ms Florence Ngala  
CEHO - FS Health  
PO BOX 30205  
LUSAKA  
Zambia  
Tel: 260 950813354  
Email: ngalaflo@yahoo.co.uk

ZIMBABWE

Mr Godfrey Magwenzi  
Ambassador  
Embassy of Zimbabwe  
Email: godfreycecil@yahoo.co.uk

Ms Placida Shuvai Chivandire  
Alternate Permanent Representative  
Embassy of Zimbabwe  
Email: zimrome-wolt@tiscali.it

Mr Shephard Gwenzi  
Ministry Counsellor  
Embassy of Zimbabwe  
Via Virgilio 8  
Rome  
Italy  
Email: sgwenz@yahoo.com
OBSERVERS
OBSERVATEURS
OBSERVADORES

UNITED NATIONS AND OTHER RELATED ORGANIZATIONS
NATIONS UNIES ET AUTRES ORGANISATIONS APPARENTÉES
NACIONES UNIDAS Y OTRAS ORGANIZACIONES AFINES

INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY (IAEA)
Mr Zhihua Ye
Section Head
Food and Environmental Protection Section
Joint FAO/IAEA Division of Nuclear Techniques in Food
and Agriculture
Department of Nuclear Sciences and Applications
International Atomic Energy Agency
1400 Vienna
Austria
Tel: +43 1 2600-21638
Email: z.ye@iaea.org

INTERNATIONAL GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS
ORGANISATIONS GOUVERNEMENTALES INTERNATIONALES
ORGANIZACIONES GUBERNAMENTALES INTERNACIONALES

AFRICAN UNION (AU)
Prof Ahmed El-sawalhy
Director of AU-IBAR
DREA
African Union
Kenidia Business Park Westlands Road
Nairobi
Kenya
Tel: +254203674212
Email: ahmed.elsawalhy@au-ibar.org
Prof Abdelfattah Mabrouk Amer
Plant Health Officer
DREA - AU-IAPSC
African Union
Intercontinental Phytosanitary Council, IAPSC
Yaoundé
Cameroon
Tel: (237) 77 65 31 38 & (237) 22 2
Email: abdelfattahsalem@ymail.com
Dr Raphael Coly
Coordinator Standards & Trade Secretariat
DREA
African Union
Kenindia Business Park Westlands Road
Nairobi
Kenya
Tel: +254739622183
Email: raphael.coly@au-ibar.org

Dr Jean Gerard Mezui M’ella
Director AU-IAPSC
DREA
African Union
AU-IAPSC Bastos
Yaoundé
Cameroon
Tel: +23722211969
Email: jeangerardmezuimella@gmail.com

INTER-AMERICAN INSTITUTE FOR COOPERATION ON AGRICULTURE (IICA)
Dr Robert Gaynor Ahern
Leader
Agricultural Health and Food Safety
IICA
Vázquez de Coronado
San José
Costa Rica
Tel: 506 2216 0222
Email: robert.ahern@iica.int
Ms Lisa Harrynanan
Agricultural Health & Food Safety Specialist
AHFS
Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture
10 Austin Street
St Augustine
Trinidad and Tobago
Tel: 868 7636513
Email: lisa.harrynanan@iica.int
LEAGUE OF ARAB STATES (LAS)
Mrs Shahira Wahbi
Food Security Focal Point
League of Arab States
Secretary-General League of Arab States El Tahrir Square P.O. Box 11642
Cairo
Egypt
Email: shuhryar@yahoo.com

ORGANISATION MONDIALE DE LA SANTÉ ANIMALE (OIE)
Mrs Monique Eloit
Director General
World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE)
12 rue de Prony
Paris
France
Tel: 33-1 44 15 18 98
Email: m.eloit@oie.int
Dr Gillian Mylrea
Deputy Head
International Trade Department
World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE)
12 rue de Prony
Paris
France
Tel: 00330144151867
Email: g.mylrea@oie.int

ORGANISATION INTERNATIONALE DE METROLOGIE LEGALE (OIML)
Mr Ian Dunmill
Assistant Director
International Organization of Legal Metrology (OIML)
11 rue Turgot
Paris
France
Tel: +33 1 4878 1282
Email: ian.dunmill@oiml.org

ORGANISMO INTERNACIONAL REGIONAL DE SANIDAD AGROPECUARIA (OIRSA)
Mr Figueroa Lauriano
Director Regional de Inocuidad de Alimentos
OIRSA
Calle Ramon Belloso fijal pasaje Isolde Colonia Escalón
San Salvador
El Salvador
Tel: 503 2209 9226
Email: lfigueroa@oirsa.org

Mr Efrain Medina Guerra
Executive Director
International Regional Organization for Plant and Animal Health
Email: emedina@oirsa.org

ORGANISATION INTERNATIONALE DE LA VIGNE ET DU VIN (OIV)
Dr Jean-Claude Ruf
Scientific Coordinator
OIV
18, rue d’Aguesseau
Paris
France
Tel: +33144948094
Email: jruf@oiv.int

WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION (WTO)
Ms Anneke Hamilton
Economic Affairs Officer
Agriculture and Commodities Division
World Trade Organization
Centre William Rappard 154 rue de Lausanne
Geneva
Switzerland
Tel: +41 22 739 6566
Email: anneke.hamilton@wto.org
ASSOCIATION INTERNATIONALE POUR LE
DEVELOPPEMENT DES GOMMES NATURELLES
(AIDGUM)
Mr Olivier Bove
AIDGUM
129 Chemin de Croisset
Rouen
France
Email: o.bove@aidgum.com

ASOCIACIÓN LATINOAMERICANA DE
AVICULTURA (ALA)
Dr J. Isidro Molfese
Observer
Asociación Latinoamericana de Avicultura
Alberti 453 – 12 BL
Mar del Plata
Argentina
Tel: 54 223 451-5915
Email: molfese@ciudad.com.ar

AMERICAN OIL CHEMISTS’ SOCIETY (AOCS)
Dr Elaine Krul
Senior Technical Fellow
DuPont Nutrition & Health
4300 Duncan Avenue
St Louis
United States of America
Tel: +1 314-704-1419
Email: Elaine.Krul@dupont.com

ASSOCIATION OF EUROPEAN COELIAC
SOCIETIES (AOECS)
Mrs Hertha Deutsch
Codex and Regulatory Affairs AOECS
Anton-Baumgartner-Strasse 44/C5/2302
Vienna
Austria
Tel: +43/1 66 71 887
Email: hertha.deutsch@gmx.at

CONSUMERS INTERNATIONAL (CI)
Dr Michael Hansen
Senior Scientist
Consumer Reports, USA
Consumers International
101 Truman Avenue, Yonkers
New York
United States of America
Email: Hansmi@consumer.org

GLOBAL PULSE CONFEDERATION (CICILS)
Mr Gordon Alan Kurbis
Director, Market Access & Trade Policy
Pulse Canada
Winnipeg
Canada
Email: gkurbis@pulsecanada.com

COUNCIL FOR RESPONSIBLE NUTRITION (CRN)
Dr James Griffiths
Vice President
Science & International Affairs CRN
1828 L St., NW Ste. 510
Washington
United States of America
Tel: 202-204-7662
Email: jgriffiths@crnusa.org

Mr Harvey Kamil
President & CFO
CRN - NBTY, Inc.
NBTY, Inc. 2100 Smithtown Avenue
Ronkonkoma
United States of America
Tel: 631-200-2020
Email: hkamil@nbty.com

FEDERATION OF EUROPEAN SPECIALTY FOOD
INGREDIENTS INDUSTRIES (ELC)
Dr Dirk Rainer Cremer
ELC, Federation of European Specialty Food
Ingredients Industries
Email: dirk.cremer@dsm.com

EUROPEAN VEGETABLE PROTEIN FEDERATION
(EUVEPRO)
Mr Huub Scheres
DuPont Nutrition and Health
EUVEPRO
Email: Huub.Scheres@dupont.com

Mr Hugo Yu
DuPont Nutrition and Health
EUVEPRO
Email: Hugo.Yu@dupont.com

FOODDRINKEUROPE
Mr Patrick Fox
Manager
Food Policy, Science and R&D
FoodDrinkEurope
Avenue des Nerviens 9-31
Brussels
Belgium
Email: p.fox@fooddrinkeurope.eu

Mr Stewart Beggs
Global Regulatory Affairs Manager
Beverages
Unilever
Email: Stewart.Beggs@unilever.com
INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATIVE ALLIANCE (ICA)

Mr Kazuo Onitake
Head of Unit
Safety Policy Service
Japanese Consumers' Co-operative Union
CO-OP Plaza, 3-29-8, Shibuya, Shibuya-ku
Tokyo
Japan
Tel: +81 3-5778-8109
Email: kazuo.onitake@jccu.coop

INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF BEVERAGES ASSOCIATIONS (ICBA)

Ms Paivi Julkunen
Chair, ICBA Committee for Codex
International Council of Beverages Associations
1101 16th Street NW
Washington, D.C.
United States of America
Email: pjulkunen@coca-cola.com

Mr Ilton Azevedo
LATAM Advisor
International Council of Beverages Associations
1101 16th Street NW
Washington, D.C.
United States of America
Email: lazevedo@coca-cola.com

INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF GROCERY MANUFACTURERS ASSOCIATIONS (ICGMA)

Mr Richard White
Director, Codex and International Standards Policy
Grocery Manufacturers Association
1350 I Street Suite 300
Washington, DC
United States of America
Email: rwhite@gmaonline.org

Mr Eric Steiner
Elanco
555 12th St NW
Washington
United States of America
Email: eric.steiner@elanco.com

Dr Fabrizis Suarez
Medical Director
Abbott Laboratories
Abbott Nutrition
3300 Stelzer Road D-105685, RP3-2
Columbus, OH
United States of America
Email: fabrizis.suarez@abbott.com

INTERNATIONAL DAIRY FEDERATION (IDF/FIL)

Mr John Allan
Vice President of Regulatory Affairs & International Standards
International Dairy Foods Association
1250 H St. NW, Suite 900
Washington, D.C.
United States of America
Email: jallan@idfa.org

Mr Eric Grande
Regulatory Affairs Director
Groupe LACTALIS
Email: Eric.GRANDE@lactalis.fr

Ms Jennifer Huet
Protect Manager
FIL-IDF FRANCE/CNIEL
IDF/FIL
42 rue de Châteaudun
Paris
France
Tel: +33 1 49 70 71 08
Email: jhuet@cniel.com

Ms Laurence Rycken
Technical Manager
International Dairy Federation
Boulevard Auguste Reyers 70B
Brussels
Belgium
Email: lrycken@fil-idf.org

Dr Nicolaas Van Belzen
Director General
International Dairy Federation
Boulevard Auguste Reyers 70B
Brussels
Belgium
Email: nvanbelzen@fil-idf.org

INTERNATIONAL FEED INDUSTRY FEDERATION (IFIF)

Mrs Alexandra De Athayde
Executive Director
International Feed Industry Federation (IFIF)
P.O. Box 1340
Wiehl
Germany
Tel: +49 170 470 4838
Email: alexandra.athayde@ifif.org
INSTITUTE OF FOOD TECHNOLOGISTS (IFT)
Dr Karen Hulebak
Principal, Resolution Strategy LLC
Institute of Food Technologists
Resolution Strategy, LLC 6822 Poindexter Road
Louisa, VA 23093
Louisa
United States of America
Tel: 1(540)967-5663
Email: karen.hulebak@gmail.com
Dr Janet Collins
Institute of Food Technologists
CropLife America 1156 15th St., N.W. Suite 400
Washington, DC
United States of America
Email: jcollins@croplifeamerica.org

INTERNATIONAL FRUIT AND VEGETABLE JUICE ASSOCIATION (IFU)
Mr John Collins
Executive Director
IFU (International Fruit and Vegetable Juice Association)
57 Royal Sands
Weston-Super-Mare
United Kingdom
Tel: +447850910989
Email: john@ifu-fruitjuice.com

INTERNATIONAL MEAT SECRETARIAT (IMS)
Dr Juan José Grigera Naón
Member of the Board
International Meat Secretariat
Vicente López 2272
Buenos Aires
Argentina
Email: grigeran@agro.uba.ar

INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION OF THE FLAVOR INDUSTRY (IOFI)
Dr Thierry Cachet
Regulatory & Advocacy Director
International Organization of the Flavour Industry
Avenue des Arts 6
Brussels
Belgium
Tel: +3222142052
Email: tcachet@iofi.org

INTERNATIONAL PROBIOTICS ASSOCIATION (IPA)
Mr Shinji Hashimoto
International Probiotics Association
Email: Shinji-hashimoto@yakult.co.jp
Mrs Yuki Morita
International Probiotics Association
Email: ymorita2003@yahoo.com

Mr David Pineda Ereno
International Probiotics Association
Email: dpinedaer@gmail.com

Mr Sanae Ueno
International Probiotics Association
Email: s-ueno@yakult.co.jp

THE INTERNATIONAL POULTRY COUNCIL (IPC)
Mr Richard Fritz
International Poultry Council
United States of America
Email: rfritz@globalagritrends.com

INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR STANDARDIZATION (ISO)
Mrs Sandrine Espeillac
Secretary of ISO/TC 34
Chemin de Blandonnet 8
Vernier, Geneva
Switzerland
Tel: +33 1 41 62 86 02
Email: sandrine.espeillac@afnor.org

Mr Paul Mennecier
Chair for ISO/TC 34
ISO
Email: paul.mennecier@agriculture.gouv.fr

INTERNATIONAL FOOD POLICY RESEARCH INSTITUTE
Dr Anne Mackenzie
Head of Standards and Regulatory Issues
HarvestPlus
IFPRI
6442 Aston Rd RR 2 Manotick ON K4M 1B3
Canada
Tel: +1-613-692-0211
Email: a.mackenzie@cgiar.org

NATIONAL HEALTH FEDERATION (NHF)
Mr Scott Tips
National Health Federation
PO Box 688
Monrovia
United States of America
Tel: 16263572181
Email: scott@rivieramail.com

Mr David Noakes
National Health Federation
PO Box 688
Monrovia
United States of America
Tel: +1 626 357 2181
Email: dn@help.vg

OENOLOGICAL PRODUCTS AND PRACTICES INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION (OENOPPIA)
Mrs Elisabetta Romeo-Vareille
OENOPPIA
21-23, rue Croulebarbe
PARIS
France
Tel: +33143378804
Email: e.romeo@uiv.it
UNITED STATES PHARMACOPEIAL CONVENTION (USP)
Dr Henry Chin
Chair
Expert Panel on Food Adulteration
US Pharmacopeia
12601 Twinbrook Parkway
Rockville, MD
United States of America
Email: hbochin48@gmail.com

WORLD SUGAR RESEARCH ORGANIZATION (WSRO)
Dr Roberta Re
Director General
World Sugar Research Organisation
Milton Hall Ely Road Milton
Cambridge
United Kingdom
Tel: 01223 928060
Email: rree@wsro.org

YOGURT AND LIVE FERMENTED MILKS INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION (YLFA)
Dr Bart Degeest
Ave d’Auderghem 22-28
B- 1040 Brussels
Belgium
Email: badegees@vub.ac.be
Ms Marjon Wolters
Ave d’Auderghem 22-28
B- 1040 Brussels
Belgium
Email: marjon.wolters@gmail.com

HEALTH FOR ANIMALS (HEALTHFORANIMALS)
Dr Alexander Boettner
Exec. Dir. Regulatory Affairs
MSD Animal Health Innovation GmbH
Zur Propstei 55270
Schwabenheim
Germany
Tel: +49 (6130) 948 190
Email: alexander.boettner@msd.de

Mr Carel Du Marchie Sarvaas
Executive Director
168 Avenue de Tervueren
Brussels
Belgium
Tel: +32-2-541 0112
Email: carel@healthforanimals.org

Dr Olivier Espeisse
Directeur Général - Vétérinaire Responsable
Elanco Sante Animale
IFAH
13, rue Pagès
Suresnes Cedex
France
Tel: +33 1 55 49 35 35
Email: espeisse_olivier@lilly.com

Ms Laurie Hueneke
Executive Director Global Public Policy
MERCK
Madison
United States of America
Tel: +1 202-441-4452
Email: Laurie.hueneke@merck.com

Mr Sevcik Jesse
HealthforAnimals
555 12th Street NW, Suite 650
Washington, D.C.
United States of America
Email: jsevcik@elanco.com

Dr Ingrid Maciel Pedrote
HealthforAnimals
Ave de Tervueren 168
Brussels
Belgium
Email: ingrid.pedrote@gmail.com
Ms Renata Clarke  
Head Food Safety and Quality Unit  
Agriculture and Consumer Protection Department  
Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN  
Viale delle Terme di Caracalla  
Rome  
Italy  
Tel: +39 06 570 52010  
Email: Renata.Clarke@fao.org

Dr Juan Lubroth  
Chief Veterinary Officer  
Animal Health Service  
Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN  
Viale delle Terme di Caracalla  
Rome  
Italy  
Tel: 0657054184  
Email: Juan.Lubroth@fao.org

Dr Warren Lee  
Senior Nutrition Officer & Group Leader  
Nutrition and Food Systems Division (ESN)  
Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN  
Viale delle Terme di Caracalla  
Rome  
Italy  
Tel: +39 06 570 54077  
Email: warren.lee@fao.org

Mr Markus Lipp  
Senior Food Safety and Quality Officer  
Agriculture and Consumer Protection Department  
Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN  
Viale delle Terme di Caracalla  
Rome  
Italy  
Tel: +39 06 570 53283  
Email: markus.lipp@fao.org

Mrs Fatima Hachem  
Senior Nutrition Officer  
Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN  
11, El Eslah El Zirai St.  
Cairo  
Egypt  
Email: fatima.hachem@fao.org

Dr Eleonora Dupouy  
Food Safety and Consumer Protection Officer  
Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia  
Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN  
Benczur utca 34  
Budapest  
Hungary  
Tel: (+361) 814-1251  
Email: Eleonora.Dupouy@fao.org

Ms Sarah Cahill  
Food Safety Officer  
Agriculture and Consumer Protection Department  
Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN  
Viale delle Terme di Caracalla  
Rome  
Italy  
Tel: +39 06 570 54593  
Email: sarah.cahill@fao.org

Ms Mary Kenny  
Food Safety Officer  
Agriculture and Consumer Protection Department  
Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN  
Viale delle Terme di Caracalla  
Rome  
Italy  
Tel: +39 0657053653  
Email: Mary.Kenny@fao.org

Mr Dirk Schulz  
Food Safety Assessment Officer  
Agriculture and Consumer Protection Department  
Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN  
Viale delle Terme di Caracalla  
Rome  
Italy  
Tel: +39 06 57052842  
Email: dirk.schulz@fao.org

Ms Catherine Bessy  
Food Safety Officer  
Agriculture and Consumer Protection Department  
Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN  
Viale delle Terme di Caracalla  
Rome  
Italy  
Tel: +39 06 570 53679  
Email: catherine.bessy@fao.org

Ms Masami Takeuchi  
Food Safety Officer  
Agriculture and Consumer Protection Department  
Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN  
Viale delle Terme di Caracalla  
Rome  
Italy  
Tel: +39 06 570 53076  
Email: Masami.Takeuchi@fao.org

Mr Vittorio Fattori  
Food Safety Officer  
Agriculture and Consumer Protection Department  
Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN  
Viale delle Terme di Caracalla  
Rome  
Italy  
Tel: +39 06 570 54593  
Email: vittorio.fattori@fao.org
Ms Maria Xipsiti
Nutrition Officer
Nutrition and Food Systems Division
Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN
Viale delle Terme di Caracalla
Rome
Italy
Tel: 0657056060
Email: maria.xipsiti@fao.org

Mrs Esther Garrido Gamarro
Food safety and quality officer Products, Trade and Marketing Branch (FIAM)
Fisheries and Aquaculture Policy and Resources Division
The Fisheries and Aquaculture Department
Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN
Viale delle Terme di Caracalla
Rome
Italy
Tel: +39 06 570 56712
Email: Esther.GarridoGamarro@fao.org

Ms Cornelia Boesch
Dr. sc. techn. ETH
Agriculture and Consumer Protection Department
Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN
Viale delle Terme di Caracalla
Rome
Italy
Tel: +39 0657055854
Email: Cornelia.Boesch@fao.org

Mr Mehad Omer
Consultant
Agriculture and Consumer Protection Department
Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN
Viale delle Terme di Caracalla
Rome
Italy
Tel: +39 06 57053308
Email: MehadYusuf.Omer@fao.org

LEGAL COUNSEL
CONSEILLER JURIDIQUE
ASESOR JURÍDICO

Mr Ilja BETLEM
Legal Officer
Legal Office
Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)
Viale delle Terme di Caracalla
00153 Rome
ITALY
Tel: +39 06 570 52778
Email: ilja.betlem@fao.org
WHO PERSONNEL
PERSONNEL DE L'OMS
PERSONAL DE LA OMS

Dr Raymond Bruce Aylward
Executive Director a.i.
Outbreaks and Health Emergencies
World Health Organization (WHO)
20, avenue Appia
Geneva 27
Switzerland
Tel: +41 22 791 4419
Email: aylwardb@who.int

Dr Kazuaki Miyagishima
Director
Department of Food Safety and Zoonoses
World Health Organization (WHO)
20, avenue Appia
Geneva 27
Switzerland
Tel: +41 22 791 2773
Email: miyagishimak@who.int

Dr Awa Aidara-kane
Coordinator
Department of Foodborne and Zoonotic Diseases
World Health Organization (WHO)
20, avenue Appia
Geneva 27
Switzerland
Tel: +41 22 79 12403
Email: aidarakanea@who.int

Dr Hilde Kruse
Programme Manager Food Safety
WHO Regional Office for Europe
Marmorvej 51
Copenhagen
Denmark
Tel: 4529440506
Email: kruseh@who.int

Mrs Françoise Fontannaz-aujoulat
Technical Officer
Food Safety, Zoonoses and Foodborne Diseases
World Health Organization (WHO)
20, avenue Appia
Geneva 27
Switzerland
Tel: +41 22 791 3697
Email: fontannazf@who.int

Dr Rei Nakagawa
Technical officer
Department of Food Safety and Zoonoses (FOS)
World Health Organization (WHO)
20 Avenue Appia
Geneva 27
Switzerland
Tel: +41 22 791 3640
Email: nakagawar@who.int

Mrs Amy Louise Cawthorne
Epidemiologist
Food Safety, Zoonoses and Foodborne Diseases
World Health Organization (WHO)
20, avenue Appia
Geneva 27
Switzerland
Tel: +41792044121
Email: cawthornea@who.int

Mrs Catherine Mulholland
Administrator, FAO/WHO Codex Trust Fund
Department of Food Safety and Zoonoses (FOS)
World Health Organization
20 Avenue Appia
Geneva 27
Switzerland
Tel: 41 22 791 3080
Email: mulhollandc@who.int

Dr Chizuru Nishida
Coordinator
Nutrition Policy and Scientific Advice
World Health Organization (WHO)
20, avenue Appia
Geneva 27
Switzerland
Tel: +41227913317/+41792493549
Email: nishidac@who.int

Dr Angelika Tritscher
Coordinator
Department of Food Safety and Zoonoses (FOS)
World Health Organization (WHO)
20, Avenue Appia
Geneva
Switzerland
Tel: +41 22 7913569
Email: tritschera@who.int

Ms Andrea Barrios Villarreal
FAO/WHO Consultant
Geneva
Switzerland
Email: abarriossalarreal@gmail.com
Mr Tom Heilandt
Secretary, Codex Alimentarius
Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme
Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN
Viale delle Terme di Caracalla
Rome
Italy
Tel: +39 06 5705 4384
Email: tom.heilandt@fao.org

Ms Annamaria Bruno
Senior Food Standards Officer
Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme
Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN
Viale delle Terme di Caracalla
Rome
Italy
Tel: +39 06570 56254
Email: annamaria.bruno@fao.org

Mr Sebastian Hielm
Senior Food Standards Officer
Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme
Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN
Viale delle Terme di Caracalla
Rome
Italy
Tel: +39 06 5705 4821
Email: sebastian.hielm@fao.org

Ms Gracia Brisco
Food Standards Officer
Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme
Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN
Viale delle Terme di Caracalla
Rome
Italy
Tel: +39 06 5705 52700
Email: gracia.brisco@fao.org

Mrs Verna Carolissen-mackay
Food Standards Officer
Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme
Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN
Viale delle Terme di Caracalla
Rome
Italy
Tel: +39 06 5705 5629
Email: verna.carolissen@fao.org

Mr Patrick Sekitoleko
Food Standards Officer
Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme
Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN
Viale delle Terme di Caracalla
Rome
Italy
Tel: +39 06 5705 6626
Email: patrick.sekitoleko@fao.org

Ms Lingping Zhang
Food Standards Officer
Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme
Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN
Viale delle Terme di Caracalla
Rome
Italy
Tel: +39 06570 53218
Email: lingping.zhang@fao.org

Ms Takako Yano
Food Standards Officer
Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme
Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN
Viale delle Terme di Caracalla
Rome
Italy
Tel: +39 06570 55868
Email: takako.yano@fao.org

Mr Kyoungmo Kang
Food Standards Officer
Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme
Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN
Viale delle Terme di Caracalla
Rome
Italy
Tel: +39 06 5705 4796
Email: kyoungmo.kang@fao.org

Mr David Massey
Special Advisor
Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme
Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN
Viale delle Terme di Caracalla
Rome
Italy
Tel: +39 06 5705 3465
Email: david.massey@fao.org

Mr Roberto Sciotti
Codex Information Management Officer
Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme
Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN
Viale delle Terme di Caracalla
Rome
Italy
Tel: +390657056141
Email: roberto.sciotti@fao.org

Mrs Donatella Mori
IT Business Analyst (Information Systems)
Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme
Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN
Viale delle Terme di Caracalla
Rome
Italy
Tel: +39 06 570 56820
Email: donatella.mori@fao.org
Mrs Anne Beutling  
Associate Professional Officer  
Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme  
Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN  
Viale delle Terme di Caracalla  
Rome  
Italy  
Tel: +39 06 570 53528  
Email: anne.beutling@fao.org

Mrs Jocelyne Farruggia  
Administrative Assistant  
Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme  
Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN  
Viale delle Terme di Caracalla  
Rome  
Italy  
Tel: 0657054601  
Email: jocelyne.farruggia@fao.org

Ms Ilaria Tarquinio  
Administrative Assistant  
Secretariat, Codex Alimentarius Commission  
Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN  
Viale delle Terme di Caracalla 1  
Rome  
Italy  
Tel: +39 06 5705 5425  
Email: ilaria.tarquinio@fao.org

Ms Mercedes Casellas  
Spanish Reviser  
Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme  
Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN  
Viale delle Terme di Caracalla  
Rome  
Italy  
Email: mercedes.casellas@fao.org

Mrs Florence Martin De Martino  
French Reviser  
Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme  
Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN  
Viale delle Terme di Caracalla  
Rome  
Italy  
Email: florence.martin@fao.org

Mr Peter Di Tommaso  
Documents clerk  
Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme  
Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN  
Viale delle Terme di Caracalla  
Rome  
Italy  
Email: peter.ditommaso@fao.org

Mr Giuseppe Di Chiera  
Consultant  
Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme  
Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN  
Viale delle Terma di Caracalla  
Rome  
Italy  
Email: giuseppe.dichiera@fao.org

Mr Mirko Montuori  
Communication and Information Consultant  
Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme  
Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN  
Viale delle Terme di Caracalla  
Rome  
Italy  
Tel: 06-57052533  
Email: mirko.montuori@fao.org
## AMENDMENTS TO THE PROCEDURAL MANUAL

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<td>Amendments to Section 7.4 Estimation of fish content of the Standard for Quick Frozen Fish Sticks (Fish Fingers), Fish Portions and Fish Fillets – Breaded or in Batter (CODEX STAN 166-1989)</td>
<td>REP16/FFP Appendix VII</td>
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<td>Amendment to Section 11 – Processing of salted and dried salted fish of the Code of Practice for Fish and Fishery Products (CAC/RCP 52-2003)</td>
<td>REP16/FFP Appendix VIII</td>
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<td>Guidelines for the Control of Non-typhoidal Salmonella spp. in Beef and Pork Meat</td>
<td>REP16/FH Appendix II</td>
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<td>Guidelines on the Application of General Principles of Food Hygiene to the Control of Foodborne Parasites</td>
<td>REP16/FH Appendix III</td>
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<td><strong>Annex III</strong> “Spices and Dried Aromatic Herbs” to the Code of Hygienic Practice for Low-Moisture Foods (CAC/RCP 75-2015)</td>
<td>REP16/FH Appendix IV</td>
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<td>Additional or Revised Nutrient Reference Values for Labelling Purposes in the Guidelines on Nutrition Labelling (CAC/GL 2-1985)</td>
<td>REP16/NFSDU Appendix II part I</td>
<td>N06-2008</td>
<td>Adopted with exception of Vitamin E (see para. 44)</td>
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<td>Amendment to the Annex of the Guidelines on Nutrition Labelling (CAC/GL 2-1985) to add a definition for RASBs</td>
<td>REP16/NFSDU Appendix II part II</td>
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<td>Amendment to Section 10, Methods of analysis in Standard for Infant Formula and Formulas for Special Medical Purposes Intended for Infants (CODEX STAN 72-1981)</td>
<td>REP16/NFSDU Appendix V Part II</td>
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<td>Principles and Guidelines for the Exchange of Information between Importing and Exporting Countries to support the Trade in Food</td>
<td>REP16/FICS Appendix II</td>
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<td>Revision of the Principles and Guidelines for the Exchange of Information in Food Safety Emergency Situations (CAC/GL 19-1995)</td>
<td>REP16/FICS Appendix IV</td>
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<td>Methods of Analysis and Sampling (CODEX STAN 234-1999)</td>
<td>REP16/MAS Appendix II</td>
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<td>Specifications for the Identity and Purity of Food Additives</td>
<td>REP16/FA, Appendix III, Part A</td>
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<td>Revision of the GSFA food category 01.1 “Milk and Dairy Based Drinks” (renamed “Fluid milk and milk products”) and consequential changes</td>
<td>REP16/FA, Appendix XII</td>
<td>N14-2015</td>
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<td>Amendments to the International Numbering System for Food Additives (CAC/GL 36-1989)</td>
<td>REP16/FA, Appendix XIII</td>
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<td>Revision of Sections 4.1.c and 5.1.c of the General Standard for the Labelling of Food Additives When Sold as Such (CODEX STAN 107-1981)</td>
<td>REP16/FA, Appendix XV</td>
<td>N15-2015</td>
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<td>Revised food additives section of the Standards for Cocoa Butter (CODEX STAN 86-1981), Chocolate and Chocolate Products (CODEX STAN 87-1981), Cocoa (Cacao) Mass (Cocoa/Chocolate Liquor) and Cocoa Cake (CODEX STAN 141-1983) and Cocoa Powders (Cocas) and Dry Mixtures of Cocoa and Sugars (CODEX STAN 105-1981)</td>
<td>REP16/FA, Appendix V</td>
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<td>Revised food additives provisions of the GSFA related to the alignment of the four commodity standards for chocolate and chocolate products and the commodity standards identified by the Committee on Fish and Fishery Products (CCFFP)</td>
<td>REP16/FA, Appendix VII, Parts G and H</td>
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<td>Amendments to the <em>Standard for Dairy Fat Spreads</em> (CODEX STAN 253-2006)</td>
<td>REP16/FA, Para. 153</td>
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<td>Maximum level for inorganic arsenic in husked rice (GSCTFF)</td>
<td>REP16/CF Appendix II</td>
<td>N12-2011</td>
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<td>Maximum levels for lead in fruit juices and nectars ready-to-drink (inclusion of passion fruit); canned fruits (inclusion of canned berries and other small fruits); canned vegetables (inclusion of canned leafy vegetables and canned legume vegetables); pickled cucumbers (lower ML); and table olives (lower ML)</td>
<td>REP16/CF Appendix III</td>
<td>N04-2012</td>
<td>Adopted  (see para. 74)</td>
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<td>MRLs for pesticides</td>
<td>REP16/PR Appendix II</td>
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### Appendix IV

**LIST OF DRAFT STANDARDS AND RELATED TEXTS ADOPTED AT STEP 5**

<table>
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<td>Standard for Cumin</td>
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<td>Standard for Aubergines</td>
<td>REP16/FFV</td>
<td>N10-2014</td>
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<td>Standard for Garlic</td>
<td>REP16/FFV</td>
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<td>Standard for Kiwifruit</td>
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<td>Nutrient Reference Values on Vitamin E for Labelling Purposes in the</td>
<td>REP16/NFSDU</td>
<td>N06-2008</td>
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<td>Guidance For Monitoring the Performance of National Food Control Systems</td>
<td>REP16/FICS</td>
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<td>Maximum levels for lead in jams, jellies and marmalades and for 6 preserved tomatoes (GSCTFF)</td>
<td>REP16/CF</td>
<td>N04-2012</td>
<td>Adopted (see para. 74)</td>
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<td>Revision to the Classification of Food and Feed (selected commodity groups: Group 020 – Grasses of cereal grains)</td>
<td>REP16/PR</td>
<td>N11-2004</td>
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<td>N09-2006</td>
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<td>Guidelines on performance criteria for methods of analysis for the determination of pesticide residues</td>
<td>REP16/PR</td>
<td>N09-2013</td>
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<td>Revision of the General Standard for the Labelling of Prepackaged Foods: Date marking</td>
<td>REP16/FL</td>
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<td>CX/CAC 16/39/4 Add.2</td>
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## Appendix V

### LIST OF REVOKED STANDARDS AND RELATED TEXTS

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<tr>
<td>Specifications for aluminium silicate (INS 559) and calcium aluminium silicate (INS 556)</td>
<td>REP16/FA Appendix III Part B</td>
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<td>Food additive provisions of the commodity standards or GSFA</td>
<td>REP16/FA Appendices VI and VIII</td>
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<td>Maximum levels for lead in the GSCTFF (canned raspberries, canned strawberries, canned green beans and canned wax beans, canned green peas, pickled cucumbers and table olives)</td>
<td>REP16/CF, Appendix III</td>
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<td>Maximum residue limits for pesticides</td>
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# LIST OF APPROVED NEW WORK

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<td>CCFFV</td>
<td>Standard for Fresh Dates</td>
<td>REP16/FFV Annex I CX/CAC 16/39/7</td>
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<td>CCFH</td>
<td>Guidance for histamine control in the <em>Code of Practice for Fish and Fishery Products</em> (CAC/RCP 52-2003) and sampling plans for histamine in standards for fish and fishery products</td>
<td>REP16/FFP Annex II CX/CAC 16/39/7</td>
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<td>CCFH</td>
<td>Revision of the <em>General Principles of Food Hygiene</em> (CAC/RCP 1-1969) and its HACCP Annex</td>
<td>REP16/FH Appendix V</td>
<td>N03-2016</td>
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<td>CCNFSDU</td>
<td>Guideline for ready to use therapeutic foods (RUTF)</td>
<td>REP16/NFSDU Appendix IV</td>
<td>N05-2016</td>
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<td>CCFL</td>
<td>Guidance for the labelling of non-retail containers of food</td>
<td>REP16/FL, Appendix III</td>
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<td>CCAFRICA</td>
<td>Regional Standard for dried meat</td>
<td>REP15/CCEXEC Annex 1 CX/CAC 16/39/7 Add.1</td>
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# List of Discontinued Work

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<td>Appendices 1 – 11 to the <em>Code of Practice for Fish and Fishery Products</em> (CAC/RCP 52-2003)</td>
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Appendix VIII

TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE AD HOC CODEX INTERGOVERNMENTAL TASK FORCE ON ANTIMICROBIAL RESISTANCE

Objectives
To develop science-based guidance on the management of foodborne antimicrobial resistance, taking full account of the WHO Global Action Plan on Antimicrobial Resistance, in particular objectives 3 and 4, the work and standards of relevant international organizations, such as FAO, WHO and OIE, and the One-Health approach, to ensure that Members have the necessary guidance to enable coherent management of antimicrobial resistance along the food chain.

Terms of reference
(i) To review and revise as appropriate the Code of Practice to Minimise and Contain Antimicrobial Resistance (CAC/RCP 61-2005) to address the entire food chain, in line with the mandate of Codex.

(ii) To consider the development of Guidance on Integrated Surveillance of Antimicrobial Resistance, taking into account the guidance developed by the WHO Advisory Group on Integrated Surveillance of Antimicrobial Resistance (AGISAR) and relevant OIE documents.

Time frame
The Task Force shall complete its work within three (max four sessions), starting in 2017.
## CHAIRMANSHIP OF CODEX SUBSIDIARY BODIES

established under Rule XI.1(b)(i)

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<td>CX</td>
<td>Ad hoc Intergovernmental Task Force on Antimicrobial Resistance</td>
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1 Working by correspondence