



15 June 2020

(20-4217)

Page: 1/2

Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures

Original: English

## INFORMATION ON ACTIVITIES

### COMMUNICATION FROM THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION (CODEX)

The following communication, received on 12 June 2020, is being circulated at the request of the Codex secretariat.

## 1 CODEX MEETINGS HELD SINCE THE LAST SESSION OF THE SPS COMMITTEE (2019)

### 1.1 51<sup>st</sup> Session of the Codex Committee on Food Hygiene (4 – 8 November 2019):

1.1. The Committee concluded work on the development of a Code of practice on food allergen management for food business operators and the revision of the *General Principles of Food Hygiene* (CXC 1-1969). These texts are submitted for final adoption by the 43<sup>rd</sup> Session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC43). The Committee continues work on the development of Guidance for the management of biological foodborne outbreaks and has proposed new work on guidelines for the use and reuse of water in food production for approval by CAC43. the report of the session can be downloaded from the CCCF51 [webpage](#).

### 1.2 7<sup>th</sup> Session of the *Ad hoc* Codex Intergovernmental Task Force on Antimicrobial Resistance (9 – 13 December 2019):

1.2. The Task Force continues progressing work on the revision of the *Code of practice to contain and minimize foodborne antimicrobial resistance* CXC 61-2005) (COP) and the development of Guidelines for the monitoring and surveillance of foodborne antimicrobial resistance. TFAMR07 was largely devoted to revise the COP which is proposed for preliminary adoption by CAC43 and finalization at the next session of the Task Force. The report of the session can be downloaded from the TFAMR07 [webpage](#).

## 2 WORK CONTINUITY OF THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION AND ITS SUBSIDIARY BODIES (2020)

### 2.1 Subsidiary bodies

2.1. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, all Codex meetings in the first half of 2020 have been rescheduled to 2021. These meetings include the Codex Committees on Food Additives ([CCFA](#)), General Principles ([CCGP](#)), Pesticide Residues ([CCPR](#)), Contaminants in Foods ([CCCF](#)), Food Import and Export Inspection and Certification Systems ([CCFICS](#)), Methods of Analysis and Sampling ([CCMAS](#)) and Residues of Veterinary Drugs in Foods ([CCRVDF](#)).

2.2. The Codex Secretariat is working closely with the host country secretariats and chairpersons of these committees as well as the lead countries of electronic working groups (EWGs) established under these committees to ensure work continuity while maintaining the Codex principles of inclusiveness and transparency.

2.3. Work continues in 2020 through the EWGs established by the respective Committees and within the mandates given at their last session. Working documents and other relevant information are

available on the respective committee pages on the Codex website. Deadline for comments on various matters under consideration in the different committees have been extended to allow further comments and consideration in the EWGs with a view to optimize discussion and progression of the documents at the rescheduled meetings in 2021. Deadlines for request for comments on different matters and the corresponding documents can be found on the Codex website ([circular letters](#)). Regular updates on the status of work of these Committees are published on their dedicated webpages. The lead countries of EWGs will communicate with their membership (Codex member countries and observer organizations who joined the different EWGs) on the modalities of work that will be followed in their respective EWGs.

2.4. The Codex Secretariat is in consultation with host country secretariats and chairpersons of committees scheduled for the second half of 2020 on their rescheduling as the situation with the pandemic will not allow physical Codex meetings to be held.

2.5. The next session of Codex Committee for Spices and Culinary Herbs ([CCSCH](#)) has already been rescheduled to 2021. Information regarding the Committees on Food Labelling ([CCFL](#)), Food Hygiene ([CCFH](#)), Nutrition and Food for Special Dietary Uses ([CCNFSDU](#)) and the Task Force on AMR ([TFAMR](#)) will be provided as new dates are confirmed. Updated information on Codex meetings is provided in the [Codex calendar for 2021](#) available on the Codex website.

## **2.2 Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC) and Executive Committee of the Codex Alimentarius Commission (CCEXEC)**

2.6. The physical meetings of the 43<sup>rd</sup> Session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC43) and the 79<sup>th</sup> Session of the Executive Committee (CCEXEC79) scheduled for June/July 2021 have been cancelled. A virtual meeting of CCEXEC79 and CAC43 may take place following consultation with Codex members and Members of CCEXEC. If held, both meetings will have an abridged agenda on key aspects of the Codex work within their own mandates, notably adoption of texts and approval of new work for CAC43 and the assessment of the work progress of Codex standards and related texts in subsidiary bodies of CAC (critical review) for CCEXEC79.

2.7. Legal, procedural and practical aspects of holding virtual meetings of CAC and CCEXEC is still being discussed between FAO, WHO, the Codex Secretariat and the Chairperson and Vice-chairpersons of CAC/CCEXEC. Relevant information will be made available to Codex members and observers in due course through the Codex website and official correspondence through the Codex Electronic Distribution List (Codex-L).

## **3 OTHER CODEX RELATED ACTIVITIES OF RELEVANCE TO THE WTO/SPS**

### **3.1 World Food Safety Day**

3.1. The second World Food Safety Day ([WFSD02](#)) was celebrated on 7 June 2020 to draw attention and inspire action to help prevent, detect and manage foodborne risks, contributing to food security, human health, economic prosperity, agriculture, market access, tourism and sustainable development.

3.2. WFSD02 reinforced the call to strengthen commitment to scale up food safety made by the Addis Ababa Conference and the Geneva Forum in 2019 under the umbrella of "The Future of Food Safety". FAO and WHO also facilitated Member States efforts to celebrate the World Food Safety Day.

3.3. The theme "Food safety, everyone's business" has actioned campaigns to promote global food safety awareness and call upon countries and decision-makers, the private sector, civil society, UN organizations and the general public to take action.

## **4 CODEX COVID-19 WEBSITE**

4.1. A dedicated page on [COVID-19](#) and Codex Alimentarius has been included in the Codex website addressing, amongst others, the impact of COVID-19 on Codex work and existing Codex texts that could assist countries with food trade amidst the pandemic.