

CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION

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Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



World Health
Organization

Viale delle Terme di Caracalla, 00153 Rome, Italy - Tel: (+39) 06 57051 - E-mail: codex@fao.org - www.codexalimentarius.org

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REPORT

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

With regard to standard setting the Commission:

- a) adopted maximum residue limits (MRLs) for different pesticides in various foods and feeds;
- b) adopted maximum levels (MLs) for methylmercury in certain fish species and for cadmium in chocolate;
- c) adopted MRLs for veterinary drugs used in food-producing animals, an amendment to the Procedural Manual in regard to risk analysis principles for residues of veterinary drugs in foods, and the Risk Management Recommendation for Gentian Violet;
- d) adopted revisions of the *Code of Practice for Fish and Fishery Products: Guidance for histamine control*;
- e) adopted the Code of Practice for the prevention and reduction of dioxins, dioxin-like PCBs and non-dioxin-like PCB contamination in food and feed;
- f) adopted the food-additive provisions of the *General Standard for Food Additives*, the revised food-additive sections of a number of Codex Standards, the revision of the Class Names and the International Numbering System for Food Additives and the Specifications for the Identity and Purity of Food Additives;
- g) adopted the revision of the *General Standard for the Labelling of Prepackaged Foods, Date Marking*;
- h) adopted standards for aubergines and quinoa; and
- i) approved new work, proposals for the discontinuation of work and for the revocation of existing Codex texts

With regard to Codex work management and budgetary and financial matters the Commission:

- j) highlighted the importance of science and the observance of Codex procedures and consensus in the Codex decision-making process and endorsed the proposal by CCEXEC75 that the Secretariat coordinate the preparation of a report on the use of relevant aspects of the provisions of the Procedural Manual;
- k) agreed that it was important to maintain a wide range of options and flexibility when deciding on working methods for the development of Codex texts and that decisions on the approach should be made on a case-by-case basis depending on the nature of work;
- l) agreed to request the Codex Committee on General Principles (CCGP) to formulate procedural guidance for committees working by correspondence based on and consistent with relevant existing guidance in Procedural Manual;
- m) affirmed that existing Codex procedures included sufficient flexibility to fast-track the development of standards, while noting that a more systematic but not necessarily periodic review of Codex standards could increase their relevance and requested CCEXEC to advise the Commission further on this matter;
- n) reiterated its support for the ongoing Codex work on Antimicrobial Resistance highlighting its contribution to global efforts to tackling this issue; and
- o) acknowledged the reports on expenditure in the past and current biennia and noted the budget proposal for 2020-2021, encouraged the Secretariat to continue its close monitoring of expenditure and expressed its appreciation for contributions from host countries and in-kind contributions to the Secretariat from Germany, Japan and the Republic of Korea.

With regard to FAO/WHO scientific advice and policy-related issues relevant to the work of Codex the Commission:

- p) recognized FAO and WHO efforts to accelerate delivery and ensure continuous improvement of scientific advice and recommended that FAO and WHO provide adequate sustainable funding for the joint FAO/WHO scientific advice programme;
- q) noted the information provided by FAO and WHO on policy-related issues, capacity development activities to support member countries, and the Codex Trust Fund; and
- r) encouraged members to advocate at the national level to support the establishment of a world food safety day by the United Nations General Assembly.

With regard to election of the Chairperson and Vice-Chairpersons the Commission:

- s) Re-elected, as Chairperson, Mr Guilherme Antonio da Costa Jr. (Brazil) and, as Vice-Chairpersons, Mr Purwiyatno Hariyadi (Indonesia), Ms Mariam Eid (Lebanon) and Mr Steve Wearne (United Kingdom).

INTRODUCTION

1. The Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC) convened its Forty-first Session, at the headquarters of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), in Rome, Italy, from 2 to 6 July 2018. The Session was opened by the Chairperson of the Commission, Mr Guilherme Antonio da Costa Jr. (Brazil), assisted by Vice-Chairpersons, Mr Purwiyatno Hariyadi (Indonesia), Ms Mariam Eid (Lebanon) and Mr Steve Wearne (United Kingdom), and attended by delegates from 121 Member countries and one Member Organization, and observers of 84 intergovernmental organizations (IGOs) and non-governmental organizations (NGOs), including United Nations entities. A list of participants is contained in Appendix I.

Opening addresses¹

2. The Deputy Director-General for Climate and Natural Resources of FAO, Ms Maria Helena Semedo, and the Deputy Director-General for Programmes of the World Health Organization (WHO), Ms Soumya Swaminathan, welcomed participants and addressed the Commission. The Commission heard further addresses by the Under-Secretary of Agriculture for Trade and Foreign Agricultural Affairs of the United States of America, Mr Ted McKinney, and the Executive Secretary of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, Ms Olga Algayerova.

Division of competence²

3. The Commission noted the division of competence between the European Union (EU) and its Member States in accordance with Rule II, paragraph 5, of the CAC Rules of Procedure, as presented in conference room document 1 (CRD1).

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA (Agenda item 1)³

4. The Commission adopted the provisional agenda with the addition under item 21, "Any other business", of:
 - (i) Endocrine-disrupting substances in foods (proposed by India); and
 - (ii) Organization of the Commission agenda (proposed by Cuba).

REPORT BY THE CHAIRPERSON ON THE 74th and 75th SESSIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (Agenda item 2)⁴

5. Pursuant to Rule V, paragraph 7, of the CAC Rules of Procedure, the Chairperson drew the attention of the Commission to the reports of the seventy-fourth and -fifth sessions of the Executive Committee (CCEXEC), observing that the Commission would consider their recommendations under the relevant agenda items.

CCEXEC74

6. The Commission took note of the discussions and conclusions contained in the report of CCEXEC74.

CCEXEC75

7. The Commission took note of the discussions and conclusions contained in the report of CCEXEC75.
Proposed draft maximum residue limits (MRLs) for zilpaterol hydrochloride (cattle fat, kidney, liver, muscle)
8. The Commission noted the discussion and conclusions of CCEXEC75 regarding its Critical Review of the consideration by the Codex Committee on Residues of Veterinary Drugs in Foods (CCR/VDF) at its twenty-fourth session of Proposed draft MRLs for zilpaterol hydrochloride (cattle fat, kidney, liver, muscle) (see REP18/EXEC2, paras. 30-40).
9. Members, in expressing their views:
 - (i) reiterated the importance of science as the cornerstone of Codex, stressing that it was fundamental to Codex's credibility and role as reference under the WTO framework;
 - (ii) noted that to block the development of Codex texts on grounds extraneous to scientific advice and the Codex mandate prevented the many countries lacking the capacity to develop their own standards from fully benefiting from undisputed FAO/WHO risk assessment and monitoring foods for residues;

¹ Video recordings available at: <http://www.codexalimentarius.org/meetings-reports/CAC41/webcast/en/>

² Division of Competence between the European Union and its Member States (CRD1)

³ CX/CAC 18/41/1

⁴ REP18/EXEC1; REP18/EXEC2; Comments of Brazil, Bolivia, Chile, Costa Rica, Colombia, El Salvador, Ecuador, Guatemala, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Dominican Republic, Trinidad and Tobago, Philippines (CRD12)

- (iii) recalled that, procedurally, Members were free to make reservations or not to apply a Codex text;
 - (iv) stressed the need to ensure adherence to the Procedural Manual at all times and stated that CAC should issue guidance to the chairpersons of subsidiary bodies in this regard;
 - (v) stressed that careful consideration should be given to the weighting of factors beyond science in Codex decision-making procedures, as already provided for in the Procedural Manual, subject to certain agreed criteria contained in the Procedural Manual;
 - (vi) noted that existing procedures were already clear and should be followed;
 - (vii) noted that CAC and its subsidiary bodies should only consider factors other than science that were within the mandate of Codex as articulated in the Procedural Manual;
 - (viii) underscored that consensus was a core value of Codex;
 - (ix) noted that, in accordance with the Procedural Manual, it was legitimate for Codex as risk manager to take into consideration factors beyond risk assessment;
 - (x) recalled the joint FAO/WHO legal opinion, contained in paragraphs 31 and 32 of the report of CCEXEC75, that CCRVDF24 had breached no Codex rules;
 - (xi) noted the statement within the joint FAO/WHO legal opinion that recent developments had altered the original nature and status of Codex standards;
 - (xii) proposed a review of the “Statements of principle concerning the role of science in the Codex decision-making process and the extent to which other factors are taken into account” (Statements of principle), as described in the final paragraph of the legal opinion; and
 - (xiii) noted that, in the light of the joint FAO/WHO legal opinion and repeal of the acceptance procedure, the Codex Secretariat should prepare a report on the history and implications of paragraph 4 of the Statements of principle.
10. Different views were also expressed regarding the correct forum, whether CCEXEC, the Codex Committee on General Principles (CCGP) or both, for further debate on this matter.
11. Observers expressed several views, including that there were scientific reasons to hold back the standard, Codex needed to update its procedures to avoid being left behind, better address sustainable and culturally appropriate foods and innovative products, ensure scientific credibility, avoid perceived conflicts of interest, favour independently funded science and use consistent terminology. Consistency across committees based on sound science and clear procedures was key to the credibility of Codex.

Conclusion

12. Reiterating the value of Codex as the preeminent international rules-based food standards-setting body, and underscoring its commitment to both science and consensus, the Commission endorsed the approach proposed by CCEXEC75 in paragraph 38-40 of its report, emphasized the value of holding regional coordination meetings to inform the process, and stressed that the reports prepared on the matter should be shared with the broader membership, not only CCEXEC. The Commission:
- (i) highlighted the importance of science, the observance of Codex procedures and consensus in the Codex decision-making process;
 - (ii) endorsed the importance of the work proposed by CCEXEC75 to be considered at CCEXEC77;
 - (iii) requested that the Codex Secretariat make the reports to inform CCEXEC77’s work available to all Members sufficiently in advance to enable regional coordinators to solicit views from their respective regions; and
 - (iv) took note of the comments made during the discussion and requested that the Codex Secretariat take them into account in preparing the reports on the matter for CCEXEC77.

Ad hoc Codex Intergovernmental Task Force on Antimicrobial Resistance (TFAMR)

13. The Commission:
- (i) noted that through the work of the TFAMR Codex contributed to global efforts to counter present and future threats to the health of consumers posed by the emergence and amplification of antimicrobial resistance;
 - (ii) reiterated the overwhelming support, as expressed at CAC40, for the project documents on a revised code of practice and guidelines for integrated surveillance; and
 - (iii) supported the Chairperson of TFAMR in making further timely progress towards these objectives.

AMENDMENTS TO THE PROCEDURAL MANUAL (Agenda item 3)⁵*Risk Analysis Principles applied by the Codex Committee on Residues of Veterinary Drugs in Foods*

14. In response to a request to refer the proposed amendment to CCGP and defer a decision until CAC42, the Secretariat of the Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Food Additives (JECFA) clarified that the proposed deletion would not modify the intent of the work or the safety evaluation for residues of veterinary drugs in foods, but serve instead to clarify how CCRVDF could approach its proposed work to develop extrapolation of MRLs as a risk-management decision. The Codex Secretariat confirmed that, procedurally, there was no need to refer the matter to CCGP, and noted that, until such an amendment as proposed was made, MRLs for minor species already requested by developing countries would not be available.

Conclusion

15. The Commission:
- (i) adopted the amendment as proposed by CCRVDF, noting the reservation of the Dominican Republic; and
 - (ii) noted that Costa Rica would join the EU as co-chair of the electronic working group (EWG) of CCRVDF on extrapolation, thereby facilitating greater participation of Spanish-speaking countries.

FINAL ADOPTION OF CODEX TEXTS AT STEPS 8, 5/8 AND 5A (Agenda item 4)⁶

16. 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 CCEXEC75⁷ (Appendices III-IV).
17. In addition to editorial corrections, the Commission noted the following comments and decisions.

Committee on Fresh Fruits and Vegetables (CCFFV)*Draft standard for aubergines⁸*

18. The Commission noted the Critical Review⁹ undertaken at CCEXEC75 and the following views expressed by Members:
- (i) the inclusion of one percent tolerance for decay in "Extra" class was realistic, reflected existing industry and trade practices for fresh fruits and vegetables due to their perishable nature, and could prevent the rejection or downgrading of entire lots, thereby avoiding food waste;
 - (ii) if produce did not comply with "Extra" class, it could still meet the requirements of classes I and II; and
 - (iii) a general solution or clearer principle would be required before any new standard could be adopted.
19. Editorial amendments to simplify the standard were proposed to the provisions on minimum and maturity requirements and sizing.

Conclusion

20. The Commission:
- (i) adopted the draft standard for aubergines at Step 8, noting the reservations of Colombia, EU and its Member States, Norway, Switzerland and Thailand on allowing a tolerance for decay in "Extra" class; and
 - (ii) endorsed the conclusions of CCEXEC75 and the note that "provisions for decay in "Extra" class were optional and, depending on the nature of the produce, may not be applicable or necessary".

⁵ CX/CAC 18/41/2; CX/CAC 18/41/2 Add.1; Comments of the Dominican Republic (CRD19rev); Comments of Indonesia (CRD21); Comments of Ecuador (CRD34).

⁶ CX/CAC 18/41/3; CX/CAC 18/41/3 Add.1; CX/CAC 18/41/3-Add 2; Comments of Sierra Leone, Senegal, Gambia, Peru, Mexico, Philippines, EU, Kazakhstan, Thailand, Liberia, Ghana (CRD2rev); Comments of Morocco (CRD14); Comments of Nicaragua (CRD16); Comments of El Salvador (CRD17); Comments of Peru (CRD18rev); Comments of the Dominican Republic (CRD19rev); Comments of Cameroon (CRD20); Comments of Indonesia (CRD21); Comments of the Russian Federation (CRD28)

⁷ REP18/EXEC2

⁸ REP18/FFV, para. 19, Appendix II

⁹ REP18/EXEC, paras. 6-43

Committee on Food Labelling (CCFL)*Revision of the General Standard for the Labelling of Prepackaged Foods (CXS 1-1985): Date Marking*

21. The Commission noted the view expressed by one delegation, though not opposed to the adoption of the revised text, that the definition of “best before date” and “best quality before date” required further consideration to reduce the risk of confusing consumers.
22. A Member proposed a rewording of footnote 2 in the section 4.7 on date-marking to provide more flexibility at the national level when establishing a list of exceptions from date-marking.
23. The Russian Federation reiterated its reservation raised at CCFL44, in particular regarding section 4.7 (vii).
24. The CCFL chairperson explained that:
 - (i) following extensive discussion on the date-marking revision, CCFL had reached consensus, except for the reservation of the Russian Federation;
 - (ii) the terms “best before date” and “best quality before date” were supported by CCFL, “best before date” was already contained in the date-marking section of the *General Standard for the Labelling of Prepackaged Foods* (CXS1-1985), and the proposed revision would clarify their definition; and
 - (iii) section 4.7 (vii) provided flexibility to national authorities in determining exemptions suitable for their countries.

Conclusion

25. The Commission:
 - (i) adopted the draft revision of the *General Standard for the Labelling of Prepackaged Foods: Date Marking*, noting the reservation of the Russian Federation; and
 - (ii) noted that all editorial and translation issues would be addressed prior to publication.

Committee on Food Hygiene (CCFH)*Revision of the Code of Practice for Fish and Fishery Products (CXC 52-2003): Guidance for histamine control*

26. The Commission noted that: CCFH49 had reached agreement on the list of susceptible fish families presenting the greatest potential for developing hazardous levels of histamine; and the corresponding list contained in the *Code of Practice for Fish and Fishery Products*, section 13.1.2, would be aligned with it, with the insertion, before the list, of “e.g.”, which had been inadvertently omitted.
27. The delegation of Morocco reiterated that it would support adoption provided that: the list of fish families remained open for the addition of others demonstrated by risk analysis to cause histamine intoxication; and the format of footnote 6 was made consistent with regard to reference to the report of the FAO/WHO Expert Meeting on the Public Health of Histamine and Other Biogenic Amines from Fish and Fishery Products.

Conclusion

28. The Commission:
 - (i) adopted the revision as amended (see para. 26), noting the reservation of Morocco; and
 - (ii) noted that the guidance would be published upon completion of the CCFH work under way on histamine in the *Code of Practice for Fish and Fishery Products*.

Committee on Contaminants in Foods (CCCF)*MLs for cadmium in chocolate*

29. The Commission noted the reservation of Peru for the reasons explained in CX/CAC 18/41/4 on the adoption of the maximum levels (MLs) for cadmium in (i) chocolate containing or declaring $\geq 50\%$ to $< 70\%$ total cocoa solids on a dry-matter basis and (ii) chocolate containing or declaring $\geq 70\%$ total cocoa solids on a dry-matter basis.
30. Peru further noted that the MLs were too restrictive and would have negative socioeconomic implications for cocoa growers, especially smallholder farmers. Such MLs could also be misused by application to the raw commodity as opposed to the finished product, which would disrupt trade. Highlighting the mandate for Codex standards to be based on science, Peru enquired whether JECFA could re-evaluate the provisional tolerable monthly intake (PTMI) due to its provisional nature and in the light of new scientific evidence, and noted that the application of a code of practice could assist countries in reducing cadmium contamination in cocoa beans.

31. The JECFA Secretariat explained that “provisional” was standard terminology and did not imply the value had temporary status, and noted that the PTMI, since it had been recently reviewed, based on a large, worldwide dataset covering several years, was unlikely to be influenced by any new data that may have become available since the last evaluation.

Conclusion

32. The Commission adopted the proposed MLs, noting the reservation expressed by Peru and that they applied to the final product (chocolate) as opposed to the raw material (cocoa beans) since the name of the product was “chocolate” and the relevant note stated that the MLs applied to the whole commodity as prepared for wholesale or retail distribution.

Maximum levels for methylmercury for alfonsino, marlin, shark and tuna

33. The Commission noted the following reservations on the adoption of the MLs.
34. The EU, supported by Norway and Switzerland, expressed its reservation regarding all the MLs for the reasons contained in CX/CAC 18/41/4.
35. Colombia and Cuba also reserved their position on the final adoption of all the MLs, supporting instead adoption at Step 5 and further consideration in CCCF. Cuba further noted that, according to their national regulation, the proposed MLs would not sufficiently protect the health of the Cuban population.
36. Senegal expressed reservations on the final adoption of the MLs for alfonsino, marlin and shark for the reasons contained in CX/CAC 18/41/4.
37. Ecuador expressed a reservation on the setting of one single ML for methylmercury for all tuna species on the grounds that data used in establishing the ML did not take into account certain eastern Pacific tuna species with higher methylmercury concentrations. The note limiting the use for further processing of tuna that was non-compliant with the proposed ML was unnecessarily trade restrictive, may lead to food waste and may not take into account the risks and benefits of fish consumption as a source of Omega-3 fatty acids and other nutrients. If adopted, the ML should be revised after three years based on available data with a view to establishing a more globally representative ML.
38. The CCCF Chairperson recalled that MLs for methylmercury in fish species had been on the CCCF agenda for several sessions, and CCCF had discussed the proposed MLs, which were based on the best data available from various regions covering several years. She continued that returning the proposed ML to CCCF for another call for new data was unlikely to affect the proposed values significantly. The CCCF Chairperson reiterated that proposed MLs represented the best compromise to achieve the task set by the Commission with the data available, especially given the importance of the proposed MLs for public health and trade facilitation.

Conclusion

39. The Commission adopted the proposed MLs, noting the reservations expressed by Cuba, Colombia, Ecuador, EU, Norway, Senegal and Switzerland, and agreed that CCCF could consider revising the ML for tuna in the light of additional data after three years.

Committee on Food Additives (CCFA)

Food-additive provisions of the General Standard for Food Additives (GSFA)¹⁰

40. The Commission noted the recommendations of CCEXE75¹¹.
41. One Member expressed concern regarding the CCFA50 justification for the inclusion of Rebaudioside A from multiple gene donors expressed in *Yarrowia lipolytica* (INS 960b(i)) in the GSFA and requested procedural clarification in this regard.
42. Another Member, recalling that the issue had been discussed previously and relevant procedure followed, noted that the addition of individual food additives sharing the same group acceptable daily intake (ADI) was covered in the Procedural Manual and would not result in increased exposure.
43. In response to a question, the JECFA Secretariat clarified that steviol glycosides from difference sources had been assessed at several meetings and the latest safety assessment, completed in 2016, confirmed an ADI of 0–4 mg/kg bw, expressed as steviol.

¹⁰ REP18/FA, Appendix V

¹¹ REP18/EXEC1, paras. 6 and 26

44. Emphasizing the importance of product labelling to differentiate natural steviol glycosides from other types of steviol glycoside, Paraguay recommended requesting that CCFA explain the existing nomenclature for different types of steviol glycosides. However, it was noted that: CCFA50 had considered the matter and clarified that the GSFA was not intended for labelling purposes; and the *Class Names and the International Numbering System for Food Additives* (CXG 36-1989) included explanatory notes on the assignment of INS numbers.

Conclusion

45. The Commission adopted the draft and proposed draft food-additive provisions of the GSFA at Steps 8 and 5/8 and endorsed the recommendations of CCEXEC75 to:
- (i) insert Note XS302 associated with the provisions for INS 473, INS 473a and INS 474 in functional class 12.6.4;
 - (ii) request that CCFA clarify the operational procedure for the addition/removal of individual food additives under the same group heading should such issues be raised in CCFA.
46. The Commission noted the reservation of Paraguay regarding the revised nomenclature for steviol glycosides.

Codex Committee on Pesticide Residues (CCPR)

Maximum residue limits for pesticides in food and feed

47. The Commission adopted the MRLs, noting the reservation of the EU, supported by Norway and Switzerland, on a number of pesticide/commodity combinations for the reasons provided in CX/CAC 18/41/4.

Codex Committee on Residues of Veterinary Drugs in Foods (CCRVDF)

Risk Management Recommendation for Gentian Violet

48. The Commission noted that, while not opposed to adoption, the following countries expressed reservations regarding the final sentence of the Risk Management Recommendation (RMR), which they believed was overly prescriptive and went beyond the scope of CCRVDF and Codex: Australia, Ecuador, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Paraguay, Philippines and United States of America. They noted that the existing language could be understood as limiting the capacity of national authorities to use other risk-management measures they may deem more appropriate. CCRVDF's interpretation of the text of the RMR, if read separately from it, could not assist Members in implementation.
49. Delegations supporting adoption noted that the wording "can be accomplished" in the RMR text gave national competent authorities sufficient flexibility to determine risk-management measures most appropriate to their needs.
50. The JECFA Secretariat clarified that the text was intended to provide national authorities with risk-management options and noted that, since an RMR containing this text had already been adopted for malachite green, a compound similar in use and toxicity, it would be inconsistent to change the wording.

Conclusion

51. The Commission adopted the RMR as proposed by CCRVDF, noting that the text allowed Member countries to choose appropriate risk-management approaches to prevent residues of gentian violet in foods as clarified by CCRVDF24¹²; and further noted the reservations expressed by Australia, Ecuador, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Paraguay, Philippines and United States of America.

CCPR and CCRVDF

Coordination of work on edible animal tissues

52. The Commission endorsed¹³ the recommendation of CCEXEC75 in relation to coordination of work between the CCPR and CCRVDF on the definition of edible animal tissues.

Codex Committee on Cereals, Pulses and Legumes (CCCPL)

Standard for quinoa¹⁴

53. Members expressed their continued support for the development of the standard, noting that quinoa was an important and nutritious staple offering health benefit to consumers.

¹² REP18/RVDF, para. 33

¹³ REP18/EXEC1, paras. 27-28

¹⁴ CL 2018/25-CPL Annex II

54. Those supporting adoption of the draft standard at Step 8 commended the transparent and inclusive consultations facilitated by the EWG and noted that the draft standard was well aligned with existing international trade practices.
55. Those opposing adoption noted that no consensus had been reached on provisions for moisture content and grain size, and those on testing methods for the determination of saponins required further development. Standard development being ahead of schedule overall, sufficient time remained to continue work on those technical parameters.

Conclusion

56. The Commission agreed to:
- (i) adopt, subject to the endorsement of the labelling provisions by CCFL45, the draft standard for quinoa at Step 8, with the exception of the provisions for moisture content and grain size, which were returned to Step 6; and
 - (ii) establish an EWG, chaired by Costa Rica, and co-chaired by Chile and the United States of America, working in English and Spanish, to continue the work on the provisions for moisture content and grain size.
57. The Commission further noted the lack of a method for determination of saponins in the standard and encouraged Members to identify a validated method of analysis for this parameter to allow for the full implementation of the standard.

ADOPTION OF CODEX TEXTS AT STEP 5 (Agenda item 5)¹⁵

58. The Commission adopted and advanced to Step 6 the proposed draft standards and related texts submitted by its subsidiary bodies at Step 5, noting that technical comments should be resubmitted at Step 6 for consideration by the relevant committees, taking into account the Critical Review of CCEXEC75 (Appendix IV).

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

Review of the Standard for Follow-Up Formula (CXS 156-1987): essential composition requirements for older infants and young children

59. Norway, although supporting adoption at Step 5, raised a concern regarding the level of vitamin A in Part B of the Standard: since children aged between 12 and 36 months received vitamin A from a progressively diversified diet in addition to that contained in follow-up formula, a maximum of 180 µg (retinol equivalents per 100 kcal) may be too high and could lead to intake exceeding the upper tolerable level.
60. Several delegations spoke in support of adoption of the standard at Step 5.
61. An observer opposed adoption at Step 5 before agreement on the preamble and labelling sections; expressed the views that the commodity was not necessary and may pose a risk to the health of young children, undermine breastfeeding and fuel the obesity crisis, especially in the light of the aggressive marketing of such products; and noted that in their view further consideration should be given to the scientific basis of and inconsistent language in the Standard.

Conclusion

62. The Commission:
- (i) adopted the “essential composition requirements for older infants and young children”; and
 - (ii) noted that all technical comments should be resubmitted for consideration by CCNFSDU.

¹⁵ CX/CAC 18/41/5; CX/CAC 18/41/5 Add.1; CX/CAC 18/41/6; Comments of the European Union (CRD13); Comments of El Salvador (CRD17); Comments of the Dominican Republic (CRD19rev); Comments of Cameroon (CRD20); Comments of Indonesia (CRD21); Comments of Panama (CRD24); Comments of Mali (CRD25); Comments of the Russian Federation (CRD28); Comments of the Sudan (CRD29); Comments of Nigeria (CRD30); Comments of Uruguay (CRD31); Comments of Uganda (CRD32); Comments of Ecuador (CRD34)

CCCF*Code of Practice for the reduction of 3-MCPDEs and GEs in refined oils and products made with refined oils*

63. The Commission took note of comments that some provisions in the Code of Practice (COP) were based on inappropriate experimental measures while others were not practical, increased production costs and incurred excessive waste water with potential environmental impacts. Risk-management measures to reduce contamination with these chemicals should be science-based, proven to be effective at large scale, and widely applicable.

Conclusion

64. The Commission agreed to adopt the COP at Step 5.

REVOCATION OF CODEX TEXTS (Agenda item 6)¹⁶

65. The Commission revoked the texts in CX/CAC 18/41/7 (Appendix V).

PROPOSALS FOR NEW WORK (Agenda item 7)¹⁷

66. The Commission approved the development of new standards and related texts, taking into account the Critical Review of CCEXEC75 (Appendix VI).

Additional comments and decisions**CCFH***New work on a code of practice on guidance for the management of (micro)biological foodborne crises/outbreaks*

67. The Commission considered the approval of the new work, noting the conclusions of CCEXEC75.
68. The representative of WHO reiterated the concerns expressed in CCFH and at CCEXEC75 regarding the purpose and scope of the proposed new work, underscoring that insufficient consideration had been given to existing tools and guidance, including: the FAO/WHO International Food Safety Authorities Network (INFOSAN), which had already developed guidance relating to outbreak response; and the International Health Regulations (IHR), a legally binding instrument for WHO Member States that used a horizontal, one-hazard approach (i.e. applied the same protocols for different types of hazard); and ongoing FAO and WHO work on whole genome sequencing and related guidance.
69. Recalling the shared responsibility of the Commission, Codex Secretariat, FAO and WHO to evaluate new work proposals in the context of existing endeavours, the representative urged that greater consideration be devoted to articulating the added value of the proposed work. While the critical review function had been entrusted to CCEXEC precisely to ensure Codex work remained focused and efficient, when thorough review by CCEXEC was not possible, project documents could be returned to the originating technical committee. The representative stressed that the Commission's decision regarding new work proposals should not be influenced by a technical committee having begun work prior to receiving the Commission's formal approval.
70. The representative of FAO echoed WHO's concerns and emphasized that FAO would actively participate should the new work be approved to ensure it was appropriate and added value to existing guidance.
71. There was broad support for the new work among Members. Those in favour welcomed its aim of complementing existing Codex, FAO and/or WHO guidance and noted that a consolidated document would promote a more coordinated approach to handling food safety crises/incidents. The proposal had been discussed at length in CCFH and the project document revised. FAO and WHO were encouraged to participate in the work. The representative of WHO responded that work had already begun and that WHO was actively engaged and provided extensive comments.
72. Two delegations did not support the proposal, noting that the scope required further clarification to avoid duplication of work or overstepping the Codex mandate.

¹⁶ CX/CAC 18/41/7; Comments of Sierra Leone, Ghana, Liberia (CRD6); Comments of the Dominican Republic (CRD19rev); Comments of Cameroon (CRD20); Comments of the African Union (CRD24); Comments of Mali (CRD25); Comments of the Russian Federation (CRD28); Comments of Ecuador (CRD34)

¹⁷ CX/CAC 18/41/8; CX/CAC 18/41/8 Add.1; Comments of Senegal, Sierra Leone, Philippines, Liberia, Ghana (CRD5); Comments of Nicaragua (CRD16); Comments of El Salvador (CRD17); Comments of the Dominican Republic (CRD19rev); Comments of Cameroon (CRD20); Comments of Indonesia (CRD21); Comments of African union (CRD24); Comments of Mali (CRD25); Comments of the Russian Federation (CRD28); Comments of the Sudan (CRD29); Comments of Nigeria (CRD30); Comments of Uganda (CRD32); Comments of Ecuador (CRD34)

73. Norway, as a Member of CCEXEC, noted that the project document presented in CX/CAC 18/41/8, Annex IV, had been considered in preparation for the Critical Review discussion and that CCEXEC had thoroughly considered the proposal.

Conclusion

74. The Commission approved the new work.

DISCONTINUATION OF WORK (Agenda item 8)¹⁸

75. The Commission approved discontinuation of the work on items presented in CX/CAC 18/41/9 (Appendix VII).

AMENDMENTS TO CODEX STANDARDS AND RELATED TEXTS (Agenda item 9)¹⁹

76. The Commission adopted the amendments to the standards and texts in CX/CAC 18/41/10 and CX/CAC 18/41/10 Add.1 (Appendix VIII).

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE REPORTS OF THE COMMISSION, THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND THE SUBSIDIARY BODIES (Agenda item 10)²⁰

77. The Commission noted that several matters were presented for information only or discussed elsewhere under the relevant agenda item.

CCFA

Management of CCFA work

78. The United States of America commended CCFA's recent achievements, especially its efforts to reach a solution to the longstanding issue of Note 161 (on the use of sweeteners and colours), welcoming the EWG, co-chaired by the United States of America and the EU, established on the matter, and encouraging Members to participate therein. These views were supported by the EU and by China as CCFA Chair.
79. One Member noted that lack of consensus on the use of sweeteners was having a negative impact of global trade and consumer protection, and proposed that regional specificities be taken into account in the ongoing consultations on Note 161.

Codex Committee on Sugars (CCS)

Standard for non-centrifuged dehydrated sugar cane juice

80. The Commission considered the recommendation of CCEXEC75 to discontinue the work and noted the following views.
81. Columbia as CCS Chair highlighted the progress made since CAC40 (i.e. on title, scope, definitions, physical and chemical characteristics, and methods of analysis and sampling) and proposed that the Commission extend the timeline by one year to enable further progress.
82. Delegations in favour of continuing the work underscored the importance of the standard to developing countries, noted that agreement on most issues had been reached by correspondence and those remaining, including product safety, could be resolved at a physical meeting. A query on the CAC criteria or guidance as the basis for discontinuation of work was raised.
83. Delegations in favour of discontinuation, as recommended by CCEXEC75, noted the absence of consensus in CCS on fundamental aspects (e.g. name, scope and identity) despite the significant resources invested over several years.

¹⁸ CX/CAC 18/41/9; Comments of Sierra Leone and Ghana (CRD7); El Salvador (CRD17); the Dominican Republic (CRD19); Cameroon (CRD20); Indonesia (CRD21); African Union (CRD24)

¹⁹ CX/CAC 18/41/10; Comments of Sierra Leone, Liberia, Ghana (CRD8); Comments of the Dominican Republic (CRD19rev); Comments of Cameroon (CRD20); Comments of Indonesia (CRD21); Comments of African Union (CRD24); Comments of Mali (CRD25); Comments of Ecuador (CRD24)

²⁰ CX/CAC 18/41/11; CX/CAC 18/41/11 Add.1; CX/CAC 18/41/11 Add.2; Comments of India (CRD9); Comments of the Dominican Republic (CRD19rev); Comments of Republic of Korea (CRD27)

84. The Codex Secretariat recalled that: the work had been approved in 2011; CAC36 (2013) had adopted the draft standard at Step 5, noting the need to address the product name/scope and quality (chemical characteristics, etc.); the target year for completion had been extended several times; and CCEXEC75 had noted the lack of progress on outstanding issues. It was clarified that matters relating to product safety should be referred to relevant committees for consideration. It was proposed that, since Members had expressed continuing interest in the work, consideration be given to holding a physical meeting devoted to resolving outstanding issues only.
85. The Chairperson noted the potential value in holding a physical meeting but stressed that all relevant implications, including interpretation and translation, be taken into account. Members noted options for facilitating the holding of a physical meeting, including co-hosting and convening it immediately preceding the 2019 meeting of CCFFV.

Conclusion

86. The Commission agreed to extend the work by correspondence by one year, reporting back to CAC42, and noted the possibility that a physical meeting be held.

Committee on Processed Fruits and Vegetables (CCPFV)

Report on CCPFV Work Priorities, Work Plan and Recommendations for Electronic Working Groups (EWG)

87. The Commission considered the report on work priorities prepared by the United States of America as CCPFV Chair and noted the following:
- (i) the work plan included an interim step, scheduled for December 2018, to review progress in EWGs and determine whether a physical meeting should be held; and
 - (ii) the proposal of Thailand that the EWG on dried fruits develop, in accordance with the project document, general provisions for dried fruits and specific annexes incorporating existing Codex Standards for raisins, apricots and dates, and new annexes for dried tropical fruits, such as persimmons and longans.

Conclusion

88. The Commission endorsed the recommendations of the CCPFV Chairperson to:
- (i) establish the seven EWGs to prepare the proposed drafts for comments and consideration by CCPFV; and
 - (ii) hold a physical meeting of the Committee at an appropriate time.

Other matters

Guidelines for the Production, Processing, Labelling and Marketing of Organically Produced Foods: Organic Aquaculture

89. The representative of the FAO reported that, since CAC39 had postponed a decision on discontinuation, no Member had raised the matter in the relevant FAO fisheries bodies (i.e. the Committee on Fisheries, Subcommittee on Aquaculture or Subcommittee on Fish Trade), nor was it on the agenda of the forthcoming session of the Committee on Fisheries, to be held July 2018, indicating the subject was not a priority for FAO Member countries. Recalling the information provided at CAC39 that several organic aquaculture standards were in use, she reiterated that preliminary work would therefore be required to reach international consensus on the definition of organic aquaculture.
90. Thailand, noting the great importance of this work to developing countries and supporting its continuation, proposed an intersessional physical working group (PWG) be convened to focus on it, while acknowledging the challenge of identifying the appropriate Codex committee to take the lead.
91. Delegations supporting the recommendation of CCEXEC75 pointed out the need for agreement on fundamental aspects before the work could proceed.

Conclusion

92. The Commission, pursuant to its discussion and the recommendation of CCEXEC75, agreed to discontinue the work and noted it could reconsider such work in future should there be sufficient interest on the part of Members.

Endorsement and/or Revision of Maximum Levels for Food Additives and Processing Aids in the Regional Standard for Doogh

93. The Commission noted that the food-additive provisions in the draft Regional Standard for Doogh had not been endorsed by CCFA50.

94. The Islamic Republic of Iran as Coordinator for the Near East Region, recalling that the draft Regional Standard had been adopted at CAC40, emphasized its importance to the region and, with reference to the practice for quinoa, proposed it be published.

Conclusion

95. The Commission agreed to publish the Regional Standard for Doogh, noting its provisions on food additives would be subject to further development.

COMMITTEES WORKING BY CORRESPONDENCE AND PILOT FOR A COMMITTEE ON STANDARDS ADVANCEMENT (Agenda item 11)²¹

Part I: Committees working by correspondence

96. The Codex Secretariat introduced the item, recalling that CAC40 had requested that the Codex Secretariat prepare a document summarizing all options for taking decisions on new work for which no committee was presently holding physical meetings along with the advantages and disadvantages for each option. The Commission considered the recommendations presented in the document.

Discussion

97. Members discussing existing options for expediting work relating to which no committee presently held physical meetings, as well as the advantages and disadvantages of each option, noting the importance of maintaining flexibility when deciding on working methods and that decisions should be made on a case-by-case basis depending on the nature of work.
98. There was general support for the need for procedural guidance for committees working by correspondence based on existing guidance contained in the Procedural Manual to address issues in terms of procedures and management. The guidance could address questions such as how to build consensus, how to harmonize step procedures and when to revert to physical meetings.
99. The Commission also noted the following views:
- (i) CCGP would be the correct body for further consideration;
 - (ii) CCEXEC would be the correct body for further discussion since the issues went beyond procedure;
 - (iii) best practice for standard-development by correspondence could be included in any future analysis;
 - (iv) Codex resources should be used efficiently to improve the quality of work by correspondence;
 - (v) committees working by correspondence should make every effort to reach consensus prior to holding a physical meeting;
 - (vi) committees holding physical meetings and those working by correspondence should consistently apply the same set of rules;
 - (vii) clarification was needed on whether internal EWG documents could be summarized and shared publicly by observers in order to consult with their constituents; and
 - (viii) accelerating procedures may inadvertently reduce opportunities for public engagement.

100. The Codex Secretariat explained its understanding that the proposal was not for CCGP to develop new rules but to interpret the existing guidance articulated in the Procedural Manual and the FAO general rules on the conduct of plenary meetings. Should CCGP be so tasked, the Codex Secretariat would prepare a discussion paper to be circulated for comments before consideration at CCGP.

Conclusion

101. The Commission:
- (i) agreed that it was important to maintain a wide range of options and flexibility when deciding on working methods and that decisions should be made on a case-by-case basis depending on the nature of work;
 - (ii) noted there was no support for assigning this work to regional committees or for the establishment of a super committee; and

²¹ CX/CAC 18/41/12; CX/CAC 18/41/12 Add.1; Comments of Egypt, Thailand, India and the Philippines (CRD10); Comments of the Dominican Republic (CRD19rev).

- (iii) agreed to request that CCGP formulate procedural guidance for committees working by correspondence based on and consistent with relevant existing guidance in the Procedural Manual and that the discussion paper prepared by the Codex Secretariat be circulated well in advance of CCGP.

Part II: Pilot for a committee on standards advancement

102. The Codex Secretariat recalled that CAC40 had welcomed the innovative proposal of a pilot committee on standards advancement (CCSA) and had requested that the Codex Secretariat prepare a more detailed proposal, containing the terms of reference, modalities of work and cost implications of such a committee.

Discussion

103. There were diverging views with regard to the proposed pilot CCSA.
104. Those not in favour expressed the following views:
- (i) a CCSA would duplicate the role played by CCEXEC in reviewing the progress of standards;
 - (ii) existing Codex mechanisms already allowed sufficient flexibility for Members to work effectively;
 - (iii) it would be difficult to ensure sufficient participation of experts, especially those from developing countries; and
 - (iv) the cost implications of ensuring the inclusiveness and transparency of a new committee could be elevated.
105. Those in favour expressed the following views:
- (i) a CCSA could facilitate progress on standards that had been in development for a long time, for example in committees working by correspondence;
 - (ii) CCSA could serve as an additional tool alongside the options identified in Part I;
 - (iii) CCSA could solve the issues of consensus and low levels of participation, which were prevalent in committees working by correspondence;
 - (iv) the use of such a mechanism could be cost effective in situations where a physical meeting was necessary; and
 - (v) the Procedural Manual provided for the establishment of such a committee (Rule XI.1(a))

Conclusion

106. The Commission agreed to await the outcomes of the discussion at CCGP on guidance for working by correspondence before returning to the question of whether CCSA should be established.

REGULAR REVIEW OF CODEX WORK MANAGEMENT: REPORT 2017-2018 (Agenda item 12)²²

107. The Codex Secretariat introduced the review of collaboration between CAC and other international standard-setting organizations, recalling its scope, methodology and conclusions.
108. The Chairperson informed the Commission that CCEXEC75 had been unable to discuss the review recommendations due to a lack of time, but underscored its importance in terms of supporting delivery of the existing Codex Strategic Plan and establishing priorities for the forthcoming Strategic Plan 2020-2025.

Discussion

109. Members appreciated the initiative of the Codex Secretariat to seek effective solutions to improve work management by examining the work of other international standard-setting organizations.
110. An observer called for good practice guidance regarding the lack of transparency in CCNFSDU where recording was forbidden and the private sector at times spoke for governments. In her view, guidance was needed on the appropriateness of Codex dealing with products such as ready-to-use therapeutic food not intended for general sale.

Recommendation i

111. The Commission affirmed that existing Codex procedures included sufficient flexibility to fast-track the development of standards, noting that delays arose due to a lack of consensus rather than procedural issues.

²² CX/CAC 18/41/13; Comments of European Union, India (CRD11); Comments of Nicaragua (CRD16); Comments of the Dominican Republic (CRD19rev).

112. Acknowledging Members' views, the Codex Secretariat stated that, while existing procedures did provide the flexibility to fast-track standards, they were perceived as rigid. There was scope to foster greater understanding among stakeholders in this regard in the context of the Codex communications work plan.

Conclusion

113. The Commission noted that the existing standard-setting procedure was adequate and flexible.

Recommendation ii

114. While the Chairperson noted that mechanisms for systematic review existed in some Codex committees, the Codex Secretariat stated that many standards could benefit from review.
115. One Member noted that other international standard-setters, such as the United States Pharmacopeia, had effective mechanisms for systematic review that could be instructive to Codex, another Member cautioned against introducing periodic review of Codex standards as this would entail too high a workload for Codex committees.

Conclusion

116. The Commission:

- (i) noted that more systematic but not necessarily periodic review of Codex standards could increase their relevance;
- (ii) recognized the variation in current practices related to standards review between Codex committees; and
- (iii) requested that CCEXEC advise the Commission further on this matter.

Recommendation iii

117. Members noted the importance of avoiding duplicate or contradictory standards, and expressed divergent views on the appropriate Committee, whether CCGP or CCEXEC, to consider the matter of referencing standards of other international organizations.

Conclusion

118. The Commission noted the CCEXEC75 conclusion that issues relating to references may merit further consideration and guidance by CCEXEC in the first instance.

Recommendation iv

119. Referring to recommendation (iv-f), the Codex Secretariat informed the Commission that it participated in relevant activities of other international organizations pursuant to its mandate under the CAC Statutes, which included such coordination, but that its capacity to do so depended on committee workloads.
120. Members queried the resource implications of the recommendation for the Codex Secretariat, noted the value of further discussion and expressed divergent views on the appropriate Committee, whether CCGP or CCEXEC, to take up the matter.

Conclusion

121. Noting the importance of the recommendation, the potential resource implications of its components and the need for prioritization, the Commission agreed to refer the recommendation for further discussion to CCEXEC.

CODEX BUDGETARY AND FINANCIAL MATTERS: REPORT 2016-2017 AND PROGRESS 2018-2019 (Agenda item 13.1)²³

122. The Codex Secretariat presented the budget report for 2016-2017 and noted that, in contrast to previous biennia, 99 percent of the FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme budget had been spent. He also stressed that the Codex system relied on additional contributions not part of the programme budget (e.g. the provision of scientific advice).

Conclusion

123. The Commission:

- (i) acknowledged the report on expenditure in the biennium 2016-2017 as well as the progress made under the work plan and budget for 2018-2019;

²³ CX/CAC 18/41/14.

- (ii) encouraged the Codex Secretariat to continue its close monitoring of expenditure under the new monitoring mechanisms put in place; and
- (iii) expressed its appreciation for contributions from host countries and in-kind contributions to the Codex Secretariat from Germany, Japan and the Republic of Korea.

CODEX BUDGETARY AND FINANCIAL MATTERS: PROPOSAL 2020-2021 (Agenda item 13.2)²⁴

124. The Codex Secretariat introduced the document explaining that submission in 2018 of a budget proposal for 2020-2021 would facilitate the process of its approval in 2019 in the governing bodies of FAO and WHO. While the budget showed zero nominal growth compared to the biennium 2018-2019, the Codex Secretariat confirmed that it contained provisions for potential advocacy activities related to the launch of a world food safety day. Codex Secretariat activities yet to be finalized under the Strategic Plan 2020-2021 and therefore not reflected would have to be accounted for under the biennium 2022-2023.
125. The representative of WHO recalled that, in accordance with Article 9 of the CAC Statutes, the determination of the FAO and WHO proportions of the Codex budget was a joint decision for the Directors-General of FAO and WHO. While WHO was committed to maintaining its contribution to the Codex budget for 2020-2021, future WHO financial contributions to Codex would depend on the degree of support for food safety, nutrition and Codex matters expressed by Member States in the WHO Executive Board (EB) and the World Health Assembly (WHA). In this regard, the importance of ongoing communication and coordination between Codex delegates and EB/WHA delegates was highlighted, especially for countries where the responsibility for Codex matters was not held by the Ministry of Health.

Conclusion

126. The Commission noted the budget proposal for 2020-2021 as the first biennium under the new strategic plan.

FAO/WHO SCIENTIFIC ADVICE TO CODEX: ACTIVITIES, BUDGETARY AND FINANCIAL MATTERS (Agenda item 14)²⁵

127. The representatives of FAO and WHO summarized the scientific advice activities detailed in the document, recalling the recent release of the summary report of the 86th JECFA meeting and encouraging delegates to disseminate such materials widely.
128. The representative of FAO thanked the FAO Governing Bodies for the consistent regular programme budget funding to the scientific advice programme but noted the need for additional resources to update methodologies and begin addressing the backlog of requests for advice and increasing demand. She noted the issue of sustainable funding had not been resolved but extensive discussion continued in FAO to find a long-term solution and thanked Australia, Canada, China and France for their contributions to the FAO scientific advice programme.
129. The representative of WHO recalled that WHO relied primarily on voluntary contributions from Member States for scientific advice for food safety and nutrition. Efforts were under way in the current biennium to move beyond the status quo, address requests in a timelier manner and update risk-assessment methodology. She also thanked Australia, EU, Germany, Japan, Netherlands, Republic of Korea, United States of America and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation for contributions. She noted that the FAO and WHO contributions to scientific advice amounted to approximately USD 12 million per biennium.

Discussion

130. Members expressed their appreciation to FAO and WHO for their work on scientific advice as well as to the experts around the world who contributed to it; stressed the importance of such advice to timely standard-setting by Codex; and thanked countries that had supported such work but noted that long-term sustainable funding for the provision of scientific advice to Codex remained a concern.
131. Acknowledging the ongoing efforts within FAO to address sustainable funding, Members noted that the long-term solution should come from the core budgets of FAO and WHO. In this regard, the representative of WHO reiterated the need for Codex delegates to advocate at the national level to encourage their representatives in the WHO governing bodies to highlight the importance of food safety and Codex work.
132. Responding to a query regarding the prioritization of requests for scientific advice, the representative of WHO noted that prioritization mechanisms existed in Codex committees and that the joint Secretariats of FAO and WHO agreed on priorities and timelines based on available resources.

²⁴ CX/CAC 18/41/15

²⁵ CX/CAC 18/41/16; Comments of the Dominican Republic (CRD19rev).

Conclusions:

133. The Commission:

- (i) recognized FAO and WHO efforts to accelerate delivery and ensure continuous improvement of scientific advice;
- (ii) noted that FAO and WHO had highlighted the importance of ensuring stable, multi-year, extra-budgetary contributions to support an enhanced FAO/WHO scientific advice programme, stressing the key facilitating role Codex delegates could play;
- (iii) noted the need to develop a strategy to ensure short- and long-term solutions for sustainable funding, inviting countries so interested to develop a discussion paper for submission to the Commission; and
- (iv) recommended that FAO and WHO provide adequate sustainable funding for the joint FAO/WHO scientific advice programme, noting that, in accordance with Rule X.3 of the Rules of Procedure of the Codex Alimentarius Commission, the Directors-General of FAO and WHO were bound to bring this recommendation to the attention of their respective governing bodies for appropriate action.

MATTERS ARISING FROM FAO AND WHO (Agenda item 15)²⁶

134. The representative of FAO drew the Commission's attention to FAO and WHO policy-related issues relevant to the work of Codex, highlighting the following matters.

- (i) FAO and WHO would hold an International Food Safety Conference in 2019.
- (ii) The Deputy Director-General of FAO had requested delegates' support for the adoption of the draft resolution before the United Nations General Assembly at its seventy-third session on a world food safety day.
- (iii) The 159th Session of FAO Council, in June 2018, had stressed the need for sustainable funding for FAO's work relating to scientific advice for food safety and Codex, and noted that no funds were available from FAO's unspent balance for the current biennium but that the recommendations remained valid for future consideration should unspent balances become available. The Council also stressed the need for establishing a blind trust fund (BTF) for scientific advice and emphasized the importance of safeguarding the independence and impartiality of the joint FAO/WHO scientific advice programme.
- (iv) Provided that FAO and WHO maintained existing levels of funding, additional funding mobilized through the BTF could substantially change the way FAO ran the scientific advice programme.
- (v) The June 2018 meeting of the Committee on Food Security Open-ended Working Group to Develop Nutrition Voluntary Guidelines for Food Systems had reiterated the need to avoid duplicating the work carried out by other bodies or contradictions with other policy instruments, including Codex.
- (vi) The May 2018 FAO Global Soil Symposium had considered the issue of soil contamination and food safety.
- (vii) The Koronivia Joint Work on Agriculture provided an opportunity for countries to incorporate actions on climate change adaptation to improve food safety within Intended Nationally Determined Contributions.
- (viii) In May 2018, the Directors-General of FAO, WHO and OIE had signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to further strengthen tripartite collaboration and their leadership on the critical global issue of antimicrobial resistance (AMR).

135. The representatives of WHO further noted:

- (i) The WHO Thirteenth General Programme of Work (GPW13) had introduced a bottom-up approach to budget planning, and Codex delegates could seize the opportunity to promote food safety as a priority.
- (ii) The FAO-OIE-WHO MoU would be complemented by the development of joint work plans on key issues such as antimicrobial resistance and included the possibility that the World Committee on Food Security (CFS) develop a voluntary guideline on the use of antimicrobials in food production, which may complement ongoing Codex work.

²⁶ CX/CAC 18/41/17, CX/CAC 18/41/17 Add.1, Comments of the Dominican Republic (CRD19rev); Comments of Panama (CRD23).

- (iii) The GPW13 contained priority diet- and nutrition-related targets, in particular on sodium reduction and the elimination of industrially produced trans fatty acids (TFAs) from the global food supply. WHO has developed a framework on country roadmaps (REPLACE action package) to support countries in achieving the TFA elimination target.
- (iv) Other relevant, new and ongoing activities included the work of the WHO Nutrition Guidance Expert Advisory Group on the finalization of the guidelines on saturated fatty acids, TFAs, polyunsaturated fatty acids and carbohydrates as well as the new work on developing policy action guidelines.
- (v) Implementation mechanisms under the Decade of Action on Nutrition included a number of global action networks, e.g. on sustainable food from the oceans and on nutrition labelling.

Discussion

- 136. Members appreciated the information shared by FAO and WHO and its relevance to global and national initiatives.
- 137. Members recognized the FAO and WHO work in providing guidance to promote healthy diets and address obesity and diet-related non-communicable diseases, considering the problems facing various countries due to unhealthy diets high in sodium, sugars and fats, including trans fats. Members also noted the importance of the conclusions of the Second International Conference on Nutrition and the United Nations Decade of Action on Nutrition 2016–2025.
- 138. One Member noted the health hazard posed, to children in particular, by the sale and use of alcohol.
- 139. Members referred to the importance of the initiative to establish a world food safety day and expressed interest in the ongoing work on the links between climate change and food safety.

Conclusion

- 140. The Commission:
 - (i) took note of the information presented;
 - (ii) encouraged Members to advocate at the national level to support the establishment of a world food safety day by the United Nations General Assembly; and
 - (iii) urged Members to engage with their representatives in the FAO and WHO governing bodies to advocate in favour of food safety and sustainable funding for scientific advice.

REPORT ON THE SIDE EVENT ON FAO AND WHO CAPACITY-DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES (Agenda item 16)²⁷

- 141. The representative of FAO summarized the key points highlighted in the side event.
- 142. Members expressed their appreciation to FAO and WHO, citing concrete examples of support: interventions had driven lasting change when augmented by strong commitment and an enabling policy environment at the national level; capacity-development initiatives at the regional level, especially the recent Codex workshops, had provided additional benefits in terms of enhanced participation. Priority areas for greater capacity development included: food import control risk profiling; the use of the food control system assessment tool; good hygienic practices for priority value chains; data generation on food consumption to support risk assessment as well as national decision-making; and technical laboratory capacities.
- 143. Delegates welcomed the new approach of covering this agenda item as a side event.

Conclusion

- 144. The Commission took note of the information provided.

FAO/WHO CODEX TRUST FUND 2017 ANNUAL REPORT (Agenda item 17)²⁸

- 145. The Codex Trust Fund Administrator summarized the information provided, highlighting that: countries successful in Round 2 were preparing summary project documents to serve as the roadmaps for project implementation; and applications for Round 3 would be accepted between 15 August and 30 November 2018: eligible countries were encouraged to work early on applications. Additional donors, higher contributions and annual or multi-year contributions were needed.

²⁷ CX/CAC 18/41/18; Comments of the Dominican Republic (CRD19rev)

²⁸ CX/CAC 18/41/19; CX/CAC 18/41/19 Add.1; Report of Side Event on FAO and WHO Capacity Development Activities (CRD33); Report of the Codex Trust Fund 5th Advisory Group Meeting (CRD26); Report of the side event on Enhancing Engagement in Codex – Examples from Codex Trust Fund supported countries (CRD36)

146. Responding to a query from one observer, the representative of WHO confirmed that the Codex Trust Fund did not accept contributions from the private sector.
147. Beneficiaries expressed their appreciation to donors and their commitment to the implementation of their projects.

Conclusion

148. The Commission took note of the information provided.

REPORT OF THE DISCUSSION PANELS WITH IGOs AND NGOs (Agenda item 18)²⁹

149. The Commission welcomed the new approach to this item and noted the interest of the Members on the chosen topic of food integrity and authenticity. The Commission also noted the information provided by observer organizations.

ELECTION OF THE CHAIRPERSON AND VICE-CHAIRPERSONS (Agenda item 19)³⁰

150. The Commission elected the following persons to hold office from the end of its present Session to the end of the next regular (42th) Session of the Commission:

Chairperson:	Mr Guilherme Antonio da Costa Jr. (Brazil)
Vice-Chairpersons:	Mr Purwiyatno Hariyadi (Indonesia)
	Ms Mariam Eid (Lebanon)
	Mr Steve Wearne (United Kingdom)

DESIGNATION OF COUNTRIES RESPONSIBLE FOR APPOINTING THE CHAIRPERSONS OF CODEX SUBSIDIARY BODIES (Agenda item 20)³¹

151. The Commission confirmed the designation of the Host Governments (Appendix IX) as listed in CX/CAC18/41/22 and agreed to delete the footnote stating that CCPFV worked by correspondence only.
152. The Commission thanked the following former Chairpersons for their dedicated work for Codex over many years: Mr Junshi Chen (CCFA), Ms Pia Noble (CCNFSDU), Mr Gregory Read (CCFICS) and Mr Michel Thibier (CCGP).

OTHER BUSINESS (Agenda item 21)

Endocrine-disrupting substances in foods

153. The Commission:
- (i) noted the issue raised by India in CRD4 relating to pesticides as endocrine disruptors;
 - (ii) further noted that CCPR50 could not recommend new work as the issue was broad and went beyond the mandate of the Committee but noted that India could raise the concern directly as a Member of CAC; and
 - (iii) further noted that India had revised its proposal based on the discussion at CCPR50 and could resubmit the proposal to CCPR as the relevant technical body.

Organization of the Commission agenda

154. The delegation of Cuba expressed concern that excessive time had been allocated to side events diminishing the time available for plenary discussion.
155. The delegation further clarified and confirmed that its position related to the time available on the agenda for productive discussion relative to the time available for side events, and noted its right as a Member to express its opinion to the Commission. Debate could not be concluded due to a lack of time.
156. The Codex Secretariat clarified that 22 hours had been dedicated to plenary discussion, which was more time than at previous CAC sessions, and that side events had not reduced that time.
157. The delegation of the Dominican Republic could not express its views due to time constraints.

²⁹ CX/CAC 18/41/20, CRD35, INF1-11

³⁰ CX/CAC 18/41/21; Comments of the Dominican Republic (CRD19rev)

³¹ CX/CAC 18/41/22; Comments of the Dominican Republic (CRD19rev)

**LIST OF PARTICIPANTS
LISTE DES PARTICIPANTS
LISTA DE PARTICIPANTES**

CHAIRPERSON - PRÉSIDENT - PRESIDENTE

Mr Guilherme Antonio Da Costa
Food Safety Expert
Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Food Supply
Esplanada dos Ministerios Bl.D-Ed. Sede 3 andar-Sala300
CEP: 70043-900
Brazilia
Brazil
Email: guilherme.costa@agricultura.gov.br

Assistant to the Chairperson - Assistant du Président - Asistente del Presidente

Mr Rafael Guimaraes Requiao
Secretaria de Relações Internacionais do Agronegócio
Ministério da Agricultura, Pecuária e Abastecimento
Brasília
Brazil
Tel: +55 (61) 3218 2510
Email: rafael.requiao@agricultura.gov.br

VICE-CHAIRPERSONS – VICE-PRÉSIDENTS – VICEPRESIDENTES

Prof Purwiyatno Hariyadi
National Codex Committee of Indonesia
Southeast Asian Food and Agricultural
Science and Technology (SEAFST) Center
Bogor Agricultural University
IPB Campus, Dramaga
Bogor
Indonesia
Tel: +62 811110351
Email: phariyadi@apps.ipb.ac.id

Ms Mariam Eid
Head of Department
Agro-Industries Department
Codex Alimentarius
Lebanon
Tel: 009613567542
Email: meid@agriculture.gov.lb

Mr Steve Wearne
Director of Policy and Science
UK Food Standards Agency
Clive House 70 Petty France
London
United Kingdom
Tel: +44 7795 353580
Email: steve.wearne@food.gov.uk

**MEMBERS NATIONS AND MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS
ÉTATS MEMBRES ET ORGANISATIONS MEMBRES
ESTADOS MIEMBROS Y ORGANIZACIONES MIEMBROS**

ANGOLA

Dr Paulina Semedo
Presidente do Codex Angola
Ministério do Comércio - Instituto Nacional de Defesa
do Consumidor
Codex-Angola
Largo António Jacinto, Ministério da Agricultura
Luanda
Angola
Tel: 926494178
Email: codexangola@yahoo.com.br

Mr Carlos Alberto Amaral
Représentant Permanent Adjoint de l'Angola auprès
des Agences des Nations Unies à Rome
Permanent Representation of Angola
Email: repfao@embangola.com

Eng José Carlos Da Silva Bettencourt
Director National
Direcção Nacional da Agricultura e Ponto Focal do
Codex-Angola
Ministério da Agricultura - Codex-Angola
Rua Comandante Jika, Largo António Jacinto
Luanda
Angola
Email: codexangola@yahoo.com.br

Dr Maria De Fátima Da Conceicao De Melo
Secretaria Executiva
Direcção Nacional de Agricultura e Pecuária
Codex-Angola / Ministério da Agricultura
Largo António Jacinto-Ministério da Agricultura
Luanda
Angola
Tel: +244 924 05 26 40
Email: ftmamel@yahoo.com.br

Mr Ângelo Do Rosário Rafael
Représentant Permanent Suppléant de l'Angola auprès
des Agences des Nations Unies à Rome
Permanent Representation of Angola
Email: repfao@embangola.com

Dr Lidia Morais
2ª Secretária Executiva Adjunta do Codex
Serviços de Saúde do EMG-FAA
Codex-Angola/Ministério da Defesa Nacional
Largo António Jacinto-Ministério da Agricultura e
Florestas
Luanda
Angola
Tel: +244 923 31 66 78
Email: codexangola@yahoo.com.br

Mr Franco Gamboa Cardoso
Assistant Multilatéral do Sector Commercial de
l'Ambassade de la République de l'Angola en Italie
Permanent Representation of Angola
Email: repfao@embangola.com

ARGENTINA - ARGENTINE

Ms Gabriela Catalani
Punto Focal Codex
Ministerio de Agroindustria
Azopardo 1025
CABA
Argentina
Tel: 4363 6383
Email: gacatalani@gmail.com

AUSTRALIA - AUSTRALIE

Ms Fran Freeman
First Assistant Secretary
Department of Agriculture and Water Resources
GPO Box 858
Canberra
Australia
Tel: +61262724747
Email: fran.freeman@agriculture.gov.au

Mr Mark Booth
Chief Executive Officer
Food Standards Australia New Zealand
15 Lancaster Place
Majura
Australia
Tel: +61 2 6272 2222
Email: mark.booth@foodstandards.gov.au

Ms Rosemary Navarrete
advisor Agriculture
Australia Embassy
Email: rosemary.navarrete@dfat.gov.au

Ms Cathrine Stephenson
Deputy Perm Rep
Australia Embassy
Email: cathrine.stephenson@dfat.gov.au

AUSTRIA - AUTRICHE

Mrs Bettina Brandtner
Federal Ministry of Sustainability and Tourism
Stubenring 1
Vienna
Austria
Tel: +43 1 71100-606713
Email: bettina.brandtner@bmnt.gv.at

Mrs Claudia Andresek
Federal Ministry of Sustainability and Tourism
Stubenring 1
Vienna
Austria
Tel: +43 (1) 71100 602353
Email: claudia.andresek@bmnt.gv.at

Mr Robert Dautzenberg
Policy Officer
Council of the Union
General Secretariat of the Council of the European Union
Rue de la Loi, 175
Bruxelles
Belgium
Email: robert.dautzenberg@consilium.europa.eu

Mr Alexander Rogge
Policy Officer
Council of the Union
General Secretariat of the Council of the European Union
Rue de la Loi, 175
Bruxelles
Belgium
Email: alexander.rogge@consilium.europa.eu

Mrs Lisa-Maria Urban
Deputy Head of Department
Federal Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs, Health and Consumer Protection
Radetzkystraße 2
Vienna
Austria
Tel: +43171100644793
Email: lisa-maria.urban@bmg.gv.at

AZERBAIJAN - AZERBAÏDJAN - AZERBAIYÁN

Mr Fuad Mardiyev
Deputy Head of International Relations and Protocol Department
International Relations and Protocol
Food Safety Agency of The Republic of Azerbaijan
Heydar Aliyev ave. 152
Baku
Azerbaijan
Tel: +994518088080
Email: mardiyevfuad@gmail.com

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

BANGLADESH

Mr Manash Mitra
Economic Counsellor
Embassy of Bangladesh, Rome, Italy
Economic Counsellor & APR to FAO, IFAD & WFP
Via Antonio Bertoloni 14, 00197
Rome
Italy
Tel: 39 06 808 2673
Email: ecromebd2018@gmail.com

BARBADOS - BARBADE

Mrs Anthea Ishmael
Director
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
FEVIA - Fédération de l'industrie alimentaire
Rue de la science, 14
Bruxelles
Belgium
Tel: +3225501760
Email: jh@fevia.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

BENIN - BÉNIN

Dr Françoise Assogba Komlan
Secrétaire Générale du Ministère
Ministère de l'Agriculture, de l'Élevage et de la Pêche
Cotonou
Benin
Tel: 00229 95054105
Email: fassogbakomlan@gmail.com

Mr Egnon Jacques Hougbenou Hougla
 Animateur du Secrétariat Permanent du Comité
 National du Codex Alimentarius, Directeur de
 l'Alimentation et de la Nutrition Appliquée
 Ministère de l'Agriculture, de l'Élevage et de la Pêche
 Tokpota
 Porto-Novo
 Benin
 Tel: 00229 94413013
 Email: jacquos75@yahoo.fr

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

Mr Yecid Ramiro Humacayo Morales
 Director General de Promoción de la Salud
 Ministerio de Salud
 Plaza del Estudiante S/N
 La Paz
 Bolivia (Plurinational State of)
 Tel: (591) 72490136
 Email: yhumacayo@minsalud.gob.bo

Mr Carlos Aparicio Vedia
 Embajador Extraordinario y Plenipotenciario
 Embajada de Bolivia en Italia
 Via Brenta 2a, int. 18, 00198
 Roma
 Italy
 Tel: (39-06) 8841001;8
 Email: infobolit@yahoo.it

Ms Thania Huayllani Arcayne
 Gerente Administrativo Financiero
 Sindan Organic
 Av. Arica N° 777 Zona Senkata El Alto
 La Paz
 Bolivia (Plurinational State of)
 Tel: (591) 2851220
 Email: thania@sindanorganic.com.bo

Mr Carlos Renato Pucci Salvietti
 Vice Presidente
 Comité Nacional Del Codex Alimentarius
 Calle 10 de Obrajés
 La Paz
 Bolivia (Plurinational State of)
 Tel: (591) 2786072
 Email: renopucci@gmail.com

Mr Roxana Wilma Oller Catoira
 Segundo Secretario
 Misión Diplomática de Bolivia en Roma
 Embajada de Bolivia en Italia
 Roma Italia
 Italy
 Email: roxoller@yahoo.com

Mr Carlos Javier Suarez Cornejo
 Jefe De Unidad de Negociaciones Comerciales
 Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores Bolivia
 La Paz
 Bolivia (Plurinational State of)
 Tel: (591) 73077749
 Email: csuarezcornejo@gmail.com

Mr Edgar Marcial Soliz Morales
 Director Ejecutivo
 Centro Internacional de la Quinoa
 Calle Aspiazu n° 458 piso 1 entre av. 20 de Octubre y
 Sanchez Lima
 La Paz
 Bolivia (Plurinational State of)
 Tel: (591) 68222085
 Email: edgar.solizm@gmail.com

Mr Edwin Humberto Zarate Aban
 Consejero
 Embajada de Bolivia en Italia
 Roma
 Italy
 Tel: 39068841001
 Email: ezarate@rree.gob.bo

BRAZIL - BRÉSIL - BRASIL

Ms Mariana Marton
 Coordinator for Codex Alimentarius Matters
 Agriculture and Commodities Division
 Ministry of Foreign Affairs
 Esplanada dos Ministérios, Bloco H
 BRASILIA
 Brazil
 Tel: 55 61 2030-8927
 Email: mariana.marton@itamaraty.gov.br

Mrs Gianina Müller Pozzebon
 Alternate Permanent Representative of Brazil to FAO,
 WFP and IFAD
 Email: gianina.pozzebon@itamaraty.gov.br

Mrs Antonia Maria De Aquino
 Manager of Special Products
 Nacional Health Surveillance Agency – Anvisa/MS
 SIA Trecho 5 – Area Especial 57 – Bloco D – 2º andar
 – CEP: 71205-050
 Brasília
 Brazil
 Tel: + 55 61 3462 6514
 Email: Antonia.maria@anvisa.gov.br

Mrs Suzany Portal Da Silva Moraes
 Health Regulation Specialist
 Coordination of International Liaison and Regulatory
 Convergence
 Brazilian Health Regulatory Agency- ANVISA
 Email: suzany.moraes@anvisa.gov.br

Mr André Luis Santos
 Chair of the Brazilian Codex Alimentarius Committee
 National Institute of Metrology, Quality and Technology
 Rua Santa Alexandria, 416 - 9ª andar - Rio Comprido
 Rio de Janeiro
 Brazil
 Tel: + 55 21 2563-5543
 Email: alsantos@inmetro.gov.br

Mr Rogério Silva
 Coordinator for Codex Alimentarius Matters
 Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Food Supply
 Esplanada dos Ministérios, Bloco D, Edifício Sede, Sala
 349
 Brasília
 Brazil
 Tel: +55 61 3218-3475
 Email: rogerio.silva@agricultura.gov.br

BULGARIA - BULGARIE

Dr Galya Kostadinova
 Head of department "Food safety"
 Policies on agri-food chain directorate
 Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Forestry
 Sofia Blvd. "Hristo Botev" 55,
 Sofia
 Bulgaria
 Tel: 00 359 2 985 11 306
 Email: GKostadinova@mzh.government.bg

BURKINA FASO

Mr Cyrille Sansan Regis Kambire
 Intérim Point de Contact Codex Burkina/ Ingénieur
 Technologie Alimentaire
 Direction de la Protection des Végétaux et du
 Conditionnement/DPVC
 Ministère en charge de l'Agriculture
 Direction de la Protection des Végétaux et du
 Conditionnement/DPVC Ouagadougou, zone du Bois
 Ouagadougou
 Burkina Faso
 Tel: +22670890010
 Email: cyrille_kam@yahoo.fr

CAMEROON - CAMEROUN - CAMERÚN

Mr Charles Booto à Ngon
 Directeur Général de l'ANOR
 Direction générale
 Agence des Normes et de la Qualité
 B.P. 16966, rue 1792 Bestus
 Yaoundé
 Cameroon
 Tel: 00237 22206368
 Email: bootoagon@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 Awal Mohamadou
 Sous-Directeur de la Programmation et d'Homologation
 des Normes
 Direction Générale
 Agence des Normes et de la Qualité
 Yaoundé
 Cameroon
 Tel: +237 699420780
 Email: moawaln@yahoo.fr

Mr Pouedogo Pouedogo
 Services du Premier Ministre
 Cameroon
 Tel: (+237) 69 89 77 33
 Email: pouedo@yahoo.com

Mr Indongo Yves Laret
 Directeur du Développement de la Qualité
 Ministère des mines, de l'industrie et du
 Développement Technologique
 Cameroon
 Tel: (+237) 222 220825
 Email: indyllaret@gmail.com

CANADA - CANADÁ

Ms Jennifer Hughes Doucet
 Manager, International Affairs
 Health Canada
 Bureau of Policy, Intergovernmental and International
 Affairs
 251 Sir Frederick Banting Driveway, 408C (AL 2204D)
 Ottawa, Ontario
 Canada
 Tel: 613-948-8275
 Email: Jennifer.HughesDoucet@Canada.ca

Ms Jennifer Fellows
 Alternate Permanent Representative
 Permanent Mission of Canada to the Food and
 Agriculture Organizations of the UN
 via Zara, 30
 Rome
 Italy
 Tel: +39 06854443603
 Email: Jennifer.Fellows@international.gc.ca

Ms Pamela Harrod
 General Counsel and Corporate Secretary
 Dairy Farmers of Canada
 21 Florence Street
 Ottawa, ON
 Canada
 Tel: 613-236-9997 ext.2755
 Email: Pamela.Harrod@dfc-plc.ca

Ms Nancy Ing
Regulatory Policy & Risk Management Specialist
International and Interagency Affairs and Codex
Contact Point
Health Canada
251 Sir Frederick Banting Driveway, Tunneys Pasture
Mail Stop 2204C Floor 4
Ottawa
Canada
Tel: 613 941-5163
Email: nancy.ing@canada.ca

Ms Mae Johnson
Director
Bureau of Policy, Intergovernmental and International
Affairs
Health Canada, Government of Canada
251 Sir Frederick Banting Driveway AL 2204C
Ottawa
Canada
Tel: 613 957-8417
Email: Mae.Johnson2@Canada.ca

Mrs Kathy Twardek
Director, Consumer Protection and Market Fairness
Division
Canadian Food Inspection Agency
1400 Merivale Road, Tower 2, Floor 6
Ottawa
Canada
Tel: 613-773-5489
Email: Kathy.Twardek@canada.ca

Mrs Alison Wereley
Senior Policy Analyst, International Affairs and Market
Access Directorate
Canadian Food Inspection Agency
1400 Merivale Road, Tower 1, Floor 4
Ottawa
Canada
Tel: 613-773-6450
Email: Alison.Wereley@canada.ca

Mr Brent Wilson
Deputy Director
Agriculture and Agrifood Canada
1305 Baseline Road, Tower 5, Floor 5 Room 347
Ottawa
Canada
Tel: 613-773-1651
Email: Brent.wilson@agr.gc.ca

**CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC -
CENTRAFRICAINE, RÉP -
CENTROAFRICANA, REPÚBLICA**

Dr Ernest Lango-Yaya
Chef d'Unité de Microbiologie
Ministère de la Santé
Laboratoire National de Biologie Clinique et de la Santé
Publique
BP: 1426, Bangui République Centrafricaine
Bangui
Central African Republic
Tel: +236 75044605
Email: elangoyaya@gmail.com

CHILE - CHILI

Mrs Nuri Gras Rebolledo
Secretaria Ejecutiva
Chilean Food Safety and Quality Agency, ACHIPIA
Ministerio de Agricultura
17 Nueva York, piso 4
Santiago
Chile
Tel: 56 22 7979900
Email: nuri.gras@achipia.gob.cl

Mr Diego Varela
Coordinator
Agencia Chilena para la Inocuidad y Calidad
Alimentaria, ACHIPIA
Ministerio de Agricultura
Calle Nueva York 17, piso 4
Santiago
Chile
Tel: 56 2 27979900
Email: diego.varela@achipia.gob.cl

Ms Roxana Vera Muñoz
Coordinadora Unidad de Acuerdos Internacionales
División de Asuntos Internacionales, Servicio Agrícola y
Ganadero, SAG
Ministerio de Agricultura
Bulnes 140, piso 5.
Santiago
Chile
Tel: 56 22 3451167
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

Mr Jinfeng Liu
Director
National Health Commission of the People's Republic
of China
No.1 Xizhimenwainan Rd. Xicheng District Beijing City
Beijing
China
Tel: 010-68792382
Email: liujf@nhfpc.gov.cn

Ms Lu Bai
Deputy Director
Import and Export Food Safety of General
Administration of Customs, P.R.China
No.6 Jianguomennei Avenue, Dongcheng District,
Beijing
China
Tel: 010-65195635
Email: FSI@customs.gov.cn

Ms Hao Ding
Assistant Researcher
China National Center for Food Safety Risk
Assessment
203, No.2 Building, No.37 Guangqu Road, Chaoyang
district
Beijing
China
Tel: 0086-1052165407
Email: dinghao@cfsa.net.cn

Mr Hongyan Dong
Division Director
Bureau of Quality and Safety Supervision for Agro-
products
Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs of the People's
Republic of China
No.11 Nong Zhanguan Nanli, 100125
Beijing
China
Tel: +86 10 59193164
Email: scszlc@agri.gov.cn

Mr Baotong Duan
Principal staff
Standardization Administration of P.R.China
No.9 Madiandonglu, Haidian District 100088
Beijing
China
Tel: 010-82262627
Email: duanbt@sac.gov.cn

Mr Yongxiang Fan
Researcher
China National Center for Food Safety Risk
Assessment
203, No.2 Building, No.37 Guangqu Road, Chaoyang,
Beijing
China
Tel: 0086-1052165410
Email: fanyongxiang@cfsa.net.cn

Mr Yuk Ching Alex Fu
Senior Medical Officer
Centre for Food Safety, Food and Environment Hygiene
Department, HKSAR Government
43/F, Queensway Government Offices, 66 Queensway,
Hong Kong
Hong Kong
China

Tel: (852)28675420
Email: aycfu@fehd.gov.hk

Ms Fang Gao
Agronomist
China Codex Contact Point
Center for Agro-food Quality and Safety, Ministry of
Agriculture and Rural Affairs
Beijing
China
Tel: 010-59198571
Email: 154354062@qq.com

Mr Guoqiang Gong
Division Chief
National Health Commission of the People's Republic
of China
No.1 Xizhimenwainan Rd. Xicheng District Beijing City
Beijing
China
Tel: 010-68792985
Email: gonggg@nhfpc.gov.cn

Mr Gang Han
Director Doctor
Quality and Standard Research Center
Chinese Academy of Fishery Sciences
No.150 Qingta, South Yongding Rd,
Beijing
China
Tel: +86 10-68671004
Email: hangang@cafs.ac.cn

Ms Lihua Hao
Associate Professor
China Institute of Veterinary Drug Control
No.8 Zhongguancun South Street, Beijing
Beijing
China
Tel: 010-62103930
Email: hlh060328@163.com

Mr Yuk Yin Ho
Controller
Center for Food Safety, Food and Environmental
Hygiene Department, HKSAR Government
45/F, Queensway Government Offices, 66 Queensway,
Hong Kong
Hong Kong
China
Tel: 28675500
Email: yyho@fehd.gov.hk

Mr Man Ho Jai
Senior Veterinary Officer
Center for Food Safety, Food and Environmental
Hygiene Department, HKSAR Government
3/F, 4 Hospital Road, Sai Ying Pun, Hong Kong
Hong Kong
China
Tel: 39622061
Email: jmhjai@fehd.gov.hk

Ms Xiaoxi Ju
Researcher
Division of Risk Assessment
Food Safety Centre, IACM, Macao S.A.R.
Ruo Nova da Areia Preta No.52
Macao S.A.R
China
Tel: 853-82969890
Email: xxju@iacm.gov.mo

Ms Ruoxin Liao
Research associate
Public Monitoring Center for Agro-product of
Guangdong Academy of Agricultural Sciences
Room 323, Chuangxin Building, Jinying Road No.20,
Guangzhou Tianhe District, Guangdong Province,
China
Tel: 020-85161829
Email: stacie891116@126.com

Mr Chonghuai Liu
Professor
Fruit Tree Research Institute of Chinese Academy of
Agricultural Sciences
Zhengzhou Fruit Research Institute, Chinese Academy
of Agricultural Sciences, Zhengzhou
China
Tel: 0371-55906986
Email: liuchonghuai@caas.cn

Ms Ka Ming Ma
Scientific Officer
Centre for Food Safety, Food and Environment Hygiene
Department, HKSAR Government
3/F, 4 Hospital Road, Hong Kong
Hong Kong
China
Tel: (852)39622064
Email: jkmma@fehd.gov.hk

Mr Xiongwu Qiao
Professor/Director General, CCPR Chairperson
Shanxi Academy of Agricultural Sciences
No.81 Longcheng Street, Xiaodian District, Taiyuan,
Shanxi Province,
China
Tel: +86 351 7581865
Email: ccpr_qiao@agri.gov.cn

Ms Hoi Chi Sou
Division Director
Division of Risk Assessment
Food Safety Centre, IACM, Macao S.A.R.
Rua Nova da Areia Preta No. 52, Macao S.A.R.
Macao S.A.R
China
Tel: 853-82969931
Email: hcsou@iacm.gov.mo

Mr Liangjun Wan
Professor
Standard
Center for Agro-food Quality and Safety, Ministry of
Agriculture and Rural Affairs
Beijing
China
Tel: 010-59198527
Email: 309419693@qq.com

Mr Yongting Wang
Assistant of the Director General
China National Center for Food Safety Risk
Assessment
No.2 Building, No.37 Guangqu Road, Chaoyang district
Beijing
China
Tel: 0086-1052165500
Email: wangyongting@cfsa.net.cn

Mr Ruicheng Wei
Associate Researcher
Institute of Food Safety and Nutrition, Jiangsu Academy
of Agricultural Sciences
50 Zhongling Street, Nanjing 210014
China
Tel: 025-84391617
Email: weiruicheng@126.com

Ms Lan Wu
Section Chief
Guangzhou Customs of the P.R.C
66 Huacheng Avenue, Zhujiang New City, Tianhe
District, Guangzhou, China
Guangzhou
China
Tel: 020-38297960
Email: 490357294@qq.com

Ms Ru Xu
Section Chief
China National Center for Food Safety Risk
Assessment
No.2 Building, No.37 Guangqu Road, Chaoyang district
Beijing
China
Tel: 0086-52165520
Email: xuru@cfsa.net.cn

Mr Donghui Xu
 Professor
 The Institute of Vegetables and Flowers
 Chinese Academy of Agriculture Sciences
 Zhongguancun South Street, Haidian District 12
 Beijing
 China
 Tel: 010-82106963
 Email: xudonghui@caas.cn

Mr Guibiao Ye
 Professor/Director, CCPR Secretariat
 Institute for the Control of Agrochemicals, Ministry of
 Agriculture
 Room 904, Building No. 18, Maizidian Street,
 Chaoyang, 100125
 Beijing
 China
 Tel: +86 10 59194302
 Email: yeguibiao@agri.gov.cn

Mr Zonghui Yuan
 Professor
 Huazhong Agricultural University
 Institute of Veterinary Pharmaceuticals,
 Shizishan Street, Hongshan Wuhan, Hubei 430070
 China
 Tel: +86 027-87287186
 Email: yuan5802@mail.hzau.edu.cn

COLOMBIA - COLOMBIE

Dr Monica Fonseca Jaramillo
 Ministro Consejero
 Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores
 Via Giuseppe Pisanelli, 4 - 00196 Roma – Italia
 Colombia
 Tel: 39 06 3612131 - 06 3614348 - 0
 Email: monica.fonseca@cancilleria.gov.co

Dr Maria Camila Sierra Restrepo
 Primer Secretario de Relaciones Exteriores
 Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores
 Via Giuseppe Pisanelli, 4 - 00196 Roma – Italia
 Roma
 Colombia
 Tel: 39 06 3612131 - 06 3614348 - 0
 Email: maria.sierra@cancilleria.gov.co

CONGO

Mr Marc Mankoussou
 Representant Permanent Suppleant FAO
 Embassy of Congo
 Email: mankoussouk@yahoo.fr

COSTA RICA

Mrs Tatiana Cruz Ramírez
 Chief of Codex Department of Costa Rica
 Ministry of Economy, Industry and Commerce
 San José, Llorente de Tibas
 Costa Rica
 Tel: (506) 2549-1495
 Email: tcruz@meic.go.cr

Mr Pablo J Innecken Zúñiga
 Segundo Secretario de la Misión en Roma
 Misión Permanente de Costa Rica ante los organismos
 de la ONU-Roma
 Largo Ecuador 6
 Roma
 Italy

Tel: (0039) 0680660390
 Email: pinnecken@rree.go.cr

Mr Marco Vinicio Vargas Pereira
 Embajador
 Misión Permanente de Costa Rica ante los organismos
 de la ONU-Roma
 Largo Ecuador 6, 00198 Roma, Italia
 Roma
 Italy
 Tel: (0039) 0680660390
 Email: miscr-fao@rree.go.cr

CROATIA - CROATIE - CROACIA

Mrs Tatjana Karačić
 Head of Department for Codex Alimentarius and Food
 Quality Standards
 Department for Codex Alimentarius and Food Quality
 Standards, Directorate for Food and Phytosanitary
 Policy
 Ministry of Agriculture
 Ulica grada Vukovara 78 10000 Zagreb
 Hrvatska/Croatia
 Zagreb
 Croatia
 Tel: +385 1 6106 452
 Email: tatjana.karacic@mps.hr

Ms Iva Mraović
 Senior Adviser
 Department for Codex Alimentarius and Food Quality
 Standards, Directorate for Food and Phytosanitary
 Ministry of Agriculture
 Ulica grada Vukovara 78 10000 Hrvatska
 Zagreb
 Croatia
 Tel: +385 1 6109 440
 Email: iva.mraovic@mps.hr

CUBA

Dr Hortensia Nancy Fernández Rodríguez
 Directora General NC y Presidenta CNC
 Punto Contacto Codex
 Oficina Nacional de Normalización
 Calle E Nro. 261 e/ 11 y 13 Vedado, La Habana
 La Habana
 Cuba
 Tel: 537 8300879
 Email: jefatura@ncnorma.cu

Mrs Rebeca Cutie Cancino
 Deputy Permanent Representative
 Cuban Embassy
 Email: adjuntocuba@ecuitalia.it

Ing Marileydy Herrera Olmo
 Directora Calidad y Tecnología
 Ministerio de la Industria Alimentaria
 Ave. 41 Nro 4455 e/ 44 y 46 Playa
 La Habana
 Cuba
 Tel: 537 2123939
 Email: marileydy.herrera@minal.gob.cu

Mr Gabriel Lahens Espinosa
 Director de Regulaciones Técnicas y Control de la
 Calidad
 Ministerio del Comercio Exterior y la Inversión
 Extranjera
 Infanta Nro. 16 esquina 23
 La Habana
 Cuba
 Tel: 537 8380364
 Email: gabriel.lahens@mincex.cu

Dr Mayra Martí Pérez
 Jefa de Departamento de Higiene de los Alimentos y
 Nutrición
 Dirección Nacional de Salud Ambiental del Ministerio
 de Salud Pública
 Calle 23 e/ M y N. Edificio Soto, Vedado
 La Habana
 Cuba
 Tel: 537 8330267
 Email: mayra.marti@infomed.sld.cu

Ing Mariana De Jesus Pérez Periche
 Jefa Departamento Independiente Gestión de la
 Calidad
 Ministerio de la Agricultura
 Ave. Independiente y Tulipán
 La Habana
 Cuba
 Tel: 537 8847454
 Email: dptocalidad@oc.minag.gob.cu

CYPRUS - CHYPRE - CHIPRE

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

Mr Christos Koupparis
 Consultant
 C Koupparis and Associates
 Tel: 0035799646858
 Email: akouppari@da.moa.gov.cy

CZECH REPUBLIC - TCHÈQUE, RÉPUBLIQUE - CHECA, REPÚBLICA

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

Mrs Wroly Danielle Sepe
 Représentante Permanente Suppléante de la Côte
 d'Ivoire auprès de la FAO, du FIDA et du PAM
 via di Santa Costanza 21-00198
 Rome
 Italy
 Tel: +39 0644258249
 Email: cotedivoirerep@yahoo.com

Mr Yapi Clément Aie
 Directeur Général
 Laboratoire National d'Essais de Qualité de Métrologie
 et d'Analyses (LANEMA)
 Abidjan
 Côte d'Ivoire
 Tel: (+225) 02 08 08 08
 Email: clementaie@yahoo.fr

Mr Bertin Anon
 Directeur des Productions Vivrières et de la Sécurité
 Alimentaire
 Point de Contact Codex Côte d'Ivoire
 Direction des Productions Vivrières et de la Sécurité
 Alimentaire (DPVSA)
 Ministère de l'Agriculture et du Développement Rural
 BP V82
 Abidjan
 Côte d'Ivoire
 Tel: (+225) 20 22 24 81/ (+225) 07 687194
 Email: anonbertin@yahoo.fr ;
codexcotedivoire@gmail.com

Mr Comoe Marius Rodriguese Brou
Président
Conseil National des Organisations de Consommateurs
de Côte d'Ivoire (CNOC-CI)
Abidjan
Côte d'Ivoire
Tel: (+225) 05 38 09 37
Email: micopci@yahoo.fr

Mr Seydou Cisse
Ambassadeur, Représentant Permanent de la Côte
d'Ivoire auprès de la FAO, du FIDA et du PAM
via di Santa Costanza 21-00198 Roma
Rome
Italy
Tel: +39 3396134069
Email: cotedivoirerep@yahoo.com

Prof Ardjouma Dembele
Directeur du Laboratoire National d'Appui au
Développement Agricole (LANADA)
Laboratoire National d'Appui au Développement
Agricole
04 B.P.504 Abidjan 04/COTE D'IVOIRE
Abidjan
Côte d'Ivoire
Tel: (+225) 05 95 95 72
Email: ardjouma@yahoo.fr

Mr Kouadio Maxime Esso
Sous-Directeur de la Recherche Agricole
Direction des Productions Vivrières et de la Sécurité
Alimentaire (DPVSA)
Ministère de l'Agriculture et du Développement Rural
Abidjan
Côte d'Ivoire
Tel: (+225) 07 35 69 80
Email: kouadiomaxime2000@yahoo.fr

Mr Victor Éloi Kambou
Représentant Permanent Suppléant de la Côte d'Ivoire
auprès de la FAO, du FIDA et du PAM
via di Santa Costanza 21-00198 Roma
Rome
Italy
Tel: +39 0644258249
Email: cotedivoirerep@yahoo.com

Dr Kouamé Kanga
Représentant Permanent Adjoint de la Côte d'Ivoire
auprès de la FAO, du FIDA et du PAM
via di Santa Costanza 21-00198 Roma
Rome
Italy
Tel: +39 0644258249
Email: cotedivoirerep@yahoo.com

Mr Stanislas Dewinther Tape
Sous-Directeur de la Qualité et de la Formation au
Laboratoire National d'Essais de Qualité de Métrologie
et d'Analyses (LANEMA)
Abidjan
Côte d'Ivoire
Tel: (+225) 03 37 87 06
Email: stantape@gmail.com

Mrs Niamkey Simone Yankson
Présidente du Réseau Ivoirien pour la Promotion de
l'Alimentation Bio en Côte d'Ivoire (RIPAB-CI)
Réseau Ivoirien pour la Promotion de l'Alimentation Bio
en Côte d'Ivoire (RIPAB-CI)
Abidjan

Côte d'Ivoire
Email: micopci@yahoo.fr

**DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF KOREA -
RÉPUBLIQUE POPULAIRE DÉMOCRATIQUE DE
CORÉE -
REPÚBLICA POPULAR DEMOCRÁTICA DE COREA**

Mr Song Chol Rim
Deputy Permanent Rep. to FAO
Embassy of Democratic People's Republic of Korea
Email: dprkembroma@outlook.com

DENMARK - DANEMARK - DINAMARCA

Mr Knud Østergaard
Head of Division
Danish Veterinary and Food Administration
Ministry of Environment and Food
Stationsparken 31
Glostrup
Denmark
Tel: +45 7227 6705
Email: koe@fvst.dk

Mr Jørgen Hald Christensen
CEO
Danish Dairy Board
AGRO FOOD PARK 13 8200 Aarhus N Denmark
Viby J
Denmark
Tel: +45 40408428
Email: jhc@lf.dk

Mr Jens Therkel Jensen
Deputy Head of Division of International Cooperation
Danish Veterinary and Food Administration
Ministry of Environment and Food
Stationsparken 31
Glostrup
Denmark
Email: jetj@fvst.dk

Mrs Linda Jensen
Chief Adviser
Danish Agriculture and Food Council
Axeltorv 3
Copenhagen V
Denmark
Tel: +45 33394350
Email: lmj@lf.dk

DJIBOUTI

Mr Mouharam Fouad Abdallah
 Directeur
 Direction du commerce intérieur et de la protection du consommateur
 Ministère du Commerce
 cité Ministérielle, Djibouti ville
 Djibouti
 Tel: +25377821194
 Email: marahuom@hotmail.com

Mr Kamil Ali Hassan
 Directeur
 Laboratoire National d'Analyse Alimentaire(LANAA)
 Ministère de l'Agriculture
 Terre plein du port de pêche
 Djibouti
 Djibouti
 Tel: 00253 77 82 34 34
 Email: kayskarim@gmail.com

**DOMINICAN REPUBLIC –
 DOMINICAINE, RÉPUBLIQUE –
 DOMINICANA, REPÚBLICA**

Mr Mario Arvelo
 Permanent Representative of Dominican Republic to
 FAO, IFAD and WFP
 Permanent Mission of the Dominican Republic to FAO,
 IFAD and WFP
 Lungotevere dei Sangallo 1, 00186
 Rome
 Italy
 Tel: 066875850
 Email: mario@marioarvelo.org

Ms Liudmila Kuzmicheva
 Counsellor
 First Secretary, Alternate Permanent Representative
 Permanent Mission of Dominican Republic to FAO,
 IFAD and WFP
 Email: liudmila.kuzmicheva@rdroma.org

Mrs Maria Cristina Laureano
 Primera Secretaria, Representante Alterna
 Mision Permanente Republica Dominicana FAO
 Lungotevere dei Sangallo 1
 Roma
 Italy
 Tel: 066875850
 Email: maria.laureano@rdroma.org

ECUADOR - ÉQUATEUR

Mr Francisco Xavier Suasti Salazar
 Subsecretario de Comercialización
 Subsecretaría de Comercialización
 Ministerio de Agricultura y Ganadería
 Av. Amazonas y Av. Eloy Alfaro
 Quito
 Ecuador
 Tel: 593 2 3960100
 Email: fsuasti@mag.gob.ec

Mr Israel Vaca Jiménez
 Coordinador General de Inocuidad de Alimentos
 Encargado
 Agencia de Regulación y Control Fito y Zoonosanitario -
 AGROCALIDAD
 Ministerio de Agricultura y Ganadería - MAG
 Av. Amazonas y Av. Eloy Alfaro
 Quito
 Ecuador
 Tel: +593 22567232
 Email: israel.vaca@agrocalidad.gob.ec

Mr Paúl Vallejo Madrid
 Segundo Secretario
 Representación permanente del Ecuador ante la FAO
 Embajada de Ecuador en Italia
 Tel: +39 0689672820
 Email: paulvallejom@gmail.com

Mr David Enrique Vanegas Jácome
 Director de Regulación y Diagnóstico de Calidad e
 Inocuidad
 Subsecretaría de Calidad e Inocuidad
 Ministerio de Acuacultura y Pesca
 Letamendi 102 y La Ría, Guayaquil
 Guayaquil
 Ecuador
 Tel: +593 958892150
 Email: david.vanegas@acuaculturaypesca.gob.ec

EGYPT - ÉGYPTE - EGIPTO

Dr Ahmed Abdelbaset Aly Shalaby
 Deputy Permanent Representative of Egypt to UN
 Agencies based in Rome
 Agricultural Office
 Embassy of the Arab Republic of Egypt in Italy
 Via Salaria 267 - 00199 Rome
 Rome
 Italy
 Tel: +39 06 8548956
 Email: egypt@agrioffegypt.it

Ms Nabila Mahmoud Mohamed Abdelhalim
 Commercial Minister Plenipotentiary
 Embassy of the Arab Republic of Egypt
 Department: Economic & Commercial Affairs
 Salaria St. 267 – 00199 Rome
 Rome
 Tel: +39 06 85355092
 Email: rome@ecs.gov.eg

Eng Hanan Fouad Hamid Ibrahim Hashem
 Head of Food Standards Department
 Food Standards Dept
 Egyptian Organization for Standardization & Quality
 (EOS)
 16, Tadreeb EL-Modarrebeen St., Ameriyah
 Cairo
 Egypt
 Tel: +201228056795
 Email: hananfouad86@hotmail.com

Eng Ahmed Mohammed Elhelw
Codex Contact Point for Egypt
Food Standards Department
Egyptian Organization for Standardization & Quality (EOS)
16 Tadreeb AlMudarbeen St., AlAmeriah
Cairo
Egypt
Tel: +201224083536
Email: Ahmed.Elhelw@eos.org.eg

Prof Salaheldin Hussein Sayed Ahmed Abouraia
Emeritus Professor
Food Industries
Faculty of Agriculture-Cairo University
34 St. Tayba, El Dokki
Giza
Egypt
Tel: +201223199931
Email: aborayasalah1947@yahoo.com

Eng Elshahat Eltoukhy
Technical Director
Chamber of Food Industries (CFI)
1195 Corniche el Nile St.
Cairo
Egypt
Tel: +20225748627
Email: selim_sh2002@egycofi.org.eg

Dr Nermeen Khalifa
SRA BU Manager
Coca-Cola Atlantic Industries
Nasr City, free zone Eight District
Cairo
Egypt
Tel: +20222767132
Email: nekhhalifa@coca-cola.com

Eng Mohamed Rashed Amin Soliman
Assistant Manager
Regulatory Affairs
Juhayna Food Industries
43 11th District, St 7, 6th of October
Giza
Egypt
Tel: +201001504272
Email: Mohamed.rashid@juhayna.com

Eng Mostafa Ghonamy Kassem Borham
Quality Control Specialist
Control Assurance
Food Industries Holding Co.
1 AlSawah Square, Hadaeq Al Qubbah
Cairo
Egypt
Tel: +201116622669
Email: mghonamy2002@yahoo.com

EL SALVADOR

Mrs Claudia Guzmán De López
Especialista Codex
Punto de Contacto Codex El Salvador
Organismo Salvadoreño de Reglamentación Técnica
1° calle poniente, Final 41 Avenida Norte, N°18 San Salvador,
San Salvador
El Salvador
Tel: 503-7841-7178
Email: cguzman@osartec.gob.sv

Ms Maria A. Torres De Meilliez
Permanent Rep
Embassy of El Salvador
Email: mtorres@rree.gob.sv

Ms Mario Ghioldi
Intern
Embassy of El Salvador
Email: marioghioldi@yahoo.it

ERITREA - ÉRYTHRÉE

Mr Asmerin Kidane Tecleghiorghis
Counselor
Alternate Perm Rep of the state of Eritrea to FAO
Email: asmeromk2016@gmail.com

ESTONIA - ESTONIE

Ms Siret Surva
Chief Specialist
Food Safety Department
Ministry of Rural Affairs of the Republic of Estonia
Lai tn 39 // Lai tn 41
Tallinn
Estonia
Tel: (+372) 6256547
Email: Siret.Surva@agri.ee

EUROPEAN UNION - UNION EUROPÉENNE - UNIÃO EUROPEA

Mr Dirk Lange
Head of Unit
Health & Food Safety Directorate-General
European Commission
Rue Froissart 101
BRUSSELS
Belgium
Tel: +32 229-52837
Email: Dirk.Lange@ec.europa.eu

Mr Marco Castellina
Administrator
Health & Food Safety Directorate-General
European Commission
Rue Froissart 101
Brussels
Belgium
Tel: +32 229-87443
Email: marco.castellina@ec.europa.eu

Mr Sébastien Goux
Deputy Head of Unit
Health and Food Safety Directorate-General
European Commission
Rue Froissart 101 Office: 02/048
BRUSSELS
Belgium
Tel: +32 229-21555
Email: sebastien.goux@ec.europa.eu

Mr Risto Holma
Administrator
Health and Food Safety Directorate-General
European Commission
Rue Froissart 101
Brussels
Belgium
Tel: +32 229-98683
Email: risto.holma@ec.europa.eu

Ms Bernadette Klink-Khachan
Senior Assistant - EU Codex Contact Point
Health and Food Safety Directorate-General
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
Health and Food Safety Directorate-General
European Commission
Rue Froissart 101
Brussels
Belgium
Tel: +32 229-92362
Email: barbara.moretti@ec.europa.eu

FINLAND - FINLANDE - FINLANDIA

Dr Sebastian Hielm
Director of Food Safety
Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry
P.O. Box 30 FI-00023 Government
Helsinki
Finland
Tel: +358 50 524 5761
Email: sebastian.hielm@mmm.fi

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

Ms Aulikki Hulmi
Deputy Permanent Representative of Finland to FAO
Ambasciata di Finlandia - Embassy of Finland
Via Lisbona 3 00198 Roma ITALIA
Tel: +39 3355 779 386
Email: aulikki.hulmi@formin.fi

FRANCE - FRANCIA

Mrs Delphine Borione
Ambassadrice, représentante permanente
Représentation permanente de la France auprès des
institutions des Nations unies pour l'alimentation et
l'agriculture
Ministère de l'Europe et des Affaires étrangères
Email: delphine.borione@diplomatie.gouv.fr

Mrs Emilie Lebrasseur
Chargée de missions
bureau des négociations européennes et multilatérales
Ministère de l'agriculture et de l'alimentation
251 rue de Vaugirard
Paris
France
Tel: +00 33 14955 4778
Email: emilie.lebrasseur@agriculture.gouv.fr

Mrs Delphine Babin-Pelliard
Conseillère agricole
Représentation permanente de la France auprès des
institutions des Nations unies pour l'alimentation et
l'agriculture
Ministère de l'Europe et des Affaires étrangères
Email: delphine.babin-pelliard@diplomatie.gouv.fr

Mrs Louise Dangy
Point de contact national
CIAA
SGAE
68 rue de Bellechasse
Paris
France
Tel: 0033144871287
Email: louise.dangy@sgae.gouv.fr

Mr Claude Duchemin
Chef du Bureau 4B
Direction Générale de la Concurrence, de la
Consommation et de la Répression des Fraudes
Ministère de l'Economie et des Finances
59 boulevard Vincent Auriol Télédod 223
Paris Cedex 13
France
Tel: +33 1 44 97 33 08
Email: claudeduchemin@dgccrf.finances.gouv.fr

Mrs Claire Hunault
Représentation permanente de la France auprès des
institutions des Nations unies pour l'alimentation et
l'agriculture
Ministère de l'Europe et des Affaires étrangères
France
Email: claire.hunault@diplomatie.gouv.fr

GAMBIA - GAMBIE

Ms Zainab Jallow
Director General
Food Safety and Quality Authority of The Gambia
Kotu East, Kotu P. O. Box 2047
Serre Kunda
Gambia
Tel: +220 9969070
Email: zjallow@yahoo.com

GERMANY - ALLEMAGNE - ALEMANIA

Mr Niklas Schulze Icking
Deputy Head of Division
German Codex Contact Point
Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture
Wilhelmstr. 54
Berlin
Germany
Tel: +4930185293515
Email: niklas.schulze-icking@bmel.bund.de

Ms Silke Fallah
Regulatory Affairs Manager
GNT Europa GmbH
Kackertstrasse 22
Aachen
Germany
Tel: +49-241 888 5 304
Email: sfallah@gnt-group.com

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

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

GHANA

Mrs Isabella Mansa Agra
Deputy Chief Executive (FID)
Food Inspection (FID)
Food and Drugs Authority
P.O.Box CT 2783 Cantonments
Accra
Ghana
Tel: +233 244 337249
Email: isabella.agra@fdaghana.gov.gh ;
agramansa@gmail.com

Dr Hayford Asiedu-Baah
Deputy Director
Veterinary Services Directorate
Accra
Accra
Ghana
Tel: +233244857831
Email: asiedub@yahoo.com

Mr Michael Kwaw Assuah
Quality Control Manager
Quality Control Company, Ghana Cocoa Board
Accra
Ghana
Tel: +233244514990
Email: m.k.assuah@gmail.com

Dr Emmanuel Agyemang Dwomoh
Deputy Managing Director (Operations)
Quality Control Company, Ghana Cocoa Board
Accra
Ghana
Tel: +233260886413
Email: aedwomoh@gmail.com

Mr Andrew Amankwah Lartey
Codex Contact Point Manager
Food Standards Department
Ghana Standards Authority
Accra
Ghana
Tel: +233542865000
Email: andrewlartey@yahoo.com

Mr Joseph Jorie Mensah-Kane Jnr
Chief Revenue Officer
Customs Division
Ghana Revenue Authority
P. O. BOX 68
Accra
Ghana
Tel: +233 208 155148
Email: jayjayme99@yahoo.com

Dr Reginald Nii Otoo Odai
Ag. Director for Research, Statistics and Information
Management (RSIM)
Ministry of Health
P. O. Box M44 Accra, Ghana
Accra
Ghana
Tel: +233205181059
Email: reggie_odai@yahoo.com

GREECE - GRÈCE - GRECIA

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

Ms 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

GRENADA - GRENADE - GRANADA

Mr Thaddeus Peters
 Pest Management Officer
 Pest Management Unit
 Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Fisheries & Land
 St. George's
 Grenada
 Tel: 1-473-417-2398 / 1 473 440 0019
 Email: thaddeuspeters@gmail.com

GUATEMALA

Mr Nelson Antonio Ruano Garcia
 Director de Inocuidad y Punto de contacto Codex
 Viceministerio de Sanidad Agropecuaria y
 Regulaciones
 Ministerio de Agricultura Ganadería y Alimentación
 7ma Avenida 12-90 Zona 13 Guatemala
 Guatemala
 Tel: 502 55105490
 Email: mvnelsonru@yahoo.es ; nruano@maga.gob.gt

Mrs Sylvia Wohlers De Meie
 Representante Permanente Adjunta
 Embajada de Guatemala
 Via Giambattista Vico 20
 Roma
 Guatemala
 Tel: 00390636381143
 Email: swohlers@minex.gob.gt

GUINEA - GUINÉE

Mr Djoumè Sangare
 Directeur Général
 Ministère de l'Industrie, des PME et de la Promotion du
 Secteur Privé
 Institut Guinéen de Normalisation et de Métrologie
 (IGNM)
 BP: Quartier Almamy- Rue: ka 003 Bat. No 819
 Conakry
 Guinea
 Tel: (224) 622 32 46 30
 Email: djournsanga@gmail.com

Mr Mamady Toure
 Chef Division Normalisation; Secrétaire du CNC
 Ministère de l'Industrie, des PME et de la Promotion du
 Secteur Privé
 Institut Guinéen de Normalisation et de Métrologie
 (IGNM)
 Quartier Almamy- Rue 003 Bat.819
 Conakry
 Guinea
 Tel: (224) 628 58 12 80
 Email: touremady2016@gmail.com

GUYANA

Ms Camille Adams
 Senior Environmental Officer
 Environmental Protection Agency
 Ministry of the Presidency
 Email: caadamsepagy@gmail.com

HONDURAS

Ms Mirian Bueno Almendarez
 Sub Directora General de Inocuidad Agroalimentaria
 Servicio Nacional de Sanidad e Inocuidad
 Agroalimentaria
 SENASA
 Loma Linda Sur, Avenida la FAO, Boulevard Miraflores,
 Edificio de SENASA
 Tegucigalpa
 Honduras
 Tel: 504 22310786 ext. 228
 Email: mbueno@senasa.gob.hn

HUNGARY - HONGRIE - HUNGRIA

Ms Rita Temesfalvi
 Head of Unit
 Ministry of Agriculture
 Kossuth tér 11.
 Budapest
 Hungary
 Tel: +36 30 682 6650
 Email: rita.temesfalvi@fm.gov.hu

Mr Zoltan Kalman
 Permanent Representative
 Embassy of Hungary
 Email: zoltan.kalman@mfa.gov.hu

Dr Andrea Zentai
 Food Safety Analyst
 System Management and Supervision Directorate
 National Food Chain Safety Office, CCMAS
 Kis Rókus utca 15/B
 Budapest
 Hungary
 Tel: 06-70-903-0606
 Email: zentaia@nebih.gov.hu

INDIA - INDE

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

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

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

Mr Parmod Siwach
Assistant Director (T)
Export Inspection Council of India
3rd Floor, NDYMCA Cultural Centre Building, 1, Jai
Singh Road
New Delhi
India
Tel: +911123341263
Email: tech5@eicindia.gov.in

INDONESIA - INDONÉSIE

Dr Penny Kusumastuti Lukito
Chairperson
National Agency For Drug and Food Control, the
Republic of Indonesia
Percetakan Negara Street No. 23
Central Jakarta
Indonesia
Tel: +62811 163 289
Email: tukepalabadanpom@gmail.com

Mr Kukuh Syaefudin Achmad
Deputy Director General for Standard Implementation
and Accreditation
Standard Implementation and Accreditation
National Standardization Agency of Indonesia
Menara Thamrin Building, 11th Floor M.H. Thamrin
Street No. 8
Jakarta
Indonesia
Tel: +6221 3927422
Email: kukuh@bsn.go.id

Mrs Diana Emilla Sari Sutikno
Head of Bureau for Cooperation
Bureau for Cooperation
National Agency for Drug and Food Control
Percetakan Negara Street No. 23
Central Jakarta
Indonesia
Tel: +6281281795473
Email: dianaemillas@gmail.com

Mr Singgih Harjanto
Head of Division for Standard Implementation
Center for Standard Application System
National Standardization Agency of Indonesia
BPPT 1 Building, 10th Floor Jl. M.H. Thamrin No. 8,
Jakarta
Indonesia
Tel: +6221 3927422
Email: singgih@bsn.go.id

Ms Anna Melianawati
Head of Division for Agricultural, Food and Health
Center for Standard Development
National Standardization Agency of Indonesia
BPPT 1 Building, 14th Floor Jl. M.H. Thamrin No. 8,
Jakarta
Indonesia
Tel: +6221 3927422
Email: anna@bsn.go.id

Ms Eni Nurkhayani
Assistant Deputy Director of Food Safety Control
Centre for Consumption Diversification and Food Safety
Ministry Of Agriculture
The Headquarter of the Ministry of Agriculture Building
e, 6th floor jl. Harsono rm no. 3 ragunan
South Jakarta
Indonesia
Tel: +62 21 7806708
Email: eni.nurkhayani@yahoo.co.id

Ms Okki Ayu Oktria
Analyst of International Cooperation
Bureau of Public Relation and Strategic Support
National Agency For Drug and Food Control, the
Republic of Indonesia
Percetakan Negara Street No. 23
Central Jakarta
Indonesia
Tel: +62817 3436 838
Email: okki.oktria91@gmail.com

Ms Mauizzati Purba
Director of Processed Food Standardization
Directorate of Processed Food Standardization
National Agency of Drug and Food Control
Percetakan Negara Street No. 23
Central Jakarta
Indonesia
Tel: +6221 42875584
Email: codexbpom@yahoo.com

Mr Alex Sander
 Head of NADFC Provincial Office in Serang
 NADFC Provincial Office in Serang
 National Agency for Drug and Food Control
 Syech Nawawi Al-Bantani Street
 Serang
 Indonesia
 Tel: +6285271274302
 Email: alexandersfarmapt@yahoo.co.id

Ms Tri Agustin Satriani
 Director of Centre for Consumption Diversification and
 Food Safety
 Agency for Food Security
 Ministry of Agriculture
 The Headquarter of the Ministry of Agriculture Building
 e, 6th floor jl. Harsono RM NO. 3 Ragunan
 South Jakarta
 Indonesia
 Tel: +62 21 7806708
 Email: trias27@yahoo.com

Ms Dyah Setyowati
 Head of Section of Food Standard Harmonization
 Directorate of Processed Food Standardization
 National Agency of Drug and Food Control
 Percetakan Negara Street No 23
 Central Jakarta
 Indonesia
 Tel: +6221 42875584
 Email: codexbpom@yahoo.com

Mrs Tetty Helfery Sihombing
 Director
 Directorate of Food Control for High Risk and New
 Technology
 National Agency of Drug and Food Control
 Percetakan Negara Street No.23
 Central Jakarta
 Indonesia
 Tel: +62-21 4241781
 Email: tettybpom@gmail.com

Mr Gustaf Daud Sirait
 First Secretary, Alternate Permanent Representative
 Embassy of Indonesia in Rome
 Email: gustaf.sirait@kemlu.go.id

**IRAN (ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF) –
 IRAN (RÉPUBLIQUE ISLAMIQUE D') –
 IRÁN (REPÚBLICA ISLÁMICA DEL)**

Mr Shahin Ghorashizadeh
 Charge d'affaires
 Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of
 Iran to FAO
 Email: secretary1@iranrepfao.org

Dr Saeed Saadat
 Director General
 Ministry of Agriculture, environment and food safety
 office
 Iran (Islamic Republic of)
 Email: s.saadat@areo.ir

Dr Mohammad Hossein Shojaee Aliabadi
 Senior Scientific Adviser Institute of Standards &
 Industrial Research of IR AN & Director and Laboratory
 Manager Farough Life Sciences Research Laboratory
 Farough Life Sciences Research Laboratory
 No: 96; Parcham Street Tohid Square
 Teheran
 Iran (Islamic Republic of)
 Tel: +0989121591766
 Email: faroughlab@gmail.com

Mrs Soudabeh Yahyazadeh Langaroudi
 Deputy of ISIRI
 Institute of standard and industrial research of Iran
 (ISIRI)
 Tel: 02188654059
 Email: syahyazadeh@yahoo.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@inso.gov.ir

IRELAND - IRLANDE - IRLANDA

Mr Richard Howell
 Head of Research & Codex Division
 Research & Codex
 Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine
 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
 The Exchange Georges Dock IFSC, Dublin 1
 Dublin
 Ireland
 Tel: +353 1 8171315
 Email: pambyrne@fsai.ie

Mr Damien Kelly
Deputy Permanent Representative of Ireland to the
United Nations Rome-based Agencies
Embassy of Ireland
Villa Spada, Via Giacomo Medici 1 – 00153
Rome
Italy
Tel: 06 58523832
Email: damien.kelly@dfa.ie

ITALY - ITALIE - ITALIA

Mr Ciro Impagnatiello
Senior officer
Department of the European Union and International
Policies and of the Rural Development
Ministry of agricultural food and forestry policies
Via XX Settembre n. 20
Rome
Italy
Tel: +390646654058
Email: c.impagnatiello@politicheagricole.it

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

Mr Davide Bradanini
First Secretary
Permanent Representation of Italy to the UN
Organizations in Rome
Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International
Cooperation
Piazzale della Farnesina, 1 - Rome
Rome
Italy
Tel: +39 06 36915035
Email: davide.bradanini@esteri.it

Ms Simona Antonella Lamorte
Expert alcohol and wine sector
Department of the European Union and International
Policies and of the Rural Development
Ministry of agricultural food and forestry policies
Via XX Settembre n. 20
Rome
Italy
Tel: +390646654121
Email: sa.lamorte@politicheagricole.it

Mrs Elisabetta Lanzellotto
International relations officer
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 46654109
Email: e.lanzellotto@politicheagricole.it

Dr Pierdavide Lecchini
Direttore Ufficio 3 del Segretariato Generale
Segretariato generale
Ministero della Salute
Viale Giorgio Ribotta, 5 .
Roma
Italy
Tel: +39065991
Email: p.lecchini@sanita.it

Dr Simone Magnino
Dirigente - Veterinario
Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale della Lombardia e
dell'Emilia Romagna "Bruno Ubertini"
Strada Campeggi, 59
Pavia
Italy
Tel: +39 0382 422006 / 526529
Email: simone.magnino@izsler.it

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

Ms Graziella Romito
Director of International Relations Unit
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 46654143
Email: g.romito@politicheagricole.it

JAMAICA - JAMAÏQUE

Dr Suzan Mclennon-Miguel
 Senior Veterinary Specialist (Public Health)
 Veterinary Epidemiology, Public Health & Food Safety
 Unit
 Ministry of Industry Commerce Agriculture & Fisheries
 (Veterinary Services Division)
 193 Old Hope Road, Hope Gardens, Kingston 6,
 Jamaica, West Indies
 Jamaica
 Tel: 876-873-4828
 Email: sdmclennon@micaf.gov.jm

JAPAN - JAPON - JAPÓN

Dr Yayoi Tsujiyama
 Acting Director for International Standards Office
 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

Mr Yasuhiro Goto
 Officer, Office of International Food Safety
 Pharmaceutical Safety and Environmental Health
 Bureau
 Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare
 1-2-2 Kasumigaseki, Chiyoda-ku
 Tokyo
 Japan
 Tel: +81-3-3595-2326
 Email: codexj@mhlw.go.jp

Dr Eiji Harada
 Director, Office of International Food Safety
 Pharmaceutical Safety and Environmental Health
 Bureau
 Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare
 1-2-2 Kasumigaseki, Chiyoda-ku
 Tokyo
 Japan
 Tel: +81-3-3595-2326
 Email: codexj@mhlw.go.jp

Mr Goro Maruno
 Associate Director
 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: goro_maruno850@maff.go.jp

Dr Koji Miura
 Adviser
 Pharmaceutical Safety and Environmental Health
 Bureau
 Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare
 1-2-2 Kasumigaseki, Chiyoda-ku
 Tokyo
 Japan
 Tel: +81-3-3595-2326
 Email: codexj@mhlw.go.jp

Ms Aya Orito-Nozawa
 Section Chief
 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: aya_orito460@maff.go.jp

Mr Yoshiaki Sakai
 Technical Official, Office of International Food Safety
 Pharmaceutical Safety and Environmental Health
 Bureau
 Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare
 1-2-2 Kasumigaseki, Chiyoda-ku
 Tokyo
 Japan
 Tel: +81-3-3595-2326
 Email: codexj@mhlw.go.jp

Dr Hiroshi Yoshikura
 Adviser
 Pharmaceutical Safety and Environmental Health
 Bureau
 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 Salah Al Tarawneh
 Deputy Permanent Representative of the Hashemite
 Kingdom of Jordan to Rome based UN Agencies
 Jordan Embassy - Rome
 Via Giuseppe Marchi 1/B
 Rome
 Italy
 Tel: + 3895040453-39
 Email: roma@fm.gov.jo

KAZAKHSTAN - KAZAJSTÁN

Dr Nailya Karsybekova
 Coordinator
 Ministry of Healthcare the Republic of Kazakhstan
 Dostyk 18
 Astana
 Kazakhstan
 Email: assem.smagul@gmail.com

Mrs Gaukhar Amirova
 Technical expert
 Codex Alimentarius
 Ministry of Healthcare the Republic of Kazakhstan
 Email: amirova.gauhar@gmail.com

Mr Kanat Balykbayev
 General Director

RSE on RSM National center of Expertise Committee
on public health protection Ministry of Healthcare of the
Republic of Kazakhstan
Dostyk 18
Astana
Kazakhstan
Tel: +7 7172 55 49 04
Email: balykbaev@yahoo.com

Mr Askar Perneyev
Technical expert
Codex Alimentarius
Ministry of Health the Republic of Kazakhstan
Astana
Kazakhstan
Email: assem.smagul@gmail.com

Ms Aigerm Sadubayeva
Director
Department for control over technical regulations
Committee of the public health protection of the Ministry
of health of RoK
Email: assem.smagul@gmail.com

Ms Assem Smagulova
Technical expert
Codex Alimentarius
Ministry of Healthcare the Republic of Kazakhstan
18 Dostyk ave, 8 floor, office 16
Astana
Kazakhstan
Tel: +77004981111
Email: assem.smagul@gmail.com

Mrs Zhanar Tolysbayeva
Technical expert
Codex Alimentarius
Ministry of Healthcare the Republic of Kazakhstan
Nazhimedina 14/1, apt 4
Astana
Kazakhstan
Email: assem.smagul@gmail.com

KENYA

Mr Harry Kimtai Kachuwai
Principal Secretary
State Department of Livestock
Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries and
Irrigation
Kilimo House, Cathedral Road
P. O. Box 34188-00100
Nairobi
Kenya
Tel: +254721415721
Email: harry.kimtai@yahoo.com

Dr Kimutai William Maritim
FAO/WHO CCAfrica Coordinator
Directorate of Veterinary Services
Private Bag 00625 Kangemi
Nairobi
Kenya
Tel: +254722601653
Email: kimutaimaritim@yahoo.co.uk

Ms Lucy Muthoni Namu
Head, Quality Assurance & Laboratory Accreditation
Kenya Plant Health Inspectorate Services
Nairobi
Kenya
Tel: +254-020 661800
Email: lnamu@kephis.org

Mrs Alice Okelo Akoth Onyango
FAO/WHO CCAFRICA Coordinator Codex Contact
Point
National standard development Bureau
Kenya Bureau of Standards
Nairobi
Kenya
Tel: +254 722268 225/+254206948303
Email: akothe@kebs.org

Mr Nicholas Otieno Ayore
Senior Assistant Director
Veterinary Services
Directorate of Veterinary Services
P.O. BOX Private Bag Kagemi
Nairobi
Kenya
Email: nicholasayore@gmail.com

Dr Allan Azegele
Deputy Director Veterinary Services
Laboratory
Directorate of Veterinary Service
Central Veterinary Services Research Laboratory,
Kabete Private Bag,00625 Kangemi
Nairobi
Kenya
Tel: +254722968989
Email: ae_allan@yahoo.com

Mrs Margaret Jemutai Rugut
Managing Director
Dairy Board
P.O. 27113 Nairobi
Kenya
Email: kibogymr@kdb.co.ke

Dr Esther Wandia Njoya Macharia Kimani
Managing Director
Kenya Plant Health Inspectorate Services
Ololua Ridge, Off Ngong Road, P.O. Box 49592-
00100,
Nairobi
Kenya
Email: director@kephis.org

Mrs Patricia Kimanthi
 Manager
 Communication
 Kebs
 54974
 Nairobi
 Kenya
 Email: kimanthip@kebs.org

Ms Harriet Nduma
 Embassy of the Republic of Kenya
 Viale Luca Gaurico, 205
 Rome
 Italy
 Email: info@embassyofkenya.it

Ms Anne Njoroge
 Assistant Director
 Agriculture and irrigation
 State Department of Agriculture
 P.O. Box 30028
 Nairobi
 Kenya
 Tel: +254 722825365
 Email: wajarogen@yahoo.com

Mr Samson Odera Ombok
 Ag Director of Standard development and trade
 Standard development and Trade
 Kenya Bureau of Standards
 P.O.Box 54974 Popo Road off Mombasa Road
 Nairobi
 Kenya
 Tel: +254 020 6948000
 Email: omboks@kebs.org

Mr Ombajo Peter Simon Opiyo
 Chief Executive Officer
 Pest Control Produce Board of Kenya
 Pest Control Board Board
 Box Number 13794
 Nairobi
 Kenya
 Tel: +254 722 767647
 Email: peteopiyo@yahoo.com

Dr Teresa Tumwet
 Agriculture Attaché
 Embassy of the Republic of Kenya
 Viale Luca Gaurico 205
 Rome
 Italy
 Email: teresatumwet@gmail.com

KUWAIT - KOWEÏT

Mr Salah Al Bazzaz
 Technical Adviser to the Permanent Representation of
 Kuwait
 Email: mc8975@mclink.it

KYRGYZSTAN - KIRGHIZISTAN - KIRGUISTÁN

Mr Mukhamat Kaparov
 Deputy Director
 Center for Standardization and Metrology under The
 Ministry of Economy of the Kyrgyz Republic
 720040 197, Panfilov str. Bishkek, Kyrgyz Republic
 Bishkek
 Kyrgyzstan
 Tel: +996 (770)544077
 Email: kaparov1964@gmail.com

Mrs Dinara Aitmurzaeva
 Head of Division , CCP in Kyrgyzstan
 Standardization Division
 Center for Standardization and Metrology under The
 Ministry of Economy of the Kyrgyz Republic
 720040 197, Panfilov str. Bishkek, Kyrgyz Republic
 Bishkek
 Kyrgyzstan
 Tel: +996 (770) 540126
 Email: aytmurzaeva@nism.gov.kg

LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC - LAOS

Mr Somthavy Changvisommid
 Director General
 Food and drug Department
 Ministry of Health, Lao PDR
 Simouang road, MOH building
 Vientiane
 Lao People's Democratic Republic
 Tel: +856-21-214013-14
 Email: csomthavy_fdd@yahoo.com

Mr Khamstone Sysanhouth
 manager
 Northern Upland program
 Ministry of Agriculture and forestry
 Patuxay square, Vientiane Capital, Lao PDR
 P.O.Box: 811
 Vientiane
 Lao People's Democratic Republic
 Tel: +856-2055515141
 Email: sysanhouth@yahoo.com

Mrs Viengxay Vansilalom
 Director
 Food control division
 Ministry of Health
 simouang road, MOH building
 vientiane
 Lao People's Democratic Republic
 Tel: +856-21-214013-14
 Email: vvansilalom@gmail.com

LATVIA - LETTONIE - LETONIA

Mrs Olga Orlova
 Councillor
 Permanent Representation of Latvia to the EU
 Avenue des Arts 23
 Brussels
 Belgium
 Email: olga.orlova@mfa.gov.lv

LIBERIA - LIBÉRIA

Mr A. Haruna-Rashid Kromah
 First Secretary
 Embassy of Liberia in Rome
 Italy
 Email: ahrk510@yahoo.com

Mr Stephen Mambu
Head of delegation, Head of the Codex-Liberia
Secretariat
National Standards Laboratory of Liberia
Email: smamba@moci.gov.lr

Mrs Olivia Tabi
intern of the Embassy of the Republic of Liberia
Piazzale delle Medaglie d'oro 7, 00136 Roma
Email: ambaliberia.roma@gmail.com

Mr Dehwehn Omarley Yeabah
National Codex Committee
Ministry of Health-Liberia
Liberia
Email: doyeabah@yahoo.com

LITHUANIA - LITUANIE - LITUANIA

Dr Indre Makarskiene
Chief Expert
Nutrition and Physical Activity Division, Public Health
Department
Ministry of Health
Vilnius str. 33
Vilnius
Lithuania
Tel: +370 5 219 3337
Email: indre.makarskiene@sam.lt

LUXEMBOURG - LUXEMBURGO

Ms Marie-Lise Stoll
Attachée
Embassy of Luxembourg
Email: marie-lise.stoll@mae.etat.lu

MADAGASCAR

Mrs Dominique Lantomalala Raharinosy
National Codex Contact Point
Ministry of Trade and Consumers Protection
6 Rue West Ravelomoria, Ambohidahy
Antananarivo
Madagascar
Tel: + 261 33 11 855 28 / +261 340551342
Email: lantomalala@gmail.com

Mr Suzelin Ratohiarijaona
Counsellor
Embassy of Madagascar
Email: ratohiarijaonasuzelin@gmail.com

MALAWI

Mr Davlin Chokazinga
Director General
Malawi Bureau of Standards
Moirs Road P O Box 946 Blantyre Malawi
Blantyre
Malawi
Tel: +265 (0) 888201048
Email: mbs@mbsmw.org

MALAYSIA - MALAISIE - MALASIA

Ms Norrani Eksan
Deputy Director
Food Safety and Quality Division
Ministry of Health Malaysia
Level 4, Menara Prisma No 26, Jalan Persiaran
Perdana, Precint 3
Putrajaya
Malaysia
Tel: +603 88850794
Email: norrani@moh.gov.my

Ms Shazlina Mohd Zaini
Senior Assistant Director
Food Safety and Quality Division
Ministry of Health Malaysia
Level 4, Menara Prisma, Jalan Persiaran Perdana,
Presint 2
Putrajaya
Malaysia
Tel: 0388850797
Email: shazlina@moh.gov.my

Mr Muhammad Suhail Muhammad
Alternate Permanent Representative to FAO
Embassy Of Malaysia, Rome, Italy
Via Nomentana, 297, 00162 Rome, Italy
Rome
Italy
Tel: 3474583263
Email: suhail@moa.gov.my

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

MALI - MALÍ

Dr Diakite Oumou Soumana Maiga
 Directrice Générale
 Ministère de la Santé et de l'Hygiène Publique
 Agence Nationale de la Sécurité Sanitaire des Aliments
 Centre Commercial, Quartier du Fleuve BPE :2362
 Bamako
 Mali
 Tel: +223 66741504 /+223 20220747
 Email: dkiteoumou24@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 BPE:
 2362 Bamako
 Bamako
 Mali
 Tel: +223 79293458
 Email: scodexmali@yahoo.fr

Dr Halimatou Kone Eps Traore
 Représentante Permanente Adjointe
 Ministère des Affaires Étrangères et de la Coopération
 Internationale
 Ambassade de la République du Mali à Rome
 Via Antonio Bosio2 00161 Rome - Italie
 Bamako
 Mali
 Tel: +390644254029
 Email: halimatoutraore@yahoo.fr

MAURITANIA - MAURITANIE

Prof Mohamed Abdellahi Bollahi
 Directeur et Point Focal National
 Comité National du Codex Alimentarius
 Institut National de Recherches en Santé Publique
 Rue Gemal Abd Nasser
 Nouakchott
 Mauritanie
 Email: bollahi@yahoo.com

Eng Lekweiri Haiba Legrae
 Secrétariat du Comité National du Codex
 Laboratoire de Contrôle Qualité des Aliments et CNC
 Institut National de Recherches en Santé Publique
 Rue Gemal Abd Nasser
 Nouakchott
 Mauritanie
 Tel: 0022246231073
 Email: lekwoiry86@yahoo.fr

Dr Hamed Sidi Mohamed
 Représentant Permanent de la République Islamique
 de Mauritanie auprès de la FAO/PAM/IFAD à Rome
 Email: info@ambamauritanieitaly.it

Mr Mohamed Teyib Diye
 Représentant Permanent Suppléant
 Représentant Permanent de la République Islamique
 de Mauritanie auprès de la FAO/PAM/IFAD à Rome
 Email: info@ambamauritanieitaly.it

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

Mrs Ofelia Flores Hernández
 Directora
 Servicios y Certificación Pecuaria
 SENASICA
 Boulevard Adolfo Ruiz Cortines No. 5010, piso 5, Col.
 Insurgentes Cuicuilco, Delegación Coyoacán,
 Ciudad de México
 Mexico
 Tel: (55) 59 05 10 00
 Email: ofelia.flores@senasica.gob.mx

Ms Maria Guadalupe Arizmendi Ramírez
 Verificadora Sanitaria
 Dirección Ejecutiva de Operación Internacional.
 Comisión Federal para la Protección contra Riesgos
 Sanitarios (COFEPRIS)
 Oklahoma 14, Nápoles, 03810 Ciudad de México,
 CDMX
 Mexico
 Tel: 5080-5200
 Email: mgarizmendi@cofepris.gob.mx

Dr Martha Barcena Coqui
 Embajadora
 Representante Permanente de Mexico
 Email: mision.italia@sre.gob.mx

Mrs Bertha Giner
 Directora Asociada de Latino América y el Caribe
 Latino América y el Caribe
 ELANCO Salud Animal
 Av. Prolongación Américas No. 1592 Piso 1 Col
 Country Club, C.P. 44620 Guadalajara Jalisco
 Guadalajara
 Mexico
 Tel: +52 871 193 5249
 Email: giner_bertha@elanco.com

Ms Maria De Los Angeles Gómez
 Segunda Secretaria
 Mision permanente de Mexico
 Email: mision.italia@sre.gob.mx

Mr Benito Santiago Jimenez Sauma
 Representante Alterno
 Embajada de Mexico
 Via Lazzaro Spallanzani
 Rome
 Italy
 Email: bjimenezs@sre.gob.mx

Mr César Osvaldo Orozco Arce
 Director de Normatividad Internacional y Agroindustria
 Dirección General de Normas
 Secretaría de Economía
 Puente de Tecamachalco no. 6 Col. Lomas de
 Tecamachalco, Naucalpan de Juárez
 Edo. de Mex
 Mexico
 Tel: +52 (55) 5229-6100 Ext.43247
 Email: cesar.orozco@economia.gob.mx

MOROCCO - MAROC - MARRUECOS

Mrs Khadija Kadiri
 Chef du service de la Normalisation et du Codex
 Alimentarius
 Office National de Sécurité Sanitaire des produits
 Alimentaires
 Apt 22, IMM 8AD, El Massira II, CYM
 Rabat
 Morocco
 Tel: +212 6 61 40 98 47
 Email: kadirik7@gmail.com

Prof Rachid Aboutayeb
 Researcher
 Agriculture
 Institut National de la Recherche Agronomique (INRA)
 Centre Régional de la Recherche Agronomique de
 Settat
 Morocco
 Email: rachid.engineer@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

Mr El Houssine Yassine
 Chef de section
 Ministère de l'Agriculture et de la Pêche Maritime
 Laboratoire Officiel d'Analyses et de Recherches
 Chimiques
 25, Rue Nichakra Rahal
 Casablanca
 Morocco
 Tel: 0522302007
 Email: loarcassine@gmail.com

MYANMAR

Mr Kaung Myat
 Alternate Permanent Representative
 Embassy of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar
 Email: merome2010@gmail.com

Mr Myint Naung
 Permanent Representative

Embassy of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar
 Email: merome2010@gmail.com

Mrs Aye Aye San
 Alternative Permanent Representative
 Embassy of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar
 Email: merome2010@gmail.com

NETHERLANDS - PAYS-BAS - PAÍSES BAJOS

Dr Marie-Ange Delen
 Coordinator Codex Alimentarius Netherlands
 Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality
 PO Box 20401
 The Hague
 Netherlands
 Tel: +31 6 4615 2167
 Email: m.a.delen@minez.nl

Ms Tanja Akesson
 Codex Contact Point
 Ministry of Agriculture, Nature & Food Quality
 PO Box 20401
 The Hague
 Netherlands
 Tel: +31 6 2724 9788
 Email: t.z.akesson@minez.nl

Ms Astrid Bulder
 Senior Risk Assessor
 National Institute for Public Health and the Environment
 (RIVM)
 PO Box 1
 Bilthoven
 Netherlands
 Tel: +31 30 274 7048
 Email: astrid.bulder@rivm.nl

Dr Wieke Tas
 Chair of CCCF
 Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality
 PO Box 20401
 The Hague
 Netherlands
 Tel: 0031 70 3798208
 Email: j.w.tas@minez.nl

Ms Ana Viloría
 Senior Policy Officer
 Nutrition, Health Protection and Prevention Department
 Ministry of Health, Welfare and Sport
 PO Box 20350
 The Hague
 Netherlands
 Tel: +31 70 340 6482
 Email: ai.viloria@minvws.nl

NEW ZEALAND - NOUVELLE-ZÉLANDE – NUEVA ZELANDIA

Mr Raj Rajasekar
 Senior Programme Manager
 Ministry for Primary Industries
 25 The Terrace
 Wellington
 New Zealand
 Email: raj.rajasekar@mpi.govt.nz

Mr Steve Hathaway
 Director
 Food Science & Risk Assessment
 Ministry for Primary Industries
 25 The Terrace
 Wellington

New Zealand
Email: steve.hathaway@mpi.govt.nz

Mr Don Syme
Counsellor (Primary Industries)
Deputy Permanent Representative to FAO
New Zealand Embassy Rome
New Zealand
Tel: +39 06 85 3750 206
Email: don.syme@mfat.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

NIGERIA - NIGÉRIA

Mr Edet Sunday Akpan
Chairman
The Standards Council of Nigeria
Nigeria
Email: akpanedet60@yahoo.com

Mr Osita Anthony Aboloma
Director General/Chief Executive
Standards Organisation of Nigeria
52 Lome Crescent Wuse Zone 7
Abuja
Nigeria
Tel: +2347010400000
Email: ositaaboloma@gmail.com

Prof Mojisola Christianah Adeyeye
Director-General
National Agency for Food and Drug Administration and Control (NAFDAC)
Plot 2032, Olusegun Obasanjo Way, Zone 7, Wuse
Abuja
Nigeria
Tel: +2349060007693
Email: cm.adeyeye@nafdac.gov.ng

Mr Abasiama Edet Akpan
PA to SON Council Chairman
The Standards Council of Nigeria
Nigeria
Email: abasi011@yahoo.com

Dr Olaniran Alabi
Chief Veterinary Officer (GI 17)
Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development
FCDA Secretariat, Area 11, Garki
Abuja
Nigeria
Tel: +2348033148647
Email: olanlabi@gmail.com

Prof Reuben Arowolo
Professor of Pharmacology
College of Veterinary Medicine
Federal University of Agriculture
Nigeria
Email: roa_arowolo@hotmail.com

Mr Emeka Ijomah
P. A. to DG SON

Nigeria
Email: ijomae@gmail.com

Mr Charles Emeka Nwagbara
Head, Codex Contact Point Nigeria
Standards Organisation of Nigeria
52 Lome Crescent, Wuse Zone 7
Abuja
Nigeria
Tel: +2348072801989
Email: charles_nwagbara@yahoo.com

Mr Sherif Alaba Olagunju
Director
National Agency for Food and Drug Administration and Control (NAFDAC)
Plot 1, Isolo Industrial Estate, Apapa-Oshodi Express Way
Lagos
Nigeria
Tel: +2348033007258
Email: olagunju.s@nafdac.gov.ng

Mrs Simidele Jumoke Onabajo
Deputy Director
National Agency for Food and Drug Administration and Control (NAFDAC)
Plot 1, Isolo Industrial Estate Apapa-Oshodi Express Way
Lagos
Nigeria
Tel: +2348033045403
Email: onabajo.s@nafdac.gov.ng

Mr Dele Kelvin Oye
Member
The Standards Council of Nigeria
Nigeria
Tel: +2348033139347
Email: doyetubas@yahoo.com

Mr Ibrahim Yahaya
Senior Standards Officer
Codex Contact Point, Nigeria
Standards Organisation of Nigeria
52, Lome Crescent, Wuse, Zone 7
Abuja
Nigeria
Tel: +2347052694865
Email: ibro736@yahoo.com

NORWAY - NORVÈGE - NORUEGA

Mrs Vigdis S. Veum Moellersen
Senior Adviser
Norwegian Food Safety Authority
Head Office
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

Mrs Gunnvor Berge
Counsellor, Deputy Permanent Representative
Norwegian Delegation to the UN Organizations in
Rome
Via delle Terme Deciane 7
Rome
Italy
Tel: +39 340 7242 710
Email: gunnvor.berge@mfa.no

Mrs Bodil Blaker
Specialist Director
Ministry of Health and Care Services
Oslo
Norway
Tel: +47 22 24 86 02
Email: bob@hod.dep.no

Mrs Anita Utheim Iversen
Senior Adviser
Ministry of Trade, Industry and Fisheries
Oslo
Norway
Tel: + 47 906 14 999
Email: au@nfd.dep.no

Mrs Jorunn Vormeland
Senior Adviser
Ministry of Trade, Industry and Fisheries
Oslo
Norway
Tel: + 47 992 83 700
Email: Jorunn.vormeland@nfd.dep.no

OMAN - OMÁN

Ms Fadia Al Jamal
Oman's Liaison Officer with the International
Organizations in Rome
Embassy of the Sultanate of Oman Via della
Camilluccia 625 00135 Rome
Tel: +39.06.36300545
Email: aljamalfadia@gmail.com

PANAMA - PANAMÁ

Dr Yuri Huerta
Administrador General
Despacho Superior
Autoridad Panameña de Seguridad de Alimentos
Ricardo J. Alfaro, Sun Tower Mall, Piso 2, local 70 -
Panamá
Panama
Tel: 5220005
Email: yhuerta@aupsa.gob.pa

Mr Marco Pino
Asesor y Asistente Ejecutivo
Despacho Superior
Autoridad Panameña de Seguridad de Alimentos
Ricardo J. Alfaro, Sun Tower Mall, Piso 2, local 70 -
Panamá
Panama
Tel: 5220000
Email: mpino@aupsa.gob.pa

Eng Aracelis Arosemena De Vergara
Supervisor de Plantas de Alimentos Diversos
Departamento de Protección de Alimentos
Ministerio de Salud
Ancón , Calle Area Revertida ave. Hospital Gorgas .
Edificio 253
Panamá
Panama
Tel: 5129180
Email: aracelisdv@gmail.com

Mrs Edilma López
Jefa del Departamento de Metrología
Metrología
Autoridad de Protección al Consumidor y Defensa de la
Competencia
Panamá, Vía Fernández de Córdoba, Plaza Córdoba,
Panamá
Panama
Tel: 5101373
Email: elopez@acodeco.gob.pa

Mrs Theany Loaiza
Abogada
Decisión de Quejas
Autoridad de Protección al Consumidor y Defensa de la
Competencia
Vía Fernández de Córdoba, Plaza Córdoba
Panamá
Panama
Tel: 5101374
Email: tloaiza@acodeco.gob.pa

Mr Leroy Sheffer
Consultor MIDA - Normas Alimentarias
Ministerio de Desarrollo Agropecuario
Panama
Panama
Tel: 2231020
Email: lsheffer@itaslaw.com

PARAGUAY

Dr Lilian Martínez De Alonso
Director General
Instituto Nacional de Tecnología, Normalización y
Metrología (INTN)
Asunción
Paraguay
Email: liliandealonso@gmail.com

Mr Mirko Soto Sapriza
Representante Alterno
Embajada de Paraguay en Roma
Roma
Paraguay
Email: mstosapriz@re.gov.py

Mrs Ana María Viedma Ayala
Servicio Nacional de Calidad y Sanidad Animal -
SENACSA
Paraguay
Email: anaviedma@senacsa.gov.py

PERU - PÉROU - PERÚ

Dr Percy Rudy Montes Rueda
Director General de la Digesa
Digesa (Dirección General De Salud Ambiental E
Inocuidad Alimentaria)
Calle Las Amapolas 350, Lince 15046
Lima
Peru
Tel: +5116314430 / +511980643010
Email: pmontes@minsa.gob.pe

Mrs Diana Victoria Calderón Valle
Segunda Secretaria /Funcionaria de la Embajada del
Perú en Italia
Embajada del Perú en Italia
Via Francesco Siacci, 2/b, 00197
Roma
Italy
Tel: +390680691510
Email: dcalderonv@ree.gob.pe

Ing Gloria Atala Castillo Vargas
Especialista de la Dirección de Normalización del
INACAL
LIMA
Instituto Nacional de Calidad – INACAL
Las Camelias 817 – San Isidro
Lima
Peru
Tel: 0051-1-640 8820 anexo 1307, Ce
Email: gcastillo@inacal.gob.pe

Mr Pablo Antonio Cisneros Andrade
Ministro Consejero / Jefe de Cancillería
Embajada del Perú en Italia
Via Francesco Siacci, 2/b, 00197
Roma
Italy
Tel: 00390680691510
Email: pcisneros@ree.gob.pe

Ing Ernesto José Dávila Taboada
Asesor Técnico
Adex (Asociación de Exportadores)
Av. Javier Prado Este, San Borja 15021
Lima
Peru
Tel: +51997244255
Email: erdavila0@gmail.com

Ing Pedro Jesús Molina Salcedo
Director de la Subdirección de Inocuidad
Agroalimentaria en SENASA PERU LIMA
Av. La Molina N° 1915,
Lima
Peru
Tel: +51 1 5983280693
Email: pmolina@senasa.gob.pe

PHILIPPINES - FILIPINAS

Mr Domingo Nolasco
Permanent Representative
Philippine Embassy in Rome, Italy
Department of Foreign Affairs
Email: romepe2007@gmail.com

Dr Marvin Vicente
Acting Director and Chairperson, National Codex
Organization Technical Committee
National Meat Inspection Service
Department of Agriculture
National Meat Inspection Service No 4 Visayas Ave,
Brgy Vasra, Quezon City
Quezon City
Philippines
Tel: 9247980 local 300
Email: vicentemarvin@yahoo.com

Mr Lupiño Lazaro Jr.
Deputy Permanent Representative
Department of Agriculture
Philippine Embassy in Rome, Italy
Email: lupinolazaro@yahoo.com

Mr Ronald De Veyra
Deputy Director General
Office of the Deputy Director General
Food and Drug Administration
Block 4 Lot 10 Springville West Molino, Bacoor Cavite
Bacoor City
Philippines
Tel: 850-1900 loc. 2161
Email: rondeveyra@yahoo.com

Dr Jocelynn Sales
Director
Food Development Center
National Food Authority
Food Development Center ARCA South, Formerly FTI
Complex Taguig City, Philippines
Taguig City
Philippines
Tel: 632-8384715
Email: joyce23dms@gmail.com

Dr Maria Fe Cabullo
Division Chief
Department of Agriculture
Bureau of Animal Industry
Block 2 Lot 10 La Chesa Heights Subd., Banlat Road
Tandang Sora
Quezon
Philippines
Tel: +6329164268814
Email: mariafe561@yahoo.com

Mr Theodore Andrei Bauzon
Alternate Permanent Representative
Philippine Embassy in Rome, Italy
Department of Foreign Affairs
Email: romepe2007@gmail.com

Ms Frances Kaye Anne Adao
Development Management Officer III
Policy Research Service
Department of Agriculture
Elliptical Road, Diliman
Quezon City
Philippines
Tel: 6329267439
Email: frances.kaye.anne.adao@gmail.com

Mr Marion Reyes
 Alternate Permanent Representative
 Department of Foreign Affairs
 Philippine Embassy in Rome, Italy
 Email: romepe2007@gmail.com

Ms Maria Luisa Gavino
 Assistant, Office of the Agriculture Attaché
 Department of Agriculture
 Philippine Embassy in Rome, Italy
 Email: maris.gavino@gmail.com

POLAND - POLOGNE - POLONIA

Ms Magdalena Kowalska
 Main expert
 International Cooperation Department
 Agricultural and Food Quality Inspection
 30, Wspolna St.
 Warsaw
 Poland
 Tel: +48 22 623 29 04
 Email: kodeks@ijhars.gov.pl

QATAR

Eng Mohd Saoud Al-mesallam
 President of QS
 Qatar General Organization for Standardization, QS
 Qatar
 Email: msmusallam@mme.gov.qa

Mr Faisal Al-Bader
 Senior Food Standardizer
 Standards and Metrology Department
 Qatar General Organization for Standardization
 Abou Hamour - Opposite the Medical Commission
 Doha
 Qatar
 Tel: 00974 55553566
 Email: frbader@mme.gov.qa

REPUBLIC OF KOREA - RÉPUBLIQUE DE CORÉE - REPÚBLICA DE COREA

Dr Sang Bae Han
 General Director
 Food Standard Planning office
 Ministry of Food and Drug Safety
 Osong Health Technology Administration Complex 187,
 Osongsaengmyung2-ro, Osong-eup, Heungduk-gu,
 Cheongju-si, Chungbuk
 Republic of Korea
 Tel: 82-43-719-2051
 Email: difco64@korea.kr

Dr Yong Ho Park
 TFAMR chair
 Seoul National University
 Email: yhp@snu.ac.kr

Mr Jae Woo Park
 Deputy Director
 Agri-Livestock and Fisheries Products
 Policy Division
 Ministry of Food and Drug Safety
 Email: jwparkdvm@korea.kr

Ms Young Jae Yang
 TFAMR secretariat
 Ministry of Food and Drug Safety
 Republic of Korea
 Email: osol6660@korea.kr

Dr Yongsik Cho
 Researcher
 Rural Development Administration
 Email: yscho@korea.kr

Dr Won-Young Choi
 Scientific Officer
 Food Safety Policy Division
 Ministry of Food and Drug Safety
 Email: ohoo21@korea.kr

Mr Dae-Weon Choi
 Senior Deputy Director
 Food Safety Policy Division
 Ministry of Food and Drug Safety
 Email: cdaewon@korea.kr

Mr Chanmin Jeong
 Deputy Director
 Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs
 94 Dasom 2-ro
 Email: jcm1214@korea.kr

Mr Ha-Yun Kim
 Researcher
 National Institute of Agricultural Sciences
 Ministry of Agriculture, Food And Rural Affairs
 166 Nonsaengmyeong-ro, Iseo-myeon, Wanju,
 Jeollabuk-do, Korea Wanju-gun
 Republic of Korea
 Tel: +82-63-238-3565
 Email: khy0617@korea.kr

Mr Chon Gil Kim
 APR
 Embassy of Republic of Korea
 Email: dprkembrom@outlook.com

Ms Dasun Lee
 Researcher
 Food Safety Policy Division
 Ministry of Food and Drug Safety
 Email: leedasun@korea.kr

Mr Eunesub Lee
 Senior Deputy Director
 Ministry of Agriculture, Food, and Rural Affairs
 94, Dason2-ro, Sejong-si, Korea
 Sejong-si
 Republic of Korea
 Email: leeunesub@korea.kr

Ms Jeonghae Rho
 Director
 Korea Culinary Science Institute
 Email: jeonghaerho@gmail.com

Mr You-shin Shim
 Principal Rresearch Scientist
 Food Standard Research Center
 Tel: 82-31-780-9330
 Email: ysshim@kfri.re.kr

Dr Mun Gi Sohn
 Professor
 Food Science and Biotechnology
 Kyung Hee University
 Email: mgsohn@khu.ac.kr

Mr Woosang Sung
 Assistant Director
 Mistry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs
 141, Yongjeon-ro, Gyeongsanbuk-do
 Gimcheon-si

Republic of Korea
Tel: +82-10-9973-3826
Email: intestament@korea.kr

ROMANIA - ROUMANIE - RUMANIA

Ms Monica Maria Cojanu
Counsellor
General Food Safety Department
National Sanitary Veterinary and Food Safety Authority
Piata Free Press no. 1 Body D1, District 1
Bucharest
Romania
Tel: +40723446670
Email: cojanu.monica@ansvsa.ro

**RUSSIAN FEDERATION –
FÉDÉRATION DE RUSSIE –
FEDERACIÓN DE RUSIA**

Mr Ilya Andreev
Second secretary
Permanent Mission of the Russian Federation to FAO
and other UN Agencies in Rome
Roma, Via Magenta, 16
Tel: +39 06-902-357-44
Email: andreevsmail@yandex.ru

Mr Kiril Antyukhin
First secretary
Permanent Mission of the Russian Federation to FAO
and other UN Agencies in Rome
Roma, Via Magenta, 16
Tel: +39 06-902-357-44
Email: kirill.888@mail.ru

Ms Anna Koroleva
Consultant of the Division
Division of International integration and organization of
interaction with WTO and OECD
Federal Service for Surveillance on Consumer Rights
Protection and Human Well-being
18/20, Vadkovskiy pereulok
Moscow
Russian Federation
Tel: +7 915 325 77 55
Email: Korolyova_AP@gsen.ru

Dr Dmitriy Nikityuk
Director
Federal Research Centre of Nutrition, Biotechnology
and Food Safety
Ust'inskiy proezd, 2/14
Moscow
Russian Federation
Email: codex@gsen.ru

Dr Victor Tutelian
Head of science of Research center
Federal Research Centre of Nutrition, Biotechnology
and Food Safety
2/14 Ust'insky proezd
Moscow
Russian Federation
Email: codex@ion.ru

Mrs Tatiana Zavistyaeva
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: codex@gsen.ru

**SAINT KITTS AND NEVIS - SAINT-KITTS-ET-NEVIS
SAINT KITTS Y NEVIS**

Mr Hiram Williams
DIRECTOR
St. Kitts and Nevis Bureau of Standards
La Guerite
Basseterre
Saint Kitts and Nevis
Tel: 869-465-5279/ 869-662-3339
Email: mplbos@gmail.com

SAINT LUCIA - SAINTE LUCIE - SANTA LUCÍA

Ms Tzarmallah Haynes-Joseph
Head of Department
Standards Development
Saint Lucia Bureau of Standards
Bisee Industrial Estate
Castries
Saint Lucia
Tel: 17584530049
Email: T.HAYNES@slbs.org

**SAINT VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES –
SAINT-VINCENT/GRENADINES –
SAN VICENTE/GRANADINAS**

Mr Ezra D. Ledger
Executive Director
St. Vincent and the Grenadines Bureau of Standards
Campden Park Industrial Site
Kingstown
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
Tel: 17844578092
Email: deledger@gov.vc

SAN MARINO - SAINT-MARIN

Mrs Daniela Rotondaro
Ambassador of San Marino - Perm.Rep.to FAO
Permanent representation to FAO
via Eleonora Duse n.35
Roma
Italy
Tel: 068072511
Email: asmarino@ambrsm.it

Mrs Marina Emiliani
Counsellor. Deputy Perm.Rep.
Embassy of San Marino
Via elonora duse, n. 35
Roma
Italy
Email: m.emiliani@ambrsm.it

**SAUDI ARABIA - ARABIE SAOUDITE –
ARABIA SAUDITA**

Prof Hisham Aljadhey
Chief Executive Officer
Saudi Food and Drug Authority
SAUDI ARABIA RIYADH North Ring Road - Al Nafal
Unit (1) 13312 - 6288
Riyadh
Saudi Arabia
Tel: +966112038222
Email: CODEX.CP@sFDA.gov.sa

Mr Ameen Al-Ahmar
Food Science head section
National Agriculture & Animal Resources Research

Center
Ministry of Environment Water & Agriculture
7736 Eastern Ring Road
Riyadh
Saudi Arabia
Tel: +966112038222
Email: Codex.cp@sfd.gov.sa

Prof Saleh Aldosari
Vice President for Food Sector
Food Sector
Saudi Food and Drug Authority
North Ring Road - Al Nafal Unit (1)
Riyadh
Saudi Arabia
Tel: 00966112038222
Email: codex.cp@sfd.gov.sa

Mr Meshal Almotairi
Communications and Standards Setting Dept. Manager
Executive Dept. for Standards and Food Product
Evaluation
Saudi Food and Drug Authority
Saudi Arabia North Ring Road - Al Nafal Unit (1)
Riyadh
Saudi Arabia
Tel: +966112038222
Email: Codex.cp@sfd.gov.sa

Ms Sara Alrumaihi
international Relations Specialist
Department of President's Office
Saudi Food and Drug Authority
Saudi Arabia 3292 Nothern Ring Road- Alnafel Area
Riyadh
Saudi Arabia
Tel: +966112038222
Email: Codex.cp@sfd.gov.sa

Mr Abdulaziz Alshuwaish
Executive Director of Standards and Food Product
Evaluation
Executive Dept. for Standards and Food Product
Evaluation
Saudi Food and Drug Authority
Saudi Arabia 3292 Nothern Ring Road- Alnafel Area
Riyadh
Saudi Arabia
Tel: +966112038222
Email: Codex.cp@sfd.gov.sa

Ms Ghandourah Ghandourah
Director of the International Cooperation Department
Department of President's Office
Saudi Food and Drug Authority
Saudi Arabia 3292 Nothern Ring Road- Alnafel Area
Riyadh
Saudi Arabia
Tel: +966112038222
Email: Codex.cp@sfd.gov.sa

Mr Hani Mansi
Regional and International Standards Dept. Manager
Executive Dept. for Standards and Food Product
Evaluation
Saudi Food and Drug Authority
Saudi Arabia North Ring Road - Al Nafal Unit (1)
Riyadh
Saudi Arabia
Tel: +966112038222
Email: codex.cp@sfd.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
Sénégal
Tel: +221 77 644 98 23
Email: amdiouf@refer.sn

Dr Chantal Biagui
Chef De Bureau
Ministère Elevage Et Productions Animales
Direction Des Services Vétérinaires
Dakar
Sénégal
Email: c2002doc@yahoo.fr

Mr Abdoulaye Diawara
Chef du bureau de l'hygiène alimentaire
Direction des Services vétérinaires
Ministère de l'Elevage et des Productions animales
VDN, Sacré Coeur Cité SICAP Keur Gorgui, 1er étage
de l'Immeuble Y1D
Dakar
Sénégal
Tel: +221 77 637 91 52
Email: abdoulaye.diawara@elevage.gouv.sn

Mr Nar Diene
Coordonnateur de Comite
Ministère Sante et Action Sociale
Centre Anti-Poison
Fann /Dakar
Dakar
Senegal
Tel: +221 77649 61 56
Email: snardiene@yahoo.fr

Mr Baye Mayoro Diop
First Secretary
Embassy of Senegal
Email: ambasenequiri@tiscali.it

Dr Aloyse Waly Diouf
Directeur de Cabinet
Ministere Sante et Action Sociale
Rue Aime Cesaire Fann
Dakar
Senegal
Tel: 00221 77 605 33 56
Email: diouf_aloyse@yahoo.fr

Mrs Mame Diarra Faye Leye
Point de Contact du Codex Alimentarius
Centre Anti Poison
Ministère de la Santé et de l'Action sociale
Hôpital de Fann - Avenue Cheikh Anta Diop
Dakar
Senegal
Tel: +221 77 520 09 15
Email: mamediarrafaye@yahoo.fr

Mrs Felicite Bandiaky Fonseca
Chef d'unité
Ministere Sante et Action Sociale
Centre Anti-Poison
Fann Dakar
Senegal
Tel: +221766636326
Email: felbandiakyseca@gmail.com

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

Mrs Mame Khady Mbaye
Chef de Division
Ministère Commerce
Direction Commerce Intérieur
Sénégal
Email: Mamekhadymbaye@yahoo.fr

Dr Mamadou Ndiaye
Expert Conseiller en Peche
Groupement des Armateurs et Industriels du Sénégal
Route Des Maristes
Sénégal
Tel: +221776566543
Email: ndiaye.mamadou@netcourrier.com

Mr Diene Ndiaye
Directeur
Ministère Pêche et Economie Maritime
Direction des Industries de Transformation de Pêche
Sénégal
Tel: +221775724642
Email: ndiaye@mpem.gouv.sn

Dr Marie Khemesse Ngom Ndiaye
Directeur General Sante
Ministere de la Sante et de l'action Sociale
Direction Generale de la Sante
Rue Aime Cesaire
Sénégal
Tel: +221338694206
Email: ndiayekhemesse@yahoo.fr

Dr Moussa Dieng Sarr
Chef de Service
Ministère Sante et Action Sociale
Service National de l'Hygiène
NORD FOIRE
DAKAR
Sénégal
Tel: +221 775337824
Email: mdiensarr@yahoo.fr

Dr Mareme Mbaye Sene
Chef D'unité
Ministère Sante Et Action Sociale
Centre Anti-Poison
Hôpital Fann
Dakar
Sénégal
Email: msmbaye@gmail.com

Mrs Maimouna Sow
Chef de Division
Ministère Sante et Action Sociale
Service National de l'Hygiène
Terminus TATA, 34 Nord Foire Dakar
Dakar
Sénégal
Tel: +221 77 641 39 16
Email: maynatacko@yahoo.fr

SIERRA LEONE - SIERRA LEONA

Mr Amadu Jogor Bah
Deputy Executive Director
Sierra Leone Standards Bureau
Wahman Abucompund C T Box 11 Kissy Ferry Junction
Freetown
Sierra Leone
Tel: +23276202010
Email: codexcontactpoints1@gmail.com

Mr Joseph Jonathan Ndanema
Minister of Agriculture Forestry and Food Security
Herwarthstr. 4
Berlin
Sierra Leone
Email: Joseph.ndanema@maffs.gov.sl

SINGAPORE - SINGAPOUR - SINGAPUR

Dr Him Hoo Yap
 Director-General
 Agri-Food & Veterinary Authority of Singapore
 52, Jurong Gateway Road, #14-01 Singapore 608550
 Singapore
 Tel: 68052828
 Email: yap_him_hoo@ava.gov.sg

Mr Teng Yong Low
 Deputy Director
 Regulatory Programmes Department, Regulatory
 Administration Group
 Agri-Food & Veterinary Authority of Singapore
 52, Jurong Gateway Road, #14-01 Singapore 608550
 Singapore
 Tel: 68052911
 Email: low_teng_yong@ava.gov.sg

SLOVAKIA - SLOVAQUIE - ESLOVAQUIA

Ms Katarína Janeková
 Senior Officer
 Food Safety and Nutrition
 Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development
 Dobrovičova 12
 Bratislava
 Slovakia
 Tel: 0421 2 59266 564
 Email: codex@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: 00386 1 3001330
 Email: codex.mkgp@gov.si

Ms Maja Kokalj
 Administration for Food Safety, Veterinary Sector and
 Plant Protection
 Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food
 Dunajska cesta 22
 Ljubljana
 Slovenia
 Tel: +38613001300
 Email: maja.kokalj@gov.si

SOUTH AFRICA - AFRIQUE DU SUD - SUDÁFRICA

Mr Billy Makhafola
 Director: Food Safety and Quality Assurance
 Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries
 Private Bag X343
 Pretoria
 South Africa
 Tel: +2712 319 7306seme
 Email: BillyM@daff.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@nrccs.org.za

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

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\ Alcalá, 56
 Madrid
 Spain
 Email: maquilar@msssi.es

SRI LANKA

Dr Lakshman Gamlath
 Deputy Director General
 Environmental Health and Food safety
 Ministry of Health
 No. 464, TB Jaya Mawatha, Colombo 10
 Colombo
 Sri Lanka
 Tel: 0094717723232
 Email: ltgamlath@gmail.com

SUDAN - SOUDAN - SUDÁN

Mrs Ula Makkawi Abdelrhman
 Senior Quality Control Officer
 Quality Control&Export Development Administration
 Federal Ministry of Agriculture &Forestry
 Aljammaa Street Khartoum/ Sudan P.O.BOX 285
 Khartoum
 Sudan
 Tel: +249918075475
 Email: ulaabdelaziz@gmail.com

Mrs Amel Abbas Ibn Oaf
 Senior Officer
 General Directorate of Animal Health and epizootic
 disease control protection
 Federal Ministry of Animal Resource
 P.O. Box 293
 Khartoum

Sudan
Tel: +249912812314
Email: amahgoub17@yahoo.com

Mrs Sana Elshafiea
Director of Standardization Administration
Sudanese Standard & Metrology Organization
Aljamaa Street Sudanese Standard & Metrology
Organization
Khartoum
Sudan
Email: sanaelshafie2013@gmail.com

Mrs Batoul Mohamed Abdo
Senior Quality control officer
Quality Control & Export Development Administration
Federal Ministry of Agriculture
Sudan Aljamaa street P.O. box 285
Khartoum
Sudan
Tel: +249122694334
Email: batatis77@hotmail.com

Dr Osman Ahmed Osman Mohamed
Director
Directorate of Planning and Research Department
Sudanese Standard & Metrology Organization
Baladia Street
Khartoum
Sudan
Tel: +249912235846
Email: Osmanssmo71@yahoo.com

SURINAME

Mr Djoemadie Kasanmoesdiran
Acting Director
Ministry of Agriculture Animal Husbandry and fisheries
Suriname
Email: dj.kasanmoesdiran@sr.net

SWEDEN - SUÈDE - SUECIA

Ms Svanhild Foldal
Senior Administrative Officer
Division for the Food Chain, Animal health and Welfare
Ministry of Enterprise and Innovation
Mäster Samuelsgatan 70
Stockholm
Sweden
Tel: +46 722206834
Email: svanhild.foldal@gov.se

Mr Fredrik Alfer
Minister Counsellor, Deputy Permanent Representative
to FAO
Embassy of Sweden, Rome
Via Serchio 9-11
Rome
Italy
Tel: +39 3356404603
Email: fredrik.alfer@gov.se

Ms Carmina Ionescu
Codex Coordinator
International Affairs
National Food Agency
Box 622
Uppsala
Sweden
Tel: +46 709245601
Email: carmina.ionescu@slv.se

SWITZERLAND - SUISSE - SUIZA

Dr Michael Beer
Head Food and Nutrition
Federal Food Safety and Veterinary Office FSVO
Bern
Switzerland
Email: michael.beer@blv.admin.ch

Dr Himanshu Gupta
Regulatory & Scientific Affairs
Nestec SA
Avenue Nestlé 55 Post Box
Vevey
Switzerland
Email: Himanshu.Gupta@nestle.com

Mrs Terry Louise Jones
Academic Intern
Permanent Representation of Switzerland to FAO,
IFAD and WFP
Via Aventina 32
Rome
Italy
Email: terry-louise.jones@eda.admin.ch

Mr Martin Müller
Swiss Codex Contact Point
Federal Food Safety and Veterinary Office FSVO
Bern
Switzerland
Email: martin.mueller@blv.admin.ch

Mr François Pythoud
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of Switzerland to FAO,
IFAD, WFP
Via Aventina 32
Rome
Italy
Email: francois.pythoud@eda.admin.ch

Dr Ludovica Verzeznassi
 CT-Regulatory and Scientific Affairs
 Nestec Ltd
 55, Av. Nestlé
 Vevey
 Switzerland
 Email: ludovica.verzeznassi@nestle.com

THAILAND - THAILANDE - TAILANDIA

Mr Pisan Pongsapitch
 Deputy Secretary General
 National Bureau of Agricultural Commodity and Food
 Standards
 Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives
 50 Phaholyothin Road, Ladyao, Chathuchak
 Bangkok
 Thailand
 Tel: 662-561-2277
 Email: pisan@acfs.go.th

Ms Namaporn Attaviroj
 Standards Officer
 National Bureau of Agricultural Commodity and Food
 Standards
 Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives
 50 Phahonyothin Rd., Ladyao, Chathuchak
 Bangkok
 Thailand
 Tel: +66 2 561 2277 ext. 1422
 Email: jzanamaporn@gmail.com

Mrs Chantane Buranathai
 Director of Livestock Standards Subdivision
 Department of Livestock Development
 Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives
 69/1 Phayathai Road, Rajathevi
 Bangkok
 Thailand
 Tel: +662 6534444 ext 3142
 Email: chantanee.dld@hotmail.com

Mr Poonlarp Chantavichitwong
 Deputy Secretary-General
 Thai Food and Drug Administration
 Ministry of Public Health
 88/24 Tiwanon Road, Talad Kwan, Muang Nonthaburi
 Nonthaburi
 Thailand
 Tel: +6625907006
 Email: poonlarp@fda.moph.go.th

Dr Pichet Itkor
 Vice Chairman
 Food Processing Industry Club
 The Federation of Thai Industries
 Queen Sirikit National Convention Center, Zone C 4th
 Floor, 60 New Rachadapisek Road, Klongtoey
 Bangkok
 Thailand
 Tel: +668 9939 4654
 Email: Pichet.itkor@rb.com

Dr Panisuan Jamnarnwej
 Honorary Advisor of TFFA
 Thai Frozen Foods Association
 92/6 6th Floor, Sathornthani Building 2 North Sathorn
 Rd., Silom, Bangrak
 Bangkok
 Thailand
 Tel: +6622355622
 Email: panisuan@yahoo.com

Ms Malee Jirawongsy
 Food and Drug Technical Officer, Expert Level
 Food and Drug Administration
 Ministry of Public Health
 Mueang Nonthaburi District
 Nonthaburi
 Thailand
 Tel: +6625907249
 Email: fdamasy@gmail.com

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: jidsudakos@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: thaifood@thaifood.org

Ms Dawisa Paiboonsiri
 Standards Officer
 National Bureau of Agricultural Commodity and Food
 Standards
 Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives
 50 Phaholyothin Road Ladyao. Chathuchak
 Bangkok
 Thailand
 Tel: 662-5612277 ext. 1427
 Email: dawisa.p@gmail.com

Ms Ing-orn Panyakit
 Director of Office of Standard Development
 National Bureau of Agricultural Commodity and Food
 Standards
 Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives
 50 Phaholyothin Road, Ladyao, Chatuchak
 Bangkok
 Thailand
 Tel: 662-561-2277
 Email: ingorn2011@gmail.com

Mrs Wanwipa Suwannarak
 Director
 Fish Inspection and Quality Control Division
 Department of Fishery
 50 Phaholyothin Road, Lad Yao, Chatuchak
 Bangkok
 Thailand
 Tel: +666 32170812
 Email: wanwipa.su@dof.mail.go.th

Ms Chanikan Thanupitak
 Trade and Technical Manager of Fisheries Products
 Thai Food Processors' Association
 170 / 21 -22 9th Floor Ocean Tower 1 Bldg., New
 Ratchadapisek Rd., Klongtoey
 Bangkok
 Thailand
 Tel: +662 261 2684-6
 Email: chanikan@thaifood.org

Prof Kraisd 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

TOGO

Dr Tchala Kazia
 Codex Contact Point
 Agriculture
 Ministry of Agriculture
 1, rue de l'Espérance LOME/TOGO
 LOME
 Togo
 Tel: +22890023325
 Email: kaziatchala@yahoo.fr

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO - TRINITÉ-ET-TOBAGO - TRINIDAD Y TOBAGO

Dr Farz Khan
 Chief Chemist and Director Food and Drugs
 Chemistry Food and Drugs Division
 Ministry of Health
 92 Frederick Street Port-of-Spain
 Trinidad and Tobago
 Email: cfdd@health.gov.tt

TURKEY - TURQUIE - TURQUÍA

Mr İlhami Sahin
 Coordinator
 The General Directorate of Food and Control
 The Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Livestock
 Gıda, Tarım ve Hayvancılık Bakanligi Eskisehir Yolu 9.
 km Lodumlu
 Ankara
 Turkey
 Tel: 00903122587757
 Email: ilhami.sahin@tarim.gov.tr

UGANDA - OUGANDA

Dr Ben Manyindo
 Executive Director
 Uganda National Bureau of Standards
 Plot 2-12, Standards House, By-Pass Link,
 Bweyogerere P.O. Box 6329, Kampala
 Kampala
 Uganda
 Tel: 256 417-333250
 Email: ed@unbs.go.ug

Mr Samson Mpiira Akankiza
 Coffee Sustainability Manager
 Directorate of Quality and Regulatory Services
 Uganda Coffee Development Authority
 Coffee House Plot 35 Jinja Road P.O Box 7267
 Kampala
 Uganda
 Tel: +256 772 692200
 Email: samson.akankiza@ugandacoffee.go.ug

Dr Jolly Justine Hoona
 Principal Veterinary Officer
 Department of Animal Production
 Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries
 Berkely Lane, Entebbe P.O. Box 102
 Kampala
 Uganda
 Tel: +256 772 482255
 Email: justinejollyhoona@gmail.com

Ms Hope Luberenga Kabirisi
 Senior Presidential Assistant
 State House
 P.O. Box 254 Nakasero Kampala, Uganda
 Kampala
 Uganda
 Tel: +256 772 505646
 Email: kahopekabirisi@yahoo.co.uk

Mr Andrew Lajul Kilama
 Director
 Corporate Services
 Uganda Coffee Development Authority
 Coffee House Plot 35 Jinja Road P.O Box 7267
 Kampala
 Uganda
 Tel: +256 772 410052
 Email: andrew.kilama@ugandacoffee.go.ug

Dr Herbert Kyeyamwa
 Senior Veterinary Officer - Public Health
 Department of Animal Production
 Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries
 Berkely Lane, Entebbe P.O. Box 102
 Kampala
 Uganda
 Tel: +256 772 404245
 Email: hkyeyamwas@yahoo.co.uk

Mr Hakim Baligeya Mufumbiro
 Ag. Manager, Standards Department
 Standards
 Uganda National Bureau of Standards
 Plot 2-12, ByPass Link, Bweyogerere Industrial and
 Business Park, P.O. Box 6329, Kampala, Uganda
 Kampala
 Uganda
 Tel: +256 772 513680
 Email: hakim.mufumbiro@unbs.go.ug

Mr Robert Sabiiti
 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: robertsabiiti47@gmail.com

Mr Johnson Allan Ssubi
 Technical Executive Assistant
 Executive Director's Office
 Uganda National Bureau of Standards
 Plot 2-12 ByPass Link, Bweyogerere Industrial Park,
 P.O.BOX 6329, Kampala
 Kampala
 Uganda
 Tel: +256 752 954135
 Email: johnson.ssubi@unbs.go.ug

Dr Jolly Kemirembe Zaribwende
 Executive Director
 Dairy Development Authority
 Plot 1, Kafu Road, Nakasero P.O. Box 34006, Kampala
 Kampala
 Uganda
 Tel: +256 785 094120
 Email: ed@dda.or.ug

UKRAINE - UCRANIA

Dr Serhii Kolesnyk
 Head of sector, Codex Contact Point
 Sector of International Regulatory Science for Food and
 Chemical Safety
 L.I. Medved's Research Center of Preventive
 Toxicology, Food and Chemical Safety, Ministry of
 Health
 6, Heroiv Oborony str.
 Kyiv
 Ukraine
 Tel: +380963480071
 Email: codex.ukraine@gmail.com

Mr Maksym Mantiuk
 Alternate Representative of Ukraine to FAO
 Email: maksym.mantiuk@mfa.gov.ua

Ms Olha Semenchuk
 Deputy director
 Department of food safety and Veterinary
 State Service of Ukraine for Food Safety and Consumer
 Protection
 1, B. Grinchenko str.
 Kyiv
 Ukraine
 Tel: +380442788467
 Email: semenchuk@vet.gov.ua

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES – ÉMIRATS ARABES UNIS – EMIRATOS ARABES UNIDOS

Mr Yousef Almarzooqi
 Heat of technical regulation
 Regulation Department
 ESMA
 P.O Box 48666 Dubai UAE
 Dubai
 United Arab Emirates
 Tel: +971506423324
 Email: yousef@esma.gov.ae

UNITED KINGDOM - ROYAUME-UNI – REINO UNIDO

Ms Regan Brash
 Team Leader SPS and TBT
 Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
 (Defra)
 2 Marsham Street London
 Email: regan.brash@defra.gsi.gov.uk

Mr Steve Cowperthwaite
 Head of EU and International Strategy
 Food Standards Agency
 125 Kingsway
 London
 United Kingdom
 Email: steve.cowperthwaite@food.gov.uk

Mr Neil Fourie
 Lead for EU Agriculture and Fish
 Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs
 Email: Neil.Fourie@defra.gsi.gov.uk

Mr Kevin Hargin
 Head, Food Hygiene and Animal Feed Policy Unit
 Food Standards Agency (FSA)
 Floors 6 and 7 Clive House
 Email: Kevin.Hargin@food.gov.uk

Mr Ian Mcwatt
 Chief Operating Officer
 Food Standards Scotland (FSS)
 Email: ian.McWatt@fss.scot

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) 2080263867
Email: pendi.najran@defra.gsi.gov.uk

Ms Laura Newman
Team Leader for Codex
Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
Area 1A, Nobel House, 17 Smith Square,
London
United Kingdom
Tel: + 44 (0) 7827 821645
Email: laura.newman@defra.gsi.gov.uk

Mr Mike O'Neill
Head Codex Policy and Programmes
Food Standards Agency (FSA)
Floors 6 and 7 Clive House
London
United Kingdom
Tel: +447917213545
Email: Mike.Oneill@food.gov.uk

Ms Isla Scott
Head of Domestic Policy Standards and Consumers
Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
(Defra)
Email: Isla.Scott1@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk

Ms Beth White
Policy Advisor for Codex
Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
(Defra)
2 Marsham Street London
Email: bethany.white@defra.gsi.gov.uk

**UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA –
RÉPUBLIQUE-UNIE DE TANZANIE –
REPÚBLICA UNIDA DE TANZANÍA**

Eng Tumaini Manfred Mtitu
Acting Director General
Tanzania Bureau of Standards
P.O.Box 9524
Dar-es-Salaam
United Republic of Tanzania
Tel: +255713250051
Email: tumaini.mtitu@tbs.go.tz

Mr Khatib Khatib
Director General
Zanzibar Bureau of Standards (ZBS)
P.O BOX 1136
Zanzibar
United Republic of Tanzania
Tel: +255777872021
Email: khatib.mwadini@zbs.go.tz

Prof Makenya Abraham Honoratus Maboko
Chairperson Board of Directors
Tanzania Bureau of Standards
Box 9524
Dar-es-Salaam
United Republic of Tanzania
Tel: +255 784305891
Email: maboko@uccmail.co.tz

Dr Claude Moshia
CEO & Chief SPS (Food Feed Safety & Quality)
Consultant
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 /
Codex Contact Point
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 –
ESTADOS UNIDOS DE AMÉRICA**

Mr Ted McKinney
Undersecretary for Trade and Foreign Agricultural
Affairs
OSEC
US Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Ave, SW
Washington, DC
United States of America
Tel: 1-202-720-3111
Email: Ted.McKinney@osec.usda.gov

Ms Mary Frances Lowe
US Manager for Codex Alimentarius
Department of Agriculture
Food Safety and Inspection Services
1400 Independence Avenue, SW Room 4861-S Bldg.
Washington
United States of America
Tel: +1-202-205-7760
Email: maryfrances.lowe@fsis.usda.gov

Mr Richard Boyd
Chief, Contact Services Branch
U.S. Department of Agriculture
Specialty Crops Inspection Division, Specialty Crops
Program, Agricultural Marketing Service
1400 Independence Ave., SW Room 0714-South Bldg.
Washington, DC
United States of America
Tel: +1 (202) 690-1201
Email: Richard.boyd@ams.usda.gov

Ms Camille Brewer
Director, International Affairs Staff
U.S. Food and Drug Administration
Department of Health and Human Services
5001 Campus Drive
College Park, MD
United States of America
Tel: +1 240-402-1723
Email: Camille.brewer@fda.hhs.gov

Dr Julie Callahan
Senior Director, Agricultural Affairs
Executive Office of the President
Office of the United States Trade Representative
600 17th Street NW
Washington, D.C.
United States of America
Tel: +1-202-395-9582
Email: JCallahan@ustr.eop.gov

Ms Megan Crowe
Senior International Economist
International Trade Administration
U.S. Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Ave., NW
Washington, DC
United States of America
Tel: +1-202-413-1551
Email: megan.crowe@trade.gov

Ms Marsha Echols
Attorney/Professor of Law
Law Office of Marsha Echols
3286 M Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C.
United States of America
Tel: +1-202-625-1451
Email: echols@marshaechols.com

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

Dr Kevin Greenlees
Senior Advisor for Science and Science Policy, Chair,
CCRVD
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 Joseph Hain
Senior Trade Advisor
U.S. Department of Agriculture
Foreign Agricultural Service
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC
United States of America
Tel: +1-202-720-0930
Email: Joe.Hain@fas.usda.gov

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 Sarah Lynch
Deputy U.S. Codex Manager
U.S. Department of Agriculture
U.S. Codex Office
1400 Independence Ave., SW Room 4857-South
Building
Washington, D.C.
United States of America
Tel: +1 202-708-9515
Email: Sarah.Lynch@fsis.usda.gov

Mrs Barbara McNiff
Senior International Issue Analyst
U.S. Codex Office
U.S. Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Ave; SW
Washington, DC
United States of America
Tel: +1 202-690-4719
Email: Barbara.McNiff@fsis.usda.gov

Mr Bryce Quick
Minister Counselor for Agriculture, USUN Mission
U.S. Department of Agriculture
Foreign Agricultural Service
Via Boncompagni 2
Rome, Italy
Italy
Tel: +1-39-06-4674-3507
Email: Bryce.Quick@fas.usda.gov

Dr Kathryn Simmons
 Chief Veterinarian, NCBA
 Center for Public Policy
 National Cattlemen's Beef Association
 1275 Pennsylvania Avenue., NW, Suite 801
 Washington, DC
 United States of America
 Tel: +1-202-879-9131 (work)
 Email: ksimmons@beef.org

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

Mr Vito Su
 Food Security Advisor
 Bureau of Economic and Business Affairs
 U.S. Department of State
 2201 C Street
 Washington, DC
 United States of America
 Tel: +1-202-736-4016
 Email: SuV@state.gov

Mr Richard White
 Consultant
 5116 Lake Overlook Avenue
 Bradenton, FL
 United States of America
 Tel: +1703 304 0424
 Email: Richard.d.white@gmail.com

URUGUAY

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

Mr Jose Luis Heijo
 Director
 Dirección Nacional de Industrias
 Ministerio de Industria, Energía y Minería
 Montevideo
 Uruguay
 Tel: 59829163551
 Email: jose.heijo@miem.gub.uy

Mr Ernesto Messano
 Representante Alterno
 Representación Permanente de Uruguay
 Email: uruit@ambasciatauruguay.it

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 (RÉPUBLIQUE BOLIVARIENNE DU) - VENEZUELA (REPÚBLICA BOLIVARIANA DE)

Dr Elías 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

Ms Marycel Pacheco Gutierrez
 First Secretary
 Embassy of Venezuela
 Email: faoroma@embavenefao.org

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: faoroma@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

Mr Duc Nhuan Chu
 Official
 Government Office
 1A Hoang Hoa Tham street
 Hanoi
 Viet Nam
 Email: director@vinacert.vn

Mr Van Chinh Dang
Official
Ministry of Health
138A Giang Vo street
Hanoi
Viet Nam
Email: codexvn@vfa.gov.vn

Mrs Thi Minh Ha Nguyen
Deputy of Head
Vietnam Codex Office
Vietnam Food Administration
135 Nui truc street
Hanoi
Viet Nam
Tel: 917298786
Email: codexvn@vfa.gov.vn

Mr Thanh Phong Nguyen
Director
Vietnam Food Administration
Ministry of Health
135 Nui truc street
Hanoi
Viet Nam
Email: codexvn@vfa.gov.vn

Mr Huu Dung Nguyen
Director
Vinacert Certification and Inspection Joint Stock
Company
130 Nguyen Duc Canh street
Hanoi
Viet Nam
Email: director@vinacert.vn

Mrs Thi Kim Oanh Nguyen
Official
Vinacert Certification and Inspection Joint Stock
Company
130 Nguyen Duc Canh street
Hanoi
Viet Nam
Email: director@vinacert.vn

Mrs Thi Kim Phan
Director
Vietnam Food Safety Association
135 Nui truc street
Hanoi
Viet Nam
Email: maihuong@vinalab.org.vn

ZIMBABWE

Mr Fredy Chinyavanhu
Deputy Director-Food Control
Gvt Analyst Laboratory
Ministry of Health and Child Care
P.O Box CY 231, Causeway
Harare
Zimbabwe
Tel: +263 772 426 084
Email: nepfoodsafety.zw@gmail.com

Mrs Irene Boshia
Counsellor
ZIM Embassy in Rome
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Via Virgilio 8 - 00193
Rome
Zimbabwe
Tel: +39668308282
Email: zimrome-wolit@tiscali.it

Ms Placida S Chivandire
Counsellor
ZIM Embassy in Rome
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Via Virgilio 8-00193, Rome
Rome
Zimbabwe
Tel: +26339668308282
Email: zimrome-wolit@tiscali.it

Mr Godfrey Magwenzi
ZIM Ambassador to Rome
ZIM Embassy in Rome
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Via Virgilio 8-00193 Rome
Rome
Zimbabwe
Tel: +39668308282
Email: zimrome-wolit@tiscali.it

Mrs Caroline Matipira
Minister Counsellor
ZIM Embassy in Rome
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Via Virgilio 8-00193
Rome
Zimbabwe
Tel: +39668308282
Email: zimrome-wolit@tiscali.it

**OBSERVERS
OBSERVATEURS
OBSERVADORES**

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

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE (ECE)

Dr Olga Algayerova
Executive Secretary
United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
Palais des Nations
Geneva 10
Switzerland
Email: Olga.Algayerova@un.org

Ms Maria Teresa Pisani
Official of UN
Geneva
Switzerland
Email: mariateresa.pisani@un.org

**INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY
(IAEA)**

Mr Andrew Cannavan
Laboratory Head
Joint FAO/IAEA Division of Nuclear Techniques in Food
and Agriculture, Department of Nuclear Science
International Atomic Energy Agency
Vienna International Centre, PO Box 100
Vienna
Austria
Tel: (+43-1) 2600-28395
Email: A.Cannavan@iaea.org

**INTERNATIONAL GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS
ORGANISATIONS GOUVERNEMENTALES INTERNATIONALES
ORGANIZACIONES GUBERNAMENTALES INTERNACIONALES**

**AFRICAN ORGANIZATION FOR
STANDARDIZATION (ARSO)**

Dr Eve Christine Gadzikwa
Director General
Director General
Standards Association of Zimbabwe
10 Northend Close, Northridge Park Borrowdale,
Harare, Zimbabwe
Harare
Zimbabwe
Tel: +263 885517
Email: gzulu@saz.org.zw

AFRICAN UNION (AU)

Prof Ahmed El-Sawalhy
Director of AU-IBAR
Interafrican Bureau for Animal Resources
African Union
Kenindia Business Park, Westlands Road,
Nairobi
Kenya
Tel: +254203674212
Email: ahmed.elsawalhy@au-ibar.org

Mr John Opong-Otoo
Food Safety Officer
African Union Interafrican Bureau for Animal Resources
P. O. BOX 30786 Westland
Nairobi
Kenya
Tel: +254787582754
Email: nanapong23@yahoo.com

Mrs Fatuma Buke Wario
Project and Event Coordinator
African Agricultural Technology Foundation
P.O. Box 30709, Nairobi, Kenya
Nairobi
Kenya
Tel: 254 20 4223731, 254 20 422 374
Email: f.warior@aaf-africa.org

**CARIBBEAN AGRICULTURAL HEALTH AND FOOD
SAFETY AGENCY (CAHFA)**

Dr Gavin Peters
Animal Health Specialist
Animal Health
Caribbean Agricultural Health and Food Safety Agency
Letitia Vriesdelaan #10
Paramaribo
Suriname
Tel: +5977195318
Email: gavin.peters@cahfa.org

**ECONOMIC COMMUNITY OF WEST AFRICAN
STATES (ECOWAS)**

Dr Benoit Gnonlonfin
ECOWAS-USAID Senior SPS Standards Advisor
Department of Industry and Private Sector Promotion
ECOWAS building River Plaza Annex 2 496 Abogo
Langema Street, Central Business District
Abuja
Nigeria
Tel: +2347084003507
Email: bgnonlonfin74@gmail.com

**STANDARDIZATION ORGANIZATION FOR G.C.C.
(GSO)**

Eng Ahmed Al-Bashah
Head of Standards
Standards & Metrology Directorate
Standardization Organization for G.C.C.
P.O. Box 85245,
Riyadh 11691,
Saudi Arabia
Tel: +9661 4826154
Email: aalbashah@gso.org.sa

Dr Oday Hatim Al-Buhamad
Director of Standards & Metrology Directorate
Standardization Organization for G.C.C.
P.O. Box 85245,

Riyadh 11691,
Saudi Arabia
Email: obuhamad@gso.org.sa

**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

Mr Eric Bolaños Ledezma
Especialista, Sanidad Agropecuaria e Inocuidad de
Alimentos
SAIA
Instituto Interamericano de Cooperación para la
Agricultura (IICA)
Apto Postal 55-2200, San José Vázquez de Coronado
San Isidro 11101
San José
Costa Rica
Tel: + 506 2216 0418
Email: erick.bolanos@iica.int

**ORGANISATION MONDIALE DE LA SANTÉ
ANIMALE (OIE)**

Ms Ann Backhouse
Head
Standards
OIE
12 rue de Prony
Paris
France
Tel: +33611662546
Email: a.backhouse@oie.int

**ORGANISMO INTERNACIONAL REGIONAL DE
SANIDAD AGROPECUARIA (OIRSA)**

Mr Figueroa Lauriano
Director Regional de Inocuidad de Alimentos
OIRSA
Calle Ramon Belloso fijas pasaje Isolda Colonia
Escalon
San Salvador
El Salvador
Tel: 503 2209 9226
Email: ifigueroa@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: +33674663451
Email: jruf@oiv.int

WORLD CUSTOMS ORGANIZATION (WCO)

Mr Giuseppe Marra
Technical Attache'
Compliance and Facilitation Directorate
World Customs Organisation
Rue du marche', 30
Brussels
Belgium
Email: giuseppe.marra@wcoomd.org

WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION (WTO)

Ms Serra Ayral
Counsellor
Trade and Environment Division
World Trade Organization
Tel: +41 22 739 5465
Email: serra.ayral@wto.org

Mr Melvin Spreij
Counsellor, WTO, and Head, STDF
Agriculture & Commodities Division
WTO
Email: melvin.spreij@wto.org

**INTERNATIONAL NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS
ORGANISATIONS NON-GOUVERNEMENTALES INTERNATIONALES
ORGANIZACIONES INTERNACIONALES NO GUBERNAMENTALES**

ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN FEED CONTROL OFFICIALS (AAFCO)

Mr Richard Ten Eyck
Ingredient Definitions Committee Chair
Association of American Feed Control Officials
635 Capital St NE
Salem
United States of America
Tel: 5033510965
Email: rteneck@oda.state.or.us

ASSOCIATION EUROPÉENNE POUR LE DROIT DE L'ALIMENTATION (AEDA/EFLA)

Mrs Nicole Coutrelis
EFLA Vice-President
European Food Law Association (EFLA)
Email: secretariat@efla-aeda.org

ASOCIACIÓN LATINOAMERICANA DE AVICULTURA (ALA)

Mr Apolonio Suarez
Presidente
Asociación Latinoamericana de Avicultura
Lima, Perú
Lima
Peru
Tel: 5113721540
Email: asuarez@rinconadadelsur.com.pe

Mr Pablo Antonio Suarez Becerra
Asesor
Asociación Latinoamericana de Avicultura
Lexinton Avenue 18
New York
United States of America
Tel: 1 202 2908463
Email: psuarezb@gmail.com

Dr Hebert Trenchi
Coordinador
Asociación Latinoamericana de Avicultura
Almodón
Montevideo
Uruguay
Tel: 59899668470
Email: coordinadorctc@avicolatina.com

ASSOCIATION OF EUROPEAN COELIAC SOCIETIES (AOECS)

Mrs Hertha Deutsch
Codex and Regulatory Affairs
AOECS, Association of European Coeliac Societies
Anton Baumgartner Strasse 44/C5/2302
Vienna
Austria
Tel: +431667188
Email: hertha.deutsch@gmx.at

COLLAGEN CASINGS TRADE ASSOCIATION (CCTA)

Dr Rainer Bierwagen
CCTA
Email: rainer.bierwagen@bblaw.com

Ms Virginie Simon
CCTA
Email: Virginie.simon@scarlet.be

THE CONSUMER GOODS FORUM (CGF)

Ms Anne Gerardi
Senior GFSI Project Manager
GFSI
The Consumer Goods Forum
The Consumer Goods Forum 22-24 rue du Gouverneur
Général Eboué 92130 Issy-les-Moulineaux France
Issy-les-Moulineaux
France
Email: a.gerardi@theconsumergoodsforum.com

Ms Marie-Claude Quentin
Senior Technical Manager
the Consumer Goods Forum
22/24 rue du Gouverneur Général Eboué
Issy-les-Moulineaux
France
Email: mc.quentin@theconsumergoodsforum.com

COUNCIL FOR RESPONSIBLE NUTRITION (CRN)

Dr James Griffiths
Vice President
Science & International Affairs
CRN
1828 L St., NW Ste. 810
Washington
United States of America
Tel: 202-204-7662
Email: jgriffiths@crnusa.org

CROPLIFE INTERNATIONAL (CROPLIFE)

Dr Janet Collins
Sr. Vice President Science & Regulatory Affairs
CropLife America
1156 Fifteenth Street, N.W. Suite 400
Washington DC
United States of America
Tel: 0012028334474
Email: jcollins@croplifeamerica.org

Mr Robert Hunter
Executive Director, Crop Protection
CropLife International
326 avenue Louise
Brussels
Belgium
Tel: 003225420410
Email: robert.hunter@croplife.org

Mr Michael Kaethner
Regulatory Policy
Bayer CropScience
Geb 6100 A1.4 Alfred Nobel Str 50
Monheim
Germany
Tel: 00492173387521
Email: michael.kaethner@bayer.com

Dr Wibke Meyer
Regulatory Affairs Manager
CropLife International
326 avenue Louise
Brussels
Belgium
Tel: 003225420410
Email: wibke.meyer@croplife.org

**FEDERATION OF EUROPEAN SPECIALTY FOOD
INGREDIENTS INDUSTRIES (EU SPECIALTY FOOD
INGREDIENTS)**

Dr Dirk Cremer
EU Specialty Food Ingredients
DSM Nutritional Products Europe Ltd., Human Nutrition
and Health P.O. Box 2676
Basel
Switzerland
Email: dirk.cremer@dsm.com

Mrs Catherine Mignot
EU Specialty Food Ingredients
DSM Nutritional Products Tour Nova 71 boulevard
National T
La Garenne-Colombes
France
Tel: +33 1 46 43 59 26
Email: catherine.mignot@dsm.com

**EUROPEAN FEED MANUFACTURERS'
FEDERATION (FEFAC)**

Mr Alexander Doring
Secretary General
FEFAC
Rue de la Loi 223 - Box 3
BRUSSELS
Belgium
Tel: 3222850050
Email: fefac@fefac.eu

**FÉDÉRATION INTERNATIONALE DES VINS ET
SPIRITUEUX (FIVS)**

Dr Ignacio Sanchez Recarte
Vice President
International Compliance & Regulatory Affairs
FIVS
18 rue d'Aguesseau
PARIS
France
Tel: +33 (0)1 42 68 82 48
Email: isanchez@ceev.eu

FOODDRINKEUROPE

Ms Katie Carson
DSM
Email: katie.carson@dsm.com

Mr Eoin Keane
Email: e.keane@fooddrinkeurope.eu

Ms Annie Loc'h
Email: annie.loch@danone.com

Ms Beate Kettlitz
Director
Food Policy, Science and R&D
FoodDrinkEurope
Avenue des Nerviens 9-31
Bruxelles
Belgium
Email: b.kettlitz@fooddrinkeurope.eu

**INTERNATIONAL BABY FOOD ACTION NETWORK
(IBFAN)**

Ms Patti Rundall
IBFAN
4 Trumpington Street
Cambridge
United Kingdom
Tel: +447786523493
Email: prundall@babymilkaction.org

INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATIVE ALLIANCE (ICA)

Mr Kazuo Onitake
Senior Scientist, Quality Assurance Division
Japanese Consumers' Co-operative Union
International Co-operative Alliance
Coop 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
1275 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Suite 1100
Washington, D.C.
United States of America
Email: pjulkunen@coca-cola.com

Ms Joanna Skinner
Manager, Regulatory Labeling & Nutrition
Global Scientific & Regulatory Affairs
The Coca-Cola Company
One Coca-Cola Plaza
Atlanta
United States of America
Tel: +14048592480
Email: joskinner@coca-cola.com

Dr Suzanne Baaghil
PepsiCo, Inc.
Email: suzanne.baaghil@pepsico.com

INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF GROCERY MANUFACTURERS ASSOCIATIONS (ICGMA)

Mr Nicholas Gardner
Director
Global Strategies
The Grocery Manufacturers Association
1350 I ST NW Suite 300
Washington
Tel: 12026395900
Email: ngardner@gmaonline.org

Ms Melissa San Miguel
Vice President
Head of Policy
Red Flag
1440 G ST, NW
Washington
United States of America
Tel: +1 614 813 2605
Email: melissa.sanmiguel@thisisredflag.com

INTERNATIONAL DAIRY FEDERATION (IDF/FIL)

Mr Eric Grande
Regulatory Affairs Director
Groupe LACTALIS
Tel: +33 06 16992796
Email: Eric.GRANDE@lactalis.fr

Ms Aurélie Dubois Lozier
Technical Manager
International Dairy Federation
Boulevard Auguste Reyers 70 B
Brussels
Belgium
Tel: +17736980355
Email: adubois@fil-idf.org

Ms Caroline Emond
Director General
International Dairy Federation
70 Boulevard Auguste Reyers
Brussels
Belgium
Email: dg@fil-idf.org

INTERNATIONAL FOOD AUTHENTICITY ASSURANCE ORGANIZATION (IFAAO)

Mr Yves Rey
Executive Director
IFAAO
373 Park Avenue South, 6th Floor
New York
United States of America
Email: yvesrey@ifaa.org

Mr Michael Roberts
the Vice-Chairperson of the IFAAO Advisory Board
IFAAO
Email: mictrob@gmail.com

INTERNATIONAL FEED INDUSTRY FEDERATION (IFIF)

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

INSTITUTE OF FOOD TECHNOLOGISTS (IFT)

Dr Rosetta Newsome
Director, Science & Policy Initiatives
Science & Policy Initiatives
Institute of Food Technologists
IFT 525 West Van Buren St. Chicago, IL 60607-3830
Chicago
United States of America
Tel: 312.369.0575
Email: rnewsome@ift.org

INTERNATIONAL FRUIT AND VEGETABLE JUICE ASSOCIATION (IFU)

Mr John Collins
Executive Director
IFU (Int. Fruit and Vegetable Juice Association)
23 Boulevard des Capucines
Paris
France
Tel: +44 1278 627844
Email: john@ifu-fruitjuice.com

INTERNATIONAL GLUTAMATE TECHNICAL COMMITTEE (IGTC)

Mr Satoru Kubo
International Glutamate Technical Committee
3-11-8 Hatchobori, Chuo-ku
Tokyo
Japan
Tel: +81-80-3258-1900
Email: secretariat@e-igtc.org

INTERNATIONAL MEAT SECRETARIAT (IMS)

Ms Courtney Knupp
Director of International Trade Policy
International Meat Secretariat
5 rue Lespagnol
Paris
France
Tel: 202-768-4012
Email: knuppc@nppc.org

INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION OF THE FLAVOR INDUSTRY (IOFI)

Dr Thierry Cachet
Regulatory and Advocacy Director
Belgium
IOFI
Avenue des Arts, 6
Brussels
Belgium
Tel: +3222142052
Email: tcachet@iofi.org

INTERNATIONAL PROBIOTICS ASSOCIATION (IPA)

Mr George Paraskevakos
Executive Director
International Probiotics Association (IPA)
1824 S. Robertson
Los Angeles
United States of America
Tel: 514-571-5949
Email: george@internationalprobiotics.org

Mrs Rosanna Pecere
Executive Director
IPA EUROPE
Ave d'Auderghem 22-28
Brussels
Belgium
Tel: +32 2 549 50 81
Email: r.pecere@ipaeurope.org

Mr Huub Scheres
Director of External Affairs
Dupont Nutrition and Health
Archimedesweg 30
Leiden
Netherlands
Tel: +3171
Email: [Huub.Scheres@dupont.com](mailto:Huib.Scheres@dupont.com)

Mr David Pineda Ereno
International Probiotics Association
Email: info@internationalprobiotics.org

THE INTERNATIONAL POULTRY COUNCIL (IPC)

Mrs Marilia Rangel Campos
Secretary General
International Poultry Council
2300 West Park Place Boulevard St 100
Stone Mountain
United States of America
Tel: +5511999867527
Email: marilia@internationalpoultrycouncil.org

INTERNATIONAL STEVIA COUNCIL (ISCO)

Mrs Maria Teresa Scardigli
Executive Director
International Stevia Council
Avenue Jules Bordet 142
Brussels
Belgium
Tel: + 32 (0)2 761 16 51
Email: GlobalOffice@internationalsteviacouncil.org

INTERNATIONAL SPECIAL DIETARY FOODS INDUSTRIES (ISDI)

Mrs Sandrine Alloncle
Global Regulatory & Scientific Affairs Senior Manager
Nestle Nutrition
Email: Sandrine.Alloncle@nestle.com

Mrs Cristine Bradley
Global Assoc Director, Regulatory and Nutrition
Science
RB
Email: Cris.Bradley@rb.com

Mr Marian Brestovansky
Regulatory Affairs Officer
ISDI-International Special Dietary Foods Industries
Email: secretariat@isdi.org

Mr Kaushik Janakiraman
Regulatory Affairs Officer
RB
Email: Kaushik.Janakiraman@rb.com

Mr Jean Christophe Kremer
Secretary General
ISDI-International Special Dietary Foods Industries
Email: secretariat@isdi.org

Mr Xavier Lavigne
Director, Regulatory Policy & Intelligence
Abbott Nutrition
Email: xavier.lavigne@abbott.com

Mrs Sabine Seggelke
Director Global Public Affairs
Danone Nutricia Early Life Nutrition
Email: Sabine.SEGGELKE@danone.com

INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR STANDARDIZATION (ISO)

Mrs Sandrine Espeillac
Secretary of ISO/TC 34
ISO
Chemin de Blandonnet 8 Case Postale 401
Vernier, Geneva
Switzerland
Tel: +33 1 41 62 86 02
Email: sandrine.espeillac@afnor.org

INTERNATIONAL FOOD POLICY RESEARCH INSTITUTE

Ms Anne Mackenzie
Head, Standards & Regulatory Issues
HarvestPlus c/o IFPRI
32 Shepherds Landing, RR #2,
Mahone Bay
Canada
Tel: +1 902 627 2729
Email: a.mackenzie@cgiar.org

NATIONAL HEALTH FEDERATION (NHF)

Mr Scott Tips
President
CALIFORNIA
1952
Monrovia
United States of America
Tel: 16263572181
Email: scott@rivieramail.com

OENOLOGICAL PRODUCTS AND PRACTICES INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION (OENOPPIA)

Mrs Elisabetta Romeo-Vareille
Policy-officer
Oenoppia
21-23, rue Croulebarbe
PARIS
France

Tel: 00393489179559
 Email: e.romeo@uiv.it

UNITED STATES PHARMACOPEIAL CONVENTION (USP)

Dr Steven Gendel
 Senior Director - Foods, Science
 Foods
 US Pharmacopeial Convention (USP)
 12601 Twinbrook Parkway
 Rockville
 United States of America
 Tel: (301) 692-3375
 Email: steven.gendel@usp.org

WORLD SUGAR RESEARCH ORGANIZATION (WSRO)

Dr Roberta Re
 Director-General
 WSRO (World Sugar Research Organisation)
 WSRO Milton Hall Ely Road Milton
 Cambridge
 United Kingdom
 Tel: 01223 928060
 Email: rr@wsro.org

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

Mrs Donna Louise Bowater
 HealthforAnimals
 Email: donna@marchmontcomms.com

Mr Carel Du Marchie Sarvaas
 Executive Director
 HealthforAnimals
 Ave de Tervueren 168 1150 Brussels

Belgium
 Tel: +3225410111
 Email: carel@healthforanimals.org

Dr Olivier Espeisse
 Public Affairs Director
 Ceva Santé Animale
 HealthforAnimals
 France
 Tel: + 33 6 78 23 42 68
 Email: olivier.espeisse@ceva.com

Mrs Laurie Hueneke
 HealthforAnimals
 Laurie Hueneke | Executive Director Global Public Policy & Government Relations 2 Giralda Farms, MAH-3406 Madison, NJ 07940 USA | Cell 202 441 4452 | laurie.hueneke@merck.com
 Email: laurie.hueneke@merck.com

Dr Liezl Kock
 HealthforAnimals
 Liezl Kock Regulatory Affairs Manager MSD Animal Health South Africa liezl.kock@merck.com T Local: +27 11 923 9300 T Direct: +27 11 923 9372 C: +27 83 645 8420 F: +27 86 763 7449
 Email: liezl.kock@merck.com

Mr Alex Rinkus
 Communications Director
 HealthforAnimals
 Alex Rinkus Communications Director HealthforAnimals global animal medicines association 168 Avenue de Tervueren, Box 8, 5th floor 1150 Brussels, Belgium tel: +32-2-543 7575 e-mail: alex@healthforanimals.org web: www.healthforanimals.org twitt
 Email: alex@healthforanimals.org

Mr Jesse Sevcik
 HealthforAnimals
 Elanco Animal Health 555 12 Street, Northwest Washington, DC 20004 USA Tel. 202-4343-1014 Email: jsevcik@elanco.com 650 Washington, D.C.
 United States of America
 Email: jsevcik@elanco.com

**FAO PERSONNEL
 PERSONNEL DE LA FAO
 PERSONAL DE LA FAOCODEX SECRETARIAT**

Dr Renata Clarke
 Head, Food Safety and Quality Unit
 Agriculture and Consumer Protection Department
 Food and Agriculture Organization of the U.N.
 Viale delle Terme di Caracalla
 Rome
 Italy
 Tel: +39 06 5705 2010
 Email: Renata.Clarke@fao.org

Mr Markus Lipp
 Senior Food Safety Officer
 Agriculture and Consumer Protection Department
 Food and Agriculture Organization of the U.N.
 Viale delle Terme di Caracalla
 Rome
 Italy
 Email: Markus.Lipp@fao.org

Mr Dirk Schulz
 Food Safety Assessment Officer
 Agriculture and Consumer Protection Department
 Food and Agriculture Organization of the U.N.
 Viale delle terme di Caracalla
 Rome
 Italy
 Tel: +39 06 57052842
 Email: dirk.schulz@fao.org

Dr Vittorio Fattori
 Food Safety Officer
 Food Safety and Quality Unit
 Agriculture and Consumer Protection Department
 Food and Agriculture Organization of the U.N.
 Viale delle Terme di Caracalla
 Rome
 Italy

Tel: +39 06 570 56951

Email: Vittorio.Fattori@fao.org

Mr Jeffrey Lejeune
Food Safety and Antimicrobial Resistance Consultant
AGFF
FAO
Viale delle Terme di Caracalla
Rome
Italy

Tel: 390657056623

Email: Jeffrey.Lejeune@fao.org

Mrs Eleonora Dupouy
Food Safety and Consumer Protection Officer
Food and Agriculture Organization of the U.N.
Viale delle Terme di Caracalla
Rome
Italy

Tel: +3618141251

Email: eleonora.dupouy@fao.org

Ms Cornelia Boesch
Dr. sc. techn. ETH
Agriculture and Consumer Protection Department
Food and Agriculture Organization of the U.N.
Viale delle terme di Caracalla
Rome
Italy

Tel: +39 0657055854

Email: Cornelia.Boesch@fao.org

Mr Blaise Ouattara
Food Safety and Quality Officer
Food Safety and Quality Unit,
Agriculture and Consumer Protection Department
Food and Agriculture Organization
Viale delle Terme di Caracalla
Rome
Italy

Email: Blaise.Ouattara@fao.org

Ms 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 U.N.
Viale delle Terme di Caracalla
Rome
Italy

Tel: +39 06 570 56712

Email: Esther.GarridoGamarro@fao.org

Ms Maria Xipsiti
Nutrition Officer
Nutrition and Food Systems Division
FAO

Email: maria.xipsiti@fao.org

Mrs Loucine Attarian

AGFF

FAO

Email: Loucine.Attarian@fao.org

Mr Kosuke Shiraishi
Junior Professional Officer
FAO

Email: Kosuke.Shiraishi@fao.org

**WHO PERSONNEL
PERSONNEL DE L'OMS
PERSONAL DE LA OMS**

Dr Soumya Swaminathan
Deputy Director-General
Programmes and Corporate Operations
World Health Organization
20, Avenue Appia
1211 Geneva 27
Switzerland
Tel: +41227913090
Email: swaminathans@who.int

Dr Kazuaki Miyagishima
Director
Food Safety and Zoonoses
World Health Organization (WHO)
20, Avenue Appia
1211 Geneva 27
Switzerland
Tel: +41 22 791 2773
Email: miyagishimak@who.int

Dr Angelika Tritscher
Food Safety and Zoonoses

World Health Organization
20, Avenue Appia
1211 Geneva 27
Switzerland
Tel: +41 22 791 3569
Email: tritschera@who.int

Mrs Catherine Mulholland
Administrator Codex Trust Fund
Food Safety and Zoonoses (FOS)
World Health Organization (WHO)
20, Avenue Appia
1211 Geneva 27
Switzerland
Tel: +41 22 7913080
Email: mulhollandc@who.int

Dr Francesco Branca
Director
Nutrition for Health and Development
World Health Organization
20, Avenue Appia
1211 Geneva 27

Switzerland
Tel: 41227911025
Email: brancaf@who.int

Dr Peter Ben Embarek
Scientist
Food Safety and Zoonoses (FOS)
World Health Organization (WHO)
20, Avenue Appia
1211 Geneva 27
Switzerland
Tel: +41 22 791 1498
Email: benembarekp@who.int

Mr Adam Bradshaw
Consultant
Food Safety and Zoonoses (FOS)
World Health Organization
20, Avenue Appia
1211 Geneva 27
Switzerland
Tel: +41 22 791 3410
Email: bradshawa@who.int

Mrs Françoise Fontannaz-Aujoulat
Technical Officer
Food Safety and Zoonoses
World Health Organization (WHO)
20, Avenue Appia
1211 Geneva 27
Switzerland
Tel: +41 22 791 3697
Email: fontannazf@who.int

Mrs Yuki Minato
Technical Officer
Food Safety and Zoonoses (FOS)
World Health Organization
20, Avenue Appia
1211 Geneva 27
Switzerland

Tel: +41227913713
Email: minatoy@who.int

Ms Satoko Murakami
Technical Officer
Food Safety and Zoonoses (FOS)
World Health organization (WHO)
20, Avenue Appia
1211 Geneva 27
Switzerland
Tel: +41227913640
Email: murakamis@who.int

Mr Carmen Savelli
Project Officer
Food Safety and Zoonoses (FOS)
World Health Organization (WHO)
20, Avenue Appia
1211 Geneva 27
Switzerland
Tel: +41 22 791 3234
Email: savellic@who.int

Mrs Lindita Molla
Public Health/Food Safety
Department of Health and Environment
Aleksander Moisiu, No 80 Tirana
Email: lindimolla2002@yahoo.com

Dr Joke Van Der Giessen
National Institute for Public Health and the Environment
(RIVM)
Email: joke.van.der.giessen@rivm.nl

Dr Lucie Vermeulen
Scientific staff member
National Institute for Public Health and the Environment
(RIVM)
Antonie van Leeuwenhoeklaan 9,
3721 MA Bilthoven
Email: lucie.vermeulen@rivm.nl

**CODEX SECRETARIAT
SECRETARIAT DU CODEX
SECRETARÍA DEL CODEX**

Mr Tom Heilandt
Secretary Codex Alimentarius Commission
Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme
Food and Agriculture Organization of the U.N.
Viale delle Terme di Caracalla
Rome
Italy
Tel: +39 06 5705 4384
Email: tom.heilandt@fao.org

Ms Sarah Cahill
Senior Food Standard Officer
Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme
Food and Agriculture Organization of the U.N.
Viale delle Terme di Caracalla
Rome
Italy
Email: Sarah.Cahill@fao.org

Ms Hilde Kruse
Senior Food Standard Officer
Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme
Food and Agriculture Organization of the U.N.
Viale delle Terme di Caracalla
Rome
Italy
Email: Hilde.Kruse@fao.org

Ms Gracia Brisco
Food Standards Officer
Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme
Food and Agriculture Organization of the U.N.
Viale delle Terme di Caracalla
Rome
Italy
Tel: +39 06 570 52700
Email: gracia.brisco@fao.org

Ms Verna Carolissen-Mackay
Food Standards Officer
Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme
Food and Agriculture Organization of the U.N.
Viale delle Terme di Caracalla
Rome
Italy
Tel: +39 06 5705 5629
Email: verna.carolissen@fao.org

Ms Lingping Zhang
Food Standards Officer
Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme
Food and Agriculture Organization of the U.N.
Viale delle Terme di Caracalla
Rome
Italy
Tel: +39 06570 53218
Email: lingping.zhang@fao.org

Mr Patrick Sekitoleko
Food Standards Officer
Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme
Food and Agriculture Organization of the U.N.
Viale delle Terme di Caracalla
Rome
Italy

Tel: +39 06 5705 6626
Email: patrick.sekitoleko@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 06 570 53465
Email: david.massey@fao.org

Ms Donatella Mori
IT Business Analyst (Information Systems)
Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme
Food and Agriculture Organization of the U.N.
Viale delle Terme di Caracalla
Rome
Italy
Tel: 06 5705 6820
Email: donatella.mori@fao.org

Ms Anne Beutling
Associate Professional Officer
Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme
Food and Agriculture Organization of the U.N.
Viale delle Terme di Caracalla
Rome
Italy
Tel: +39 06 570 53528
Email: anne.beutling@fao.org

Ms Myoengsin Choi
Food Standards Officer
Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme
Food and Agriculture Organization of the U.N.
Viale delle Terme di Caracalla
Rome
Italy
Tel: +39 06570 54796
Email: myoengsin.choi@fao.org

Ms Rain Yamamoto
Food Standards Officer
Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme
Food and Agriculture Organization of the U.N.
Viale delle Terme di Caracalla
Rome
Italy
Tel: +39 0570 55868
Email: rain.yamamoto@fao.org

Mr Roberto Sciotti
Record & Information Management Officer &
Webmaster
Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme
Food and Agriculture Organization of the U.N.
Viale delle Terme di Caracalla
Rome
Italy
Tel: +39 06 570 56141
Email: Roberto.Sciotti@fao.org

Mr Mirko Montuori
Communication and Information Consultant
Codex Alimentarius
FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme
Food and Agriculture Organization of the U.N.
Viale delle Terme di Caracalla
Rome
Italy
Tel: 0657053806
Email: mirko.montuori@fao.org

Mr Ross Halbert
Consultant
Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme
Food and Agriculture Organization of the U.N.
Viale delle Terme di Caracalla
Rome
Italy
Email: rhalbert@gmail.com

Mr Giuseppe Di Chiera
Programme Specialist
Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme
Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN
Viale delle Terme di Caracalla
Rome
Italy
Tel: +39 06 570 52533
Email: giuseppe.dichiera@fao.org

Ms Jingfei Qian
Seconded Officer
Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme
Food and Agriculture Organization of the U.N.
Viale delle Terme di Caracalla
Rome
Italy
Tel: +39 06 57050425
Email: Jingfei.Qian@fao.org

Ms Jocelyne Farruggia
Administrative Assistant
Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme
Food and Agriculture Organization of the U.N.
Via delle Terme di Caracalla
Rome
Italy
Tel: +39 06 570 54601
Email: Jocelyne.Farruggia@fao.org

Ms Ilaria Tarquinio
Administrative Assistant
Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme
Food and Agriculture Organization of the U.N.
Viale delle Terme di Caracalla
Rome
Italy
Tel: 0657055425
Email: ilaria.tarquinio@fao.org

Ms Florence Martin De Martino
French Proofreader
Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme
Food and Agriculture Organization of the U.N.
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 U.N.
Viale delle Terme di Caracalla
Rome
Italy
Email: peter.ditommaso@fao.org

Appendix II**AMENDMENTS TO THE PROCEDURAL MANUAL**

Codex body	Text	Reference	Status
CCRVDF	Risk Analysis Principles applied by the Codex Committee on Residues of Veterinary Drugs in Foods REP18/RVDF Para. 83, 84(i), Appendix V	REP18/RVDF Para. 83, 84(i), Appendix V	Adopted

Appendix III**LIST OF ADOPTED STANDARDS AND RELATED TEXTS**

Standards and Related Texts	Reference	Job No.	Status
Standard for Aubergines	REP18/FFV Para. 19, Appendix II	N10-2014	Adopted
Revision of the <i>General Standard for the Labelling of Prepackaged Foods</i> : date marking (CXS 1-1985)	REP18/FL Para. 32, Appendix II	N10-2013	Adopted
Revision of the <i>Code of Practice for Fish and Fishery Products</i> (CXC 52-2003): Guidance for histamine control	REP18/FH Para. 40, Appendix II	N02-2016	Adopted with amendment (see para. 29)
MLs for lead in selected commodities	REP18/CF Para. 45, Appendix II	N04-2014	Adopted
MLs for cadmium in chocolate containing or declaring $\geq 50\%$ to $< 70\%$ total cocoa solids on a dry matter basis; and chocolate containing or declaring $\geq 70\%$ total cocoa solids on a dry matter basis	REP18/CF Paras. 67 (i) and (ii), Appendix III	N15-2014	Adopted
MLs for methylmercury in tuna, alfonsino, marlin and shark	REP18/CF Paras. 91 (i), (iii) and (iv) Appendix IV-Part A	N21-2017	Adopted
<i>COP for the prevention and reduction of dioxins, dioxin-like PCBs and non dioxin-like PCB contamination in food and feed</i> (CXC 62-2006)	REP18/CF Para. 98, Appendix V	N22-2017	Adopted
<i>Specifications for the Identity and Purity of Food Additives</i> (CXM 6)	REP18/FA Para. 30(i), Appendix III	Ongoing	Adopted
	REP18/FA Paras.121(ii) and (iii) Appendix IX, part B	Ongoing	Adopted
Food-additive provisions of the <i>General Standard for Food Additives</i> (GSFA) (CXS 192-1995)	REP18/FA Paras. 30(ii), 111(i) and 121(iii) Appendix V, part A	Ongoing	Adopted
Revision of the <i>Class Names and the International Numbering System for Food Additives</i> (CXG 36-1989)	REP18/FA Paras. 30(ii) and 121(i) Appendix IX, part A2	Ongoing	Adopted
	REP18/FA Para.149 Appendix IX, part A1	-	Adopted

Standards and Related Texts	Reference	Job No.	Status
Revised food-additive provisions of the GSFA in relation to the alignment of the annexes on canned mangoes, canned pears and canned pineapples of the <i>Standard for Certain Canned Fruits</i> (CXS 319-2015) and 14 standards for fish and fish products	REP18/FA Paras. 48(i) points c and d Appendix V, part B	Ongoing	Adopted
Revised food-additive sections of the <i>Standard for Certain Canned Fruits</i> (CXS 319-2015) and the Standards for <i>Canned Salmon</i> (CXS 3-1981); <i>Canned Shrimps or Prawns</i> (CXS 37-1991); <i>Canned Tuna and Bonito</i> (CXS 70-1981); <i>Canned Crab Meat</i> (CXS 90-1981); <i>Canned Sardines and Sardine-Type Products</i> (CXS 94-1981); <i>Canned Finfish</i> (CXS 119-1981); <i>Salted Fish and Dried Salted Fish of the Gadidae Family of Fishes</i> (CXS 167-1989); <i>Dried Shark Fins</i> (CXS 189-1993); <i>Crackers from Marine and Freshwater Fish, Crustacean and Molluscan Shellfish</i> (CXS 222-2001); <i>Boiled Dried Salted Anchovies</i> (CXS 236-2003); <i>Salted Atlantic Herring and Salted Sprat</i> (CXS 244-2004); <i>Sturgeon Caviar</i> (CXS 291-2010); <i>Fish Sauce</i> (CXS 302-2011) and <i>Smoked Fish, Smoke-Flavoured Fish and Smoke-Dried Fish</i> (CXS 311-2013)	REP18/FA Paras. 48(i) points a and b and 30(ii) Appendix IV	Ongoing	Adopted
Revised food-additive sections of Standards for <i>Milk Powders and Cream Powder</i> (CXS 207-1999), a <i>Blend of Skimmed Milk and Vegetable Fat in Powdered Form</i> (CXS 251-2006); and <i>Edible Casein Products</i> (CXS 290-1995)	REP18/FA Para. 30(ii)	-	Adopted
MRLs for different combinations of pesticide/commodity(ies)	REP18/PR Para. 112, Appendix II	Ongoing	Adopted
Revision of the <i>Classification of Food and Feed</i> (CXM 4-1989): Type 04: Nuts, seeds and saps Type 05: Herbs and spices	REP18/PR Paras. 118 and 120 Appendices VII-Part A & VIII-Part A	N11-2004 N09-2006	Adopted
Tables on examples of representative commodities for: Types 04 and 05 (For inclusion in the <i>Principles and Guidance for the selection of representative commodities for the extrapolation of maximum residue limits for pesticides for commodity groups</i> (CXG 84-2012)) Table 04: Nuts, seeds and saps Table 05: Herbs and spices	REP18/PR Para. 127, Appendices VII-Part B & VIII-Part B	-	Adopted
RMR for gentian violet	REP18/RVDF Para. 37, Appendix II	-	Adopted
MRLs for amoxicillin (finfish fillet, muscle); ampicillin (finfish fillet, muscle); lufenuron (salmon and trout fillet); monepantel (cattle fat, kidney, liver, muscle)	REP18/RVDF Paras. 60, 64, 77 and 79, Appendix IV	-	Adopted

Standards and Related Texts	Reference	Job No.	Status
Methods of analysis / performance criteria for provisions in Codex standards (for inclusion in CXS 234-1999)	REP18/MAS Para. 22, Appendix II	Ongoing	Adopted
Standard for Quinoa	CL 2018/25-CPL Annex II	N17-2015	Adopted subject to endorsement (see para. 60)

Appendix IV**LIST OF DRAFT STANDARDS AND RELATED TEXTS ADOPTED AT STEP 5**

Standards and Related Texts	Reference	Job No.	Status
Standard for Ware Potatoes	REP18/FFV Para. 60 (ii), Appendix IV	N08-2014	Adopted
Review of the <i>Standard for Follow-up Formula</i> (CXS 156-1987): Essential composition requirements for older infants and young children	REP18/NFSDU Para. 71, Appendix II	N07-2013	Adopted
COP for the reduction of 3-MCPDE and GE in refined oils and products made with refined oils	REP18/CF Para. 102 (ii) and (iii) Appendix VI	N23-2017	Adopted
Guidelines for risk analysis of instances of contaminants in food where there is no regulatory level or risk management framework established	REP18/CF Para. 124 (i) Appendix IX	N24-2017	Adopted
MRL for flumethrin (honey)	REP18/RVDF Para. 73 Appendix IV		Adopted

Appendix V**LIST OF REVOKED STANDARDS AND RELATED TEXTS**

Standards and Related Texts	Reference
MLs for lead in selected commodities (revocation of corresponding MLs)	REP18/CF Para. 45
GLs for methylmercury in predatory and non-predatory fish	REP18/CF Para. 91(iii)
Food-additive provisions of the <i>General Standard for Food Additives</i> (GSFA) (CXS 192-1995)	REP18/FA Para. 111(ii) 134(iv), App. VI
Relevant food-additive provisions from the <i>Standards for Mozzarella</i> (CXS 262-2006), <i>Cottage Cheese</i> (CXS 273-1968), <i>Cream Cheese</i> (CXS 275-1973), <i>Fermented Milks</i> (CXS 243-2003) and <i>Dairy Fat Spreads</i> (CXS 253-2006).	REP18/FA Para.48(ii)
The food-additive provision for sodium sorbate (INS 201) from the <i>Standards for Instant Noodles</i> (CXS 249-2006), <i>Fermented Milks</i> (CXS 243-2003), <i>Dairy Fat Spreads</i> (CXS 253-2006), <i>Mozzarella</i> (CXS 262-2006), <i>Cheddar</i> (CXS 263-196), <i>Danbo</i> (CXS 264-1966), <i>Edam</i> (CXS 265-1966), <i>Gouda</i> (CXS 266-1966), <i>Havarti</i> (CXS 267-1966), <i>Samsø</i> (CXS 268-1966), <i>Emmental</i> (CXS 269-1967), <i>Alsiter</i> (CXS 270-1968), <i>Saint-Paulin</i> (CXS 271-1968), <i>Provolone</i> (CXS 272-1968), <i>Cottage Cheese</i> (CXS 273-1968), <i>Cream Cheese</i> (CXS 275-1973) and <i>Cheese</i> (CXS 283-197)	REP18/FA Para.134(iv)
Codex MRLs for different combinations of pesticide/commodity(ies) proposed for revocation	REP18/PR Para. 112, App. III
Methods of analysis	REP18/MAS Para. 22, Appendix II, Part 2

Appendix VI**LIST OF APPROVED NEW WORK**

Codex Body	Text	Reference and project document	Job No.
	Standard for yam	REP18/FFV Para 60, Appendix V	N01-2018
CCFFV	Standard for onions and shallots	REP18/FFV Para 60, Annex I of CX/CAC 18/41/8	N02-2018
	Standard for berry fruits	REP18/FFV Para 60, Annex II of CX/CAC 18/41/8	N03-2018
CCFL	Development of guidance on use of simplified nutrition information on the front of pack	REP18/FL Para 48, Appendix III	N04-2018
CCFH	Code of practice on food allergen management for food business operators	REP18/FH Para 48, Annex III of CX/CAC 18/41/8	N05-2018
	Guidance for the management of (micro)biological foodborne crises/outbreaks	REP18/FH Para 54, Annex IV of CX/CAC 18/41/8	N06-2018
CCPR	Priority list of pesticides for evaluation by the JMPR	REP18/PR Para 153, Appendix XIII	Ongoing
CCRVDF	Priority list of veterinary drugs for evaluation by JECFA	REP18/RVDF Paras 84(i)-(ii), 108, 109, 112, 115, 116, Appendix VI (Parts A and D)	Ongoing
CCMAS	Revision of the <i>Guidelines on measurement uncertainty</i> (CXG 54-2004)	REP18/MAS Para 61, Appendix IV	N07-2018
	Revision of the <i>Guidelines on Sampling</i> (CXG 50-2004)	REP18/MAS Para 71, Appendices V and VI	N08-2018

Appendix VII**LIST OF DISCONTINUED WORK**

Codex Body	Text	Reference
CCCF	Establishment of MLs for cadmium in dry mixtures of cocoa and sugars sold for final consumption	REP18/CF Para. 67(iv)
	ML for methylmercury in amberjack and sword fish	REP18/CF Para. 91(ii)
CCFA	Draft and proposed draft food additive provisions of the <i>General Standard for Food Additives</i> (GSFA) (CXS 192-1995)	REP18/FA Para. 111(iv), App. VIII
CCPR	Proposed draft and draft MRLs for different combinations of pesticide/commodity(ies) that were withdrawn (discontinued) by CCPR50	REP18/PR Para. 112, App. VI

Appendix VIII**AMENDMENTS TO CODEX STANDARDS AND RELATED TEXTS**

Codex body	Text	Reference	Status
CCFH	<i>Code of Hygienic Practice for Low-Moisture Foods</i> (CXC 75-2015)	REP18/FH, para. 6	Adopted
CCCF	Amendment of the note on inorganic arsenic in rice (<i>General Standard for Contaminants and Toxins in Food and Feed</i>) (CXS 193-1995)	REP18/CF, para. 84	Adopted
CCMAS	<i>Recommended Methods of Analysis and Sampling</i> (CXS 234-1999)	REP18/MAS, para. 34(iii)	Adopted
CCFA	<i>Class Names and the International Numbering System for Food Additives</i> (CXG 36- 1989)	REP18/FA, para. 148, CX/CAC 18/41/10 Add.1	Adopted

Appendix IX**CHAIRMANSHIP OF CODEX SUBSIDIARY BODIES****Established under Rule XI.1(b)(i)**

Code	Subsidiary Body	Member Responsible	Status
CX 703	Codex Committee on Milk and Milk Products	New Zealand	<i>Sine die</i>
CX 708	Codex Committee on Cocoa Products and Chocolate	Switzerland	<i>Sine die</i>
CX 709	Codex Committee on Fats and Oils	Malaysia	Active
CX 710	Codex Committee on Sugars	Colombia	Active ¹
CX 711	Codex Committee on Food Additives	China	Active
CX 712	Codex Committee on Food Hygiene	United States of America	Active
CX 713	Codex Committee on Processed Fruits and Vegetables	United States of America	Active
CX 714	Codex Committee on Food Labelling	Canada	Active
CX 715	Codex Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling	Hungary	Active
CX 716	Codex Committee on General Principles	France	Active
CX 718	Codex Committee on Pesticide Residues	China	Active
CX 719	Codex Committee on Natural Mineral Waters	Switzerland	<i>Sine die</i>
CX 720	Codex Committee on Nutrition and Foods for Special Dietary Uses	Germany	Active
CX 722	Codex Committee on Fish and Fishery Products	Norway	<i>Sine die</i>
CX 723	Codex Committee on Meat Hygiene	New Zealand	<i>Sine die</i>
CX 728	Codex Committee on Vegetable Proteins	Canada	<i>Sine die</i>
CX 729	Codex Committee on Cereals, Pulses and Legumes	United States of America	Active ¹
CX 730	Codex Committee on Residues of Veterinary Drugs in Foods	United States of America	Active
CX 731	Codex Committee on Fresh Fruits and Vegetables	Mexico	Active
CX 733	Codex Committee on Food Import and Export Certification and Inspection Systems	Australia	Active
CX 735	Codex Committee on Contaminants in Foods	The Netherlands	Active
CX 736	Codex Committee on Spices and Culinary Herbs	India	Active
CX 804	Ad hoc Codex Intergovernmental Task Force on Antimicrobial Resistance	Republic of Korea	Active

¹ Working by correspondence