

Report of the first meeting of the Arab National Contact Points for Codex Alimentarius

As part of coordination efforts of the participation of Arab countries in the proceedings of the Codex Alimentarius Commission and its subsidiary bodies, the Codex Office of the Arab Industrial Development, Standardization and Mining Organization (AIDSMO) held a meeting of national contact points (CCPs) of countries of the League of Arab States on April 4, 2022, via remote communication, with the participation of delegates from the following Arab countries:

1. Jordan
2. Bahrain
3. Algeria
4. Somalia
5. Iraq
6. Palestine
7. Qatar
8. Lebanon
9. State of Libya
10. Egypt
11. Morocco

As well as representatives of AIDSMO, and of the Global Food Regulatory Science Society (GFORSS).

(Participants are listed in the attachment)

Mr. Khaled Al-Zahrani Coordinator of the Near East Committee sent his regrets for not being able to participate in the meeting.

Mr. Ahmed Eddouaicer coordinator of the Arab Codex initiative within AIDSMO opened the meeting with introductory remarks where he welcomed all participants and thanked them for accepting the organization's invitation to attend.

He expressed his hope that this new forum will offer an opportunity to strengthen the contribution of Arab countries in Codex proceedings, with the intent to support further cooperation and coordination between Arab Codex Contact points.

The proposed agenda of the meeting was endorsed as containing the following items:

- Introduction of participants
- Review of the objectives of the Arab Codex Initiative
- Review of the recommendations of the Codex Colloquium organized in the MENA region in September 2021 and the subsequent priorities of work identified for the Arab Codex Initiative
- Discussion of the Preparation of the Codex Committee on Contaminants in Food (CCCF)

Item 1: AIDSMO's representative and coordinator of the Arab Codex initiative introduced all participants, with their affiliations

Item 2:

Professor Samuel Godefroy board president and founding member of GForSS, reviewed the objectives and current directions of the Arab Codex initiative, highlighting efforts to support regional coordination, establishing networks of experts, and also strengthening the role of Codex contact points in Arab countries.

Item 3: Proposed future activities of the Arab initiative and efforts to coordinate and create synergies with the work of the Codex Coordinating Committee for the Near East (CCNEA) were discussed. Priority Codex committees identified by members of the region in previous CCNEA meetings as well as at the last colloquium of the MENA / Arab Codex Initiative were also reviewed. This item was introduced by Dr. Elie Bouyazbeck

Item 4: Initiation of preparative work for the Codex Committee on Contaminants in Food – CCCF: This item was introduced by Drs. Amine Kassouf, Wiem Guissouma and Karima Zouine

Item 5: Identification of upcoming meetings

The following conclusions and recommendations were reached:

1. Appreciating the efforts made by GForSS, the funding partner (US Codex Office) in implementing the Arab Codex initiative.
2. Support to efforts of establishing an interactive platform for the Arab Codex initiative (**www.Arabcodex.com**) as a means of fast and effective communication between Arab CCPs
3. Inviting the national CCPs in the Arab region to nominate experts in the field of chemical contaminants in foods according to the conditions referred to the call for experts appended to this document
4. Consider the outputs of the fourteenth session of the CCCF and support the preparation of position for its fifteenth session
5. Invite Arab CCPs to the coordination meeting planned on April 19, 2022, in relation with CCCF.