

## Report of the second meeting of the Arab National Contact Points for Codex Alimentarius

In the course of implementation of recommendation **(5)** of the first meeting of national contact points (CCPs) of countries of the League of Arab States held via remote communication technology on 4/4/2022 which states:

**"Invite Arab CCPs to the coordination meeting planned on April 19, 2022, in relation with CCCF."**

This coordination meeting was held via remote communication technology on April 19, 2022 to prepare for the upcoming meeting of the Codex Committee on contaminants in food (CCCF15). Delegates from 15 Arab countries were present at the meeting:

1. Jordan
2. Bahrain
3. Tunisia
4. Sudan
5. Iraq
6. Oman
7. Palestine
8. Qatar
9. Kuwait
10. Lebanon
11. State of Libya
12. Egypt
13. Morocco
14. Mauritania
15. Yemen

Representatives of AIDSMO and of the Global Food Regulatory Science Society (GForSS) were also present at the meeting.

(Participants are listed in the attachment)

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 provide an opportunity to strengthen the contribution of Arab countries in Codex proceedings, in order to support enhanced cooperation and coordination between Arab Codex Contact points.

The agenda of the meeting was approved and includes the following items:

<b>Agenda item</b>	<b>Subject matter</b>
1	Introduction by the Arab Codex Coordinator
2	Review of analysis of key agenda items for CCCF15  Drs : Amine Kassouf ,Wiem Guissouma and Karima Zouine
3	Discussion of a public meeting 26 April 2022  CCCF15 positions
4	Review of resources through the Arab Codex Platform

Dr Wiem Guissouma introduced the analysis of the following items on the agenda being considered by the Codex Committee on Contaminants in Foods (CCCF15):

**Item 5:** Maximum levels for cadmium in cocoa powder (100% total cocoa solids on a dry matter basis) (at Step 4)

**Item 6:** Code of practice for the prevention and reduction of cadmium contamination in cocoa beans (at Step 7)

**Item 8:** Maximum levels for methylmercury in certain fish species and associated sampling plan (orange roughy and pink cusk eel) (at Step 4)

**Item 13:** Methylmercury in fish:

- Feasibility to establish a maximum level for Patagonian toothfish
- Other risk management recommendations for methylmercury in fish

Dr Karima Zouine introduced the analysis of:

**Item 7:** Maximum levels for lead in certain food categories (at Step 4)

In his presentation, Dr Amine Kassouf developed the analysis of the following items:

**Item 9:** Maximum levels for total aflatoxins in certain cereals and cereal-based products including foods for infants and young children and associated sampling plans (at Step 4)

**Item 10:** Maximum level for total aflatoxins in ready-to-eat peanuts and associated sampling plan (at Step 4)

**Item 11:** Maximum levels for total aflatoxins and ochratoxin A in nutmeg, dried chili and paprika, ginger, pepper, and turmeric and associated sampling plans (at Step 4)

Professor Samuel Godefroy, board president and COO of GForSS, presented an overview of future activities of the Arab Codex Initiative and discussed the opportunity to further engage with partners and stakeholders of the region through the organization of public meetings where Codex agenda items could be discussed, such meeting is being considered for CCCF15 on April 26, 2022

Mr Mohamed Kamal IT expert at AIDSMO presented the interactive platform of the Arab Codex Initiative, and how it can be used by national contact points in Arab countries as well as the advantages of such platform.

The following conclusions and recommendations were attained:

1. Appreciating the efforts made by Drs : Amine Kassouf ,Wiem Guissouma and Karima Zouine
2. Inclusion of all documents and presentations presented during the meeting in the interactive platform of the Arab Codex Initiative ([www.Arabcodex.com](http://www.Arabcodex.com))
3. Holding a public meeting on Tuesday 26th April 2022 ,to present agenda items of CCCF15 ,and inviting the national CCPs in the Arab region to invite national stakeholders to participate in this public meeting