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ANALYSIS OF AGENDA ITEMS IN PREPARATION FOR THE 53rd SESSION OF THE CODEX COMMITTEE ON PESTICIDE RESIDUES

4th – 8th and 13th JULY 2022 - Virtual Meeting

AGENDA ITEM 9

GUIDELINES FOR COMPOUNDS OF LOW PUBLIC HEALTH CONCERN THAT MAY BE EXEMPTED FROM THE ESTABLISHMENT OF CODEX MAXIMUM RESIDUE LIMITS OR DO NOT GIVE RISE TO RESIDUES (At Step 7)

Objectives

This document offers a review and analysis of the agenda items planned for discussion at the 53rd session of the **Codex Committee on Pesticide Residues (CCPR)**, scheduled to take place virtually July 4th – 8th and 13th, 2022. This document is intended for possible use by the Codex communities of practice, promoted by [GForSS](#) and [PARERA](#), as part of their contribution to enhancing awareness and supporting effective participation in international food standard-setting meetings (Codex meetings) by representatives from members and observers.

The analysis provided in this document offers a factual review of agenda items, their background, and a discussion of some considerations. This analysis is indicative in nature and does not represent an official position of the organizations mentioned above ([PARERA](#) and [GForSS](#)), their membership, or their management. It provides a synthesis and analysis of the work currently under discussion by the CCPR, which may be useful for delegations from Arab countries to prepare their positions taking into account the needs and specificity of the region and the potential impact of the proposed food standards.

This analysis is prepared as part of the **Codex Initiative for the Arab Region: Arab Codex Initiative**, implemented by [PARERA](#) and [GForSS](#), hosted and coordinated by the [Arab Industrial Development, Standardization and Mining Organization \(AIDSMO\)](#) and funded by the US Codex Office, US Department of Agriculture.

The focus of the analysis of agenda item 9 of CCPR53, relates to providing comments on the Guidelines, in addition to providing specific comments on provisions that may require further development and whether the Guidelines are ready for the final adoption at Step 8 by CAC45 (2022).

**It is important to note that experts – members of the Arab Expert Working Group – do not represent the organizations and / or jurisdictions to which they are affiliated. The selection and participation in the Arab Expert Working Group proceedings is based on each expert's own credentials and experience, which should not be misconstrued as the country's / delegation's / organization's position to which they belong.*

Agenda Item 9: Guidelines for the recognition of active substances or authorized uses of active substances of low public health concern that are considered exempted from the establishment of maximum residue limits or do not give rise to residues (at step 7).

Document: CX/PR 22/53/11

CCPR53 is invited to finalize the Guidelines Based on all considerations presented in the working document.

Background

CCPR50 (2018) agreed to prepare a discussion paper to provide guidance for pesticides that do not give rise to residues or whose residues do not give rise to public health concerns and could therefore be exempted from the establishment of Codex maximum residue limits (CXLs)

CCPR51 (2019) considered the discussion paper and agreed to recommend new work to provide an international reference for harmonized concepts and criteria for the recognition of this set of pesticides. CAC42 (2019) approved the new work as contained in the project document submitted by CCPR50 and the EWG chaired by Chile and co-chaired by India and the United States of America, which will present a proposed Guidelines for consideration at CCPR52.

CCPR52 (2021) noted general support to advance the guidelines to CAC44 for adoption at Step 5 and to re-establish the EWG to further develop the Guidelines, present examples of compounds to facilitate the development of the Guidelines and present a revised proposal with a view to finalizing the Guidelines at CCPR53 (2022).

In its 53rd session, CCPR is therefore invited to consider the guidelines (Appendix I of working document CX/PR 22/53/11) and determine its readiness for final adoption by CAC45 (2022) and if not, to identify key issues that would need further consideration to finalize the Guidelines at CCPR54 (2023).

Analysis

The first draft of the revised Guidelines incorporated most of the comments received and expressed by members and observers for the consideration of the members of the EWG.

The EWG Chairs proposed to change the title of the guidelines to the below:

Guidelines for the recognition of active substances or authorized uses of active substances of low public health concern that are considered exempted from the establishment of maximum residue limits or do not give rise to residues".

Which meant that the term "compounds" was replaced by "active substances", the text "or authorized uses of active substances " was also added, since in some cases the exemptions apply to the authorized uses and not to the active substance, and the word "Codex" was omitted from the title as the audience for the guideline is intended to be beyond Codex and because it may give the impression that exemptions could be granted by Codex.

Throughout the document, corrections were made in consideration of the changes proposed to the title and the terminology to avoid the use of different terms for the same concept. Also, definitions were provided according to those used in FAO/WHO or Codex texts where applicable.

Most of the comments received were considered in the preparation of the second draft of the guidelines.

Suggestions were received on the list of examples of substances (Appendix II) and according to the TORs, examples will not remain in the final document, but they could be made available on the Codex website.



Appendix I contains the preface, scope, definition, and the criteria for the recognition of active substances or authorized uses of active substances of low public health concern that are considered exempted from the establishment of maximum residue limits (MRLs), will be receiving comments.

Considerations for the Arab Region

These guidelines are intended to be used by countries' competent authorities that do not have established criteria for the MRLs exemption for active substances or their authorized uses in their respective legislation.

This is due to the increasing growth in the use of these active substances of low public health concern globally.

The proposed guidelines will enable relevant authorities to streamline efforts, and resources for pesticide residue management, clearly identifying uses that do not warrant MRLs, and therefore undue regulatory burden.

As this regulatory area is relatively new and lacks internationally harmonized guidelines, the Arab region should consider the impacts of the development of these Guidelines on their national requirements for Pesticide MRLs.

The development of these guidelines followed a rigorous process and the recently received comments do not give rise to contentious issues. As a result, the current draft would be able to advance for adoption at Step 8.

Conclusion and recommendations

Given the level of development of these guidelines and their importance, it is recommended that Arab Codex delegations support their advancement to their final adoption by CAC45 (2022).