



Discussion of Practical Approach to Develop National Positions

First Step:

❑ Who Develops the **Draft** Position:

- Generally, **the Subject Matter Expert(s)**, in a dedicated area, responsible to follow the proceedings of a Codex Committee is the Person / the Group Responsible for Drafting the Country Position vis a vis a certain area

❑ What are the Guidelines / Criteria Associated with the Development of the Position:

- Defending National Interests:
 - If a draft codex standard may lead to **major impediment in the trade** for a food commodity of national interest for Import or Export
- Defending Codex Principles:
 - If Codex Procedures are not respected:
 - If a key piece of information was omitted or a consideration was not made during the development of the standard by Codex
 - If a Scientific Advice on the basis of which Codex is developing a decision is lacking consideration of key factors leading to it being outdated
- Otherwise, the Position is to be developed Considering the “International Nature of the Standard” and not the requirement to be IDENTICAL to NATIONAL Legislation / Regulation

Example of Template of National Position Development

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Item Considered by Committee / Commission:	Current Position in the Step Procedure:
<p>Background on the Standard: Since when is the standard under development, what were the major steps in its development What is being requested by the Committee / Commission to consider now</p>	
<p>Strategic Objective from the Position :</p>	
<p>Comments made by / Position expressed by other Countries</p>	
<p>Proposed Position:</p>	
<p>Justification:</p>	
<p>Key Consideration(s) upon the adoption of the Standard:</p>	

Some Key Considerations: “Dos and Don’ts”

- ❑ National Positions should NOT aim to ensure that Codex Standards Mirror National Legislation / Regulation:
 - **Codex Standards Have a Global Application / Are justified by a Global Assessment**
 - **National Standards are based on National Considerations:**
 - National Risk Assessments / National Dietary Habits etc..

- ❑ **Once / When a Codex Standard is Adopted:**
 - **Countries should consider Adopting the Standard or Adapting their National Standard to the Codex Standard**
 - If it is possible to have the same standard that is encouraged
 - It may be useful to use the same assessments but apply it to national considerations e.g., consider national exposure assessments and use the same Health Based Guidance