

### **Report of the 13<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Arab Codex Contact Points**

As part of the implementation of recommendation (4) of the 12<sup>th</sup> meeting report of the Arab Codex Contact Points (CCPs), held virtually on 04/04/2023, which states:

**“Holding the 13th coordination meeting for Arab CCPs, virtually on 27/04/2023 with the aim of preparations for the main items of interest to the Arab region and included in the agenda of the meeting of the Technical Committee of the Codex Alimentarius on Food Import and Export Inspection and Certification Systems (1-5/05/2023 Hobart, Tasmania Australia)”**

This coordination meeting was held virtually on April 27, 2023, to prepare for the upcoming meeting of the Codex Committee on Food Import and Export Inspection and Certification Systems (CCFICS26).

Delegates from 13 Arab countries attended the meeting:

- Jordan
- UAE
- Bahrein
- Tunisia
- Sudan
- Somalia
- Iraq
- Oman
- Palestine
- State of Libya
- Egypt
- Morocco
- Yemen

As well as **AIDSMO** and the Global Food Regulatory Science Society (**GForSS**) representatives.

The coordinator of the Arab Codex initiative within AIDSMO launched the meeting with introductory remarks. He commenced the meeting by extending a warm welcome to all the participants and expressing

his gratitude for their prompt response to the invitation. The primary goal of the gathering was to prepare for the upcoming Codex Technical Committee on Food Import and Export Inspection and Certification Systems (CCFICS26), which is scheduled to be held in Hobart, Tasmania/Australia, from 01 to 05 May 2023. He reviewed also the Committee's tasks, in particular with regard to the development of guidelines for import and export inspection systems and the use of quality systems to ensure that foodstuffs conform to international requirements with a view to facilitating food trade under bilateral and multilateral agreements.

The meeting agenda was approved and included the following items:

Agenda item	Subject matter
1	<b>Opening Remarks and adoption of Agenda:</b> Coordinator Arab Codex Initiative, AIDSMO
2	<b>Review and analysis of CCFICS26 agenda Items</b>
3	<b>Updates on candidacy for electronic working groups</b>

Professor Samuel Godefroy/ board president and COO of GFoRSS introduced the analysis of the following items of the (CCFICS26) agenda:

**Agenda Item 4:** Proposed draft guidelines on recognition and maintenance of equivalence of National Food Control Systems (NFCS)

**Agenda Item 5:** Proposed draft consolidated Codex Guidelines related to equivalence

**Agenda Item 6:** Proposed draft Guidance on the prevention and control of food fraud at Step 3

**Agenda Item 7:** Proposed draft Principles and Guidelines on the Use of Remote Audit and Verification in Regulatory Frameworks

The meeting included a series of interventions by the Arab Codex Contact Points (CCPs), including the representatives of Oman, Libya, Palestine, Morocco, and Egypt.

The meeting's agenda items were concluded with the intervention of Arab Codex Initiative Coordinator on developments in the establishment of electronic working groups and the importance of the participation of Arab CCPs in their work, which is important in defining and coordinating Arab common positions and enhancing their role in decisions taken at the Codex level. and several contact points participating in the meeting expressed the desire to run for membership of the three working groups, particularly the Working Group on Fresh Dates in the Arab Region.

Lastly, the following conclusions and recommendations were adopted:

1. 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)).
2. Appreciating the efforts made by Professor Samuel Godefroy for the presentation made during the meeting on the analysis of the agenda items of the meeting (26) of the Codex Committee on Import and Export Screening and Certification Systems (CCFICS26).
3. Urging Arab countries, through contact points, to nominate their representatives for membership in the following Arab Codex Initiative working groups:
  - The electronic Arab working group on the collection and analysis of data on moisture in fresh dates in the Arab region.
  - The electronic Arab working group on the maximum level for total aflatoxins in ready-to-eat peanuts
  - The electronic Arab working group on Harissa
4. Holding the 14<sup>th</sup> coordination meeting for Arab CCPs, virtually on (date not yet specified) with the aim of preparations for the main items of interest to the Arab region and included in the agenda of the meeting of the Technical Committee of the Codex Alimentarius on Food labelling (15/05/2023 - 19/05/2023 Gatineau (Ottawa), Canada)