



Report of the 22nd meeting of the Arab Codex Contact Points

As part of the implementation of recommendation (5) of the 21st meeting report of the Arab Codex Contact Points, held virtually on Monday 05 February 2024, which states:

“The twenty-second meeting of Arab CCPs will be held at a date to be determined later in coordination with GFORSS.”

This coordination meeting was held virtually on Monday 26 February 2024 to prepare the meeting (54) of the Codex Alimentarius Committee on Food Hygiene (CCFH54), with the participation of representatives of the following Arab countries:

1. Jordan
2. United Arab Emirates
3. Bahrain
4. Sudan
5. Syria
6. Oman
7. Qatar
8. Lebanon
9. Libya
10. Morocco
11. Yemen

As well as AIDSMO, GFORSS, and GSO representatives.

The meeting was opened by the representative of the AIDSMO/the coordinator of the Arab Codex initiative, in a speech in which he welcomed the participants and thanked them for honoring the invitation to participate, noting that the meeting is concerned with analyzing the agenda items of the 54th meeting of the Codex Committee on Food Hygiene (CCFH54) to be held in Nairobi, Republic of Kenya, during 11-15 March 2024. He also welcomed the efforts made by Prof. Samuel Godefroy, COO of GFORSS, Engineer Nesma Shannak, representative of Jordan, and Engineer Ali Al-Ghafri, representative of Oman, in preparing the presentations of the meeting.

The meeting agenda items were approved as follows:

Agenda item	Subject
Item 1	Opening Remarks and adoption of Agenda: Arab Codex Initiative Coordinator
Item 2	Review and analysis of agenda Items of Codex Committee on Food Hygiene (CCFH54)

During the second item of this meeting, the following items that will be presented during the 54th meeting of the Codex Committee on Food Hygiene (CCFH54), which are of interest to the Arab countries, were reviewed and analyzed as follows:

Agenda Item 5: This item was introduced by Prof. Samuel Godefroy, who discussed the guidelines for the surveillance of Shiga toxin-producing Escherichia coli (STEC) in raw beef, fresh leafy vegetables, fresh leafy vegetables, raw milk, and raw milk cheeses, and sprouts, with the proposal for fresh leafy vegetables and Annex VI on sprouts, while Prof. Samuel noted that the preliminary draft and annexes for raw beef, raw milk, and milk cheese (CXG 99- 2023) were adopted by the Codex Alimentarius Commission during its 46th session, and the annexes on leafy vegetables and sprouts were returned to Step 2/3 for redrafting and circulation to countries for comments, and an electronic working group was formed to handle this matter, chaired by the Republic of Chile, and co-chaired by New Zealand, Kenya and the United States of America.

Agenda item 6: This item was introduced by Eng. Ali Al-Ghafri representative of Oman on the Guidelines for the Safe Use and Reuse of Water in Food Production and Processing (Annex II on Fisheries Products in Step 4 and Annex III on Dairy Products in Step 4). Eng. Ali noted that the Codex Alimentarius Commission, at its 46th session in 2023, adopted the proposed draft of the general part of the guidelines and its Annex 1 on fresh produce. He added that the Codex Committee on Food Hygiene at its 53rd meeting (CCFH53) formed an Electronic Working Group (EWG) (chaired by the European Union and co-chaired by Chile and the International Dairy Federation) to further develop Annex II (fish products) and start developing Annex III (milk and dairy products).

Agenda Item 8: This item was introduced by Prof. Samuel Godefroy, who introduced the draft proposed Guidelines for Food Hygiene Control Measures in Traditional Food Markets at Step 4, and noted that this draft, as agreed during the 53rd meeting of the Codex Committee on Food Hygiene (CCFH53), was prepared by the Electronic Working Group (chaired by Kenya and co-chaired by Bolivia and Nigeria). It was circulated in two stages for comments and amendments.

Agenda Item 9: This item was introduced by Eng. Nesma Shannak representative of Jordan, who discussed the harmonization of Codex texts prepared by the Codex Committee on Food Hygiene (CCFH) with the Revised General

Principles of Food Hygiene (CX/FH 24/54/10). At its 45th session in 2022, the Codex Alimentarius Commission adopted the most recent and comprehensive revision of the General Principles of Food Hygiene (CXC 1-1969) and requested the CCFH to initiate the harmonization process, and the UK agreed to provide options for the harmonization methodology to achieve consistency between the texts without changing the specifications.

This item included a group of interventions, including the representatives of the United Arab Emirates and Oman.

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).
2. Thanking Prof. Samuel Godefroy, President of GFoRSS, Eng. Nesma Shannak representative of Jordan, and Eng. Ali Al-Ghafri representative of Oman for preparing and presenting an analysis of the agenda items of the 54th meeting of the Codex Committee on Food Hygiene (CCFH54).
3. The Arab CCPs provide the Secretariat of the Arab Codex Initiative with any observations or comments on the agenda items of the 54th meeting of the Codex Committee on Food Hygiene so that they can be shared with the other focal points to coordinate the Arab position on them.
4. The 23rd meeting of Arab CCPs will be held at a date to be determined later in coordination with GFoRSS.