GFORSS | GLOBAL FOOD REGULATORY SCIENCE SOCIETY

ARAB CODEX INITIATIVE | المبادرة العربية للدستور الغذائي

المنظمة العربية للتنمية الصناعية والتقييس والتعدين
ARAB INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT, STANDARDIZATION AND MINING ORGANIZATION
A.I.D.S.M.O

31st Meeting of the Codex Contact Points in the Arab Region

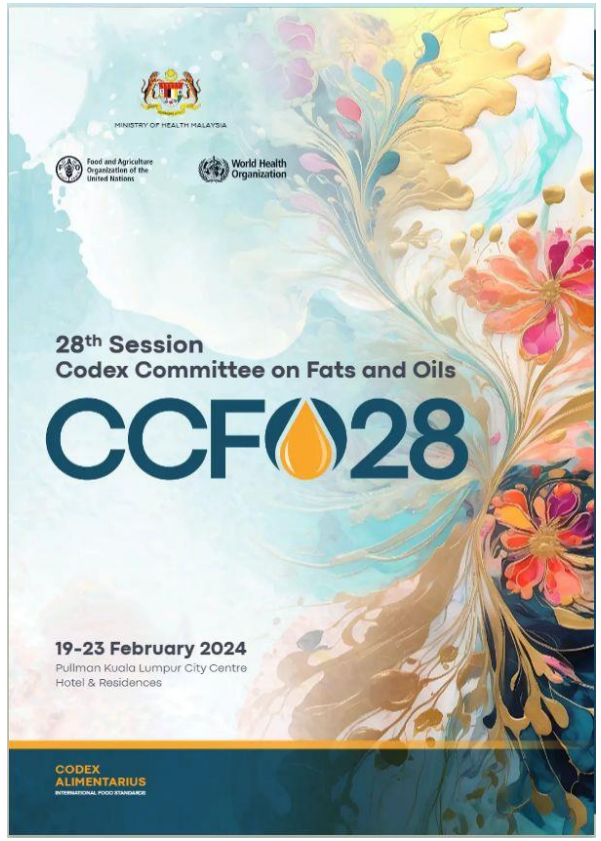
PREPARATION FOR THE 47TH SESSION OF THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION (CAC47)

Summary of Outcomes
28th Session of the Codex Committee on Fats and Oils (CCFO28)

November 20, 2024

BACKGROUND

- The Codex Committee on Fats and Oils (CCFO) held its 28th session in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, from 19 to 23 February 2024, which was attended by 36 Member Countries, one Member Organization (European Union) and 10 Observer organizations and FAO and WHO.
- Arab countries that participated to the physical meeting: Egypt; Iraq, Jordan, Morocco, Saudi Arabia Tunisia.

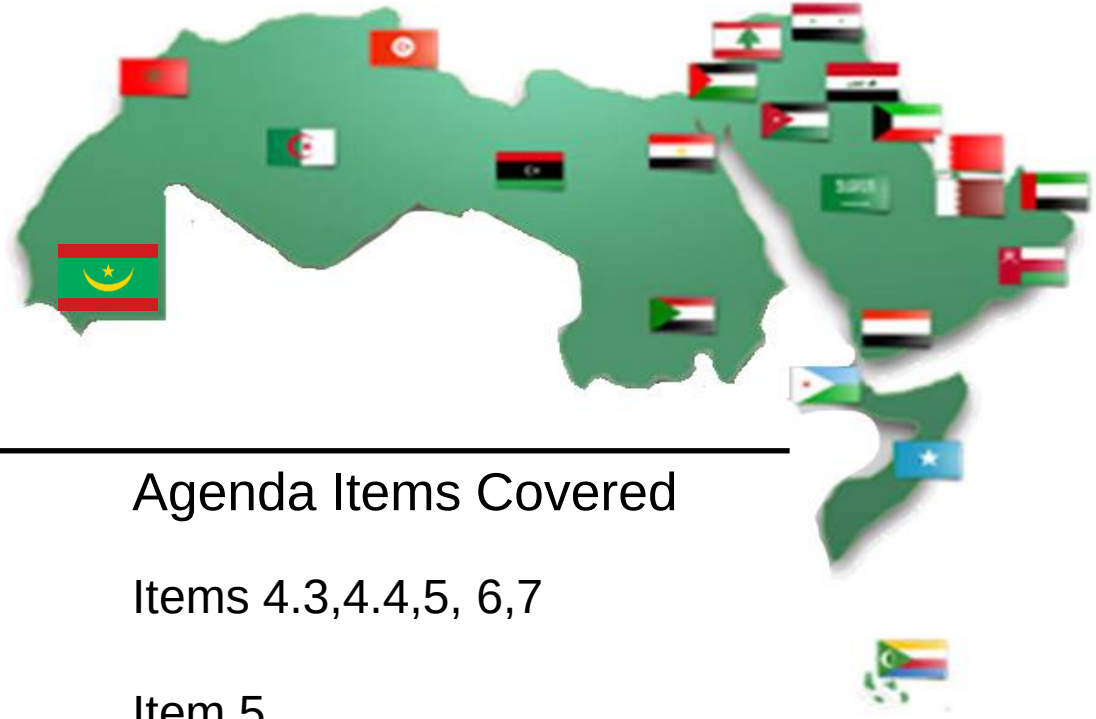


List of participants from the Arab region

Country	Participant(s)	Position	Organization	Location
Egypt	- Dr. Ehab Zayed - Eng. Mona Mahmoud - Mr. Ahmed El-Sayed	Director of Research Standards Specialist Senior Policy Advisor	Ministry of Agriculture and Land Reclamation Egyptian Organization for Standardization (EOS)	Cairo
Iraq	-Hayder Fadhil	Senior Chief Agriculture Engineer	Ministry of Agriculture	Baghdad
Jordan	-Eng Sharif Al-Mhirat	standardization Officer	Jordan Standards and Metrology organization	Amman
Morocco	- Mrs. Khadija Arif - Dr. Abderraouf Elantari - Mr. Hassan Mouho - Mr. Mohamed Stitou	Head of the Division for Plant Product Control Research Director Responsible Manager at the Laboratory Head of Service	National Office for Food Safety National Institute of Agronomic Research Morocco Foodex Directorate of Administrative and Legal Affairs	Rabat Marrakech Salé
Saudi Arabia	- Prof. Fatmah Alasmary - Najla Alharbi - Ms. Rania Bogis	Standards and Regulations Chief Expert Senior Risk Assessment Expert Senior Standards Specialist	Saudi Food and Drug Authority	Riyadh
Syria	- Eng. Abeer Shaban Jawhar - Eng. Maisaa Abo Alshamat	Manager of Syrian Olive Bureau Head of Plant Standards Department	Ministry of Agriculture and Agrarian Reform Syrian Arab Organization for Standardization and Metrology	Hamah Damascus
Tunisia	- Eng. Narjes Maslah Hammar - Mr. Kamel Ben Ammar	Director General Director	Technical Center for Agro-Food Industry National Olive Oil Board	Tunis

CRDs prepared by delegations from the Arab region

المبادرة العربية للدستور الغذائي
ARAB CODEX INITIATIVE



CRD Number	Submitted By	Agenda Items Covered
CRD 11,12,15,16 REV	United Arab Emirates	Items 4.3,4.4,5, 6,7
CRD 30	Morocco	Item 5
CRD20	Syrian Arab Republic	Item 5
CRD08	Saudi Arabia	Items 3; 8.2

CCFO

Highlights and Decisions from CCFO28

Agenda Item 2

Agenda Item	Subject	Key Discussion	Decisions	Step
2	Matters arising from the codex alimentarius commission and other subsidiary bodies	▪CCFO28 discussed the requests from CCFA53 on the technological justification for the following food additives in fats and oils : ○ Chlorophylls (INS 140) ○ Paprika extract (INS 160c)	▪Forward for adoption by CAC47, the draft amendments to the labelling provisions of non-retail containers in the six existing fats and oils standards; and inform the Codex Committee on Food Labelling (CCFL) accordingly.	Adoption

Highlights and Decisions from CCFO28

Agenda Item 3

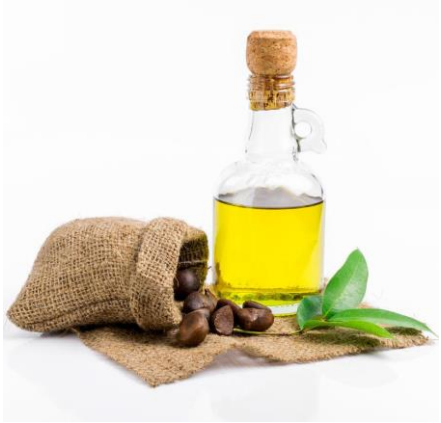
Agenda Item	Subject	Key Discussion	Decisions	Step
3	Recommendations of JECFA90 and JECFA91	▪ Acetic Anhydride & Cyclohexane retained with footnotes indicating pending impurity assessments and further evaluation and data collection encouraged. ▪ Montan Wax removed due to limited trade and insufficient data for evaluation. ▪ Fatty Alcohols maintained without specifying sources; EU expressed reservations about lack of source restrictions.	Forward revisions to the Code of Practice for the Storage and Transport of Edible Fats and Oils in Bulk (CXC 36-1987) for adoption by CAC 47	Adoption

Highlights and Decisions from CCFO28

Agenda Item 4

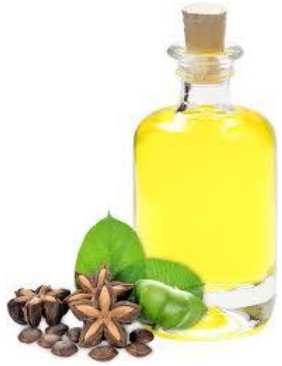
Proposed draft amendment/revision to the standard for named vegetable oils

4.1. Inclusion of Avocado Oil



4.2. Inclusion of Camellia Seed Oil

Adoption at Step 5/8



4.3. Inclusion of Sacha Inchi Oil

4.4. Inclusion of Oleic Acid Soybean Oil

Highlights and Decisions from CCFO28

Agenda Item 4

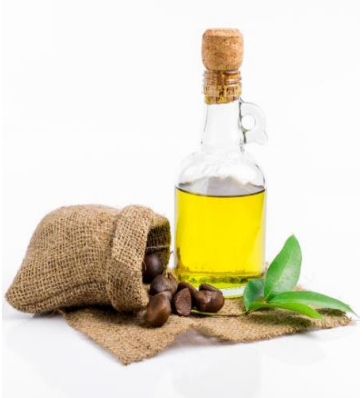
Proposed draft amendment/revision to the standard for named vegetable oils

Agenda Item	Subject	Key Discussion	Decisions	Step
4.1	Inclusion of Avocado Oil 	**Beta-sitosterol:** The proposal to lower the minimum value from 79 to 75 was rejected. The range of 79.0 to 93.4 was retained, as it reflects extensive data and ensures authenticity of avocado oil. **Delta-7-stigmastenol:** The proposal to reduce the maximum value from 1.5 to 1.0 was declined. The upper limit of 1.5 was upheld as a well-supported compromise based on data and stakeholder consensus. **Clerosterol :** Increased the upper limit from 2.0% to 2.5%, reflecting authentic avocado oil from various regions.	▪Forward the Proposed draft amendment/revision to the Standard for Named Vegetable Oils (CXS 210-1999), inclusion of sacha inchi oil to CAC47 for adoption at Step 5/8	Adoption at Step 5/8

Highlights and Decisions from CCFO28

Agenda Item 4

Proposed draft amendment/revision to the standard for named vegetable oils

Agenda Item	Subject	Key Discussion	Decisions	Step
4.2	Inclusion of Camellia Seed Oil 	▪Proposal to include *C. japonica* in the product definition was accepted, acknowledging its international production and trade. ▪CCFO28 approved all draft provisions in Section 3.1 ((essential composition and quality factors) and endorsed the following tables: ○ **Table 1**: Essential composition and quality factors. ○ **Table 2**: Chemical and physical characteristics of crude camellia seed oil. ○ **Table 3**: Levels of desmethylsterols in crude camellia seed oil. ○ **Table 4**: Levels of tocopherols and tocotrienols in crude camellia seed oil	▪Forward the proposed draft amendment/revision to the Standard for Named Vegetable Oils (CXS 210-1999) - inclusion of camellia seed oil to CAC47 for adoption at Step 5/8	Adoption at Step 5/8

Highlights and Decisions from CCFO28

Agenda Item 4

Proposed draft amendment/revision to the standard for named vegetable oils

Agenda Item	Subject	Key Discussion	Decisions	Step
4.3	▪Inclusion of Sacha Inchi Oil 	▪CCFO28 considered the revised proposed draft provisions for Sacha Inchi Oil section by section, noted the changes and endorsed all the provisions.	▪Forward the proposed draft amendment/revision to the Standard for Named Vegetable Oils (CXS 210-1999) - inclusion of camellia seed oil to CAC47 for adoption at Step 5/8	Adoption at Step 5/8

Highlights and Decisions from CCFO28

Agenda Item 4

Proposed draft amendment/revision to the standard for named vegetable oils

Agenda Item	Subject	Key Discussion	Decisions	Step
4.4	Inclusion Of High Oleic Acid Soya Bean Oil 	In response to a proposal to delete or move the provision stating, "High-oleic acid soya bean oil must contain not less than 65 percent oleic acid (as a percentage of total fatty acids)," CCFO retained the requirement in Section 3.1 to maintain consistency with the compositional standards in CXS 210-1999.	▪Forward the proposed draft amendment/revision to the Standard for Named Vegetable Oils (CXS 210-1999) - inclusion of high oleic acid soya bean oil to CAC47 for adoption at Step 5/8	Adoption at Step 5/8

Highlights and Decisions from CCFO28

Agenda Item 5

Agenda Item	Subject	Key Discussion	Decisions	Step
5	Proposed Draft Revision To The Standard For Olive Oils And Olive Pomace Oils (CXS 33-1981): Revision Of Sections 3, 8 And Appendix 	▪CCFO28 agreed to the amended decision tree in footnote b as follows: "(b) When a virgin or extra virgin olive oil naturally has a campesterol level > 4.0% and ≤ 4.8%, it may be considered authentic if the stigmasterol level is ≤ 1.4% and the Δ7-stigmastenol level is ≤ 0.3%. The other parameters shall meet the limits set out in the standard." ▪One member proposed revising the Δ-7-stigmastenol decision tree (footnote c) to accommodate authentic oils from all regions. While recognizing the need for more data to inform future decisions, ▪Syria expressed reservations, noting that some authentic olive oils still fall outside the existing limits for Δ-7 Stigmastenol	▪Forward the draft revised Standard for Olive oils and Olive Pomace oils (CXS 33-1981) (Appendix IX) to CAC47 for adoption at Step 5/8;	Adoption at step 5/8

Syria's Objection and Proposal Regarding ΔECN42 Levels

Objection:

- The current provision in footnote c for Δ-7 Stigmastenol, requiring ΔECN42 ≤ 0.1 for virgin olive oil, excludes over 40% of Syrian authentic virgin olive oil production.
- Syrian virgin olive oil naturally exceeds these limits (ΔECN42 ranges from 0.15–0.16), making compliance unachievable.

Key Issues:

- Lack of flexibility after the removal of the footnote allowing deviations in sterol levels.
- Syrian input into international data (e.g., from the International Olive Oil Council) was limited due to exclusion during years of conflict.
- The decision to adjust campesterol limits in footnote b (to 4.8%) was approved without data, while Syria's request to revise ΔECN42 was ignored.

Request :

- Adjust ΔECN42 in footnote c to ≤ 0.2, aligning with section 3.2.2 of the standard for virgin olive oil.
- Alternatively, suspend the application of footnote c and expand the scope of the proposed EWG to include sterol studies and decision tree updates. Syria commits to providing data for this effort.

3.2.2 ΔECN42 (Difference between the actual and theoretical ECN 42 triglyceride content)	
Extra virgin olive oil Virgin olive oil	≤ |0.20|
Refined olive oil Olive oil composed of refined olive oil and virgin olive oils	≤ |0.30|
Refined olive-pomace oil Olive-pomace oil composed of refined olive-pomace oil and virgin olive oils	≤ |0.50|

(c) For virgin olive oils, if the value is > 0.5 and ≤ 0.8%, campesterol must be ≤ 3.3, apparent β-sitosterol/(campesterol+Δ7-stigmastenol) ≥ 25, stigmasterol ≤ 1.4 and ΔECN42 ≤ |0.1|. For refined olive pomace oils values > 0.5 and ≤ 0.7% then stigmasterol ≤ 1.4% and ΔECN42 ≤ |0.4|.

Syria's Objection and Proposal Regarding ΔECN42 Levels

Rationale

- ❖ Prevent negative repercussions on Syrian virgin olive oil exports, a vital economic sector.
- ❖ Ensure the standard reflects geographic and natural variations in sterol levels.

Proposed Options:

❖Option 1: Amend ΔECN42 in footnote c to ≤ 0.2 (as with section 3.2.2).

❖Option 2: Suspend footnote c and include sterol studies in the scope of the new EWG.

❖Alternative Option: Any other solution achieving the same outcome.

3.2.3 4α-Desmethylsterols composition (% total 4α-desmethylsterols)

Cholesterol	≤ 0.5
Brassicasterol	≤ 0.1 for olive oils ≤ 0.2 for olive-pomace oils
Campesterol	≤ 4.0[b]
Stigmasterol	< campesterol
Δ7-stigmastenol	≤ 0.5[c]
Apparent β-sitosterol[d]	≥ 93.0

(b) When a virgin or extra virgin olive oil naturally has a campesterol level > 4.0% and ≤ 4.8%, it may be considered authentic if the stigmasterol level is ≤ 1.4% and the delta-7-stigmastenol level is ≤ 0.3%. The other parameters shall meet the limits set out in the standard.

(c) For virgin olive oils, if the value is > 0.5 and ≤ 0.8%, campesterol must be ≤ 3.3, apparent β-sitosterol/(campesterol+Δ7-stigmastenol) ≥ 25, stigmasterol ≤ 1.4 and ΔECN42 ≤ |0.1|. For refined olive pomace oils values > 0.5 and ≤ 0.7% then stigmasterol ≤ 1.4% and ΔECN42 ≤ |0.4|.

(d) Chromatographic peak composed by Δ5,23-stigmastadienol+clerosterol+β-sitosterol+sitostanol+Δ5-avenasterol+Δ5,24-stigmastadienol peaks.

The levels of Δ7-stigmastenol in olive oil from various producing countries

Country	Δ-7 Stigmastenol Level (mg/kg)	References
Spain	0.3 to >0.5	Facorroisa, J. et al., 2000; Benito, M. et al., 2015; Table C., M. et al., 2021; López Cortés et al., 2013
Italy	0.2 to 0.5	Caponio, F. et al., 2001; Ortega, N. et al., 1998; Angelo, M. et al., 2019
Greece	0.2 to 0.3	Melibou, J. et al., 2005; Boskou, D. et al., 2006; Vasiliki, S. et al., 2020
Turkey	0.3 to >0.5	Kristiasis, A. et al., 2002; Yildibrim, M. et al., 2015; Ash Youmbraz et al., 2013; Akacan, T. et al., 2024
Tunisia	0.2 to >0.5	Oueslati, I. et al., 2009; Zaunrouk, W. et al., 2009; Table C., M. et al., 2021
Syria	0.2 to >0.5	Abaza, L. et al., 2015; Mansour, A. et al., 2017; Jbara, G. et al., 2010
Jordan	0.3 to >0.5	Al Khalil, S. et al., 2013; Aburjat, T. et al., 2008; K.M. Al-Istmail et al., 2011
Lebanon	0.4 to >0.5	El Sharouni, S. et al., 2011; Harib, J. et al., 2014
Morocco	0.1 to 0.3	El Antari, A. et al., 2003; Gharby, S. et al., 2012
Egypt	0.4 to >0.5	EID, M. et al., 2012
Palestine	0.4 to >0.5	Jimeno Maria Lodolini et al., 2017

(c) For virgin olive oils, if the value is > 0.5 and ≤ 0.8%, campesterol must be ≤ 3.3, apparent β-sitosterol/(campesterol+Δ7-stigmastenol) ≥ 25, stigmasterol ≤ 1.4 and ΔECN42 ≤ |0.1|. For refined olive pomace oils values > 0.5 and ≤ 0.7% then stigmasterol ≤ 1.4% and ΔECN42 ≤ |0.4|.

Highlights and Decisions from CCFO28

Agenda Item 6

Agenda Item	Subject	Key Discussion	Decisions	Step
6	Proposed Draft Amendment/Revision Of The Standard For Fish Oils (CXS 329-2017): Inclusion Of Calanus Oil	▪A Member Organization requested adding safety-related specifications (e.g., astaxanthin esters levels) and usage guidance for calanus oil, as it contains astaxanthin with an established ADI. They noted that in their region, calanus oil is authorized only in food supplements (excluding infants and young children) with specific limits and labeling requirements.	Forward the proposed draft amendment/revision to the Standard for fish oils (CXS 329-2017): Inclusion of Calanus oil (Appendix X) to CAC47 for adoption at Step 5/8	Adoption at Step 5/8

Highlights and Decisions from CCFO28

Agenda Item 7

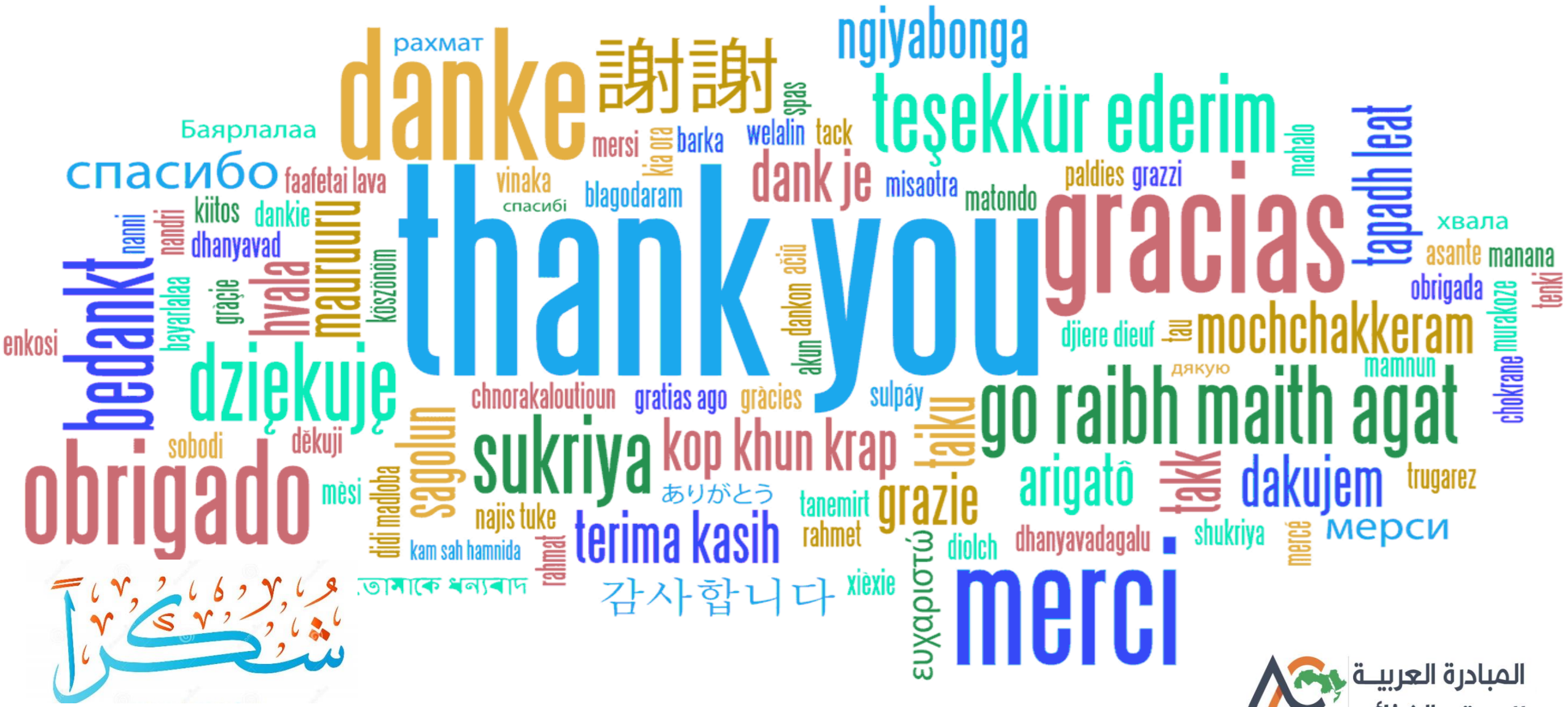
Agenda Item	Subject	Key Discussion	Decisions	Step
7	Review Of The List Of Acceptable Previous Cargoes	▪ Rejected cyclohexanol and cyclohexanone due to genotoxic/carcinogenic concerns. Deferred inclusion of ammonium sulfate, wine iodines, and urea pending adequate data. ▪ Encourage Members and Observers to submit data on ammonium sulfate solution, wine iodines and urea for future consideration as previous cargoes;	▪ Forward for adoption, the proposed draft amendments to the Code of Practice for the Storage and Transport of Edible Fats and Oils in Bulk (CXC 36-1987) to CAC47	Adoption

Highlights and Decisions from CCFO28

Agenda Item 8

Consideration Of The Proposals For New Work And/Or Amendments To Existing Codex Standards

Agenda Item	Subject	Key Discussion	Decisions	Step
8.1	Discussion Paper On Possible Work That CCFO Could Undertaken To Reduce TFAs or eliminate PHOs	▪Concerns were raised that partially hydrogenated oils PHOs bans alone might not sufficiently reduce trans fatty acid TFAs and should be complemented by legislated limits, with suggestions to focus on ingredients for easier monitoring.	▪Submit for approval by CAC47 the proposal for new work on the proposed revisions to Codex standards on fats and oils to reduce Trans-Fatty Acid intake	New Work
8.2	Proposal For New Work On A Standard For Microbial Omega-3 Oils	▪Title Clarification: "Microbial oils" was preferred over "microalgae oils" to encompass a broader range of oils from microorganisms, supporting future updates. ▪Scope expanded to address food safety issues	▪Submit for approval by CAC47 the proposal for new work on a standard for microbial omega-3 oils	New Work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