

Report of the 31st meeting of the Arab Codex Contact Points

In preparation for the session 47th session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC47) to be held in person in Geneva, Switzerland, from 25 to 30 November 2024, and based on the email received on 28/10/2024 from Professor Samuel Godefroy, in which he proposes holding coordination meetings for the Arab countries' contact points in the Codex Alimentarius Commission, as follows:

- Meeting 29 : Thursday, October 31, 2024
- Meeting 30 : Wednesday, November 13, 2024
- Meeting 31 : Wednesday, November 20, 2024

Based on the approval of His Excellency the Director-General of AIDSMO to hold the coordination meetings of the Arab Codex Contact Points according to the dates indicated above.

The 31st meeting was held on Wednesday, November 20, 2024, With the participation of representatives of the following Arab countries:

1. Jordan
2. UAE
3. Bahrain
4. Tunisia
5. Saudi Arabia
6. Sudan
7. Syria
8. Iraq
9. Palestine
10. Qatar
11. Lebanon
12. Libya
13. Morocco
14. Yemen

As well as AIDSMO, GSO and GFORSS representatives.

The meeting was opened by the representative of AIDSMO and the coordinator of the Arab Codex Initiative, with a speech in which he welcomed the participants and thanked them for accepting the invitation to participate, indicating that this meeting will be the last meeting to prepare for the 47th session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC47), scheduled to be held in person in Geneva from 25 to 30 November 2024, and thanked the

representatives of Syria, KSA and the experts of the Arab Codex Initiative for their efforts in preparing the presentations of this meeting, which include the outcomes of the meetings of the Codex committees held during this year, as follows:

- Codex Committee on Food Labelling (CCFL)
- Codex Committee on Fats and Oils (CCFO)
- Codex Committee on Food Import and Export Inspection and Certification Systems (CCFICS)
- Codex Committee on Nutrition and Foods for Special Dietary Uses (CCNFSDU)

The meeting agenda was reviewed and its items approved as follows:

Agenda item	Subject
Item 1	Opening Remarks and adoption of Agenda: Arab Codex Initiative Coordinator
Item 2	Preparation of the 47th session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Codex Committee on Food Labelling (CCFL) • Codex Committee on Fats and Oils (CCFO) • Codex Committee on Food Import and Export Inspection and Certification Systems (CCFICS) • Codex Committee on Nutrition and Foods for Special Dietary Uses (CCNFSDU)
Item 3	Codex strategic plan

Item 2: Preparation of the 47th session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission:

- **Codex Committee on Fats and Oils (CCFO):**

The presentation of this committee was made by Eng. Maysaa Abu Shamat, representative of Syria, where she reviewed the following: The background of 28th Codex Committee on Fats and Oils (CCFO): 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.

Highlights and Decisions from CCFO28:

Agenda item	Decision
Agenda Item2: Matters arising from the codex Alimentarius commission and other subsidiary bodies	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.
Agenda Item3: Recommendations of JECFA90 and JECFA91	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
Agenda Item 4.1: Inclusion of Avocado Oil	Forward the Proposed draft amendment/revision to the Standard for Named Vegetable Oils (CXS 210-1999), inclusion of sachal inchi oil to CAC47 for adoption at Step 5/8

Agenda item 4.2: Inclusion of 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
Agenda item 4.3: Inclusion of Sacha Inchi 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
Agenda item 4.4: Inclusion of High Oleic Acid Soya Bean Oil	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
Agenda item 5: Proposed Draft Revision to The Standard for Olive Oils and Olive Pomace Oils (CXS 33-1981): Revision of Sections 3, 8 And Appendix	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.
Agenda item 6: Proposed Draft Amendment/Revision of The Standard for Fish Oils (CXS 329-2017): Inclusion of Calanus Oil	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
Agenda item 7: Review of The List of Acceptable 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
Agenda item 8.1: Discussion Paper on Possible Work That CCFO Could Undertake to Reduce TFAs or eliminate PHOs	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
Agenda item 8.2: Proposal for New Work on A Standard for Microbial Omega-3 Oils	Submit for approval by CAC47 the proposal for new work on a standard for microbial omega-3 oils

- **Codex Committee on Food Labelling (CCFL):**

The presentation of this committee was given by Eng. Hind Al-Ajaji, representative of Saudi Arabia, where she reviewed the following: The background of 48th Codex Committee on Food Labelling (CCFL): The Codex Committee on Food Labelling (CCFL) held its 48th Session, in Quebec City, Canada, from 27 October to 1st of November 2024.

This session was attended by delegates from 44 Member countries, one Member organization and 26 Observer organizations, among which 3 Arab countries (Jordan, Morocco, Saudi Arabia) and the team of GForSS/IUFoST.

Highlights and Decisions from CCFL48:

Standards and related texts	CCFL48 recommendation
Review of the standard for the labelling of packaged foods (CXS 1-1985): Items relating to the labelling of allergens	Forward the draft project to CAC47 for adoption at step 8.
Guidelines for the provision of information on pre-packaged foods to be offered via e-commerce	The Committee agreed to forward the draft project to CAC47 for adoption at step 8.
Guidelines on the use of technology to provide food information on food labels	Forward the draft project to CAC47 for adoption at step 8.

Annex to the standard for the labelling of packaged foods (CXs 1-1985): Guidelines for the Use of Allergen Warning Labels (Step 4)	Forward the draft project to CAC47 for adoption at step 5
Emergency Food Card Requirements	Start new work on implementing food labelling provisions in emergencies and submit project document for approval by CAC47.

- **Codex Committee on Food Import and Export Inspection and Certification Systems (CCFICS):**

This committee's presentation was given by Dr. Mustafa Sultan, expert of the Codex Arab Initiative, who reviewed the following:

The background of 47th Codex Committee on Food Import and Export Inspection and Certification Systems (CCFICS):

The Codex Committee on Food Import and Export Inspection and Certification System (CCFICS) held its 27th Session, in Cairns, Australia, in Hybrid format from 16 to 20 September 2024.

This session was attended by 70 Member countries, One Member organization and 11 Observer organizations, and United Nations agencies among which 7 Arab countries (Egypt, Jordan, Kuwait, Morocco, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia).

Highlights and Decisions from CCFICS47:

Agenda Item 5: Draft Guidelines on Prevention and Control of Food Fraud	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forward the draft guidelines to CAC47 for adoption at Step 5. • Establish EWG chaired by USA, Co-chaired by China, EU, Iran, Panama, and UK. 	
Items to Return to Step 2	Agenda Item 4: Draft Consolidated Codex Guidelines Related to Equivalence. Establish an EWG, chaired by New Zealand, and co-chaired by Kenya, and open to all Members and Observers.
	Agenda Item 6: Draft Revision and Updating of the Principles for Traceability/Product Tracing as a Tool Within a Food Inspection and Certification System (CXG 60-2006) Establish an EWG, open to all Members and Observers, chaired by the United States and co-chaired by Australia, Ecuador, Honduras, and the United Kingdom.
New Work: Establish New EWG	EWG, chaired by India and co-chaired by Nigeria, Australia, Chile, and Kenya, subject to approval of new work by CAC, prepare draft guidance on appeals mechanism in the context of rejection of imported food, for consideration by CCFICS28. EWG, chaired by Brazil and co-chaired by Australia, India, Kenya, Spain, and Uganda, subject to approval of new work by CAC, to prepare draft guidance on the standardization of sanitary requirements, for consideration by CCFICS28.

- **Codex Committee on Nutrition and Foods for Special Dietary Uses (CCNFSDU):**

This committee's presentation was given by Dr. Karima Zouin, expert of the Arab Codex Initiative, who reviewed the following:

The background of 44th Codex Committee on Nutrition and Foods for Special Dietary Uses (CCNFSDU): The forty-fourth Session of the Codex Committee on Nutrition and Foods for Special Dietary Uses (CCNFSDU44) was held in person in Dresden, Germany, from 2 to 6 October 2024.

Attended by 51 Member countries (SAUDI ARABIA, EGYPT and ALGERIA), one Member Organization and 29 Observer Organizations.

Highlights and Decisions from CCNFSDU44:

Finalized Work	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New General Principles for establishing Nutrient Reference Values - Requirements (NRVs-R) for children aged 6–36 months.
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First set of NRV-Rs for this age group. • Stepwise approach for developing new NRV-Rs. • Editorial amendments to infant formula regarding energy conversion factors, with no changes to nitrogen-to-protein conversion factors, but an important note added to the method.
Other decisions made	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Postponed work on Guidelines on Nutritional Equivalence of Plant-Based Foods until the FAO report is available. • Discontinued work on updating the Codex definition of "Dietary Fibre" and decided to keep the current definition. • Stopped work on Guidelines on Probiotics, urging FAO and WHO to update outdated documents. • Proposed revocation of outdated analysis methods (e.g., dietary fibre method) and cessation of work on a sensory sweetness method by comparison.
Standards and related texts submitted for final adoption	<p>Step8: General principles for establishing Nutrient Reference Values - Requirements (NRVs-R) for persons aged 6 – 36 months (inclusion in CXG 2-1985 as Annex 1, Part B);</p> <p>Step 5/8: NRVs-R for persons aged 6 – 36 months: Vitamins A, B6, D and E, thiamin, riboflavin, niacin, pantothenic acid, calcium, copper, iodine, potassium, zinc and protein.</p> <p>Adoption: Amendments to the Standard for infant formula and formulas for special medical purposes intended for infants.</p> <p>Adoption: Inclusion of the nitrogen to protein conversion factor for follow-up formula for older infants and products for young children in the annex in CXS 234-1999</p>

Item 3: Codex strategic plan:

Professor Samuel Godefroy introduced this item as follows:

Codex Strategic plan 2026-31:

- Process Started at CCEXEC84 (2023) led by the Chair of CAC – Intended for start of implementation before January 1, 2026
- CCEXEC85, CAC46 reviewed high level aspects of the SP: Vision, Mission, Drivers of Change
- CL in January 2024 and informal consultations with the regions through the coordinators (Feb-April 2024)
- CCEXEC86: Discussions of Part 1 – with diversity of opinions
- CL issued in October 2024

Vision: "Where the world comes together to create food safety and quality standards to protect everyone everywhere."

Mission: "Protect consumer health and promote fair practices in the food trade by setting international, science-based food safety and quality standards."

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 the representative of: KSA, Syria, and the experts of the Arab Codex Initiative for their efforts in preparing and delivering the presentations at the meeting.