



PREPARATION FOR THE 34th SESSION OF THE CODEX COMMITTEE ON GENERAL PRINCIPLES

(CCGP34)

May 29, 2025



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



World Health
Organization

CODEX
ALIMENTARIUS
INTERNATIONAL FOOD STANDARDS

CCGP34 | 2 · 6 JUNE 2025 LILLE · FRANCE





Agenda Item 4.1

REVIEW OF THE PROCEDURES IN SECTION 3: GUIDELINES FOR SUBSIDIARY BODIES

CX/GP 25/34/4



Agenda Item 4.1

Review of the Procedures in Section 3: Guidelines for Subsidiary Bodies

Background

CCGP33 Identified
Gaps and
Inconsistencies

Working Group Led
by France and USA
Drafted Revisions

CCGP34 will Consider
Revised Texts for
Adoption

Agenda Item 4.1

Review of the Procedures in Section 3: Guidelines for Subsidiary Bodies

Analysis

This agenda item responds to long-standing procedural inconsistencies in Section III of the Codex Procedural Manual, aiming to modernize and harmonize working methods. Key areas needing clarification included:

New Roles and Evolving Working Modalities

Structural Inconsistencies and Observer Engagement

Working Group Participation and Registration

Unclear Application of Step 5/8

The proposed updates aim to ensure consistency, improve transparency, and reflect modern Codex working modalities, while maintaining procedural integrity.

Agenda Item 4.1

- Section III contained outdated procedures and lacked clarity on roles, working group participation, and observer engagement.
- Several elements, including fast-track processes and CRD handling, required procedural clarification or restructuring.

**Proposed
Amendment**



Define Roles Like Co-Hosts and Assistants

Clarify PWG and EWG Procedures

Restructure for Logical Flow

Flag Need to Clarify Step 5/8

Note:

Further clarification on Step 5/8 and consistent implementation across committees will be essential moving forward.

Key Amendment

Agenda Item 4.1

It is recommended that CCGP34

Support the adoption of the revised Section III

Encourage Codex to provide practical guidance

Recommend further clarification of Step
5/8



Agenda Item 4.2

**REVIEW OF INCONSISTENCIES IN LANGUAGE AND SUPERSEDED
CONTENT (EXCLUDING SECTION 3)**

CX/GP 25/34/5



Agenda Item 4.2

Review of Inconsistencies in Language and Superseded Content (Excluding Section 3)

Background

CCGP33 requested a review of outdated language and redundant content in the Procedural Manual

A drafting group conducted a detailed editorial review

The revised text was submitted to CCGP34



Analysis

Agenda Item 4.2

Review of Inconsistencies in Language and Superseded Content (Excluding Section 3)

This agenda item addresses inconsistencies and outdated expressions in the Procedural Manual that were no longer aligned with Codex's digital processes and standard-setting practices.

Outdated Language on Document Access

Ambiguity in the Use of Step 5/8

Inflexible Calendar-Based Timelines

Redundant or Obsolete Provisions

These changes aim to improve usability, clarify procedures, and better reflect Codex's evolving operational context.

Agenda Item 4.2

- Codex procedures still included language and formats based on outdated, paper-based practices.
- The lack of clarity around fast-track adoption and rigid calendar timelines also hindered flexibility.

**Proposed
Amendment**



Delete Redundant Texts

Adjust Calendar-Based
Timelines

Replace “Receive” with
“Access”

Add Footnote
Explaining Step 5/8

Note:

These editorial updates improve clarity and remove barriers to procedural understanding, especially for new delegates.

Agenda Item 4.2

Recommendation

It is recommended that CCGP34

Support the editorial updates

Encourage consistent use of
digital terminology

Recommend clearer procedural guidance



Agenda Item 5

**GUIDE TO THE PROCEDURE FOR THE AMENDMENT AND
REVISION OF CODEX STANDARDS AND RELATED TEXTS**

CX/GP 25/34/6



Agenda Item 5

Guide to the Procedure for the Amendment and Revision of Codex Standards and Related Texts

Background

Codex lacked formal definitions for corrections, amendments, and revisions

Concerns were raised over transparency, justification, and responsibility

Updated guidance proposed by the drafting group

Agenda Item 5

Guide to the Procedure for the Amendment and Revision of Codex Standards and Related Texts

This agenda item responds to the need for a clearer, more transparent framework for updating Codex texts, especially as procedural terms were used inconsistently and without defined thresholds.

Unclear Terminology
Across Codex Texts

Lack of Justification
Requirements

Overlap with FAO
Publishing Practices

No Update Mechanism
Without a Committee

The proposed revisions
aim to standardize
terminology, improve
transparency, and
ensure continuity in
managing Codex texts.

Agenda Item 5

- Codex lacked formal definitions for types of document changes, leading to confusion in updating standards.
- There was also no system for managing updates when no committee was in place.

**Proposed
Amendment**



Introduce Formal
Definitions

Standardize Terminology
Across Codex

Require Justifications
for Changes

Assign Update Role to
Secretariat

Note: These changes support procedural transparency and continuity.

Key Amendment

Agenda Item 5

Recommendation

It is recommended that CCGP34

Support the inclusion of formal definitions

Encourage transparent and well documented future changes to Codex texts

Recommend awareness-raising



Agenda Item 6

PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE PRINCIPLES CONCERNING THE PARTICIPATION OF INTERNATIONAL NGOS

CX/GP 25/34/7



Agenda Item 6

Proposed Amendment to the Principles Concerning the Participation of International NGOs

Background

The rule on double representation for INGOs was placed under a heading related to FAO/WHO-accredited organizations

Several delegations raised concerns at CCGP33

The revised document clarifies the universal applicability of the rule

Agenda Item 6

Proposed Amendment to the Principles Concerning the Participation of International NGOs

This agenda item seeks to resolve confusion around the rule preventing INGOs from being represented in multiple capacities, ensuring fairness and consistency among observer organizations.

Analysis

Ambiguity in Placement
of the Rule

Lack of Clarity
Undermined Observer
Integrity

Unequal Interpretation
of Participation Rights

Need for Explicit
Heading and Scope

The revision clarifies
that the double
representation rule
applies to all INGOs,
reinforcing equal
treatment in Codex
participation.

Agenda Item 6

- The double representation rule for INGOs was located under a section focused on FAO/WHO-related organizations.
- This led to confusion about whether the rule applied to all observer INGOs.

Key Amendment

**Proposed
Amendment**



Insert New Heading Before
Paragraph 24

Improve Structural Placement

Clarify Applicability to All
INGOs

Preserve Equal Observer
Treatment

Note:

This clarification supports procedural fairness and strengthens trust in Codex governance by all observer groups.

Agenda Item 6

Recommendation

It is recommended that CCGP34

Support the structural clarification

Encourage continued review of
observer participation rules

Recommend that Codex provides orientation
materials



Agenda Item 7

RESOURCE-EFFICIENT REVIEW OF NEW WORK PROPOSALS OUTSIDE THE REMIT OF ACTIVE COMMITTEES

CX/GP 25/34/8



Agenda Item 7

Resource-Efficient Review of New Work Proposals Outside the Remit of Active Committees

Background

Codex increasingly receives proposals that do not fall under any current committee

The current system lacks flexible options for reviewing such proposals

This agenda item presents informal alternatives for early-stage engagement

Agenda Item 7

Guide to the Procedure for the Amendment and Revision of Codex Standards and Related Texts

This agenda item explores procedural gaps in how Codex handles new work proposals that fall outside the mandates of active committees, a growing issue as new topics emerge:

No Clear Pathway for Cross-Cutting Proposals

Missed Opportunities for Early Engagement

Committee Reactivation Is Resource-Intensive

Limited Flexibility Disadvantages Developing Countries



The proposed approaches aim to introduce more flexible, transparent, and inclusive ways to assess emerging proposals.

Agenda Item 7

- Codex had no clear process for handling new work proposals that don't fall under an existing committee.
- This created delays, inefficiencies, and unequal access to early discussions.

**Proposed
Amendment**



Encourage Use of Regional
Committees

Allow Technical Webinars

Permit Temporary
Committee Reactivation

Facilitate Participation
via Remote Tools

Note:

These informal pathways could improve agility and inclusiveness without imposing formal procedural burdens.

Agenda Item 7

Recommendation

It is recommended that CCGP34:

Support the development of
flexible mechanisms

Encourage the use of virtual
platforms

Recommend Codex pilot informal review processes



Agenda Item 8

**REVIEW OF THE APPLICATION OF THE CRITERIA AND
PROCEDURAL GUIDELINES FOR CODEX COMMITTEES AND AD
HOC INTERGOVERNMENTAL TASK FORCES WORKING BY
CORRESPONDENCE**

CX/GP 25/34/9



Agenda Item 8

REVIEW OF THE APPLICATION OF THE *CRITERIA AND PROCEDURAL GUIDELINES FOR CODEX COMMITTEES AND AD HOC INTERGOVERNMENTAL TASK FORCES WORKING BY CORRESPONDENCE*

Background

The 44th session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC44) adopted procedural guidelines for Codex bodies working by correspondence (CWBC).

They Have been used by the Codex Committee on Fish and Fishery Products (CCFFP) and the Codex Committee on Cereals, Pulses and Legumes (CCCPL).

The experience of these committees and feedback received from members highlighted the need to revisit and potentially revise these provisions

Agenda Item 8

REVIEW OF THE APPLICATION OF THE *CRITERIA AND PROCEDURAL GUIDELINES FOR CODEX COMMITTEES AND AD HOC INTERGOVERNMENTAL TASK FORCES WORKING BY CORRESPONDENCE*

The agenda item reflects the evolving landscape of Codex work, especially in light of technological advances. There is general support to clarify and strengthen the procedural framework for CWBC, particularly regarding:

Use of virtual tools for synchronous participation

Responsibilities of host countries

The scope of issues CWBCs are permitted to address

Potential cost implications

The proposed changes would improve flexibility, inclusivity, and operational clarity without compromising the integrity of Codex processes

Agenda Item 8

- Paragraph 59 currently states that CWBC 'normally do not hold sessions requiring simultaneous presence.'
- However, recent experience showed value in allowing limited use of virtual tools for real-time dialogue.

Proposed Amendment



Add flexibility for chairpersons to convene virtual discussions with simultaneous presence

Helps facilitate consensus and improve efficiency without changing core CWBC nature

Decision to use this tool would be in consultation with the Codex Secretariat

Such discussions should be allowed under exceptional circumstances

Note:

Interpretation costs and implementation feasibility remain key considerations for host countries

Agenda Item 8

Recommendation

It is recommended that CCGP34:

Support the proposed amendment to allow virtual synchronous discussions for specific purposes

Endorse clearer guidance on the scope of CWBC assignments

Recommend editorial updates to ensure procedural consistency

[illegible]