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CODEX
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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

Presented by : Eng. Issam Krid
Country : Tunisia



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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

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The agenda item reflects the evolving landscape of Codex work, especially in the 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

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- 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

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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]