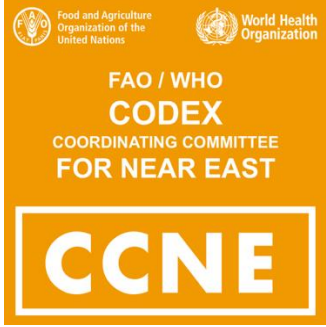




المبادرة العربية
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54th Joint Coordination Meeting of Arab and CCNE Codex Contact Points

**PREPARATION FOR THE 28th SESSION OF THE
CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMITTEE ON
FOOD IMPORT AND EXPORT INSPECTION AND CERTIFICATION SYSTEMS
(CCFICS28)**

Presented by Dr. Hamed Alghafiri, Food Safety and quality Center, Oman

October 07, 2026



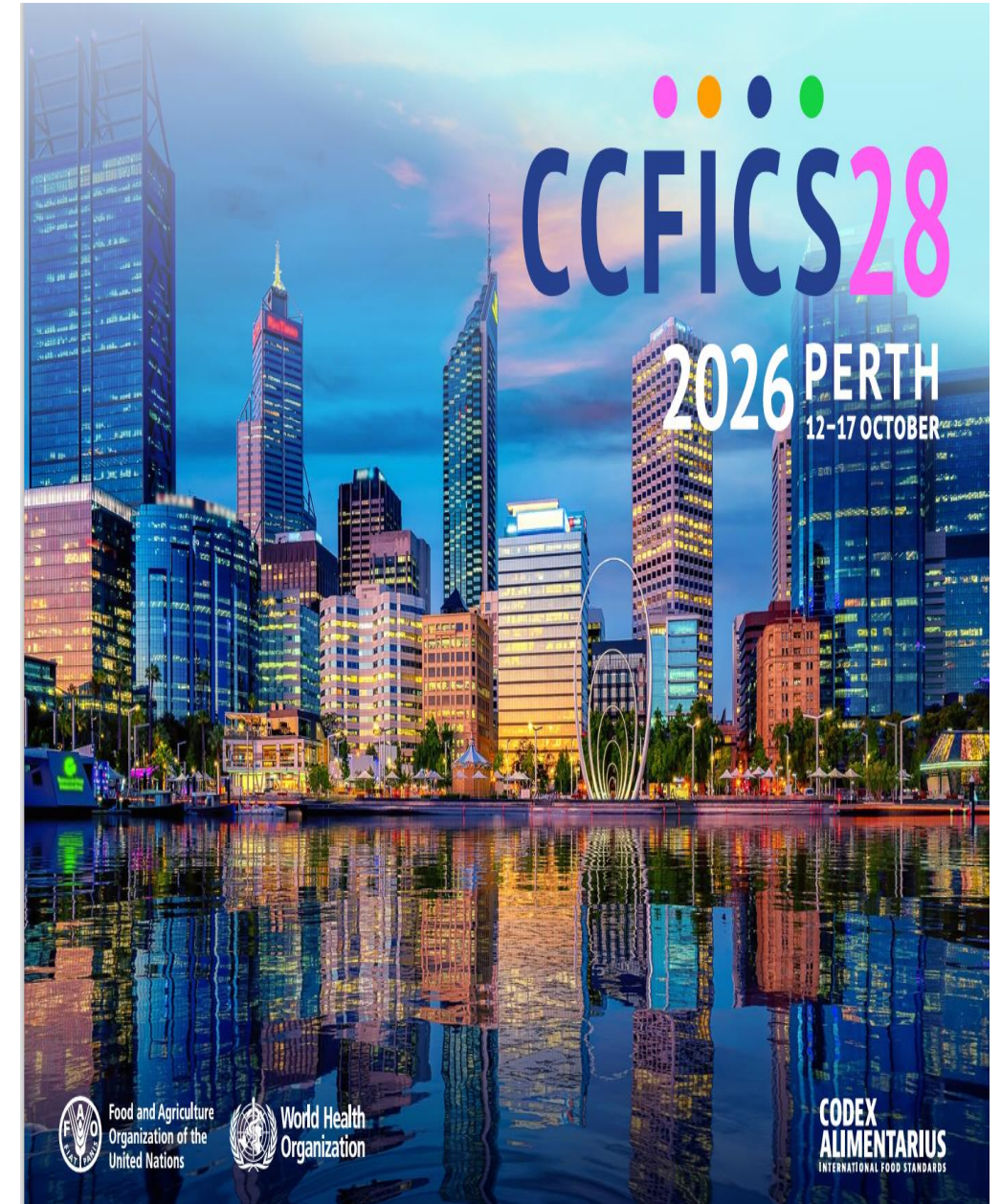
Agenda Item 4

Draft guidelines on the prevention and control of food fraud

Status in Codex Process : Step 6/7

Documents Number: CX/FICS 26/28/4; CX/FICS 26/28/4 Add.1

Prepared By: Oman / Egypt /Lebanon



1. Background: the food fraud guidelines

Agenda item 4

CX/FICS 26/28/4

Status: Step 6/7

CCFICS28 · Perth · 12–17 Oct 2026

What the draft does

- Voluntary guidance for authorities and FBOs on preventing, detecting, mitigating and controlling food fraud: deliberate deception about food to gain unfair economic advantage.
- Supports, not replaces, existing Codex texts; applied within national food control systems.
- Covers six fraud types, two principles (risk-proportionate measures, cooperation) and responsibilities of authorities and FBOs.

Road to CCFICS28

2018

EU discussion paper at CCFICS24

2021

CCFICS25 endorses new work (dual mandate, no duplication, no trade barriers); CAC44 approves

2023–24

CCFICS26–27 resolve many issues; IP and GIs excluded from scope

2025

CAC47 adopts the text at Step 5

2026

EWG (37 Members, 15 Observers); CCFICS28 to consider advancing to CAC50

Agreed: feed included; food fraud definition kept. **No consensus yet:** feed wording • “food integrity” and “food authenticity” definitions • bracketed text in Sections 6 and 7

2. Analysis: trade barriers and food safety

Trade barriers

Opportunity

Clear guidance gives importing authorities a recognised basis to tackle fraud in imported meat, dairy, oils and feed, and gives exporters a common reference that reduces ad hoc requirements.

Risk

The text could be used to justify extra certification, testing or traceability demands that burden small regional producers.

Food safety

Response in the draft

Links to notification and INFOSAN, rapid removal of affected products and information exchange; the authenticity definition helps with labelling and halal claims.

Safety risk

Undeclared additions, substitution and dilution can introduce allergens, unapproved additives or contaminants; concealment can delay recalls.

Net effect: fraud in meat, honey, spices, saffron, olive oil, dairy, dates and halal or origin claims harms consumer trust and export reputation.

2. Analysis: regulatory readiness and cost of implementation

Regulatory readiness

Better placed

Guidelines are voluntary and rely on existing systems, so most countries can start from consumer-protection, food-control and customs frameworks.

Likely gaps

Fragmented mandates; limited authenticity-testing capacity (DNA, isotopic, spectroscopic); no whistle-blower protection; weak food–criminal enforcement links; conflict-affected systems.

Cost of implementation

Low-cost basics

Legal clarity on FBO responsibilities, reporting channels, risk-based surveillance and notification.

Higher costs

Laboratory equipment and proficiency testing, training, vulnerability assessment tools, data systems for intelligence, and compliance by small and medium FBOs.

Net effect: easy to start, but laboratory capacity and enforcement links are the real gaps (to be verified with national data).

3. Recommendations: overall position

ADOPT WITH MODIFICATIONS

Support advancement toward adoption at CAC50, because the text is:

- **Voluntary**
- **Risk-based**
- **In the region's interest as both importer and exporter**

...while seeking positions on the open questions (para 22) and bracketed text (next slide).

Positions in the region's interest: support and keep

- 1 Food fraud definition:** retain it (unanimously supported) as a clear, shared basis.
- 2 Exclusion of IP and GIs:** keep it, to stay within the CCFICS mandate and avoid trade disputes.
- 3 Feed:** include only where it affects food safety or leads to fraud, referring to existing Codex feed guidance.
- 4 Food authenticity definition:** retain it to support action on halal, origin and species claims.
- 5 Sections 6–8:** consolidate into two sections to reduce duplication.

3. Recommendations: points to modify or oppose

1

Para 14: prefer “should” over “have the role and responsibility to”, which could read as a binding obligation on authorities with limited capacity.

2

“Food integrity”: delete it (overlaps safety, quality and authenticity; unused in the operative text) or limit it to explanatory use.

3

Para 16: keep “[at the domestic level]”; cross-border exchange with criminal enforcement bodies is outside the CCFICS mandate.

4

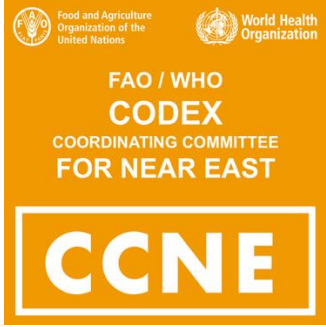
FBO provisions (a.bis, “anti-food fraud culture”): retain only with “as appropriate” and a proportionality statement for SMEs.

5

Trade clause: state that the guidelines create no new trade requirements and do not justify additional certification.

6

Capacity: encourage technical assistance, shared laboratory networks and training for countries with limited capacity.



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(CCFICS28)**

*Presented by Dr. Mohamed Abdelfatah
Egyptian Organization for Standardization and Quality, Egypt*

October 07, 2026



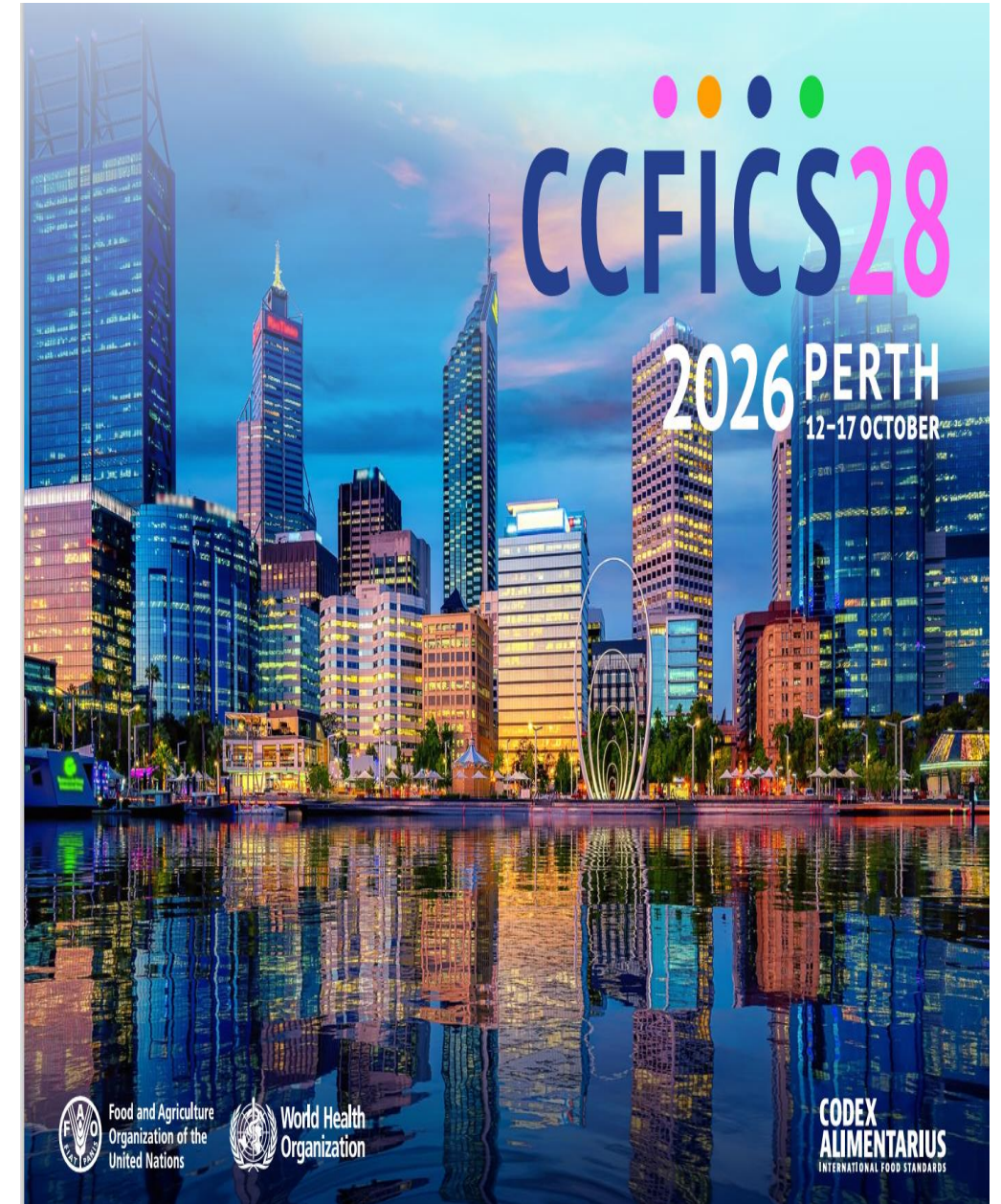
Agenda Item 5

Draft Consolidated Codex guidelines related to equivalence

Status in Codex Process : Step 3/4

Documents Number: CX/FICS 26/28/5; CX/FICS 26/28/5 Add.1

Prepared By: Egypt /Oman



1. Background: consolidating the equivalence guidelines

Agenda item 5

CX/FICS 26/28/5

Status: Step 3/4

CCFICS28 · Perth · 12–17 Oct 2026

What the draft does

- Merges CXG 34-1999, CXG 53-2003 and CXG 101-2023 into one 16-page guideline (31 pages before), giving importers and exporters a single reference whatever the scope of the request.
- Eight principles and a seven-step process: request to documenting the agreement, plus implementation and maintenance.
- Co-chairs followed the majority; “risk analysis” and “risk assessment” both kept (evenly split).

Road to CCFICS28

2018–19

Proposed at CCFICS24; approved by CAC42

2021

CCFICS25 agrees the methodology

2023–24

CCFICS26 holds principles at Step 4; CCFICS27 returns the draft to Step 2

2026

EWG (NZ, Kenya; 31 countries): nine rounds, Oslo meeting in March

Oct 2026

CCFICS28 to consider advancing to Step 5/8

CCFICS28 is invited to: advance the draft to Step 5/8 • recommend CAC revoke the three texts • recommend consequential amendments (Appendix IV) • note the consultation.

2. Analysis: trade barriers and food safety

Trade barriers

Opportunity

Where used, equivalence cuts duplicate controls, speeds approvals and eases audit burdens; a clearer route to recognition helps exporters of dates, produce, dairy and processed foods.

Risk

As an importer, the region must recognise demonstrated equivalence (Principle F) and set no criteria above its own protection level (paras 38, 53). Wider “technical requirements” scope could reach labelling and halal certification.

Food safety

Safeguards

The importing country keeps its level of protection; recognition can be suspended if health risk rises (para 67); urgent action is preserved (para 69).

Risk in practice

An importing authority lacking capacity to assess a foreign system may reach weak conclusions or accept evidence it cannot verify.

Net effect: food safety is largely safeguarded on paper; the risks lie in assessment capacity and the breadth of scope.

2. Analysis: regulatory readiness and cost of implementation

Regulatory readiness

Better placed

Consolidated authorities with documented risk-based programmes and audit capacity (several Gulf states, Egypt, Jordan), though regional practice relies on approved lists, certificates and bilateral deals.

Likely gaps

Fragmented mandates and limited institutions are less ready; conflict-affected systems face the greatest gaps.

Cost of implementation

Softening features

Reliance on existing experience, knowledge and confidence, flexible submission formats, pilot studies and remote assessments.

Costs and weak points

Importing authorities carry the heavier burden (documentation, assessment, visits, records); exporters prepare Step 4 evidence. Technical assistance is weakly worded and no time frames are set.

Net effect: a heavier burden on importers; technical assistance and time frames are the missing safeguards.

3. Recommendations: overall position

ADOPT WITH MODIFICATIONS

Support advancement toward Step 5/8, because the draft:

- **Consolidates three overlapping texts, reducing confusion**
- **Helps the region more as exporter than it constrains it as importer**

...while seeking safeguards on the points on the next slide.

In the region's interest: support and keep

- 1 **Reliance on experience, knowledge and confidence:** cuts evidence burdens.
- 2 **Pilot studies** and flexible submission formats.
- 3 **Exporter's right to comment on draft decisions** and remedy deficiencies (paras 49, 55).
- 4 **Corrective action by the exporting country** rather than new importer requirements (para 69).
- 5 **Technical assistance principle:** benefits exporting developing countries and limited-capacity authorities.
- 6 **Appendix IV consequential amendments:** editorial, can be supported.

3. Recommendations: points to modify

1

Voluntary equivalence: state that it does not affect the importing country's level of protection or its national legal, religious and cultural requirements (incl. halal); "technical requirement" does not extend to them without its agreement.

2

Para 38: add "or the level of protection determined under its national legislation" so national law prevails.

3

Principle F: soften to "should give due consideration to recognizing" where equivalence is objectively demonstrated.

4

Technical assistance (Principle H, para 23): "should, upon request, provide", covering limited-capacity authorities on either side; make Steps 2–3 documentation proportionate.

5

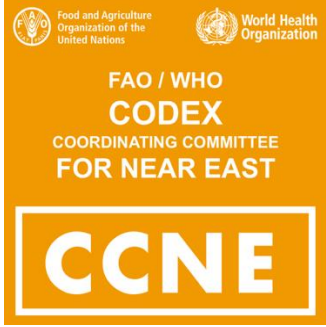
Terminology: keep both "risk analysis" and "risk assessment".

6

Time frames: seek indicative time frames in the agreed plan (para 27); keep the health-risk exception (para 67) and add explicit emergency suspension.

7

Revocation: of CXG 34-1999, 53-2003 and 101-2023 only after final adoption, supported by a crosswalk of source paragraphs.



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**PREPARATION FOR THE 28th SESSION OF THE
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(CCFICS28)**

*Presented by Dr. Marwa Badr – Senior Legal Consultant
National Food Safety Authority, Egypt*

October 07, 2026



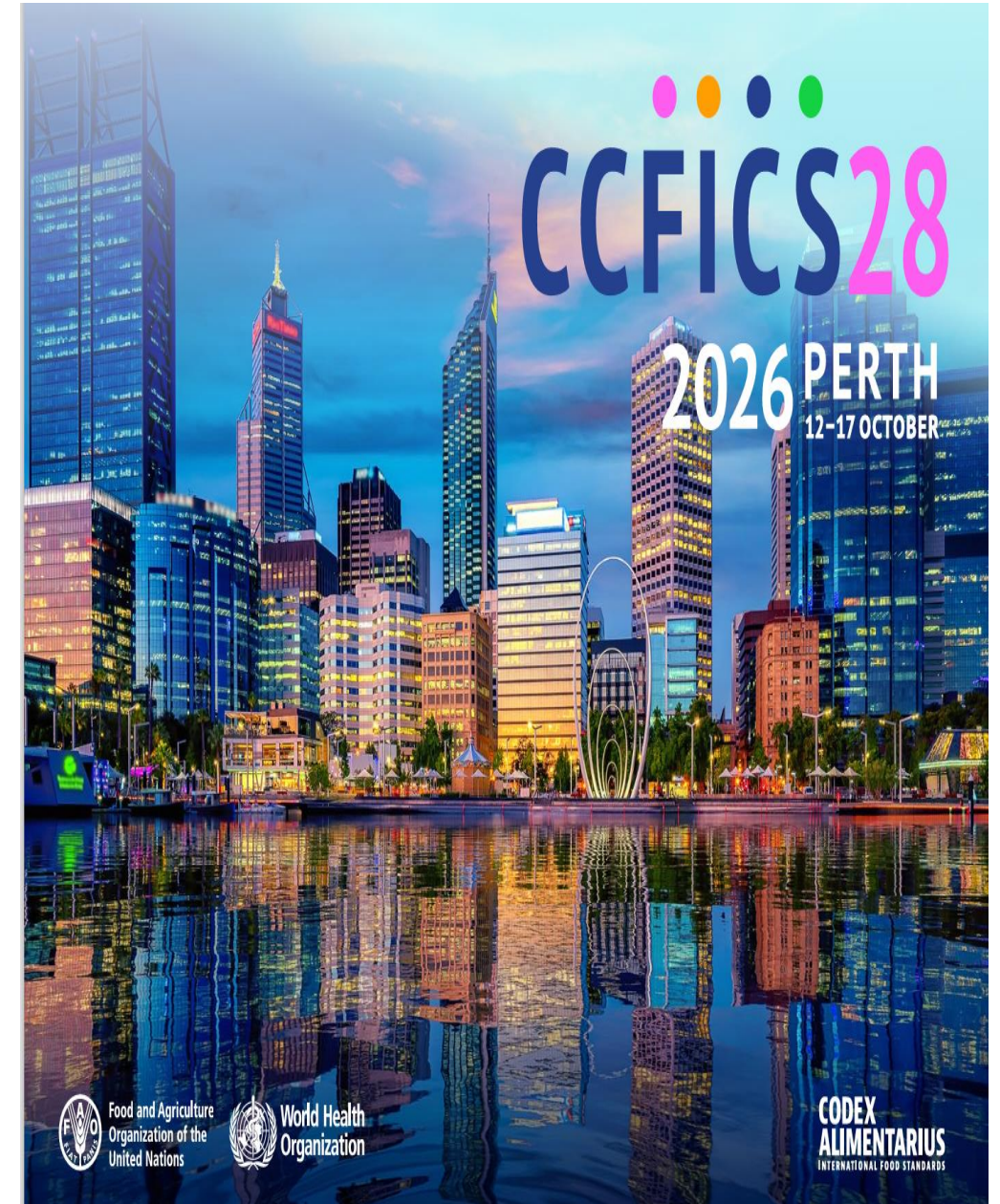
Agenda Item 6

**Draft revised Principles for
Traceability/product tracing as a tool within
a food inspection and certification system
(CXG 60-2006)**

Status in Codex Process : Step 3/4

Documents Number: CX/FICS 26/28/6; CX/FICS 26/28/6 Add.1

Prepared By: Egypt



Background

One step back and one step forward is now widely required. New technology allows faster tracing, less affected product and more proportionate corrective action.



Objective and scope

Objective

Help competent authorities establish and use traceability within their national food control system. Set out principles, responsibilities and considerations.

Scope

Also gives guidance to food business operators on putting traceability into practice across the food supply chain. Prescribes no specific tools or methods.

Paper, digital or both

Read with Codex, IPPC and WOAH texts

Expanded text preferred over the old scope

How the work was done

34

Members registered

12

Observer
organisations

2

written consultation
rounds

1

physical working
group, Vienna, 13
June 2025

Consultations ran in English and Spanish. The second round asked 16 focused questions. Sections on requirements and good practices were merged into one section on considerations.

Summary of the discussions

Agreed

- Title refers to traceability generally
- Introduction kept, with IPPC and WOAHI reference
- Expanded purpose and scope
- New principles on transparency and digitalisation
- "Risk-based" is the preferred term
- No reference to consumer interests or trust

Not yet agreed

- Animal feed in the scope
- Whether to address food business operator responsibilities
- Keeping several definitions
- Bracketed "at a minimum" in the principles

Substantial agreement on purpose, scope and principles. Broad agreement on considerations.

The draft guidance in brief

1 Introduction

Why traceability matters in outbreaks and against fraud

2 Purpose and scope

Authorities first, operators too, no set tools

3 Definitions

Six terms, plus Codex definitions in Annex 1

4 Principles

Nine, including one step back and forward, risk evidence, no extra trade restriction

5 Responsibilities

Competent authorities and operators, per national requirements

6 Considerations

Risk, tools, interoperability, data protection, cooperation

Key issues and views of Members

Issue	Views expressed	Status
Animal feed	Include "and feed" in the introduction and scope, or keep to food	No consensus
Operator responsibilities	Address food business operators in the text, or leave them out	Divergent views
Definitions	Keep, add or remove terms, e.g. "food supply chain"	No consensus on several
"At a minimum"	Keep or drop in the one step back, one step forward principle	Bracketed

Views are summarised in aggregate. The paper does not name Members.

Proposals to advance the text

Issue	Proposed approach (for discussion)
Animal feed	Delete "[and feed]"; keep the Codex, IPPC and WOAHA cross-reference
Operator responsibilities	Keep the list, qualified by "in accordance with national requirements"
Definitions	Keep all six, including "food supply chain"; settle open points in plenary
"At a minimum"	Keep the words and remove the brackets, consistent with 10c
Drafting clean-up	Fix para 2 typo, number 4bis, change "must" to "should" in para 27
Next step	Advance to Step 5 for CAC50; if brackets remain, use a small drafting group

These proposals are the presenter's suggestions, not positions taken in the paper.

Recommendation

CCFICS28 is invited to:

1

Note the extensive work undertaken and the continued support for revising and updating CXG 60-2006.

2

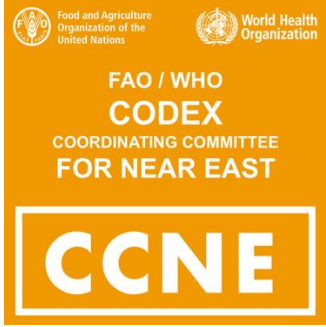
Consider advancing the draft in Appendix I to CAC50 for adoption at Step 5.

Remaining points are narrow: animal feed, operator responsibilities and definitions.



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*Presented by Dr. Marwa Badr – Senior Legal Consultant
National Food Safety Authority, Egypt*

October 07, 2026



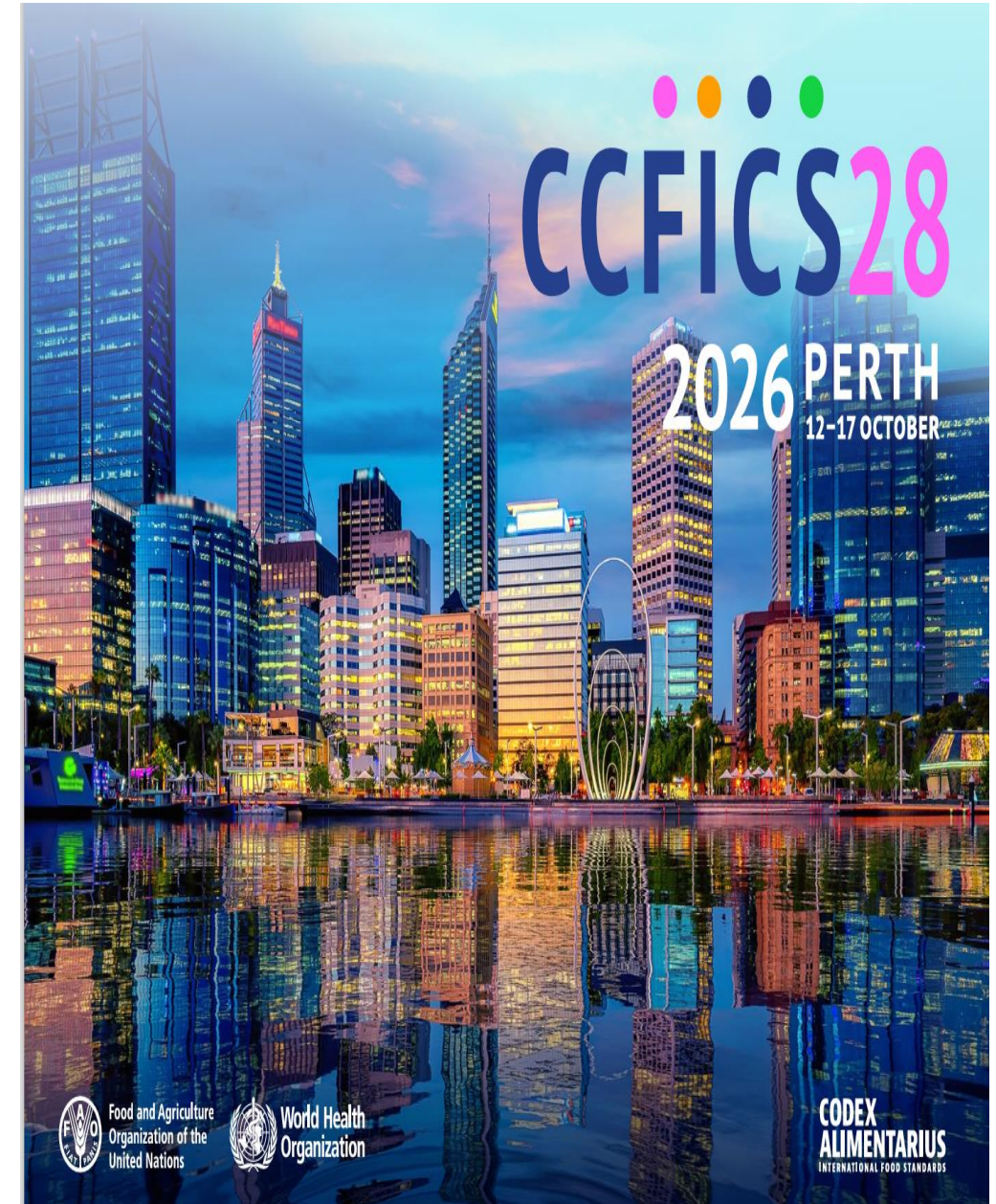
Agenda Item 7

Draft guidance on appeals mechanism in the context of rejection of imported food

Status in Codex Process : Step $\frac{3}{4}$

Documents Number: CX/FICS 26/28/7; CX/FICS 26/28/7 Add.1

Prepared By: Egypt / Bahrain



Background

Border rejections protect health but can cause economic loss, trade disruption and food loss. An appeal route adds transparency and lets authorities correct decisions.



Objective and scope

Objective

Principles and guidance for importing countries' competent authorities on a mechanism, within the national food control system, to review a decision to reject an imported food consignment.

Scope

A reference for competent authorities that want to set up an appeal or review mechanism when there is disagreement with a rejection decision. Coverage of exporting countries' authorities is still bracketed.

**Annex to CXG 47-2003 or
CXG 25-1997**

**Alternative wording kept for
objective and scope**

**Food safety stays the primary
objective**

How the work was done

23

Members registered

3

Observers registered

2

consultation rounds

13

Members sent final
comments

EWG chaired by India, co-chaired by Australia, Chile, Kenya and Nigeria, working in English. Most comments were editorial; where comments conflicted, the chair and co-chairs sought consensus.

Summary of the discussions

Round 1 (September 2025)

- Clarify scope, terms and roles of importers, exporters and authorities
- Strengthen principles: evidence, proportionality, non-discrimination, confidentiality, cooperation
- Reasonable timelines reflecting shelf life and health risk
- Whether to include the process flow chart

Round 2 (May to June 2026)

- Clarify objective, scope and intended users
- Appeal must not delay urgent health measures
- Avoid duplicating CXG 47-2003 and CXG 25-1997
- Flexibility under national legislation
- Divergent views on the exporting authority's right to appeal

Most comments were editorial. Views remain divided on who may appeal.

The draft guidance in brief

1 Definitions

Appeal, rejection, competent authority, importer

2 Principles

Transparency, fairness, timeliness, consistency, independence

3 Considerations

Food safety first; importers show evidence of compliance

4 Process steps

Notify, submit, review, decide

5 Outcomes

Rejection modified or withdrawn, or reasons for denial given

6 Transparency

Public awareness, records, separate technical consultations

Key issues and views of Members

Issue	Views expressed	Status
Standing to appeal	Importer only, or also exporter or exporting country's authority	Divergent views
Scope and users	Roles and eligibility of importers, exporters and authorities	To be clarified
Placement	Annex to CXG 47-2003 or CXG 25-1997, avoiding duplication	Open
Principles and steps	Notification, review, decision and outcomes; no delay to urgent measures	For the committee
Process flow	Keep the flow chart? Reflect national arrangements	For the committee

Views are summarised in aggregate. The paper does not name Members.

Proposals to advance the text

Issue	Proposed approach (for discussion)
Standing to appeal	Importer is the main appellant; exporting authority only where it supervised production (para 15); other cases via para 25
Placement	Annex to CXG 25-1997 (closest fit); committee to choose one text
Drafting clean-up	Keep paras 4bis and 5ter; adopt the CXG 25-1997 definition of rejection; use "competent authority" throughout
Timelines and safeguard	List factors (product, shelf life, health risk); control measures can stay while an appeal is reviewed
Next step	Advance if standing and placement are agreed; otherwise continue work on the remaining brackets

These proposals are the presenter's suggestions, not positions taken in the paper.

Recommendation

CCFICS28 is invited to:

1

Consider the draft guidance in Appendix I, taking into account the issues identified in paragraph 15 of the paper.

2

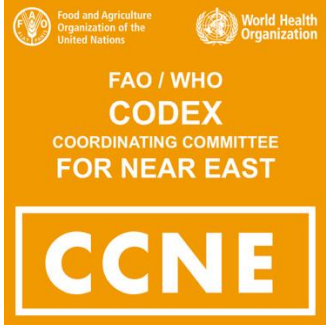
Consider advancing the draft in the Codex step procedure for inclusion as an annex to either CXG 47-2003 or CXG 25-1997.

Open points: standing to appeal, scope, placement, principles and steps, process flow.



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(CCFICS28)**

Presented by Dr. Samar Salloum, Lebanon

October 07, 2026



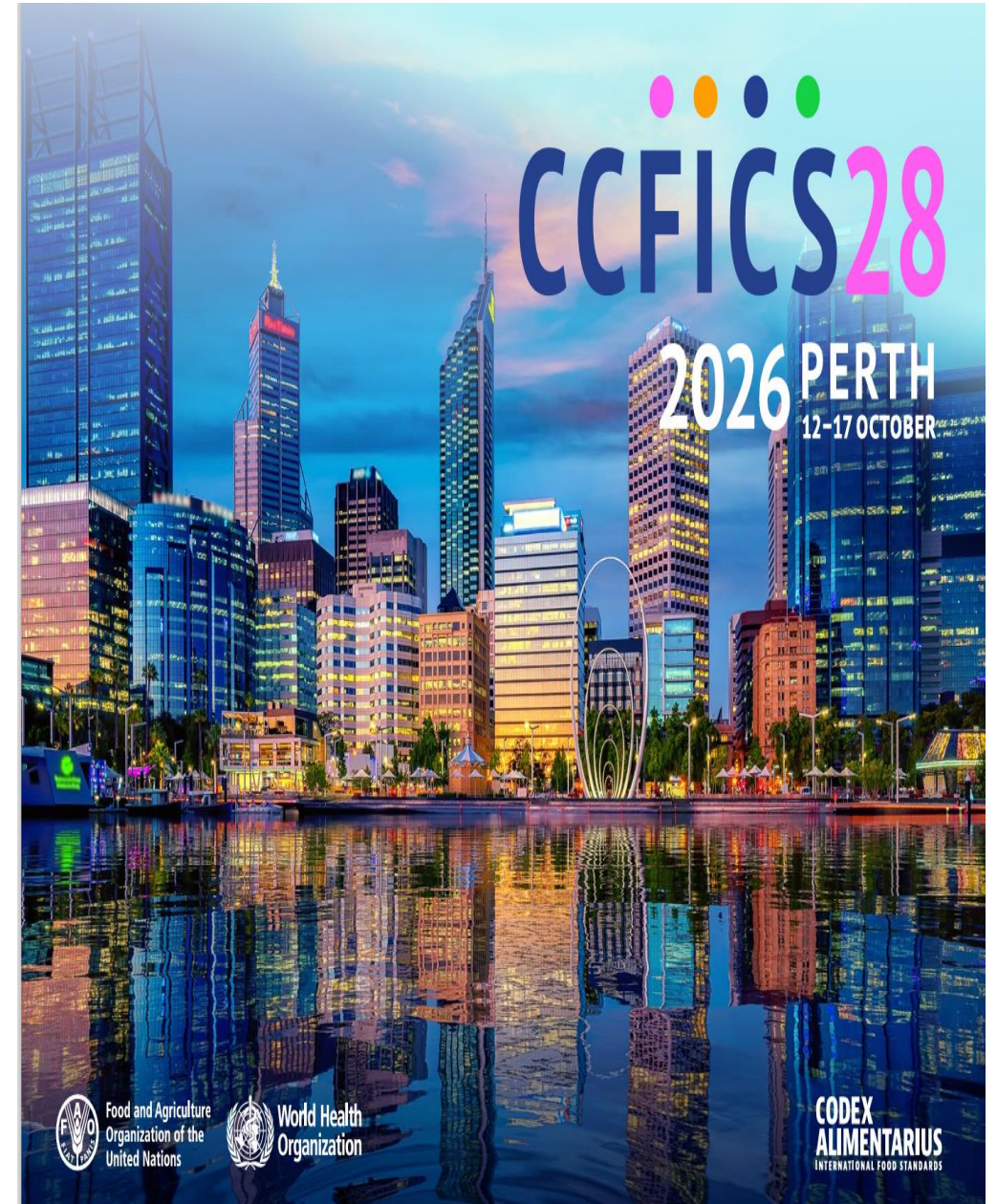
Agenda Item 8

Draft guidance on the standardization of sanitary requirements

Status in Codex Process : Step $\frac{3}{4}$

Documents Number: CX/FICS 26/28/8; CX/FICS 26/28/8 Add.1

Prepared By: Lebanon



Background



1

CCFICS27

Brazil presented a discussion paper on simplifying and standardizing attestations in official certificates.

2

CAC47

New work was approved; an EWG was established.

3

EWG focus

Work shifted from “sanitary requirements” to “sanitary attestations”.

4

CCFICS28

Draft Guidelines presented at Step 3/4



The work responds to practical difficulties caused by inconsistent wording of sanitary attestations.



This work aims to make sanitary attestations easier to draft, negotiate, understand, verify and reuse, while preserving the agreed regulatory intent and legal meaning.



Analysis : Participation and methodology



The EWG worked through the Codex Online Forum and virtual meetings over approximately 15 months.



The draft was developed through three formal rounds of written comments and iterative revisions.



The work progressively shifted from standardizing “sanitary requirements” to standardizing “sanitary attestations”.



The draft reflects an iterative process based on Member comments and practical testing.

Analysis : Main Elements of the Draft

Main body Sections 1–6

- Conceptual framework
- Principles
- Human-readable drafting
- Core method



Annex 1 Machine-readable attestations



Annex 2 Communicative function tables



Annex 3 Controlled vocabularies

Key comments and discussions

Comments submitted in response to CL 2026/75-FICS showed **general support for the objective of the work**, but several issues require further consideration.



Members supported improving **clarity, consistency, verifiability and interoperability**.

Several Members considered that the document should be **simplified and shortened**.

The technical annexes should remain **supporting, voluntary and non-normative**.

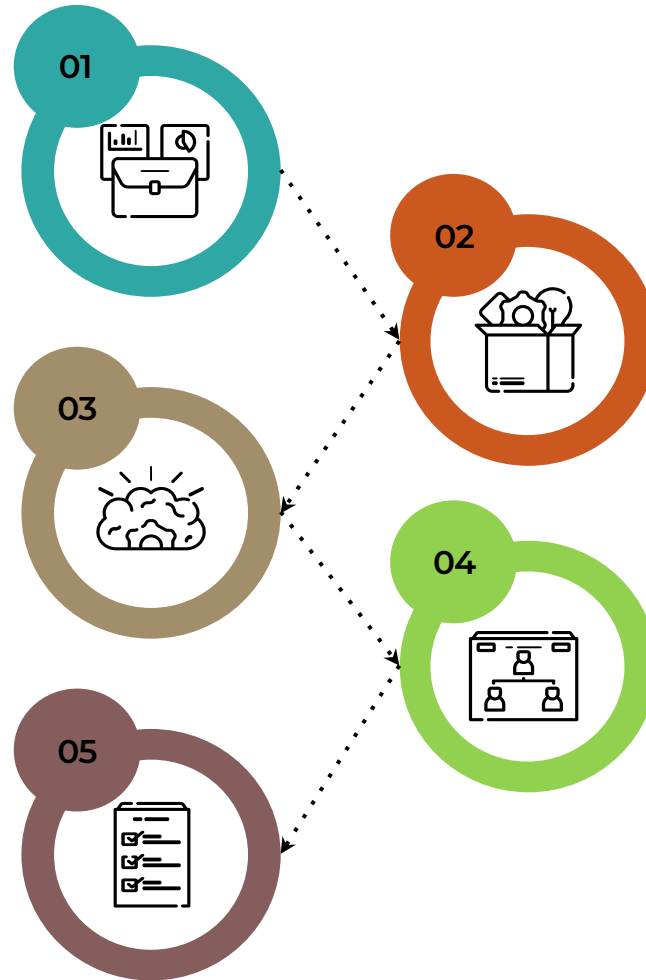
The Guidelines should remain **flexible and technology-neutral**.

Any structured or machine-readable representation should **preserve the meaning and regulatory intent** of the original attestation.

Implementation should take account of **different national capacities and levels of digitalisation**.

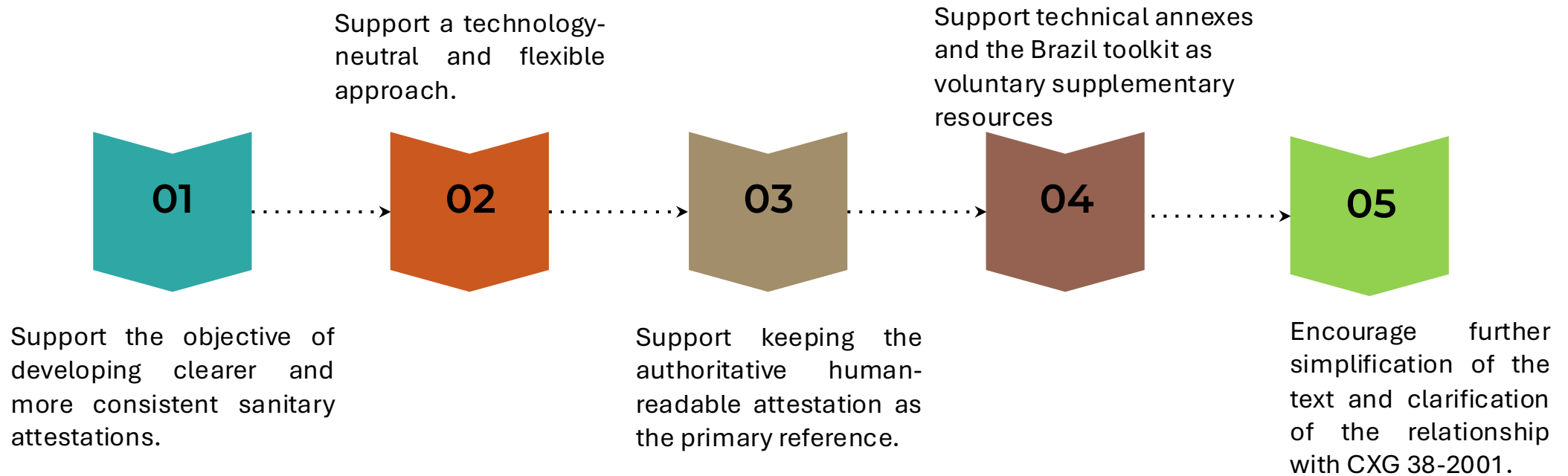
Main Member Positions

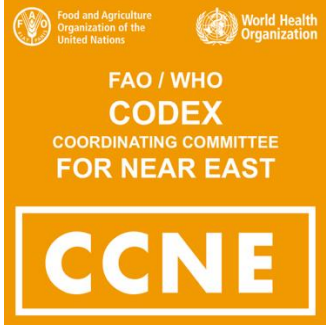
- **Argentina, Egypt, Panama, Peru and Uganda** generally supported advancement of the work.
- **Australia, Canada, EU, Morocco, New Zealand and Norway** called for further simplification or clarification of the draft.
- **Chile, Morocco and Panama** emphasized that digital or structured representations must not alter the original legal or regulatory meaning.



- **Chile, Argentina, Egypt, Indonesia and Panama** supported the Brazil toolkit as a voluntary supplementary resource.
- **New Zealand and Norway** raised questions regarding scope and the relationship with CXG 38-2001 and related international work

Recommendations for CCFICS28





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*Presented by Dr. Rawya Mahmoud, General Company for Foodstuff Trading
Ministry of Trade, Iraq*

October 07, 2026



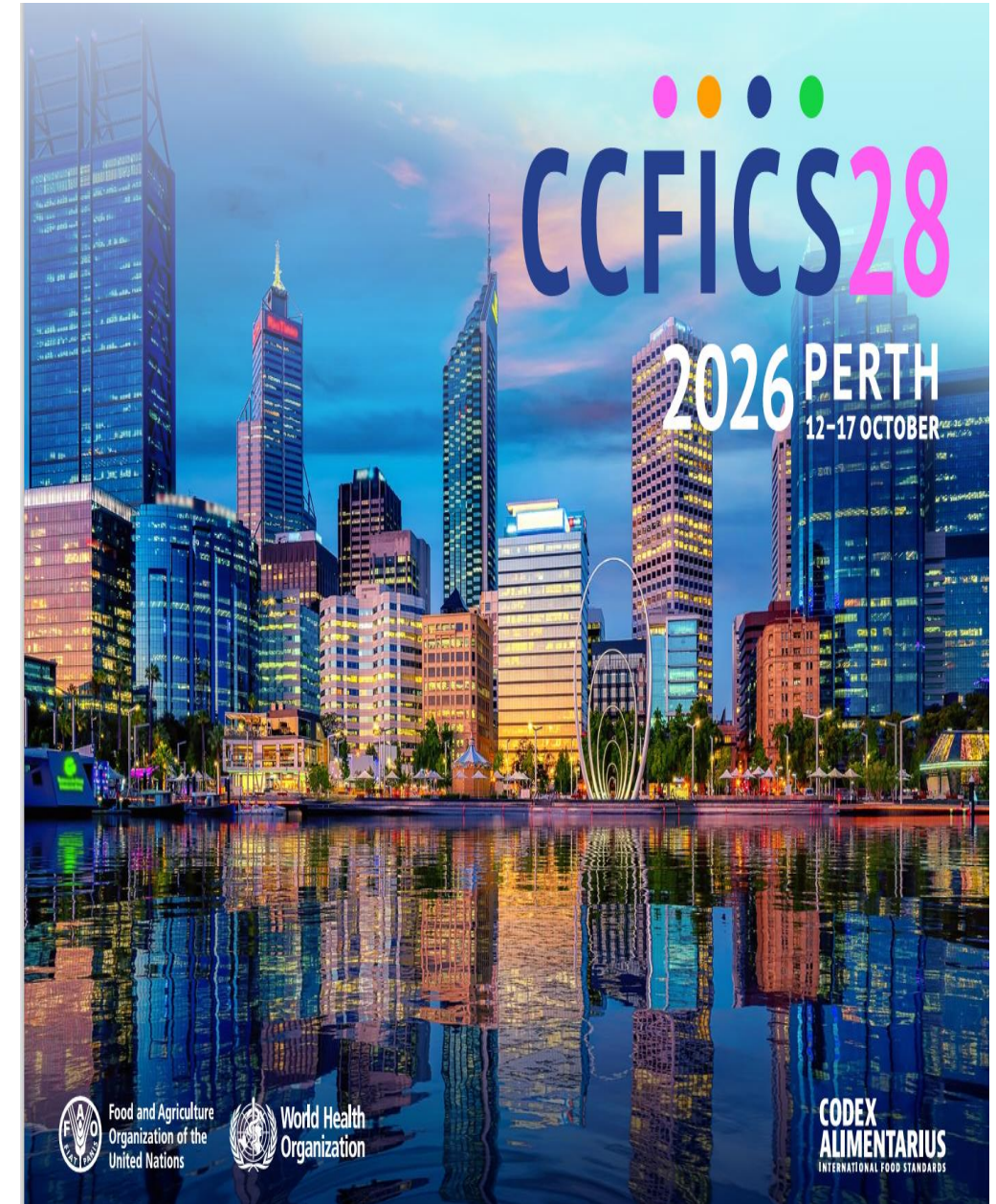
Agenda Item 10

Draft principles on digitalisation of national food control systems

Status in Codex Process : Step $\frac{3}{4}$

Documents Number: CX/FICS 26/28/10; CX/FICS 26/28/10A dd.1

Prepared By: IRAQ /SYRIA



Background



1

CCFICS27

Australia, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom presented a discussion paper on the digitalisation of national food control systems (NFCS).

2

CAC47

New work was approved; an EWG was established.

3

EWG focus

Work focused on developing high-level principles for the digitalisation of national food control systems (NFCS).

4

CCFICS28

Draft Principles presented at Step 3/4 for consideration



The work responds to practical challenges arising from differences among countries in digital maturity, infrastructure, legal frameworks and technical capacities.



The proposed principles aim to provide a common and flexible framework to guide NFCS digitalisation across different national contexts and levels of digital maturity.

Analysis : Participation and methodology



EWG chaired by Australia and co-chaired by Canada, Jamaica, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom. 29 Members and one Member Organisation registered..



1st Consultation
A questionnaire gathered Members' experiences, priorities, challenges and future needs. Responses were received from 13 Members and one Member Organisation.



2nd Consultation
Members reviewed and validated the thematic analysis, key concepts and cross-cutting considerations identified from the questionnaire.



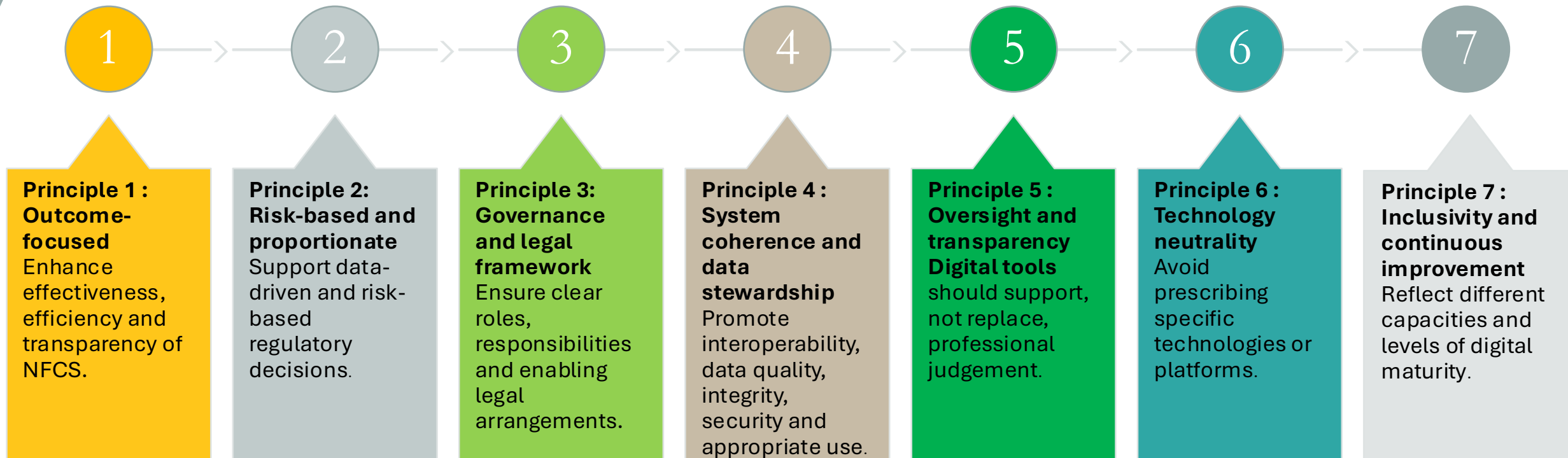
3rd Consultation
The first draft Principles were circulated on 24 June 2026. Nine Members provided written comments, which were used to refine the draft..

Analysis : Main Elements of the Draft

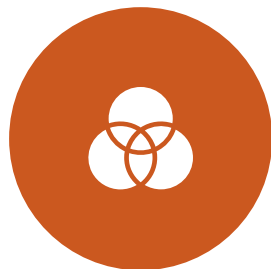


Main body

- Preamble
- Scope
- Seven high-level Principles



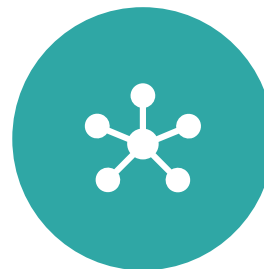
Key Issues for CCFICS28



Whether the principles remain high-level and non-prescriptive;



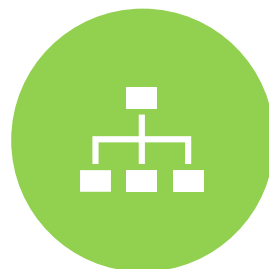
How to ensure progressive implementation according to national capacities;



How to strengthen interoperability and data governance;



How to address cybersecurity and resilience;



How to maintain human oversight and accountability;



How to ensure consistency with existing Codex texts, particularly CXG 38-2001

Key Comments and Discussions



Members broadly supported developing high-level principles for NFCS digitalisation.

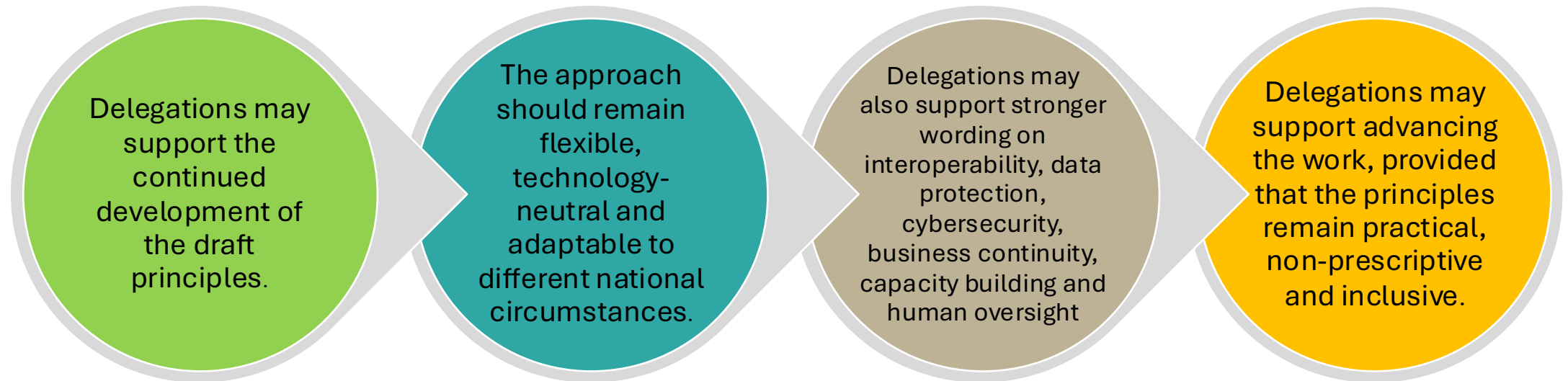


The main comments focused on flexibility, progressive implementation, interoperability, data governance, cybersecurity, business continuity, and human oversight.



Several Members also stressed that digital tools, including automated or AI-enabled systems, should support but not replace professional judgement.

Recommendations for CCFICS28





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