

CCGP32 Side Event

on Food Safety and SPS Measures in Africa

Draft Guidelines to support Development of Harmonised Food Laws

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Codex and the WTO

- The WTO Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS Agreement) explicitly recognises the competence of the CAC in setting international food safety standards whilst the food quality, nutrition and labelling aspects of Codex standards are covered by the Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT Agreement)

WTO/SPS Agreement

Article 2

Basic Rights and Obligations

1. Members have the right to take sanitary and phytosanitary measures necessary for the protection of human, animal or plant life or health, provided that such measures are not inconsistent with the provisions of this Agreement.
2. Members shall ensure that any sanitary or phytosanitary measure is applied only to the extent necessary to protect human, animal or plant life or health, is based on scientific principles and is not maintained without sufficient scientific evidence, except as provided for in paragraph 7 of Article 5.

WTO/SPS Agreement

Article 3

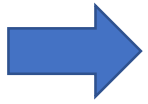
Harmonization

1. To harmonize sanitary and phytosanitary measures on as wide a basis as possible, Members shall base their sanitary or phytosanitary measures on international standards, guidelines or recommendations, where they exist, except as otherwise provided for in this Agreement, and in particular in paragraph 3.
2. Sanitary or phytosanitary measures which conform to international standards, guidelines or recommendations shall be deemed to be necessary to protect human, animal or plant life or health, and presumed to be consistent with the relevant provisions of this Agreement and of GATT 1994.

The 3 Sisters

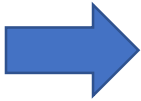
Referenced international standards Art. 3.1 –Annex A-Definitions, 3

FOOD SAFETY -



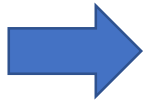
CODEX ALIMENTARIUS
INTERNATIONAL FOOD STANDARDS

ANIMAL HEALTH



Oie WORLD ORGANISATION FOR ANIMAL HEALTH
Protecting animals, preserving our future

PLANT HEALTH

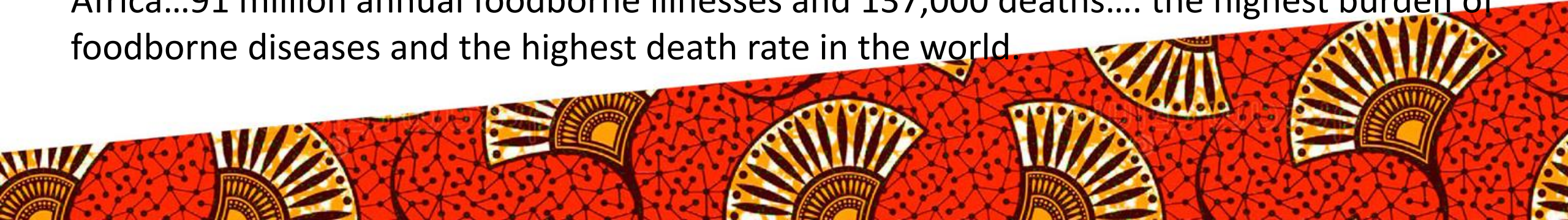


International Plant
Protection Convention

According to Codex



Food Safety is a Right!

- ✓ “People have the right to expect the food they eat to be safe and suitable for consumption.”
 - ✓ WHO report published in 2015 gave us a good indication on the situation of food safety in Africa...91 million annual foodborne illnesses and 137,000 deaths.... the highest burden of foodborne diseases and the highest death rate in the world.
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WHY?



- ✓ This is as a result of the consumption of unsafe food produced and marketed by producers and traders often unfamiliar with basic food safety concepts.
- ✓ Acerbated by the existence of incapacitated and fragmented national food safety control systems, predominance of a huge and unregulated informal food sector.

CCAFRICA

- ✓ Founded in 1974, now has 49 Members
- ✓ more than 1.2 billion people – demanding for safe food



MANDATE

to develop harmonised (*regional*) food standards, guidelines and codes of practice to **protect the health of consumers** and to **ensure fair practices in the food trade**.... for food products moving exclusively or almost exclusively within the region.

- A number of regional standards already in use – **Shea butter, fermented cooked cassava products and *Gnetum* leaves standards**

MANDATE

In keeping with its mandate, the committee is undertaking a **New Work**....developing “Guidelines for supporting development of harmonised food laws” in the region.

- ✓ The New Work was approved by CAC43 (REP 20/CAC) and Kenya is chairing the eWG

OPPORTUNITIES FOR A SRTONG FOOD SAFETY IN AFRICA

- ✓ Maputo and Malabo Declarations - “commitment to the allocation of at least 10 % of national budgetary resources to agriculture and rural development policy implementation”
 - **African Food Safety Index tool** – require countries to report on a biennial basis progress made on the road to achieving the targets set in the Malabo Declaration
- ✓ The new tools which have been developed and are now available to guide countries on the use of available resources in food safety - [FAO/WHO Assessment tool of national food control systems.](#)

OPPORTUNITIES FOR A STRONG FOOD SAFETY IN AFRICA

- ✓ The first international food safety conference jointly organized by FAO/WHO/AU in Addis Ababa- 2019... have contributed to raising the profile of food safety at the highest level and Africa food safety authorities can use the momentum created to secure the resources needed to build strong national food control systems and build capacity for the private sector.
- ✓ The adoption by the UN General Assembly of June 7
- ✓ New work – development of “Guidelines to support Development of Harmonised Food Laws”

GUIDELINES FOR SUPPORTING THE DEVELOPMENT OF HARMONISED FOOD LAWS IN AFRICA

RATIONALE

- ✓ One of the key challenges in the continent is the need to establish an efficient and effective system for managing Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) Measures, in particular Food safety across its borders to open for trade.
- ✓ The Several RECs and Partner states to the AfCFTA are at different levels in terms of their regional and economic integration, regulatory frameworks for managing SPS, transport and communication infrastructure as well as quality infrastructure and technical capacities for food safety enforcement

PURPOSE OF THE PROPOSED GUIDELINES



- The proposed guidelines will assist member countries to develop harmonized food laws which will cover all food and feed produced and marketed within the region.
- The import and export procedures will be guided by the principles as set out in the various texts elaborated by the Codex Committee on Food Import and Export Certification Systems (CCFICS).

MAIN ASPECTS TO BE COVERED

- ✓ General principles of food and feed law
- ✓ Risk analysis
- ✓ Farm to fork food safety management
- ✓ Public consultation and information
- ✓ Obligations of food trade
- ✓ Imports and exports guidelines and principles
- ✓ Responsibilities of food and feed business operators and competent authorities
- ✓ Traceability, recall, packaging, labelling
- ✓ Mutual recognition and equivalence

GUIDELINES FOR SUPPORTING THE DEVELOPMENT OF HARMONISED FOOD LAWS IN AFRICA

WHERE ARE WE?

- ✓ The proposed Guidelines were approved at CAC 43 at Step 3 as New Work
- ✓ The Chair (**Kenya**) and Co- Chairs (**Senegal and Morocco**) of the eWG are incorporating comments from CAC and FAO/WHO Legal Advisors before sending it back to Codex Secretariat for wider circulation for more comments
- ✓ This discussion is timely for we shall also take your comments

IN CONCLUSION

- ✓ All these initiatives to improve food safety will not be sufficient if they are not coupled at a continental level with strong SPS and custom related initiatives to allow a seamless and free movement of food products between countries.
- ✓ CCAFRICA will have a critical role to play in easing border controls by;
 - **Focusing on awareness creation on Codex Standards, trainings and other capacity building initiatives for all stakeholders along the food chain**

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

I wish to thank the following;

- CCGP Secretariat and the Chair for prioritising AfCFTA and CCAFRICA New Work in this side event
- Codex Secretariat, EU and AU for their support
- The distinguished delegates attending the side event
- CCFARICA Coordinator for his support

Thank you for your attention.

