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**COMMENTS FROM MALAYSIA:
E-FORUM ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE WHO/FAO'S GLOBAL
STRATEGY ON DIET, PHYSICAL ACTIVITY AND HEALTH (DPAH):
ROLE OF CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION**

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Answers for the e-Forum:

Question 1: Does the Codex Alimentarius Commission have a role in the implementation of the Global Strategy/DPAH?

- a. **If yes, please describe would that role should be? Please include in your consideration the topic areas that are relevant. Are the following areas pertinent: (i) food composition standards, and (ii) provision of nutrition and health information about foods to facilitate informed choice by consumers?**

Yes. Promoting good dietary practices is in line with CAC's role of protecting the health of the consumers and ensuring fair practices in food trade. Hence, CAC has a role in the implementation of the Global Strategy/DPAH. Relevant topic areas include nutrition policies, principles and guidelines; food and nutrition labelling; nutrition and health claims; advertisement; appropriate nutrient composition of foods; other healthful components in foods; safe use of other components/substances in foods; risk assessments for nutrients and related substances; and nutrition communication to consumers (brochures, leaflets etc.).

Question 2: Are the following issues pertinent to Codex Committees' activities related to the implementation of the Global Strategy/DPAH?

- a. scientific advice about the nature of the evidence needed to support the use of health claims.**

Yes. CCNFSDU should continue to provide advice on scientific basis for the substantiation of health / nutrition claims.

- b. scientific advice concerning consumer use and understanding of labelling and/or labelling approaches and formats.**

Yes, advice to be given by both CCFL and CCNFSDU.

- c. Are there other areas where scientific advice would be pertinent?**

- i. authoritative statements about the attributes of a diet in reducing risk of a diet-related disease, especially what impacts there would be on the health of consumers if the amount of energy/nutrients is increased or decreased.**
- ii. risk assessments for nutrients and related substances in relation to the Global Strategy/DPAH.**

Yes, other pertinent scientific areas include the two identified above.

In addition, there is a need for CCNFSDU to continue its work on nutritional needs of specific population groups for example infants and children, women, the elderly, persons intolerant to gluten and athletes. These include completing the current draft standards and recommendations for Infant Formulas and Formulas for Special Medical Purposes, Processed Cereal-Based Foods, Gluten-Free Foods, Scientific Basis of Health Claims, Nutrient Reference Values (NRVs) and Advisory List of Nutrient Compounds. CCNFSDU should be the single reference committee for nutrition-related areas instead of relying on numerous task forces.

Question 3: Given the importance of nutrition issues in general to the Global Strategy/DPAH and the cross-cutting nature of nutrition as a topic that cuts across the Codex system, what process could be used to manage and coordinate nutrition issues throughout the Codex system?

- a. Please respond within the context of the Terms of Reference of the Codex Committee on Nutrition and Foods for Special Dietary Uses and the Codex Committee on Food Labelling.**
- b. What role can Codex Committees play in the overall management of nutrition issues within the Codex Alimentarius Commission?**

CCNFSDU can continue to coordinate nutrition issues throughout the Codex system. However, various areas of improvement can be made including:

- a) Ensuring that all agenda items are adequately discussed in Committee meetings.
- b) Improved communications between Codex Committees, the CAC and other international organizations such as FAO and WHO.
- c) Increased synergy between the Commission and its strategic partners.
- d) Greater transparency in the selection of experts including those from developing countries in the Joint FAO/WHO expert consultations.
- e) Criteria for prioritisation of new work to be established and made known.