AGENDA ITEM 2

I. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION (34th AND 35th SESSION)

B. Item for Action

I) Proposal for Establishment of a Subsidiary Body of the Codex Alimentarius Commission – Codex Committee on Spices, Aromatic Herbs and Their Formulations

Malaysia has no objection to the establishment of a Codex Committee on Spices, Aromatic Herbs and Their Formulations

II. MATTERS ARISING FROM OTHER COMMITTEES AND TASK FORCES

C. Item for Action

43rd Session of the Committee on Food Additives

1. Regional Standard for Chilli Sauce

   Malaysia has no objection to the proposal from the 43rd CCFA regarding the inclusion of other tartrates, other phosphates, para-hydroxybenzoats (INS 214, 218) and saccharins (INS954(i), 954(ii), 954(iii), 954(iv). Malaysia also agrees that the reporting basis for tartrates and phosphates under the GSFA be adopted for this regional standard for consistency.

2. Standard for Fermented Soybean Paste

   Malaysia has no objection to the proposal from the 43rd CCFA to include other tartrates and the reporting basis to be “as tartaric acid” for consistency with JECFA.

Comments of Malaysia
AGENDA ITEM 3

DRAFT CODEX STRATEGIC PLAN: 2014-2019

Malaysia would like to offer comments on the Draft Strategic Plan 2014-2019 as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Draft Codex Strategic Plan 2014 – 2019 (CX/ASIA 12/18/3)</th>
<th>Malaysia Comments</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Introduction</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>The Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC) was established by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the World Health Organization (WHO) in 1963. Today, it has more than 180 Members, and more than 200 inter-governmental and international non-governmental organizations are accredited as observers. The Commission’s main work is the development of international food standards, guidelines, and codes of practice to protect the health of consumers and ensure fair practices in the food trade. The Commission also promotes the coordination of all food standards work undertaken by international governmental and non-governmental organizations. For food safety, quality and nutrition matters, the Commission establishes its standards using the principles of risk analysis and bases its work on the scientific advice provided by the FAO and WHO expert bodies and consultations. With increased globalization, the Commission must also be capable of responding in a timely manner to emerging food safety issues and factors that may impact on food safety and fair practices in the food trade such as the effects of shifting populations, climate change and diverse consumer concerns. Food standards, guidelines and recommendations established by the Commission are recognized as reference points for food under the relevant WTO agreements. The 2014-2019 Strategic Plan:</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Presents the vision, goals, and objectives for the Commission and is</td>
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1 The term “standards” is used to cover standards and all related texts.
2 The consideration of other factors in the Codex standard-setting process is governed by the Statements of Principle Concerning the Role of Science in the Codex Decision-Making Process and the Extent to Which Other Factors are Taken into Account.
supported by a more detailed work plan that includes activities, milestones, and measurable indicators to track progress toward accomplishment of the goals.

- Underpins the high priority placed on food safety and quality by FAO and WHO and ensures that the Commission will carry out the responsibilities given to it by FAO and WHO.

Informs Members, inter-governmental and international non-governmental organizations, and other stakeholders of how the Commission intends to fulfill its mandate and to meet the needs and expectations of its Members during the period 2014-2019

**Drivers for Change**
The dynamics of the standard-setting activities undertaken by the Commission have changed dramatically since it was established. Since its establishment, not only has the Codex membership increased significantly but Codex has also seen a more active contribution from all members, more specifically the developing countries which are more actively contributing in the international food standard-setting process. Additionally, the environment in which Codex operates has also evolved. Food and food ingredients continue to be increasingly amongst the most traded commodities internationally. Changes in the global feed and food supply chain system, resource optimization efforts, innovation in food science and technology, climate change and consumer concerns represent some of the drivers of change that introduces new food safety and nutrition related challenges. The Commission must adapt to this evolving environment and be capable of proactively responding in a timely manner to emerging food safety and nutrition issues with the aim to protect consumer’s health and ensure fair practices in food trade.

Malaysia does not support the inclusion of a new section on Drivers for Change. We are of the view that the introduction is sufficient to highlight the drivers for change in Codex.

**Strategic Vision Statement**
To be the preeminent international food standards-setting body to protect the health of consumers and ensure fair practices in the food trade.

Malaysia has no objection to this Section

**Codex Core Values**
In fulfilling its strategic vision, Codex adheres to core values that include,

- collaboration
- inclusiveness

Malaysia has no objection to this Section
In conducting its work, the Commission strives at ensuring that the concepts of protecting the health of consumers and fair practice in the food trade are consistently followed in the Codex standard-setting process.

**STRATEGIC GOALS**

**Strategic Goal 1: Establish international food standards that address current and emerging food issues**

**Objective 1.1: Establish new and review existing Codex standards, based on priorities of the CAC.**

- **Activities:**
  1.1.1. **Consistently apply** decision-making and priority-setting criteria across Committees to ensure that the standards and work areas of highest priority are progressed in a timely manner.
  1.1.2. Strengthen the critical review process to improve standards monitoring

**Objective 1.2: Proactively identify emerging issues and member country needs and, where appropriate, develop relevant food standards.**

- **Activities:**
  1.2.1 Develop a process for **proactively identifying** emerging issues related to food safety, nutrition and fair practices in the food trade.
  1.2.2 Develop and revise international and regional standards as needed, in response to needs identified by Members and in response to factors

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<sup>1</sup> For the purposes of this Strategic Plan, emerging food safety and nutrition issues are interpreted to include scientific and technological innovations, emerging hazards resulting from ongoing investigations or related to extra-ordinary events (e.g. natural disasters, external threats, etc.)
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<td>that affect food safety and fair practices in the foods trade.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1.2.3 Develop a mechanism measuring the implementation of Codex standards by member governments.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Objective 1.3: Strengthen coordination and cooperation with other international standards-setting organizations seeking to avoid duplication of efforts and optimize opportunities.</td>
<td>1.3.2 Promote cooperative programs with other international intergovernmental and non-governmental standards-setting organizations to identify needs for new Codex standards and to promote the use of existing Codex standards. Malaysia maintains our view that coordination and cooperation should only be with international intergovernmental standards-setting organizations so as to ensure impartiality. The mission, priorities and procedures with regard to inclusiveness and transparency of non-governmental standard-setting organizations are different from Codex.</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Activities:</td>
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<tr>
<td>1.3.1 Promote collaboration in standards development in Codex with the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) and the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) on standards that cover the farm to fork continuum and affect Codex and those organizations, through utilization of consistent methodologies and approaches in their development.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1.3.2 Promote cooperative programs with other international governmental and non-governmental standards-setting organizations to identify needs for new Codex standards and to promote the use of existing Codex standards.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Strategic Goal 2: Ensure the application of risk analysis principles in the development of Codex standards.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Objective 2.1: Ensure consistent use of scientific advice and risk analysis principles.</td>
<td>Malaysia has no objection to the amendments made in Section 2.1.1 and 2.1.2 as well as the new Section 2.1.3 and 2.1.4</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Activities:</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>2.1.1 Use the scientific advice of the joint FAO/WHO expert bodies to the</td>
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| **Draft Codex Strategic Plan 2014 – 2019**  
| *(CX/ASIA 12/18/3)* |
| **Malaysia Comments** |
| fullest extent possible in food safety and nutrition standards development based on the *“Working Principles of Risk Analysis for Application in the Framework of the Codex Alimentarius”*. |
| 2.1.2 Encourage engagement of scientific and technical expertise of member countries and their representatives in the development of Codex standards. |
| 2.1.3 Ensure that all relevant factors are fully considered in exploring risk management measures in the context of Codex standard development. |
| 2.1.4 Communicate the risk management decisions to all interested parties. |

Objective 2.2: Achieve sustainable access to scientific advice.  
- **Activities:**
  - 2.2.1 Encourage FAO and WHO governing bodies to identify the provision of scientific advice as a high priority and allocate sufficient resources for the FAO/WHO expert bodies, in particular JECFA, JEMRA, JMPR and JEMNU.  
  - 2.2.2 Encourage continued financial support from Members for the FAO/WHO expert bodies, in particular JECFA, JEMRA, JMPR and JEMNU.  
  - 2.2.3 Explore other appropriate funding sources for FAO/WHO scientific advice.  

Objective 2.3: Increase scientific input from developing countries.  
- **Activities:**
  - 2.3.1 Encourage developing countries to submit data in response to calls from FAO/WHO expert bodies, through enhanced food safety and nutrition standards development.  

Activity 2.2.1  
Malaysia would like to request clarification on the mechanism to provide resources/funding by FAO/WHO governing bodies.  

Activity 2.2.3  
Malaysia would like to reiterate our opinion that Codex should have a policy and mechanism to professionally manage funding obtained from other sources especially from private sectors.  

Malaysia has no objection to the amendments to the activities under Objective 2.3.  

Malaysia Comments
| Draft Codex Strategic Plan 2014 – 2019  
(CX/ASIA 12/18/3) | Malaysia Comments |
| --- | --- |
| **2.3.2**  
Encourage FAO and WHO to support programs aimed at **enhancing** the capacity of developing countries to generate, collect and submit data. |  |
| **2.3.3**  
Encourage sustained and continuous participation of technical and scientific experts from developing countries in the work of Codex. |  |
| **2.3.4**  
Encourage the establishment of networks of developing member countries to enhance collaboration in the generation of data that can be submitted for review by expert committees. |  |

**Strategic Goal 3: Facilitate the effective participation of all Codex Members.**

**Objective 3.1:** Increase the effective participation of developing countries in Codex.

- **Activities:**
  
  **3.1.1** Encourage member countries to develop sustainable national institutional arrangements to promote effective contribution to the Codex standard setting processes.
  
  **3.1.2** Encourage the use of partnership initiatives to increase effectiveness of participation of developing countries, such as co-hosting of committees and working groups, including the development of guidance documents, building on lessons learned.
  
  **3.1.3** Plan, with the involvement of Codex Members, a successor initiative for the Codex Trust Fund.
  
  **3.1.4** Encourage financial contributions from Members to the Codex Trust Fund.

**Objective 3.2:** Promote capacity development programs that assist countries in creating sustainable national Codex structures.

Malaysia is agreeable with the amendments made to the activities under Objective 3.1.

Malaysia is agreeable with the amendments made to the activities under Objective 3.2.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activities:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3.2.1 Encourage FAO and WHO to implement capacity development programs that support the creation of sustainable national Codex-related structures.</td>
<td>Malaysia Comments</td>
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<td>3.2.2 Encourage developing countries to identify and prioritize Codex committees and task forces of significance to them.</td>
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<td>3.2.4 Where practical, the use of Codex meetings as a forum to effectively conduct educational and technical capacity building activities.</td>
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**Strategic Goal 4: Implement effective and efficient work management systems and practices.**

Objective 4.1: **Strive for an** effective, efficient, transparent, and consensus based standard setting process for the timely adoption of standards.

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<tr>
<th>Activities:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4.1.1 Periodically review the work processes and procedures used by the CAC and its subsidiary bodies to ensure impediments to standard setting work are identified and addressed.</td>
<td>Malaysia has no objection to the amendments to the activities under Objective 4.1.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.1.2 Assess benefits and, where cost effective, implement new information technologies to improve, Codex communication, work flow, and management of activities.</td>
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<tr>
<td>4.1.3 Assess benefits and, where cost effective, implement new information technologies to improve member participation in committees and working groups.</td>
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<td>4.1.4 Ensure timely distribution of all Codex working documents.</td>
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<tr>
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4.1.5 Increase the scheduling of Work Group meetings in conjunction with Committee meetings.

**Objective 4.2: Enhance capacity to arrive at consensus in standards setting process.**

- **Activities:**
  4.2.1 Improve the knowledge and skills of Codex delegates of Codex guidelines respecting consensus building.
  4.2.2 Improve the skills of Committee and Working Group Chairs.

Malaysia has no objection to the amendments to the activities under Objective 4.2.
AGENDA ITEM 5(b)

PROPOSED DRAFT REGIONAL FOR TEMPE (N05-2011)

Malaysia generally supports the development of the Regional Standard for Tempe. However, we would like to propose inclusion of a new Section 3.3 on classification of “defectives” as outlined below to be in line with other Codex standards such as Regional Standard for Gochujang, Regional Standard for Fermented Soybean Paste etc.

\section*{3.3 CLASSIFICATION OF “DEFECTIVES”}

Any container that fails to meet the applicable quality requirements referred to in Section 3.2 should be considered as a “defective”.

With regards to Section 4 Food Additives, Malaysia does not support the inclusion of processing aids under Section 4 Food Additives. We are of the view that it is not in line with the format in other Codex standards. In addition, processing aids are only used during the processing and does not present in the final product.