18th CCASIA Agenda item 2: Proposal for establishment of a subsidiary body of the Codex Alimentarius Commission

In general, Singapore supports the proposal for the establishment of a Codex Committee on Spices, Aromatic Herbs and their Formulations. Singapore notes that the envisaged scope of work for the committee encompasses a wide range of products, including whole and ground spices and aromatic herbs, as well as oils and oleoresins of these spices and aromatic herbs. Singapore would like to suggest that the proposed Committee, if established, exclude the development of standards on oils and oleoresins of spices and aromatic herbs, based on the following considerations:

- Such products may not be amenable to standardisation as properties such as volatile content are expected to vary, depending on the product’s applications, and taste preferences in different regions.

- Such products may potentially be used as food additives (for example, paprika oleoresin used as a colouring, and rosemary extract used as an antioxidant), and may result in a complex workflow between the proposed Committee and the Codex Committee on Food Additives (CCFA).

Singapore would also like to seek for further clarity on the proposed inclusion of blended forms of spices and herbs, herbal infusions, Ayurvedic blends, spice teas, and “wellness products” in the scope of the proposed Committee, with the following considerations:

- Development of standards for blended products may not be necessary as these products are based on spices and herbs that would have individual standards.

Ayurvedic blends and “wellness products” may not be regulated as foods in some jurisdictions.