

29th July 2022. CAC briefing

David Massey (Codex Sec) Okay. Let's go to an observer organisation. Health for Animals

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Thank you, David and thank you to the Codex secretariat for organising this session, I think its very helpful and timely. I was very happy to hear the chairman say in his introduction that has basically been the tenure of almost all of the comments I've heard, to make sure that the level of participation is as high as it can be in these difficult times. And using every trick and tool to get that level of participation up to the maximum. I was happy to hear that Tom was saying that you know, maybe early invites might be difficult but they will do everything in their in their power to make sure that the invitations or help with Visas will be done and that multiple rooms are being made available in red rooms, green rooms and other rooms as well. But I heard very clearly also that almost everybody who spoke - and I am the only observer speaking so far - one wants to be able to have voting in multiple places. Because that's the real essence of maximum maximising participation. And I cannot judge whether that's difficult or challenging, but I think the essence of it is that if there is voting, that it needs to be that every country has the right and possibility to vote in an easy way. And I want to make a special query from observers to the Secretariat. As it stands now, we will be participating virtually. Maybe I do have some ideas on how small numbers of observers could possibly participate physically, depending on the subject to the agenda point that they're interested in. So for example, if there is an observer interested, particularly in something related to milk, that there are two or three observers or four observers who have been really interested in that issue that the milk people quote unquote, excuse me to them can be in the room for that, that item only and then are and then leave when that agenda item is dealt with. Uncertain so doing, you can have smaller groups of servers, physically participating as well, and not being in the building when their issues are not on the agenda or have been dealt with. Thank you. To codec Secretary once again.

David Massey Thank you Carol. There's a creative idea. That said you also say that apart from the 200 delegates permitted in the plenary that the side space, he used the words observers but not in the codex sense - in the sense of ancillary support staff, I think but um, any thoughts on what counsel?

Tom (Codex) Yes, David, and when Sanchez said that if there was space for observers, they invited meif I didn't say no observers read in physically in the room, but I think was definitely a good proposal to make a certain number of spaces available, where observers could rotate. Similar as we said, for delegations to rotate, so let us clarify that and also, that is something obviously as soon as we have more clarity about that, we will communicate that so that observers can also make the arrangements for possibly travelling to Rome.

David Massey Okay, I think you will, very clearly that the door is not closed on that discussion. It will depend on the epidemiological situation on file protocols and many other factors as well that can be updated between now and November. Another observer organisation ENCA, Patti, good afternoon.

Patti Rundall (ENCA/IBFAN)

Hello, I'm following on from the previous observer. And as you know, I'm speaking as ENCA but I'm also a member of IBFAN and IBFAN has spoken a lot for many, many years at Codex and one of our concerns has always been conflicts of interest and also the dominance of economic actors. I know and I've asked many times whether CAC or could actually say something about this and about minimising or not having economic actors on government delegations. In this particular meeting, where you're saying, there will be no observers or maybe you're going to change that, or just one or two government delegations. Surely this is a terribly important time to actually say that it should be actual government delegations with people from the government who have a fiduciary duty to their population, rather than an economic actors, which does occur. I mean, less now, since we've raised it. I will say that we have raised this issue and we've noticed many countries are reducing the number of companies actually sitting on government delegations, so I'm just raising it there. It's a very controversial issue, I know but when you're down to just one or two people, it would be terrible if we felt that the delegations were represented by a commercial company. Thanks.

David:

Thank you very much, Patti. Tom, if he wants to come back on that, but there was a question in the chat in Spanish, which was, how many of those members who took part in CAC 44 actually took part in the elections. I believe Giuseppe who was one of the people who counts these kinds of things. The answer was all of them. Yes, okay. So that answers the question from Costa Rica. Thank you, Tom. Any thoughts on again, this issue of representation and delegations and observers in the room?

Tom:

Obviously very difficult to say and Patti has said it herself. It's very difficult to say anything from our point of view on the composition of delegations. Delegations who have in their best interest to be represented by somebody who represents their country, right. So that is it. More I cannot say on that. But as I said, if they are governments they are free to register, delegates and it is not much that you can say to that, unless by chance that delegate sits on another delegation. At that point we would have to say, No, you cannot delegate / register that person because the person is already sitting on another..