

Request for Virtual Participation Option – CCFH56 (16 to 20 November, Scottsdale, Arizona)

TO: Secretariat of the Codex Alimentarius Commission
Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme
Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations
Rome, Italy

October 3, 2026

Dear Codex Secretariat,

We write with respect to the upcoming 56th session of the Codex Committee on Food Hygiene (CCFH56), scheduled to be held in Scottsdale, Arizona, USA from 16 to 20 November, 2026.

While we note that webcasting of the plenary and the physical working groups will be provided, we understand that virtual participation with the ability to make interventions will not be available for this session. This presents a significant barrier for delegates from a number of countries who face visa restrictions for travel to the US, as well as for those constrained by financial, health, or other circumstances that preclude in-person participation.

The Codex Alimentarius Commission has affirmed the importance of inclusivity and has noted support for the option of remote participation in Codex meetings. The Procedural Manual and recent Executive Committee reports indicate that the Secretariat may provide support for virtual meetings on a case-by-case basis, and that hybrid formats are being promoted to enhance Member and Observer engagement.

In light of these principles and the practical barriers faced by many Members and Observers, we respectfully request that the Secretariat consider making CCFH56 available as a hybrid meeting with the option for delegates to participate virtually and make verbal interventions, consistent with other recent Codex sessions. Such an arrangement would ensure that all Members and Observers, regardless of visa or travel constraints, have an equitable opportunity to contribute to the Committee's important work on food hygiene and microbiological food safety.

We would be grateful for your consideration of this request at the earliest opportunity.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

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