

Statement from the International Dairy Federation (IDF) in CAC40¹

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Thank you Mister/Madam Chair,

The International Dairy Federation wishes to thank the Codex Alimentarius Commission for the opportunity to participate in this panel. My name is Nico van Belzen and I am the Director General of IDF.

Since 1903, IDF has been setting standards to ensure the safety of milk and dairy products and to facilitate their trade. IDF's member countries represent the entire dairy chain, including farmers, processors, traders, input providers and academia. In several countries, the government is also involved in IDF.

IDF has defined four strategic priorities: standard setting; food safety and quality; nutrition; and sustainability. Thus, there is considerable synergy with the mandate of Codex.

IDF has served as an essential technical advisor to Codex since Codex was established, providing technical support on all aspects related to milk and dairy products as well as their use as ingredients in other foods. For examples please refer to document INF2.

IDF strongly supports the Codex Committee on Milk and Milk Products, which originated from an international IDF Committee of Experts.

¹ Three-minute statement

IDF also contributes to the work of several horizontal Codex committees, engaging Codex across more than a dozen committees on many topics such as food hygiene, additives, labeling and methods of analysis.

IDF is committed to help achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. In 2016, FAO and IDF signed the 'Dairy Declaration of Rotterdam'. This Declaration serves as a framework for the contributions of the dairy sector to the achievement of key SDGs such as ending poverty and hunger, while promoting responsible consumption and production to protect the environment. Investments in innovation and infrastructure will be essential to achieve environmental sustainability as well as decent work and economic growth.

In conclusion,

IDF commits significant resources to Codex activities because Codex is an internationally recognized, independent, science-based and highly effective organization that has a key role to play in protecting the health of consumers and facilitating international food trade.

Thank you.