CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

World Health Organization

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CL 2020/26/OCS-FICS
February 2020

TO: Codex Contact Points
Contact Points of international organizations having observer status with Codex

FROM: Secretariat, Codex Alimentarius Commission,
Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme

SUBJECT: **Request for Comments on the Draft Principles and Guidelines for the Assessment and Use of voluntary Third-Party Assurance (vTPA) programmes (Updated Text)**

DEADLINE: **3rd April 2020**

BACKGROUND

1. For the background information, please refer to document **CX/FICS 20/25/4**.

REQUEST FOR COMMENTS

2. Codex members and observers are invited to submit comments the **Draft Principles and Guidelines for the Assessment and Use of voluntary Third-Party Assurance (vTPA) programmes (Updated Text),** which is uploaded to the Codex Online Commenting System (OCS): https://ocs.codexalimentarius.org/, as per the guidance below.

GUIDANCE ON THE PROVISION OF COMMENTS

3. Comments should be submitted through the Codex Contact Points of Codex members and observers using the OCS.
4. Contact Points of Codex members and observers may login to the OCS and access the document open for comments by selecting “Enter” in the “My reviews” page, available after login to the system.
5. Contact Points of Codex members and observers organizations are requested to provide proposed changes and relevant comments/justifications on a specific paragraph (under the categories: editorial, substantive, technical and translation) and/or at the document level (general comments or summary comments). Additional guidance on the OCS comment categories and types can be found in the OCS Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs).
6. Other OCS resources, including the user manual and short guide, can be found at the following link: http://www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/resources/ocs/en/.
7. For questions on the OCS, please contact Codex-OCS@fao.org.