



The Pan-American Dairy Federation (FEPALE), an entity that brings together the organizations of the dairy sector of the Americas, recognizes the Codex Alimentarius Commission as the reference body in international food standards with its main mandate to develop harmonized food standards in order to protect consumer health and ensure fair international trade.

It also expresses its confidence in the scientific basis of the standards developed by the Codex Alimentarius Commission to protect consumer health and promote fair practices in the food trade. The standards adopted by the Codex should, therefore, continue to maintain a strict scientific basis and an evidence-based approach in order to preserve its relevance and impact.

These fundamental principles will be challenged during the meeting of the Codex Committee on Nutrition and Foods for Special Dietary Uses within the framework of the revisions of the standard for complementary food preparations (CODEX STAN 156-1987), which will take place in Berlin, Germany, from December 4 to 8, 2017.

While we fully agree with the indications about breastfeeding in that it must be exclusive until 6 months of age and supplemented with other foods between 6 months to 2 years of age, the guide that will be under consideration would generate confusion and misinterpretation, since it prohibits the dissemination of the benefits of dairy consumption until 3 years of age.

Additionally, we have grave concern with the concept of the insertion of the policies of the World Health Organization (WHO) into the Codex standards scheduled for discussion for the 41st session of the Codex Commission in July 2018 (CAC Report, paragraph 184 pages 25-26).

FEPALE considers that the incorporation of these WHO policy guidelines is neither appropriate nor congruent with the current Codex mandate as it would affect the credibility and effectiveness of the standards and processes.

It is essential that Codex actions be based on high quality science and objective criteria for the establishment of standards.

Based on the above, FEPALE expresses its concern about the advancement of non-linked recommendations which lack a scientific basis from working groups of the World Health Organization that could affect dairy consumption and the adequate nutrition of children. In this regard, it requests that the governments of the region to object this methodology and continue to work with Codex under historical guidelines based on scientific foundations.

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