

Dear Codex Members and Observers

**Codex Committee on Nutrition and Foods for Special Dietary Uses**  
**INVITATION TO PARTICIPATE IN eWG on the Development of a**  
**Guideline for Ready to Use Therapeutic Foods (RUTF)**

At the 38<sup>th</sup> session of the Codex Committee on Nutrition and Foods for Special Dietary Uses (CCNFSDU), The Committee agreed to establish the eWG, led by South Africa and co-chaired by Senegal and Uganda, working in English and French, to develop the Guidelines for Ready to Use Therapeutic Foods (RUTF).

The terms of reference for this work have been agreed as follows:

1. To develop a guideline for Ready to Use Therapeutic Foods by clearly defining RUTFs in terms of:
  - a. its composition and safety aspects related to suitable ingredients,
  - b. the nutritional composition as outlined in the 2007 Joint Statement by WHO, WFP, UNSCN and UNICEF,
  - c. appropriate criteria and limits for relevant microbiological hazards and chemical contaminants (e.g. heavy metals, mycotoxins and pesticides) and,
  - d. labelling requirements respectively in order to provide protection to vulnerable consumers of RUTF.

**The following issues will be covered in the guideline:**

- a. minimum requirements for appropriate ingredients to be included in RUTF taking into consideration the effects of anti-nutritive factors that can affect macro and micro nutrient absorption. Consideration of inclusion of a protein quality score such as PDCAAS or DIAAS within the nutritional composition requirements.
- b. composition based on the adoption of the nutritional composition as specified in existing WHO documents for RUTF and their future modification.
- c. hygienic practice for production, handling, processing, storage and distribution and associated microbiological criteria for RUTF with reference to the General Principles of Food Hygiene and other relevant Codex texts.
- d. chemical contaminants/criteria with reference to the *General Standard for Contaminants and Toxins in Food and Feed*.
- e. labelling of RUTF in accordance with the *General Standard for the Labelling of Pre-packaged Foods* and other relevant Codex texts.
- f. Reference Methods of Analysis and Sampling
- g. nutrient compounds used for the RUTF.

South Africa, Senegal and Uganda invite those members and observer organizations that are interested in participating in the eWG to provide through their Codex Contact Point the following details:

1. Participant's name (one contact point per member/observer organization)
2. Official title
3. Country or observer organization
4. Email address

The above information should be sent to [Gilbert.Tshitaudzi@health.gov.za](mailto:Gilbert.Tshitaudzi@health.gov.za); [Nolene.Naicker@health.gov.za](mailto:Nolene.Naicker@health.gov.za) and copied to [moussa.ndong@ugb.edu.sn](mailto:moussa.ndong@ugb.edu.sn) and [iwanyenya@nda.or.ug](mailto:iwanyenya@nda.or.ug) by **1 February 2016**. The working programme for the eWG will be circulated to participating members and observer organizations.

We look forward to your reply.

Republic of South Africa; Senegal and Uganda Codex Contact Points

**Cc:** Codex Contact Points of **South Africa:** [CACPSA@health.gov.za](mailto:CACPSA@health.gov.za), **Senegal:** [mamediarrafaye@yahoo.fr](mailto:mamediarrafaye@yahoo.fr) and **Uganda at:** [info@unbs.go.ug](mailto:info@unbs.go.ug)