

**CODEX COMMITTEE ON NUTRITION AND FOODS FOR SPECIAL
DIETARY USES**

(42nd Session)

Virtual, 19 – 25 November and 1 December 2021

European Union Comments on

Agenda Item 5

**Proposed Draft Guidelines for Ready-to-use Therapeutic Foods at Step 7
(REP20/NFSDU Appendix VI, CX/NFSDU 21/42/6)**

(CL 2021/31/OCS-NFSDU)

***European Union Competence
European Union Vote***

General comments

The European Union (EU) would like to thank South Africa, Senegal and Uganda for their work on the draft Guidelines for Ready-to-use Therapeutic Foods.

As explained in previous occasions, the EU supports the completion of the work on these guidelines on Ready-to-use Therapeutic Foods (RUTF) without any delay. The EU therefore can agree with the text of the draft Guidelines.

As previously noted the main concern of the EU was to make sure that no doubts exist in the guidelines on the status of RUTF as food for special medical purposes, covered by CODEX Standard 180-1991, and that the language used in the guidelines follows the one used in the Standard on food for special medical purposes. The EU considers that the proposed text of the draft Guidelines for Ready-to-use Therapeutic Foods adequately addresses the EU concerns.

Specific comments on the remaining sections in square brackets

Preamble

The EU can support the proposed text of the preamble in square brackets. The EU considers that the proposed text is clear and concise and that it sufficiently describes the role of RUTF.

Levels for the essential fatty acids, levels and ratio of magnesium and calcium

The EU is not in a position to comment in detail on specific compositional requirements of RUTF, as there is no specific advice from the European Food Safety Authority on them.

The EU remains convinced that the composition of RUTF should primarily be based on relevant WHO documents (and their future modifications) and on the advice of UNICEF, WHO and the World Food Program as well as NGOs with extensive experience in the field.