Since the last Commission, I have been involved in many Codex meetings and activities. I had opportunities to attend the CCFICS24 in Brisbane, Australia; CCSCH4 in Kerala, India; CCFO26 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia; CCGP31 in Bordeaux, France and finally CCCF13 in Yogyakarta, Indonesia. The contaminants meeting was special for me, because it was co-hosted by Indonesia and my aim was to ensure that as many national Codex stakeholders as possible, especially government officials, could be present. By participating, they learn the Codex process, and hopefully this will help them gain a better understanding and eventually participate more effectively in Codex.

In attending Codex meetings, wherever they may be, my observations are always...
that Codex is truly a global organization involving many members and observers, all actively communicating, sharing and collaborating to develop standards addressing shared concerns on public health and fair practices in international food trade. As a vice-chair of the Commission, this observation is what motivates me the most. I believe that food safety is a shared responsibility. All actors along the farm-to-fork continuum, including producers, processors, distributors, retailers, and consumers, need to work together towards safer food. With the increasing importance of international trade, the ‘farm’ and ‘fork’ may grow ever further apart. This is why, mutual understanding and collaboration between food producing and consuming member countries is essential to strengthen the global supply of safe food for everyone, everywhere.