**Conference for Food Protection**

**2012 Issue Form**

**Internal Number: 110**

**Issue: 2012 II-002**

**Title:**

Statement of Neutrality for Council Chair / Council Vice-Chair

**Recommended Solution: The Conference recommends...:**

the addition of a statement of neutrality (noted below; new language underlined), as developed by the Constitution and Bylaws Committee, in the position descriptions for Council Chair and Council Vice-Chair.

**Council Chair Neutrality**

In order to maintain their neutrality during Council deliberations, the following rules of conduct shall apply to the Council Chair during the biennial conference:

* Outside the Council deliberations, the Chair shall refrain from publicly voicing a personal opinion on an Issue that is before the Council in such a manner or extent that it may call into question his or her ability to remain neutral when the Issue ultimately reaches the Council floor.
* May answer questions related to a specific Issue during Council deliberations if the intent of the response is to objectively educate or clarify the Council, presenter or person approved to address the Council.
* May offer personal opinions in the following situations:
  + Outside of council deliberations, including constituency consensus meetings and caucuses, with the clarification that one is offering a personal opinion and not speaking as the Council Chair.
  + During Council deliberations, only when one's position as Chair has been clearly relinquished to someone else (per Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised).

**Council Vice Chair Neutrality**

In order to maintain their neutrality during Council deliberations, the following rules of conduct shall apply to the Council Vice Chair during the biennial conference:

* Outside the Council deliberations, the Vice Chair shall refrain from publicly voicing a personal opinion on an Issue that is before the Council in such a manner or extent that it may call into question his or her ability to remain neutral when the Issue ultimately reaches the Council floor.
* May answer questions related to a specific Issue during Council deliberations if the intent of the response is to objectively educate or clarify the Council, presenter or person approved to address the Council.
* May offer personal opinions in the following situations:
  + Outside of council deliberations, including constituency consensus meetings and caucuses, with the clarification that one is offering a personal opinion and not speaking as the Council Vice Chair.
  + During Council deliberations, only when one's position as Vice Chair has been clearly relinquished to someone else (per Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised).

It is the policy of the Conference for Food Protection to not accept Issues that would endorse a brand name or a commercial proprietary process.