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FOOD AND AGRICULTURE
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ORGANIZATION



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ALINORM 06/29/3A

JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME

CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION

Twenty-ninth Session

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**REPORT OF THE FIFTY-EIGHTH SESSION OF THE
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION**

WHO Headquarters, Geneva, Switzerland, 28 June-1st July 2006

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Paragraphs
INTRODUCTION	1-2
ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA	3
CRITICAL REVIEW OF THE DRAFT STANDARDS AND RELATED TEXTS SUBMITTED TO THE COMMISSION FOR ADOPTION	4-25
PROPOSALS FOR THE ELABORATION OF NEW STANDARDS AND RELATED TEXTS AND FOR THE DISCONTINUATION OF WORK	26
STRATEGIC PLANNING OF THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION	27-39
CONDUCT OF THE CRITICAL REVIEW BY THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE	40-51
FINANCIAL AND BUDGETARY MATTERS	52-78
IMPLEMENTATION OF THE JOINT FAO/WHO EVALUATION OF THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS AND OTHER FAO AND WHO WORK ON FOOD STANDARDS	
A) GENERAL IMPLEMENTATION STATUS	79-82
B) REVIEW OF CODEX COMMITTEE STRUCTURE AND MANDATES OF CODEX COMMITTEES AND TASK FORCES	83-90
MATTERS ARISING FROM THE REPORTS OF THE COMMISSION, CODEX COMMITTEES AND TASK FORCES	91-95
RELATIONS BETWEEN THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS	96-109
FAO/WHO PROJECT AND TRUST FUND FOR ENHANCED PARTICIPATION IN CODEX	110-125
OTHER MATTERS ARISING FROM FAO AND WHO	126-128
OTHER BUSINESS	129-134

APPENDICES

	Page
Appendix I. List of Participants	18
Appendix II Codex Alimentarius Commission Draft Strategic Plan 2008-2013	28

INTRODUCTION

1. The Executive Committee of the Codex Alimentarius Commission held its Fifty-eighth Session at WHO Headquarters, Geneva, from 28 June to 1 July 2006, under the chairmanship of Dr C J S Mosha (United Republic of Tanzania), Chairperson of the Codex Alimentarius Commission. A complete list of participants is attached as Appendix I to this report.
2. The Session was opened by Ms Suzanne Weber-Mosdorf, Assistant Director-General, Sustainable Development and Healthy Environments, WHO and Mr Ezzeddine Boutrif, Chief, Food Safety and Quality Service, FAO, who welcomed the delegates on behalf of the parent organizations. Both representatives stressed the continued strong support of their organizations to the Codex programme. They informed the Committee about recent restructuring within WHO and FAO. In WHO the unit dealing with zoonoses and foodborne disease surveillance was merged with the Department of Food Safety forming the Department of Food Safety, Zoonoses and Foodborne Diseases to promote an integrated approach to food safety by strengthening intersectoral cooperation across the farm to fork continuum. In FAO the Food and Nutrition Division, in which the Codex Secretariat is situated, was moved to the Agriculture, Biosecurity, Nutrition and Consumer Protection Department and renamed as Nutrition and Consumer Protection Division. This move is intended to strengthen the food chain approach within FAO and will reinforce links with divisions dealing with agricultural production. Both representatives welcomed the new management role of the Executive Committee in the standards development process.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA (Agenda Item 1)¹

3. The Executive Committee adopted the Provisional Agenda as the agenda for the session and agreed to discuss the following additional documents under Agenda Item 12 (Other business) if time allowed:
 - CRD 3 (Codex Secretariat) containing the Draft Provisional Agenda for the 30th Session of the Commission.
 - CRD 4 (Argentina) containing proposals concerning the “Sending of information from electronic working groups to Codex Contact Points” and “Participation of the Codex Secretariat in working groups established by Codex Committees”.

CRITICAL REVIEW OF THE DRAFT STANDARDS AND RELATED TEXTS SUBMITTED TO THE COMMISSION FOR ADOPTION (Agenda Item 2)²

4. The Secretariat introduced the document presenting relevant information on the texts submitted for final adoption to the Commission, including the background to the development of the texts, the status of endorsement, when applicable, and specific issues identified in the elaboration of individual texts.
5. The Committee made the following comments and recommendations on the draft standards and related texts submitted for adoption.

Committee on Food Additives and Contaminants

6. The Secretariat highlighted the issues considered in Annex 1 of the working document: the status of several additive provisions in individual standards and in the GSFA; the procedures for amending these provisions; the format of the additive section in individual standards; and the specific differences between the additive provisions proposed by the CCFAC and the current provisions in several standards.
7. As regards general issues, the Committee agreed that the CCFAC should, in its future reports, clearly establish a distinction between:
 - a) additive provisions included in adopted standards and proposed for incorporation into the GSFA.
 - b) revocation of existing relevant provisions in the GSFA in order to ensure consistency with existing standards
 - c) proposed amendments to current additives provisions in Codex standards for inclusion in the GSFA. These amendments may be referred to the relevant Committee (when active committees exist and

¹ CX/EXEC 06/58/1 Rev.2

² CX/EXEC 06/58/2

relevant standards are under consideration). The Committee may also develop them as new provisions or amendments to the GSFA, in which case they should follow the Step Procedure in order to allow for comments.

8. The Committee also recommended that when provisions for additives for inclusion into the GSFA result in amendments to additive provisions in Codex standards, consequential amendments should be made to the relevant standards, and that the reports of CCFAC should include a table showing the existing additive provisions in Codex standards.

9. The Committee considered the proposals put forward in Appendix VII of ALINORM 06/29/12 and made the following recommendations on specific food categories.

Food Category No. 02.2.1.2 Margarine and Similar Products

10. The Committee noted that the food category did not exactly correspond to the current Standard for Margarine, that some of the additive levels proposed by CCFAC did not correspond to the provisions in the Standard for Margarine and that the Draft Standard for Fat Spreads and Blended Spreads was currently under consideration by the Committee on Fats and Oils. The Committee therefore agreed to recommend that consideration of all additives provisions for “margarine and similar products” be deferred pending finalisation of the Draft Standard for Fat Spreads and Blended Spreads, and submission of the additives section for endorsement to CCFAC. The Committee also invited CCFAC to review the above food category in order to ensure one-to-one correspondence with the relevant standards.

Food Category No. 11.1.2 Powdered sugar, powdered dextrose

11. The Committee noted that it was proposed to replace the current level for Calcium Phosphates in the Standard for Sugars with a level of 6600 mg/kg for Phosphates, and agreed to request CCFAC to clarify whether this level was at Step 8 as part of the GSFA.

Food Category No 12.1.1 Salt

12. The Committee agreed to request CCFAC to clarify whether the entry for polysorbates in salt, not included in the current Standard for Food Grade Salt, was a new level under consideration in the Step Procedure as part of the GSFA.

Food Category No 13.1.1 Infant Formulae

Food Category No 13.1.2 Follow-up Formulae

13. The Committee noted that several provisions proposed for inclusion in the GSFA did not correspond to the levels in the Standard for Infant Formula and that the revision of that Standard was under consideration in the Committee on Nutrition and Foods for Special Dietary Uses. The Committee therefore recommended that the adoption of new levels for additives in infant formula be deferred until such time as the CCNFSDU had completed the revision of the standard.

14. Taking into account the close relationship between infant formula and follow-up formula and the similarity in the list of additives for these products, the Committee also recommended that the amendments to the additive section in the Standard for Follow-up Formula should be deferred until the revision of the Standard for Infant Formula had been completed.

15. In view of the above comments and requests for clarification, the Committee recommended that the Commission should not adopt Appendix VII at this stage.

16. The Committee noted that Appendix IX proposed to replace the section on additives in several individual standards with a text referring to the GSFA in all standards corresponding to the food categories listed in Annex VII. In view of its decision concerning Appendix VII, the Committee agreed to recommend that the Commission should also defer the adoption of Appendix IX.

Proposed Draft Code of Practice for the Prevention and Reduction of Dioxin and Dioxin-like PCB Contamination in Food and Feeds

17. The Committee noted that the Proposed Draft Code included a section on methods of analysis and sampling and discussed whether this section should be referred to the CCMAS prior to the finalisation of the Code. The Member for Asia expressed the view that this section should be considered by CCMAS as issues of methodology were not the responsibility of CCFAC and that the Code should not be adopted at Step 5/8 until this section had been completed. Some other Members stressed the importance of the Code in order to

provide guidance to governments and proposed to adopt the current text while referring the relevant section to CCMAS for review and possible revision if required. The Committee could not reach a conclusion on this issue.

Draft Maximum Levels for Cadmium

18. The Member for Europe recalled that the 28th Session of the Commission had adopted the Draft Maximum Level for Cadmium in marine bivalve molluscs of 1 mg/kg at Step 5, and pointed out that there was no clear explanation for the decision of the CCFAC to propose a higher level (2 mg/kg) for adoption by the Commission. The Committee noted that this matter might be clarified by the Chairperson of the CCFAC when the Draft Levels would be considered by the Commission.

Committee on Food Labelling

19. The Committee noted that the Draft Revised Table 3 in the Draft Amendment to the Guidelines on the Production, Processing and Labelling of Organically Produced Foods had been advanced to Step 8 although it had not been circulated at Step 6 prior to the Committee session due to the late availability of the revised Draft. One of the Vice-Chairs expressed concern with the fact that the Elaboration Procedure had not been followed and that some members might have missed the opportunity to comment on the Draft. The Committee therefore recommend that the Draft be returned to Step 6 for comments and consideration by the next session of the Committee on Food Labelling.

Committee on Milk and Milk Products

20. The Committee was informed that the Committee on Food Labelling had not endorsed the labelling provisions in the standards for individual cheeses due to lack of consensus on the declaration of country of origin. All other provisions for labelling, additives and methods of analysis and sampling had been endorsed with or without amendments according to the standard concerned.

21. The Coordinator for Europe expressed the view that specific standards were not required for each type of cheese, and proposed to recommend to the CCMMP to develop more general standards for different types of cheese in order to limit the number of individual cheese standards. The Member for the South West Pacific pointed out that the CCMMP had already established criteria for the elaboration of individual cheese standards and had considered the grouping and simplification of cheese standards where applicable. The Committee encouraged the CCMMP to continue to consider the possibility of grouping individual cheese standards where this was appropriate, taking into account the orientation provided to Codex Committees in the Strategic Framework.

Committee on Nutrition and Foods for Special Dietary Uses

Draft Standard for Cereal Based Foods

22. The Member for Asia expressed the view that India had made substantial comments on the essential requirements in the Draft Standard when it had been considered by the Commission at Step 5 and that these comments had not been addressed by the CCNFSU when finalising the revision of the Standard. The Secretariat indicated that there had been no objection in the CCNFSU to forwarding the Draft Standard to Step 8 and recalled that the Elaboration Procedure provided for the possibility for members to send comments at Step 8.

Committee on Food Import and Export Inspection and Certification Systems

23. In reply to a question from the Member for Asia, the Secretariat recalled that the CCFICS had developed the Proposed Draft Principles for Traceability/Product Tracing as a Tool within a Food Import and Export Inspection and Certification System in accordance with its terms of reference and following the decision of the Commission when approving this new work, and that the Committee on General Principles had not been assigned further work by the Commission in this area, following the adoption of the definition of traceability/product tracing.

Committee on Residues of Veterinary Drugs in Foods

24. The Committee noted that the CCRVDF had developed a Compendium of Methods of Analysis as Suitable for Support to Codex MRLs and discussed the status to be given to this document within Codex. The Committee recommended to the Commission to note the existence of this document, without adopting it as a Codex text, and agreed that the Secretariat should make it publicly available in such a way as to make it most useful to Members. The CCRVDF would be invited to revise the Compendium regularly to keep it updated.

Other Draft Standards and Related Texts

25. The Committee recommended that the Commission adopt all other Draft or Proposed Draft Standards presented in the Appendix to the working document.

PROPOSALS FOR THE ELABORATION OF NEW STANDARDS AND RELATED TEXTS AND FOR THE DISCONTINUATION OF WORK (Agenda Item 3)³

26. The Executive Committee recommended that the 29th Session of the Commission approve all the proposals for new work or discontinuation of work as contained in the working document (ALINORM 06/29/8, ALINORM 06/29/8-Add 1).

STRATEGIC PLANNING OF THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION (Agenda Item 4)⁴

27. The Committee recalled that at its 57th Session, it had discussed the preliminary draft Strategic Plan presented and, after having made several changes, had agreed to circulate the revised draft Strategic Plan for comments by members and observers.

28. The Committee further recalled that a Working Group, comprising the Chairperson and three Vice Chair persons of the Commission, had met in Rome in May 2006 and amended Part 1 and Part 2 of the first draft Strategic Plan, taking into consideration comments submitted in reply to Circular Letter (CL 2005/55-EXEC) and that the Working Group had also revised Part 3, which had not been discussed by the 57th Session of the Committee, by including output/measurable indicators in Table 1 of Part 3 of the Strategic Plan, with a view to using the table to better monitor and manage the activities listed in Part 2 of the Strategic Plan.

29. The Committee agreed to consider the draft Strategic Plan amended by the Working Group and included in document ALINORM 06/29/9A Add.1 section by section and made observations and agreed on amendments as follows:

Part 1

30. The Committee was satisfied with Part 1 of the Strategic Plan as currently drafted. Some members of the Working Group drew attention of the Committee to the change made to the title of Goal 4 (deletion of the word "Intergovernmental" from the previous draft) and clarified that this change aimed at ensuring consistency with the mandate of Codex: Promotion of coordinating all food standards work undertaken by international governmental and non governmental organizations (as indicated in Article 1 (b) of Statutes of the Codex Alimentarius Commission) as well as the current Strategic Framework, while recognizing the importance of cooperation with relevant international intergovernmental organization referred to in the SPS Agreement in the elaboration of the standards and related texts by Codex.

Part 2

31. The Representative of FAO raised a question as to whether the responsible parties for the Activity 1.6 should be limited to CCRVDF and CCPR. Other Committees could also be involved in exploring innovative risk management frameworks to address gaps in the existing Codex standards, guidelines and recommendations and share the results of new approaches among Codex Committees.

32. In reply to this question, one of the Vice Chairpersons clarified that the current description of the Activity 1.6 was meant to address precisely the ongoing work related to the risk management of veterinary drugs without ADI/MRLs and of residue limits for pesticides, respectively undertaken by those two committees.

³ ALINORM 06/29/8, ALINORM 06/29/8-Add 1

⁴ ALINORM 06/29/8, ALINORM 06/29/8 Add.1

33. The Coordinator for Africa expressed the view that issues on innovative risk management frameworks should also be discussed by other committees in future, if necessary.

34. The Committee agreed that Activity 1.6 should not be interpreted in such a way as to restrict future Codex work in this area and agreed to amend the current description for Activity 1.6 for clarity purposes as follows: “Explore innovative risk management frameworks in establishing MRLs to veterinary drugs and pesticides and share the results of new approaches among Codex Committees.”

Part 3

35. The Representative of WHO observed that the current description of Output/Measurable Indicators for Activity 1.5 of Goal 1 in Table 1 was not specific enough because WHO and OIE had already developed certain guidance for safe and prudent non-human antimicrobial usage for containment of resistance and proposed a new text: “Guidance to enable preventive efforts to contain resistance against critically important antimicrobials in foodborne microorganisms” to replace the current one.

36. Some members did not support this proposal and reiterated that this issue would be linked to future discussions on Terms of Reference of the proposed Codex task force on antimicrobial resistance and, therefore, the current description could stand without any changes until the future work of the proposed task force be better defined.

37. After some discussion, the Executive Committee decided to retain the current description, pending the agreed scope of the proposed task force on antimicrobial resistance.

Status of the draft Strategic Plan 2008 - 2013

38. The Committee agreed to append to its report the draft Strategic Plan as amended (see Appendix II) and agreed to forward the following three recommendations to the 29th Session of the Commission:

- The draft Strategic Plan 2008 – 2013 as revised be circulated to all Coordinating Committees for comments, prior to the final adoption by the Commission in July 2007;
- The current format used by the Executive Committee for the Critical Review be replaced with Table 2, Part 3 of the draft Strategic Plan 2008 – 2013, as a new tracking mechanism for effective implementation of the Critical Review
- The constraints due to staff shortage in the Codex Secretariat and insufficient budgetary situation for the work of Codex be solved so as to facilitate the implementation of the Strategic Plan 2008-2013.

39. The Committee expressed its appreciation to the intensive work done by the members of both the Working Group and the sub-committee of the Executive Committee in the course of elaborating the draft Strategic Plan.

CONDUCT OF THE CRITICAL REVIEW BY THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (Agenda Item 5)⁵

40. The Committee recalled that its 57th Session had agreed that general criteria and working procedures should be defined before undertaking the monitoring of specific items and had agreed that draft criteria would be considered at its 58th Session with a view to their finalization.

Criteria

41. The Committee considered the draft criteria presented in paragraph 2 of the working document and made the following comments and amendments.

42. The Committee agreed to retain the first indent concerning the need for scientific advice as currently drafted.

43. As regards the second indent, some members expressed the view that the schedule of sessions should be taken into account as some committees did not meet on a yearly basis. The Committee recalled that the 27th Session of the Commission had discussed this issue and agreed to retain a five years time frame, as currently mentioned in the Critical Review in the Procedural Manual, with the understanding that the CCEXEC would consider all draft standards and related texts on a case by case basis. The Committee also noted a proposal to provide more clarification on the timeframe but agreed to retain the current text.

⁵ CX/EXEC 06/58/3

44. Some members stressed the importance of views of the Chairpersons of Committee and Task Forces in order to apply the criteria to the critical review in an efficient manner.

45. As regards the third indent, a member expressed the view that there were no objective criteria concerning the prospect of reaching consensus in a specific Committee, and recalled that there was an ongoing discussion in the Committee on General Principles on the definition of consensus.

46. Some members expressed the view that the Executive Committee should not have the possibility of recommending discontinuation of work and that it was preferable to recommend suspension, as it would avoid delays in resuming work if required. Other members supported the current text as discontinuation of work was current practice in Codex and CCEXEC should be allowed to decide which action to recommend. Some Members proposed that CCEXEC take into account the views of the Committee concerned in order to decide whether to suspend or discontinue work. It was also proposed to specify a timeframe for suspension of work. The Committee noted that the criteria under consideration should be consistent with the section on "Monitoring Progress of Standard Development" in Part 2. Critical review of the *Elaboration Procedure*. After some discussion, it was agreed that the Committee could propose discontinuation or suspension at a specific Step for a specified period of time, taking into account the information provided by the Committee concerned, and the text was amended accordingly. The Committee also inserted a reference to corrective action proposed by the Executive Committee in the third indent and therefore deleted the fourth indent, as proposed by several Members.

47. As a result of the above discussion, the Committee agreed to propose to the Commission to endorse the following criteria for conducting the critical review:

- When progress on a standard is delayed due to the need for scientific advice, the Executive Committee could encourage FAO and WHO to schedule an expert consultation to provide such advice in a timely manner, and recommend suspension of work until such time as scientific advice became available;
- When scientific advice has been provided and a standard has been under consideration for more than five years, the Executive Committee should urge the Committee concerned to take action within a specified timeframe;
- When an item has been considered for several sessions without any progress and there is no prospect of reaching consensus, the Executive Committee could propose suspension of work at a particular Step in the Elaboration Procedure for a specified period of time or discontinuation of work, or corrective action to be taken to achieve progress, fully taking into consideration the information provided by the subsidiary body concerned.

Proposed Establishment of a Sub-Committee of the Executive Committee

48. The Secretariat introduced the analysis of the main issues related to the possible establishment of sub-committees, as agreed at the 57th Session of the Committee and noted that, as some legal and planning difficulties would make it difficult to convene such a meeting between the sessions, it would be more feasible to convene a pre-session or in-session sub-committee meeting.

49. Some members pointed out that the experience of establishing an in-session sub-committee had provided very positive results in the development of the Draft Strategic Plan and a similar experience could be applied to the critical review. Some members also expressed the view that the critical review conducted on the basis of the document prepared by the Secretariat at the present session had also allowed constructive discussion.

50. The Committee also noted a proposal to convene a session of the Executive Committee immediately after the Commission and was informed that similar procedures existed in the governing bodies of FAO and WHO. However the Committee agreed that for budgetary and practical considerations, such as the timely distribution of invitations and documentation, this would be difficult to implement in practice. Some delegations pointed out that if the CCEXEC did not meet in December 2006, there would be a large number of work items to consider at its next session and a sub-committee would be useful to facilitate the critical review.

51. In view of the above discussion, the Committee concluded that, no sub-committee would be established between sessions at the present stage but consideration would be given to pre-session or in-session sub-committees, as required, in order to facilitate the critical review.

FINANCIAL AND BUDGETARY MATTERS (Agenda Item 6)⁶

52. The Committee noted that the working document was made available only recently, due to the fact that the document had to take into account the level of financial contributions from FAO and WHO to the Codex programme confirmed in June 2006.

Codex Budget and Expenditure 2004-2005

53. The Committee took note of the budget and expenditure of the Codex programme for 2004-2005 presented in Table 1 of the document. Staff-costs expenditure was lower compared to its budget because of sustained post vacancies in the Codex Secretariat during the last biennium.

Codex Budget 2006-2007

54. The Secretariat informed the Committee that the amount of FAO and WHO contributions to the Codex programme within the Revised Programme of Work and Budget 2006-2007, as presented in Table 2 of the document, was close to the initial budget proposals already communicated to the 28th Session of the Commission. However, mainly due to the introduction, in January 2006, of a new charge-back arrangement in FAO affecting all technical programmes including Codex, these programmes now had to bear the costs of document storage and dispatch, which had previously been covered by a separate FAO budget outside the Codex budget. This resulted in a revenue/expenditure gap of approximately US\$450,000.

55. Besides the cost saving measures introduced by the Secretariat since January 2006, which would reduce the expenditure by up to US\$330,000 in the biennium, there was a need for further reduction of Codex activities to fill the remaining gap of approximately US\$120,000. Two options for further activity reduction therefore were presented in paragraph 14 of the document.

56. The Representative of FAO informed the Committee that despite an overall budget cut in FAO in real terms for the present biennium, the governing bodies of FAO had voiced strong support to Codex and Codex-related activities and the Organization would attempt to maintain, or increase if possible, its contribution to Codex in the future. The Representative noted that the share of WHO contribution in the Codex budget which had been established at 25% (i.e. 75% for FAO) during the early times of the Codex history had declined to a level below 20% and wondered whether this trend should be reversed with a view to establishing an appropriate parity between the two parent organizations in the near future.

57. The Representative of WHO stated that the WHO contribution to Codex had been increased by 30% in the US dollar term between the 2002-2003 biennium and the 2004-2005 biennium and was maintained at the same level since then. The Representative stressed that all programmes should be subjected to close scrutiny to generate more efficiency and Codex should not be an exception. The Representative stated that 40% of the WHO's budget for food safety was allocated to Codex. The Representative further noted that the programme on food safety had been consolidated into one of the fifteen Strategic Objectives of the Organization together with nutrition and looked forward to its reinforcement.

58. The Committee recalled that the process for the preparation of the Codex budget was provided for in Article 9 of the Statutes of the Commission. The Representatives of FAO and WHO emphasized that if member countries wished to call for adequate funding of the Codex programme, they should do so in the governing bodies of FAO and WHO, in order to have an influence in the budget preparation process of these organizations. For example such action would need to be initiated soon in advance of the budget preparation for the 2008-2009 biennium by FAO and WHO, e.g., in time to affect decision making on this matter by the Executive Board of WHO in January 2007.

59. In reply to several questions, the Secretariat clarified that available cost saving measures are limited due to the particular nature of the Codex programme, which essentially provided intergovernmental negotiation fora for food standard setting in the form of a number of Codex meetings interrelated to each other that required advance planning of up to one year. The fact that the budget of Codex remained unconfirmed until six months into the biennium created a particularly problematic situation for the management of the programme. The costs of holding Commission and other Codex sessions directly funded by the Codex Secretariat contained a high proportion of fixed costs for interpretation and documentation including translation services. The Secretariat indicated that there was some room for reducing Codex expenditure through further contribution by the host governments of certain subsidiary bodies by fully covering the operational expenses of these bodies including translation of working documents and reports.

⁶ ALINORM 06/29/9; CAC/29 INF/10

60. One Member stated that a more detailed presentation of the Codex budget and expenditures would allow the Committee to fully assess the impact of budgetary cuts and make more informed decisions on these matters.

61. In relation to the first option for activity reduction in paragraph 14, the Committee noted that there were few urgent, mandatory items that needed be discussed by the Executive Committee in December 2006, although the elimination of that session of the Executive Committee would have some negative impacts on the timely conduct of the critical review.

62. One member wondered whether cost savings could be made by holding the Executive Committee and the Commission outside the headquarters of the parent organizations. The Secretariat stated that holding the sessions of the Executive Committee or the Commission outside the headquarters of the parent organizations would have procedural and logistic implications and thus should be considered carefully.

63. As regards the second option presented in paragraph 14, some members expressed the view that reduction in the language coverage required careful consideration because of its impact on the ability of member countries to effectively participate in the Codex process.

64. After some discussion, the Executive Committee endorsed the cost saving measures implemented by the Codex secretariat as mentioned in paragraphs 12 and 13 of the working document, noting that a minimum necessary level of services and facilities were ensured by the Codex Secretariat, including the possibility that hardcopies of Codex documents could be provided to member countries having difficulties in relying exclusively on electronic document distribution in the immediate. In this regard, the Executive Committee encouraged all members and observers to take necessary measures to take full advantage of electronic distribution of documents.

65. The Executive Committee agreed to recommend the first option for further activity reduction, i.e. cancelling one session of the Executive Committee in the present biennium. This meant that the 59th Session of the Committee would not be held in December 2006, but in June 2007 immediately prior to the 30th Session of the Commission. The Committee was satisfied that by taking this measure the six sessions of the FAO/WHO Coordinating Committees planned for in this biennium as well as the Commission session in July 2007 would be maintained. The Executive Committee expressed its concern that the budget situation no longer allowed to hold two meetings of the Executive Committee between the 29th and 30th Sessions of the Commission as planned.

66. The Executive Committee thanked the FAO and WHO for protecting the Codex budget and for having kept to a minimum budget cuts in real terms for the Codex programme and invited the governing bodies of FAO and WHO to ensure adequate funding for Codex in view of the particular nature of the Codex programme whose financial and managerial flexibility is limited compared to other technical programmes. The Representative of WHO stated that a high level FAO/WHO management group for Codex was being considered, in order to allow a more timely decision making process regarding Codex budget issues.

67. The Executive Committee decided to encourage the Secretariat to continue to explore additional efficiency savings in the operation of the Codex programme. The Committee also encouraged host governments of subsidiary bodies to fully meet their obligations in conjunction with the operation of these bodies including fully covering the costs of documentation.

Programmatic Considerations beyond 2006-2007

68. The Secretariat drew the attention of the Committee to the analysis and proposals contained in paragraphs 16-22 of the document. The Secretariat highlighted the current situation where the Codex Secretariat, under its current funding level, represented a critical minimum necessary to service Codex meetings and maintain communication with Codex Contact Points. It was noted that while a range of options might exist to improve the operation of the Codex programme as a whole including alternative Codex session planning, examination of possible options should start without delay in order to reach a decision at the 30th Session of the Commission, in time for making necessary adjustments to the Codex session planning for 2008-2009 to be discussed at the same Commission session.

69. One member stated that there was a need for further discussion on this issue and studying options but it was premature to take any concrete decisions at the current session. Another member expressed the view that any savings resulting from eventually reducing the session frequency of the Commission and its Executive Committee should be allocated to the strengthening of the Codex Secretariat and would never result in the decrease of contributions from FAO and WHO to Codex.

70. In reply to some questions raised, the Secretariat clarified that Rule VI.1 of the Rules of Procedure of the Commission allowed for certain flexibility for the Commission to decide on its own meeting frequency. The Committee also noted the view of the Secretariat that the Commission's reverting to biennial sessions from annual sessions would not necessarily result in the slowing down of standards development if the subsidiary bodies made full use of inter-session working procedures and of the possibility of recommending the omission of Steps 6 and 7 of the Elaboration Procedure.

71. After some discussion, the Committee agreed that the Secretariat, in cooperation with FAO and WHO secretariats, would prepare a discussion paper by exploring several options for streamlining Codex session planning and their implications on Codex work, for discussion at the next session of the Executive Committee and the 30th Session of the Commission. Session planning scenarios should focus on the 2008-2009 biennium and should also include alternative session frequencies for Codex bodies other than the Commission and its Executive Committee.

72. The Executive Committee also agreed to request the Secretariat to prepare a discussion paper, in collaboration with FAO and WHO, on the possibilities for more sustainable funding including through other funding sources and alternative ways of achieving it.

FAO/WHO Budgets for Codex-related Activities

73. The Committee recalled that, at the 27th Session of the Commission, the Representative of FAO had indicated that information would be provided in future, regarding the FAO and WHO budget allocated to Codex-related activities, especially scientific advice requested by Codex and by member countries.

74. The Representative of FAO presented document CAC/29 INF/10 which showed the actual funds contributed by FAO and WHO in 2004-2005 and in 2006-2007 by areas provisions of scientific advice to Codex and member states. Substantive amount of funds (approximately US\$ 2.1 million in 2004-2005 and US\$ 1.7 million in 2006-2007) had been allocated from FAO and WHO to activities on provision of scientific advice to Codex and member states. The contributions of FAO and WHO were being utilized not only to convene meetings of JECFA, JMPR and JEMRA, but also to organize *ad hoc* expert meetings to provide scientific advice on several critical subjects such as biotechnology, antimicrobial resistance, biotoxin and lactoperoxidase.

75. One of the Vice Chairs of the Commission observed that, contrary to the budgetary contribution for JECFA, JMPR and JEMRA, the ratios of contributions to *ad hoc* meetings were considerably different between FAO and WHO and suggested that adequate funding might solve such imbalance in budget allocation and enable FAO and WHO to promptly address emerging food safety issues.

76. The Representative of WHO pointed out that the amount shown in the document did not include staff costs and other necessary costs for document printing and distribution. The Representative also clarified that the approximately 75 percent of WHO's budgets for scientific advice were relying on extrabudgetary contributions and that WHO had started a new initiative to obtain extrabudgetary funds from donor countries and others, in order to ensure sustainability in budget allocations.

77. The Representative of FAO expressed his concern that FAO and WHO would not be able to support the JECFA meeting in 2007 due to insufficient budget allocations from WHO and reiterated the importance of sustainable budgetary support to conduct the joint activities. The Representative indicated that discussion and consultation between FAO and WHO at a senior management level would be arranged to solve current and future budgetary and planning problems.

78. The Committee noted the budgetary situations of FAO and WHO as presented and expressed its desire that FAO and WHO obtain an adequate level of budgets to provide scientific advice to support the work of Codex.

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE JOINT FAO/WHO EVALUATION OF THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS AND OTHER FAO AND WHO WORK ON FOOD STANDARDS (Agenda Item 7)

GENERAL IMPLEMENTATION STATUS (Agenda Item 7a)⁷

79. The Secretariat presented the status of implementation of the recommendations of the Evaluation as presented in Table 1 of the working document and pointed out that many of the proposals originating from the recommendations and endorsed by the 26th Session of the Commission had already been implemented. It

⁷ ALINORM 06/29/9B Part I

was noted that Table 2 contained the proposals made by the 23rd Session of the Committee on General Principles for adoption by the Commission or proposed amendments under consideration in the CCGP.

80. The Member for Asia pointed out that the status of Proposal 34: Determination of Consensus referred to the decision of the 21st Session of the CCGP not to undertake new work on the definition of consensus. However, the 27th Session of the Commission had requested the CCGP to consider this issue as well as other amendment proposed by India, and it was currently under consideration in the CCGP.

81. The Committee noted that the 23rd Session of the Committee on General Principle had considered the discussion paper prepared by India and had “considered that it was yet premature to request approval of the Commission to initiate new work on these subjects. The Committee had agreed that the discussion of the issue be continued at its next session” (ALINORM 06/29/33, paras. 106-114). The Executive Committee agreed to bring this fact to the attention of the 29th Session of the Commission when the Commission would discuss the same agenda item.

82. One of the Vice-Chairs asked for some clarification on the status of Proposal 19 on facilitators and recalled that some concerns had been expressed as to the modalities of use of facilitators. The Secretariat indicated that it was “ongoing” in view of the recommendation of the 28th Session of the Commission to consider the use of facilitators on an experimental basis, and informed the Committee that there had been no attempt so far in any subsidiary body to use facilitators.

REVIEW OF THE CODEX COMMITTEE STRUCTURE AND MANDATES OF CODEX COMMITTEES AND TASK FORCES (Agenda Item 7b)⁸

83. The 28th Session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission had considered a Consultants’ Final Report on the review of the Codex Committee Structure and Mandates of Codex Committees and Task Forces⁹, containing 20 recommendations, and agreed that four of the recommendations required further study. The Commission further agreed that a Circular Letter be sent to Members and Observers to solicit comments¹⁰.

84. The replies to Circular Letter 2005/30-CAC were presented in document ALINORM 06/29/9B Part II. This document was also made available to an informal workshop held during the 23rd session of the CCGP.

85. The Secretariat provided in document ALINORM 06/29/9B Part II Add.1 additional information and analysis of the issue taking into account the replies received to the Circular Letter. Paragraphs 1 to 28 of the document contained proposals dealing with the following topics: number of Codex sessions and subsidiary bodies; interval between sessions and duration of sessions; use of task forces or Committees for Commodity work; possible merging or dissolving of existing commodity committees; organization of commodity work of Coordinating Committees; relations between committees; arrangements for the work on nutrition; and role of Codex standards versus role of private standards.

86. The Executive Committee noted the comments received from members in reply to Circular Letter 2005/30-CAC as presented in document ALINORM 06/29/9B Part II and agreed to focus its discussion on ALINORM 06/29/9B Part II Add.1.

87. Several delegations, while welcoming the document, mentioned that in their opinion the proposals contained therein should be best discussed integrally as they were interrelated but that more time was needed to study them thoroughly. The following comments were made by some members: when considering a merger of committees, care should be taken that the mandate does not become too large; priority areas for action should be defined; some standards management issues might be resolved through the critical review process once it was fully operational; the existence and role of private standards could be examined in project documents on proposed new work in an area where private standards exist. It was further recalled that the implications of changing the session interval of Codex bodies would be studied in a Secretariat document on efficiency savings.

88. The Executive Committee congratulated the Secretariat on the quality of the document and recommended that a Circular Letter be prepared to invite government comments on paragraphs 1 to 28 of the document including 11 proposals to give further opportunity to members and observers to study the analysis

⁸ CL 2005/30-CAC, ALINORM 06/29/9B Part II (Comments from Australia, Brazil, Canada, Egypt, European Community, India, Japan, New Zealand, Singapore, the United States of America and Venezuela); ALINORM 06/29/9B Part II (Paper prepared by the Codex Secretariat)

⁹ CL 2005/12-CAC

¹⁰ ALINORM 05/28/41 para. 158

and proposals before holding a more detailed discussion at the 59th Session of the Executive Committee and the 30th Session of the Commission.

89. The Executive Committee recommended further that the FAO/WHO Coordinating Committees be invited to discuss the proposals in their upcoming sessions and provide their comments to the Executive Committee and the Commission.

90. The Executive Committee noted the Secretariat's note contained in paragraphs 29 to 32 of the document regarding the hosting of Codex sessions in developing countries and the difficulties encountered in some cases before the conclusion of a letter of agreement between FAO and the countries offering the venue for the sessions.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE REPORTS OF THE COMMISSION, CODEX COMMITTEES AND TASK FORCES (AGENDA ITEM 8)¹¹

Antimicrobial resistance

91. The Executive Committee recalled that the matter of antimicrobial resistance in foodborne pathogens had been the subject of extensive discussions within Codex during last years and that the 29th Session of the Commission was expected to take a final decision on whether to establish a new Codex Task Force to initiate new work in this area. The Committee was informed that following the decision of the 28th Session of the Commission a Circular Letter¹² asked proposals on Terms of Reference of such task force and on national activities and policies in dealing with containment of antimicrobial resistance. The Committee also noted that the Republic of Korea was prepared to host the Task Force, if formally established, and planned some national activities to optimize the work of the Task Force.

92. The Committee noted that replies to the above Circular Letter contained a number of proposals for the terms of reference and therefore was of the view that in order to effectively handle this matter at the Commission it was advisable to recommend to the Commission to establish an in-session Working Group opened to all interested parties to analyse the comments and prepare proposals for the terms of reference and the name for the Task Force.

93. The Committee also noted that it would be beneficial for the Commission to receive information on national policies and regulatory measures regarding the containment of antimicrobial resistance at the national level.

Future work on animal feeding

94. The Committee noted that at the 28th Session of the Commission there had been no consensus on whether to immediately commence future work on animal feeding. The Committee agreed to maintain its recommendation made at its 55th Session that the establishment of Task Force and future work on animal feeding should be deferred until 2008 in order to allow more time to study the need for new work in addition to the work done by the previous Task Force on Animal Feeding.

WHO Global Strategy on Diet, Physical Activity and Health: actions that could be taken by Codex

95. The Representative of WHO informed the Committee about the background and progress to date in preparing a document on actions that Codex might take to facilitate the implementation of the Global Strategy on Diet, Physical Activity and Health. The Representative indicated that due to the complexity of the issue, inputs from member states had been sought by the establishment of an electronic forum by WHO and FAO. The Representative requested to accept the delays in preparing a complete action document and informed the Committee that WHO would seek the guidance of the 29th Session of the Commission on how to proceed on this matter.

RELATIONS BETWEEN THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS (Agenda Item 9)¹³

Relation between the Codex Alimentarius Commission and other international intergovernmental organizations

¹¹ ALINORM 06/29/9C, ALINORM 06/29/9C-Add.1, ALINORM 06/29/9C-Add.2; ALINORM 06/29/9C-Add.3.

¹² CL 2005/33-CAC.

¹³ ALINORM 06/26/9D, CX/EXEC 06/58/4, CRD 1

96. The Executive Committee noted the information provided by the Secretariat in the working document on the active cooperation with the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) and the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC), which had taken place since its last session.

Relation between the Codex Alimentarius Commission and international non-governmental organizations

Relation between the Codex Alimentarius Commission and the International Organization for Standardization (ISO)

97. The Executive Committee noted the information provided by the Secretariat in the working document on the cooperation with the International Organization for Standardization (ISO).

Application for Observer Status with Codex

98. The Executive Committee was invited, in accordance with Rule IX.6 of the Rules of Procedure to provide advice regarding the applications for observer status from two international non-governmental organizations neither having status with FAO nor official relations with WHO. Information from the applicant organizations was included in Annexes 1 and 2 to document CX/EXEC 06/58/4 and CRD 1.

BEUC - The European Consumers' Organisation - Bureau Européen des Unions de Consommateurs

99. The Secretariat introduced the application and informed the Committee that BEUC was an affiliate member of Consumers International (CI) and that a number of members of BEUC were also members of CI. In the view of the Secretariat, this could constitute potential double representation of which the Committee should be aware when giving advice. The Secretariat exchanged communications with BEUC as well as CI, some of which were presented to the Executive Committee, in order to obtain clarification on how the two organizations would plan to represent respective interests in Codex either jointly or separately. However, no explicit joint arrangement that would warrant separate representation had so far been received from the two organizations.

100. The Legal Adviser of WHO clarified that the issue of double representation was addressed in the "Principles Concerning the Participation of International Non-Governmental Organizations in the Work of The Codex Alimentarius Commission", section 4.2, last paragraph as contained in the Procedural Manual, stating that "Observer Status at specific meetings will not normally be granted to individual organizations that are members of a larger organization authorized and that intends to represent them at these meetings." He further stated that the word "normally" indicated that the Directors-General, and eventually the Executive Committee, enjoyed a degree of discretion to accept an organization even if there were possibilities of certain double representation.

101. Several members pointed out that recommending acceptance of the application of BEUC would set a precedent which would later lead to accepting similar applications from other regional organizations which were members of international organizations already in observer status with Codex. They also indicated that rejecting the application would result in no loss of interest on the part of BEUC, because BEUC would be able to continue to participate in all Codex sessions as members of the CI delegation.

102. Several members stated that the participation of groups representing consumers' interest in the work of Codex was important and as BEUC was a well-established organization, their participation could be beneficial to Codex and the application should be looked at favourably. One member saw benefits in the participation of different regional consumer organizations in Codex because issues for consumers varied significantly between regions. One member expressed the view that among the existing observers the issue of double representation might already existed and if it was the case it would be unfair to BEUC to reject their application based on the strict criteria set out in the revised Principles.

103. Several members suggested that the issue of double representation should be addressed through clear rules and that the matter could be handled in a similar way as it had been handled for clarifying the division of competence between the European Community and its Member States within FAO and Codex. Other members indicated that the same approach could not be applied for Codex members and for observers.

104. One member wondered whether the view of the umbrella organization should not be requested systematically when an application for observer status was received from a member of such organization.

105. The Executive Committee agreed that participation of consumer organizations in the Codex process was important to Codex and that regional representation could be useful. However, the Executive Committee agreed that it was not in a position to formulate a firm view concerning the application from BEUC until a clear policy concerning the issue of double representation was established and/or more information was

obtained as to how BEUC and CI would plan to represent themselves separately in Codex meetings and why, including proposals to solve practical questions at hand in a clear and manageable manner.

106. The Executive Committee was of the opinion that current and future policy and rules on how to deal with the issue of double representation should be applied to existing and prospective observers equally. In this context the Executive Committee discussed the issue of how to review the status of existing observers, provided for in section 6 of the Principles. In particular it was noted that a number of observers had been admitted before the adoption of the first version of the Principles by the Commission. The question was raised whether the first paragraph of section 6 of the Principles was to be interpreted to the effect that those observers were virtually “un-reviewable” because the paragraph made reference to the “criteria that applied at the time it was granted observer status”. The clarification of the scope of this paragraph would allow the Secretariat to fully implement the provisions of section 4 of the Principles.

107. The Legal Adviser of WHO explained that the Principles gave three possible reasons for terminating observer status of an organization: (1) because it no longer meets the criteria that applied at the time it was granted observer status; (2) because of reasons of exceptional nature; (3) because of not having shown sufficient interest in participation. Concerning the first reason mentioned, he expressed the view that the term “criteria” could be interpreted as being used as a general term and could refer to those rules that applied generally, including rules or criteria used by the parent organizations at that time.

108. The Executive Committee recommended that the Committee on General Principles be invited to clarify the intent and scope of section 6, paragraph 1 of the “Principles Concerning the Participation of International Non-Governmental Organizations in the Work of The Codex Alimentarius Commission” at its next session, with input from the legal services of WHO and FAO.

Natural Solutions Foundation (NSF)

109. The Executive Committee recommended to the Directors-General of FAO and WHO to reject the application for observer status from the Natural Solutions Foundation on the ground that the applicant did not meet the requirement of section 3 (e) of the Principles. Moreover one Member pointed out that the organization did not fulfil other criteria set out in section 3 of the Principles, especially with regard to the confidentiality of members.

FAO/WHO PROJECT AND TRUST FUND FOR ENHANCED PARTICIPATION IN CODEX (Agenda Item 10)¹⁴

110. The Representative of WHO presented the Annual Report 2005 (Annex 1 to the working document) and the Seventh Progress Report (Annex 2) on the Trust Fund covering activities for the first part of 2006.

111. The Representative highlighted the steady progress in the operation of the Trust Fund and the increase of interest among developing countries to participate in Codex meetings. The Representative pointed out that approximate US\$ 4 million per year would be desirable for effective operation and management of the Trust Fund, while realistic target for 2007 would be US\$ 1.5 million.

112. Several members welcomed the progress made and expressed their appreciation to FAO and WHO as well as to the donor countries for their generous support.

113. The Member for Africa stressed that the responsibility of choosing Codex meetings in which the representative of an eligible country could participate should remain with the Government concerned and that the Secretariat of the Trust Fund should continue to play its role of facilitating travel arrangements.

114. The Representative of WHO clarified that the Trust Fund Secretariat always respected decisions of applicant countries and the choice was based on the order of priority indicated by the governments of eligible countries in their applications.

115. The Committee noted that in order to overcome language and communication problems in some beneficiary countries, coordinators or regional officers of WHO were being involved partly in the administrative work in order to ensure smooth operation of the Trust Fund.

116. A member pointed out that calculation of supported participation rates shown in Table 2 should be made only on the basis of participation in Codex meetings and should not include participants in Codex

¹⁴ ALINORM 06/29/9E, CRD 2 (Comment from Argentina)

trainings, so as to exactly quantify the outcome of the Trust Fund in terms of participation in food standard negotiation fora.

117. One member noted that it would be interesting, to increase the visibility in the report on the Trust Fund, to submit comparative indicators concerning the funding provided by the Trust Fund as related to the funding provided by governments for participation in Codex meetings.

118. Regarding financial support to members of the Executive Committee from developing countries, the Secretariat clarified that all expenses were covered by the Codex Secretariat, not by the Trust Fund, though travel arrangements were undertaken by the Trust Fund Secretariat on behalf of the Codex Secretariat

119. The Coordinator for Africa suggested that a training course in Codex matter should be arranged to be held in conjunction with Coordinating Committee for Africa to be held in January 2007 so that more participants would be expected to attend the meeting. The Committee was informed that such a training course was indeed planned and that similar activities would be organised for other regions.

120. In response to a question on submission rate of reports from beneficiaries, the Representative of WHO clarified that submission of report was an obligation of beneficiary countries to maintain their eligibility in the following year.

121. The Representative noted that the essence of all reports received would be incorporated into a report of the Trust Fund in the future.

122. The Committee welcomed the actions taken with regard to monitoring and evaluation of the benefits of the Trust Fund particularly in terms of capacity building at the national level and urged FAO and WHO to continue to provide this information.

123. The Committee, noting the report of the Trust Fund as presented, expressed its appreciation to the progress made in the operation of the Fund, to the efforts being made by FAO and WHO and to the donors making generous financial contributions. The Committee encouraged current donors to continue to provide funds to the Trust Fund and invited other countries to consider contributing to the Fund in order to ensure its sustainability.

124. The Committee recognized that information meetings for the delegates supported by the Trust Fund held immediately prior to Codex sessions was very useful and welcomed the initiative taken in this direction by the host governments of subsidiary bodies in cooperation with the Codex Secretariat and the Trust Fund Secretariat.

125. The Committee noted that an informal meeting on the Trust Fund would be convened by FAO and WHO on 4 July 2006 which would provide an opportunity to all delegates to exchange views among countries and with the Trust Fund secretariat.

OTHER MATTERS ARISING FROM FAO AND WHO (Agenda Item 11)¹⁵

126. Due to time constraints, the Executive Committee decided to focus its discussion only on the request for scientific advice regarding the safety of active chlorine used in and on foods (second item in Table 1, Annex to document ALINORM 06/29/9F).

127. The Committee recalled that its 56th Session had recommended that FAO/WHO convene an expert consultation to conduct a comprehensive assessment of the use of active chlorine and that the 37th Session of the Committee on Food Additives and Contaminants and the 37th Session of the Committee on Food Hygiene had provided terms of reference for such expert consultation.

128. The Committee noted that the terms of reference developed by the two committees provided sufficient guidance to FAO and WHO and agreed to request FAO and WHO to start taking necessary steps for organizing an expert consultation including the identification of required extrabudgetary funds.

¹⁵

ALINORM 06/29/9F; ALINORM 06/29/9F Add.1

OTHER BUSINESS (Agenda Item 12)**Draft Provisional Agenda for the 30th Session of the Commission¹⁶**

129. The Committee was invited to express its view on the Draft Provisional Agenda for the 30th Session of the Commission, while noting one of its recommendations made under Agenda Item 6, according to which the 59th Session of the Executive Committee be postponed to June 2007 (see para. 65).

130. The Committee noted the draft provisional agenda was in good order and recommended that Agenda Item 12 (Implementation of the Joint Evaluation) be divided into two sub-items, one on general implementation status and the other on the review of the Codex committee structure and mandates of committees and Task forces.

Sending of information from electronic working groups to Codex Contact Points¹⁷

131. The Coordinator for Latin America and the Caribbean pointed out, on the basis of information from that Region, that in many instances when electronic working groups were established within Codex Committees, delegates participating in the meeting registered their country in the working group and did not transmit to their Contact Point the information corresponding to the above group. This did not make it possible to present a consensus position at the national level. For this reason the Coordinator asked that the information concerning electronic working groups be forwarded also to the Contact Points.

132. The Committee noted that the Commission had adopted the Guidelines on Physical and Electronic Working Groups and that invitations to participate in the working groups was always sent to all Codex Contact Points through Codex Email Lists. Therefore, it was the responsibility of each Codex Contact Point to nominate a national focal point and ensure the country's participation in the Working Groups by making appropriate interagency coordination at the national level.

Participation of the Codex Secretariat in the Working Groups

133. The Coordinator for Latin America and the Caribbean expressed the view that the participation of the Codex Secretariat in physical working groups established by Codex subsidiary bodies was essential in order to receive advice on procedural matters and asked what criteria guided the decision of the Codex Secretariat in this matter.

134. The Committee noted the clarification provided by the Secretariat that the Codex budget included no funds for the participation of the Codex Secretariat in working groups other than those held in conjunction with the plenary meetings of subsidiary bodies, and that cost savings made elsewhere were used to fund the participation of the Codex Secretariat in certain working group meetings on an *ad hoc* basis. Priority was given to those meetings in which the advice of the Codex Secretariat was expected to facilitate the standards development at a later stage, provided that suitable officers of the Codex Secretariat were physically available and funds for travels available and request was made well in advance for the participation of the Codex Secretariat in physical working groups, and request was made well in advance for participation in the working group.

¹⁶ CRD 3

¹⁷ CRD 4 (submission from Argentina)

APPENDIX I

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LISTE DES PARTICIPANTS
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APPENDIX II

**CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION
DRAFT STRATEGIC PLAN 2008-2013¹****PART 1****STRATEGIC VISION STATEMENT**

The Codex Alimentarius Commission envisages a world afforded the highest attainable levels of consumer protection including food safety and quality. To this end, the Commission will develop internationally agreed standards and related texts for use in domestic regulation and international trade in food that are based on scientific principles and fulfil the objectives of consumer health protection and fair practices in food trade.

INTRODUCTION

1. This document sets out the strategic plan for the Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC), stating strategic goals of the Commission (Part 1) and incorporating a list of programme areas and planned activities with a clearly defined timetable (Part 2). The strategic vision and goals for the CAC underpin the high priority attached to food safety by its parent organizations, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the World Health Organization (WHO). *The Strategic Framework for FAO: 2000-2015* accords high priority to promoting policy and regulatory frameworks for food at the international and national levels. Several resolutions adopted by the World Health Assembly recognized the need to highlight health considerations in international food trade and acknowledged the importance of the CAC for ensuring the highest levels of consumer health protection. These resolutions and related documents² urged WHO to work towards integrating food safety as one of its essential public health functions with the goal of developing sustainable, integrated food safety systems for the reduction of health risks along the entire food chain. It is understood that Codex, when elaborating standards, guidelines and recommendations, gives full consideration to those resolutions and decisions from WHO and FAO that are relevant within the framework of the Codex mandate. The fundamental mandate of the CAC is to develop international standards, guidelines and other recommendations for protecting the health of consumers and ensuring fair practices in the food trade.
2. The CAC has always operated in an environment of change and technological advancement. The growth in world food trade, advances in modern communication and increasing mobility of populations are all contributing to elevating the profile and significance of food safety and regulation. There is growing international concern related to a perceived emergence of or increase in food-borne diseases. Consumers around the world are seeking ever-greater assurances about the safety and quality of foods they eat. In its endeavour to promote food safety and quality, the CAC needs to ensure more effective participation and involvement of all members in setting globally relevant standards and to consider opportunities for strengthening partnerships with all stakeholders, in particular consumers and their representative organizations, at the global and national levels. It is also likely that developing countries will account for an increasing proportion of global food and agricultural trade. CAC, FAO and WHO are striving to respond to the new challenges and keep abreast of most recent developments.³
3. The recognition and status that Codex standards, guidelines and other recommendations acquired under the World Trade Organization (WTO) Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures has presented challenges and brought responsibilities, including the need to ensure that Codex standards and related texts are based on scientific principles and meet the needs and

¹ This plan will be updated in the light of the status of all current and projected activities at the time of adoption by the Commission in 2007.

² WHO Global Strategy for Food Safety (WHO, 2002).

³ Joint FAO/WHO Evaluation of the Codex Alimentarius and Other FAO and WHO Food Standards Work.

mandate of the organization. The WTO Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade is also of great relevance, given the significance of the provisions pertaining to product description, labelling, packaging and quality descriptors for consumer information and fair practices in trade. The CAC has an important role in providing for essential composition and quality requirements that are not more trade-restrictive than necessary. The CAC needs to maintain its pre-eminent status as the internationally recognized body for food standard-setting and to call for the use of its standards to the widest extent possible by all members as a basis for domestic regulation and international trade. This will help members to be more aware of the importance of the international harmonization of food safety and quality standards, as well as the enhancement of food control systems for ensuring food safety and quality.

DECISION-MAKING BASED ON SCIENTIFIC EVIDENCE

4. The CAC, as a risk management body, does not undertake scientific evaluations *per se* but relies on the opinions of scientific expert bodies convened by FAO and WHO on specific issues. These expert bodies such as the Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Food Additives (JECFA), the Joint FAO/WHO Meetings on Pesticide Residues (JMPR) and the Joint FAO/WHO Expert Meetings on Microbiological Risk Assessment (JEMRA) and other *ad hoc* expert consultations are functionally separate from the CAC and its subsidiary bodies and do not directly fall within the scope of the present Strategic Plan. The mandates, functions, composition and agendas of these bodies are established by FAO and WHO. The independence of the expert bodies is critical to the objectivity of their opinions, and meetings of these bodies should interact with the CAC in accordance with the Working Principle for Risk Analysis for Application in the Framework of the Codex Alimentarius. There is considerable synergy between the scientific bodies of FAO and WHO and the intergovernmental bodies of the CAC in order to take decisions based on scientific evidence.

STRATEGIC GOALS AND SHARED RESPONSIBILITIES

5. To enable the overall achievement of the strategic vision, the CAC must take action jointly with its parent organizations and its members. The Commission urges FAO and WHO to mobilise sufficient resources to allow the CAC to fulfil its mandate. Their other key roles are to provide scientific advice requested by the CAC and to offer technical assistance to developing members so that they can effectively participate in the standard- setting process and build capacity for the development of sound food control systems. The Commission fully recognises the efforts of the members of the CAC, especially those which provide significant financial and other support to the work of the CAC as host governments of subsidiary bodies or as contributors to extra-budgetary programmes of FAO and WHO. In close cooperation with the partners above, the Commission will focus on the following goals to achieve its strategic vision.

GOAL 1: PROMOTING SOUND REGULATORY FRAMEWORKS

6. An effective food control system is critical in enabling all countries to ensure the safety of their foods entering international trade and to ensure that imported foods conform to national requirements. International harmonization based on Codex standards, guidelines and recommendations is essential to promoting a global approach to consumer health protection, including systems for the reduction of food-borne risks, and minimizing the negative effects of technical regulations on international trade. For this purpose, the CAC will provide essential guidance for its members through the continued development of international standards and guidelines relating to food safety and hygiene, nutrition, labelling, and import/export inspection and certification and quality of food stuff. This will require sustained commitment and effort in the following key directions:
 - The CAC will develop international standards, guidelines, and recommendations based on scientific principles for the reduction of health risks along the entire food chain, including feed when appropriate. In strengthening the strategic focus of the CAC in the development of risk-based, performance-based standards and related texts for broad application across a range of commodities, the CAC must give priority to establishing a coherent and integrated set of food standards covering the entire food chain. Such an approach can serve as a model for the members of the CAC to pursue food regulatory systems that provide consumers with safe food and ensure fair practices in the food trade;

- Codex standards and related texts for food safety and quality, including labelling aspects, should be carefully prepared to reflect global variations. Codex standards for food quality should focus on essential characteristics of products to ensure that they are not overly prescriptive and that the standards are not more trade restrictive than necessary; and
 - The CAC, when elaborating and deciding upon Codex standards and related texts should take into consideration the technical and economic implications for all members as well as the special needs of developing countries including infrastructure, resources and technical and legal capabilities, Codex standards and related texts should not have the effect of creating unnecessary, unjustified or discriminatory obstacles to the exports of developing countries.
7. In many countries, effective food control is undermined by the existence of fragmented legislation, multiple jurisdictions and weaknesses in surveillance, monitoring and enforcement. Sound national food control and regulatory systems are essential to ensuring the health and safety of the domestic population as well as ensuring the safety and quality of foods entering international trade. The FAO and WHO have made significant advances in promoting sound regulatory frameworks at the national level. The Commission, while encouraging members to use Codex relevant standards, strongly encourages FAO and WHO to continue to promote national regulatory systems that are based on international principles and guidelines and address all components of the food chain. The development of sound food control and regulatory infrastructure including human resources is particularly important for developing countries as they seek to achieve higher levels of food safety and nutrition and will require high-level political and policy commitment.⁴ Successful negotiation of bilateral mutual recognition and equivalence of food control systems also depends on the abilities of countries to assure each other of the integrity and international conformity of their regulatory systems.

GOAL 2: PROMOTING WIDEST AND CONSISTENT APPLICATION OF SCIENTIFIC PRINCIPLES AND RISK ANALYSIS

8. The scientific basis of decision-making by the CAC is spelled out in the Statements of Principle on the Role of Science in the Codex Decision-Making and the Extent to Which Other Factors are Taken into Account and in the Working Principles for Risk Analysis for Application in the Framework of the Codex Alimentarius⁵. The CAC will ensure their consistent application by relevant Codex subsidiary bodies, in order to maintain its focus on this Goal. Risk analysis as it applies to food safety across the food chain is an internationally accepted discipline and will require ongoing and sustained inputs from the CAC, its parent organisations and national governments to promote its understanding and application at the international and national levels.
9. In recent years the scope of scientific advice sought by the CAC from the parent organisations increased considerably and went beyond chemical and microbiological hazards. FAO and WHO responded to these requests through several FAO/WHO *ad hoc* consultations on topics such as foods derived from genetically modified organisms and antimicrobial resistance. The Commission requests FAO and WHO to continue to promote the understanding of risk analysis and to continue to explore new areas of work, such as nutritional risk assessment, so as to provide the scientific advice relevant to CAC activities for standard setting.
10. The timely availability of scientific advice is a prerequisite for the CAC to fulfil its mandate. The Commission will continue to encourage FAO and WHO to make sufficient resources available to ensure that the scientific advice to the CAC can be provided in a timely and sustainable way. To make more efficient and effective use of the FAO/WHO expert bodies and *ad hoc* consultations, particularly given the rapidly expanding scope of scientific advice requested from FAO and WHO, the CAC will continue to strengthen the interaction between the risk managers (relevant Codex subsidiary bodies) and the risk assessors (FAO/WHO expert bodies and *ad hoc* expert consultations). The Commission has agreed to recommend to FAO and WHO a set of criteria for the prioritization of requests from the

⁴ Report of the Conference on International Food Trade beyond 2000: Science based Decisions, Harmonization, Equivalence and Mutual Recognition, Melbourne, Australia, 11-15 October, 1999, Appendix 1.

⁵ Codex Alimentarius Procedural Manual.

CAC for scientific advice and will review the usefulness of this approach. The CAC, in close cooperation with its parent organizations, will enhance its capacity to respond efficiently to emerging food borne risks by strengthening its work management capabilities (see Goal 3).

11. The CAC has the goal of elaborating standards that cover the needs of its entire membership to ensure these standards are applicable globally. A constraint to this goal is the persistent lack of relevant data from all major parts of the world. The CAC will continue to encourage countries from both the developed and developing worlds to submit relevant data to the CAC and the parent organizations. The Commission recommends that FAO and WHO build on the achievements already accomplished⁶ and take meaningful steps to ensure that scientific advice is provided more quickly, with even higher quality, that more requests are addressed, and that the process is conducted with enhanced transparency. The Commission particularly encourages FAO and WHO to explore new approaches to enhance participation of experts and the use of data from developing countries in the elaboration of scientific advice. Where relevant data are not available from developing countries, the CAC encourages FAO and WHO to assist the developing countries in generating such data.

GOAL 3: STRENGTHENING CODEX WORK-MANAGEMENT CAPABILITIES

12. Attention to food safety and global food trade has continued to increase among countries and among the international governmental and non-governmental organizations concerned with these matters. More expeditious and efficient work by the CAC is necessary to provide members and international organizations with the standards, guidelines, and recommendations that they need.
13. The CAC has already made several important advances towards achieving more efficient work-management procedures, such as strengthening the role of the Executive Committee as a strategic and standards-management body, holding annual Commission sessions, and instituting more effective use of information technology. But the CAC must take additional steps to keep pace with international developments by better managing its work so that it addresses high priority issues in a timely manner and that standards development work is completed within specified time frames.
14. The implementation of new Codex work-management procedures⁷ must make the CAC more effective and efficient, while maintaining the valuable reputation that the CAC has earned as an open, fair, transparent, and rules-based body. Key features of continuing enhancements include⁸:
 - Enhancing the capabilities of the Executive Committee with respect to strategic oversight, direction, and cross coordination of the work programmes of all subsidiary bodies through recommendations to the Commission;
 - Ensuring that the Commission and its subsidiary bodies make decisions about work prioritization using criteria that enable effective decision making, taking into consideration the need to initiate new work and to revise existing standards;
 - Ensuring that new work and standard-revision work is completed within defined time frames. Work progress is monitored by the Executive Committee, and in the event that work exceeds specified time frames, the Executive Committee recommends to the Commission that corrective actions be taken as necessary;
 - Exploring mechanisms for progressing the work of subsidiary bodies in between sessions, while maintaining transparency and inclusiveness;
 - Promoting consensus-based decision-making; and
 - Strengthening the Secretariat of the CAC to ensure effective operation and work management of the Commission and its subsidiary bodies and to maintain effective communication with the Codex Contact Points.

⁶ FAO/WHO Consultative Process for the Provision of Scientific Advice to Codex and Member Countries.

⁷ As suggested by both the Report of the Evaluation of the Codex Alimentarius and Other FAO and WHO Food Standards Work and the Report on the Review of Codex Committee Structure and Mandates of Codex Committees and Task Forces and as endorsed by the Commission.

⁸ Key features are not listed in priority order.

GOAL 4: PROMOTING COOPERATION BETWEEN CODEX AND RELEVANT INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

15. The CAC must work closely on matters of common interest with other relevant international organizations, including those whose work has indirect but significant implications for food-standard issues. Monitoring by the CAC of activities of other organizations that are relevant to food standards, and coordination with them, where appropriate and consistent with Codex procedures, is necessary to achieve complementarity, avoid duplication and prevent development of contradictory standards or guidelines. Such collaboration is also critical to the development of health-protection and food-trade measures that address the food chain from farm to table in a coherent and seamless manner.
16. The WTO recognizes the CAC as the pre-eminent international body for establishing food safety standards. The Commission must, therefore, play a leadership role in establishing international food standards for protecting the health of consumers and ensuring fair practices in food trade, while taking due account of international regulatory initiatives of international governmental and non-governmental organizations. The CAC also has a responsibility to provide its technical input and expertise towards the building of international consensus on food standards and regulatory policy matters. Establishment or promotion of cooperation, between the CAC and other relevant international intergovernmental organizations, in particular, OIE and IPPC, should be considered, where appropriate, to ensure effective collaboration and coordination, and that such cooperation should be in line with the Guidelines on Cooperation between Codex Alimentarius Commission and International Intergovernmental Organizations in the Elaboration of Standards and Related Texts.

GOAL 5: PROMOTING MAXIMUM AND EFFECTIVE PARTICIPATION OF MEMBERS

17. Full participation by all Codex Members and other interested parties in the work of the CAC is now more important than ever. The participation of all members and relevant intergovernmental and international non-governmental organizations is critical to sound decision-making and ensuring that Codex standards and related texts take account of the full range of interests and viewpoints. Since the early 1990s there has been a significant increase in the membership of the CAC with developing countries now constituting a significant proportion of total membership. The Commission welcomes some initiatives undertaken so far to mitigate the financial and human resource constraints hitherto hampering the effective participation of developing countries and countries with economies in transition in the activities of the CAC. Such initiatives include the establishment of the Joint FAO/WHO Project and Trust Fund for Enhanced Participation in Codex, and the development of training manuals and other Codex related capacity building tools. Capacity building programmes under FAO and WHO also have a bearing on strengthening these countries' participation in Codex activities. The Trust Fund and other FAO and WHO programmes are efforts aimed at enabling the members to further gain experience in the Codex process. The Commission strongly urges beneficiary members to take these opportunities offered and create sustainability towards more effective participation, by making firm commitments to adequate allocation of national resources towards Codex work.
18. There is a continuing need for FAO and WHO to implement capacity building programmes in a coherent manner, especially in developing countries and countries with economies in transition, aimed at strengthening national administrative and consultative structures on Codex (e.g. Codex Contact Point, National Codex Committee) and enhancing technical expertise required for effective participation in international standards development. The CAC will play an advisory role in facilitating the efforts made by FAO and WHO so that those efforts address the needs of the CAC and its members.
19. In addition to actions to promote participation of member countries, the CAC will continue to enhance inclusiveness and transparency of the Codex process by furthering its efforts to encourage the participation of consumers and public interest groups in its processes at the international level and encourage governments to take action at the national level. The CAC will take advantage of any information technological developments for advancement of inclusiveness and transparency in the Codex process.

PART 2

PROGRAMME AREAS AND PLANNED ACTIVITIES 2008-2013

Goal 1: Promoting Sound Regulatory Framework**1.1 : Review and develop Codex standards and related texts for food safety**

Description: Review and develop Codex standards and related texts for food safety, taking into account scientific and technological developments, to ensure that they: emphasize a horizontal approach; employ a risk-based approach to food safety that addresses the entire food chain; and reflect global variations so as to avoid being more trade restrictive than necessary, taking into consideration the technical and economic implications for all members as well as the special needs of developing countries including infrastructure, resources and technical and legal capabilities.

Timeline : Continuing

Responsible parties: CCFH, CCFAC, CCPR, CCRVDF, CCNFSDU, relevant Task Forces and Commodity Committees

1.2 : Review and develop Codex standards and related texts for food quality

Description: Review and develop Codex standards and related texts for food quality, taking into account scientific and technological developments, to ensure that they are generic in nature and whilst maintaining inclusiveness, reflect global variations and focus on essential characteristics so as to avoid being overly prescriptive and not more trade restrictive than necessary, taking into consideration the technical and economic implications for all members as well as the special needs of developing countries including infrastructure, resources and technical and legal capabilities.

Timeline : Continuing

Responsible parties: Relevant Task Forces and all Commodity Committees

1.3 : Review and develop Codex standards and related texts for food labelling and nutrition

Description: Review and develop Codex standards and related texts for food labelling and nutrition, taking into account scientific and technological developments, to ensure that they: emphasize a horizontal approach and the need to maintain inclusiveness, and address food labelling and nutrition so as to avoid being overly prescriptive and not more trade restrictive than necessary, taking into consideration the technical and economic implications for all members as well as the special needs of developing countries including infrastructure, resources and technical and legal capabilities.

Timeline: Continuing

Responsible parties: CCFL, CCNFSDU

1.4 : Review and develop Codex standards and related texts for food inspection and certification, and methods of sampling and analysis

Description: Review and develop Codex standards and related texts for food inspection and certification as well as methods of sampling, including guidance on equivalence, mutual recognition and traceability / product tracing, taking into account scientific and technological developments, to ensure that they: emphasize a horizontal approach and the need to maintain inclusiveness, and reflect global variations so as to avoid being overly prescriptive and not more trade restrictive than necessary, taking into consideration the technical and economic implications for all members as well as the special needs of developing countries including infrastructure, resources and technical and legal capabilities.

Timeline: Continuing

Responsible parties: CCMAS, CCFICS

1.5 : Develop guidance for safe and prudent non-human antimicrobial usage for containment of resistance

Description: Develop guidance within the remit of the Codex mandate for safe and prudent

antimicrobial usage for containment of resistance in food production which focuses on public health, is based on sound science and follows risk analysis principles, and takes into account the work of other international organisations.

Timeline: Completion by 2011

Responsible parties: Existing relevant Codex Committees or an *ad hoc* Intergovernmental Task Force (Final decision by the 29th session of the Commission)

1.6 : Explore innovative risk management frameworks

Description: Explore innovative risk management frameworks in establishing MRLs of veterinary drugs and pesticides and share the results of new approaches among Codex Committees.

Timeline: Completion by 2009

Responsible parties: CCRVDF, CCPR

1.7 : Encourage FAO/WHO to expand capacity building programmes

Description: Encourage FAO/WHO to strengthen their programmes to enhance food control infrastructures and to provide technical assistance including assistance on generating data to countries in need to promote application or use of Codex standards and related texts at the national level. Request FAO/WHO to report to the Commission on the implementation status of their capacity building activities.

Timeline: Continuing

Responsible parties: CAC, CCEXEC and Coordinating Committees

1.8 : Publish and disseminate the Codex Alimentarius

Description: Ensure timely publication and availability of Codex standards, guidelines and recommendations to all interested parties through the Internet and other appropriate means.

Timeline: Continuing

Responsible parties: Codex Secretariat, Codex Contact Points

Goal 2: Promoting Widest and Consistent Application of Scientific Principles and Risk Analysis

2.1 Review the consistency of risk analysis principles elaborated by the relevant Codex Committees

Description: Review the risk analysis principles elaborated by the relevant Codex Committees for consistency with the Working Principles for Risk Analysis for Application in the Framework of the Codex Alimentarius. The review might result in the CAC advising Codex Committees to amend their risk analysis principles document relevant to their area of work.

Timeline: Completion by 2011.

Responsible parties: CCGP

2.2 Review risk analysis principles developed by relevant Codex Committees

Description: Review risk analysis principles developed by relevant Codex Committees in the light of the experience gained assuming that by 2008 all relevant Codex Committees have elaborated risk assessment policies pertaining to their area of work and that these policies have been adopted by the CAC.

As these risk assessment policies play a pivotal role in the interaction between risk managers and risk assessors, communication between these two parties should be further improved, where appropriate. The result of such a review may be revised documents on risk analysis principles for adoption by the Commission. The review should also take into account the outcome of the activities described under 2.1 and 2.3.

Timeline: Completion by 2013

Responsible parties: CAC, CCEXEC, CCFAC, CCPR, CCRVDF, CCFH, CCNFSU

2.3 Enhance communication among relevant Codex subsidiary bodies and the FAO/WHO scientific expert bodies
Description: Enhance communication between the risk managers and risk assessors in accordance with paragraph 38 of the Working Principle for Risk Analysis for Application in the Framework of the Codex Alimentarius.
Timeline: Ongoing
Responsible parties: CCFAC, CCPR, CCRVDF, CCFH, CCFNSDU
2.4 Review the set of criteria recommended to FAO and WHO for prioritization of requests from Codex for scientific advice.
Description: Review the usefulness of the criteria agreed upon by the 28 th Session of the CAC for use by FAO/WHO to prioritize requests from Codex for scientific advice.
Timeline: Completion by 2009.
Responsible parties: CCEXEC
2.5 Encourage countries to channel their requests for scientific advice to FAO / WHO through the CAC
Description: Encourage countries to channel their requests through the CAC in order to make the best use of the limited resources available at FAO and WHO for the provision of scientific advice. Encourage FAO and WHO to inform the CCEXEC and the CAC of all requests on provision of scientific advice on food safety received from member countries.
Timeline: Continuing
Responsible parties: CAC, CCEXEC, all subsidiary bodies
2.6 Elaborate guidelines for risk analysis for application by governments.
Description: Complete the elaboration of a guideline for risk analysis to be used by governments.
Timeline: Subject to decision by CAC in 2007
Responsible parties: CCGP

Goal 3: Strengthening Codex Work-Management Capabilities

3.1 Review the Criteria for the Establishment of Work Priorities and procedures of the critical review carried out by the CCEXEC
Description: Review and revise, if necessary, the Criteria for the Establishment of Work Priorities and the effectiveness of the critical review process.
Timeline: Completion of analysis by CCEXEC by 2009; if there is need for revision, completion of revision by CCGP by 2011
Responsible parties: CCEXEC, CCGP
3.2 Ensure effective standards management
Description: Annually review progress of all subsidiary-body activities (i.e., standards, codes of practice, codes of hygienic practice, guidelines) against specified timeframes for completion of each activity, and recommend corrective actions to the Commission for activities that appear likely to exceed or have exceeded specified timeframes.
Timeline: Continuing
Responsible parties: CCEXEC
3.3 Develop committee-specific decision making and priority setting criteria
Description: Develop committee-specific decision-making and priority-setting criteria and use these criteria for management of work. Implement and review criteria where necessary.
Timeline: Completion of decision making and priority setting criteria by 2008. Review of criteria, beginning in 2008.
Responsible parties: All General Subject Committees and some other subsidiary bodies as

appropriate

3.4 Analyse work-management approaches that facilitate advancement of texts in the Codex step process.

Description: Analyse work-management approaches used by committees that facilitate advancement of texts in the Codex step procedure in the light of the criteria referred to in 3.3 and their use by these committees.

Timeline: Completion of analysis by 2009

Responsible parties: Analysis work to be done possibly either by Codex Secretariat or by consultant for next step (3.5)
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3.5 Adopt approaches proven to facilitate advancement of texts in the Codex step procedure by subsidiary bodies not currently using such approaches.

Description: Recommend adoption of approaches proven to facilitate advancement of texts in the Codex step procedure by subsidiary bodies not currently using such approaches, in the light of the analysis undertaken as per 3.4.
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Timeline: Completion by 2011

Responsible parties: CCEXEC and CAC
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3.6 Implement priority-ranked comprehensive accounting of all requests for scientific advice

Description: Request FAO and WHO annually to produce a priority-ranked comprehensive accounting (including budget information as it has impacts on Codex work) of all requests for scientific advice (i.e. continuing, ad hoc, requested by subsidiary bodies, or requested by members). The criteria that shall be used for priority ranking are those agreed to at the 55 th Session of the Executive Committee (ALINORM 05/28/3). FAO and WHO are also requested to include budget information relevant to provision of scientific advice.

Timeline: Continuing

Responsible parties: CCEXEC

3.7 Evaluate the capacity of the Codex Secretariat to perform its function effectively

Description: Evaluate the effectiveness and resource needs of the Codex Secretariat in the operation and work management of the Commission and its subsidiary bodies, and in communicating with and serving the needs of Codex Contact Points.

Timeline: Completion by 2009

Responsible parties: Codex Secretariat, CCEXEC, CAC
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3.8 Streamline Codex Commodity work
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Description: Implement the decisions of the Commission on how to streamline Codex work on commodities through an improved structure of Codex subsidiary bodies.
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Timeline: Completion by 2010

Responsible parties: CCEXEC, CAC

Goal 4: Promoting Cooperation between Codex and other relevant international organizations

4.1 Track the activities of other international standard-setting bodies
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Description: Track the activities of other international standard-setting bodies to identify areas of potential complementarities, gaps, duplication, or conflict. A summary of such activities relevant to Codex shall be reported to the Executive Committee and to the Commission annually.

Timeline: Continuing

Responsible parties: CAC, CCEXEC, Codex Secretariat, subsidiary bodies

4.2 Encourage Codex contributions to the work of other international bodies
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Description: Encourage other relevant international bodies, when elaborating food standards and related texts to take due account of Codex standards, related texts and any relevant ongoing work. Where appropriate, propose inclusion of appropriate cross-reference to Codex standards and relevant

texts.
Timeline: Continuing
Responsible parties: Codex Secretariat

4.3 Encourage contributions from other international bodies in Codex work
Description: Invite international bodies concerned with food safety and food quality to participate in the standards development process of Codex
Timeline: Ongoing
Responsible parties: Observers, Codex Secretariat

4.4 Consider cooperation with other relevant international intergovernmental organizations
Description: While recognizing the needs to further improve interaction with OIE and IPPC, where appropriate, explore possibilities for cooperation to ensure effective collaboration and coordination, and that such cooperation should be in line with the Guidelines on Cooperation between Codex and International Intergovernmental Organizations.
Timeline: Continuing
Responsible parties: Legal Counsels of FAO and WHO, Codex Secretariat

4.5 Promote interdisciplinary coordination at the national level
Description: Encourage Codex member countries to establish effective mechanisms within their own countries so that horizontal coordination and communication occurs among national delegates to various food-standards-related international organizations. Invite members to develop evaluation criteria to assess the success of the mechanisms that they have established and report progress in this activity through their respective Codex Regional Coordinating Committees to the CAC.
Timeline: Completion by 2009
Responsible parties: Codex Members, Coordinating Committees

Goal 5: Promoting Maximum and Effective Participation of Members

5.1 Promote Enhanced Participation of developing countries in Codex
Description: Request FAO/WHO to encourage current donors to continue to provide funds to the FAO/WHO Trust Fund and invite other donors to contribute to the Fund to ensure sustainability. Request FAO/WHO to analyse the impact of the Codex Trust Fund on the capacity of beneficiary countries and report its findings to the CCEXEC and the Commission. Provide recommendations to FAO / WHO with a view to improved operation of the Trust Fund based on the outcome of the Trust Fund mid-term evaluation.
Timeline: Continuing
Responsible parties: CAC , Executive Committee,

5.2 Promote effective use of written comments in the Codex process
Description: Encourage members and observers to make maximum use of opportunities to submit written comments in response to Circular Letters (CLs) while respecting the deadlines for such submissions to allow all members and observers to study the positions of other members and observers in a timely manner. Codex Secretariat and Chairs of the Committees will examine how best to handle the late submission of comments in response to CLs from the view points of transparency and inclusiveness.
Timeline: Continuing
Responsible parties: Codex Members, Observers, CCEXEC, Codex Secretariat

5.3 Evaluate effectiveness of Codex Committee sessions held in developing countries
Description: Evaluate the effectiveness of holding Codex sessions in developing countries in terms of enhanced participation. Analyse the effectiveness of co-hosting arrangements, and continue to explore possibilities of convening Codex sessions outside the host countries.
Timeline: Completion by 2009
Responsible parties: Host countries, CCEXEC

5.4 Strengthen Codex Contact Points and National Codex Committees
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Description: Request FAO and WHO to provide technical assistance for the strengthening of national Codex structures; provide improved support by the Codex Secretariat to Codex Contact Points through the effective use of Internet facilities.

Timeline: Continuing

Responsible parties: CAC, CCEXEC, Codex Secretariat
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5.5 Enhance participation of non-governmental organizations at international and national levels

Description: Encourage non-governmental organizations to participate in Codex work at national and international levels. Encourage members to establish sound structures and processes for consultation on Codex matters to ensure effective involvement and participation of all interested parties.
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Timeline: Continuing

Responsible parties: CAC, Codex Members, Coordinating Committees

5.6 Enhance communication about Codex work at international and national levels
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Description: Develop new communication approaches to promote the work of Codex at national and international levels. Develop direct and easily understandable messages on Codex to interested parties including consumers and especially emphasizing high level policy makers. .

Timeline: Continuing

Responsible parties: Codex Secretariat, WHO and FAO, Codex Contact Points, subsidiary bodies

PART 3

IMPLEMENTATION OF STRATEGIC PLAN

This Part contains two tables:

- Table 1: Implementation of Strategic Plan
(This table is a checklist of the Strategic Plan activities to monitor the progress and achievement of the activities listed in Part 2. This table will be regularly updated for review by the Executive Committee.)
- Table 2: Critical Review of Proposals for New Work and Monitoring Progress of Standards Development
(This table is a checklist of ongoing work, to manage current and future work undertaken by the subsidiary bodies of the Commission. This Part will regularly be presented for critical review by the Executive Committee (to monitor the progress of the ongoing work of standards setting mentioned in 1.1, 1.2, 1.3 and 1.4 of Part 2.)

Table 1: Implementation of Strategic Plan

Goal	Activities	Responsible parties	Timeframe	Output/Measurable indicators	Current Status	Notes *	Advice by EXEC	Decision by CAC
<u>GOAL 1:</u> <u>PROMOTING</u> <u>SOUND</u> <u>REGULATOR</u> <u>Y</u> <u>FRAMEWOR</u> <u>K</u>	1.1 Review and develop Codex standards and related texts for food safety	CCFH, CCFAC, CCPR, CCRVDF, CCNFSDU, relevant Task Forces and Commodity Committees	Continuing	Standards related texts adopted at respective steps	See Table 2			
	1.2 Review and develop Codex standards and related texts for food quality	Relevant Task Forces and all Commodity Committees	Continuing	Standards and related texts adopted at respective steps	See Table 2			
	1.3 Review and develop Codex standards and related texts for food labelling and nutrition	CCFL, CCNFSDU	Continuing	Standards and related texts adopted at respective steps	See Table 2			
	1.4 Review and	CCMAS, CCFICS	Continuing	Standards and related texts	See Table 2			

	develop Codex standards and related texts for food inspection and certification, and methods of sampling and analysis			adopted at respective steps				
	1.5 Develop guidance for safe and prudent non-human antimicrobial usage for containment of resistance	Existing relevant Codex Committees or an <i>ad hoc</i> Intergovernmental Task Force (Final decision by the 29 th Session of the Commission)	Completion by 2011	Guidance for safe and prudent non-human antimicrobial usage for containment of resistance	See Table 2			
	1.6 Explore innovative risk management frameworks	CCRVDF, CCPR	Completion by 2009	Reports by CCRVDF and CCPR respectively to CCEXEC and CAC				
	1.7 Encourage FAO/WHO to expand capacity building programmes	CAC, CCEXEC and Coordinating Committees	Continuing	Report from FAO/WHO to CAC, CCEXEC and Coordinating Committees				
	1.8 Publish and disseminate the Codex Alimentarius	Codex Secretariat, Codex Contact Points	Continuing	Publication and dissemination of Codex Alimentarius				

* (Notes from Committees, Secretariat, whichever necessary)

Goal	Activities	Responsible parties	Timeframe	Output/Measurable indicators	Current Status	Notes *	Advice by EXEC	Decision by CAC
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<u>GOAL 2: PROMOTING WIDEST AND CONSISTENT APPLICATION OF SCIENTIFIC PRINCIPLES AND RISK ANALYSIS</u>	2.1 Review the consistency of risk analysis principles elaborated by the relevant Codex Committees	CCGP	Completion by 2011	Report by CCGP of completed review to CAC.	See Table 2			
	2.2 Review risk analysis principles developed by relevant Codex Committees	CAC, CCEXEC, CCFAC, CCPR, CCRVDF, CCFH, CCNFSDU	Completion by 2013	Report by relevant Committees of completed review, taking into account the review of the activities in 2.1 and 2.3.	See Table 2			
	2.3 Enhance communication among relevant Codex subsidiary bodies and the FAO/WHO scientific expert bodies	CCFAC, CCPR, CCRVDF, CCFH, CCNFSDU	Ongoing	Incorporated into report as required in 2.2.				
	2.4 Review the set of criteria recommended to FAO and WHO for prioritization of requests from Codex for scientific advice.	CCEXEC	Completion by 2009	Report of review with recommendation to better match of priorities and resources by CCEXEC to CAC				
	2.5 Encourage countries to channel their requests for	CAC, CCEXEC, all subsidiary bodies	Continuing	Reports by FAO and WHO of requests for scientific advice received directly from countries vs. requests received				

	scientific advice to FAO / WHO through the CAC			through CAC.				
	2.6 Elaborate guidelines for risk analysis for application by governments.	CCGP	Subject to decision by CAC in 2007	Guideline for risk analysis for application by governments	See Table 2			

* (Notes from Committees, Secretariat, whichever necessary)

Goal	Activities	Responsible parties	Timeframe	Output/Measurable indicators	Current Status	Notes *	Advice by EXEC	Decision by CAC
<u>GOAL 3:</u> <u>STRENGTHENING</u> <u>CODEX WORK-</u> <u>MANAGEMENT</u> <u>CAPABILITIES</u>	3.1 Review the Criteria for the Establishment of Work Priorities and procedures of the critical review carried out by the CCEXEC	CCEXEC, CCGP	Completion by 2009 Completion by 2011	Report by CCEXEC on analysis of the critical review process If there is need for revision, revise the Criteria for the Establishment of Work Priorities by CCGP				
	3.2 Ensure effective standards management	CCEXEC	Continuing	Report on compliance of standards development against timelines (associated with critical review process)	See Table 2			
	3.3 Develop committee- specific decision making and priority setting criteria	All General Subject Committees and some other subsidiary bodies as appropriate	Completion by 2008 Continuing	Committee-specific decision- making and priority-setting criteria Confirmed review of criteria beginning in 2008				

	3.4 Analyse work-management approaches that facilitate advancement of texts in the Codex step process	Either by Codex Secretariat or by consultant for next step (3.5)	Completion by 2009	Report to the CCEXEC and CAC on analysis of work-management approaches				
	3.5 Adopt approaches proven to facilitate advancement of texts in the Codex step procedure by subsidiary bodies not currently using such approaches	CCEXEC and CAC	Completion by 2011	Adoption by CAC on work - management approaches.				

	3.6 Implement priority-ranked comprehensive accounting of all requests for scientific advice	FAO and WHO	Continuing	Comprehensive report by FAO/WHO to CAC on accounting of all requests for scientific advice				
	3.7 Evaluate the capacity of the Codex Secretariat to perform its function effectively	Codex Secretariat, CCEXEC, CAC	Completion by 2009	Report by Secretariat to CAC on the staff and other key resources				
	3.8 Streamline Codex Commodity work	CCEXEC, CAC	Completion by 2010	Accomplished Implementation of the decisions of the Commission on how to streamline Codex work on commodities through an improved structure of Codex subsidiary bodies				

* (Notes from Committees, Secretariat, whichever necessary)

Goal	Activities	Responsible parties	Timeframe	Output/Measurable indicators	Current Status	Notes *	Advice by EXEC	Decision by CAC
<u>GOAL 4:</u> <u>PROMOTING</u> <u>COOPERATION</u> <u>BETWEEN</u> <u>CODEX AND</u> <u>OTHER</u> <u>RELEVANT</u> <u>INTERNATIONAL</u> <u>ORGANIZATIONS</u>	4.1 Track the activities of other international standard-setting bodies	CAC, CCEXEC, Codex Secretariat, subsidiary bodies	Continuing	Report to the CCEXEC and CAC indicating potential complementarities, gaps, duplication, or conflict with the work of other international organizations				

	4.2 Encourage Codex contributions to the work of other international bodies	Codex Secretariat	Continuing	Number of standards elaborated by other international organisations with a cross reference to Codex standards and relevant texts				
	4.3 Encourage contributions from other international bodies in Codex work	Observers, Codex Secretariat	Continuing	Number of Codex standards elaborated with identifiable input from other international organisations				
	4.4 Consider cooperation with other relevant international intergovernmental organizations	Legal Counsels of FAO and WHO, Codex Secretariat	Continuing	Devise the means by which Codex can strengthen cooperation with OIE and IPPC				
	4.5 Promote interdisciplinary coordination at the national level	Codex Members, Coordinating Committees	Completion by 2009	Reports from members to Regional Coordinating Committees on mechanisms and evaluation criteria.				

* (Notes from Committees, Secretariat, whichever necessary)

Goal	Activities	Responsible parties	Timeframe	Output/Measurable indicators	Current Status	Notes *	Advice by EXEC	Decision by CAC
<u>GOAL 5:</u> <u>PROMOTING</u> <u>MAXIMUM AND</u> <u>EFFECTIVE</u> <u>PARTICIPATION</u> <u>OF MEMBERS</u>	5.1 Promote enhanced participation of developing countries in Codex	CAC, CCEXEC	Continuing	Reports from FAO / WHO presenting analysis of measures of enhanced participation achieved through the Codex Trust Fund.				
	5.2 Promote effective use of written comments in the Codex process	Codex Members, Observers, CCEXEC, Codex Secretariat	Continuing	Reports by host countries on patterns of submission of written comments in response to CLs.				
	5.3 Evaluate effectiveness of Codex Committee sessions held in developing countries	Host countries, CCEXEC	Completion by 2009	Reports from host and co-hosting countries documenting experience co-hosting experience.				
	5.4 Strengthen Codex Contact Points and National Codex Committees	CAC, CCEXEC, Codex Secretariat	Continuing	Reports from FAO/WHO on countries whose National structure and codex Contact Points have been supported.				
	5.5 Enhance participation of non-governmental organizations at international and national levels	CAC, Codex Members, Coordinating Committees	Continuing	Reports from member countries under relevant agenda items of the Regional Committees, on participations of non-governmental organizations at National level.				
	5.6 Enhance	Codex Secretariat,	Continuing	Reports by Secretariat to CAC				

	communication about Codex work at international and national levels	WHO and FAO, Codex Contact Points, subsidiary bodies		on increased use of audio / webcasting, enhancement of webpages, increase use of electronic distribution of codex materials, etc.				
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* (Notes from Committees, Secretariat, whichever necessary)

Table 2: Critical Review of Proposals for New Work and Monitoring Progress of Standards Development

Sample:

<i>Codex Committee on xx</i> ⁹	Timeframe		Current Status ¹⁰	Relevant Output Codes ¹¹	Provision of scientific advice	Explanatory notes	Specific Comments from the Chairperson of the Committee	Advice given by the Executive Committee
	Document title	Job ID ¹²						
Draft Guidelines for A	N03-2005	2009	6/7	1.2	Not required			
Draft Standard for B	N04-2006	2011	5	1.3	Not required			
Proposed Draft Guidelines for C	N05-2006	2011	3/4	1.2	FAO/WHO Expert Consultation planned in 2009			
Proposed Draft Standard for D	N04-2008	2013	2	1.3	FAO/WHO Expert Consultation requested by 2011			
General comments by the Chairperson / host countries of the Committee:								

⁹ Name of the subsidiary body.

¹⁰ Step in the Elaboration Procedure.

¹¹ Reference made to Part 2 of the Strategic Plan.

¹² Job IDs are assigned by the Commission upon approval as new work.

¹³ Year by which the draft text is to be adopted at Step 8, as agreed by the Commission on the basis of the Project Document.