

CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



World Health
Organization

Viale delle Terme di Caracalla, 00153 Rome, Italy - Tel: (+39) 06 57051 - E-mail: codex@fao.org - www.codexalimentarius.org

Agenda Item 11

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JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME

CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION

39th Session

FAO Headquarters, Rome, Italy, 27 June – 1 July 2016

CODEX WORK ON ANTIMICROBIAL RESISTANCE

(REVISED COMMENTS OF AUSTRALIA)

Proposed Strategy for Addressing the Need for Codex work on Antimicrobial Resistance.

Objective

Fully recognising and taking into account existing principles and guidelines developed by relevant international bodies, the CAC seeks to develop, review and keep contemporary, risk-based and targeted guidance for national governments on:

- Minimising the occurrence of AMR in the food chain and transmission of risks to consumers through best practice at the national level
- Minimising the risk of transmission of AMR via food in international trade

Supporting the establishment of an Ad Hoc Intergovernmental Task Force on AMR by the CAC39.

Supporting the establishment of an expert consultation

Process Forward - the CAC recognises that minimising the risk of transmission of AMR via the food chain is a significant current and future human health challenge.

It is essential that Codex applies a strategic approach to the growing global concerns regarding rising incidents of AMR. To this end Australia would propose that the Commission establish a physical working group (PWG) led by the UK (with assistance from Australia) open to all members and observers (working in English, French and Spanish). The PWG would consist of members and observers with technical (risk assessment) and policy (risk management) expertise related to animal, plant and human health as it relates to foodborne AMR.

Specifically the task of the PWG is to develop:

1. Terms of Reference for the Ad Hoc Intergovernmental Task Force on AMR
2. Terms of Reference for the provision of scientific advice (Expert Consultation) on AMR

The PWG in developing the above TORs will take into account the report of CAC 39 and the draft TOR as presented to CAC 39 for the Task Force and the Expert Consultation (CX/CAC 16/39/12 Appendix 2 and Appendix 3).

The PWG shall consider the risk assessment and risk management aspects of food borne AMR, be open to food safety experts and others as appropriate to ensure an fully integrated approach to Codex guidance. The PWG will also take into account and give careful consideration to The WHO Global Action Plan and specifically Objective 4 and the FRAMEWORK FOR ACTION ON ANTIMICROBIAL RESISTANCE that provides extensive detail to its Member States, the Secretariat and international and national partners on specific activities that need to be progressed in order to meet the objectives of the global plan. The PWG will ensure the TORs for both the expert consultation and task force allow them to progress work to effectively implement the WHO Global Action Plan.

The PWG will develop TOR for both the Expert Consultation and Task Force in line with the One Health approach, the mandate of Codex, discussion at the CAC39, the WHO Global Action Plan on AMR, OIE resolution on AMR and other international work in the area of AMR. The TOR of the expert consultation will be sufficiently scoped and detailed to ensure they have clear guidance on “what” they have been tasked to deliver. In addition the PWG will ensure in its development of the TOR of the Task force that it is sufficiently scoped to also consider the potential work that may be generated by the expert consultation. Additionally, work produced by the task force is to be future proof and contemporary, therefore periodic reviews may also be necessary by the task force to assess the effectiveness of its guidance and assess the need for further work.

Implementation

The following process, once agreed by CAC 39, will be progressed;

1. The UK (with the support of Australia) will host a physical working group of risk assessor and risk managers to meet and conclude their work (as outlined above) by 31 December 2016. The PWG will provide a report of its work including the draft TORs to CAC 40
2. An Expert Consultation will conclude its work before the end of July 2017. The TOR for the Expert Consultation will be provided by the PWG at the end of December 2016. The Expert consultation will provide a progress or final report for the information of CAC 40.
3. A Task Force hosted by (*insert host country*) will be convened before the end of December 2017. The TOR for the task force will be prepared by the PWG and provided to the host country at the end of December 2016. Preparations for the Task Force will be commenced sufficiently early enough by the host country to ensure the above timeline is met. The CAC will consider and approve the TOR recommended by the PWG at its 40th session.
4. The report of the Task Force will be considered by CAC41.