

CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION



Food and Agriculture
Organization of
the United Nations



World Health
Organization

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Agenda Item 17

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JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME

CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION

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RELATIONS BETWEEN THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS

BACKGROUND

1. In line with Strategic Objective 1.3 of the Strategic Plan of the Codex Alimentarius Commission 2014 – 2019, activities are ongoing to strengthen coordination and cooperation with international standards-setting organisations in order to avoid duplication of efforts and optimise opportunities. The Codex Secretariat regularly liaises with relevant international organisations on matters pertinent to the work of Codex.
2. The present document provides an update on this liaison and the relations with international intergovernmental organisations (Part A) and nongovernmental organisations (Part B) since the 38th Session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission.

A. RELATIONS BETWEEN THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATIONS

World Trade Organisation (WTO)

3. The Codex Secretariat participated in sessions of the SPS and TBT Committees of the WTO and informed the Committees, orally and in writing, of the work of the Codex Alimentarius Commission relevant to WTO. Many of the trade concerns raised in the SPS and TBT committees relate to Codex standards and clarifications from the Codex Secretariat are often requested. The Codex Secretariat also participated in a number of training activities organized by WTO in the regions and at WTO headquarters.
4. The Codex Secretariat also provided inputs to the meetings of the Standards and Trade Development Facility (STDF), as required.
5. Representatives of WTO and the STDF Secretariats, in return, participated in selected meetings of the Codex Alimentarius Commission and its subsidiary bodies.
6. The information provided by the WTO Secretariat on activities relevant to Codex work is presented in document CAC/39 INF/3 and an update on STDF is presented in CAC/39 INF/4.

International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)

7. Representatives of FAO/IAEA regularly participate in relevant Codex committee meetings, especially the Committees on Contaminants in Foods, on Pesticide Residues and on Residues of Veterinary Drugs in Foods, in which IAEA provides information on their activities relevant to the work of these committees and technical inputs into documents being developed by these committees.
8. Likewise, the Codex Secretariat also participates in meetings and different events organized by IAEA and provides information on Codex activities relevant to the work of IAEA on food safety as well as technical inputs into documents being developed by IAEA on different aspects of food safety and application of nuclear techniques or food contamination following a radiological emergency.
9. As regards contaminants, IAEA has participated and provided technical support in the discussion on the review of the Guideline Levels (GLs) for radionuclides in food in the Committee on Contaminants in Foods.
10. As regards pesticide residues in food and feed, IAEA is participating and providing technical support in the development of guidance for performance criteria for methods of analysis for the determination of pesticide residues in CCPR.

11. With regard to residues of veterinary drugs, IAEA is coordinating inter-institutional research activities on veterinary drug residues in both terrestrial and aquaculture products, as a way to strengthen networking around the world, and as a platform to generate new methods of analysis for the Food Contaminant and Residue Information System (FCRIS) database which supports the application of the *Guidelines for the Design and*

*Implementation of National Regulatory Food Safety Assurance Programmes Associated with the Use of Veterinary Drugs in Food Producing Animals (CAC/GL 71-2009).*¹

12. Information provided by the IAEA Secretariat on activities relevant to Codex work is presented in document CAC/39 INF/7.

World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE)

13. Information provided by the OIE Secretariat on activities relevant to Codex work is presented in document CAC/39 INF/2.

14. Continued collaboration between Codex and OIE has resulted in a number of Codex and OIE texts, which have been developed with inputs of the two organisations and which include cross reference to relevant texts of the two organisations (Annex 1 provides a list of Codex texts referring to OIE).

OIE Working Group on Animal Production Food Safety

15. The Codex Secretariat attended the 15th meeting of the OIE Working Group on Animal Production Food Safety (APFSWG), held in Paris (France) (November 2015). At the meeting the Codex Secretariat provided an update on texts adopted by the 38th Session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission and ongoing and future work in Codex subsidiary bodies, in particular the work ongoing in the Committee on Food Hygiene (CCFH) on *Salmonella* spp. in beef and pork and on control of foodborne parasites, including *Trichinella* spp. and in other committees, including Residues of Veterinary Drugs in Food (CCRVDF), Fish and Fishery Products (CCFFP) and Food Import and Export Inspection and Certification Systems (CCFICS). Participation of the Codex Secretariat in the APFSWG contributes to the coordination of work between the OIE and Codex and to the exchange of information of common interest.

OIE ad hoc Groups

16. The Codex Secretariat has participated as an observer in the work of the OIE *ad hoc* Group on Salmonellosis in cattle and pigs (December 2015) in view of the CCFH work on *Salmonella* in pork and beef. Participation in this meeting contributes to ensure coherence and complementarity between Codex and OIE texts and to limit duplication of work while ensuring coverage of the whole food chain.

17. As an Observer organisation to Codex, OIE contributes to the work of Codex by providing comments and participating in the sessions of the Commission and of its Codex subsidiary bodies and in the work of electronic and physical working groups. The OIE is also invited to prepare information papers on relevant activities at the Codex Alimentarius Commission and at a number of Committees, including CCRVDF, CCFH, CCFFP and CCFICS.

United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE)

18. The Codex Secretariat regularly attends meetings of the UNECE Working Party on Agricultural Quality Standards and its Specialised Sections on Standardisation of Fresh Fruits and Vegetables and Dry and Dried Produce as Observer with a view to exchange information on standardisation work being performed by the two bodies, and to provide inputs on matters of common interest that are being discussed in both bodies to ensure harmonisation of Codex and UNECE agricultural quality standards to the extent possible.

19. Similarly, the UNECE Secretariat regularly attends meetings of the Committee on Fresh Fruits and Vegetables (CCFFV) and the Committee on Processed Fruits and Vegetables (CCPFV) as Observer to exchange information on standardisation work being performed by the two bodies and to provide inputs on matters of common interest that are being discussed in both bodies. The UNECE Secretariat is also working in consultation with the Codex Secretariat to include references (where applicable) to Codex food safety standards in the UNECE standards for meat following the decision of the UNECE Specialized Section on Meat in this regard.

20. It is noted that ongoing work in CCFFV on standards for fresh fruits and vegetables are based on corresponding UNECE standards and that the Codex and UNECE Secretariats have followed UNECE and Codex relevant meetings to facilitate communication between the two bodies and harmonization of Codex/UNECE standards to the extent possible. Discussion on future work on dry and dried produce at the upcoming session of CCPFV will also involve cooperative work between the Codex and UNECE Secretariats along the same lines as in fresh fruits and vegetables, should CCPFV agree to start new work in this area. The Codex Secretariat also participates in other activities organized by the UNECE Secretariat to deliver information on Codex work relevant to UNECE work on agricultural quality standards and vice-versa.

21. Information provided by UNECE on activities relevant to Codex work is presented in document CAC/39 INF/8.

¹ <http://nucleus.iaea.org/fcris/VetSubMethodList.aspx>

Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)

Application of international standards for fruits and vegetables

22. The Codex Secretariat regularly attends Plenary Meetings of the OECD Scheme as Observer to exchange information on standardisation-related work being performed by the two bodies and to provide inputs on matters of common interest that are being discussed in both bodies. The Secretariat was also involved in a number of OECD capacity building activities to make presentations on Codex work in the area of quality of fruits and vegetables. The OECD Secretariat provides information on OECD activities relevant to CCFFV on a regular basis. Collaboration between Codex and the OECD Scheme aims at exploring synergies on complementary work between the two bodies, such as further development of OECD explanatory brochures on Codex standards for fruits and vegetables.

Pesticide residue chemistry and minor uses

23. The OECD Secretariat regularly provides information on pesticide residue chemistry and minor uses to the Committee on Pesticide Residues (CCPR). This information is relevant to the ongoing work in CCPR on the establishment of maximum residue limits for pesticides and in particular for the provision of guidance on the establishment of MRLs for minor crops including other matters related to these commodities.

24. Information provided by the OECD Secretariat on activities relevant to Codex work will be presented in document CAC/39 INF1.

Risk/Safety Assessment of Products of Modern Biotechnology

25. Currently there is no ongoing work in Codex on food derived from biotechnology, however, the OECD regularly provides information on their activities to the Codex Secretariat.

International Olive Council (IOC)

26. The IOC has a long-standing cooperation with Codex in the development and revision of Codex texts concerning olive-related products and participates regularly in relevant Committees, such as meetings of the Committee on Fats and Oils and the Committee on Processed Fruits and Vegetables. The Codex Secretariat attended the last IOC Chemist meeting held in Madrid in which IOC indicated that their members will provide inputs to the ongoing work by CCFO to revise some parameters in the Codex *Standard for Olive Oils and Pomace Oils* (CODEX STAN 33-1981) and they further indicated their desire that this Standard be harmonised with the IOC trade standard.

27. The Codex Secretariat receives documents for the meetings on olive-related products organised by IOC, and participates, as required, to provide an update on the work of relevant Codex committees.

International Organisation of Vine and Wine (OIV)

28. OIV regularly provides information on its relevant activities or participates in the Codex Alimentarius Commission and several Codex Committees, in particular the Committees on Food Additives, on Contaminants in Foods and on Fresh Fruits and Vegetables.

29. The OIV participates in the work of the Committee on Food Additives, especially regarding provisions relating to food additives in the *General Standard for Food Additives* (GSFA), in particular for the “grape wine” category and its sub-categories and in the review of the food category system.

30. Detailed information on OIV activities and cooperation with Codex is presented in document CAC/39 INF/5.

International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC)

31. The Codex Secretariat regularly attends sessions of the Commission on Phytosanitary Measures of the International Plant Protection Convention. In addition, informal liaison between the Codex and IPPC Secretariats continues on matters of common interest to both parties.

32. The IPPC and Codex Secretariats are cooperating on technical/administrative issues, such as websites, interaction with contact points, electronic working groups, etc. Currently one staff member is shared between the Secretariats in order to implement a new version of the online commenting system allowing a secure reception of comments and their automatic compilation. The system will start pilot testing in the second half of 2016 and more information will be available during a side event at this Session and on an individual basis.

B. RELATIONS BETWEEN THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION AND INTERNATIONAL NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATIONS

International Organisation for Standardisation (ISO)

33. Codex has liaison status with ISO TC 34 on food products, ISO TC 234 *Fisheries and aquaculture* and the ISO Committee on Conformity Assessment (ISO/CASCO). The Secretariat therefore receives all the documents for these committees, follows their work and participates in relevant meetings as far as possible. The Codex Secretariat has been invited to participate in the ISO TC34 meeting to be held in Paris, 7 - 8 July 2016. Furthermore in May 2017, the Codex Secretariat attended the ISO Secretaries training session held in Geneva which provided valuable insight in the different approaches taken by ISO in developing timely and relevant international standards.

34. The Codex Secretariat and the JEMRA Secretariat also follow the work of SC09 Microbiology.

35. ISO regularly participates in the Codex Alimentarius Commission and in the Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling, where its technical contribution is very important, as regards methods of analysis and general issues such as sampling uncertainty. The contribution of ISO in the area of methods of analysis and sampling is very substantial, as more than 300 methods of analysis refer to ISO methods.

36. Detailed information on ISO activities and cooperation with Codex is presented in CAC/39 INF/6.

ANNEX 1

Codex texts referring to OIE

Reference	Title
CAC/RCP 52-2003	<u>Code of Practice for Fish and Fishery Products</u>
CAC/RCP 54-2004	<u>Code of Practice on Good Animal Feeding</u>
CAC/RCP 57-2004	<u>Code of Hygienic Practice for Milk and Milk Products</u>
CAC/RCP 58-2005	<u>Code of Hygienic Practice for Meat</u>
CAC/GL 38-2001	<u>Guidelines for design, production, issuance and use of generic model official certificates</u>
CAC/RCP 61-2005	<u>Code of Practice to Minimise and Contain Antimicrobial Resistance</u>
CAC/GL 26-1997	<u>Guidelines for the Design, Operation, Assessment and Accreditation of Food Import and Export Inspection and Certification Systems</u>
CAC/GL 60-2006	<u>Principles for Traceability / Product Tracing as a Tool Within a Food Inspection and Certification System</u>
CAC/GL 62-2007	<u>Working Principles for Risk Analysis for Food Safety for Application by Governments</u>
CAC/GL 67-2008	<u>Model Export Certificate for Milk and Milk Products</u>
CAC/GL 77-2011	<u>Guidelines for Risk Analysis of Foodborne Antimicrobial Resistance</u>
CAC/GL 78-2011	<u>Guidelines for the Control of Campylobacter and Salmonella spp. in Chicken Meat</u>
CAC/GL 80-2013	<u>Guidelines on the Application of Risk Assessment for Feed</u>
CAC/GL 82-2013	<u>Principles and Guidelines for National Food Control Systems</u>
CAC/GL 85-2014	<u>Guidelines for the Control of Taenia saginata in Meat of Domestic Cattle</u>
CAC/GL 86-2015	<u>Guidelines for the Control of Trichinella spp. in Meat of Suidae</u>
For adoption by CAC39	<u>Guidelines for the Control of Nontyphoidal Salmonella spp. in Beef and Pork Meat</u>
For adoption by CAC39	<u>Guidelines on the Application of General Principles of Food Hygiene to the Control of Foodborne Parasites</u>