

# CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION



Food and Agriculture  
Organization of  
the United Nations



World Health  
Organization

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Agenda Item 13

CX/CAC 14/37/15

## JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME

### CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION

37<sup>th</sup> Session, CICG

Geneva, Switzerland, 14-18 July 2014

## RELATIONS BETWEEN THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

### 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 optimize opportunities. The Codex Secretariat regularly liaises with relevant international organizations 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 36<sup>th</sup> Session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission.

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

#### World Trade Organization (WTO)

3. The Codex Secretariat regularly 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 the WTO. The Codex Secretariat also participated in, and provided support to selected regional WTO workshops on the SPS Agreement, as well as the specialised course held in conjunction with the SPS Committee. The Codex Secretariat provided inputs to the meetings of the Standards and Trade Development Facility (STDF), as required. Representatives of WTO, in return, participated in selected meetings of the Codex Alimentarius Commission and its subsidiary bodies.
4. The information provided by the WTO Secretariat on activities relevant to Codex work is contained in document CAC/37 INF/3 and an update on STDF is presented in CAC/37 INF/4.

#### International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)

5. 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.
6. As regards contaminants, IAEA has participated in the discussion on the review of the Guideline Levels (GLs) for radionuclides in the *General Standard for Contaminants and Toxins in Food and Feed*. The 9<sup>th</sup> Session of CCCF (March 2015) will consider matters related to the implementation of the GLs following the conclusions and recommendations of the Interagency Working Group Meeting led by IAEA (October 2013). The Interagency Working Group is currently developing a technical document to assist Member countries to apply the appropriate radioactivity safety standard i.e. Codex GLs for international trade following a nuclear or radiological emergency and national values if the situation in the country deserves more stringent measures to ensure safety of the food supply. The paper will also address post-emergency situations and the transition period between emergency and existing situations and will include references to relevant international organisations like Codex and the link between international and national standards. The Codex Secretariat has participated in this Interagency Working Group to provide information on Codex work on radionuclides in relation to foodstuffs and drinking water (bottled).
7. As regards pesticides, IAEA is participating in the development of guidance for performance criteria for methods of analysis for the determination of pesticide residues in CCPR.

8. IAEA has contributed to the work of CCRVDF in the development of the guidelines on performance characteristics for multi-residue analytical methods. IAEA publishes analytical methods for veterinary drugs used in animal production on the Food Contaminant and Residue Information System (FCRIS) database<sup>1</sup>.

9. Information provided by the IAEA Secretariat on activities relevant to Codex work is presented in document CAC/37 INF/7.

#### **World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE)**

10. Information provided by the OIE Secretariat on activities relevant to Codex work is presented in document CAC/37 INF/2.

11. 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

12. The Codex Secretariat attended the 13<sup>th</sup> meeting of the OIE Working Group on Animal Production Food Safety (APFSWG), held in Paris (France) on 29-31 October 2013. At the meeting the Codex Secretariat provided an update on texts adopted by 36<sup>th</sup> Session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission and ongoing and future work in Codex subsidiary bodies, in particular the Task Force on Animal Feeding and the Committees on Food Hygiene, Food Import and Export Inspection and Certification Systems, Contaminants in Foods, Residues of Veterinary Drugs in Foods and General Principles. 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

13. The Codex Secretariat has been invited to participate as an observer in the work of the OIE *ad hoc* Groups on *Salmonella* in pigs (August 2014) in view of the proposed CCFH new 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.

14. As an Observer organisation to Codex, OIE contributes to the work of Codex 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 the Committees on Residues of Veterinary Drugs in Foods, on Food Hygiene and Fish and Fishery Products.

#### United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE)

15. The Codex Secretariat regularly attends meetings of the UNECE Working Party and its Specialized Section on Standardization of Fresh Fruits and Vegetables as Observer to exchange information on standardization work being performed by the two bodies and to provide inputs on matters of common interest that are being discussed in both bodies .

16. The Codex Secretariat also attended sessions of the Specialized Section on Dry and Dried Produce in 2013 and 2014 in view that the 27<sup>th</sup> Session of the Committee on Processed Fruits and Vegetables (CCPFV) (September 2014) will consider how to deal with standardisation of dry and dried produce as part of its future work programme. Work already done by UNECE in this area may be taken into account when developing Codex standards for such products.

17. The UNECE Secretariat regularly attends meetings of the Committee on Fresh Fruits and Vegetables (CCFFV) as Observer to exchange information on standardisation work being performed by the two parties and to provide inputs on matters of common interest that are being discussed in both parties. It is expected that they will attend the 27<sup>th</sup> Session of CCPFV to provide information on UNECE work on dry and dried produce. Information provided by the UNECE Secretariat on activities relevant to Codex work will be presented in document CAC/37 INF/8.

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

## **Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)**

### **Application of international standards for fruits and vegetables**

18. The OECD Scheme for Application of International Standards for Fruit and Vegetables adopted the Codex Standard for Pomegranate as a OECD Standard and developed the corresponding explanatory brochure. The Codex and OECD Secretariats facilitated this process by providing information on the discussion of the standard in the CCFFV and by allowing Codex members which are not members of the OECD Scheme to participate as observers in the development of the brochure respectively. The OECD Brochure on Pomegranate was presented to Codex members in a Codex/OECD Side-Event on Pomegranate during the 18<sup>th</sup> Session of CCFFV (February 2014).

19. The Codex Secretariat regularly attends Plenary Meetings of the OECD Scheme as Observer to exchange information on standardization-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. They also attended the 18<sup>th</sup> Session of CCFFV.

### **Pesticide residue chemistry and minor uses**

20. The OECD Secretariat regularly provides information on pesticide residue chemistry and minor uses to the Committee on Pesticide Residues. 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/specialty crops including other matters related to these commodities.

21. Information provided by the UNECE Secretariat on activities relevant to Codex work will be presented in document CAC/37 INF1.

## **International Olive Council (IOC)**

22. 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 Committee on Processed Fruits and Vegetables.

23. 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)**

24. 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.

25. The OIV participates in the work by 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.

26. As regards the Committee on Fresh Fruits and Vegetables, OIV contributed to the work on the Standard for Table Grapes in particular, maturity requirements.

27. Detailed information on OIV activities and cooperation with Codex will be presented in document CAC/37 INF/5.

## **International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC)**

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

29. The IPPC and Codex Secretariat have on several occasions discussed how to work closer together on technical/administrative issues such as websites, interaction with contact points, electronic working groups etc. The IPPC Secretariat has recently established an online commenting system allowing secure reception of comments and their automatic compilation. The system also has a component allowing members to establish their comments in cooperation with their technical experts. The Codex Secretariat has now started a project to adapt the IPPC online commenting system for Codex needs and it is expected that the system will be piloted early next year. The system will facilitate the work of the Codex and host country secretariats and avoid that comments are lost or accidentally deleted as records are kept of all transactions. The implementation of the system has been delayed due to an internal reorganization of FAOs systems support (closure of the Bangkok office) and it is now expected that the system will start piloting in autumn 2014.

## **B. RELATIONS BETWEEN THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION AND INTERNATIONAL NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS**

### **International Organization for Standardization (ISO)**

30. 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.
31. The Codex Secretariat and the JEMRA Secretariat also follow the work of SC09 Microbiology. The Secretariat provided an update to SC9 in 2013 (24 - 26 June) and has been invited to participate in their next meeting on 23 – 25 June 2014.
32. The Codex Secretariat, participated in the regional workshop on “Role of international food standards in international trade” and the ISO TC34 Plenary meeting organised by ISO from 22 to 25 April 2014 in Bangkok Thailand,. The regional workshop considered the food supply chains in the region, the role of various stakeholders in the food chain, and issues related to the implementation of standards especially at the import and export stages.
33. The Secretariat provided an update of Codex work, mainly the relationship between the Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling (CCMAS) and the ISO/TC 34; and the work of the newly established Committee on Spices and Culinary Herbs.
34. 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.
35. Detailed information on ISO activities and cooperation with Codex is presented in CAC/37 INF/6.

## 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 Minimize 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 38/2001	<u>Guidelines for Design, Production, Issuance and Use of Generic Official Certificates</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>