MATTERS ARISING FROM SUBSIDIARY BODIES

Matters for information

78th Session of the Executive Committee of the Codex Alimentarius Commission (CCEXEC78)

The Role of the Executive Committee of the Codex Alimentarius Commission

1. CCEXEC78 agreed that it was not necessary to develop procedural guidance on the division of work between CCEXEC and CCGP since the current mandate and procedures were sufficient.

Implementation of CAC42: Feedback on Changes and Proposals for further Improvements

2. CCEXEC78 requested that Chairpersons of subsidiary bodies and CAC together with the Secretariat:
   a. develop strategies to prevent or mitigate technical discussions at CAC on topics for which there was no consensus and communicate these strategies to Members. Such strategies may include short adjournments of the session for informal discussions or suspension of discussions on items that overrun the planned time limit; and
   b. ensure that, at meetings of CAC, written comments received were given due consideration and the technical basis of reservations were included in meeting reports.


3. CCEXEC78 noted that visibility and accessibility of “Criteria to facilitate the conduct of monitoring progress of standards development” would be further discussed when considering the format and structure of the PM at CCGP32.

4. CCEXEC78 recognized that CCEXEC could provide guidance and advice to subsidiary bodies and that subsidiary bodies could also seek advice from CCEXEC and that such exchange could take place outside of the Critical Review process.


5. CCEXEC78 noted that CCGP32 would consider a paper relating to revisions and amendments of Codex standards covering aspects such as clearer version control and differentiation between revisions and amendments.

6. CCEXEC78 requested the Secretariat to increase awareness and visibility of the procedures for revision of standards that were developed by Committees that have since been adjourned and provide additional guidance to facilitate application.

1 REP20/EXEC1, para. 24
2 REP20/EXEC1, para. 30ii
3 REP20/EXEC1, paras. 42, 46
4 REP20/EXEC1, paras. 55, 57ii
Follow-up to Regular Review of Codex Work Management 2017-2018: Use of References in Codex Texts

7. CCEXEC78 emphasized that while there may on occasion be merit in including references to standards of another standard setting organization, these should be kept to a minimum since they become an integral part of a Codex text and require life-long monitoring.


8. Consideration was given on whether specific inputs should be sought from other Codex actors (Members and Observers, parent organizations and chairpersons of subsidiary bodies) to the work plan. In this regard, CCEXEC78 agreed that the Chairperson of the sub-committee should reach out to the chairpersons of subsidiary bodies for their input.

9. With regard to strategic goal 3, CCEXEC78 agreed that it was important to provide Members with opportunities to discuss and consider appropriate means to measure the impact of Codex and therefore welcomed the plan to discuss monitoring the implementation of Codex standards at CCGP32.

10. With regard to strategic goal 5, CCEXEC78 supported the proposals to continue to hold workshops for host secretariats and chairpersons of subsidiary bodies, to facilitate the transition from outgoing to incoming regional coordinators in five of the six Codex regions, the completion of guidance for host country secretariats, revision as needed of the Codex Chairpersons’ Handbook, and the development of a handbook for Codex delegates, noting these would support implementation of objective 5.2.

The Application of the Statements of Principle Concerning the Role of Science: Interim Report of the CCEXEC Sub-Committee

11. CCEXEC78 noted the progress made at the physical meeting of the sub-committee as contained in CRD3 and requested that:
   i. the Codex Secretariat in collaboration with FAO and WHO develop a first draft of the practical guidance in accordance with the ToR of the sub-committee, having consulted the chairpersons of the Codex subsidiary bodies to obtain feedback on their understanding and application of the SoP;
   ii. the Codex Secretariat make available the draft guidance on the electronic discussion forum of the sub-committee in advance of the second physical meeting planned to take place immediately prior to CCEXEC79;
   iii. the CCEXEC sub-committee consider the draft guidance at its second physical meeting (immediately prior to CCEXEC79) and advise CCEXEC79 on the next steps required to complete the work including steps to ensure the transparency of the process.

Timeliness of Codex working documents

12. CCEXEC78 requested that the Codex Secretariat bring the information on the timeliness of Codex working documents, reports and the availability of adopted standards contained in CX/EXEC 20/78/8 to the attention of subsidiary bodies for their review and suggestions.

Including Delegate Contact Information in Codex Reports

13. The Codex Secretariat, in response to support for the position presented by the CCLAC Coordinator, confirmed that the change removing such data had been introduced initially at CAC42 in Geneva in line with current WHO practice. The Secretariat agreed to seek a solution to make personal information available. Possible options to be explored included an opt-in preference for sharing contact details to be expressed by individual delegates during meeting registration or a solution where such data would be available behind a login.