

codex alimentarius commission



FOOD AND AGRICULTURE
ORGANIZATION
OF THE UNITED NATIONS

WORLD
HEALTH
ORGANIZATION



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Agenda Item 10

JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME

CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION

Thirtieth Session, FAO Headquarters, Rome, 2 – 7 July 2007

PROPOSED SCHEDULE OF CODEX MEETINGS 2007-2009

1. The 29th Session of the Commission considered the budgetary and financial matters of the Commission on the basis of working document ALINORM 06/29/9, prepared by the Codex Secretariat. The Commission endorsed the recommendations of the Executive Committee to request the Secretariat to prepare a discussion paper, in cooperation with FAO and WHO, by exploring several options for streamlining Codex session planning and their implications on Codex work, for discussion at its next Session. 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 (ALINORM 06/29/41 para. 149).
2. As set out in paragraphs 16-22 of the above-mentioned working document, two alternative patterns of the Codex session schedule may theoretically be conceived: the one based on the annual sessions of the Commission and the other based on the biennial sessions of the Commission. In practice, the Commission met annually from 1963 to 1972. Thereafter, the Commission adopted a biennial meeting pattern until 2003 when it decided to start meeting annually again.
3. The annual meetings of the Commission offer, among others, the following advantages: (i) yearly opportunities to adopt or revise a Codex standard or related text, with the subsidiary bodies being encouraged to speed up standards development; (ii) yearly opportunities for the Commission (rather than the Executive Committee) to provide guidance to Codex subsidiary bodies. The disadvantages include: (i) increased meeting costs to be borne by the Codex budget, (ii) meetings of subsidiary bodies concentrated in March-April and October-November periods every year due to the fact that any meetings of these bodies placed between mid May and mid September cannot report to, or receive guidance from, the Commission meeting in July; (iii) shorter commenting period available for Codex Contact Points to examine and respond to Codex Circular Letters, due to late availability of documents and translations. The biennial meetings of the Commission would have the opposite advantages and disadvantages.
4. Subsequent to the 29th Session of the Commission, the issue of the annual versus biennial sessions of the Commission was discussed by the senior management of FAO and WHO, taking into account the advantages and disadvantages of each meeting pattern. Both FAO and WHO are of the view that while it is ultimately up to

Working documents will be uploaded onto the Codex website: www.codexalimentarius.net/web/index_en.jsp
Delegates are kindly requested to bring with them to the meeting all documents which have been distributed, as the number of additional copies which can be made available at the session is limited.

the Commission to decide on its own work plan and the need for annual sessions should be assessed in the future in light of the evolving situation (e.g. the number of draft standards advanced to Step 8), it is desirable that the Commission maintain annual sessions in the 2008-2009 biennium for the following reasons: (i) the Codex Trust Fund is available to support developing country members to participate in the Commission sessions, and (ii) the annual sessions of the Commission, which started in 2003 and which were instrumental in implementing the recommendations arising from the Joint FAO/WHO Evaluation in a timely manner, can be “tried out” for another few years at least. FAO and WHO have also recognised that in order to maintain annual sessions of the Commission, the capacity of the Codex Secretariat needs to be strengthened.

5. Taking into consideration the view of FAO and WHO secretariats as summarised above, and pending the final level of appropriations for the Codex budget 2008-2009, the proposed schedule of Codex meetings 2008-2009, as attached in Annex, has been prepared based on a single scenario according to which the Commission will meet two times in the next biennium. The proposed schedule also assumes that the FAO/WHO Coordinating Committees will hold one meeting each during the next biennium, and the Executive Committee three meetings.

6. In preparing the proposed schedule, the Codex Secretariat also contacted the host governments of the Codex subsidiary bodies that are active (except Coordinating Committees) and asked for their views on the current meeting interval of the bodies for which they are responsible. In general, the respondent host governments of subsidiary bodies expressed the view that the current meeting intervals are appropriate. Where certain committees that are meeting at an interval of more than 12 months have a relatively heavy workload, their host governments consider that the shortening of meeting intervals may not necessarily lead to speeding up the work and instead propose a longer (e.g. six-day instead of five-day) meeting to make more progress. Some host governments replied that they would rather want other governments to take over their duties, should the meeting frequency need to be increased. Additionally, specific observations have been made as follows:

- The Committee on Residues of Veterinary Drugs in Foods has a decreasing workload with a smaller number of substances being sent to JECFA evaluations. The meeting interval of this committee may be extended from 18 to 24 months, taking into account the outcome of the 17th Session of the Committee (September 2007);
- The Committee on Food Import and Export Inspection and Certification Systems will consider at its next session a number of new work proposals and will pursue current work on the Proposed draft Appendices to the Guidelines on the Judgement of Equivalence of Sanitary Measures Associated with Food Inspection and Certification. Pending the outcome of the 16th Session of the Committee (November 2007), it may be possible to consider a longer inter-session interval between sessions after the 16th Session;
- The Committee on General Principles has forwarded the Proposed Draft Working Principles for Risk Analysis for Food Safety for Application by Governments as well as a number of amendments to the Procedural Manual for final adoption by the Commission. Should the proposed draft principles be adopted by the present session of the Commission, the Committee will not need to meet before 2009.

7. The Commission may wish to express its view on, and is invited to endorse, the Codex session schedule 2008-2009 set out in the attached Annex. The schedule, including the dates and venues of meetings, is subject to modification for logistic and other reasons as well as in light of the progress of work of the Commission and its subsidiary bodies.

ANNEX

2007

CX-730-17	Codex Committee on Residues of Veterinary Drugs in Foods	Breckenridge	United States	3-7 Sep 2007
CX-802-7	<i>Ad hoc</i> Intergovernmental Task Force on Foods Derived from Biotechnology	Chiba	Japan	24-28 Sept 2007
CX-804-1	<i>Ad hoc</i> Intergovernmental Task Force on Antimicrobial Resistance	Seoul	Republic of Korea	23-26 Oct 2007
CX-712-39	Codex Committee on Food Hygiene	New Delhi	India	29 Oct-3 Nov 2007
CX-720-29	Codex Committee on Nutrition and Foods for Special Dietary Uses	Bad Neuenahr	Germany	12-16 Nov 2007
CX-733-16	Codex Committee on Food Import and Export Inspection and Certification Systems	TBA	Australia	26-30 Nov 2007
CX-702-60	Executive Committee of the Codex Alimentarius Commission	Geneva	Switzerland	4-6 Dec 2007

2008

CX-703-8	Codex Committee on Milk and Milk Products	Queenstown	New Zealand	4-8 Feb 2008
CX-722-29	Codex Committee on Fish and Fishery Products	Trondheim	Norway	18-23 Feb 2008
CX-805-1	<i>Ad hoc</i> Intergovernmental Task Force on Quick Frozen Foods	TBA	Thailand	26-29 February 2008
CX-715-29	Codex Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling	Budapest	Hungary	10-14 Mar 2008
CX-735-2	Codex Committee on Contaminants in Foods	The Hague	Netherlands	31 Mar-4 Apr 2008
CX-718-40	Codex Committee on Pesticide Residues	Beijing	China	14-19 Apr 2008
CX-711-40	Codex Committee on Food Additives	Beijing	China	21-25 Apr 2008
CX-714-36	Codex Committee on Food Labelling	Ottawa	Canada	28 Apr-2 May 2008
CX-731-14	Codex Committee on Fresh Fruits and Vegetables	Mexico City	Mexico	5-9 May 2008
CX-702-61	Executive Committee of the Codex Alimentarius Commission	Geneva	Switzerland	25-28 Jun 2008
CX-701-31	Codex Alimentarius Commission	Geneva	Switzerland	30 Jun-5 Jul 2008
CX-713-24	Codex Committee on Processed Fruits and Vegetables	TBA	United States	15-19 Sep 2008
CX-802-8	<i>Ad hoc</i> Intergovernmental Task Force on Foods Derived from Biotechnology	Chiba	Japan	22-26 Sep 2008

CX-706-25	FAO/WHO Coordinating Committee for Europe ¹	TBA	Poland	7-10 Oct 2008
CX-804-2	<i>Ad hoc</i> Intergovernmental Task Force on Antimicrobial Resistance	Seoul	Republic of Korea	20-24 Oct 2008
CX-732-10	FAO/WHO Coordinating Committee for North America and South West Pacific ¹	TBA	Tonga	27-30 Oct 2008
CX-720-30	Codex Committee on Nutrition and Foods for Special Dietary Uses	TBA	Germany	3-7 Nov 2008
CX-725-15	FAO/WHO Coordinating Committee for Latin America and the Caribbean ¹	Mexico City	Mexico	10-13 Nov 2008
CX-727-16	FAO/WHO Coordinating Committee for Asia ¹	TBA	Indonesia	17-20 Nov 2008
CX-733-17	Codex Committee on Food Import and Export Inspection and Certification Systems	TBA	Australia	24-28 Nov 2008
CX-712-39	Codex Committee on Food Hygiene	TBA	United States	1-6 Dec 2008

2009

CX-734-4	FAO/WHO Coordinating Committee for Near East ¹	TBA	Tunisia	26-29 Jan 2009
CX-709-21	Codex Committee on Fats and Oils	TBA	TBA	16-20 Feb 2009
CX-707-18	FAO/WHO Coordinating Committee for Africa ¹	TBA	Ghana	23-26 Feb 2009
CX-715-30	Codex Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling	Budapest	Hungary	9-13 Mar 2009
CX-711-41	Codex Committee on Food Additives	Beijing	China	16-20 Mar 2009
CX-735-3	Codex Committee on Contaminants in Foods	The Hague	Netherlands	23-27 Mar 2009
CX-716-25	Codex Committee on General Principles	Paris	France	30 Mar-3 Apr 2009
CX-730-18	Codex Committee on Residues of Veterinary Drugs in Foods	TBA	United States	6-10 Apr 2009
CX-718-41	Codex Committee on Pesticide Residues	Beijing	China	20-25 Apr 2009
CX-714-37	Codex Committee on Food Labelling	Ottawa	Canada	27 Apr-1 May 2009
CX-702-62	Executive Committee of the Codex Alimentarius Commission	Rome	Italy	23-26 Jun 2009
CX-701-31	Codex Alimentarius Commission	Rome	Italy	29 Jun-4 Jul 2009
CX-731-15	Codex Committee on Fresh Fruits and Vegetables	Mexico City	Mexico	21-25 Sep 2009
CX-722-30	Codex Committee on Fish and Fishery Products	TBA	Norway	5-10 Oct 2009

¹ Subject to appointment of the Regional Coordinator by the Commission

CX-804-3	<i>Ad hoc</i> Intergovernmental Task Force on Antimicrobial Resistance	Seoul	Republic of Korea	12-16 Oct 2009
CX-720-31	Codex Committee on Nutrition and Foods for Special Dietary Uses	TBA	Germany	2-6 Nov 2009
CX-733-18	Codex Committee on Food Import and Export Inspection and Certification Systems	TBA	Australia	9-13 Nov 2009
CX-712-40	Codex Committee on Food Hygiene	Washington	United States	16-21 Nov 2009
CX-702-63	Executive Committee of the Codex Alimentarius Commission	Rome	Italy	8-11 Dec 2009

TBA: To be announced