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codex alimentarius commission



FOOD AND AGRICULTURE
ORGANIZATION
OF THE UNITED NATIONS

WORLD
HEALTH
ORGANIZATION



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Agenda Item 12 b)

JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME

CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION Thirtieth Session

FAO Headquarters, Rome, Italy, 2 – 7 July 2007

REVIEW OF CODEX COMMITTEE STRUCTURE AND MANDATES OF CODEX COMMITTEES AND TASK FORCES

Position of Mexico with regard to CL 2006/29-CAC

Mexico is grateful for the opportunity to express its opinion on this subject and conveys its position on each of the 11 proposals:

Proposal 1

Mexico does not consider it appropriate to place an upper limit on the number of Codex sessions per biennium and considers that the number of sessions of each subsidiary body of the Commission should depend on the number of items and the content of the agenda.

Proposal 2

Mexico does not support an upper limit on the number of active subsidiary bodies that can co-exist as it considers that the number of subsidiary bodies should be proportionate to the pending technical work approved by the Commission. Mexico also suggests that the scheduling of sessions could consider the possibility of holding concurrent sessions of Codex coordinating committees or commodity committees that are unrelated.

Proposal 3

Mexico considers that the frequency of sessions of subsidiary bodies of the Commission should be determined by their agenda and the urgency of their work.

Proposal 4

Mexico notes that, depending on the agenda, there have been successful instances of changing the standard format of sessions (Committee on Milk and Milk Products, Committee on Processed Fruits and Vegetables, etc.) and extending them a little, for example to 7 working/real days.

Proposals 5 and 6

K0151/E

Mexico supports these proposals

Proposal 7

Mexico sees no drawbacks in examining the structure and mandate of the subsidiary bodies of the Commission to take decisions on a case-by-case basis. For the time being, potentially beneficial minor changes could be introduced to determine whether more extensive changes are needed.

Proposal 8

Mexico notes the need to consider the international or regional nature of commodity trade for decision making. Decisions should be made on a case-by-case basis, with thorough examination of the need for an international standard and the workload of the worldwide committees. Such examination should be carried out by the CCEXEC under the Critical Review following a proposal to extend the scope of a standard to the international level.

Proposal 9

Mexico agrees with this proposal.

Proposal 10

While Mexico believes that issues related to nutrition are important, decisions should be based on the criteria adopted by the Commission for the establishment of work priorities, in other words the prioritization of food safety issues and commodity standards of interest to the developing countries.

Proposal 11

Mexico supports this proposal.