

# codex alimentarius commission



FOOD AND AGRICULTURE  
ORGANIZATION  
OF THE UNITED NATIONS

WORLD  
HEALTH  
ORGANIZATION



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## JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME

### CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION

#### *Thirtieth Session*

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

### **PROGRESS REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE WHO GLOBAL STRATEGY ON DIET, PHYSICAL ACTIVITY AND HEALTH AS RELATED TO CODEX**

#### **Introduction:**

1. As requested by the 28<sup>th</sup> Session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission<sup>1</sup>, WHO and FAO prepared the Draft Action Plan for the Implementation of the Global Strategy on Diet, Physical Activity and Health<sup>2</sup>. The Draft Action Plan was considered by the 28<sup>th</sup> Session of the Codex Committee on Nutrition and Foods for Special Dietary Uses and the 35<sup>th</sup> Session of the Codex Committee on Food Labelling.
2. As agreed at the 29<sup>th</sup> Session of the Commission<sup>3</sup>, WHO and FAO are reporting back to the Commission on the outcome of the discussions of the CCNFSDU and the CCFL on the implementation of the Global Strategy. The Chairs of these two Committees will be reporting in more detail on the results of their deliberations.<sup>4 5</sup>

#### **Background**

3. In 2003, the World Health Assembly (WHA) Resolution 56.23 on the Joint FAO/WHO evaluation of the work of the Codex Alimentarius Commission called upon the Commission to give higher priority to setting science-based standards for health and nutrition-related issues. The resolution urged Member States to “make full use of Codex standards for the protection of human health throughout the food chain, including making healthy choices regarding nutrition and diet.
4. In 2004, the WHA Resolution 57.17 endorsed the Global Strategy on Diet, Physical Activity and Health (hereafter referred to as the Global Strategy) and referenced Resolution 56.23 above. It requested the Codex Alimentarius Commission to continue to give full consideration within the framework of its operational mandate, to measures which it might take to contribute towards the improvement of health standards of foods consistent with the aims and objectives of the Global Strategy.
5. The 28<sup>th</sup> Session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission<sup>1</sup> agreed to ask WHO, in cooperation with FAO, to prepare a document focused on actions that could be taken by Codex including specific proposals for new work for consideration by the CCNFSDU and the CCFL and agreed that its next session would consider

<sup>1</sup> ALINORM 05/28/41 para.234

<sup>2</sup> CL 2006/44-CAC

<sup>3</sup> ALINORM 06/29/41 paras. 175-176

<sup>4</sup> ALINORM 07/30/9D

<sup>5</sup> ALINORM 07/30/9D Add.1

further the implementation of the Global Strategy, taking into account the views and proposals put forward by these Committees.

6. In 2006, WHO and FAO sought comments via an electronic forum from Member States and observers regarding a series of questions concerning implementation of the Global Strategy. The results of the electronic forum were included in an Update on the Implementation of the Global Strategy<sup>6</sup> which was provided to the 29<sup>th</sup> Session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission.

7. The 29<sup>th</sup> Session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission<sup>7</sup> agreed that WHO and FAO would complete a document containing concrete proposals for possible actions by Codex that would be circulated for comments to all Codex Contact Points. The comments received together with the document itself would be considered by the next sessions of CCNFSDU and CCFL. The views and recommendations of these Committees would then be forwarded to the 30<sup>th</sup> Session of the Commission for further guidance

### **Draft Action Plan for Implementation of the Global Strategy on Diet, Physical Activity and Health (CL2006/44-CAC)**

8. The Draft Action Plan was distributed in September 2006 for comment and was considered by the 28<sup>th</sup> Session of CCNFSDU (November, 2006) and the 35<sup>th</sup> Session of the CCFL (May, 2007). It contained a series of proposed actions related to nutrition labelling, certain nutrition claims, quantitative declaration of ingredients, modification of standardized foods and production and processing standards regarding nutritional quality and safety of foods. A summary of the proposed actions is attached in the Appendix.

9. Member States and observers at the 28<sup>th</sup> Session of CCNFSDU<sup>8</sup> and the 35<sup>th</sup> Session of CCFL<sup>9</sup> gave serious and careful consideration to the proposed actions both in their written comments and in their interventions during the discussions. While not all of the proposed actions were considered necessary, both Committees were receptive to their roles in implementing the Global Strategy. For example, the CCFL agreed to consider further the implementation of the Global Strategy at its next session, particularly those proposed actions dealing with nutrition labelling, declaration of healthful ingredients and modification of standardized foods, and the CCNFSDU agreed to consider a paper by Canada on production and processing standards for the nutritional quality and safety of foods.

10. WHO and FAO consider these actions and commitments by CCNFSDU and CCFL crucial to the implementation of the Global Strategy. WHO and FAO are particularly grateful to the Member States who have volunteered to chair a physical working group on some of the proposed action for the implementation of the Global Strategy and an electronic working group on modification of standardized foods which is also related to the implementation of the Global Strategy and to Member States who have volunteered to prepare papers.

### **The Way Forward**

11. WHO and FAO plan to continue to enhance their interaction with CCNFSDU and CCFL and to follow the work of the two Committees connected to the implementation of the Global Strategy. The science relating diet and nutrition to increased risk of noncommunicable diseases is evolving rapidly. WHO and FAO will make every effort to ensure that the Committees are aware of the scientific advice currently being produced by WHO and FAO and of any plans for relevant scientific work which may affect the implementation of the Global Strategy.

12. The Commission is requested to note the agreed actions and comments made by CCNFSDU and CCFL and provide any guidance it believes appropriate. WHO and FAO stand ready to provide any support that the concerned Committees may need in further exploring the implementation of the Global Strategy. WHO and FAO hope to see new work proposed by the Committees to implement the Global Strategy and look forward to receiving continued support from the Commission for the Codex implementation of the Global Strategy

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<sup>6</sup> CAC/29/LIM/6

<sup>7</sup> ALINORM 06/29/41 para. 176

<sup>8</sup> ALINORM 07/30/26 paras.144-146

<sup>9</sup> ALINORM 07/30/22 paras.20-64; 124-133;141-144

## Summary of Proposed Actions contained in the Draft Action Plan for Implementation of the Global Strategy on Diet, Physical Activity and Health

### **Proposed actions intended for the Codex Committee on Food Labelling:**

#### **1. Codex Guidelines on Nutrition Labelling**

- 1.1 Amend the Purpose of the Codex Guidelines to include reference to providing the consumer with information to reduce risk factors for noncommunicable diseases and to permit the dietary management of noncommunicable diseases of public health significance;
- 1.2 Amend Subsection 3.1 to require that the Nutrient Declaration be mandatory on the labels of all prepackaged foods;
- 1.3 Expand the list of nutrients that are always declared (Paragraphs 3.2.1.1 and 3.2.2.2 of the Guidelines) to include the energy value and the amounts of protein, available carbohydrate, sugars, fat, saturated fatty acids, *trans*-fatty acids and sodium;
- 1.4 Develop additional criteria for the presentation of the Nutrient Description to enhance legibility and readability and hence consumer use and understanding of the information; and
- 1.5 Develop Nutrient Reference Values for nutrients that are associated with both increased and decreased risk of noncommunicable diseases.

#### **2. Codex Guidelines For Use of Nutrition and Health Claims**

- 2.1 Develop conditions for nutrient content claims for *trans*-fatty acids and include restrictions on both saturated and *trans*- fatty acids in the conditions for both nutrient content claims and comparative claims for saturated fatty acids and *trans*-fatty acids.

#### **3. Quantitative Declaration of Ingredients**

- 3.1 Include paragraph 5.1.1 (e) in any requirements for the quantitative declaration of ingredients. The Global Strategy recommends an increase in consumption of fruits, vegetables and legumes, whole grains and nuts. The proposed draft amendment to Section 5 of the General Standard for the Labelling of Prepackaged Foods on quantitative ingredient declaration<sup>3</sup> includes the disclosure of the ingoing percentage of any ingredient that “is the subject of an express or implied claim about the presence of any fruits, vegetables, whole grains or added sugars” (Paragraph 5.1.1 (e) in square brackets).

#### **4. Modification of Standardized Foods**

- 4.1 Amend the Codex General Standard for the Labelling of Prepackaged Foods and the Codex General Standard for the Use of Dairy Terms to permit the use of the names established in a standard to be used in conjunction with either a comparative claim or a nutrient content claim on the label of a modified standardized food provided that the claims comply with requirements set out in the Codex Guidelines for Use of Nutrition and Health Claims.

### **Proposed actions intended for the Codex Committee on Nutrition and Food for Special Dietary Uses:**

#### **1. Nutrition Labelling**

- 1.5 Develop Nutrient Reference Values for nutrients that are associated with both increased and decreased risk of noncommunicable diseases.

#### **2. Nutrition Claims**

- 2.1 Develop conditions for nutrient content claims for *trans*-fatty acids and include restrictions on both saturated and *trans*- fatty acids in the conditions for both nutrient content claims and comparative claims for saturated fatty acids and *trans*-fatty acids.

#### **5. Production and Processing Standards regarding the Nutritional Quality and Safety of Foods**

- 5.1 Review the need for guidelines intended for governments on the use of sound nutrition principles in the production, processing and formulation of foods based on the population nutrient intake goals of the 2002 Expert Consultation.

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<sup>3</sup> Alinorm 06/29/22 Appendix VI