

CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION



Food and Agriculture
Organization of
the United Nations



World Health
Organization

Viale delle Terme di Caracalla, 00153 Rome, Italy - Tel: (+39) 06 57051 - Fax: (+39) 06 5705 4593 - E-mail: codex@fao.org - www.codexalimentarius.org

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CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION

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COMMENTS ON CODEX WORK MANAGEMENT AND FUNCTIONING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

(Comments of Australia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, India, Iran, Japan, Kenya, Malaysia, Uruguay, International Council of Beverages Associations (ICBA), International Federation for Animal Health (IFAH) by 7 June 2015)

General Comments

Australia

Australia would like to take this opportunity to thank the Codex Secretariat and the parent bodies for providing the opportunity to comment on the agenda paper and we look forward to the discussion at the forthcoming session of the committee.

While the paper provides some analysis of the Evaluation in 2002 and provides us with a good reminder of the decisions and implementation of certain recommendations in response to the Evaluation, the proposals identified in the paper are slightly disjointed and appear to endeavour to address some of the recommendations that were perhaps not fully supported at the time. We recall that the Secretariat-led internal review was to be initiated in a form to be decided and approved by the Commission at its 38th Session; we therefore don't consider that CCGP is in a position to discuss the concrete proposals and solutions contained in the paper at this time.

In general, Australia considers that this is an important issue as reflected by the discussions at the last session of CCGP in 2014, which highlighted among other things that a new review should not duplicate the 2002 Evaluations; instead it should focus on how to maintain and increase the effectiveness of Codex in an ongoing way. Specific items to be examined could be the role and functioning of the Executive Committee or better ways for different committees and task forces to work together. Codex should have a framework for conducting a continuous review and looking at creative and pragmatic ways to apply the existing procedures. It was mentioned that such an approach would fit in well with strategic objective 4 of the Strategic Plan 2014-2019 and that within Codex there was a vast array of experience that could be used to work on this. CCGP also held an in-session working group. In summary, the in-session working group agreed to support and give priority to the review of Codex work management practices. Points to consider in this regard are as follows:

- The need for inclusiveness;
- The need to scope the exercise for the most effective use of resources;
- To be clear as to its purpose;
- The need for strong consultation across the Codex Secretariat and FAO/WHO throughout the process;
- That the above options are not mutually exclusive;
- To draw upon all areas of experience in Codex work management (chairs, etc.);
- To keep in mind the broadening membership of Codex and the appropriateness of processes and procedures.

The paper contains a range of ideas that are not supported by any real analysis of the problem that each proposal might be seeking to address. There are inferences that the Executive is to blame for Codex problems when this in fact cannot be substantiated. Many of the members of the Executive have put a lot of effort into trying to encourage the Executive to be more strategic (e.g. the introduction of a business plan model that would closely link the Codex budget to the strategic plan (ALINORM 10/33/3A)). Innovative ideas with regards to management of cross committee work have been met by resistance and in some cases where the Executive has recommended a particular action, in terms of exercising its standards management function, the recommended action has not been supported at the Commission level.

Australia would caution that narrowing our discussion to the range of proposals in the paper will restrict the options for improving the strategic focus and effectiveness of Codex. This discussion should provide the opportunity for discussions around improved practices that will lead to positive change. For this reason we would strongly urge that a more general discussion be held at the forthcoming session of CCGP. This discussion could be used to further identify the issues, problems; what can be done better and what should be the future direction of Codex, including where its priorities should lie. These discussions could be reported/forwarded for further consideration by the Executive and ultimately the Commission later this year.

With regards to the recommendations of CX/GP 15/29/6 and specifically replacement of the Executive Committee by a Codex Executive Board, these proposals need careful consideration. To assist taking this work forward consideration should be given to a mechanism to further develop a paper for consideration by the 70th session of the Executive, exploring options to give the secretariat paper a more strategic focus i.e. distilling from the Secretariat paper high priority areas in today's Codex environment, supporting any subsequent recommendations with more in depth analysis. Whether a more representative Board would be more effective/strategic would be a fundamental component of this work. In this context, any change in membership must take into account the need for transparency and inclusiveness; the membership discussion/options could include a review of the manner in which Chairs and Vice-Chairs are nominated and elected. This discussion should also include the modus operandi of the Board including whether the *critical review function* adds value to the process for the approval of new work; does the Executive committee fulfil its mandate in regards to the *standards management function*?

Another important area that appears to have been missed is the effectiveness of the current agenda of the Commission in supporting a strategic management approach to our work. The current agenda for the Commission is heavily laden with information items which in our view could be moved to side-events in order to make way for more strategic discussions such as the work management of committees; what can be done better and what should be the future direction of Codex, including where its priorities should lie. A substantial time (1/2 day) could be set aside during the plenary in order to allow members to discuss emerging issues – a simple panel approach whereby the Secretariat and the parent bodies identified key people at the forefront of food safety and international trade (from member countries or from the chairs of committees) that would take part in a panel discussion that would assist in identifying emerging issues.

Australia considers that this is an important opportunity for Codex to become more effective and efficient and to move towards development of more contemporary approaches to how it operates. We all agree that Codex as an organisation needs to look at how it operates and identify mechanisms that will continue to support the development of outcomes based standards that meet the emerging needs of members and in order to do this it may be required to devolve itself of functions, processes and procedures that no longer meet this need.

Japan

Japan welcomes active and constructive discussions based on the document prepared by Codex Secretariat in collaboration with FAO/WHO at the upcoming Commission with the view toward the Codex to be the preeminent international food standards-setting body to fulfill its mandate and promote the coordination of all food standards work.

Specific comments

3.1 Mandate and Priorities	
Proposal 3.1.1	Examine the amount of Codex resources spent on health-related vs. other work.
Comment on the proposal:	
Australia	
The difficulty with this proposal is that the outcomes of Codex work will often reflect the dual mandate of Codex. Whilst the 2002 Evaluation noted that priority should be given to developing standards that protect the health of consumers, ensuring fair practices in the food trade is also important, especially for developing countries.	
Costa Rica	
El mandato del Codex Alimentarius posee dos objetivos principales, proteger la salud de los consumidores y asegurar prácticas equitativas en el comercio de los alimentos. En razón de lo cual el Codex debe continuar abordando los temas de inocuidad, sin dejar de elaborar normas de calidad, por la importancia para el comercio de alimentos de los países, en especial los países en vías de desarrollo.	
Costa Rica no se opone a que se realicen estudios para determinar cuántos recursos se dedican a ambos temas, pero considera que no queda claro cuál es la finalidad de los mismos. Adicionalmente, existe la preocupación sobre la viabilidad de realizarlos, quiénes los van a utilizar, quiénes lo van a pagar, cómo serían implementadas las recomendaciones. Se considera que estos estudios son costosos y hay necesidades presupuestarias de mayor urgencia, como por ejemplo, se requiere reforzar el apoyo para el asesoramiento de los comités de expertos.	
Dominican Republic	
Estamos de acuerdo con la evaluación del uso de los recursos dedicados a los trabajos relacionados con la salud.	
Se deberá realizar un estudio que pueda cuantificar los recursos invertidos en la producción de las normativas que impactan o inciden directamente en la salud.	

India

India notes that the twin mandate of Codex is “protecting the health of the consumers and ensuring fair practices in the food trade”, while concentrating on the health-related aspects of food standards, the commodity standards which ensure fair practices in the food trade shall not be side-lined. This is all the more important from the point of view of the developing countries.

Moreover, when viewed holistically, the work of the Codex has also been in accordance with the broad objectives of the parent organizations viz., FAO and WHO in terms of ensuring food safety, availability of safe food across the globe and also focussing on health related aspects.

The proposed examination, therefore, seems to be an exercise without any worthwhile purpose to achieve. In our opinion any proposal for shift in the focus of Codex work in future can be independent of the examination of its past work.

Iran

Regarding to codex scope that focus on health related aspects, available of adequate and effective resources is necessary.

Japan

Japan appreciates the Secretariat’s analysis presented under 3.1.1 and supports further examination and analysis of this matter by the Secretariat. We are of the opinion that Codex should prioritize standards having an impact on consumer health and safety as recommended by the 2002 Evaluation. In consistency with the Codex’s purpose (protecting the health of the consumers and ensuring fair practices in the food trade), trade/quality issues should be considered if they are related to unfair trade and practices that may mislead consumers. Commodity standards should be considered in connection with protection of the health of the consumers.

Malaysia

The Codex Alimentarius aims at protecting consumers’ health and ensuring fair practices in the food trade. Malaysia is of the view that it is difficult to demarcate the amount of Codex resources spent on health-related vs. other work and that this exercise is really time consuming and require resources. As such, Malaysia does not support conducting this proposed activity.

ICBA

In general, ICBA supports the existing dual mandate of Codex: to protect the health of the consumers and ensure fair practices in food trade. We do not see a need for this proposal that would divert the resources from actual Codex work.

IFAH

Codex has a double mandate, health and trade. Unless the mandate changes, we do not see the point of evaluating this. In our view, it remains important that the double mandate remains unchanged.

What further action do you recommend with regard to this proposal :**Australia**

None at this stage

Costa Rica

Antes de iniciar cualquier estudio debe realizarse un análisis de todos los gastos del Codex para obtener un diagnóstico real del uso de los recursos, definir cuáles son las prioridades y tomar la decisión de asignación de los recursos. Este tema se aborda con mayor detalle en el punto 3.2.

Dominican Republic

Se deberá dar un seguimiento permanente de la labor realizada en los comités del Codex a favor de normativas que estén relacionadas con la inocuidad y/o salud.

India

Codex should continue to work to fulfil its mandate on direct as well as indirect health related aspects of food.

Iran

Parallel with food safety and quality (based on risk analysis), work on foods for special dieter and nutrients for helping to realization of national food security of codex member countries is recommended.

IFAH

If this question relates to priorities of Codex and what work should take precedence, we do not believe that this approach as the best way to prioritize work.

Which priority do you assign to this proposal (high, medium, low)?**Australia**

Low

<p>Costa Rica</p> <p>Baja</p> <p>Dominican Republic</p> <p>Entendemos que es una propuesta de elevada prioridad, que si se aplicara, podría ayudar a dar mayor conocimiento sobre el parámetro costo-beneficio a partir de la utilización de las normativas del Codex.</p> <p>India</p> <p>Medium-low</p> <p>Iran</p> <p>High</p> <p>Japan</p> <p>High</p> <p>ICBA</p> <p>Low</p> <p>IFAH</p> <p>Low</p>
<p>3.1.2 Evaluate the use made of Codex standards and their impact in protecting the health of consumers and ensuring fair practices in the food trade.</p>
<p>Comment on the proposal:</p> <p>Australia</p> <p>Is this an economic/financial/resource impact? It's difficult to measure this as Codex members put in different levels of effort depending on their resources and the priority areas of Codex at the national level. And of course developing countries would probably like to put in more effort but lack the resources.</p> <p>Costa Rica</p> <p>Es relevante evaluar el uso que se hace de las normas por parte de los países y cuantificar, mediante casos específicos, el impacto que tienen éstas sobre la salud de los consumidores y el comercio de productos. Esta información podría ser utilizada para sensibilizar a todos los sectores involucrados, sobre la importancia de participar en el proceso de elaboración de normas.</p> <p>Se requiere mayor información para conocer quién realizaría el estudio, cuáles países serían parte del estudio y que aspectos se evaluaría en el uso que se hace de las normas.</p> <p>Dominican Republic</p> <p>Estamos de acuerdo a la propuesta 3.1.2</p> <p>Sugerimos a la CAC que realice encuesta del uso de las normas por los países miembros del Codex.</p> <p>Consideramos necesario se establezcan indicadores que puedan medir el impacto de la aplicación de las normas Codex en la inocuidad alimentaria.</p> <p>India</p> <p>It is important to assess the effective role played by the Codex over the years in protecting the health of consumers and ensuring fair practices in food trade. An analysis on the impact of Codex standards could give direction to Codex work.</p> <p>The number of national standards based/ harmonized with the Codex standards and the International trade organizations accepting Codex standards as the benchmark could give an approximate measure/indication of the impact of the Codex work. The use of Codex standards in settling the disputes in the WTO can also be a good indicator.</p> <p>Iran</p> <p>It can be very useful, because the main priority of codex should be health related aspects in an international fair trade market, particularly in developing countries.</p> <p>Japan</p> <p>Japan is of the view that evaluating the use of Codex standards and their impact would be useful to identify what standards/guidelines are important to Codex Members. Considering potential cost and time of conducting the survey, however, Japan proposes that the Codex initiates the evaluation by analysing SPS and TBT notifications. In case a survey is conducted, the term "use" may have to be specified.</p> <p>Malaysia</p> <p>Codex standards are important for members to formulate national regulations to protect the health of consumers and to</p>

facilitate food trade. They are recognised as international standards under WTO SPS Agreement.. Thus, Malaysia agrees with the proposal. Evaluation may be conducted based on two steps namely 1) determine whether Codex standards are being used, and by whom (countries, private sector, bilateral or multi lateral trade agreements etc.) and 2) determine the impact of current Codex work as well as the main contributors to this impact.

ICBA

While this might be interesting information to gather, we believe this should not be a priority. The Commission should consider the cost-benefit ratio of the proposal as it would divert resources while not necessarily providing actionable results.

IFAH

The proposal is very resource intensive but is of interest.

What further action do you recommend with regard to this proposal :

Australia

None at this stage.

Costa Rica

El Codex debería trabajar en casos de éxito de sus normas y poner a la disponibilidad de la comunidad Codex.

Resultaría de mucho beneficio para los países trabajar en la definición de indicadores armonizados sobre los cuales se evaluaría el impacto de las normas.

Dominican Republic

No tenemos otras medidas al momento.

India

A discussion paper may be developed for the CAC or an external evaluation on the impact of Codex work could be useful if done externally and using the limited resources of Codex.

Iran

Risk based thinking in preparing the food standards in commodity committees.

Japan

Analyse SPS and TBT notifications.

Malaysia

The Codex Secretariat should develop a format to capture the intended answers and issue a CL inviting interested members and observer organizations to provide response.

IFAH

A careful framework should be defined by WHO and FAO in order to have a valid external evaluation. Particular attention should be paid to explore the value of Codex standards for developing countries.

Which priority do you assign to this proposal (high, medium, low)?

Australia

Low

Costa Rica

Elevada

Dominican Republic

Entendemos que es una propuesta de elevada prioridad.

India

Medium

Iran

High

Japan

Medium

Malaysia

Medium

<p>ICBA</p> <p>Low</p> <p>IFAH</p> <p>High</p>
<p>3.1.3 Develop effective mechanisms to strategically identify and include emerging issues in the programme of work.</p>
<p>Comment on the proposal:</p> <p>Australia</p> <p>Australia considers that this proposal should be a high priority. The Commission meetings could be better utilised to facilitate broad discussions on emerging issues. The current agenda for the Commission is heavily laden with information items which in our view could be moved to side-events in order to make way for more strategic discussions such as the work management of committees; what can be done better and what should be the future direction of Codex, including where its priorities should lie. A substantial time (1/2 day) could be set aside during the plenary in order to allow members to discuss emerging issues – a simple panel approach whereby the Secretariat and the parent bodies identified key people at the forefront of food safety and international trade (from member countries or from the chairs of committees) that would take part in a panel discussion that would assist in identifying emerging issues.</p> <p>Costa Rica</p> <p>En cuanto a incluir nuevas cuestiones en el programa de trabajo, consideramos que deben estar en consonancia con lo establecido en el Plan Estratégico 2014-2019 y el mandato del Codex. El abordaje de la identificación de cuestiones emergentes debe circunscribirse a aquellas relacionadas con la inocuidad de los alimentos y el foro para la discusión correspondería a cada uno de los comités para su posterior debate en la CAC.</p> <p>Sin embargo, es importante debatir en esta Comisión cuál sería el abordaje sistemático para determinar dichas cuestiones.</p> <p>Dominican Republic</p> <p>Estamos de acuerdo con este planteamiento, ya que al Codex debe contar con orientaciones de carácter más estratégico, basadas en estrategias y políticas internacionales.</p> <p>La Estrategia mundial sobre régimen alimentario, actividad física y salud y los planteamientos generados en la ICN2 (Segunda Conferencia Internacional sobre Nutrición), son ejemplos, de cómo la integración de la FAO y la OMS, están incidiendo en las políticas internacionales.</p> <p>India</p> <p>This is an important proposal as with increase in the quantum of trade, change in consumption pattern of the consumers, technological advancement/innovation in food processing and the changes in the climate, a lot of new emerging issues are impacting the food and they need to be dealt with.</p> <p>The Commission could benefit from adopting “a reflection on emerging issues” as a standing item on its agenda.</p> <p>A change in the Prioritization criteria of adoption of new work, giving more importance to emerging issues may also help. This activity can also help in providing better direction to the Codex work and in timely consideration of the emerging issues.</p> <p>Iran</p> <p>It may be useful that codex find and develop an effective mechanisms.</p> <p>Japan</p> <p>Japan believes that our parental organizations, FAO and WHO, have already identified emerging issues with respect to food safety, food security and food trade. It is important for our parental organizations to show the Codex their problems and identify the necessary work together with the Codex. The emerging issues should be identified among general issues on food safety and food security.</p> <p>Malaysia</p> <p>Malaysia is of the view that emerging issues should be addressed within each Codex Committee. Moreover, FAO and WHO can also highlight to Committees on emerging issues. We therefore do not think it is necessary to develop a separate mechanism to identify emerging issues for Codex work.</p> <p>ICBA</p> <p>We support identifying emerging food issues and developing effective response strategies where possible. The private sector can help to identify emerging food issues and provide practical and achievable response strategies that will not impede trade while protecting consumers.</p> <p>IFAH</p> <p>We think that such a program as Codex, with the guidance of WHO and FAO, the participation of more than a hundred</p>

member states, and the participation of a great variety of observers, is hardly likely to miss any emerging issue.

What further action do you recommend with regard to this proposal :

Australia

The Codex Secretariat together with the parent bodies should examine ways of making the Commission meetings more strategically focussed and less information oriented.

Costa Rica

Ninguna otra.

Dominican Republic

Mantener una mejor comunicación entre los Directores de la FAO y la OMS con el CCECXE para que las resoluciones, políticas y estrategias aprobadas en la Conferencia de la FAO y la Asamblea Mundial de la Salud, puedan ser tomadas en cuenta para la identificación de las nuevas cuestiones en el programa de trabajo del Codex.

India

Even though the Codex Strategic Plan already requires Committees to implement a systematic approach for Identification of emerging issues, critical review shall include this aspect. As has been proposed the Regional Coordinating Committees can play a key role as they would be able to discuss and then collate the emerging issues of the Region, which can then feed into the overall Codex work.

Iran

Develop and expansion of the created effective mechanisms among codex members with full support of FAO/WHO for right understanding of mechanisms.

Malaysia

Request Codex Committees to identify emerging issues during its deliberations

ICBA

The Commission could benefit from adopting a reflection on emerging issues as a standing item on its agenda.

Which priority do you assign to this proposal (high, medium, low)?

Australia

High

Costa Rica

Media

Dominican Republic

Entendemos que es una propuesta de elevada prioridad.

India

Medium

Iran

Medium

Japan

Medium

ICBA

High

IFAH

Low

Do you have any additional proposal with regard to Mandate and Priorities (3.1)

Australia

This is an important opportunity for Codex to become more effective and efficient and to move towards development of more contemporary approaches to how it operates. Codex as an organisation needs to look at how it operates and identify mechanisms that will continue to support the development of outcomes based standards that meet the emerging needs of members and in order to do this it may be required to devolve itself of functions, processes and procedures that no longer meet this need.

Costa Rica

No. Consideramos que el mandato del Codex es claro y no requiere enmendarse.

Dominican Republic

Mejorar la estrategia de los Comités Coordinadores regionales en el aspecto del conocimiento de la aplicación de la normativa Codex en su ámbito de incidencia.

Japan

With regard to the priority of the standard-setting work, it seems that current Codex work is mainly driven by the interested Members' views rather than the critical review and the Codex Strategic Plan. So far, few proposals have been turned down by the critical review. Though it is very difficult to reject well-intended proposals, the function of critical review, an important function of CCEXEC, should be reinforced.

Japan would like to take this occasion to make a proposal, which could be highly beneficial not only for persons in charge of Codex but also for all officials involved with food safety and/or trade, that is to establish "Consultation Mechanism", where parties concerned can consult among themselves with a view toward resolving a controversial issue, if necessary. IPPC and OIE have already adopted mediation measures for dispute settlement and there have been lots of benefits for these measures such that it can be less costly and convenient compared to the dispute settlement mechanisms offered by WTO and may provide a place for discussion amongst experts. As more than 50 years has passed since the Codex Alimentarius Commission was established, Japan believes that it would be high time to review the work management of Codex in the framework of WTO in order to contribute more to the improvement and execution of international rules.

In addition, Japan notes that the Codex occasionally faces a difficulty in reaching consensus in the process of elaboration of standards at the Codex Committees levels. Considering this situation, the scope of "Consultation Mechanism" may be widened to standards-setting process not merely to dispute settlement process. It is in line with *Measures to Facilitate Consensus* in the Procedural Manual which states "Organising informal meetings of the parties concerned where disagreements arise..." as well as Objective 4.1 in Codex Strategic Plan 2014-2019 which says "Strive for an effective, efficient, transparent, and consensus based standard setting process".

ICBA

We strongly support the statement that Codex works as a member-driven organization and believe this should remain a priority. Codex members and observers are in the best position to identify strategic options for consideration. Food and beverage industry observer organizations can provide practical operational experience, relevant technical expertise, data/information, and implementation frameworks to assist in making sound and evidence-based decisions. In fact, the inclusive and transparent member-driven approach supplemented with data and practical information from the private sector has resulted many deliberate and responsive Codex standards.

3.2 Management of the Codex Programme and links to FAO/WHO

3.2.1 Examine what processes could be used so that Codex can give appropriate input to FAO/WHO governing bodies and how FAO/WHO can best give strategic and policy guidance/direction/input to Codex.

Comment on the proposal:**Australia**

Codex is a member driven organization and as such the work it does needs to meet the needs of the members and address emerging issues identified by members– we appreciate FAO and WHO's input to the work of Codex and in supporting the provision of scientific advice. Australia considers there are adequate mechanisms in place for FAO and WHO to provide input to the work of Codex, particularly where this is provided in a timely manner.

Costa Rica

Se apoya una mayor comunicación y coordinación entre el Codex y la FAO/OMS en ambas vías. No obstante, esta mayor coordinación no debe comprometer el hecho de que el Codex es una organización independiente en la que sus países miembros toman las decisiones y establecen las prioridades y lineamientos estratégicos en la Comisión.

Dominican Republic

Integrar las actividades del Codex Alimentarius en las decisiones de la Conferencia de la FAO y la Asamblea Mundial de la Salud (OMS), en interés de compartir políticas y estrategias que permitan que todos tengan igual meta a cumplir desde el ámbito de cada una y en el caso del Codex a favor de la inocuidad de los alimentos.

India

Representatives of FAO and WHO are already intricately involved in the conduct of all the sessions of the CAC and its subsidiary bodies, including the Executive Committee and have been regularly providing their inputs, as appropriate.

On the other hand, it is for the FAO/WHO governing bodies to decide the manner in which they can take on board Codex and receive latter's inputs for use in their work. To begin with, Codex matters can be a standing item in the FAO conference and the World Health Assembly. This would help in twinning of the objectives as indicated above, Codex is furthering the mandate of FAO and WHO by laying down standards for safe food. Therefore, we do not foresee any

action to be taken by the CAC in this regard.

Iran

It may be useful for better understanding of processes are used by FAO/WHO for sustainable policy guidance/input to codex and codex work activities output.

Japan

Japan recognizes that our parental organizations, FAO and WHO, have been giving appropriate feedback to the Codex by providing their resolutions concerning food safety, though it is not clear how the Codex's work is fed back to the parental bodies. The work related to this issue could be most appropriately initiated by the Secretariats of FAO/WHO and the Commission could consider the matter based on results of the discussion.

Malaysia

Malaysia would like to support this proposal and recommend Executive Committee to address this proposal.

ICBA

We note that Article 5 in the statutes of the Codex Alimentarius Commission already covers the topic and an effort should be made to include Codex as a standing item also in the governing body of the WHO. It is important to maintain efforts to ensure a high level of interest and awareness of Codex and related work in the governing bodies.

IFAH

The FAO/WHO intervene at all Codex meeting and have all the opportunities to give guidance to Codex. Codex Alimentarius has the ability to go beyond standards and define code of practices and in so much is in a good position to give risk management inputs to FAO and WHO.

What further action do you recommend with regard to this proposal :

Australia

The Codex Secretariat and FAO/WHO should develop mechanisms for ensuring timely and appropriate feedback from the governing bodies to Codex on their strategic priorities and focus.

Members should ensure adequate consultation at the national level with their FAO and WHO representatives to ensure consistent approaches to their input across the parent bodies and Codex.

Costa Rica

Consideramos que la Comisión del Codex Alimentarius (a través de la Secretaría) debería informar a los órganos rectores de la FAO/OMS sobre su trabajo haciendo uso de mecanismos adecuados, así como recibir contribuciones a su labor sin renunciar por ello a un nivel adecuado de autonomía. Lo anterior, en cumplimiento de lo dispuesto en el artículo 5 de los estatutos de la Comisión: *“La Comisión presentará sus informes y formulará sus recomendaciones a la Conferencia de la FAO y a los órganos competentes de la OMS por intermedio de sus respectivos Directores Generales. Se distribuirán a los Estados Miembros y organizaciones internacionales interesadas, para su información, ejemplares de los informes, así como de todas las conclusiones y recomendaciones, tan pronto como estén listos.”*

Se considera que el tema de Codex debe poseer un espacio en las agendas anuales de FAO y de OMS, que ayude a sensibilizar a las autoridades políticas de los países miembros. De esta forma se aumentará la visibilidad del Codex, se fomentará una mejor cooperación entre las delegaciones nacionales del Codex y de los órganos rectores de la FAO/OMS y contribuiría a lograr una mayor participación de los países.

Dominican Republic

Esta integración debe cumplirse manteniendo el Codex Alimentarius su autonomía y su plan estratégico.

India

Codex matters can be a standing item in the FAO conference and the World Health Assembly.

Iran

Evaluate of codex outputs/reports against FAO/WHO.

Japan

As in Article 1, “The Codex Alimentarius Commission shall, subject to Article 5 below, be responsible for making proposals to, and shall be consulted by, the Directors-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the World Health Organization (WHO)”, the Codex is a part of FAO/WHO programs. Sound program management can be maintained by cross-check. In that sense, the Codex Members and the parental organizations should reaffirm that the evaluation of the Codex work is one important responsibility of FAO and WHO.

Which priority do you assign to this proposal (high, medium, low)?

Australia

Medium

<p>Costa Rica</p> <p>Elevada</p> <p>Dominican Republic</p> <p>Entendemos que es una propuesta de elevada prioridad.</p> <p>India</p> <p>Medium</p> <p>Iran</p> <p>Medium</p> <p>Japan</p> <p>High</p> <p>Malaysia</p> <p>High</p> <p>ICBA</p> <p>High</p> <p>IFAH</p> <p>Low</p>
<p>3.2.2 Develop a clear, transparent budget planning process for Codex that will continue to give the security to the Secretariat to organize and implement the relevant Codex meetings and FAO and WHO to justify and provide adequate funding.</p>
<p>Comment on the proposal:</p> <p>Australia</p> <p>The Executive Committee (CX/EXEC 10/64/3a) agreed to a business planning model which was developed several years ago. This was in an effort to assist with the budgeting and planning process. It appears to have dropped off the Finance and Budget agenda paper since it was used several years ago. At the time it was thought that the business plan model could also be utilised by members to support the need for a sustainable budget for Codex and in efforts to seek additional funding from the parent bodies through their national representatives.</p> <p>Costa Rica</p> <p>Se requiere un proceso presupuestario y de planificación del trabajo más riguroso en relación con la labor del Codex para justificar el apoyo financiero de la FAO y la OMS y en todo caso debe estar completamente alineado al Plan Estratégico de la organización. El nuevo proceso de planificación debería ser proactivo y facilitar la integración de la planificación del presupuesto del Codex en los procesos pertinentes de la FAO y la OMS. La periodicidad de la formulación del presupuesto, así como, los informes de ejecución de los presupuestos deben depender de las necesidades del Codex y de las exigencias de FAO/OMS.</p> <p>No obstante, la rigurosidad en la formulación del presupuesto debe tener como punto de partida una evaluación detallada de los gastos actuales y la definición de las nuevas necesidades de presupuesto en función de los requerimientos justificados, con miras a fortalecer la Secretaría Técnica del Codex, los comités de expertos, las reuniones internacionales y el asesoramiento científico.</p> <p>Dominican Republic</p> <p>Consideramos adecuada esta propuesta.</p> <p>India</p> <p>A clear, transparent budget planning process for Codex will definitely help the Secretariat in planning and organizing their work.</p> <p>Iran</p> <p>It is so important. Without effective and transparent budget plan, implementing the relevant meetings will be difficult.</p> <p>Japan</p> <p>Japan believes that Codex Secretariat and FAO/WHO should be more transparent in communicating their budget planning process for Codex Members to provide effective advice.</p> <p>ICBA</p> <p>In general, we support developing a clear and transparent budget planning process.</p> <p>IFAH</p>

We support the proposal.
<p>What further action do you recommend with regard to this proposal :</p> <p>Australia</p> <p>Australia could support exploring this further and perhaps a starting point could be the use of the business planning model rather than developing a new mechanism.</p> <p>Costa Rica</p> <p>Para lograr mayor transparencia y análisis es necesario que el documento sobre Presupuesto del Codex esté a disposición de los países miembros dos meses antes de la CAC.</p> <p>Dominican Republic</p> <p>No tenemos otras medidas al momento.</p> <p>India</p> <p>Codex Secretariat can prepare a detailed proposal in this regard highlighting the process and the same can then be discussed in the CAC before forwarding it to the FAO and WHO with the recommendations of the CAC.</p> <p>Iran</p> <p>Set a priority list of necessary meetings in each year as per strategic plan.</p>
<p>Which priority do you assign to this proposal (high, medium, low)?</p> <p>Australia</p> <p>High</p> <p>Costa Rica</p> <p>Elevada</p> <p>Dominican Republic</p> <p>Entendemos que es una propuesta de elevada prioridad.</p> <p>India</p> <p>Medium</p> <p>Iran</p> <p>High</p> <p>Japan</p> <p>High</p> <p>ICBA</p> <p>High</p> <p>IFAH</p> <p>Medium</p>
3.2.3 Explore the best modalities to incorporate FAO and WHO input to Codex work at different levels (Commission, Committee and working groups)
<p>Comment on the proposal:</p> <p>Australia</p> <p>In Australia's view current processes allow for adequate input to the development of standards through attendance at meetings, provision of written comments, participation in electronic and physical working groups. Our experience has been that these mechanisms are effective when used correctly. We would like to see an improvement in the timeliness of the parent bodies input particularly as it relates to the provision of papers for the Executive and Commission.</p> <p>Whilst the representative of FAO noted at CCGP that members were unaware of the challenges faced by the organisations to actually provide input, we would note that the same challenges apply to all Codex members so the situation of the parent organisations is not that dissimilar and should not require a separate approach.</p> <p>Costa Rica</p> <p>Se solicita que el Secretariado, FAO y OMS expliquen mejor esta propuesta.</p> <p>Dominican Republic</p> <p>Estamos a favor de que se exploren otras modalidades óptimas de apoyo a las labores del Codex.</p>

India

As already said in our comments under 3.2.1, representatives of FAO and WHO are intricately involved in the conduct of all the sessions of the CAC and its subsidiary bodies, including the executive committee. The working groups have no decision making power and their output is discussed in the meeting of the Codex Committees wherein inputs from FAO/WHO are adequately taken into consideration.

Iran

For exploring the best modalities, study and compare the probable modalities is necessary.

Japan

Communicating the FAO and WHO general assemblies' resolutions related to foods to the Commission and Committees, which will remind the Codex of its role related to the world food safety and food security.

ICBA

We recognize the important role of FAO and WHO in providing scientific advice to Codex through the joint expert meetings (JECFA, JMPR, JEMRA). The work of these expert bodies should be the top priority for funding and for FAO's and WHO's overall support of Codex.

IFAH

FAO and WHO have opportunity to make interventions at every meeting and every stage of Codex work.

What further action do you recommend with regard to this proposal :**Australia**

This is an internal issue for the FAO and WHO.

Costa Rica

No aplica.

Dominican Republic

Se debe tratar de mejorar las contribuciones a los fines de que, por ejemplo, los grupos de trabajo electrónicos puedan realizarse en varios idiomas oficiales de la CAC, además del inglés, tomando en cuenta que los países menos adelantados no necesariamente disponen de recursos para las traducciones que se requieren para la debida participación de los expertos en el tema correspondiente.

Renegociar la implementación de un nuevo Fondo Fiduciario.

India

No further action is required.

Japan

While Japan recognizes the presence of FAO/WHO at the relevant committees, it is recommended that FAO/WHO officials attend the Codex meetings including commodity committees, where necessary or appropriate, to explain the resolutions and discussions in FAO/WHO general assemblies related to the matters to be considered at the committees. "Matters arising from FAO and WHO (Agenda Item 2)" would be an appropriate place for it.

ICBA

We are not clear what the other input from FAO and WHO would entail beyond providing scientific advice and believe that more discussion would be required concerning the need and use of such input.

Which priority do you assign to this proposal (high, medium, low)?**Australia**

Low

Costa Rica

No aplica.

Dominican Republic

Entendemos que es una propuesta de elevada prioridad.

Iran

Low

Japan

High

<p>ICBA</p> <p>High</p> <p>IFAH</p> <p>Low</p>
3.2.4 Review process followed for observer applications
<p>Comment on the proposal:</p> <p>Australia</p> <p>In Australia's view there is no benefit or value added by the Executive 'review' of observer applications and therefore would support the necessary changes to the Procedural Manual to remove this from the Executive Committees mandate.</p> <p>Costa Rica</p> <p>Costa Rica coincide que el proceso de solicitudes de observador sea gestionado únicamente por la Secretaría del Codex, en colaboración con las Oficinas Jurídicas de la FAO y la OMS, pero además debería examinarse el proceso que debe seguirse tras la aprobación de las oficinas jurídicas, de tal forma que, idealmente, la mayoría de las solicitudes se resuelvan en un plazo máximo de 6 meses desde el contacto inicial hasta la conclusión.</p> <p>Dominican Republic</p> <p>Estamos de acuerdo que este proceso sea gestionado por la Secretaría del Codex, con la colaboración de las Oficinas Jurídicas de la FAO y la OMS a los fines de agilizar el proceso.</p> <p>ICBA</p> <p>We note that the current procedure has served Codex and observer organizations well for decades in spite of the stated six month delay after the review by the CCEXEC. Codex should maintain the current procedures for accreditation of observer organizations.</p> <p>IFAH</p> <p>The process followed by observer application could be reviewed but we are uncertain of the impact of such a review, in so much that we are not certain that that many applications still occur. It is important in our view that the process remains owned by Codex.</p>
<p>What further action do you recommend with regard to this proposal :</p> <p>Australia</p> <p>Codex Secretariat to advise the CAC what is required procedurally to hand this activity back to the parent bodies.</p> <p>Dominican Republic</p> <p>No tenemos otras medidas al momento.</p> <p>IFAH</p> <p>It seems to us that the true enforcement of the current criteria is selective enough for the quality of Codex observers. There remains the question of the review of current observers as some of them may not fit the criteria.</p>
<p>Which priority do you assign to this proposal (high, medium, low)?</p> <p>Australia</p> <p>High</p> <p>Costa Rica</p> <p>Baja</p> <p>Dominican Republic</p> <p>Entendemos que es una propuesta de media prioridad</p> <p>Japan</p> <p>Low</p> <p>ICBA</p> <p>Low</p> <p>IFAH</p> <p>Medium</p>

Do you have any additional proposal with regard to Management of the Codex Programme and links to FAO/WHO (3.2)

Australia

Australia would caution that narrowing our discussion to the range of proposals in the paper will restrict the options for improving the strategic focus and effectiveness of Codex. This discussion should provide the opportunity for exploring improved practices that will lead to positive change. Codex should have a framework for conducting a continuous review and looking at creative and pragmatic ways to apply the existing procedures. The framework could be used to further identify the issues, problems; what can be done better and what should be the future direction of Codex, including where its priorities should lie.

Costa Rica

No.

Dominican Republic

Estamos a favor de que se requiere un presupuesto y una planificación del trabajo más proactivo, para facilitar la integración del presupuesto del Codex en los procesos pertinentes de la FAO y la OMS.

Japan

As the Representative of WHO mentioned at CCGP29, Japan believes that it would be important for Codex delegations to communicate continuously with the persons in charge of the FAO/WHO at national levels to achieve more intimate relations between the Commission and the governing bodies of FAO/WHO and to enhance the visibility of Codex with in the governing bodies of parental organizations.

3.3 Strategic governance within Codex - "Executive Board" (CX-EB)

3.3.1 Consider replacing the Executive Committee with a Codex Executive Board(CX-EB)

Comment on the proposal:

Australia

Australia agrees with the paper that it is essential that the Commission is supported strategically by a smaller body that acts in the interest of the Commission as a whole. This body does not need to take decisions on behalf of the Commission (if the Commission continues to meet annually) but be able to prepare draft strategies, manage the standard setting process, discuss and recommend actions and ways forward in "stuck" situations. It may also have a role in discussing financial and budgetary matters.

With regards to the replacement of the Executive Committee by a Codex Executive Board, the question of whether a more representative Board would be more effective/strategic would benefit from further indepth discussion. In this context, any change in membership must take into account the need for transparency and inclusiveness; the membership discussion/options could include a review of the manner in which Chairs and Vice- Chairs are nominated and elected. This discussion should also include the modus operandi of the Board including whether the critical review function adds value to the process for the approval of new work; does the Executive committee fulfil its mandate in regards to the standards management function?

Costa Rica

Se considera que la composición del Comité Ejecutivo es representativa, transparente, inclusiva y garantiza un equilibrio en la representación geográfica mundial, por lo cual, no se apoya su sustitución por una Junta Ejecutiva.

Sin embargo, si compartimos la preocupación de que el Comité pueda dedicar más tiempo a las labores estratégicas, en razón de lo cual estaríamos de acuerdo en que se le revisen las funciones y dedique más tiempo a dicha labor estratégica sin que cambie su nombre ni su composición.

Se requiere definir el alcance de la gestión estratégica que haría el CCEXEC, su labor debe ser de seguimiento y apoyar el cumplimiento del Plan Estratégico, no la definición de estrategias que son propias de CAC.

Dominican Republic

Conforme a los comentarios expresados en el párrafo 134 y sus acápites, estamos de acuerdo que se considere la posibilidad de sustituir el Comité Ejecutivo por una Junta Ejecutiva del Codex.

Se deberá determinar qué mecanismo definiría la composición de esa junta ejecutiva.

India

Before discussion is initiated on the proposed re-structured body viz., the Codex Executive Board (CX-EB), it is important that there is clarity on its size, mode of election, leadership issues (there is a discussion on different Chair for the CX-EB & the Commission, multiple Vice-Chairs), size and dynamics of various regional groupings so that all regions are adequately represented.

It is not the name or size of the executive organ/body that is important but the effectiveness, and desired output, of such an organ/body. In this context, it would be appropriate and prudent to develop detailed guidance for the members of the existing Executive Committee to help them dispense their envisaged functions in line with the interest of the CAC.

Nevertheless, other options to reduce the size of the existing Executive Committee can be explored if it is considered desirable to reduce the size of the executive organ in its present form.

It may also be recalled that the proposal to form an Executive Board was considered but not acceded to by the Commission earlier in its 26th session. The proposal at that time was understood by the Codex membership and a conscious decision was taken to discard it. The revised proposal now is more radical in that most of the details of the proposal concerning the composition and operational procedures of the proposed Board appear to undermine the authority of the Commission and hence are not acceptable. It is extremely important for the purposes of transparency and inclusiveness that the Commission continues to be the single authoritative decision making body in the democratic Codex system where all members participate.

Whether the role of strategic oversight and standards management functions should be with the same body or different bodies needs further deliberation.

Iran

It may be useful.

Japan

Before discussing a replacement of CCEXEC with CX-EB, Japan believes that we need to identify the problems the current CCEXEC faces and their solutions and then we should address how to change CCEXEC. As indicated in para. 134 (iv), clarifying the distinctive roles of member vs. coordinators may remain to be solved.

Malaysia

Malaysia would like to provide this comment for the whole of Section 3.3.

Malaysia feels that it is timely that the Executive Committee functions and structure be reviewed to improve its effectiveness in providing strategic and managerial advice to the Commission.

The Executive Committee should focus on strategic governance such as critical review, visibility of Codex and specific agenda as directed by the Commission. The Executive Committee should not duplicate the work of the Commission.

Malaysia is of the view that the name of the Executive Committee should be retained as it is. With regards to its structure, Malaysia proposes that the current membership be replaced by a Chair and Vice-Chairs that are representatives from each of the regions and elected by the Commission.

The Executive Committee should not restrict its frequency of meeting to only meet annually prior to the Commission and should meet more frequently if such need arises.

ICBA

We do not believe that an adequate rationale for changing CCEXEC to CX-EB has been presented. Inclusiveness and transparency have been important core values that have contributed to the success of Codex and any change should be carefully considered. A reduced board would reduce transparency and inclusiveness. The way of working of the CCEXEC should be considered and it is more important to improve the functioning rather than to change the structure.

IFAH

The proposal is not supported. However, we share some of the concerns regarding the current functioning of the Codex Executive Committee in so much that this Committee is in fact, just advisory to the CAC, can only do recommendations and therefore cannot be qualified as "executive".

Similarly – there has been some considerations as to participants of the Executive Committee and in particular of the nature and number of advisors. The rules of participation of advisors should be clarified and strengthened

Lastly, as the different regions of Codex are fully represented in the Executive Committee, it should be reviewed whether participation of the Codex regional coordinators adds value.

What further action do you recommend with regard to this proposal :

Australia

There needs to be substantial discussion on whether changing the role and membership of the Executive would achieve or deliver the outcomes being sought. Further discussion by the Executive or CCGP should be on the basis of a well developed paper. Such a paper should examine the modus operandi of the Executive, the informal meetings of the Chairs and put forward recommendations that will support a more strategic focussed body and include any legal implications of changes to the Rules of Procedure that may be required to support such changes.

Costa Rica

Como en cualquier organización, es importante que se establezca en la agenda del CCEXE un espacio y una cantidad de tiempo para hablar de cuestiones estratégicas y otro para cuestiones operativas.

Debe valorarse la necesidad de mantener la participación de los asesores de los miembros de representación geográfica, que vienen a ampliar el tamaño del comité y podría generar eventualmente un desbalance en la representación geográfica del mismo.

Dominican Republic

Se deberá definir cuáles criterios se establecerán para designar los observadores y/o asesores invitados a las reuniones de la junta ejecutiva, que sustituye al Comité Ejecutivo.

India

Further detailed and comprehensive discussion to discuss the proposal threadbare.

Iran

Clear definition of rules and duties of CX-EB.

Japan

Draw a road map for this issue and set up a place for inclusive discussion (e.g. eWG).

Malaysia

The Executive Committee should review its function and structure to provide strategic and managerial advice to the Commission.

IFAH

The mandate of the Executive Committee should be focused on a different agenda than the one of the CAC and should in fact focus on process and management matters rather than having the same agenda as the CAC. One could imagine for example that some of the current agenda could be split and left to the Executive Committee (i.e. financial matters) that then could be only present in the CAC agenda through the report of the Executive Committee. Such would be a significant saving of time and days of work for both Committees and would achieve some of the savings in a more efficient way instead of other savings measure that have been proposed.

Which priority do you assign to this proposal (high, medium, low)?**Australia**

High

Costa Rica

Elevada

Dominican Republic

Entendemos que es una propuesta de elevada prioridad.

India

High

Iran

Medium.

Japan

High

Malaysia

High

ICBA

Low

IFAH

High

3.3.2 Examine what could be elements of the mandate for a Codex Executive Board (CX-EB)***Comment on the proposal:*****Australia**

The Executive Board should not duplicate functions of the Commission. In considering the modus operandi of such a Board – representation must be transparent and balanced with regards to regional representation. The modus operandi must be clear in that the role of the members is to act independently of their country and in the best interest of Codex. This may need to be clarified through the development of guidance by CCGP similar to the Guidelines to Chairpersons of Committees which is contained in the Procedural Manual. Provision should be made for Chairs of Committees to attend meetings of the Executive Board, in an advisory capacity as the need arises.

Whether membership is on an elected basis or on an appointment/nomination by Regional Committees should be

explored and the pros and cons of each modality should be explored fully.

Elections of officers for appointment to the board, if agreed, should be transparent and be done in a manner that does not detract from the actual business of the Commission/Regional meetings.

Costa Rica

No se apoya la integración de una Junta Ejecutiva, sino una revisión de las funciones y la forma de trabajo del Comité Ejecutivo. Se considera que dicho comité debe mantener su potestad en la gestión de normas y en los temas estratégicos.

No se deberían crear más estructuras, sino calendarizar en el Comité Ejecutivo con suficiente antelación reuniones con temas específicos (plan normas, presupuesto, revisión avance plan estratégico) a tratar, valorar posibilidad de más de una reunión anual (el número depende de los temas que deban abordarse, sin superar 2 en un solo año).

Dominican Republic

Consideramos que este punto será de suma importancia en caso de que se sustituya al actual Comité Ejecutivo.

Estamos a favor de las recomendaciones sugeridas por la Secretaría del Codex, en cuanto al mandato que tendría la junta ejecutiva.

India

Please refer to our comments on 3.3.1 above. The elements of the Executive Committee may be aligned with those proposed in the paragraph 135 of the CX/CAC 15/38/9.

Iran

The most important elements of the mandate for a Codex Board could be strategic plan and standards management.

Japan

Japan is of the view that the current mandate of CCEXEC presented under Rule V. in the Procedural Manual can remain as it is now. Current problems could be more in its implementation.

Malaysia

See 3.3.1

ICBA

Codex should first address issues of strategic governance and consider eliminating processes that have led to the duplication of discussions of the Commission in the CCEXEC. We do not support the proposal to eliminate handling of observer applications.

IFAH

We are not in favour of an Executive Board We are not in favour of an Executive Board.

What further action do you recommend with regard to this proposal :

Australia

Development of the paper suggested under 3.3.1 could include the detail on this proposal.

Costa Rica

Es importante que el CCEXE y los presidentes de los diferentes comités pudiesen trabajar en forma conjunta en la elaboración de un plan de normas que sirva de guía para realizar prioritizaciones en función del respectivo Examen Crítico.

Se coincide con lo mencionado por el representante de la OMS en el párrafo 74 del REP 15/GP en relación con el establecimiento de subcomités de acuerdo con lo previsto en el artículo V.4 del Reglamento de la Comisión del Codex Alimentarius, para abordar temas específicos que luego serían discutidos en el seno del CCEXE y de esta manera fomentar una labor más eficiente:

“V.4 El Comité Ejecutivo podrá crear entre sus Miembros los subcomités que estime necesarios para estar en condiciones de desempeñar sus funciones con la mayor eficacia posible. El número de esos subcomités deberá ser limitado y su tarea consistirá en realizar un trabajo preliminar del que informará al Comité Ejecutivo. El Comité Ejecutivo designará a un Vicepresidente de la Comisión para presidir cada uno de los subcomités que se creen. El Comité Ejecutivo nombrará a uno de los Vicepresidentes de la Comisión para que presida. Se deberá atender a que haya un equilibrio geográfico adecuado en la composición de los subcomités.” (El resaltado no es parte del original)

Un caso reciente que se considera exitoso, fue el que efectuó el Comité Ejecutivo para la elaboración del Plan Estratégico 2014-2019, porque fue muy eficiente y participativo.

Dominican Republic

No tenemos otras medidas al momento.

<p>India</p> <p>Discuss within the Commission the proposal to align the elements of the Executive Committee as proposed in the paragraph 135 of the CX/CAC 15/38/9.</p> <p>Iran</p> <p>Report of the output of codex strategic plan to the codex members.</p> <p>Malaysia</p> <p>See 3.3.1</p>
<p>Which priority do you assign to this proposal (high, medium, low)?</p> <p>Australia</p> <p>High</p> <p>Costa Rica</p> <p>Elevada</p> <p>Dominican Republic</p> <p>Entendemos que es una propuesta de elevada prioridad.</p> <p>India</p> <p>High</p> <p>Iran</p> <p>High.</p> <p>Japan</p> <p>Low</p> <p>Malaysia</p> <p>See 3.3.1</p> <p>ICBA</p> <p>Medium</p> <p>IFAH</p> <p>Low</p>
<p>3.3.3 Develop and evaluate different proposals for the composition of CX-EB</p>
<p>Comment on the proposal:</p> <p>Australia</p> <p>See above</p> <p>Costa Rica</p> <p>Como se ha mencionado anteriormente, consideramos <u>que no se debe crear una junta ejecutiva</u>, sino más bien, fortalecer la gestión del Comité Ejecutivo actual.</p> <p>Dominican Republic</p> <p>Sugerimos que la composición de esta junta ejecutiva sea: La presidencia (1) y vicepresidencias de la CAC (3), representantes regionales (3) y observador institución internacional o invitado (2).</p> <p>Para ello, los miembros regionales y los observadores institucionales no podrán ser de ninguno de los países de la presidencia y las vicepresidencias y deberán ser elegidos en la reunión anterior de la CAC, por igual período de la directiva de la CAC.</p> <p>India</p> <p>First decide the general structure of the CX EB.</p> <p>Iran</p> <p>It is recommended that CX-EB covers all the regions.</p> <p>Japan</p> <p>Among two options presented in para 137, option “a” has a risk of further enlargement of the Committee. When considering this issue, it could be helpful to take into account experiences in FAO, WHO, IPPC and OIE as suggested by</p>

“b”.

Malaysia

See 3.3.1

ICBA

We believe this proposal is premature as the Commission has not yet agreed to a smaller CX-EB.

IFAH

We are not in favour of an Executive Board.

What further action do you recommend with regard to this proposal :

Australia

See above

Costa Rica

No aplica.

Dominican Republic

Se deberá asegurar que las modalidades de elección, la duración de los cargos de los miembros de la junta ejecutiva sea similar a la actual disposición sobre elección de la presidencia y vicepresidencia y la reelección por un único período consecutivo.

India

To hold it.

Iran

Define the roles and function of regions representative in EB for selecting the right person.

Japan

The issues related to roles of member vs. coordinator should be solved settled first.

Malaysia

See 3.3.1

Which priority do you assign to this proposal (high, medium, low)?

Australia

High

Costa Rica

No aplica.

Dominican Republic

Entendemos que es una propuesta de elevada prioridad.

India

Medium

Iran

High.

Japan

High

Malaysia

See 3.3.1

ICBA

Low

IFAH

Low

<p>3.3.4 Develop a modus operandi for CX-EB</p> <p>Comment on the proposal:</p> <p>Australia See above</p> <p>Costa Rica Como se ha mencionado anteriormente, consideramos <u>que no se debe crear una junta ejecutiva</u>, sino más bien, fortalecer la gestión del Comité Ejecutivo actual.</p> <p>Dominican Republic Consideramos adecuada la forma de operar sugerida por la secretaría para la junta ejecutiva.</p> <p>India Please refer to our comments on 3.3.1 – 3.3.3 above. We are not convinced that reducing the size of reports and doing away with translation and interpretation of the deliberations in an executive organ helps in increasing inclusiveness, transparency and confidence of members in a democratic system like that of Codex with its global membership. Moreover, it will not do much in reducing financial burden. It needs to be weighed what is important – a little reduction in financial burden or the basic tenets like inclusiveness, transparency and confidence of members in the system. However, as regards the flexibility in holding the meetings of the executive body, we do not have any reservations on the same.</p> <p>Iran It can be useful for better and rapid outputs.</p> <p>Japan Japan believes that careful deliberation should be given to developing a modus operandi for CX-EB such as the selection procedure of the Board members and the meeting schedule. We are of the view that the reports of CX-EB should be maintained to ensure its fairness and transparency.</p> <p>Malaysia See 3.3.1</p> <p>ICBA We believe this proposal is premature as the Commission has not yet agreed to a smaller CX-EB.</p> <p>IFAH We are not in favour of an Executive Board.</p> <p>What further action do you recommend with regard to this proposal :</p> <p>Australia See above</p> <p>Costa Rica No aplica.</p> <p>Dominican Republic No tenemos otras medidas al momento.</p> <p>India Hold.</p> <p>Iran Inform the modus operandi to the codex members.</p> <p>Malaysia See 3.3.1</p> <p>Which priority do you assign to this proposal (high, medium, low)?</p> <p>Australia High</p> <p>Costa Rica No aplica.</p> <p>Dominican Republic</p>

<p>Entendemos que es una propuesta de elevada prioridad.</p> <p>India Medium</p> <p>Iran Medium</p> <p>Japan High</p> <p>Malaysia See 3.3.1</p> <p>ICBA Low</p> <p>IFAH Low</p>
<p><i>Do you have any additional proposals with regard to Management of the Codex Programme and links to FAO/WHO (3.3)</i></p> <p>Costa Rica No aplica.</p> <p>Dominican Republic No tenemos propuestas adicionales al momento.</p>
<p>3.4 Structure of Codex Subsidiary Bodies</p>
<p>3.4.1 Review the recommendations of the 2002 and 2005 evaluations with regards to the Codex committee structure</p>
<p><i>Comment on the proposal:</i></p> <p>Australia</p> <p>In Australia's view there is little to be gained from revisiting these proposals. The reasons for rejecting some of the proposals from the 2005 evaluation still seem valid. This is not to say that we don't support examining ways of making the work of committees more efficient and to look at ways to optimise outputs of committees rather than a revision of the structure of committee would be a more effective use of resources.</p> <p>In respect of Commodity committees there is a need to strengthen the procedure for new work in order to ensure that commodity standards are only developed when there is a demonstrated problem in either food safety or international trade. There is a proliferation of requests for new standards that are being requested in order to improve the economic circumstances of individual countries rather than to address demonstrated problems.</p> <p>Costa Rica</p> <p>No se está de acuerdo con la creación de un supercomité de productos que coordine todos los trabajos sobre productos, por lo siguiente:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - existen expertos que asisten a cada una de las reuniones específicas de productos; - al fusionar todos los temas de productos en un supercomité, resultaría una reunión muy extensa para poder abarcar todos los temas; <p>se atrasaría la discusión de temas por falta de tiempo y por ende su respectivo avance al trámite correspondiente.</p> <p>Dominican Republic</p> <p>Consideramos correcto se evalúen las recomendaciones del 2002 y 2005 referentes a la estructura de comités del Codex.</p> <p>Estamos de acuerdo con lo planteado en los párrafos 144 al 147.</p> <p>India</p> <p>India is of the view that Codex should focus more on the way forward to increase the effectiveness of Codex in an inclusive way rather than going back on the decisions that have already been taken. This has to be looked in the light of the fact that ultimate decision making body is the Codex Alimentarius Commission. Any review shall take into account the Provisions under Article 7 of the Statute of Codex Alimentarius Commission and Rule XI of Rules of Procedure of the Codex Alimentarius Commission.</p>

The proposals made in paragraphs 144 – 147 may be discussed further to elucidate the advantages and disadvantages of the proposed 'super-commodity' committee with a provision of carrying out specific work with task forces/working groups.

Iran

It is recommended in restructure of codex subsidiary bodies super commodity committees focus on safety aspects based on risk analysis.

Japan

With regard to creation of a new committee, the procedural manual explicitly says "first consideration should be given to the establishment of an ad hoc intergovernmental Task Force" under Rule XI.1(b)(i) in *Criteria for the Establishment of Subsidiary Bodies of the Codex Alimentarius Commission*. However, "In 2013 the Commission created a new committee (spice) for the first time since CCFICS and CCNEA in the 1990s. This was in direct contradiction to Recommendation #16 on the use of time-bound taskforce; however, it was the wish of Codex members (para. 145 of the secretariat document)". It can be interpreted that from now on a new committee can be created if such a proposal is made by any Member(s). Considering that such a possibility cannot be ruled out entirely, rules on establishment of a new committee may have to be explicitly delineated in the Procedural Manual, and the interpretation of the Rule XI. 1(b)(i) may have to be reconsidered.

Japan is of the opinion, however, that, in principle, when a new committee is established, it should be based on the practice of "scrap and build" considering the limited resource of Codex work.

As regards commodity work, Japan supports creation of a super commodity committee because it will make the commodity work more balanced. Under the super commodity committee, commodity issues could be prioritized and worked out in time-bound manner.

Malaysia

Malaysia agrees with the existing structure. Each Committee has its own TOR and area of specialisation.

ICBA

We believe that the roles and functions of the commodity committees and the general subject committees need attention and the potential for conflict needs to be resolved. There have been delays in adopting standards at the general subject committees such as CCFA due to the need for consultation with the commodity committees. We would not support revisiting the proposal for a super-commodity committee as the experts and expertise needed can vary greatly.

IFAH

It is important to manage carefully the burden of work of the Secretariat. The use of Task Forces instead of permanent Committees is a very good response to that challenge. It is also important to review the frequency of meetings of Codex subsidiary bodies. Lastly, Codex should carefully review any proposal for new work, and defer to other international bodies when there is duplication of work. A good example would be the revision of the Code of Practice CAC/RCP 61-2005 which duplicates with the chapter 6.9 of the OIE Terrestrial code.

What further action do you recommend with regard to this proposal :

Australia

As a first step further discussion among the Codex Secretariat, the Chairs and host countries could explore mechanisms for making committees more efficient without increasing workloads or the cost of holding meetings.

In respect of commodity committees the Secretariat and Chairs of the respective committees could examine current workplans and explore where priority setting in the area of commodity standards could be improved. This could include an examination of the criteria applicable to new work.

Costa Rica

Se apoya mejorar el trabajo de los comités de productos y además se comparte la propuesta de que los comités pueden abolirse cuando terminen sus tareas y además poder abrir grupos de trabajo (task-force) ante solicitudes específicas; la cual es la forma que ha venido trabajando el Codex.

Dominican Republic

No tenemos propuestas adicionales al momento.

India

The recommendation of the 2002 evaluation to establish a standard management committee could be revisited now as the situation has changed to deal with emerging issues. Consideration should be given to the efficiency of committees' work rather than the revision of their structure.

Iran

Review of safety provisions of commodity standards align with specific quality provisions.

Japan

In Japan's view, the "supercommodity committee" is not a committee that produces guidelines or standards for every kind of commodity. Continued existence of current or new (if necessary) committees being assumed, it could be like an executive board for coordinating the various commodity-related activities so that related activities are balanced not only in the commodities dealt with (taking the imminent food security issues being taken into account) but also in work plans, such as appropriate meeting frequencies and intervals, meeting places (according to the regional demand of the standards) and other managerial issues. The chairs of the commodity committees may constitute a part of the supercommodity committee.

ICBA

We support more frequently considering the use of task forces to address a revision in an already adopted commodity standard or addressing a specific time-limited issue rather than establishing new committees.

IFAH

We recommend further reflection and potential action.

Which priority do you assign to this proposal (high, medium, low)?

Australia

Medium

Costa Rica

Baja

Dominican Republic

Entendemos que es una propuesta de elevada prioridad.

India

Low

Iran

High

Japan

High

ICBA

High

IFAH

High

Do you have any additional proposals with regard to Structure of Codex Subsidiary Bodies (3.4)

Costa Rica

Ninguna otra.

Dominican Republic

No tenemos propuestas adicionales al momento.

3.5 Efficiency of Committee Work

3.5.1 Review the way Codex reports are drafted and the use made of current audio recordings

Comment on the proposal:

Australia

Reports have gotten shorter and less detailed and we understand this, however, for research purposes often the detail (lack of) contained in reports is not sufficient to inform those who were not at the meeting why a particular decision was made and what the issues were that led to that decision. We have noted previously that the issue of audio recordings can be problematic for some host countries – the additional costs and it is possible that we could only record what comes off the floor (not the interpretation, if this is the case, then there is little value in audio recordings).

We are also of the view that the time taken to listen to a whole meeting worth of audio recordings would outweigh the benefit. If the FAO/WHO or Codex Secretariat wanted to use them for training purposes then the Secretariat could arrange to do audio recordings (at their expense) for a select few meetings. For some of us our IT policies will not allow us to access audio recordings, therefore we could not support them being complementary to shorter reports.

The quality of the reports is sometimes questionable – the report should capture the key issues raised during the

discussion and include a clear summary of the outcomes and future steps. We agree that reports should not reflect individual delegation interventions.

The Commission report dedicates a lot of space to reports of other organizations – their reports should be noted and tabled as the detail is contained in the INF docs, in our view, there is no need to replicate paragraphs of the INF docs. Observers interventions also tend to take up a lot of space in reports which is contrary to the practice of not recording individual delegations reservations.

Costa Rica

Los reportes de las reuniones deben ser informativos, en especial para los países en desarrollo que no pueden asistir a todas las reuniones y deben reflejar el debate de la reunión no solo las conclusiones. El informe de una reunión Codex es un documento oficial y no es el caso del audio.

No obstante, en la CAC y otros comités en los que actualmente o a futuro se desee utilizar el audio, esta herramienta podría ser útil para darle seguimiento a la discusión siempre y cuando se grabe por tema de agenda. Sin que ello signifique que pueda utilizarse como sustituto del informe oficial de la reunión.

Dominican Republic

Consideramos correcto que se evalúe la redacción de los informes de las reuniones del Codex y el uso que se hace de las grabaciones de audio existentes.

India

We are of the opinion that it is not the length of the reports that needs to be considered though it may slightly impact the financial resources. Any report in the Codex system should be self-contained with adequate information for the reader to understand the tone and context of the discussions that took place. There is an optimum limit to which substance in any report can be compressed or reduced. We have in recent past witnessed lengthy debates during adoption of some reports on account of reduction in the necessary contextual information therein creating difficulties in understanding of the reports by the delegates. The situation with the readers not present during the meetings cannot be expected to be better. Hence, the reports, as currently drafted, are generally of high quality and adequately informative; they are of great importance for preparing for the meeting as they include the essential aspects of the discussion and serve the Members who cannot attend the meetings and should not be unnecessarily compressed so as to lose the “essence” of the discussion.

Use of audio recordings as an additional independent resource of information is acceptable but it should not form a supplement to the report. Accessing and understanding information through audio recordings is not a convenient activity.

Iran

Concise the outcome of committees work reports together with available WebEx and audio records of commission and CCEXEC sessions.

Japan

Japan is satisfied with current way of reports and considers that audio recordings could supplement written reports but not replace them. We agree with the statements at CCGP29 that “audio recordings can influence the nature of the debate, affect the consensus building process, complicate the process and may not increase its transparency” (para. 83 REP15/GP).

Malaysia

Malaysia is of the view that audio recordings may be used as supplementary.

ICBA

We understand the need for controlling costs by limiting the length of the reports but it is important to balance the length of the reports with the benefits of providing details of the debates at committee meetings to better understand the actions taken. We would support investigating the necessity of the audio recordings by investigating the number of visitors who actually listen to the recordings of the CCEXEC and Commission meetings.

IFAH

We are aligned with the current reporting structure. Codex is a transparent organization.

What further action do you recommend with regard to this proposal :

Australia

None at this time.

Costa Rica

Incluir un mayor detalle en el debate de los temas para la elaboración del informe de manera que se refleje en un informe los diferentes matices que tiene la discusión, sin que implique una transcripción de toda la discusión reconociendo que existen recursos limitados para este fin.

Dominican Republic

Asegurar que las grabaciones de audio de la reunión completa, en idioma original y en cada idioma que hubo traducción simultánea sea mantenido como complemento del informe elaborado, en interés de que aquellos que no pudieron asistir estén al tanto de todos los debates desarrollados durante la reunión.

India

Audio recordings could be complementary to reports being drafted currently.

Hosting of the Audio/Video recordings of sessions in the Codex website may help in gaining clarity in the statements made by different countries thus reducing the issues during Adoption of report.

With regard to the reports, continue with the previous reporting format containing adequate information for the reports to be independent and self-contained source of information on the proceedings of the meetings.

Which priority do you assign to this proposal (high, medium, low)?

Australia

Low

Costa Rica

Medio

Dominican Republic

Entendemos que es una propuesta de elevada prioridad.

India

Low

Iran

High

Japan

Low

ICBA

Low

IFAH

Low

3.5.2 Propose to simplify the present 8-Step procedure to have only 5 steps.

Comment on the proposal:

Australia

Australia supports examining the implications of simplifying the step process however, more importantly we consider there is a need for a review of how committees currently do their work (i.e. CCMAS)– sometimes committees have repeat discussion papers that actually go into a level of detail about proposals or include the actual proposed amended standard and in our view this level of detail should not be in the paper until the scope of new work has been agreed by the committee and the new work has been approved.

In examining a more simplified process looking at providing more guidance and consistency in relation to the process for new work would be of benefit in improving the effectiveness and efficiency of Codex. For example in putting forward new work the member proposing new work must provide a well thought out discussion paper outlining the problem and the proposed solution accompanied by a well thought out project document. This would provide the Committee with a strong basis on which it could determine whether the work is a priority and then recommends new work through the Executive to the Commission who approves new work.

Costa Rica

Debería ser la norma la adopción en el trámite 5 y excepcional hasta el trámite 8 permitiéndose una segunda ronda de comentarios (Trámites 6 y 7) de forma excepcional. Además incluir la potestad de la CAC de retener las normas en el trámite 5.

Dominican Republic

Estamos a favor de simplificar el actual procedimiento de aprobación de normativas del Codex consistente en 8 trámites de forma para que tenga solamente 5 trámites.

India

The proposal may be taken further in view of the fact that the incidences of adoption of standards at Step 5/8 now are more frequent now. However, in order to avoid unaffordable lengthy discussions in the Commission on a draft standard that was forwarded by a Committee to the Commission without membership consensus or the members consensually

decide that more discussion/fine tuning of a draft is necessary, it is also important that the 8-Step procedure be retained as an alternative option for such cases.

This will ensure that the draft standards always move in the forward direction and members get their concerns addressed in the second round of comments and discussion in the concerned committee. Consequently, this will also address the concerns of speed and also the risk of undue discussions on aspects already frozen, that runs when the standards are sent back rather than forwarded onwards for further discussions.

Iran

It can be useful.

Japan

While Japan does not have a strong preference for the step procedure, we recognize that the current step procedure is confusing to those who are not familiar with the practice. Procedures consisting of 5 steps are acceptable.

Malaysia

Malaysia is of the view that the existing procedures for the elaboration of Codex standards provide adequate flexibility and is able to accommodate different situations and needs of members.

Malaysia notes that only in some cases, standard have been adopted through step 5/8, omitting steps 6 and 7.

Hence, it is important to maintain the 8-step procedure as, as it provides opportunity for comments at steps 6 and 7 to allow thorough discussion before a standard is forwarded to the Commission for adoption.

ICBA

We do not support the proposed revisions to the step procedure since there already is a mechanism for shortening it by the use of the accelerated procedure.

IFAH

Whilst any proposal to accelerate Codex work needs to be carefully evaluated, the use of the step 5/8 seems now well established when an early consensus is reached and seems to fulfil the need for speeding work.

What further action do you recommend with regard to this proposal :

Australia

Codex Secretariat together with Chairs of committees undertake a simple analysis of some of the new work/discussion papers before a selection of committees and determine if there is a need to provide more detailed guidance to committees in order to introduce a higher level of consistency in the way in which committees operate.

Costa Rica

Para este fin es indispensable crear mecanismos que permitan prevenir problemas para el logro del consenso, para lo que sería útil ampliar la aplicación del formulario para externar preocupaciones a los comités técnicos y garantizar la consideración por parte de las Presidencias de las preocupaciones económicas que presenten los países.

Dominican Republic

No tenemos propuestas adicionales al momento.

India

In view of our comment above, we propose the following:

- Make 5A procedure the default procedure after proper renaming and necessary amendments;
- Abolish adoption at Step 5/8 which will become redundant in view of a 5 Step procedure; and,
- Retain Step 8 procedure as an option when further discussions/fine tuning of a draft standard is necessary.

IFAH

The proposal would need to present an advantage vs the current potential adoption at step 5/8.

Which priority do you assign to this proposal (high, medium, low)?

Australia

High

Costa Rica

Media

Dominican Republic

Entendemos que es una propuesta de elevada prioridad.

<p>India</p> <p>High</p> <p>Iran</p> <p>Medium</p> <p>Japan</p> <p>Low</p> <p>ICBA</p> <p>Low</p> <p>IFAH</p> <p>Medium</p>
<p>3.5.3 Continue striving for consensus and examine to what extent voting could assist Codex in case of blockages without being divisive</p>
<p>Comment on the proposal:</p> <p>Australia</p> <p>Australia does not support any changes to the rules of procedure regarding consensus or voting.</p> <p>We would also resist attempts to give the Executive Board the power to recommend votes being taken by the Commission.</p> <p>Costa Rica</p> <p>El tema de consenso y el mecanismo de votaciones han sido ampliamente discutidos en el Codex, y se han tomado acuerdos al respecto, por lo tanto, no se considera necesario abrir una nueva discusión al respecto ya que representaría una pérdida de recursos del Codex y de los países que podrían dedicarse a temas más urgentes y prioritarios.</p> <p>En este sentido, Costa Rica reitera la posición del CCLAC en su 18ª reunión de 2012, en la cual se acordó: “No apoyar la revisión del reglamento en materia de votaciones, pues se estaría superponiendo la votación a la búsqueda de consenso”. <i>“Las decisiones del Codex se deben basar en consenso y teniendo claro que la votación es el último recurso”</i>. (párrafo 150, 151 y 158 del REP13/LAC).</p> <p>Dominican Republic</p> <p>Consideramos que se debería priorizar la toma de decisiones a partir del consenso de los miembros y que debería constituir la principal forma de tomar decisiones en el Codex, haciendo uso para ello de todas las herramientas posibles, como la facilitación, la mediación, pero manteniendo la base científica de todas las decisiones.</p> <p>India</p> <p>Voting could be beneficial in case of decisions pertaining to organizational or administrative issues. But voting may not be a wise choice in case of setting standards as the choice of a majority need not always be the scientifically and practically right choice. As is the practice, during contradicting issues, in session group meetings can bring in the desired consensus.</p> <p>Iran</p> <p>Consensus oriented voting in decisions making must be required at the committees and commission activities.</p> <p>Japan</p> <p>Japan believes that consensus should be the main way of decision making in Codex. As the committees or task forces concerned know the subjects better than any others, the committees or task forces should reach consensus within themselves before advancing the text to the step 8. Voting should be regarded as a last resort. Japan considers that careful deliberation will be needed for the required number of votes for the Commission to take decisions (i.e. simple majority or 2/3 majority).</p> <p>Malaysia</p> <p>Codex as an international standards setting body should work on the basis of consensus. Codex needs to work harder on reach real consensus. Codex Chairs play the vital role in managing the Committee in building consensus. The common understanding in managing the debate among the Codex chairs were useful to ensure the committee manage to reach consensus.</p> <p>ICBA</p> <p>We support the development and adoption of standards on the basis of consensus. We do not support changing any voting procedure, including changing the majority vote to a 2/3's vote as proposed.</p> <p>IFAH</p>

<p>Consensus should remain the basis for Codex work. United Nations bodies have several ways of voting, from unanimity to simple majority votes. In what regards the debate on the current rules of voting, we favour the simple majority vote as most likely to assist in controversial issues.</p>
<p>What further action do you recommend with regard to this proposal :</p> <p>Australia</p> <p>None required at this time.</p> <p>Costa Rica</p> <p>Se considera necesario seguir trabajando con el grupo de presidentes del Codex para garantizar que se siguen enfoques equivalentes en los diferentes comités y la correcta aplicación de las Medidas para Facilitar el Consenso, incluido el uso de distintos medios para alcanzar el consenso, sin por ello impedir que las presidencias puedan gozar de cierta flexibilidad, tal como lo propone este documento.</p> <p>Dominican Republic</p> <p>No tenemos propuestas adicionales al momento.</p> <p>Iran</p> <p>Two /third majority must be required in each voting for preventing colonel effect. Furthermore, the causes of positive and or negative vote must be mentioned. The chair flexibility is an important aspect in this regards.</p> <p>IFAH</p> <p>The current rules of procedure allow a reasonable balance between the reaching of consensus and the resolution of conflicts.</p>
<p>Which priority do you assign to this proposal (high, medium, low)?</p> <p>Australia</p> <p>Low</p> <p>Costa Rica</p> <p>Baja</p> <p>Dominican Republic</p> <p>Entendemos que es una propuesta de elevada prioridad.</p> <p>India</p> <p>Medium</p> <p>Iran</p> <p>High</p> <p>Japan</p> <p>Low</p> <p>ICBA</p> <p>Low</p> <p>IFAH</p> <p>Medium</p>
<p>3.5.4 Explore ways to ensure a more equal geographical distribution of committees while not obstructing the standard setting process.</p>
<p>Comment on the proposal:</p> <p>Australia</p> <p>Australia does not support this recommendation. Host countries invest a lot of resources in hosting committees and in chairing. The role of the chair is fundamental to the effectiveness of the committee in its work. Chairs also invest a lot time in developing relationships with their delegates. It is important that the Chair have the necessary skills, technical expertise and knowledge of the subject matter in their committee. Where topics are discussed over the course of many years it is beneficial to have some historical/corporate knowledge of the issues in the committee.</p> <p>Rotation of host countries could possibly work for the commodity committees but we think it would be detrimental to the efficiency and effectiveness of the horizontal committees.</p> <p>Co-hosting arrangements provide ample opportunity for a more equal geographical distribution of committees. Co-hosting provides opportunities for developing countries to work with a developed country in gaining experience in hosting meetings. There is also nothing to say that co-hosting couldn't work between 2 developed countries. Perhaps a process</p>

for matching host and co-hosts could be explored.

Costa Rica

Estamos de acuerdo con la co-hospedancia rotativa y copresidencias de las reuniones, y que en la medida de lo posible sean ejercidas por países en desarrollo; sin embargo, estas deben ser rotativas pues una copresidencia permanente limitaría la participación de los países en desarrollo.

Dominican Republic

Estamos a favor de la propuesta.

India

Geographical representation in the context of hosting/chairing the sessions of the committees is not a significant aspect as it does not significantly influence the process of standard setting in Codex system. The provision to co-chair meeting sessions already exists for imparting experience. If a country willingly gives-up hosting a Committee, other countries may be invited to host the same.

India supports the proposal of equal geographical distribution policy of Codex Committees and options can be given to developing Countries to co-host a Codex Committee. Co-hosting of a committee could be considered as an effective option. Co-hosting should not just be limited to conducting sessions in another country, but by sharing the expenses, activities and responsibilities between both the countries.

Iran

A rotation system creates the opportunity for all members to be host countries.

Japan

Japan notes that the geographical distribution of committees was once discussed in the 2008 Executive Committee as an issue of “possible new Rule putting a limit on the duration to the service of host governments” (paras 16-19 CX/EXEC 08/61/2). We presume that not a few countries including developing countries may wish to host a Codex Committee, but the number of committees has to be limited under certain level. Co-hosting option has been chosen by some committees, but it is not without problems, such as, those related to the national budgetary system.

One solution could be a rotation system, such as, in the commodity committees. Japan wishes the Codex revisit the issue raised in the 2008 Executive Committee. We agree with the observations made at the CCGP29 that “co-hosting is distinct from hosting and co-hosting experience may prepare a country to take on host country responsibilities in the future” and “a rotation of hosts is maybe more suitable for commodity committees than for horizontal committees which benefit from a long experience in hosting the subject matter” (para. 95 REP15/GP). Japan notes that hosting a committee or task force needs preparation, such as, securing budget, meeting place, manpower, etc. For this, it needs usually two year preparation period. As a consequence, the current Codex practice of nominating host countries every year is unworkable. This point should be taken into when the rotation is to be discussed.

As the matter is closely related to the management issue, careful deliberation will be needed before making decision.

ICBA

We do not support the proposal to rotate committee host countries as continuity is an important factor that contributes to the quality and timeliness of standards and texts. We would support continuing and increasing the practice of co-hosting arrangements that have shown to provide opportunities for other countries to host and manage committee meetings.

IFAH

Our view is that co-hosting is the best way forward to build experience, capacity, and visibility of Codex in developing countries.

What further action do you recommend with regard to this proposal :

Australia

Australia supports maintaining the status quo with regards to hosting and continuing to encourage co-hosting arrangements.

Costa Rica

Nos parece importante definir criterios para la elección de las co-presidencias.

Dominican Republic

No tenemos propuestas adicionales al momento.

IFAH

Co-hosting should be discussed at all Committees.

Which priority do you assign to this proposal (high, medium, low)?

Australia

Low – we don't think this proposal has anything to do with improving the effectiveness and efficiency of Codex, whilst we

understand it goes towards transparency and inclusion we consider that current mechanisms are sufficient to support these objectives.

Costa Rica

Baja

Dominican Republic

Entendemos que es una propuesta de elevada prioridad.

India

Low

Iran

High

Japan

High

ICBA

Medium

IFAH

Medium

3.5.5 Review the effectiveness of working groups

Comment on the proposal:

Australia

We note that the paper draws attention to the burden/workload of developing countries as well as on FAO, WHO, and Codex Secretariat to cope with WGs. We would note that this is not unique and that all members (and observers) face the same issues – there needs to be more trust placed in smaller groups of members to undertake some of the drafting of more complex standards. The main discussion and decision making on the content of standards should and does take place at the committee level. If the work of drafting standards were entrusted to a group of say 2 or 3 members (including observers) the work would be done in a shorter period of time, reports of working groups would be shorter and more succinct, this would see a return to the previous practice of ‘drafting groups’ but they were more efficient means of developing standards – there is no issue with transparency as all members/observers have the opportunity to comment at the meeting or in writing at Step 3.

Prioritisation at the national level is also a core component of a members effective participation in Codex. Once members determine that they have a key interest in a specific item of work then they are able to dedicate resources to that work, it becomes a problem when members feel the need to participate in every electronic working group.

Costa Rica

Se apoya mantener la conformación de grupos de trabajo electrónicos, en la medida de las posibilidades en dos idiomas (inglés y español). Cuando exista necesidad de realizar una reunión física, debería realizarse previo a las reuniones del Comité (objetivo 3 del Plan Estratégico de la CAC, 2014-2019). El Codex debe avanzar en la implementación de mecanismos informáticos que favorezca la participación de sus miembros (objetivo 4 del Plan Estratégico de la CAC, 2014-2019).

Se considera que los grupos de trabajo electrónico y grupos presenciales han trabajado satisfactoriamente, ayudando positivamente a la discusión y avance de los trabajos del Codex. Sin embargo, la carga de trabajo para los países, en especial para los en desarrollo, y para el Secretariado del Codex es enorme porque actualmente se encuentran funcionando más de 50 grupos de trabajo, y esto es excesivo y la mayoría de nuestros países no posee una capacidad instalada suficiente como para dar seguimiento a tal cantidad de temas en discusión.

En tal sentido, el CCLAC en su 18ª reunión acordó en el párrafo 73: “*Garantizar que los grupos de trabajo electrónico sean la primera opción cuando se decida realizar trabajos entre reuniones, y si el Comité considera necesario establecer un grupo de trabajo físico, este debería celebrarse en conjunción con las reuniones del comité y en los idiomas oficiales del Comité*”.

Dominican Republic

Estamos de acuerdo se examine la eficacia de los grupos de trabajo, tomando en cuenta que gran parte de la labor de consenso de los documentos de trabajo en diferentes reuniones de los comités del Codex se ha realizado partiendo de la labor de los grupos de trabajo electrónicos y presenciales.

Entendemos que representan una carga de trabajo para los países que aceptan patrocinar un determinado grupo de trabajo, pero aún así, consideramos necesario se desarrollen sistemas de medios de comunicación en cual el idioma no sea un obstáculo para participación de los técnicos de los países en desarrollo en esos grupos de trabajo.

India

India agrees that the EWGs have been effective in facilitating the Committee work in between the session however, a deeper analysis has showed distorted participation of Countries in the EWGs. The participation of the Developing Countries is even less than that of the observers. In this regard, India had prepared a discussion paper for the consideration of the CCGP highlighting the issues emerging from skewed participation of the developing member countries in the deliberations of the EWGs, along with the recommendations to be considered for enhancing the role of Electronic Working Groups (EWGs) as an effective tool for the development of Codex texts. The discussion paper as discussed in the 29th session of CCGP is enclosed at Annex I.

Iran

It can be useful and effective.

Japan

Working group may enhance the productivity of committees. However, it may reduce not only participation but also intensity of the debate during the plenary. In addition, it may cause managerial problems, too. For example, Japan sometimes experienced miscommunication problems related to sending and receiving messages through e-mail. Utilization of the Codex website through the process of eWG, e.g. post kick-off messages and the status of each eWGs on the website, would be useful to improve efficiency and transparency of the working groups. The number of working groups including e-workings should be closely monitored by the Secretariat so that the member countries can effectively participate in them. The status of working group may have to be reconfirmed in the Commission. Japan understands that the working group conclusion has no status in the work process of the Codex; the working group is just a tool.

Malaysia

Malaysia is of the view that Electronic Working Groups (eWG) and Physical Working Groups (pWG) help to facilitate the discussion during the Plenary. Utilising these approaches, much progress have been made in Codex work.

ICBA

Physical (pWGs) and electronic working groups (eWGs) have played a critical role in advancing the development and adoption of Codex standards. However, the number of eWGs at some committees have grown to a level that it makes difficult to participate in all of them.

IFAH

The low participation of developing countries is however a recognised concern.

What further action do you recommend with regard to this proposal :**Australia**

Codex Secretariat explore other options for the initial drafting of standards – there are several good examples of where this has been a more effective and efficient way of getting work completed in a short space of time – Code of Hygienic Practice for Meat is a very good example, while we note that there may have been some consultancy involved this would not necessarily have to be the case. The member proposing the work could even be entrusted with developing the initial draft for circulation at Step 3, in the case of developing countries they could be partnered with a more experienced country who could provide the necessary guidance to assist them with the necessary drafting.

Costa Rica

Dado lo anterior es importante elaborar criterios para establecer cuándo es pertinente un grupo de trabajo, entre ellos discutir si definir un límite por Comité y si existen otras alternativas para avanzar en el trabajo.

Resulta interesante la propuesta de encomendar la elaboración de un documento de proyecto a un grupo reducido de países, en vez de a un grupo de trabajo, podría garantizar un mejor y más eficiente uso de los recursos, siempre y cuando tal documento se someta a consideración de los miembros con antelación a la reunión del Comité.

Dominican Republic

Consideramos necesario, que los diferentes grupos de trabajo, sobre todo los electrónicos, se puedan realizar en por lo menos tres idiomas oficiales del CAC, ya que los grupos de trabajo presenciales, normalmente han integrado la traducción simultánea, que permite mayor participación de los técnicos que asisten.

India

Commission to consider the discussion paper along with the discussions that took place on it during the 29th session of CCGP.

ICBA

We suggest that each committee carefully considers and prioritizes the number of eWGs based on priorities of work. Further, pWGs should be timed to be held prior to the committee sessions to reduce cost.

IFAH

Developing countries should perhaps use a mechanism at their Codex regional coordination meeting to ensure

participation.
<p>Which priority do you assign to this proposal (high, medium, low)?</p> <p>Australia High</p> <p>Costa Rica Alta</p> <p>Dominican Republic Entendemos que es una propuesta de elevada prioridad.</p> <p>India Medium</p> <p>Iran Medium</p> <p>Japan Medium</p> <p>ICBA Medium</p> <p>IFAH Medium</p>
3.5.6 Consider to review how different Committees use risk analysis frameworks in practice and report areas for improvements.
<p>Comment on the proposal:</p> <p>Australia We would have no objection if the FAO and WHO wish to review how different Committees use risk analysis frameworks in practice and report areas for improvement, but we would not see this as a high priority given the tenuous situation of funding for the provision of scientific advice we would like to see resources devoted to further exploring the options for mechanism to improve the budget situation as it relates to the provision of scientific advice.</p> <p>Costa Rica Ya el Codex ha trabajado en los marcos del análisis de riesgos en todos sus comités. Costa Rica no se opone a una evaluación de FAO y OMS siempre y cuando sea un apoyo a Codex.</p> <p>Dominican Republic Estamos de acuerdo de que se realice el examen de la manera en que los diferentes comités del Codex utilizan los marcos de análisis de riesgos en la práctica e informan de las esferas de mejora.</p> <p>India Acceptable.</p> <p>Iran It is important.</p> <p>ICBA We would support a review proposed by WHO on how different committees utilize risk analysis frameworks to learn if any improvements would be warranted.</p> <p>IFAH We are of course interested in consistency of risk analysis but we see a difference between consistency and harmonisation. In other words, the risk analysis and in particular the risk assessment framework of the different scientific bodies of FAO/WHO should certainly made consistent. A full harmonisation could be dangerous if it would compromise the “fitness for purpose” of a particular risk analysis framework.</p>
<p>What further action do you recommend with regard to this proposal :</p> <p>Australia None at this stage, unless it was in relation to the sustainable funding for the provision of scientific advice.</p>

<p>Costa Rica</p> <p>No hay.</p> <p>Dominican Republic</p> <p>Incentivar la utilización del análisis de riesgo en los distintos comités del Codex, en procura de asegurar la inocuidad de los alimentos en toda la cadena alimentaria, para beneficio de la salud de los consumidores.</p> <p>Iran</p> <p>Review of working group's framework for harmonizing and sustainable improvement of working groups reports outcome.</p> <p>IFAH</p> <p>It might be worth a workshop open to stakeholders.</p>
<p><i>Which priority do you assign to this proposal (high, medium, low)?</i></p> <p>Australia</p> <p>Low unless it relates to sustainable funding for the provision of scientific advice.</p> <p>Costa Rica</p> <p>Baja</p> <p>Dominican Republic</p> <p>Entendemos que es una propuesta de elevada prioridad.</p> <p>Iran</p> <p>Medium</p> <p>Japan</p> <p>Low</p> <p>ICBA</p> <p>Medium</p> <p>IFAH</p> <p>Medium</p>
<p><i>Do you have any additional proposals with regard to Efficiency of Committee Work (3.5)</i></p> <p>Australia</p> <p>There are certainly more efficient ways of committees working – there are several committees that work well with utilising text on screen – these committees have less ‘issues’ with lack of agreement to text as everyone can see (and hear through interpretation) exactly what is being agreed to. Whilst we appreciate this is a difficult (and expensive) mechanism to do efficiently and effectively we think that the Codex Secretariat could promote the use of this method of working. In many situations there are more than 3 people from Rome at most meetings – in these circumstances one person could be dedicated to providing the support to the Chair that is needed in utilising text to screen. This method also assists the Secretariat in their writing of the report as they have detailed information at hand as to the changes made and Appendices are often completed during the plenary with only minor editorial changes needed. This method also works very well for the adoption of the report and allows people to see exactly proposed text changes as they are made so it can reduce the time taken for the adoption of reports as well.</p> <p>Costa Rica</p> <p>No hay propuestas adicionales.</p> <p>Dominican Republic</p> <p>Promover la creación de capacidad para el análisis de riesgo en los países en desarrollo.</p> <p>Se debe insistir en la necesidad de que los documentos de debate de las reuniones de los diferentes comités deben ser distribuidos por lo menos con 60 días de antelación a la reunión o fecha límite de envío de comentarios, en todos los idiomas oficiales, para así, mejorar el consenso interno en los países que asistirían a una determinada reunión de un comité del Codex y la delegación pueda llevar una adecuada posición país consensuada previamente.</p> <p>Japan</p> <p>Japan believes that better communication between the chairpersons of the committees concerned would be important to improve efficiency of the committee work and avoid duplication. We notes that Chairs’ workshop and CCEXEC may facilitate the dialogue among the relevant committees.</p>

Specific Comments without using the template

Kenya

Introduction

1.2 Overview

13. Section 2 contains a review of the implementation status of recommendations 1-31. Section 3 contains proposals made to improve Codex work management and functioning of the Executive Committee. Section 4 will examine possible ways and resources required for further evaluation and implementation of the proposals.

Kenya will give its comments on recommendations 1-31 as indicated below for CAC-38th session consideration

Para 2.1 Mandate and priorities

Recommendation #1:

The scope of Codex should fully cover health-related aspects of food standards. It will, therefore, need (subject to availability of resources for Codex and expert scientific advice and prioritization on the basis of expert scientific advice as to the importance of alternative risks) to:

- strengthen work on foods for special dietary uses, health claims and nutrient addition; and
- undertake new work on packaging materials; and on industrial processing agents and bioagents in foods.

Recommendation#1

Kenya supports recommendation #1 under Mandate and priorities.

Recommendation#2 and #3

COMMENT: We want to bring to the attention of the commission that recommendation #2 is contradicting recommendation #3 with respect to non health issues. Food labelling must be prioritized and covered adequately to give details on food components and therefore we believe that labelling issues should go hand in hand with health issues to balance out the situation of food safety and labelling.

Justification

For this reason we do not support recommendation #2 ,there are other non-health issues such as Halal certification, packaging among others that Codex needs to address ;and Commodity standards continue to be an important part of Codex work. Many countries consider work on commodity standards which are useful to improve their market access and in prevents food trade impediments.

Recommendation #4

It is important that a comprehensive and clear mandate be developed for Codex and

ratified by the FAO Conference and the World Health Assembly. The mandate should be quite simple, for example:"The formulation and revision of international standards for food, in collaboration with other appropriate international organizations, with priority to standards for the protection of consumer health while taking into full account the needs of developing countries."

Comment: We support recommendation #4, it is about the mandate in article one in codex procedural manual 23rd Edition.

Management of the Codex Programme and links to FAO/WHO

Recommendation #5:

FAO and WHO should define how formal recommendations of Codex for consideration by FAO and WHO Governing Bodies may be brought to their attention (for example in FAO through one of the Committees of the Council).

Comment: We support recommendation #5

{Recommendations 7,8,14 have been implemented and not recommended for comments }

para 2.3 Strategic governance within Codex - "Executive Board"

Recommendation #9:

The Executive Committee should be replaced with an Executive Board, meeting every six months, charged with strategic and managerial responsibility but without the authority to consider standards. The function of the board would be to improve speed and efficiency by assisting the Commission in strategic planning, budgeting and monitoring, including:

- preparation of the work plan and budget and the medium-term plan;
- make recommendations to improve management and working procedures in Codex, including its committees and task forces; and
- monitor and take corrective action for the delivery of the programme of work.

Comment: We do not support replacement of CODEX EXECUTIVE committee with Executive Board because of the inclusiveness of the decision making process as describes in Article V1 of the CAC procedural manual 23RD Edition.

Recommendation #10:

The Executive Board should be small and include:

- 2-3 observer representatives for consumers, industry and perhaps primary producers;
- formal participation of the Secretary of Codex and FAO and WHO.

Comment: Recommendation #10 becomes obsolete with consideration of the comments under Recommendation #9

Recommendation #11:

The standards development management function should receive much greater

attention in Codex and should be delegated from the Commission to a smaller body. In this context, consideration should be given to the creation of a Standards Management Committee to perform functions that otherwise would need to be undertaken in the Executive Board.

Comment: With regard to recommendation 11 above "The Critical review Committee already taking care of standard development management function so there is no need to create a Standards Management Committee".

Recommendation #12:

It is desirable that the Codex Alimentarius Commission meets every year, but if the

Executive Board and possibly Standards Management Committee perform their functions effectively it might be possible to reduce costs by continuing to hold meetings every two years.

Comment: Our early recommendation on #11 voids this recommendation #12.

Recommendation #13:

The Codex secretariat should be able to carry out managerial, strategic and

communication functions. To attract someone of the calibre needed to provide continuing executive leadership and support in Codex and manage and motivate the enhanced secretariat, a senior person should be appointed as Executive Secretary. The overall seniority of the secretariat staff should also be raised.

Comment: We support this recommendation#13 and emphasis that the overall seniority of the secretariat staff should also be raised.

Recommendation #15:

As a matter of priority more human and financial resources must be put into the

Codex secretariat to enable it adequately to perform existing functions and meet expanding demands.

Comment: We support recommendation #15 above since CODEX is growing and it needs to meet its demand.

Recommendation #18:

All committee and task force work should be time-bound. It is proposed that no standard be permitted more than 5 years' work before decision by the Commission on whether further work is justified.

Comment: We support this recommendation for the committees which meet yearly but there is need to reconsider the Committees that meet biennial how they will fit in this 5year rule.

Recommendation #23:

The present 8-step procedure should be simplified to a 5-step procedure for all

standards. At Step 5, the Commission should not amend the standard but be required to:

- adopt the standard;
- refer the standard back to the committee to explore certain changes; or
- cancel or suspend work on the standard.

Comment: We do not support Recommendation #23 ,the finalization of standards at step 5 ,but propose to retain status quo. The accelerated procedure is rarely used and even when used has not always resulted in a faster standards setting.

Recommendation #26:

Committees should be encouraged to appoint co-chairs of equal status, one of which

would be from a developing country. Host countries should also hold meetings in the co-chair's country.

Comment: We support the recommendations#26 and #28 because it enhances exposure and increasing awareness and high level of government commitment of the co-hosting countries

Recommendation #28:

Clear criteria to be met in becoming a host country should be developed, including the resource requirements. Host countries should be required to commit to the minimum level of support including that for:

- between session work; and
- meetings being held in the co-chair's country;

Shared hosting of committees could be explored by host countries as an option in meeting increased commitments.

Comment: We support the recommendations #26 and #28 because it enhances exposure and increasing awareness and high level of government commitment of the co-hosting countries

Recommendation #29:

Resources should be put into upgrading the Codex web-site as a matter of urgency.

Comment: We support recommendation #29 and #30 below to enhance the exchange of information and accessibility of information.

Recommendation #30:

FAO and Codex review the possibilities for establishment of a database of national standards of importance in trade, including their application and methods of analysis.

Comment: We support recommendation #30 and #29 above to enhance the exchange of information and accessibility of information.

Uruguay

La posición de Uruguay es que, antes de analizar posibles propuestas de cambios y completar una plantilla opinando sobre las modificaciones sugeridas, se debe consensuar en el ámbito de la Comisión la pertinencia de realizar dichos cambios, pero sobre todo analizar uno a uno los temas teniendo presente los diagnósticos que ya existen, la identificación clara de las causas de los problemas y de esa forma emprender la evaluación de las recomendaciones de mejora (las que entre otras posibilidades podrían incluir modificaciones de procedimientos y/o estructuras).

En relación a los planteamientos que constan en el documento, referentes a cambios en la estructura y procedimientos del *Codex Alimentarius*, Uruguay tiene comentarios generales y específicos.

En lo general y como fuera mencionado más arriba antes de pasar a la etapa de acordar cambios en los procedimientos y estructura del CODEX, la Comisión debe hacer un examen profundo de cada tema e identificar las causas y las posibles soluciones dónde podrían o no incluirse aquellas relacionadas a modificaciones de estructura y/o procedimiento. Tal vez, existan otras alternativas que no necesitan este tipo de soluciones.

En relación a los comentarios específicos al documento, Uruguay tiene los siguientes:

3.1 Mandato y prioridades

Uruguay considera que el mandato actual del Codex es adecuado, ya que toma en cuenta tanto aspectos relativos a la protección de la salud de los consumidores, como garantizar prácticas comerciales justas, lo que contribuye a la facilitación del comercio y el acceso de los alimentos a los mercados.

Por otra parte, se entiende que la estrategia definida en el ámbito de la Comisión y basada en el mandato actual también es adecuada, dado que las prioridades son discutidas y establecidas por los países miembros.

La propuesta que figura en el documento, según la cual la Organización de las Naciones Unidas para la Alimentación y la Agricultura (FAO) y la Organización Mundial de la Salud (OMS) fijen las estrategias de trabajo, no debería ser tomada en cuenta, ya que las directivas de dichos organismos podrían no coincidir con las prioridades de los miembros en algunas oportunidades.

En cuanto a las otras dos propuestas de analizar cuántos recursos son asignados a temas vinculados a la salud y a otros, y la evaluación del uso de las normas Codex y sus impactos, Uruguay considera que no resulta prioritario realizar tales estudios, y que los eventuales recursos asignados a este objetivo deberían ser destinados a otras metas, (por ejemplo, a la implementación de una plataforma de trabajo en la página web del Codex para los Grupos de Trabajo Electrónico o para financiar estudios científicos que se consideren necesarios).

3.2 Gestión del Programa Codex y enlaces con FAO/OMS**Secretaría**

Uruguay considera que la Secretaría del Codex juega un rol central en la gestión del trabajo del Codex y como tal debería tener los recursos necesarios para llevar adelante este trabajo. También, sería importante que la Secretaría se focalizara en asegurar la disponibilidad de los documentos en todos los idiomas oficiales del Codex en tiempo y forma, respetando los plazos establecidos en el Manual de Procedimiento (dos meses antes de cada reunión). Esto facilitaría en gran medida la preparación de las reuniones por parte de los países miembros y como consecuencia la gestión de los trabajos sería más eficiente. Además, la Secretaría debería acelerar los trabajos para la mejora de la página web, de

forma que en la misma pueda incluirse una plataforma para los Grupos de Trabajo Electrónico, ya que constituye un mecanismo cada vez más empleado por los distintos Comités.

3.3 Dirección estratégica en el seno del Codex

Uruguay considera que la estructura actual es adecuada para dar cumplimiento al mandato del Codex. Los problemas que se han generado no se deben a la estructura, sino más a la aplicación de los procedimientos que se refieren a la planificación estratégica, examen crítico y establecimiento de prioridades. El Manual de Procedimiento establece claramente los cometidos y funciones de cada órgano auxiliar del Codex, sin embargo, los mismos no se aplican en su totalidad por parte de los órganos auxiliares cuando priman otros intereses.

Las propuestas detalladas en el documento no resuelven los problemas de funcionamiento del Codex. En el documento se plantea que el Comité Ejecutivo no ha sido capaz de desempeñar sus funciones, y según se manifiesta en el documento, esto se debería a su estructura y forma de trabajar. El Manual de Procedimiento de la Comisión establece claramente el cometido del Comité Ejecutivo, así como el proceso para el examen crítico de las normas.

El documento cuestiona en el párrafo 53 (recomendación 11) el cumplimiento de los procedimientos por parte del Comité Ejecutivo. Esto demuestra que el problema no está en la estructura, sino en que no se siguen los procedimientos o éstos no se aplican de forma adecuada. Uruguay interpreta, entonces, que habría que enfocar los esfuerzos en mejorar el funcionamiento del Comité Ejecutivo y no en cambiar su estructura, ya que esto en forma aislada no asegura que sus funciones se cumplan.

De considerarse que alguna función de las propuestas para la Junta Ejecutiva no está aún cubierta por los órganos existentes, podría analizarse su asignación a algún órgano sin necesidad de modificar la estructura.

3.5 Funcionamiento eficiente de los comités

Informes

A entender de Uruguay, los informes deben mantener un balance en su contenido, de forma que permitan ser leídos fácilmente, entender las conclusiones, pero que además permitan visualizar las diferentes posiciones mayoritarias que se han dado durante el debate; es decir, deben mostrar un resumen del debate y de las conclusiones alcanzadas. Uruguay entiende además que tener a disposición de los miembros los audios de las reuniones es una herramienta útil para los miembros, como forma de complementar los informes.

Procedimiento de elaboración de normas

En relación a la simplificación en el actual procedimiento de elaboración de normas Uruguay no visualiza mayor diferencia entre lo propuesto y el sistema actual, dado que las normas pueden ser aprobadas actualmente en trámite 5/8 y de considerarse por la Comisión que es necesario un estudio más profundo en algún punto específico, o de existir algún punto que no permita llegar al consenso, pueden ser aprobadas en trámite 5 y continuar su estudio.

Uruguay visualiza que este proceso es equivalente al planteamiento de que existan 5 trámites y de volverla al trámite 2. Creemos que modificar el sistema que se viene utilizando desde hace años y en el cual los países se han preparado, no genera aporte alguno.

Consenso y votación

Se considera que el sistema de aprobación de las normas a través del consenso sigue siendo el más adecuado, dado que permite mantener la unidad de los miembros, tal como se manifiesta en el documento. Evitar en lo posible el uso de la votación, tal como se ha venido haciendo hasta ahora, incluso utilizando mecanismos como gestiones de la presidencia para lograr consenso entre reuniones sería lo más adecuado. Dado que puede haber casos excepcionales donde a pesar de todos los intentos no se logre el consenso, el uso de la mayoría simple no debería generar divisiones al ser una herramienta preestablecida. Quizás sea adecuado establecer las posibles herramientas y fijar la cantidad de reuniones en las cuales se puede discutir un tema sin llegar a consenso, antes de pasar a una instancia de votación.

Examinar la eficacia de los grupos de trabajo

Uruguay considera que sería útil contar con una plataforma que permita conocer todos los grupos que están trabajando, los países que los lideran, quiénes participan, así como facilitar el manejo de los documentos de trabajo. Lo anterior, daría mayor transparencia y ayudaría a que los diferentes grupos electrónicos trabajen con los mismos procedimientos. Además, permitiría tener la información sistematizada.

Por otra parte, esta herramienta de trabajo debería ir sustituyendo los trabajos de los grupos físicos, que generan costos por hora trabajada más elevados que los de la participación en las reuniones ordinarias, dado que suelen ser reuniones breves (en general, de dos o tres días de duración) en las cuales los costos del pasaje y tiempo de traslado se mantienen. A su vez, se debería promover la co- coordinación de grupos electrónicos por parte de países de diferentes idiomas oficiales lo que contribuiría a la traducción, facilitando así la participación en los mismos de un mayor número de países miembros.

DISCUSSION PAPER ON REVIEWING THE EFFECTIVENESS OF ELECTRONIC WORKING GROUPS (EWGs)

Prepared by India

1. Introduction

The Codex Alimentarius is a collection of internationally adopted food standards and related texts presented in a uniform manner. These food standards and related texts aim at protecting consumers' health and ensuring fair practices in the food trade. It is important to develop the Standards/Guidelines/Code of Practices (COPs) by following the well-established procedure for elaboration of Codex Standards and related texts as outlined in the Codex Procedural Manual.

Over the years, Codex Committees are increasingly relying on electronic working groups (EWG) to undertake work between sessions and to enhance the participation of the developing countries. As per the Recommendation 20 of Conclusions and Recommendations of the Joint FAO/WHO evaluation of the Codex Alimentarius and other FAO and WHO work on Food standards, it is stated that – “The emphasis in Codex should switch from writing standards in meetings to developing standards through a consultative process between meetings”. This also highlights the importance of electronic working group stating that – “where between-session working groups are used they should be electronic, not generally physical meetings which are not inclusive in possible participation”. Also while developing the guidelines regarding, it was being well noted that when establishing an electronic working group, a Codex Committee should ensure, as far as possible, that the membership is representative of the membership of the Commission.

The guidelines on Electronic Working Groups (Annex-2) were finalised at the 21st Session of the Codex Committee on General Principles (CCGP) in 2004 and were adopted at the 28th Session of Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC) in 2005. It was also envisaged as a means of facilitating more participation from the developing Countries – “The search for worldwide consensus and for greater acceptability of Codex Standards requires the involvement of all the Members of Codex and the active participation of developing countries. Special efforts are needed to enhance the participation of developing countries in Codex Committees, by increased use of written communications, especially through remote participation via email, internet and other modern technologies, in the work done between sessions of Committees” in Codex Procedural Manual (22nd Edition) in Guidelines on Electronic Working Group.

This is in line with both Strategic Goals 3 & 4 – “Facilitate the effective participation of all Codex Members” and “Implement effective and efficient work management systems and practices” of Codex Alimentarius Strategic Planning 2014 – 2019 respectively. The intent behind establishing EWG was also to have exhaustive discussions and deliberations on the subject matter in between the sessions thereby facilitating the discussions at the plenary and faster sharing of the Codex Text in the Step process. Ten years have passed since the Guidelines on EWG were finalised and there is a need to examine the effective role played by the EWGs and the progress made through the same.

Therefore, India has prepared this discussion paper for the consideration of the Committee highlighting the issues emerging from skewed participation of the developing member countries in the deliberations of the EWGs, along with the recommendations to be considered for enhancing the role of Electronic Working Groups (EWGs) as an effective tool for the development of Codex texts.

2. Background

Past few years have witnessed an exponential increase in trade of food and food products between Countries. Hence, keeping in view the twin objectives of Codex Alimentarius, developing International Standards for the same becomes essential. For the Standard setting process to be relevant, it is important that standards are adopted in a timely manner and the time taken in the process of development of Standards under the aegis of Codex Alimentarius is optimised. For this purpose, Codex Alimentarius Commission established EWGs for effective participation from all members, especially the developing countries.

Over the years, Codex has witnessed an increase in the number of EWGs established by various Codex Committees every year. However, an overall analysis of the progress made through the use of EWGs reveals that the participation of the Developing Countries is far less as compared to the participation of the developed world in these EWGs, ultimately leading to Standard Setting. The main purpose of establishing an EWG was to increase the participation from the Developing Countries which may not be able to participate in the plenary sessions due to reasons such as lack of funds and institutional support. Therefore, it is important to enlist proactive participation of the developing countries in the deliberations of these EWGs so as to make the whole process more inclusive.

Further, it is also important to have a common process for submitting nominations, common format for sending the comments to the EWGs and writing the report of the EWG, which is circulated as an Agenda and this format should be followed by all the Codex Committees.

3. Issues

EWGs have been playing an important role in facilitating the codex work, by reducing the workload of plenary sessions. EWGs give an opportunity for the Member Countries to submit their comments on every section of the draft Codex Text that is being formulated which might be difficult at the plenary. The key responsibility for an EWG is to develop a Codex text taking into consideration views from all the Member Countries under the Codex Alimentarius Commission. Gradually, over the years, Codex Alimentarius Commission has seen a sharp rise in the number of EWGs established by various Codex Committees in a year as depicted in Figure 1. With the increasing number of EWGs being established, it is important to assess the kind of impact they will have in future in the Codex Standard Development Procedure.

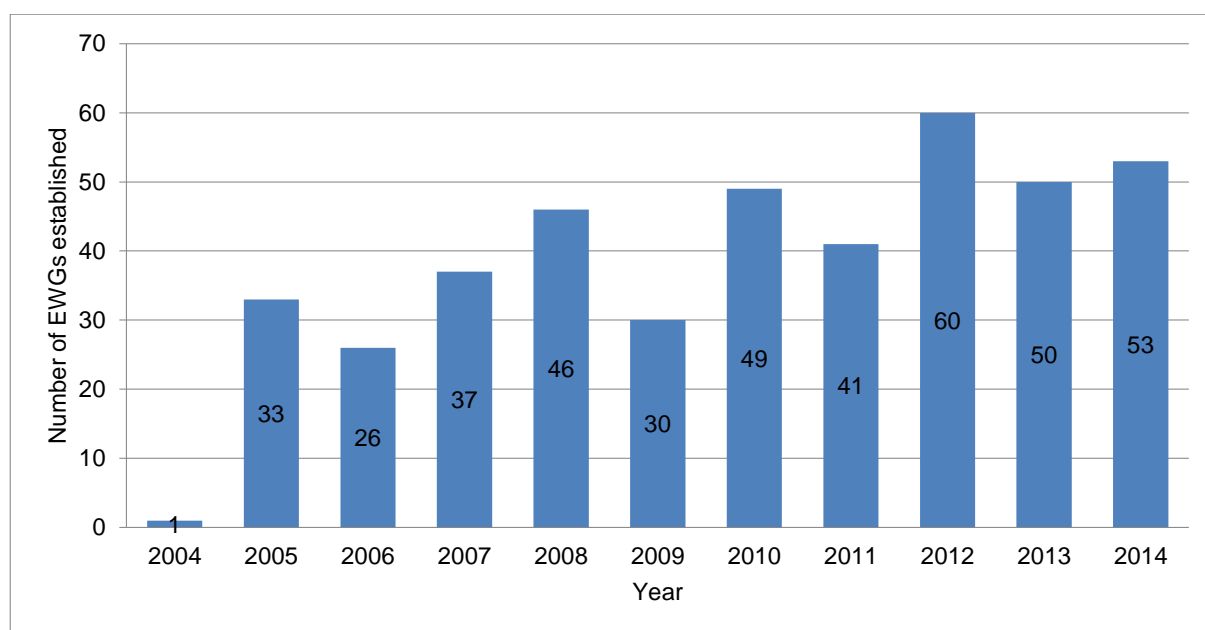


Figure 1: Number of EWGs established from 2004 – 2014 in various Codex Committees.

Table 1: List of EWGs established in 2013 - 2014 by various Codex Committees

Sr. No.	CODEX COMMITTEE	Number of EWGs established in 2014	Number of EWGs established in 2013
1	Codex Committee on Spices and Culinary Herbs (CCSCH)	5	-
2	Codex Committee on Fish and Fishery Products (CCFFP)	4	-
3	Codex Committee on Fresh Fruits and Vegetables (CCFFV)	2	-
4	Codex Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling (CCMAS)	5	3
5	Codex Committee on Food Additives (CCFA)	7	9
6	Codex Committee on Contaminants in Foods (CCCF)	9	9
7	Codex Committee on pesticide Residues (CCPR)	3	6
8	Codex Committee on Processed Fruits and Vegetables (CCPFV)	2	-
9	FAO/WHO Coordinating Committee for North America and the South West Pacific (CCNASWP)	1	-
10	Codex Committee on Food Import and Export Certification Systems (CCFICS)	4	3
11	FAO/WHO Coordinating Committee for Asia (CCASIA)	2	-
12	Codex Committee on Food Hygiene (CCFH)	5	5
13	Codex Committee on Nutrition and Foods for Special Dietary Uses (CCNFSDU)	4	4
14	FAO/WHO Coordinating Committee for Near East (CCNEA)	-	1
15	FAO/WHO Coordinating Committee for Africa (CCAFRICA)	-	2
16	Codex Committee for Fats and Oils (CCFO)	-	6
17	Codex Committee on Food Labelling (CCFL)	-	1
18	Codex Committee on Residues of Veterinary Drugs in Foods (CCRVDF)	-	1
	Total	53	50

As mentioned above, one of the prime objectives of establishing the EWGs was to facilitate greater participation from the developing Countries, which may not be able to participate in the physical meetings.

To evaluate this objective, an analysis of participation in the 22 EWGs established in the year 2013 has been carried out. The results, as depicted in Figure-2, clearly show the preponderance of the Developed Countries in the EWGs as

compared to that of the Developing Countries. A total of 549 Member Countries participated in the 22 EWGs established in the year 2013, of which 358 were Developed Countries and 74 were Developing Countries while 117 were Observer Organizations. The detailed data is enclosed at Annex-1. From the figure, it is observed that the participation of the Developing Countries is even lesser than the observer organizations. It is quite evident that the Developing Countries are not participating in the EWGs and, as a result, the practical situation of the Developing Countries fails to get reflected in the standard setting procedure of the Codex Alimentarius.

Some of the reasons for less participation from the Developing Countries may be as follows:

1. Lack of coordination at the level of NCCP
2. Lack of Technical and Institutional Capacity
3. Non – availability of reliable internet services
4. Lack of awareness about the important EWGs which may be of concern to their Country/region

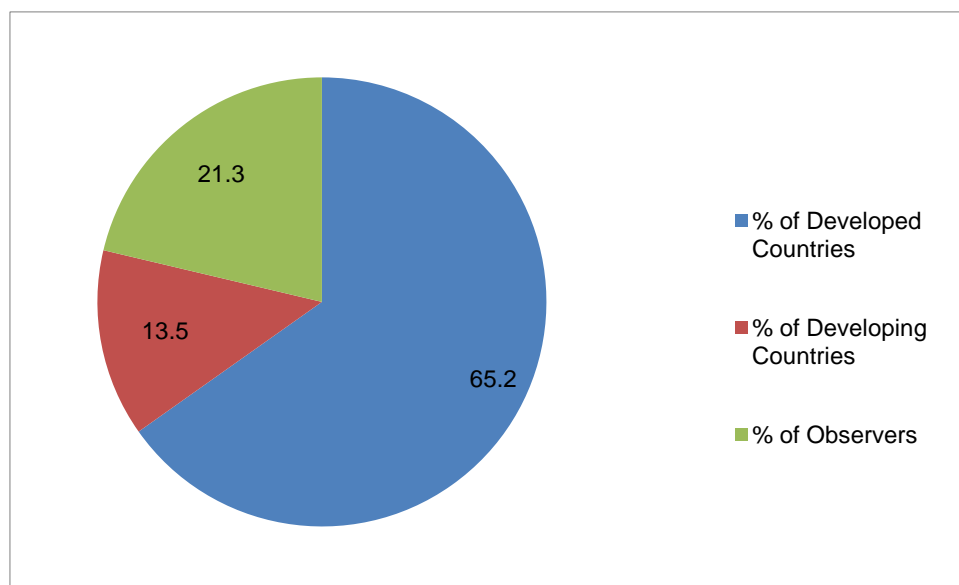


Figure 2: Participation of Developed, Developing Member Countries and the Observers in the EWGs established by various Codex Committees in 2013

Table 2: Representation of various regions in the 22 EWGS established in the year 2013

S. No.	Regions	No. of Member Countries of the Regions that participated in the EWGs
1	FAO/WHO Coordinating Committee for Africa (CCAFRICA)	28
2	FAO/WHO Coordinating Committee for Europe (CCEURO)	122
3	FAO/WHO Coordinating Committee for Latin America and the Caribbean (CCLAC)	87
4	FAO/WHO Coordinating Committee for North America and South West Pacific (CCNASWP)	64
5	FAO/WHO Coordinating Committee for Near East (CCNEA)	26
6	FAO/WHO Coordinating Committee for Asia (CCASIA)	101

Figure 3: Graphical Representation of the various Regions in the 22 EWGs established in the year 2013 (the number depicts the total number of Member Countries from a region who participated in the 22 EWGs)

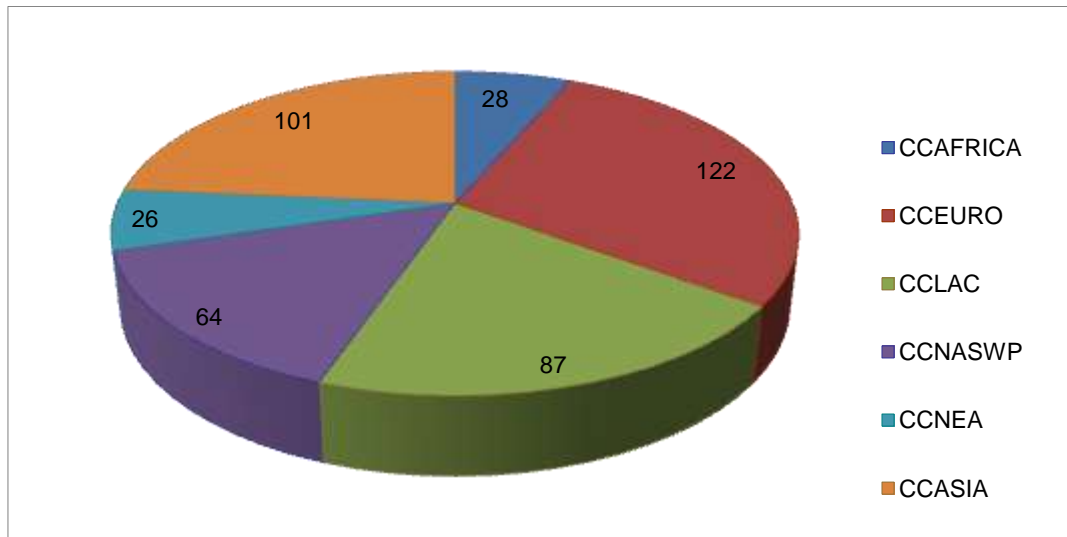


Figure 3 represents the participation of the 6 Regions in the various EWGs that were established in the year 2013. The regions that participated actively were CCEURO, CCLAC **whereas** Countries from the regions CCAFRICA and CCNEA did not participate actively in the EWGs. The point that gets highlighted here is that most of the Developing Countries fall in the regions CCAFRICA, CCNEA and CCASIA and therefore less participation from these regions.

Further, while analysing the work of the EWGs, it has been noted that there is lack of consistency in the functioning of the EWGs such as:

Different Format of the EWG Report across various Codex Committees. Codex Committees like CCCF, CCFO give a detailed list of individual participants from every Country whereas Committees like CCNFSDU, CCFA give only the list of Countries that had participated in the EWG and, on the other hand, Committees like CCFICS give no list of the participants at all.

4. Scope of review

The particular Codex guidelines to be addressed include the Guidelines on Electronic Working Groups as given in the Codex Procedural Manual. Some preliminary analysis has identified that there is less participation from the Developing Countries and lack of consistency in the formats of the EWG reports submitted by various Codex Committees.

5. Recommendation

It is recommended that the Committee agrees to initiate a review of the Guidelines of Electronic Working Groups to strengthen the same further by taking the following steps:

- To have a provision in the Successor initiative to the CTF to build the capacity of the Developing Countries to participate in the EWG both in terms of technical provisions and institutional provisions;
- To develop a universal format to prepare the report of the EWG that is further circulated as an Agenda;
- Amending the Guidelines of the EWGs in the Procedural Manual;
- The nominations of all the persons willing to contribute in an EWG from a Member Country should be routed through its NCCP;
- If more than 1 participant is nominated from a Member Country to participate in an EWG, the consolidated comments should come to the EWG Chair only from one source.

A project document will be prepared and submitted if the Committee agrees to take up this work.

Annex - 1

Comparative view of the participants in the EWGS established in the year 2013.

Sr. No.	Name of the EWG	No. of Participants	Developed*	Developing*	Observers
1	Proposed draft Standard for Fish Oils - CCFO	22	17	3	2
2	Review the lists of acceptable previous cargoes - CCFO	19	12	3	4
3	Discussion Paper on Cold Pressed Oils - CCFO	18	16	2	-
4	Proposed draft Principles for the Use of Sampling and Testing in International Food Trade – Explanatory notes - CCMAS	16	12	-	4
5	Discussion paper on considering procedures for establishing criteria - CCMAS	36	23	5	8
6	Amendments to the <i>International Numbering System (INS)</i> for food additives - CCFA	23	8	2	13
7	Revision of the <i>Guidelines for the Simple Evaluation of Food Additive Intakes (CAC/GL 3-1989)</i> - CCFA	32	16	5	11
8	Proposals for the provisions in Table 1 and 2 of the GSFA of Table 3 food additives with: (i) “acidity regulator” function for their use for technological function other than as acidity regulators; and (ii) for other Table 3 food additives with functions other than “emulsifier, thickener, stabilizer”, “colour” and “sweeteners – CCFA	16	10	1	5
9	Food additive provisions of food category 14.2.3 “Grape wines” and its sub-categories - CCFA	18	15	1	2
10	Alignment of the food additive provisions of commodity standards and relevant provisions of the GSFA - CCFA	25	14	3	8
11	Discussion paper on use of Note 161 in provisions for selected sweeteners - CCFA	43	25	6	12
12	Review of the <i>General Standard for the Labelling of Prepackaged Foods</i> to address the issue on date marking - CCFL	46	25	11	10
13	Review of the <i>Standard for Follow-Up Formula (Codex Stan 156-1987)</i> - CCNFSDU	33	20	4	9
14	Proposed Draft Additional or Revised Nutrient Reference Values for Labelling Purposes in the Codex Guidelines on Nutrition Labelling (Other values than protein) - CCNFSDU	21	14	2	5
15	Proposed Draft Amendment to the Standard for Processed Cereal-Based Foods for Infants and Young Children to Include a New Part B for Underweight Older Infants and Young Children - CCNFSDU	22	14	3	5
16	Project document on guidance on performance criteria specific for methods of analysis for determination of pesticide residues - CCPR	27	21	5	1
17	Proposed draft revision to the <i>Classification of Food and Feed</i> – other vegetable commodity groups - CCPR	20	18	2	-
18	Discussion paper on guidance to facilitate the establishment of maximum residue limits for pesticides for minor crops specialty crops – CCPR	21	16	2	3
19	Proposed draft Annex for the prevention and reduction of Aflatoxins and ochratoxin A contamination in sorghum (<i>Code of practice for the prevention and reduction of mycotoxin contamination in cereals</i>) - CCCF	15	12	2	1
20	Proposed draft maximum levels for arsenic in rice and rice products - CCCF	27	19	3	5
21	Discussion paper on aflatoxins in cereals – CCCF	25	17	3	5
22	Discussion paper on the establishment of maximum levels for total aflatoxins in ready-to-eat peanuts and associated sampling plan - CCCF	24	14	6	4
	Total	549	358	74	117

* World Bank List of Economies July 2014

GUIDELINES ON ELECTRONIC WORKING GROUPS

Introduction

The search for worldwide consensus and for greater acceptability of Codex Standards requires the involvement of all the Members of Codex and the active participation of developing countries.

Special efforts are needed to enhance the participation of developing countries in Codex Committees, by increased use of written communications, especially through remote participation via email, internet and other modern technologies, in the work done between sessions of Committees.

Codex Committees, when deciding to undertake work between sessions, should give the first priority to considering the establishment of electronic working groups.

The Rules of Procedure and the guidelines governing the work of a Committee shall apply, *mutatis mutandis*, to the electronic working groups this Committee establishes, unless stated otherwise in these Guidelines. The Guidelines applying to electronic working groups established by Codex Committees, as described in these Guidelines, apply also to those established by Regional Coordinating Committees and by Codex *ad hoc* Intergovernmental Task Forces.

Composition of Working Groups Membership

Membership of an electronic working group is notified to the chairperson of the Codex Committee and to the host country secretariat of the Committee. When establishing an electronic working group, a Codex Committee should ensure, as far as possible, that the membership is representative of the membership of the Commission.

Observers

Observers should notify the Chairperson of the Committee and the host country secretariat of the Committee, of their wish to participate in a working group. Observers may participate in all the activities of an electronic working group, unless otherwise specified by Committee members.

The provisions of the "Guidelines to Host Governments of Codex Committees and *ad hoc* Intergovernmental Task Forces", the "Guidelines on the Conduct of Meetings of Codex Committees and *ad hoc* Intergovernmental Task Forces", the "Guidelines to Chairpersons of Codex Committees and *ad hoc* Intergovernmental Task Forces" and the "Guidelines on Physical Working Groups" are especially relevant in this matter.

Organization and Procedures

Codex Committees may decide that the electronic working group will be managed by the Host Government Secretariat, or by another member of the Commission, having volunteered to undertake this responsibility and having been accepted by the Committee (hereinafter "the Host"). The Host should be notified of the participants in an electronic working group by Codex Members through their Codex Contact Points and by Observer organizations.

Management

The Host is responsible for the management of the electronic working group for which it has been appointed. The business of an electronic working group is transacted exclusively by electronic means.

Secretariat

The Host is responsible for providing the secretariat of the electronic working group with all services needed for its functioning, including suitable Information Technology (IT) equipment, and should meet all the requirements agreed upon by the Committee.

Duties and Terms of Reference

The terms of reference of the electronic working group shall be established by the Committee during its plenary session, shall be limited to the immediate task at hand and normally shall not be subsequently modified. The terms of reference shall clearly state the objective(s) to be achieved by the establishment of the electronic working group and the language(s) to be used. Interpretation and translation services should be provided in all languages of the Committee, unless decided otherwise by the Committee. The terms of reference shall clearly state the time frame by which the work is expected to be completed. The electronic working group shall be dissolved after the specified work has been completed or when the time limit allocated for the work has expired or at any other point in time, if the Codex Committee which has established it, so decides. No decision on behalf of the Committee, nor vote, either on point of substance or of procedure, shall take place in electronic working groups.

Electronic Working Group Notification and Programme of Work

A notice indicating when the electronic working group starts to operate and a programme of work shall be prepared, translated and distributed by the Host to all Members and Observers who have expressed the willingness to contribute.

Organization of Work

Circulation of drafts and calls for comments shall include a request for the names, positions and e-mail addresses of all the persons willing to contribute to the business of the electronic working group. Comments from participants should be submitted exclusively by electronic means. These submissions shall be circulated to all concerned by the Host. Any participant should be made aware of the materials contributed by all others. An update on the progress of its work shall be

presented by the Host at each session of the Codex Committee which has established it, indicating the number of countries having sent contributions by mail. A compilation of these contributions should be made available.

Preparation and Distribution of Materials

Materials should be sent to the secretariat of the Host, in good time. The Host is responsible for the distribution of all the materials submitted by a participant during the business of the electronic working group to all other participants of the electronic working group. Attention should be given to constraints of a technical nature (file sizes and formats, limited band width, ...) and special care should be taken to ensure the widest distribution of all the available materials.

Conclusions

As soon as possible after the end of the business of an electronic working group, the secretariat of the Host should send a copy of the final conclusions, in the form of either a discussion paper or a working document and of the list of participants to the Joint FAO/WHO Secretariat and to the host country secretariat of the Committee. The conclusions of an electronic working group and the list of participants shall be distributed to Codex Contact Points and observers by the Joint FAO/WHO Secretariat in time to allow full consideration of the electronic working group's recommendations.

The Joint FAO/WHO Secretariat should ensure that these conclusions are included in the distribution of papers for the next session of the Codex Committee, which has established the electronic working group.
