

CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION



Food and Agriculture
Organization of
the United Nations



World Health
Organization

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Agenda Item 10

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JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME

CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION

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RELATIONS BETWEEN THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS

BACKGROUND

1. In line with Strategic Objective 1.3 of the Strategic Plan of the Codex Alimentarius Commission 2014 – 2019, activities are ongoing to strengthen coordination and cooperation with international standards-setting organisations in order to avoid duplication of efforts and optimise opportunities. The Codex Secretariat regularly liaises with relevant international organisations on matters pertinent to the work of Codex.
2. The present document provides an update on this liaison and the relations with international intergovernmental organisations (Part A) and nongovernmental organisations (Part B) since the 37th Session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission.

A. RELATIONS BETWEEN THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATIONS

World Trade Organisation (WTO)

3. The Codex Secretariat participated in sessions of the SPS and TBT Committees of the WTO and informed the Committees, orally and in writing, of the work of the Codex Alimentarius Commission relevant to WTO. In particular, the Codex Secretariat noted that many of the concerns raised in TBT committee related to issues related to nutrition labelling. The Codex Secretariat drew the attention of the TBT Committee to the work of Codex on nutrition labelling and encouraged countries to participate in the work of CCFSDU and CCFL. The Codex Secretariat provided inputs to the meetings of the Standards and Trade Development Facility (STDF), as required. Representatives of WTO, in return, participated in selected meetings of the Codex Alimentarius Commission and its subsidiary bodies.
4. The information provided by the WTO Secretariat on activities relevant to Codex work is contained in document CAC/38 INF/3 and an update on STDF is presented in CAC/38 INF/4.

International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)

5. Representatives of FAO/IAEA regularly participate in relevant Codex committee meetings, especially the Committees on Contaminants in Foods, on Pesticide Residues and on Residues of Veterinary Drugs in Foods, in which IAEA provides information on their activities relevant to the work of these committees and technical inputs into documents being developed by these committees.
6. As regards contaminants, IAEA has participated and provided technical support in the discussion on the review of the Guideline Levels (GLs) for radionuclides in food in the Committee on Contaminants in Foods. Likewise, the Codex Secretariat has attended meetings of the IAEA Interagency Working Group on the review of international standards for radionuclides and provided information and inputs as regards Codex work on this matter. The Codex Secretariat also participated and provided information and inputs on Codex work relevant to IAEA at the International Symposium on Food Safety and Quality: Applications of Nuclear and Related Techniques.
7. As regards pesticide residues in food and feed, IAEA is participating and providing technical support in the development of guidance for performance criteria for methods of analysis for the determination of pesticide residues in CCPR.

8. With regard to residues of veterinary drugs, IAEA is coordinating inter-institutional research activities on veterinary drug residues in both terrestrial and aquaculture products, as a way to strengthen networking around the world, and as a platform to generate new methods of analysis for the Food Contaminant and Residue Information System (FCRIS) database which supports the application of the *Guidelines for the Design and Implementation of National Regulatory Food Safety Assurance Programmes Associated with the Use of Veterinary Drugs in Food Producing Animals* (CAC/GL 71-2009).¹

9. Information provided by the IAEA Secretariat on activities relevant to Codex work is presented in document CAC/38 INF/7.

World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE)

10. Information provided by the OIE Secretariat on activities relevant to Codex work is presented in document CAC/38 INF/2.

11. Continued collaboration between Codex and OIE has resulted in a number of Codex and OIE texts, which have been developed with inputs of the two organisations and which include cross reference to relevant texts of the two organisations (Annex 1 provides a list of Codex texts referring to OIE).

OIE Working Group on Animal Production Food Safety

12. The Codex Secretariat attended the 14th meeting of the OIE Working Group on Animal Production Food Safety (APFSWG), held in Paris (France) (October 2014). At the meeting the Codex Secretariat provided an update on texts adopted by the 37th Session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission and ongoing and future work in Codex subsidiary bodies, in particular the work ongoing in the Committee on Food Hygiene (CCFH) on *Trichinella* and on *Salmonella* spp. in beef and pork. Participation of the Codex Secretariat in the APFSWG contributes to the coordination of work between the OIE and Codex and to the exchange of information of common interest. The Secretariat will participate in an electronic meeting of APFSWG, scheduled in June 2015.

OIE ad hoc Groups

13. The Codex Secretariat has participated as an observer in the work of the OIE *ad hoc* Groups on *Salmonella* in pigs (August 2014) and in cattle (December 2014) in view of the ongoing CCFH work on *Salmonella* in pork and beef. Participation in this meeting contributes to ensure coherence and complementarity between Codex and OIE texts and to limit duplication of work while ensuring coverage of the whole food chain.

14. As an Observer organisation to Codex, OIE contributes to the work of Codex by providing comments and participating in the sessions of the Commission and of its Codex subsidiary bodies and in the work of electronic and physical working groups. The OIE is also invited to prepare information papers on relevant activities at the Codex Alimentarius Commission and at a number of Committees, including the Committees on Residues of Veterinary Drugs in Foods, on Food Hygiene and on Fish and Fishery Products.

United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE)

15. The Codex Secretariat regularly attends meetings of the UNECE Working Party on Agricultural Quality Standards and its Specialised Sections on Standardisation of Fresh Fruits and Vegetables and Dry and Dried Produce as Observer with a view to exchange information on standardisation work being performed by the two bodies, and to provide inputs on matters of common interest that are being discussed in both bodies to ensure harmonisation of Codex and UNECE agricultural quality standards to the extent possible. In this regard the Codex Secretariat attended the 63rd Session of the UNECE Specialised Section on Standardisation of Fresh Fruits and Vegetables (April 2015) where discussions on standardisation of garlic and ware potatoes are of interest to CCFFV as these two commodities are part of the current work programme of the Committee. Work already done by UNECE in this area are taken into account when developing Codex standards for such products.

16. Similarly, the UNECE Secretariat regularly attends meetings of the Committee on Fresh Fruits and Vegetables (CCFFV) and the Committee on Processed Fruits and Vegetables (CCPFV) as Observer to exchange information on standardisation work being performed by the two bodies and to provide inputs on matters of common interest that are being discussed in both bodies. In this regard, the UNECE Secretariat attended the 27th Session of CCPFV (September 2014) in view of the discussion on possible standardization of dry and dried produce, and is expected to attend the 19th Session of CCFFV (October 2015) in view of the consideration of Codex standards for garlic and ware potatoes, amongst other matters of interest to both bodies.

¹ <http://nucleus.iaea.org/fcris/VetSubMethodList.aspx>

17. Information provided by UNECE on activities relevant to Codex work will be presented in document CAC/38 INF/8.

Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)

Application of international standards for fruits and vegetables

18. The Codex Secretariat regularly attends Plenary Meetings of the OECD Scheme as Observer to exchange information on standardisation-related work being performed by the two bodies and to provide inputs on matters of common interest that are being discussed in both bodies. The Secretariat was also involved in a number of OECD capacity building activities to make presentations on Codex work in the area of quality of fruits and vegetables. The OECD Secretariat provides information on OECD activities relevant to CCFFV on a regular basis. Collaboration between Codex and the OECD Scheme aims at exploring synergies on complementary work between the two bodies, such as further development of OECD explanatory brochures on Codex standards for fruits and vegetables.

Pesticide residue chemistry and minor uses

19. The OECD Secretariat regularly provides information on pesticide residue chemistry and minor uses to the Committee on Pesticide Residues (CCPR). This information is relevant to the ongoing work in CCPR on the establishment of maximum residue limits for pesticides and in particular for the provision of guidance on the establishment of MRLs for minor crops including other matters related to these commodities.

20. Information provided by the OECD Secretariat on activities relevant to Codex work will be presented in document CAC/38 INF1.

International Olive Council (IOC)

21. The IOC has a long-standing cooperation with Codex in the development and revision of Codex texts concerning olive-related products and participates regularly in relevant Committees, such as meetings of the Committee on Fats and Oils and the Committee on Processed Fruits and Vegetables. IOC has provided information on its relevant activities at the last session of Committee on Fats and Oils.

22. The Codex Secretariat receives documents for the meetings on olive-related products organised by IOC, and participates, as required, to provide an update on the work of relevant Codex committees.

International Organisation of Vine and Wine (OIV)

23. OIV regularly provides information on its relevant activities or participates in the Codex Alimentarius Commission and several Codex Committees, in particular the Committees on Food Additives, on Contaminants in Foods and on Fresh Fruits and Vegetables.

24. The OIV participates in the work by the Committee on Food Additives, especially regarding provisions relating to food additives in the *General Standard for Food Additives* (GSFA), in particular for the “grape wine” category and its sub-categories and in the review of the food category system.

25. Detailed information on OIV activities and cooperation with Codex will be presented in document CAC/38 INF/5.

International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC)

26. The Codex Secretariat regularly attends sessions of the Commission on Phytosanitary Measures of the International Plant Protection Convention. In addition, informal liaison between the Codex and IPPC Secretariats continues on matters of common interest to both parties.

27. The IPPC and Codex Secretariat are cooperating on technical/administrative issues, such as websites, interaction with contact points, electronic working groups, etc. Together with the IPPC Secretariat, the Codex Secretariat is working on a new version of the online commenting system allowing a secure reception of comments and their automatic compilation. The system is expected to become a corporate solution for FAO and other organisations. The work on the system has been delayed due to issues related to an internal reorganisation of FAO's systems support and negotiations with an outside provider are closer to conclusion.

B. RELATIONS BETWEEN THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION AND INTERNATIONAL NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATIONS

International Organisation for Standardisation (ISO)

28. Codex has liaison status with ISO TC 34 on food products, ISO TC 234 *Fisheries and aquaculture* and the ISO Committee on Conformity Assessment (ISO/CASCO). The Secretariat therefore receives all the documents for these committees, follows their work and participates in relevant meetings as far as possible.

29. The Codex Secretariat and the JEMRA Secretariat also follow the work of SC09 Microbiology. The Secretariat has been invited to participate in their next meeting (June 2015).
30. ISO regularly participates in the Codex Alimentarius Commission and in the Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling, where its technical contribution is very important, as regards methods of analysis and general issues such as sampling uncertainty. The contribution of ISO in the area of methods of analysis and sampling is very substantial, as more than 300 methods of analysis refer to ISO methods.
31. Detailed information on ISO activities and cooperation with Codex is presented in CAC/38 INF/6.

ANNEX 1

Codex texts referring to OIE

Reference	Title
CAC/RCP 52-2003	<u>Code of Practice for Fish and Fishery Products</u>
CAC/RCP 54-2004	<u>Code of Practice on Good Animal Feeding</u>
CAC/RCP 57-2004	<u>Code of Hygienic Practice for Milk and Milk Products</u>
CAC/RCP 58-2005	<u>Code of Hygienic Practice for Meat</u>
CAC/GL 38-2001	<u>Guidelines for design, production, issuance and use of generic model official certificates</u>
CAC/RCP 61-2005	<u>Code of Practice to Minimise and Contain Antimicrobial Resistance</u>
CAC/GL 26-1997	<u>Guidelines for the Design, Operation, Assessment and Accreditation of Food Import and Export Inspection and Certification Systems</u>
CAC/GL 60-2006	<u>Principles for Traceability / Product Tracing as a Tool Within a Food Inspection and Certification System</u>
CAC/GL 62-2007	<u>Working Principles for Risk Analysis for Food Safety for Application by Governments</u>
CAC/GL 67-2008	<u>Model Export Certificate for Milk and Milk Products</u>
CAC/GL 77-2011	<u>Guidelines for Risk Analysis of Foodborne Antimicrobial Resistance</u>
CAC/GL 78-2011	<u>Guidelines for the Control of Campylobacter and Salmonella spp. in Chicken Meat</u>
CAC/GL 80-2013	<u>Guidelines on the Application of Risk Assessment for Feed</u>
CAC/GL 82-2013	<u>Principles and Guidelines for National Food Control Systems</u>
CAC/GL 85-2014	<u>Guidelines for the Control of Taenia saginata in Meat of Domestic Cattle</u>
For adoption by CAC38	<u>Guidelines for the Control of Trichinella spp. in Meat of Suidae</u>