

# codex alimentarius commission



FOOD AND AGRICULTURE  
ORGANIZATION  
OF THE UNITED NATIONS

WORLD  
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ORGANIZATION



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Agenda Item 2

CX/AFRICA 09/18/2  
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## JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME FAO/WHO COORDINATING COMMITTEE FOR AFRICA

18<sup>th</sup> Session  
Accra, Ghana, 24-27 February 2009

### MATTERS ARISING FROM THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION AND OTHER SUBSIDIARY BODIES<sup>1</sup>

#### I. MATTERS ARISING/REFERRED FROM THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION (30<sup>TH</sup> AND 31<sup>ST</sup> SESSIONS)

##### A. Items for Information

##### 30th Session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission

##### *Role of coordinators and members elected on geographical basis*

1. The 30<sup>th</sup> Session of the Commission adopted the amendments to the Rules of Procedure concerning the role of coordinators and members elected on geographical basis (Rule IV - Coordinators, Rule V - Executive Committee and Rule XI - Subsidiary Bodies),<sup>2</sup> which were subsequently approved by the Directors-General of FAO and WHO and included in the Procedural Manual (17<sup>th</sup> edition).

##### *Elaboration of new standards and related texts<sup>3</sup>*

2. The 30<sup>th</sup> Session of the Commission noted that project documents submitted to the 59<sup>th</sup> Session of the Executive Committee contained information that, while respecting the overall format as set out in the Procedural Manual, varied significantly in terms of quantity and quality, and therefore, endorsed the recommendation of the Executive Committee to encourage Codex committees, task forces and Codex Members to prepare future project documents according to the format set out in the current revision of the Procedural Manual and provide sufficiently detailed, relevant information with particular regard to the evidence-based assessment against each of all the Criteria for the Establishment of Work Priorities.

##### 31<sup>st</sup> Session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission

##### *Conversion of regional standards into worldwide standards*

3. The 31<sup>st</sup> Session of the Commission recalled that the 60<sup>th</sup> Session of the Executive Committee had considered the conversion of regional standards into worldwide standards, as requested by the 30<sup>th</sup> Session of the Commission, and adopted the Proposed Procedures presented in Appendix III of ALINORM 08/31/3, for inclusion in part 5 of the Elaboration Procedures of the Procedural Manual<sup>4</sup>.

<sup>1</sup> This document contains: Part I: Matters arising/referred from the Codex Alimentarius Commission (30<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> Session) either of specific interest to the Committee for information (A) or for action (B). Part II: Matters referred from other Codex Committees and Task Forces that require specific action by FAO/WHO Coordinating Committees. The Codex Secretariat will report verbally on matters of horizontal nature as appropriate to the discussion of the Committee.

<sup>2</sup> ALINORM 07/30/REP, para 21.

<sup>3</sup> ALINORM 07/30/REP, para 96.

<sup>4</sup> ALINORM 08/31/REP, para 6.

**B. Items for Action*****Implementation of the Strategic Plan 2008-2013***

4. The 30<sup>th</sup> Session of the Commission had adopted its Draft Strategic Plan 2008-2013 together with a checklist for use by the Executive Committee to monitor the implementation of the Strategic Plan (ALINORM 07/30/REP, paras 131-138).

5. The 31<sup>st</sup> Session of the Commission had considered a number of activities listed in the Strategic Plan. Activities on which decisions should be taken by the CCAFRICA are presented below.

**Activity 4.5: Promote interdisciplinary coordination at the national and regional level**

6. The Commission agreed that the forthcoming Coordinating Committees review current status on the basis of replies to the questionnaires sent to Codex members and observers, identify possible actions to be taken with a view to promoting interdisciplinary coordination and communication at national and regional level, and report to the 32<sup>nd</sup> Session of the Commission.<sup>5</sup>

7. This matter will be considered on Agenda Item 2.1 on the basis of information provided in response to the Part C(i) of CL 2008/30-AFRICA.

**Activity 5.4: Strengthen Codex Contact Points and National Codex Committees**

8. The Commission agreed that the forthcoming Coordinating Committees review the operation and activity of the Codex Contact Points and national Codex committees, discuss the ways to strengthen their function, and report back to the 62<sup>nd</sup> Session of the Executive Committee.<sup>6</sup>

9. This matter will be considered on Agenda Item 5 on the basis of information provided in response to the Part A.2 (i) & (ii) of CL 2008/30-AFRICA as well as on Agenda Item 4 – Strategic Plan for CCAFRICA.

**Activity 5.5: Enhance participation of non-governmental organizations at international, regional and national levels**

10. The Commission agreed that the forthcoming Coordinating Committees review the current status, identify any additional measures to be taken by the governments and other parties to enhance participation of non-governmental organizations at international, regional and national levels and report to the 32<sup>nd</sup> Session of the Commission<sup>7</sup>.

11. This matter will be considered on Agenda Item 2.1 on the basis of information provided in response to the Part C (ii) of CL 2008/30-AFRICA.

***Other matters referred by the Commission*****Participation of developing countries in Codex Meetings**

12. The 31<sup>st</sup> Session of the Commission had considered the matters related to participation of developing countries in Codex meetings. For details of consideration see ALINORM 08/31/REP, paras 152-161.

13. The Commission agreed that the issue of participation of developing countries would be considered by the 25<sup>th</sup> Session of the Committee on General Principles on the basis of a document prepared by the Secretariat including the data on the participation of developing countries in Codex sessions, and proposals to improve the situation. The Commission also recommended that Coordinating Committees consider this issue and report their views to the next session of the Commission. The conclusions of the Committee on General Principles and Coordinating Committees would be presented to the 32<sup>nd</sup> Session of the Commission for further consideration. The Commission further agreed to include on the agenda of its 32<sup>nd</sup> Session a specific item on this issue.<sup>8</sup>

14. The Committee **is invited** to discuss this matter in order to report its views to the 32<sup>nd</sup> Session of the Commission.

<sup>5</sup> ALINORM 08/31/REP, para 141.

<sup>6</sup> ALINORM 08/31/REP, para 145.

<sup>7</sup> ALINORM 08/31/REP, para 146.

<sup>8</sup> ALINORM 08/31/REP, para 161.

Use of Portuguese as a language of interpretation

15. Following a request made by the 17<sup>th</sup> Session of CCAFRICA<sup>9</sup>, the 31<sup>st</sup> Session of the Commission noted that Portuguese would be added as a language of interpretation in the Coordinating Committee for Africa on an experimental basis and agreed that the usefulness of Portuguese as a language of interpretation in the Coordinating Committee for Africa would be evaluated at the 32<sup>nd</sup> Session of the Commission<sup>10</sup>. The Committee is **invited** to inform the 32<sup>nd</sup> Session of the Commission of the usefulness of Portuguese as a language of interpretation in the Coordinating Committee for Africa.

**II. MATTERS ARISING FROM OTHER COMMITTEES AND TASK FORCES****60<sup>th</sup> Session of the Executive Committee of the Codex Alimentarius Commission*****Guidelines on the Application of the “Criteria for the Establishment of Work Priorities applicable to Commodities”***<sup>11</sup>

16. The Committee agreed to append to its report the Guidelines on the Application of the Criteria for the Establishment of Work Priorities applicable to Commodities, which aim at providing guidance on what kind of information needs to be examined by the Executive Committee while performing the Critical Review. The Committee further agreed that these guidelines should be made widely available in order to assist Codex Members and Codex subsidiary bodies when preparing project documents.

**61<sup>st</sup> Session of the Executive Committee of the Codex Alimentarius Commission**<sup>12</sup>***Nutrition related matters of regional interest***

17. Some members expressed the view that it might be beneficial for FAO/WHO Coordinating Committees to discuss nutrition-related matters of regional interest, particularly in relation to the WHO Global Strategy on Diet, Physical Activity and Health. The Committee noted that, from the procedural point of view, it was open for Coordinating Committees to discuss any matter of regional interest, in accordance with their terms of reference and the recommendation of the 28<sup>th</sup> Session of the Commission to encourage Coordinating Committees to consider any particular items of regional interest within the terms of reference of the Committees.

18. This matter will be considered on Agenda Item 7 on the basis of information provided in response to the Part D of CL 2008/30-AFRICA.

**24<sup>th</sup> Session of the Codex Committee on General Principles**<sup>13</sup>***Terms of reference for Coordinating Committees***

19. At the 23<sup>rd</sup> Session of the CCGP the proposal of the Coordinating Committee for Latin America and the Caribbean (CCLAC) to amend its mandate to include an additional bullet point “To promote the adoption of regional positions on strategic subjects” was discussed in detail. The Committee had decided to recommend to the CCLAC to practice the adoption of regional positions as appropriate while keeping their terms of reference unchanged and to report back its experience to this session. All other Coordinating Committees had been invited to discuss the possible inclusion of the sentence proposed by the CCLAC into their terms of reference and its possible implications and report their views to this session<sup>14</sup>.

<sup>9</sup> ALINORM 07/30/28, para. 36.

<sup>10</sup> ALINORM 08/31/REP, para. 115 and para. 121.

<sup>11</sup> ALINORM 08/31/3, paras 4-9 and Appendix II.

<sup>12</sup> ALINORM 08/31/3A, paras 27-31.

<sup>13</sup> ALINORM 07/30/33, paras 14-22.

<sup>14</sup> ALINORM 06/29/33, paras 6-18.

20. The 24<sup>th</sup> Session of the CCGP noted that at their sessions held in 2006/2007 three of the Coordinating Committees (CCNASWP, CCEURO and CCAFRICA) generally agreed that the current terms of reference should be unchanged because they were considered broad enough. They also agreed that the terms of reference of all Coordinating Committees should be kept harmonized. Within CCASIA and CCNEA there were diverging opinions on this issue while CCLAC supported the proposed amendment. The Committee noted further that the CCLAC and the CCEURO had gained some experience in adopting regional positions on certain issues at their last session.

21. As there was no consensus on recommending to the Commission that the CCLAC change its terms of reference to include the proposed sentence nor that all Coordinating Committees change their terms of reference in the same way, the Committee agreed that all Coordinating Committees be invited to discuss this matter, including institutional and other implications, at their next session and that those Coordinating Committees wishing to practice the adoption of regional positions should continue to do so under their current terms of reference and to report back to the CCGP on their experiences.

22. The Committee **is invited** to report its views to the 25<sup>th</sup> Session of the CCGP.