

JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME
FAO/WHO COORDINATING COMMITTEE FOR AFRICATwenty-first Session
Yaoundé Cameroon 27 – 30 January 2015GUIDELINES FOR THE SUBMISSION OF CANDIDATURES FROM AFRICA
FOR POSITIONS OF RESPONSIBILITY AT THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION
AND ITS SUBSIDIARY BODIES*(Prepared by the Coordinator for the CCAFRICA)***Background**

1. At the 20th Session of the Coordinating Committee for Africa (CCAFRICA), the Delegation of Cameroon presented a paper on the Proposed Draft Guidelines for the submission of Candidature from Africa for positions of responsibility at the Codex Alimentarius Commission and Subsidiary Bodies. Due to time constraints, the Committee did not discuss the proposed Guidelines but agreed that the Codex Secretariat would request comments on the proposed Guidelines through a Circular Letter. It was also agreed that the Delegation of Cameroon would prepare a revised proposal taking into account all comments received for presentation to the next session of the Committee.
2. The Codex Secretariat issued a Circular Letter CL 2013/2-AFRICA in March 2013 and responses were received from five members i.e. Benin, Ghana, R.C.A, Kenya and Nigeria.

Discussion

3. The majority of the comments that do not appear in the paragraph below were similar and thus resolved. New texts are indicated in ***bold/italics/underlined***, while those proposed for deleting are in strike-out.
4. However the following comments/issues were not resolved and may need further clarification:

- i) Para 3.1: Chair and Vice-Chair of the Codex Alimentarius Commission

There is need to clarify if the 2nd bullet under 3.1 should be deleted or kept.

- ii) Para 3.2: Coordinator of the CCAFRICA

There is need to clarify if the following text should be deleted from the text:

“In addition to the existence and functioning of a Codex structure as described above, the country shall have occupied the position of Advisor to the Elected Regional Representative on the Codex Executive Committee Elected Regional Representative on the Codex Executive Committee (CCEXEC)”

- iii) Para 3.4: Advisors to the Regional Representative on the CCEXEC

For this position it is not clear who an advisor is and in particular the role of an advisor.

5. The revised draft guidelines are hereby attached as Annex to this report.

ANNEX

GUIDELINES FOR THE SUBMISSION OF CANDIDATURES FROM AFRICAFOR POSITIONS OF RESPONSIBILITY AT THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION AND ITS SUBSIDIARY BODIES

1. Introduction

In view of the many difficulties noted for candidatures of African countries to the various positions of responsibility at the Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC), the Delegates of the member countries of the FAO/WHO Coordinating Committee for Africa asked its Coordinator to propose guidelines for the uptake of positions at the CAC. The aim is achieve consensus within the CCAFRICA and to enable Africa to submit, for each position of responsibility, a single candidate who is fully qualified to discharge the responsibilities involved. The various positions concerned are:

- a) Chair and Vice-Chair of the Codex Alimentarius Commission;
- b) Coordinator of the CCAFRICA;
- c) Elected Regional Representative on the Codex Executive Committee;
- d) Two Advisors to the Elected Regional Representative on the CCEXEC.

2. General Criteria

Indication of interest to occupy a position of responsibility shall be considered in the CCAfrica meeting prior to the election.

Countries wishing to occupy a position of responsibility at the CAC shall meet the following pre-conditions for all positions of responsibility:

- Consistent participation in at least 5 immediate preceding sessions of CAC session; thereby garnering knowledge of operating procedures of Codex.
- Have a Codex Contact Point. A member country may also have a National Codex Committee established by government or obtain Political/Senior management/Senior decision makers' support specifying the organization, composition and functioning of the structure in question.
- Have undertaken Codex-related activities for at least the previous three (03) years. Annual activity reports and a record of the country's participation in Codex international work will serve as elements of evaluation;
- Have participated during this period in at least 50% of the work of Codex technical committees, intergovernmental groups and electronic or physical working groups that are identified to be of their national interest

3. Specific criteria related to positions

In addition to the above criteria, countries and/or candidates of those countries must meet the following specific conditions of eligibility, depending on the position involved:

3.1 Chair and Vice-Chair of the Codex Alimentarius Commission

Candidates for these positions will need to meet the following additional criteria:

- past membership or office in a position of responsibility within the Codex structure of their country;
- ~~past office as Elected Regional Representative on the Codex Executive Committee (CCEXEC), or past office as CCAFRICA Coordinator;~~
- an appropriate academic and professional profile in the relevant field of study;
- ability to communicate in any one language recognised by the Codex Alimentarius Commission

- Active involvement in Codex work; both at the Commission level or any Subsidiary Committee level.

3.2 Coordinator of the CCAFRICA

The eligibility for the position of a Coordinator requires that a country is a member of CCAFRICA.

~~***In addition to the existence and functioning of a Codex structure as described above, the country shall have occupied the position of Advisor to the Elected Regional Representative on the Codex Executive Committee Elected Regional Representative on the Codex Executive Committee(CCEXEC).***~~

3.3 Regional Representative on the Codex Executive Committee (CCEXEC)

The eligibility for nomination for Regional Representative should include:

- Membership of CCAFRICA
- Participation in Codex work

3.4 Advisors to the Regional Representative on the CCEXEC

For this position, below are criteria for consideration:

- ***The Candidate's exposure to Codex work is fundamental.***
- ***The competency of the candidate as an advisor should be evaluated.***

Candidate countries must substantiate the existence of a National Codex Committee and/or Codex Contact Point as described above, and regularly participate in international activities of the Codex Alimentarius.

Members of the CCAFRICA should concentrate on consensus when designating their potential candidates for competitive positions. The serving Coordinator should actively facilitate the procedure.

When distributing positions, it is important to consider a balance between the different sub-regions of Africa and the three major languages of the CCAFRICA (English, French and Portuguese).

To be valid, a candidature shall be supported by an administrative instrument issued by the competent authorities of the country seeking the nomination.