

codex alimentarius commission



FOOD AND AGRICULTURE
ORGANIZATION
OF THE UNITED NATIONS

WORLD
HEALTH
ORGANIZATION



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JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION

Forty-seventh Session, WHO Headquarters, Geneva, 28-30 June 2000

IMPLEMENTATION OF DECISIONS TAKEN BY THE 23RD SESSION OF THE COMMISSION

Decisions of the 23rd Session of the Commission: ALINORM 99/37	Implementation
Expressed its satisfaction with the Programme's budget for 2000/01, while noting the financial constraints of the parent Organizations and expressed its appreciation of the generous voluntary support provided by the Host Governments for Codex Committees (paras. 15-16);	See CX/EXEC 00/47/5 concerning budgetary and financial matters.
Adopted Resolution 99/1 regarding the funding of the scientific advisory bodies, JECFA and JMPR and ad hoc consultations and the strengthening of the independence and the scientific integrity of these bodies (paras. 17-19);	The FAO Conference endorsed the protection offered to a number of high-priority areas, noting that they had been consistently supported by the membership. These included [...] Codex Alimentarius. The protection extends to the funding of the scientific advisory bodies. The Executive Board of WHO recommended that the 53 rd Session of the World Health Assembly adopt a Resolution calling for the strengthening of expert advisory bodies for chemical and microbiological hazards as well as for genetically modified foods.

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Adopted Resolution 99/1 regarding the funding of the scientific advisory bodies, JECFA and JMPR and ad hoc consultations and the strengthening of the independence and the scientific integrity of these bodies (paras. 17-19); (continued)	FAO and WHO are pursuing means to strengthen the independence and scientific integrity of these bodies. From March 2000, experts appointed to FAO/WHO scientific panels will be asked to indicate any potential conflict of interest that may affect their independence as experts including: employment (past or present) by any commercial enterprise or private or civil sector association active in the subject field of the panel; recipient of research or other study grants from such enterprises or associations; shareholdings in commercial enterprises active in the field of the panel; membership of private or civil sector associations active in the field of the panel. Experts will be asked to make such a declaration in writing, and these declarations will be made publicly available.
Expressed its appreciation to FAO and WHO for the technical assistance provided to developing countries in relation to Codex matters and food control generally, and strongly supported the continuation of such assistance, while recognizing the need to evaluate the impact of these programmes on a regular basis (paras. 20-24);	FAO and WHO continue to provide technical assistance to developing Member countries. A report will be prepared for the 24 th Session of the Commission.
Adopted the Medium-Term Plan 1998-2002 and agreed that the preparation of the subsequent Medium-Term Plan should be initiated rapidly (paras. 25-34 and Appendix II);	See Agenda Item 6 concerning preparation of the Medium-Term Plan 2003-2007 (CX/EXEC 00/47/6).
Adopted the following a series of recommendations in relation to consumers' involvement in Codex work (para. 43);	These matters were referred to the Codex Committee on General Principles (15 th Session): see ALINORM 01/33.
Requested the Codex Committee on General Principles develop proposals that would allow for a limited number of representatives of the International Non-Governmental Organizations in Observer Status with the Codex Alimentarius Commission to be invited as observers to Sessions of the Executive Committee (paras. 44-46).	See the Report of the 15 th Session of the Codex Committee on General Principles (ALINOM 01/33).
Adopted a series of recommendations in relation to the application of risk analysis principles in Codex work, and endorsed others (paras. 56-58);	See Annex 1.
Amended the Rules of Procedure of the Codex Alimentarius Commission, subject to the confirmation of the Directors-General of FAO and WHO, (paras. 59-66 and Appendix III);	The amendments to the Rules of Procedure were approved by the Directors-General and have been published in the 11 th Edition of the Procedural Manual.
Adopted a series of amendments and new texts for inclusion in the Procedural Manual (paras. 67-73 and Appendix IV);	The amendments have been published in the 11 th Edition of the Procedural Manual.

Abolished certain subsidiary bodies and established new subsidiary bodies (paras. 219-230);

The first meetings of the ad hoc Intergovernmental Codex Task Force on Foods derived from Biotechnology, and the ad hoc Intergovernmental Codex Task Force on Animal Feeding have been held. The first meetings of the ad hoc Intergovernmental Codex Task Force on Fruit and Vegetable Juices and the FAO/WHO Regional Coordinating Committee for the Near East will be held in September 2000 and January 2001, respectively.

Agreed that, subject to availability of resources, beginning with the biennium 2000/2001, future Sessions of the Codex Alimentarius Commission, the Executive Committee and Regional Coordinating Committees as appropriate, would be held in Arabic, Chinese, English, French and Spanish. (paras. 232-234).

The Executive Committee meeting will be held in the four official languages used by its members. The 24th Session of the Commission will be held in all five official languages. Languages for Regional Committee meetings are being arranged as follows:

- Africa: Arabic, English, French
- Asia: Chinese, English, French if requested
- Europe: English, French, Spanish
- Latin America and the Caribbean: English, French if requested, Spanish
- Near East: Arabic, English, French
- North America and the South-West Pacific: English

The 11th Edition of the Procedural Manual and main Codex texts on food hygiene, food labelling and food import and export inspection and certification systems have been published in all five languages or are in the process of translation and printing.

RECOMMENDATIONS CONCERNING RISK ANALYSIS

(ALINORM 99/37, para. 56)

The Commission adopted the following recommendations within the framework of Codex:

Recommendation	Implementation
Programmes that contribute to risk analysis should have high priority;	This should be taken up in the context of Agenda Item 6: Preparation of the Medium-Term Plan 2003-2007.
Relevant Codex Committees should continue to develop and to apply risk analysis principles and methodologies appropriate to their specific mandates within the framework of the Action Plan and report their progress to the Commission on a regular basis;	On-going.
Proposals for new or amended definitions for use within the framework of risk analysis, as appropriate, should be considered by the Codex Committee on General Principles;	On-going.
To overcome confusion about the usage of the terms “risk analysis” and “hazard analysis”, the Commission should reiterate its definitions for these concepts and explain how they apply in practice;	The Executive Committee may wish to refer this matter to the Codex Committee on Food Hygiene for a clear statement of the difference between the two terms.
The Commission should continue and expand its efforts to increase the participation of those national governments and NGOs that are members or observers but that are not presently active participants in Codex matters;	The Executive Committee may wish to note that the issue is relevant to all Codex work and not only to risk analysis and draw the attention of the countries concerned to the Commission’s recommendation.
Relevant Codex committees should appoint a co-author from a developing country for position papers, where the main author(s) is from a developed country;	See below
Relevant Codex committees should consider developing quality criteria for data used for risk assessment. To the extent possible such criteria should be consistent with one another, taking into account the technical differences in the disciplines covered;	The Executive Committee may wish to refer this recommendation to the Committees concerned. [Note: The same recommendation was made by the FAO Conference on Food Trade beyond 2000, Melbourne, October 1999.]
Relevant Codex committees should consider the acute aspects of dietary exposure to chemicals in food;	The Executive Committee may wish to refer this recommendation to the Committees concerned.
Recognizing that primary production in developing countries is largely through small and medium enterprises, risk assessment should be based on global data, including that from developing countries. This data should particularly include epidemiological surveillance data and exposure studies;	The Executive Committee may wish to refer this recommendation to the relevant advisory Expert Committees.

Recommendation	Implementation
Risk management should take into account the economic consequences and the feasibility of risk management options in developing countries. Risk Management should also recognize the need for flexibility in the establishment of standards, guidelines and other recommendations, consistent with the protection of consumers' health.	The Executive Committee may wish to refer this recommendation to the Codex Committee on General Principles for consideration in relation to the development of appropriate texts for inclusion in the Procedural Manual.

List of Countries Developing Position/Discussion Papers

Codex Committee on Residues of Veterinary Drugs in Foods

Risk analysis principles and methodologies of the CCRVDF: France, Poland, Australia, **Brazil**, Canada, **Chile**, Japan, **Mexico**, Netherlands, New Zealand, **Philippines**, Sweden, Switzerland, **Thailand**, USA, JECFA Secretariat, EC, OIE, WHO, CI and COMISA.

Antimicrobial resistance and the use of antimicrobials in animal production: by Australia, **Brazil**, Canada, **Costa Rica**, Denmark, Finland, Germany, **Thailand**, UK, USA, EC, OIE, WHO, CI and COMISA.

Criteria for the selection of methods of analysis: Canada, USA, Australia, **Costa Rica**, France, Netherlands and COMISA.

Codex Committee on Food Hygiene

Discussion Paper on Proposed Draft Guidelines for the Hygienic reuse of Processing Water in Food Plants: Australia, France, Germany, Netherlands, **India**, US, IDF;

Proposed Draft Code of Hygienic Practice for the Primary Production and, Harvesting and Packaging of Fresh Fruits and Vegetables - at Step 3: **Argentina**, **Chile**, Denmark, **Guatemala**, **Honduras**, **India**, Japan, **Mexico**, Netherlands, Spain, Sweden, UK, US;

Proposed draft Code of Hygienic Practice for Milk and Milk Products - at Step 3: **Argentina**, Australia, Canada, France, Germany, **India**, New Zealand,, United Kingdom, **Uruguay**, US, IDF);

Codex Committee on Food Export and Import Inspection and Certification Systems

Guidelines for Food Import Control Systems: Australia, Canada, France, **India**, Japan, **Mexico**, **Morocco**, UK, USA.

Guidelines for Generic Official Certificate Formats and the Production and Issuance of Certificates: Australia, Canada, France, **India**, the Netherlands, New Zealand, **South Africa**, UK, USA, EC.

Guidelines for the Utilization and Promotion of Quality Assurance Systems to Meet Requirements in Relation to Food: Australia, Canada, Denmark, France, **India**, the Netherlands, New Zealand, **South Africa**, Switzerland, USA, EC.

Discussion Paper on the Judgement of Equivalence of Sanitary Measures Associated with Food Inspection and Certification Systems: New Zealand, **Argentina**, Australia, Canada, France, Japan, **Morocco**, USA, EC.

Discussion Paper on the Judgement of Equivalence of Technical Regulations Associated with Food Inspection and Certification Systems: Australia, France, **South Africa**, USA.

Position Paper on the Potential Need for Guidance on Food Export Control Systems: **Morocco**

Codex Committee on Food Additives and Contaminants

Revised Sampling Plan for Aflatoxins in Peanuts: **Argentina**, **China**, **India**, Italy, Netherlands, **South Africa**, **Thailand**, **Turkey**, USA, EC.

Application of Risk Analysis Principles for Food Additives and Contaminants: Australia, Netherlands, Sweden, **Thailand**, UK, USA.

General Code of Practice for the Prevention of Mycotoxin Contamination in Cereals: **Argentina**, Canada, Norway, **South Africa**, Sweden, USA.

Codex Committee on Pesticide Residues

Problems relative to pesticide residues in food in developing countries: **South Africa** .

Methods of analysis: Netherlands.

Feasibility of establishing MRLs for genetically modified crops and for metabolite residues: Canada, Australia, **South Africa**, USA, Commission of EC, GCPF.

Feasibility of establishing specific MRLs for cereal-based foods and infant formula: Germany, USA, Commission of EC, CI.

Need for EMRL for camphechlor in fish: Germany.

MRL restrictions when the chronic dietary intake estimate(s) exceed the ADI: Australia, Canada, New Zealand, USA, EC.