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codex alimentarius commission



FOOD AND AGRICULTURE
ORGANIZATION
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WORLD
HEALTH
ORGANIZATION



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Agenda Item 12

JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME

CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION

Twenty-seventh Session

International Conference Centre, Geneva (Switzerland), 28 June – 3 July 2004

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE JOINT FAO/WHO EVALUATION OF THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS AND OTHER FAO AND WHO WORK ON FOOD STANDARDS

General Implementation Status

1. The 26th Session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission examined specific proposals that had originated from the Joint FAO/WHO Evaluation of the Codex Alimentarius and other FAO and WHO Work on Food Standards¹. The implementation status of those proposals endorsed by the 26th Session of the Commission and other decisions by the Commission related to the Joint FAO/WHO Evaluation is summarised in Tables 1 and 2.
2. The Commission is invited to take note of the progress being made and to provide any guidance deemed necessary to ensure the timely and continuous implementation of the proposals/decisions.

Review of the mandates of Codex Committees and Task Forces

3. It was originally envisaged that the report of the review of the mandates of Codex committees and Task Forces² be made available to the 27th Session of the Commission. However, in view of the significant implications this review would have for Codex reform and of the fact that the Commission at its 26th Session stressed the critical importance of transparency in the process, the timeframe for this exercise needed to be expanded.
4. The Executive Committee, at its 53rd Session, considered this matter³ and endorsed the terms of reference for the review as set out below:

¹ ALINORM 03/26/11 and its addenda 1-6; ALINORM 03/41 paras. 149-183

² ALINORM 03/26/11 Add.1 paras.13-14; ALINORM 03/41 paras. 5-6

³ ALINORM 04/27/3 paras.7-10

Terms of reference of the review

(a) With the objective of reducing the number of Codex meetings while also keeping them short and focused, the review should concentrate on:

- adequacy of the current structure of general subject committees to meet member countries' needs in a flexible and timely manner;
- adequacy of the current structure of commodity committees to meet member countries' needs in a flexible and timely manner;
- areas of overlap and areas where coverage of the subject matter is inadequate, taking into consideration the needs that were not covered or new issues that may arise in the future; and
- relationship between all committees and task forces, particularly the relations between commodity and general subject committees (task forces);

(b) Based on a detailed study of the points above and inputs received from Codex chairs, and taking full account of the Report of the Evaluation of the Codex Alimentarius and other FAO and WHO Food Standards Work as well as ongoing work on specific subjects at the committee level, recommendations should be formulated for consideration by the Commission. These may include proposals for revision of the existing committee mandates with a view to rationalisation, proposals for redistribution of tasks and responsibilities between committees, and proposals to split or merge committees.

5. The Commission may wish to **endorse** the Terms of reference as stated above with the addition of the following point (c)⁴ to the Terms of reference:

(c) The recommendations to the Commission should also take into account the ability of all members of the Commission to participate in the standards development process, including the sustainability of the subsidiary body structures and their work programmes, especially in the light of the holding of annual sessions of the Commission and the operation of the FAO/WHO Trust Fund for Enhanced Participation in Codex.

6. The 53rd Session of the Executive Committee agreed that the recruitment of consultants be postponed until the 54th Session of the Executive Committee and the 27th Session of the Commission so that the final decision to start the review process would be taken by the Commission in the light of the budget available in the Codex Secretariat.

7. The Executive Committee expressed its hope that by expediting the work of consultants, the final proposals coming out as the result of the review could still be presented to the Commission in 2005. It was noted that an informal meeting of Codex chairs to be organized during the next session of the Commission could provide preliminary input to the Secretariat.

8. The Commission is invited to **consider** the following time-frame, subject to the availability of necessary funds, for the conduct of the review:

Timeframe

- Recruitment of a small team of consultants to undertake the review, in accordance with the rules of FAO and WHO, taking into account the criteria proposed by the 52nd Session of the Executive Committee⁵ (July/August 2004);
- Conduct of the study in accordance with the terms of reference above, with inputs from the Chairpersons of Codex Committees and Task Forces (September 2004 - May 2005);
- Presentation of a progress report to the 55th Session of the Executive Committee;
- Consideration of the recommendations by the 28th Session of the Commission (June/July 2005).

⁴ Based on ALINORM 03/26/11 Add.1 para 14, with modification.

⁵ ALINORM 03/4 Para.23

Review of the Regional Coordinating Committees

9. In accordance with the decision by the 26th Session of the Commission, the Secretariat submits the proposals concerning the review of the Regional Coordinating Committees, for **consideration** by the Commission, as follows:

- A Circular Letter should be issued to all Codex members; the Circular Letter should invite government comments in the following areas:
 - Role of Regional Coordinating Committees in furthering the objectives of the Codex Alimentarius Commission;
 - Membership of Regional Coordinating Committees, including their current geographic coverage;
 - Terms of reference of the Regional Coordinating Committees as set out in the Procedural Manual, including the relevance of developing regional standards;
 - Effectiveness of Regional Coordinating Committees in respect of country participation record and of venues and meeting intervals (currently every two years);
 - Respective roles of the Regional Coordinator as *ex officio* Chairperson of the Regional Coordinating Committee and the Member(s) of the Executive Committee elected on a geographic basis, particularly within the framework of the Executive Committee; and
 - Any other issues.
- Regional Coordinating Committees, at their forthcoming session, should consider the comments from the governments of the respective Region and forward their view and/or recommendations to the 28th Session of the Commission for its consideration.

TABLE 1 : IMPLEMENTATION STATUS OF PROPOSALS ENDORSED BY THE 26TH SESSION OF THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION

Proposal No.	Title	Follow-up Actions Required
1	Annual meetings of the Commission	Implemented.
2	Follow-up and progress monitoring of the Implementation of the Evaluation	On-going at CCEXEC.
3	Priorities for implementation	None
4	Acceptable levels of protection	None
5	Review of the mandates of Codex Committees and Task Forces	On-going at CCEXEC and CAC.
6	Review of the Regional Coordinating Committees	CAC27 to consider the proposals by the Secretariat.
7	Strategic and Managerial Functions of the Executive Committee	CCGP19 proposed amendment to the Procedural Manual; CAC27 to consider the proposed amendment; CCEXEC to start exercising the functions.
8	Budgetary, Planning and Programming Functions of the Executive Committee	CCGP19 proposed amendment to the Procedural Manual; CAC27 to consider the proposed amendment; CCEXEC to start exercising the functions.
9	Retention of the Executive Committee as a Strategic and Standards Management body	CCGP19 proposed amendment to the Procedural Manual; CAC27 to consider the proposed amendment; CCEXEC to start exercising the functions.
10	Removal of additional functions of the Executive Committee	Partly implemented (no involvement at Steps 5/8); CCGP19 proposed amendment to the Procedural Manual; CAC27 to consider the proposed amendment.
11	Executive Committee Membership	CCGP19 proposed amendment to the Procedural Manual; CAC27 to consider the proposed amendment.
12	Participation of observers in the Executive Committee	CCGP21 to consider this matter.
13	Strategic Planning	On-going at CCEXEC
14	Critical review of proposals to undertake work	CCGP19 proposed amendment to the Procedural Manual; CAC27 to consider the proposed amendment; CCEXEC54 to start exercising the functions.
15	Monitoring progress of standards development	CCGP19 proposed amendment to the Procedural Manual; CAC27 to consider the proposed amendment; CCEXEC to start exercising the functions.
16	Standards management responsibility	None.
17	Time-bound decision making	CCEXEC to start exercising the functions as part of Critical review and progress monitoring..
18	Simplified procedures for standards development	None.
19	Use of facilitators	Work to be undertaken by CCGP.
20	Establishment of electronic working groups	CCGP21 to follow up this matter.
21	Establishment of physical working groups	CCGP21 to follow up this matter.

22	Adoption of Standards	None.
23	Responsibility for the procedural review	None (CCGP was identified as the responsible body).
24	Amendment of the Codex Mandate	None.
25	Revision of the Rules and working procedures governing the Executive Committee	See Proposals Nos. 7, 8, 9, 10 and 11 above.
26	Subsequent revision of the Rules and working procedures governing the Executive Committee	See Proposal No. 12 above.
27	Right to address the Chair	Work to be undertaken by CCGP.
28	Observer Organizations	CAC27 to consider the report by the Secretariat; On-going at CCGP (Review of the Principles Concerning the Participation of INGOs).
29	Chairpersons of Codex Committees and Task Forces	CCGP19 proposed amendment to the Procedural Manual; CAC27 to consider the proposed amendment.
30	Revision of Rule XI.4	CCGP19 proposed amendment to the Procedural Manual; CAC27 to consider the proposed amendment.
31	Separation of advice to host governments and advice on the conduct of meetings	CCGP19 proposed amendment to the Procedural Manual; CAC27 to consider the proposed amendment.
32	Co-chairmanship	To be followed-up by CCGP.
33	Criteria for the selection of Chairpersons	CCGP19 proposed amendment to the Procedural Manual; CAC27 to consider the proposed amendment.
34	Determination of consensus	No immediate action required (the Commission agreed to maintain the <i>statu quo</i>); CCGP to develop guidance.
35	Conduct of Meetings: Reports	Work to be undertaken by CCGP.
36	Conduct of Meetings: Country groupings	Work to be undertaken by CCGP.
37	Relations with OIE	On-going at CCGP (Proposed Draft Guideline on Cooperation with IGOs); See also ALINORM 04/27/10E.
38	Criteria for the establishment of work priorities	CCGP21 to follow up this matter.

TABLE 2 : OTHER DECISIONS OF THE 26TH SESSION OF THE COMMISSION (RELATED TO THE JOINT FAO/WHO EVALUATION) REGARDING THE CURRENT UNIFORM PROCEDURE FOR THE ELABORATION OF CODEX STANDARDS AND RELATED TEXTS⁶

No.	Title	Follow-up Actions Required
1	Subsequent Procedure Concerning Publication and Acceptance of Codex Standards	CCGP21 to consider a discussion paper.
2	Guide to the Consideration of Standards at Step 8	Work to be undertaken by CCGP.
3	Guide to the Procedure for the Revision and Amendment of Codex Standards	Work to be undertaken by CCGP.
4	Arrangements for the Amendment of Codex Standards Elaborated by Codex Committees which have Adjourned <i>Sine Die</i> .	Work to be undertaken by CCGP.

⁶ ALINORM 03/26/11: Add.4 para. 31; ALINORM 03/41 para.178.