

October 2005

codex alimentarius commission



FOOD AND AGRICULTURE
ORGANIZATION
OF THE UNITED NATIONS

WORLD
HEALTH
ORGANIZATION



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Agenda Item 8

JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION

Fifty-seventh Session, WHO Headquarters

Geneva (Switzerland), 6 – 9 December 2005

RELATIONS BETWEEN THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

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

1. The 28th Session of the Commission adopted the Guidelines for Cooperation between the Codex Alimentarius Commission and International Intergovernmental Organizations in the Elaboration of Standards and Related Texts¹. The Commission further endorsed the recommendation of the 55th Session of the Executive Committee related to the collaboration between Codex and the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE).²
2. Since July 2005, the OIE submitted a report on its relevant activities to the 5th Session of the Codex *ad hoc* Intergovernmental Task Force on Foods Derived from Biotechnology (19-23 September 2005).³ The Task Force noted the information provided by the OIE and, when deciding to develop a guideline for the conduct of food safety assessment of foods derived from recombinant-DNA animals, noted that coordination with the OIE might be required, as appropriate.⁴
3. The Codex Secretariat will continue to invite the OIE to submit, to relevant Codex subsidiary bodies, reports on its activities relevant to the work of these subsidiary bodies. In addition, the OIE will be invited to submit a summary report on its activities of relevance to the work of the Commission to the regular sessions of the Commission.

¹ ALINORM 05/28/41 paras 43 and 44; Appendix IV

² ALINORM 05/28/41 para. 202

³ CX/FBT 05/5/3 Add.1

⁴ ALINORM 06/29/34 paras 14 and 23; Appeidix II

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

Application for Observer Status with Codex

4. The 28th Session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission (July 2005) adopted amendments to the Rule concerning Observers (current Rule IX.4, 5 and 6) of the Rules of Procedure of the Commission as well as the revised Principles concerning the Participation of International Non-Governmental Organizations in the Work of the Codex Alimentarius Commission⁵. Under these Rules and Principles in force, the advice of the Executive Committee is to be sought by the Directors-General of FAO and WHO when handling the relations between the Commission and international non-governmental organizations.

5. The Executive Committee is hereby **invited**, in accordance with Rule IX.6 of the Rules of Procedure and the above-mentioned Principles, to provide advice regarding the application for observer status from one international non-governmental organization neither having status with FAO nor official relations with WHO, as included in Annex. Other relevant information received from the applicant organization will be made available to the Executive Committee in a separate document.

6. The Directors-General of FAO and WHO will decide whether the applicant organization is to be granted observer status, taking into account all relevant information received from the applicant and the advice of the Executive Committee.

Relations between Codex and the International Organization for Standardization (ISO)

7. The Executive Committee at its 53rd session agreed that the Codex Secretariat establish preliminary contact with the ISO to obtain information on the current status of food safety-related work within the ISO and present its findings to the Executive Committee, together with the implications to the work being undertaken by Codex⁶.

8. The 27th Session of the Commission agreed that the Secretariat should maintain its contacts with ISO and report to the Executive Committee and the Commission on ISO activities of relevance to Codex work.

9. The information on ISO work as relates to food safety was presented at the 55th Session of the Executive Committee and the 28th Session of the Commission⁷.

10. The information on the current status of food safety-related work by ISO, provided by the Secretariat of ISO/TC 34, is summarised in Table 1 below.

11. The Executive Committee is **invited** to note the information provided, identify those areas where coordination of work between Codex and ISO should be maintained or strengthened and make proposals on practical modalities for implementing such coordination, as appropriate.

⁵ ALINORM 05/28/41 paras 26 and 42, Appendices II and IV

⁶ ALINORM 04/27/3 para. 99

⁷ CX/EXEC 05/55/7 and ALINORM 05/28/9E

Table 1. Selected ISO/TC 34 work items of interest to Codex (as of October 2005)

PROJECT NUMBER	TITLE	STATUS
ISO 22000:2005	Food safety management systems – Requirements for any organization in the food chain	Published on 1 September 2005
ISO/TS 22004	Food safety management systems — Guidance on the application of ISO 22000:2005	To be published on 15 November 2005.
ISO/DTS 22003	Food safety management systems — Requirements for bodies providing audit and certification of food safety management systems	Votes and comments on the draft requested (deadline 30 November 2005)
ISO/DIS 22005	Traceability in feed and food chain — General principles and basic requirements for system design and implementation	The Draft International Standard will be available before early December 2005
ISO/CD 22002	Quality Management Systems – Guidance on the application of ISO 9001:2000 for crop production	ISO/TC 34/WG 12 was established in October 2005; the Committee Draft will be circulated for vote and comments in the first half of 2006.
ISO/CD 22810	Food irradiation – Good processing practices for the irradiation of foods intended to human consumption	Votes and comments on the Committee Draft requested (deadline 12 January 2006)

ANNEX: APPLICATION FOR OBSERVER STATUS

(a) *Official name of the organization in different languages (with initials)*

International Centre for Trade and Sustainable Development (ICTSD)

(b) *Full postal address, Telephone, Facsimile and Email, as well as Telex and website addresses as appropriate*

7, chemin de Balexert, Geneva , 1219, Switzerland

Telephone number: +41 (22) 9178492; Fax number: +41 (22) 9178093

Email Address: ictsd@ictsd.ch Website URL: www.ictsd.org

(c) *Aims and subject fields (mandate) of organization, and methods of operation (Enclose charter, constitution, by-laws, rules of procedures, etc.); Date of establishment*

The International Centre for Trade and Sustainable Development (ICTSD) was established in Geneva in September 1996 to contribute to a better understanding of development and environment concerns in the context of international trade. As an independent non-profit and non-governmental organisation, ICTSD engages a broad range of actors in ongoing dialogue about trade and sustainable development. With a wide network of governmental, non-governmental and inter-governmental partners, ICTSD plays a unique systemic role as a provider of original, non-partisan reporting and facilitation services at the intersection of international trade and sustainable development. ICTSD facilitates interaction between policy-makers and those outside the system to help trade policy become more supportive of sustainable development. By helping parties increase capacity and become better informed about each other, ICTSD builds bridges between groups with seemingly disparate agendas. It seeks to enable these actors to discover the many places where their interests and priorities coincide, for ultimately sustainable development is their common objective.

The ICTSD strategy is structured around three programmatic axes aiming respectively at enabling, facilitating and supporting interaction among trade policy makers and trade policy influencers:

1. Enabling interaction through communication and information. The first step in promoting interaction between the two groups of stakeholders defined above consists in providing the basis for an informed dialogue. To this end, ICTSD's information and communication programme offers a consistent flow of non-partisan reporting and analysis, and presents context-setting information that clearly explains the linkages and intersecting concerns between trade and sustainable development in a way that is both accessible and directly applicable for those working on the issues. Such information serves as a foundation on which civil society and policy makers can build their analytic capacities, and more effectively engage on a range of trade policy issues, nationally, regionally and internationally.
2. Facilitating interaction through multi-stakeholder dialogue. The next step in fostering interaction consists in bringing together key trade policy makers and influencers who would otherwise find it highly difficult or impossible to relate to each other. From informal off-the-record meetings to large-scale conferences ICTSD acts as a neutral convener and creates unique spaces and opportunities for these actors to engage, interact and explore common and different interests in ongoing discussions at the WTO and other trade policy-making arenas.
3. Supporting interaction through research and capacity building. Once interaction is enabled and facilitated, the challenge consists in raising and supporting a high level of interaction among stakeholders from a substantive point of view. In this context, ICTSD provides policy-oriented ground-breaking research and capacity building services by drawing on the best human and academic resources to factor sustainable development into trade policy making.

Trade policy makers refers to decision makers in ministries of trade, foreign affairs or finance, Geneva-based negotiators and permanent missions in centres of decision-making such as Brussels or New York. *Trade policy influencers*, on the other hand, are defined as all stakeholders who ought to participate more actively in the trade policy formulation processes from a sustainable development perspective. These include among others civil society organisations, academics, labour, business, parliamentarians, IGOs but also a range of ministries who only play a marginal role in the crafting of trade rules such as ministries of environment, agriculture, health or education. The general public is considered as an important audience that is largely served by both trade policy makers and influencers who already have a public communication mandate.

Attached: ICTSD's Statutes and a detailed list of activities.

(d) *Member organizations (name and address of each national affiliate, method of affiliation, giving number of members where possible, and names of principal officers. If the organization has individual members, please indicate approximate number in each country. If the organization is of a federal nature and has international non-governmental organizations as members, please indicate whether any of those members already enjoy observer status with the Codex Alimentarius Commission)*

In the past nine years, ICTSD has heavily invested in building long term partnerships with developing country institutions in order to strengthen centres of excellence in poor countries and foster regional knowledge and action networks. Establishing formal partnerships at a variety of levels coincides well with the nature of trade policy making and sustainable development concerns, and enables ICTSD to more effectively achieve its work outside of Geneva and at the same time target stakeholders and audiences that would not otherwise be reached. Several strategic partnerships, especially on a regional basis, have borne significant fruit over the past four years, especially in Latin America and Africa.

In addition, the Governing Board (as outlined below) is elected with a view to reflecting a balanced range of experience and perspectives on trade, environment and development issues. Membership also aims to represent an appropriate gender balance and appropriate balance between developed and developing countries, among the different geographical regions and among areas of concern.

(e) *Structure (assembly or conference; council or other form of governing body; type of general secretariat; commissions on special topics, if any; etc.)*

ICTSD is incorporated under the Art.60 following Swiss Civil Code as an Association.

Governance of ICTSD is vested in three entities: the members of the association (known collectively as the Governing Board) in whom are reposed the ultimate responsibilities of the association, and who provide strategic guidance to ICTSD; the Executive Committee, a subset of the Governing Board which provides managerial and financial oversight; and the Management Committee, an internal body which together with the Executive Director provides the day to day management and strategic development of the association.

The Governing Board consists of 8-12 individuals, acting in the personal capacity, who reflect a balanced range of experience and perspectives on trade, environment and development issues. The current Governing Board consists of:

Chairperson: Mr. Tariq Banuri*, Pakistan

Members:

- Mr. Rashad Cassim, South Africa
- Ms. Beatrice Chaytor*, Sierra Leone
- Ms Leonora De Sola Saurel, El Salvador
- Ms. Eveline Herfkens, The Netherlands (from 2006)
- Mr. Nagesh Kumar, India
- Ms. Lailai LI, China (from 2006)
- Ms. Nazare Imbiriba, Brazil
- Mr. Sitanon Jesdapipat, Thailand
- Mr. Achim Steiner, Germany
- Mr. Carlos Murillo Rodriguez*, Costa Rica
- Ms. Sylvia Ostry, Canada

(*represents the GB on the Executive Committee)

The Executive Committee consists of at least five persons appointed by the Governing Board, three of whom are Governing Board members, as well as the Executive Director and a representative elected by the full-time staff of the secretariat.

(f) *Indication of source of funding (e.g. membership contributions, direct funding, external contributions, or grants)*

ICTSD relies on different types of funds to cover the costs of its activities:

- core funding, which covers those activities that are necessary to keep ICTSD relevant (such as the flagship publications or the Café & Croissants dialogues series), work on issues that are seen as important but have not yet attracted funds, project development and core operating costs,
- project / programme funding, which is linked to specific activities (such as projects focusing on specific issue areas, project development or specialised publications)

- collaboration through joint ventures, where ICTSD co-sponsors activities with partner organisations, and cost recovery, which aims to recover cost of ICTSD staff for instance in the participation in meetings or research (including direct costs and staff time)

Funding sources include governments, foundations and other NGOs.

(g) Meetings (indicate frequency and average attendance; send report of previous meeting, including any resolutions passed) that are concerned with matters covering all or part of the Commission's field of activity

As outlined above, the organisation of multi-stakeholders dialogues is one of the core functions of ICTSD in an effort to foster interaction among multiple stakeholders. A full list of meetings is available at <http://www.ictsd.org/dlogue/index.htm>. In 2005, ICTSD has organised 28 meetings, both in Geneva and in regional capitals. The number of participants varies between 20 and over 100 depending on the type and goals of the dialogue.

(h) Relations with other international organizations:

- UN and its organs (indicate consultative status or other relationship, if any)

ICTSD is accredited by the United Nations. In this context it enjoys Consultative Status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC); Observer Status at the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), and at the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO). The Centre has also been granted accreditation since 1996 by the World Trade Organization (WTO) to participate in all its Ministerial Conferences and other ad hoc activities.

- Other international organizations (document substantive activities)

ICTSD is a principal member of the Trade Knowledge Network (TKN); and the Frati Initiative on Intellectual Property and Development; and a founding member of the Geneva Environment Network (GEN); the Concerted Action on Trade and Environment (CAT&E) and the Grupo Zapallar (GZ). ICTSD leads the Trade and Development Symposium, an informal consortium of international organizations, research institutes and NGOs active around major trade and development events, and has served as a principal convener of the Global Biodiversity Forum (GBF) on Trade. Through its Executive Director, the Centre participates in the UN Millennium Project's Task Force on Trade; the WTO's Director General's NGO Advisory Group and the Commission on Environmental, Economic and Social Policy (CEESP) of the World Conservation Union (IUCN) for which it chairs the Group on Environment, Trade and Investment (GET).

(i) Expected contribution to the Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme

- Enhance transparency of standard-setting through timely and accurate reporting on discussions and decisions, targeted at a wide range of key trade policy makers and influencers.
- Increase understanding among trade and sustainable development communities of relevant standard-setting processes and how they relate to their interests.
- Foster more effective participation of a wide range of stakeholders in international standard-setting, including by bringing new actors into the process.
- Contribute a trade policy perspective onto the work of the Standards Programme.

(j) Past activities on behalf of, or in relation to, the Codex Alimentarius Commission and the Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme (indicate any relationship by national affiliates with the Regional Coordinating Committees and/or the National Codex Contact Points or Committees for at least the last three years preceding the application)

ICTSD, through its bi-weekly electronic publication **Bridges Trade BioRes**, provides regularly reporting on relevant Codex meetings to inform its readership in the trade and environment communities of ongoing discussions and decisions. An archive of past Codex stories is available on ICTSD's trade and environment web site at <http://www.trade-environment.org/page/ictsd/news/biotech.htm#standard>. In addition, the web site features a range of **resources related to international and regional standard setting** (<http://www.trade-environment.org/page/theme/standard.htm>).

Codex-related issues are also addressed in a number of ICTSD projects. These include, inter alia:

- *Building capacity on Trade and Biotechnology Policy-making*: The project in a number of informational publications and regional dialogues addresses the role of Codex in international standard-setting related to biotechnology, in particular in relation to the SPS Agreement. The aim is to raise awareness among trade policy makers and influencers about the importance of Codex as a forum for discussion and decision-

making in the area of biotech trade, and to build capacity among country delegates to participate in the respective negotiations. For further information see, http://www.trade-environment.org/page/ictsd/projects/biotech_desc.htm

- *Fisheries, International Trade and Sustainable Development*: Among other issues, the project looks at issues related to market access in international trade, focusing in particular on non-tariff barriers, such as food safety standards and the role of Codex in harmonising such standards to facilitate international trade flows. For further information, see http://www.trade-environment.org/page/ictsd/projects/fish_desc.htm.
- *Southern Agenda on Trade and Environment*: This project, which is jointly implemented with the International Institute for Sustainable Development, aims to strengthen the capacity of trade negotiators, key national policymakers, and regional actors in developing countries to determine priorities for promoting and negotiating proactive positions, which reflect their own 'Southern Agenda' on environment and trade in the multilateral trading system. During the discussions and research, non-tariff barriers in the form of standards have clearly emerged as one of the key concerns among developing countries. The project aims to clarify issues related to these concerns in an effort to build capacities on how to address them in the WTO and beyond. For further information, see <http://www.trade-environment.org/page/southernagenda/description.htm>.

(k) *Area of activity in which participation as an observer is requested (Commission and/or Subsidiary Bodies). If more than one organization with similar interests is requesting observer status in any field of activity, such organizations will be encouraged to form themselves into a federation or association for the purpose of participation. If the formation of such a single organization is not feasible, the application should explain why this is so.*

ICTSD would be interested in attending the following bodies:

- Codex Alimentarius Commission
- Ad Hoc Intergovernmental Task Force on Foods Derived from Biotechnology
- Codex Committee on Food Labelling
- Codex Committee on General Principles

(l) *Previous applications for observer status with the Codex Alimentarius Commission, including those made by a member organization of the applicant organization. If successful, please indicate why and when observer status was terminated. If unsuccessful, please indicate the reasons you were given.*

No previous application for observer status with the Codex has been made.

(m) *Languages (English, French or Spanish) in which documentation should be sent to the international non-governmental organization*

English

(n) *Name, Function and address of the person providing the information*

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(o) *Signature and date*



20/10/05