

# codex alimentarius commission

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE  
ORGANIZATION  
OF THE UNITED NATIONS

WORLD HEALTH  
ORGANIZATION

JOINT OFFICE: Viale delle Terme di Caracalla 00100 ROME Tel.: 3906.57051 Telex: 625825-625853 FAO I Email:codex@fao.org Facsimile: 3906.5705.4593

---

**CX 4/10**

**CL 1999/19-GP**  
**August 1999**

**TO:** - Codex Contact Points  
- Interested International Organizations

**FROM:** - Secretary, Codex Alimentarius Commission, Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme, FAO, 00100 Rome, Italy

**SUBJECT:** **Revision of the Code of Ethics for International Trade in Foods**

**DEADLINE:** 15 November 1999

**COMMENTS:** Secretary, Codex Alimentarius Commission  
FAO, via delle Terme di Caracalla, 00100 Rome, Italy  
Fax.:+39 06 5705 4593  
E-mail: codex@fao.org

The 13<sup>th</sup> Session of the Committee on General Principles discussed the opportunity of revising the Code of Ethics in view of the need to update several references, especially as a result of the conclusion of the WTO Agreements and the work of the Committee on Food Import and Export Inspection and Certification Systems. The Committee considered the comments provided by governments in reply to CL 1998/2-GP and generally agreed that the Code was still needed to provide general guidance for the conduct of international trade, although several texts already covered the issues relating to export/import.

During the discussion it was also proposed to consider special and differential treatment of developing countries in the framework of the revision of the Code (ALINORM 99/33, paras 84-90). The 14<sup>th</sup> Session of the CCGP recalled that the Code was the appropriate instrument for developing statements addressing this question and agreed that the revision of the Code should be treated as a matter of priority in this perspective (ALINORM 99/33A, para. 6). The 23<sup>rd</sup> Session of the Commission approved the revision of the Code as new work (ALINORM 99/37, para. 208 and Appendix VII).

In order to facilitate the revision of the Code of Ethics governments and international organizations are invited to submit proposals for amendment to the text of the current Code of Ethics (CAC/RCP 20-1979), as included in Volume 1A of Codex Alimentarius. A revised version will be prepared on the basis of the proposals received and circulated at Step 3 of the Procedure prior to the 15<sup>th</sup> Session of the Committee.

Governments and international organizations wishing to submit comments on the Code of Ethics should do so in writing to the Secretary, Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme, FAO, via delle Terme di Caracalla, 00100 Rome, Italy, **before 15 November 1999**.