

codex alimentarius commission



FOOD AND AGRICULTURE
ORGANIZATION
OF THE UNITED NATIONS

WORLD
HEALTH
ORGANIZATION



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TO: Codex Contact Points
Interested International Organizations

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

SUBJECT: **Preparation for the 12th Session of the Codex Coordinating Committee for Latin America and the Caribbean (13-16 February 2001, Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic)**

DEADLINE: **31 DECEMBER 2000**

COMMENTS: To: Secretary, Codex Alimentarius Commission, Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme – FAO
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A. FOOD SAFETY MATTERS OF INTEREST TO THE REGION (Agenda Item 5)

1. The 11th Session of the Codex Coordinating Committee for Latin America and the Caribbean (CCLAC) agreed to continue considering issues related to food safety of interest to the Region with particular regard to *Contamination by Salmonella and Emerging Pathogens in the Region*.¹
2. Governments wishing to submit information and comments on the above are invited to do so in writing to the above address, preferably by e-mail **BEFORE 31 DECEMBER 2000**.

B. FOOD LEGISLATION AND FOOD CONTROL MATTERS (Agenda Item 6)

3. Coordinating Committees regularly consider issues relating to harmonization of food legislation, especially in the perspective of economic integration, food control systems, export/import matters, and relevant training activities, in order to promote exchange of information and cooperation within the Region.
4. Member countries are therefore invited to provide the following updated information for consideration by the next session of CCLAC:

Official Agencies

5. Updated Structure and organization of the official services responsible for food legislation and food control.

Import/Export Matters

6. Exchange of information on import/export matters relating to food safety and quality.

¹ ALINORM 99/36 para. 49

Food Legislation

7. Developments regarding harmonization of food safety and quality regulations, including the use of Codex standards, Codes and related texts.

Cooperation Activities

8. Contacts with other countries on food legislation and food control matters (bilateral, subregional or regional), including training of inspection and laboratory personnel.

9. Governments wishing to submit information and comments on the matters listed above are invited to do so in writing to the above address, preferably by e-mail **BEFORE 31 DECEMBER 2000**.

C. ACTIVITIES OF CODEX CONTACT POINTS (Agenda Item 7)

10. The forthcoming Session of the CCLAC will also be considering the *Activities of Codex Contact Points and National Codex Committees*.

11. Governments wishing to submit information and comments on the above matter are invited to do so in writing to the above address, preferably by e-mail **BEFORE 31 DECEMBER 2000**.

D. CONSUMERS' PARTICIPATION (Agenda Item 8)

12. The 23rd Session of the Commission considered consumers' involvement in Codex work and agreed to consider the development of a checklist of measurable objectives to assess consumer participation in Codex work at the national and international levels and asked the Codex Committee on General Principles (CCGP) to review the proposal contained in the document (see Annex).

13. The Commission also proposed that Regional Coordinating Committees continue to take the opportunity to provide a forum for the exchange of experiences on the ways and means of developing consumer input into National Codex Committees and Contact Points.²

14. The 15th Session of the CCGP considered the recommendations of the Commission concerning *Measurable Objectives to Assess Consumer Participation in Codex*.

15. The Committee welcomed the progress made in addressing the question of increasing consumer participation in Codex work, both in the Commission and at the national and regional levels. It welcomed the *Proposed Draft Guidance on Measurable Objectives to Assess Consumer Participation in Codex* and focussed its attention of the proposals in Appendix A to the discussion paper.

16. The Committee agreed to modify these proposals by providing that the names be included of countries that have established a National Codex Committee (NCC) or Codex Contact Point (CCP) or held open consultations with consumers when developing national positions for Codex meetings. It was also agreed to include information on the action of governments to support the establishment and activities of consumer NGOs. On that basis the Draft Guidance was endorsed by the Committee as being appropriate for the development of a baseline set of data and for consideration by the Regional Coordinating Committees when discussing the standing item on consumer participation in the countries of the various regions. The Committee called upon the Secretariat to begin the development of a set of baseline data as soon as possible. It was recommended that a report should be made to the Commission every two years.³

17. Governments and international organizations wishing to submit information and comments on the "*measurable objectives*" listed above and in the Annex, and generally about consumer participation in the elaboration of national legislation and/or the preparation of Codex meetings are invited to do so in writing to the above address, preferably by e-mail **BEFORE 31 DECEMBER 2000**.

² ALINORM 99/37, para. 43

³ ALINORM 01/33, paras. 109-110

E. APPLICATION OF RISK ANALYSIS BY COUNTRIES IN THE REGION (Agenda Item 9)

18. The Codex Alimentarius Commission has been considering Risk Analysis matters since its 20th Session in 1993. The Commission at its 23rd Session considered Principles of Risk Analysis and adopted a number of recommendations addressed to the Codex Alimentarius Commission and its subsidiary bodies, governments, FAO and WHO.

19. Governments wishing to submit information and comments on the situation and experiences in applying Risk Analysis in their countries are invited to do so in writing to the above address, preferably by e-mail **BEFORE 31 DECEMBER 2000**.

**APPENDIX A:
PROPOSED DRAFT GUIDANCE ON
MEASURABLE OBJECTIVES TO ASSESS CONSUMER PARTICIPATION IN CODEX**

To assist Codex in assessing the goal of increasing consumer participation in Codex over time, the following measures may be useful to consider:

1. the number or percentage of member countries that have established a National Codex Contact Point
2. the number or percentage of member countries that have established a National Codex Committee
3. the number or percentage of member countries which hold public consultations when developing national positions for Codex meetings
4. the number or percentage of member countries that have identified independent consumer NGOs and invited them to participate in Codex meetings or in submitting written comments
5. the number or percentage of member countries where independent consumer NGOs have participated in developing national positions for Codex meetings.
6. the number of consumer NGOs that participate in the Codex process at the national level.