

# codex alimentarius commission



FOOD AND AGRICULTURE  
ORGANIZATION  
OF THE UNITED NATIONS

WORLD  
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Agenda Item 7

CX/LAC 04/14/7-Add.1  
November 2004

## JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME

### FAO/WHO COORDINATING COMMITTEE FOR LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

*14<sup>th</sup> Session*

*Buenos Aires, Argentina, 29 November - 3 December 2004*

## REVIEW OF THE REGIONAL COORDINATING COMMITTEES

### ADDITIONAL GOVERNMENT COMMENTS

#### CUBA

Based on the recommendations derived from the Joint FAO/WHO Evaluation of the Codex Alimentarius and Other FAO and WHO Work on Food Standards, it was decided to review the work of all Codex Committees, including Regional Coordinating Committees. Below, there are the Cuban comments to the consulted aspects.

#### **(A) ROLE OF REGIONAL COORDINATING COMMITTEES IN FURTHERING THE OBJECTIVES OF THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION**

We consider that the main function of the Regional Coordinating Committees is to coordinate the technical and political positions of its member countries regarding issues of their interest and to defend them as a block within the pertinent forums. In order to fulfill this primary objective, it is necessary to perform the tasks included in the regional Strategic Plan in such a way that the planned activities are followed up, which would be a CCLAC working tool that would assist in maintaining the consistency and performance of the innumerable activities developed in the Codex context.

#### **(B) MEMBERSHIP OF REGIONAL COORDINATING COMMITTEES, INCLUDING THEIR CURRENT GEOGRAPHIC COVERAGE**

The current CCLAC membership and its geographical coverage should be maintained as it really reflects our Latin America and Caribbean environment as well as our problems and interests.

#### **(C) TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE REGIONAL COORDINATING COMMITTEES AS SET OUT IN THE PROCEDURAL MANUAL, INCLUDING THE RELEVANCE OF DEVELOPING REGIONAL STANDARDS**

In general, the CCLAC terms of reference are well-defined but the problem is to fulfill them. The permanent follow-up and control of the activities proposed that should be included in the Strategic Plan would contribute to the observance of said terms of reference.

#### **(D) EFFECTIVENESS OF REGIONAL COORDINATING COMMITTEES IN RESPECT OF COUNTRY PARTICIPATION RECORD AND OF VENUES AND MEETING INTERVALS (CURRENTLY EVERY TWO YEARS)**

Regional Coordinating Committees should be forums that encourage the debate over the issues of interest to the countries of a certain region for the exchange of views and the adoption of common positions in search of solutions to their problems.

They should play a fundamental role in the development of regional consensus on issues of common interest, which may be reached through the permanent exchange of views on the different matters under analysis in Codex.

Besides, they should be the ideal context for building new capacities based on the exchange of experiences and the provision of assistance to countries in the region after examining their needs, in order to improve their participation in international and regional standardization activities, mainly in the technical and political drafting of standards for products of commercial interest in and out of the region, and to assist in the satisfaction of technical requirements applicable to their export markets, adapting them to the needs of each country.

Although CCLAC sessions should be as frequent as the ones of the Commission, we consider that their current frequency should be maintained as another annual meeting would mean additional expenditure for our countries.

Sessions should be held in the Coordinating country.

**(E) 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**

Unlike the roles of the members of the Executive Committee elected on a geographic basis, the functions of the Regional Coordinator are defined. The role of the Executive Committee members should be specified with respect to their interrelationship with the Coordinator and the countries in the region so as to support and improve its work.

**(F) ANY OTHER ISSUES**

In this regard, it would be appropriate to analyze issues that, in the members' opinion, require a special treatment and are not included in the meeting agenda.