



Agenda Item 12(a)

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JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME
FAO/WHO COORDINATING COMMITTEE FOR LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

18th session
San José, Costa Rica, 19-23 November 2012

DISCUSSION PAPER ON A NEW HOST FOR THE CCLAC WEB PAGE

Drawn up by Costa Rica

1. Subject

1. Proposal of a new host for the CCLAC web page.

2. Brief summary of the question

2. The web page of the Codex Committee for Latin America and the Caribbean (CCLAC) was created by Argentina, as stated in the minutes of the 14th session of the CCLAC held in Buenos Aires in November 2004 (ALINORM 05/28/36), with the aim of improving communication among members in the region. From then until the end of 2011, this page was a major support tool for the countries in the region.

3. However, in 2012 the web page became inactive, causing a number of problems, including the following:

- delays in communicating information on events;
- suspension of the chat function;
- outdated information from contact points;
- failure to carry out some of the activities proposed in the CCLAC 2011-2013 working plan, such as “improvement and modernization of the CCLAC web page”, which included such specific actions as:
 - ✓ inclusion of links to the web pages of the national Codex committees of the countries in the region;
 - ✓ development of a module to allow each contact point to access and update information on the database of the region's contact points;
- non-availability of documents under discussion.

3. Real or potential impact of the subject on the Codex and the countries in the region

4. This page was a useful tool for the region, as it allowed access to updated information on Codex activities and questions of interest being discussed in the various Codex forums, and the exchange of information on these issues among member states with a view, for example, to establishing common positions.

5. The lack of access to an updated web page affects not only the countries in the region, but also any other countries wishing to obtain information on events in the CCLAC region.

4. Recommendations, conclusions or solutions for proposal by the CCLAC

6. The following alternatives are offered for consideration by the CCLAC:

6.1 Exploration of the possibility that the web page of the FAO Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean, with headquarters in Chile, and/or the web page of the Pan American Health Organization, with headquarters in the United States, might host the CCLAC web page, while whichever country is currently in charge of coordinating the CCLAC would be responsible for maintaining and updating the page. If the response is positive, consultations with the Codex Alimentarius Commission will be carried out, should its approval be necessary.

6.2 As an alternative if the agreement of the two international organizations mentioned above is not forthcoming, exploration of the possibility that the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), with headquarters in Costa Rica, might host the CCLAC web page, while, as in the first alternative, the country currently in charge of coordinating the CCLAC would be responsible for maintaining and updating the page. If the response is positive, consultations with the Codex Alimentarius Commission will be carried out, should its approval be necessary.