

INTRODUCTION

1. The FAO/WHO Coordinating Committee for Latin America and the Caribbean scheduled its Twenty-first Session (CCLAC21) in Santiago, Chile, from 21 – 25 October 2019, at the kind invitation of the Government of Chile. The meeting opened one day later than scheduled to ensure the security and safety of all delegates following demonstrations and riots in the Metropolitan Region of Santiago that led to the declaration of a Constitutional State of Emergency. After two half days of discussions (22 and 23 October 2019), the session had to be discontinued due to the persisting situation in Santiago and the increasing challenge to ensure the security and safety of all delegates. This report reflects those agenda items that were discussed when the meeting was in session and on an exceptional basis was adopted by correspondence after the meeting¹.
2. Mr Diego Varela, International Affairs Coordinator, Chilean Agency for Food Safety and Quality (ACHIPIA) chaired the session, which was attended by 14 Member Countries, three Member Countries and one Member Organisation from outside the Region, and four Observer organizations. The list of participants is included in Appendix I.

OPENING²

3. The Chairperson welcomed the delegates and opened the meeting, noting that in order to ensure security in the current situation, Chile, as the host country, had taken the decision that CCLAC21 would be a closed meeting and not opened to the public.
4. Ms. Nuri Gras, Executive Secretary of ACHIPIA, welcomed the participants on behalf of the Minister of Agriculture, noting that the current situation prevented Ministerial participation and acknowledged and appreciated the efforts and solidarity of delegates to attend CCLAC21 despite the difficult circumstances. She noted that, as the food basket of the world, it was imperative that the region promote food safety and encouraged delegates to make maximum use of this meeting to discuss the important issues critical to achieving food safety, including: the opportunities presented by science and technology; the critical role of science and evidence in decision-making; and the challenges governments face in maintaining the balance between access to safe food and promoting a sustainable food production sector. She also noted that while Chile was coming to the end of its term as Regional Coordinator, it was committed to continuing to be very active in Codex and in addressing food safety in the region.
5. Ms. Marisa Caipo, Food Safety and Quality Officer, FAO Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean, speaking on behalf of Ms. Eve Crowley, Deputy Regional Representative for Latin America and the Caribbean and FAO Representative in Chile, and Dr. Fernando Leanes, the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO)/WHO Representative in Chile welcomed the attendees on behalf of FAO and WHO, respectively. The meeting was also addressed by Mr. Guilherme Antonio da Costa Jr., Chairperson, Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC) (through a pre-recorded video) and Mr. Steve Wearne, vice-Chairperson, CAC.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA (Agenda Item 1)³

6. CCLAC21 adopted the agenda, noting that Agenda Item 2 (Keynote Address: The role of science in food safety risk management) could not be considered due to unavailability of the keynote speaker, the Chilean Minister of Science, Technology, Knowledge and Innovation, and agreed to consider the following topics under Agenda Item 10 (Other Business) subject to the availability of time:
 - (i) Physical working groups
 - (ii) Adulterated honey⁴
7. CCLAC21 further agreed to establish an in-session Working Group (WG), open to all Members and Observers, chaired by Ecuador and working in English and Spanish, to consider Agenda Item 7.2, taking into account written comments received as Conference Room Documents (CRDs) and any other relevant information (e.g. Agenda Items 6 and 8); and to prepare a report with recommendations for consideration by the plenary.

¹ The draft report was circulated for comment via Circular Letter. Comments were received via the Online Commenting System (OCS). The report was revised by the Chairperson and circulated for final adoption.

² CRD1 (Opening speeches)

³ CX/LAC 19/21/1

⁴ CRD4 (Argentina)

KEYNOTE ADDRESS: THE ROLE OF SCIENCE IN FOOD SAFETY RISK MANAGEMENT (Agenda Item 2)⁵

8. CCLAC21 did not discuss Agenda Item 2 for the reasons indicated in paragraph 6.

FOOD SAFETY AND QUALITY IN COUNTRIES IN THE REGION: CURRENT AND EMERGING ISSUES IN THE REGION (Agenda Item 3.1)⁶

9. The Representative of FAO, speaking on behalf of FAO, WHO, the Regional Coordinator and the CCLAC Secretariat, introduced the item, noting that its purpose was to draw the attention of Members to emerging issues of concern in the region and to discuss how these could be addressed. The Representative presented the two major categories of current and emerging issues identified by the survey, namely the major trends which included antimicrobial resistance (AMR), new technologies and climate change; and all other topics which revolved around National Food Control Systems and related capacities.
10. The Representative highlighted the changes that had been made to the survey since CCLAC20 and the slightly higher response rate (from 36% to 45%) and encouraged Members to provide their feedback on (i) the survey approach the usefulness of the survey and its output, (ii) the follow-up actions to be taken to address the identified emerging issues at national and regional level, and (iii) possible support to be provided by FAO, PAHO/WHO and Codex.

Discussion

11. CCLAC21 noted the information provided by the Representative and made the following observations.

Survey approach:

- (i) The survey used for this round of RCCs was a very useful tool to identify emerging issues at national and regional level.
- (ii) There were still challenges in ensuring everyone had the same understanding of emerging issues and further explanations on how emerging issues are defined (e.g. whether it relates to an issue that is new for a country or a new or novel concept) would be useful.
- (iii) To support responses from Members the development or provision of a mechanism to identify emerging issues in a country would be useful.
- (iv) The response rate, 45% (15 out of 33 countries), meant that there was still a gap in terms of having a regional overview of emerging issues and further efforts were needed to engage all members in this effort.

Identified Issues:

- (i) The issues identified in the survey were reflective of the actual concerns of the countries in the region.
 - (ii) As not all Members were able to respond to the survey additional issues were highlighted in the course of the meeting including: (i) digitalization of the relevant elements of national food control systems, (ii) laboratory grown meat, (iii) new sources of food for human consumption, e.g. insects, (iv) food fraud and (v) e-commerce.
 - (iii) While AMR was identified as the highest priority, it was noted that it was not necessarily an emerging issue as there were various initiatives underway in this area including the work of the Ad hoc Codex Intergovernmental Task Force on Antimicrobial Resistance (TFAMR) and the development and implementation of National Action Plans at country level. The importance of increased participation in the ongoing Codex work was highlighted as well as the need to develop handbooks and indicators to support implementation and monitoring of compliance with Codex standards.
 - (iv) The need to clarify that reference to climate change referred to the impact that climate changes can have on food safety (e.g. emergence of pathogens, spread of hazards, availability of clean water etc.) and the measures needed to address them and not on how to address climate change per se, was highlighted.
12. The Chairperson reminded the meeting that the identification of emerging issues was one of the objectives of the Codex Strategic Plan 2020-2025 and some of the ideas presented could be considered in the development of the work plan for implementation of the Strategic Plan under Agenda 7.2.

⁵ CX/LAC 19/21/2; CRD5 (Chile); CRD9 (Dominican Republic); CRD11 (Honduras); CRD15 (Colombia);

⁶ CX/LAC 19/21/3; CRD5 (Chile); CRD6 (Nicaragua); CRD9 (Dominican Republic); CRD11 (Honduras); CRD12 (Ecuador); CRD14 (Colombia)

Conclusion

13. CCLAC21:
- (i) noted the emerging issues identified in the survey and by Members at CCLAC21 and confirmed their relevance to the region;
 - (ii) appreciated the efforts of FAO, WHO and the Regional Coordinator in implementing the survey and preparing the paper and also acknowledged the challenges faced by countries in responding to this survey;
 - (iii) agreed that the survey was a valuable tool to identify emerging issues in the region but that it was also critical to have a mechanism to follow-up on these issues and requested the Regional Coordinator to identify and implement a mechanism to facilitate this follow-up including video conferences, and twinning and cooperation initiatives;
 - (iv) invited FAO and WHO to support countries in the region in identifying and implementing solutions particularly with regard to the challenges and issues identified in relation to national food control systems; and
 - (v) agreed that reference to climate change in the context of Codex must clearly and exclusively refer to the challenges and impact that changes in climate can have on food safety so as to ensure any work in this area remains clearly within the mandate of Codex.

THE FUTURE OF FOOD SAFETY: OUTCOME OF THE FIRST FAO/WHO/AU INTERNATIONAL FOOD SAFETY CONFERENCE AND THE INTERNATIONAL FORUM ON FOOD SAFETY AND TRADE – WHAT'S NEXT? (Agenda Item 3.2)⁷

14. The Representative of PAHO/WHO, speaking on behalf of FAO and WHO, introduced the item, summarising the context and the outcome of the FAO/WHO/AU International Food Safety Conference held in February 2019 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia and the International Forum on Food Safety and Trade held at the WTO in Geneva, Switzerland in April 2019 with the support of FAO and WHO.
15. The Representative encouraged Members to work closely together to continue to raise the profile of food safety and awareness of its importance and to support the inclusion of food safety on the agenda at the upcoming 2020 World Health Assembly (WHA).
16. The Representative further drew attention to the activities of PAHO, that serves as Regional office for WHO in the region, making reference to its strategic plan 2020-2024 which includes food safety as a key area, and reminded participants that concerted efforts to promote food safety should be made globally.

Discussion

17. Delegations expressed their strong appreciation for the Addis Ababa conference and the Geneva forum and emphasized the need to build on the current momentum to address food safety concerns. Members also noted the following:
- (i) Efforts should be made to review and update national policies to incorporate food safety into food security and nutrition policies, as well as to modernize food safety methodology including risk assessment based on Codex standards and guidelines.
 - (ii) Capacity building activities should be implemented to promote participation in Codex activities, taking advantage of the Codex Trust Fund and support from FAO and WHO.
 - (iii) Antimicrobial resistance (AMR) in the food chain remains a key issue and coordinated actions between countries are needed to tackle AMR.
 - (iv) Efforts should be made to build resilient food supply chains, which incorporate measures to manage food safety and procedures to manage food safety emergencies.
 - (v) Emerging issues e.g. the need to promote healthy diets and the impacts of climate change on food safety, should be recognized when updating and improving national food security policies.
 - (vi) Communication tools should be updated to facilitate further collaboration among academic, public and private sectors.
 - (vii) Countries should work together to support efforts to include food safety on the agenda of the next WHA and to ensure that any potential Resolution on food safety is well supported by countries in the region.

⁷ CX/LAC 19/21/4; CRD3 (Costa Rica); CRD5 (Chile); CRD9 (Dominican Republic); CRD11 (Honduras); CRD12 (Ecuador); CRD14 (Colombia)

18. CCLAC21 also generally supported the action areas in food safety for the next decade identified by several Members, noting the importance of making this information more visible to facilitate its consideration by FAO and WHO.

Conclusion

19. CCLAC21:
- (i) took note of the summary of the First FAO/WHO/AU International Food Safety Conference and the International Forum on Food Safety and Trade and committed to making these documents available to high level policy makers within their governments;
 - (ii) reaffirmed the need to use different approaches to raise and sustain the profile of food safety at a high-level profile so that resources are made available by competent authorities;
 - (iii) encouraged Members to communicate with their representatives in Geneva to make all possible efforts to include food safety on the agenda on the next session of the WHA; and
 - (iv) invited FAO and WHO to consider the areas for action proposed by Members, and included in Appendix II of this report, in their ongoing efforts to support improvement of food safety in the region.

FOOD SAFETY AND QUALITY SITUATION IN THE COUNTRIES IN THE REGION: USE OF THE ONLINE PLATFORM FOR INFORMATION SHARING ON FOOD SAFETY CONTROL SYSTEMS; STATUS OF INFORMATION AND FUTURE PLANS/PROSPECTS (Agenda Item 3.3)⁸

20. The Representative of FAO, speaking on behalf of FAO and WHO, introduced the item, highlighting the status of information on the online platform from countries in the region. The Representative recalled the purpose of the platform to promote sharing of information on national food control systems and relevant regulations and legislation and the value of this was confirmed by CCLAC21.
21. There was general agreement that the platform and the information it shared was very useful but aspects for improvement were also highlighted. Delegations considered that information provided through the platform was not easy to find and the presentation style could be improved so as the information was more user-friendly.
22. A number of challenges were identified as to why countries had not provided the information requested on the platform including: challenges with internal coordination, particularly when multiple entities had a role in food safety; problems to get consensus on or clearance of the information to be provided; problems with login and access; insufficient time to complete the platform survey; and changes in the CCP.
23. There was also widespread recognition of the challenges in responding to the issue of development and use of risk assessments, as Members noted that many do not undertake their own assessments but rather rely on those provided by the international organizations. It was clarified by the Codex Secretariat that a country did not need to have risk assessments to answer this question and that risk profiles and any other reports and/or analysis used to support evidence-based decision-making could also be provided.
24. Sharing information on national food control systems was considered very important and additional mechanisms to do so needed to be implemented, for example a regional meeting or forum for exchange of information. CCLAC21 was also reminded that the platform provided a link to the FAOLEX database, where countries' food safety legislation could be uploaded and made widely available and encouraged delegates to update their legislation online. Several Members committed to upload their information to the platform before CCLAC22.

Conclusion

25. CCLAC 21:
- (i) noted and appreciated the information provided and confirmed the utility and value of the platform as a means of information sharing on food regulatory systems and food legislation within the region;
 - (ii) noted the challenges faced by countries in providing information in a timely manner and requested FAO and WHO and the Codex Secretariat to support countries in their efforts to provide information to overcome these challenges and to continue to improve the level of information on the platform; and
 - (iii) requested FAO, WHO and the Codex Secretariat to implement the proposed changes to the platform to make it more visible and easily accessible.

⁸ CX/LAC 19/21/5; CRD5 (Chile); CRD11 (Honduras); CRD12 (Ecuador); CRD14 (Colombia)

USE OF CODEX STANDARDS IN THE REGION (Agenda Item 4)⁹

26. The Codex Secretariat introduced the item and noted that the online survey focused on the use of the following Codex texts: Maximum Residue Limits (MRLs) for residues of veterinary drugs in foods, two Codex texts on Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) and the Regional Code of Hygienic Practice for the Preparation and Sale of Street Foods. He recalled that the goal of the survey was to investigate the use and relevance of Codex Standards in the region, as well as acquire insight into the difficulties related to their use.
27. The Codex Secretariat drew the attention of CCLAC21 to the outcome of the survey, noting that the survey was also relevant to Goal 3 of the Strategic Plan for the period 2020-2025 and invited comments on the analysis and the way forward.

Discussion

28. CCLAC21 noted the results of the survey and Members expressed the following general views:
- (i) This information was valuable in understanding the challenges faced by countries in using Codex standards.
 - (ii) Codex Standards were the reference standards used in global food trade, and it is critical that they were based on scientific evidence and applied by Members.
 - (iii) The monitoring of the use of Codex standards is a long-standing issue that was also previously included in the Procedural Manual. As new technologies become available, the Codex and WTO secretariats could work together to develop information technology based systems to monitor the use of Codex Standards, which are the benchmark standards under the WTO SPS Agreement.
 - (iv) Providing more time to collect replies to future surveys (2-4 months) and issuing the analysis of replies periodically could further increase the response rate and the collection of relevant data;
 - (v) Regional and national offices of FAO and WHO could support communication and data collection and should be further involved in the process.
 - (vi) Future surveys could focus on commodity standards, MRLs for pesticides and labelling.

Conclusion

29. CCLAC21:
- (i) noted the outcome of the survey, generally recognized its usefulness and strongly supported its continuation and improvement, highlighting the importance of allowing more time for countries to respond to the survey;
 - (ii) requested the Codex Secretariat to consider the inclusion of commodity standards, MRLs for pesticides and standards on labelling in future surveys;
 - (iii) highlighted the importance of harmonizing national legislation with Codex standards;
 - (iv) requested the Codex Secretariat to work in coordination with other multilateral agencies that address food safety issues, such as the WTO, to further investigate the use of Codex standards at a regional and global level; and
 - (v) requested the Codex Secretariat to take proposals from Members into account when implementing the next round of the survey.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION AND OTHER CODEX COMMITTEES (Agenda Item 5)¹⁰

30. CCLAC21 noted that some matters were for information only and that several other matters for consideration would be taken up under other relevant agenda items.

Matters from CCMAS40Review and update of CXS 234 and development of database of methods

31. CCLAC21 took note of the recent progress and ongoing work on the review and update of the *Recommended Methods of Analysis and Sampling* (CXS 234-1999) in CCMAS. CCLAC21 highlighted the importance of engagement by countries of the region in the review of methods; the promotion of the use of performance criteria, which provided greater flexibility with regard to the range of methods that can be used; and the value

⁹ CX/LAC 19/21/6; CRD5 (Chile); CRD6 (Nicaragua); CRD7 (El Salvador); CRD9 (Dominican Republic); CRD11 (Honduras); CRD12 (Ecuador)

¹⁰ CX/LAC 19/21/7; CRD9 (Dominican Republic)

of CXS234-1999 for national food control management systems.

Matters from CCFA50

Guidance on the alignment of food additive provisions and alignment plan

32. CCLAC21 recalled that there were three regional standards developed by CCLAC, namely the *Regional Standard for Culantro Coyote* (CXS 304R-2011), *Regional Standard for Lucuma* (CXS 305R-2011) and *Regional Standard for Yacon* (CXS 324R-2017), which needed aligning with the *General Standard for Food Additives* (CXS 192-1995).
33. As Members needed to review this issue with their technical experts before they could take any decisions on alignment of the regional standards with CXS 192-1995, CCLAC21 agreed to request the Codex Secretariat to issue a Circular Letter with detailed information on the background and the potential options for alignment of the food additive provisions in order to facilitate decision-making at CCLAC22.

Matters from CCEXEC77

Committee on Processed Fruits and Vegetables (CCPFV) on cashew kernels

34. CCLAC21 highlighted the relevance of the work of CCPFV for the region and agreed to discuss the specific issue of cashew kernels at the national level to determine its relevance to countries in the region.

CODEX WORK RELEVANT TO THE REGION (Agenda Item 6)¹¹

35. The Regional Coordinator presented the results of a survey conducted to gather information on Codex work relevant to the region and included replies from 17 of the 33 Members in the region. The issues identified through the survey were categorized into two groups; i) proposed draft standards, potential new work and ongoing discussions seeking regional support as category I and ii) cross-cutting topics for the region as category II.
36. Given that the nature of the discussion required for both categories was different, CCLAC21 agreed with the proposal of the Chairperson to discuss each category separately.
37. Before embarking on the discussion some Members requested the inclusion of additional items as follows:
 - Discussion paper on harmonized probiotic guidelines for use in food and dietary supplements to be discussed at CCNFSDU41 in November 2019
 - Reactivation of the work on food additives in wine in CCFA
 - Grain size in the standard for quinoa
 - Questioning of the scientific basis of Codex MRLs and impact on use of these MRLs
 - Methods of analysis for determination of moisture in dried dairy products
38. CCLAC21 discussed the items in category I and made the following comments and observations.

Provisions for the use of trisodium citrate in UHT milk

39. CCLAC21 recalled the discussions on this issue at CAC42 and the lack of agreement to adopt the provisions and noted that; the proposed provisions were based on a JECFA evaluation; there had been no objections to the proposed adoption at Step 8 at CCFA; and the objections to adoption presented at the CAC42 were not accompanied by relevant data. Concerns were expressed that despite the fact that due process had been followed and there had been an opportunity for Members to raise concerns at CCFA or in advance of CAC42 this had not happened. It was further noted that many of those raising concerns were developing countries while those that could benefit most from the adoption of this standard were also developing countries. This highlighted the importance of developing countries from different regions working together to better understand and support each other's needs.
40. Costa Rica highlighted their concerns, as previously raised at CCFA, relating to the inclusion of food additives in milk, noting the complex character of milk and the difference in composition of milk from different species and the potential for the use of this food additive to contribute to quality (jellification) and safety (masking microbiological contamination) concerns.

Conclusion

41. CCLAC21 agreed to support the adoption of the provisions for the use of trisodium citrate in UHT milk as proposed at CAC42 at the forthcoming CCFA. Costa Rica expressed their reservation to this regional position

¹¹ CX/LAC 19/21/8; CRD2 (Uruguay); CRD5 (Chile); CRD6 (Nicaragua); CRD7 (El Salvador); CRD8 (Costa Rica); CRD9 (Dominican Republic); CRD10 (Brazil); CRD12 (Ecuador); CRD13 (Ecuador); CRD14 (Colombia)

and the proposed adoption of this provision.

Draft Maximum level for cadmium in chocolate and cocoa products

42. Similar concerns were raised with regard to the failure of CAC42 to adopt the proposed maximum levels for cadmium in chocolate and cocoa products, where it was considered that the JECFA evaluation, the work of the EWG and recommendations of CCCF and CCEXEC were overlooked without any new data being presented to support rejection of the proposed MLs.

EWG: Guidance for committees working by correspondence

43. CCLAC21 encouraged Members to participate in these discussions noting that the guidance provided should remain within the working framework provided for Committees in the Codex Procedural Manual.

Role of science in Codex work

44. CCLAC21 expressed its strong support for the role of science in Codex and the establishment of Codex standards based on the scientific advice provided by FAO and WHO; highlighted its strong concerns regarding the failure of CAC42 to adopt standards for trisodium citrate in UHT milk and cadmium in chocolate and cocoa products despite the scientific advice from the FAO/WHO expert committees and the recommendations of relevant Codex committees and CCEXEC; and expressed their strong defence of the Codex principles relating to the role of science.
45. The discussions could not be completed due to the discontinuation of CCLAC21 for security reasons.

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CODEX STRATEGIC PLAN 2014-2019 (STRATEGIC PLAN FOR CCLAC 2014-2019 STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION) (Agenda Item 7.1)¹²

46. Agenda Item 7.1 was not discussed due to the discontinuation of CCLAC21 for security reasons.

CODEX STRATEGIC PLAN 2020 – 2025 – ROADMAP TO IMPLEMENTATION (Agenda Item 7.2)¹³

47. The Chairperson recalled that the Committee had established an in-session WG to consider item 7.2 and develop activities to support implementation of the Codex Strategic Plan 2020-2025. The in-session WG, chaired by Ecuador, held a brief meeting to prioritize the strategic goals on which the region should focus its activities over the next two years. As there was no time to develop activities, the WG agreed that the activities proposed by Members through CRDs for the prioritized strategic goals (2 and 4) be collated for further consideration by the plenary. The report of the WG is presented in CRD16¹⁴.
48. The discussions could not be completed due to the discontinuation of CCLAC21 for security reasons.

CODEX COMMUNICATIONS WORK PLAN (Agenda Item 8)¹⁵

49. The Codex Secretariat introduced the item, recalling CCEXEC74 support for “the need for members to contribute [to the] development and implementation” of the current Codex communications work plan and “the potential for greater engagement and impact through tailored collaboration with the FAO/WHO Coordinating Committees”¹⁶.
50. The Codex Secretariat recalled that Codex Members can play an active role in supporting communication strategies, explaining how everyday e-tools such as social media can play an important part in raising awareness on Codex either at political level or to inform consumers on food safety initiatives. He reiterated the availability of the communications team in the Codex Secretariat to engage with Members and the Regional Coordinator to deliver on the communications work plan to ensure the achievement of proposed activities and plans.
51. CCLAC21 noted:
- (i) the importance of communications in Codex as a whole and the need to underpin this through the proposed regional work plan; and
 - (ii) that a communications centre, supported by the Regional Coordinator in collaboration with the Members of the region, would be key to coordinating communication activities and would directly contribute to the implementation of the Codex Strategic Plan 2020-25.
52. CCLAC21 further highlighted the importance of collaboration between the current and the future Regional

¹² CX/LAC 19/21/9; CRD5 (Chile); CRD6 (Nicaragua); CRD9 (Dominican Republic); CRD11 (Honduras); CRD12 (Ecuador)

¹³ CX/LAC 19/21/10; CRD6 (Nicaragua); CRD7 (El Salvador); CRD9 (Dominican Republic); CRD12 (Ecuador); CRD14 (Colombia)

¹⁴ CRD16 (Report of the in-session working group)

¹⁵ CX/LAC 19/21/11; CRD5 (Chile); CRD6 (Nicaragua); CRD9 (Dominican Republic); CRD12 (Ecuador)

¹⁶ REP18/EXEC1 paras 9 -12

Coordinators in order to ensure a smooth transition of initiatives led by the Coordinator.

Conclusion

53. CCLAC21 agreed to:
- (i) adopted the Regional work plan and actively participate in its implementation;
 - (ii) supported submission of content for publication to the Codex Secretariat by Members, noting the important role of the Regional Coordinator for this task;
 - (iii) agreed to establish a communication centre, supported by the Regional Coordinator, to coordinate relevant activities in the CCLAC region; and
 - (iv) requested the current and future Regional coordinators to work closely together to ensure the smooth transition of a communication centre and related communications responsibilities.

NOMINATION OF THE COORDINATOR (Agenda Item 9)¹⁷

54. CCLAC21 unanimously agreed to recommend to CAC43 that Ecuador be appointed as the next Coordinator for Latin America and the Caribbean.
55. Ecuador thanked all delegations for their support, expressed their strong commitment to fulfil the duties of the Coordinator, and agreed to work closely with Chile to ensure an orderly handover of the role.
56. Delegates also expressed their appreciation to Chile for their excellent work as Regional Coordinator.

OTHER BUSINESS (Agenda Item 10)

57. Agenda Item 10 was not discussed due to the discontinuation of CCLAC21 for security reasons.

DATE AND PLACE OF NEXT SESSION (Agenda Item 11)

58. Agenda Item 11 was not discussed due to the discontinuation of CCLAC21 for security reasons.

¹⁷ CX/LAC 19/21/12; CRD9 (Dominican Republic)