INTRODUCTION

1. The Codex Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling (CCMAS) held its 39th Session in Budapest, Hungary, from 7 to 11 May 2018, at the kind invitation of the Government of Hungary. The Session was chaired by Dr. Marót Hibbey, Veterinary officer, Ministry of Agriculture. mailto:Dr. Attila Nagy, Vice director, National Food Chain Safety Office (NFCSO) and Dr Andrea Zentai, Food Safety Analyst (NFCSO), acted as the Vice-Chairpersons. The Session was attended by ** Member countries, one Member organization and ** observer organizations. A list of participants is given in Appendix I.

OPENING OF THE SESSION

2. The Session was opened by Dr. Lajos Bognár, Chief Veterinary Officer of the Ministry of Agriculture who welcomed delegates to Hungary. Dr Márton Oravecz, President of the NFCSO and Ms. Mary Kenny, Representative of Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) also attended the opening ceremony. Dr. Lajos Bognár, reminded the Committee of the importance of Codex standards considering global food trade and rapid development of food technologies, and wished the Committee successful deliberations.

Division of Competence[1]

3. CCMAS noted the division of competence between the European Union and its Member States, according to paragraph 5, Rule II of the Rules of Procedure of the Codex Alimentarius Commission.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA (Agenda Item 1)[2]

4. CCMAS agreed to the proposal from the chair to have a discussion under Agenda Item 9 on the work output of the Committee and adopted the agenda as amended.

5. CCMAS agreed to establish in-session working group (WG) on the *Revision of the Recommended Methods* (CXS 234-1999) to consider comments submitted on the preamble and structure of the CXS 234 and to prepare a revised preamble and structure, chaired by Brazil.

MATTERS REFERRED TO THE COMMITTEE BY THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION AND OTHER SUBSIDIARY BODIES (Agenda Item 2)[3]

6. CCMAS noted (i) the matters of interest arising from the Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC) and its subsidiary bodies; and (ii) several matters for action had been considered by the physical Working Group (PWG) on endorsement and would be considered under Agenda Item 3.

Matters of interest arising from other international organizations (Joint FAO/IAEA Division of Nuclear Techniques in Food and Agriculture)

7. The Representative of the Joint FAO/IAEA Division provided a summary of their technical cooperation activities in the Latin America and Caribbean region, Africa and lately in the Asian region; and coordinated research activities and work in support to Codex and relevant committees in the areas of analytical methods; pesticide residues, veterinary drugs, contaminants in food and feed, and on food integrity/authenticity.

8. CCMAS noted the information and thanked IAEA for their contribution.

9. CCMAS also encouraged other organizations to submit relevant information which could be presented under an item ‘Matters of Interest arising from other international organizations’ in future.

ENDORSEMENT OF METHODS OF ANALYSIS AND SAMPLING PLANS FOR PROVISIONS IN CODEX STANDARDS (Agenda Item 3)[4]

10. CCMAS considered the recommendations on methods of analysis and the sampling plan proposed for endorsement and other related matters as presented in CRD2. The Committee agreed with some of the recommendations of the WG and made the following amendments or recommendations. All decisions are presented in Appendix II.

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1 CRD1
2 CX/MAS 18/39/1
3 CX/MAS 18/39/2; CX/MAS 18/39/2-Add.1; CX/MAS 18/39/2-Add.2; CRD2 (Report of the PWG on Endorsement); CRD8 (Kenya)
4 CX/MAS 18/39/3; CX/MAS 18/39/3-Add.1; CRD2 (Report of the PWG on Endorsement); CRD3 (AOAC, ISO and IDF); CRD4 (Switzerland and IDF); CRD7 (Philippines); CRD8 (Kenya); CRD10 (Ghana); CRD11 (India); CRD12 (Ecuador)

Committee on Nutrition and Foods for Special Dietary Uses (CCNFSDU39)

Methods of analysis for provisions in the *Standard for Infant Formula and Formulas for Special Medical Purposes Intended for Infants* (CXS 72-1981)

11. CCMAS noted the clarification from AOAC that AOAC 995.05 for the determination of Vitamin D_3 method used an internal standard which was necessary for analytical methods (included hot saponification as part of the sample preparation) and was fit for purpose. In view of this clarification, the Committee agreed to endorse the method as Type III and clarified the principle as HPLC-UV.

12. CCMAS agreed to request CCNFSDU to clarify the provision for Vitamin D in CXS 72 noting the disparity between the provision in CXS 72 (Vitamin D_3) and the *Advisory lists of nutrient compounds for use in foods for special dietary uses intended for infants and young children* (CXG 10-1979), which indicated the source of Vitamin D as Vitamin D_2 and Vitamin D_3.

13. CCMAS also noted that ISO 20636 for determination of Vitamin D and ISO 21422 | IDF 242 for determination of chloride had been finalized and publication would be prior to CAC41, and agreed to endorse the method and recommend adoption by CAC41 pending publication.

Committee on Milk and Milk Products (CCMMP)

Methods of analysis for dairy permeate powders

14. CCMAS did not endorse the method for lactose, anhydrous (ISO 22662|IDF 198:2007) as the method has been validated in a number of milk based products, but would require a change to the mass of test portion analysed when applied to dairy permeate powder. The Committee agreed that this change should be made to the method prior to endorsement and typing as Type II.

Committee on Cereals, Pulses and Legumes (CCCPL)

Methods of analysis for quinoa

Moisture content

15. CCMAS agreed to endorse the AACC 44-15.02 for the determination of moisture as Type I, noting that the method was equivalent to ISO 712.

Protein content

16. CCMAS agreed to endorse the general method, ISO 1871 as Type IV for the determination of protein content, noting that under a project undertaken in several Andean countries, the method had been validated for protein determination in quinoa. The Committee agreed that the method could be retyped as Type I, pending submission of the validation data to CCMAS40.

Saponin

17. CCMAS was not in a position to recommend a suitable method for determination of saponin, and noted the interest of AACC to undertake collaborative studies using an appropriate method. The Committee agreed to inform CCCPL accordingly.

Committee on Contaminants in Foods (CCCF)

Sampling plan for MLs for methylmercury in fish (CXS 193-1995)

18. CCMAS did not endorse the sampling plan for MLs for methylmercury in fish for the following reasons:

- Table 5 (*performance criteria for methods of analysis of mercury and methylmercury)* in the sampling plan would need to be revised according to the requirements of the Procedural Manual (*Guidelines for establishing numeric values for the criteria*) or should be removed from the sampling plan and replaced with a reference to the Procedural Manual.
- CCMAS noted that measurement uncertainty should not be used for taking decisions on acceptance or rejection of lots (section on Interpretation of Results); and this approach was not consistent with other sampling plans already adopted for contaminants in foods.

Performance criteria for methods of analysis for mercury and methylmercury (Table 7)

19. CCMAS noted that the PWG had amended Table 7 to meet the format or information currently used in CXS 234 and endorsed the performance criteria for methods for methylmercury as proposed by the PWG. CCMAS also agreed to include example methods which could meet the criteria, the previously endorsed AOAC 988.11 and an EN 16801. The Committee noted that this list was not exhaustive and served only as examples of methods that meet the criteria for methods for methylmercury and that countries could choose any other methods that meet the criteria.

Request for advice

20. CCMAS agreed to inform CCCF that it was not in a position to reply to the questions from CCCF as the questions were outside the remit of CCMAS. The Committee encouraged delegates to CCMAS with the necessary background to respond to the questions through their CCCF delegates.

Conclusion

21. CCMAS agreed to:

- send the methods of analysis and performance criteria, as endorsed, to CAC41 for adoption (Appendix II);
- request clarification from CCNFSDU on the provision for Vitamin D in CXS 72 (para.xxx);
- return the sampling plan for MLs for methylmercury to CCCF for further consideration and to inform CCCF that that CCMAS was unable to respond to the questions raised in relation to the sampling plan (see para. Xxx); and
- inform CCCPL that no method for saponin was identified (para. Xxx).

22. CCMAS agreed to re-establish the PWG on endorsement of methods of analysis and sampling, chaired by USA and co-chaired by Australia, working in English, to meet immediately prior to the next session. CCMAS noted that Hungary, as host of the Committee would consider the possibility for interpretation also to French and Spanish.

Questions raised by IDF/ISO/AOAC[5]

23. CCMAS noted that there were several questions raised during the review of the dairy group workable package which required clarification in order to allow a consistent approach to endorsement of methods.

Need for precision figures for Type I methods

24. CCMAS agreed that precision figures for Type I methods are an important aspect of assessing the performance of methods and that for newly developed / proposed Type I methods, precision figures should be presented as part of the data reviewed during the endorsement process. There was also agreement that while such data for long standing methods would be beneficial, lack of such data would not cause a change in the method type or revocation of a method.

If a defining method has been subjected to an international collaborative study involving dairy commodities A, B and C, and the method is generally known to work on commodity D, but this commodity was not included in the study, should the method then be listed as Type I or Type IV in CXS 234 for commodity D

25. CCMAS agreed that a general rule to extend or not extend the typing was not appropriate because the decision would depend on the matrices involved as well as the analytical procedure. The typing determination should therefore be based on a case-by-case basis.

Clarify the situation where there are two defining methods (from different organisations) and the degree of validation differs (i.e. one method has been subjected to an international collaborative study, whereas the other method has not), whether one method be Type I and the other method, Type IV, or only one (the best validated) method should be accepted and listed as Type I

26. CCMAS noted that it was necessary to clarify the terms “technically equivalent” and “technically identical” prior to discussion on this question. The Committee noted the offer of SDOs to prepare a paper on this matter.

Clarify those cases where a provision is not specifically listed in the commodity Standard, what decision process is to be followed to determine whether or not to include such provision in CXS 234

27. CCMAS agreed that some indication in the commodity Standard should exist in order for a provision to be listed in CXS 234. It was further agreed that the indication did not have to be a specific provision in the standard, but could also be a general text.

Apply a consistent approach in listing provisions that require a calculation based on two or more analyses. In some cases, all concerned methods are listed; in other cases only a single method

28. CCMAS agreed that all methods should be listed and separated by the word “and”.

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5 CX/MAS 18/39/4-Add.1

Other questions related to the review of the dairy group workable package

29. CCMAS noted that the PWG had begun the review of the dairy group workable package and in this review several questions had been raised about the applicability of some methods and about previous endorsement and typing decisions, amongst others, but that no agreements were reached. Noting that further consideration should be given to these questions and also the need to clarify terminology (para .xxx), CCMAS agreed that a paper should be developed to provide proposals on the way forward.

30. CCMAS further noted that the dairy group workable package required further review in order to provide proposals for consideration by the PWG on endorsement of methods and CCMAS40. CCMAS also noted that some of the methods identified in this package were clean and required no further action and that editorial corrections to some other methods could be addressed by the Codex Secretariat.

31. It was also noted that several agreements had been made at this session and in the past and that it was necessary to record the agreements in a single place to guide the work on endorsement.

32. The Secretariat proposed that CCMAS consider developing a guidance document on a procedure to ensure a consistent approach to endorsement of methods of analysis and that such a procedure could be published as an information document. Consideration could also be given to formalising some decisions by inclusion in the Procedural Manual.

Conclusion

33. CCMAS agreed:

(i) to establish an EWG chaired by USA working in English to develop a discussion paper for presentation to CCMAS40 which would address and recommend guidance for the endorsement and designation of empirical methods as Type I and/or Type. The discussion paper will address the following questions:

- When there are two empirical (i.e. defining) methods (from different organizations) and the degree of validation differs (i.e. one method has been subjected to an international collaborative study, whereas the other method has not), should one method be Type I and the other method Type IV, or should only one (the best validated) method be endorsed and be listed as Type I?
- Can 2 different empirical methods be endorsed as Type IV for the same commodity and provision?

(ii) to establish an EWG chaired by USA and co-chaired by New Zealand working in English to continue with the review of the dairy group workable package.

(iii) that the Codex Secretariat would do the editorial corrections to some of the methods identified in the dairy workable package.

REVIEW / REVISION (UPDATE) OF THE STANDARD FOR METHODS OF ANALYSIS AND SAMPLING (CXS 234-1999) (Agenda Item 4)[6]

34. Brazil, as Chair of the EWG and the in-session WG on the revision of CXS 234, introduced the item and highlighted the key points of the discussion, conclusions and recommendations put forward by the in-session WG for consideration by CCMAS.

35. CCMAS considered the document as revised by the in-session WG and made comments and decisions as follows:

PART I – PREAMBLE

Structure

36. CCMAS agreed that the Annexes were useful but should be simplified and retained as an internal document to guide the work of the Committee when revising and updating CXS 234. In particular for the commodity categorization, they should be aligned with the commodities as currently described in CXS 234 which reflect the structure of CAC and its subsidiary bodies (e.g. commodity committees) and would therefore facilitate the inclusion of commodities and corresponding methods of analysis in CXS 234.

37. CCMAS also agreed that the structure of CXS 234 should reflect the current policy of CCMAS to encourage Codex committees to develop method performance criteria as opposed to the identification of methods of analysis and as such identified four sections that would constitute the structure of CXS 234.

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6 CL 2018/18/OCS-MAS; CX/MAS 18/39/4; CX/MAS 18/39/4-Add.1; CX/MAS 18/39/4-Add.2 (Ecuador, Egypt, Canada, Guatemala, Kazakhstan, Mexico, Norway, Switzerland, USA, AOCS, IUFOST and NMKL); CRD2 (Report of the PWG on Endorsement); CRD5 (Sudan and EU); CRD8 (Kenya); CRD10 (Ghana); CRD11 (India); CRD17 (Report of the in-Session WG on the revision of CXS 234)

38. It was clarified that section I did not list any method performance criteria nor analytical methods but provided an indication of the method performance criteria and/or analytical method available for a given commodity/ provision combination. The links to the available method performance criteria / analytical method would lead to sections II (method performance criteria); III (list of methods developed by international organizations e.g. AOAC, IDF, ISO, etc.); and IV (description of methods developed by Codex i.e. CAC/RMs).

39. It was further noted that one of the goals of the revision of CXS 234 was to have a user-friendly document to easily identify methods available for compliance with the provisions in Codex standards thus the inclusion of section I may introduce unnecessary complexicity to CXS 234 and give rise to inconsistencies between the information given in this section and the subsequent sections, and make maintenance of the Standard difficult. The Codex Secretariat noted that this matter could be further considered by the EWG on the revision of CXS 234 as part of its next exercise.

Definitions

40. CCMAS agreed that the description provided under Part II (Methods of Analysis) was sufficient to address the definition / interpretation of “identical methods” and thus there was no need to define “technically equivalent methods”.

41. CCMAS further agreed that when a method is endorsed as Type I for a specific commodity/provision combination, only one method should be listed in CXS 234. For some commodity/provision combinations CXS 234 may list more than one method and these methods have been determined to be identical. Identical methods, published in a single document by different SDOs, are in the same row separated by a vertical bar "|". Identical methods, published in separated documents by different standard development organizations, that differ only in formatting but that contain identical technical procedures are in the same row and separated by a forward slash "/”.

42. CCMAS agreed to add a definition for method performance criteria in line with the definition in the Procedural Manual and the definition of provision was clarified to cover both quality and safety provisions by referring to criterion only.

PART II – METHODS OF ANALYSIS

43. CCMAS agreed that explanatory text under this provision would require further consideration especially as to the description of provisions determined by calculation where two or more methods and a calculation are required to get the result of the relevant provision.

OTHER MATTERS

44. CCMAS recalled that the dairy group workable package was considered under Agenda Item 3 and that for those provisions which had been updated and no further work were required, would be published in CXS 234 and would also be kept available in an excel spreadsheet in the revised format agreed by CCMAS to populate the future database on methods of analysis and sampling. In addition, all provisions endorsed by CCMAS from now onwards would be kept in an excel spreadsheet in the revised format and made available to CCMAS at every session as an information document to facilitate work on endorsement of provisions from Codex committees (see Agenda Item 3).

Conclusion

45. CCMAS agreed:

- to return the revision of CXS 234 to Step 2/3 for further consideration by an EWG chaired by Brazil and co-chaired by Uruguay, to further develop CXS 234 (Introduction, Part I, Part II and sections I – IV). The Annexes (I, structure; II, provisions; and III, principles) would also be revised and simplified (for internal use by CCMAS). The EWG would work in English only. The revised CXS 234 (preamble and sections I – IV) are attached in Appendix III.
- to proceed with the update on workable packages for (i) cereals, pulses and legumes; and (ii) fats and oils. The revision will be undertaken by AACC and AOCS and ISO, respectively. The same protocol followed by IDF, ISO and AOAC in the revision of the dairy group workable package will be followed and enhanced.
- the Codex and Hungarian Secretariats would create and maintain an excel spreadsheet in the revised format with provisions which had been updated and for which no further work were required.

46. CCMAS further agreed that a PWG chaired by Brazil, and co-chaired by Uruguay, could be held prior to the next session of the Committee as required and subject to confirmation by the Host Country Secretariat. The possibility to provide for simultaneous interpretation in English, French and Spanish to facilitate discussion and work progress would also be considered.

CRITERIA FOR ENDORSEMENT OF BIOLOGICAL METHODS USED TO DETECT CHEMICALS OF CONCERN (Agenda Item 5)[7]

47. Chile, as Chair of the EWG also on behalf of Mexico, co-Chair of the EWG, presented the report of the EWG. She explained that they had evaluated two example biological methods, i.e. AOAC 959.08 and AOAC 992.07 first against the General criteria for the selection of methods of analysis; and then the guidelines for the establishment of numerical criteria in the Procedural Manual in order to look for practical evidence of the application of both sets of criteria recognized by Codex; and also against other criteria gathered from other international references. She explained that while the performance criteria established in the Procedural Manual were established for approving chemical methods, some of these criteria could be applied for the adoption and classification of biological methods and in addition other criteria from other relevant international organisations could be used for evaluation of biological methods.

48. The EWG recommended that the current criteria could be used on a case-by-case basis and that there was no further need for additional criteria.

Discussion

49. There was general support to evaluate biological methods on a case-by-case basis using the *General Criteria for Selection of Methods of Analysis* in the Procedural Manual.

50. Proposals were made to also consider the use of other criteria from other recognized international organisations, for example, the AOAC International Methods Committee Guidelines for Validation of Biological Threat Agent Methods and/or Procedures.

51. Noting the general agreement for the use of the criteria from the Procedural Manual on a case-by-case basis, and the proposal to consider also other criteria (see para. Xxx), a proposal was made to clarify this by adding a note (Note 3) to the *Working Instructions for the Implementation for the Criteria Approach in Codex.* However, there was no support for this proposal.

Conclusion

52. CCMAS agreed to use the *General Criteria for the Selection of Methods of Analysis* in the Procedural Manual and other criteria referenced in other internationally recognized organisations' documents on a case-by-case basis for evaluation of biological methods.

PROPOSAL TO AMEND THE GUIDELINES ON MEASUREMENT UNCERTAINTY (CXG 54-2004) (Agenda Item 6)[8]

53. Germany, Chair of the EWG, recalled the history of discussion in CCMAS and highlighted the key issues discussed in the EWG that needed consideration by CCMAS in order to proceed with the new work. i.e. (i) the influence of MU on decision making and its role in conformity assessment of a particular analytical test sample; and (ii) the relationship between the measurement uncertainty (MU) and sampling plans. She noted that discussion on these aspects would be needed in order to provide a clear scope for the new work.

Discussion

54. There was general agreement that the Guidelines needed revision in order to improve and clarify the content, but that the guidelines should not cover how MU would influence the decision-making process regarding conformity assessment. Views were expressed that conformity assessment and the use of uncertainty of analytical results should rest with national governments or agreements between trading partners. It was also noted that this aspect was not covered by the current GL 54 and that the Principles for the use of sampling and testing in international food trade (CXG 83-2013) stated "*The exporting country and the importing country should agree on how the analytical measurement uncertainty is taken into account when assessing the conformity of a measurement against a legal limit."*

55. CCMAS acknowledged that MU for the purpose of the guidelines comprised only laboratory samples and would solely concern the uncertainty of results for laboratory test samples, including subsampling. Measurement uncertainty relating to sampling would be covered by the work on the revision of GL50 (Agenda Item 7).

56. In order to clarify these issues, CCMAS agreed to establish an in-session working group led by Germany to prepare a revised scope for the new work.

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7 CX/MAS 18/39/5; CRD6 (EU); CRD8 (Kenya); CRD9 (Morocco); CRD15 (Philippine)

8 CX/MAS 18/39/6; CRD6 (EU); CRD8 (Kenya); CRD12 (Ecuador); CRD13 (New Zealand); CRD15 (Philippines)

57. The Committee considered the revised scope and project document and agreed that the revised GL54 would cover (i) illustration of the influence of measurement uncertainty on the interpretation of measurement results; and (ii) illustration of the relationship of the test result and the given sampling plan.

58. It was further noted that an information document containing examples would support the revision of GL54.

Conclusion

59. CCMAS agreed to:

- start new work on the revision of the *Guidelines on Measurement Uncertainty* (CXG 54-2004) and to submit the revised project document (Appendix IV) for approval by CAC41; and
- establish an EWG chaired by Germany working in English to develop the proposed draft revised Guidelines for consideration by CCMAS40.

PROPOSAL TO AMEND THE GENERAL GUIDELINES ON SAMPLING (CXG 50-2004) (Agenda Item 7)[9]

60. New Zealand, chair of the EWG, introduced the paper (CX/MAS 18/39/7) and recalled that some committees and CCMAS had expressed the view that the current guidelines were difficult to understand and that a revision of GL 50 was necessary to simplify and make it more readable and understandable.

61. She explained that the purpose of the revised GL50 was to help those responsible to select statistical sampling plans that are appropriate for inspections under specifications laid down by Codex standards. The guidelines are primarily aimed at Codex committees which select plans recommended, but could also be used, if applicable, by governments in case of international trade disputes.

62. The Delegation noted that the work would be quite extensive and would require experts from member countries to contribute to the revision and proposed to amend the timelines for completion of work.

Discussion

63. CCMAS discussed the proposal for new work with a focus on the main aspects to be covered.

64. There was general support for the new work and it was proposed, in the spirit of simplification, to reference appropriate sampling plan tools (e.g. apps); that guidance on sampling of inhomogeneous lots should be covered, but should take low priority in the step-wise development of the revision; and that clarification of measurement error in relation to measurement uncertainty was needed.

65. CCMAS noted that work on the revision of GL50 should run concurrently with that of the revision of GL54 (Agenda Item 6) and that it would be preferable to wait for the completion of the two sets of work to address the interrelationship between MU and sampling.

66. Questions were raised on whether it was appropriate to also cover microbiological and histamine parameters in the guidelines. It was clarified that the current GL already has reference or guidance on these aspects and that while hygiene was not within the purview of CCMAS, a single guideline document covering all sampling plan aspects would be useful for governments and that CCFH should be informed of this work and that their inputs could be requested.

67. It was further noted that several commodity and other standards contained sampling plans which could be affected by the revision of GL50 and it was clarified that once the revision was completed, all committees would have an opportunity to review their sampling plans and revise as appropriate taking into account the new GL50.

68. CCMAS also noted that the GL would be generic and could be applied to any materials being inspected, including feed.

Conclusion

69. CCMAS agreed:

- to start new work and submit a revised project document (Appendix xxx) to CCEXEC and CAC for approval as new work;
- to the prioritisation areas of work (Appendix V);
- to establish an EWG chaired by New Zealand, working in English only, to develop the revised GL 50 based on the draft presented in CX/MAS 18/39/7 Appendix VI.

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9 CX/MAS 18/39/7; CRD6 (EU); CRD8 (Kenya); CRD10 (Ghana); CRD12 (Ecuador); CRD14 (United Kingdom); CRD15 (Philippine)

REPORT OF AN INTER-AGENCY MEETING ON METHODS OF ANALYSIS (Agenda Item 8)[10]

70. The Observer of the United States Pharmacopeial Convention (USPC), as Chair of the Inter Agency Meeting (IAM), introduced the report of IAM and highlighted the various issues discussed in the IAM with respect to the work of CCMAS and other related matters.

71. CCMAS noted that several of the issues raised in CRD 16 had been considered under the relevant agenda items.

72. The IAM again noted the request of the Codex Secretariat to enhance the role of IAM at CCMAS meetings by submitting an annual summary for inclusion in the CCMAS agenda in a section entitled “Matters of Interest Arising from Other International Organizations”. The submission of IAEA was considered a suitable model to cover general items that may be of interest to CCMAS participants.

73. A number of IAM member organizations had supplied information used in the report for CAC41 “Cooperation Between the Codex Alimentarius Commission and Other Standard-Setting Organizations”. IAM members noted the report and thanked the Codex Secretariat for the opportunity to make comments.

74. IAM members noted the progress made by ISO/AOAC/IDF in the review of their methods in CXS 234, specifically in the dairy sector. AOAC outlined the progress that had been made in forming a committee to determine the process they would use when undertaking the review of their methods in CXS 234. There was general agreement amongst IAM participants that it was important to first develop guidance on specific issues with the presentation of methods in CXS 234 before advancing into package-wise review. Though the revision of CXS 234 is ongoing, SDOs are encouraged to provide method changes to the Codex Secretariat for consideration at pWG on the endorsement of method analysis.

75. It was noted by IAM that there appeared to be gaps in the endorsement of appropriate methods by different Codex committees and therefore this issue should be developed in a discussion paper and brought to the attention of CCMAS.

76. CCMAS thanked the members of IAM for their contribution to the work of the Committee.

OTHER BUSINESS AND FUTURE WORK (Agenda Item 9)

77. The Chairperson requested the views of the Committee on how to improve the work of CCMAS noting there was good progress made at this session.

78. CCMAS noted the following views expressed by delegations:

- Interpretation in English, French and Spanish would facilitate discussion in the PWG on endorsement.
- Timely document distribution and information (including how to access the information) is important for good preparation of the meeting.
- Any new relevant information or methods for consideration by the PWG on endorsement, other than those presented in the relevant working documents should be submitted at least 30 days before the PWG meeting.
- Development of work procedures and principles for the function of the Committee, in particular the endorsement process was suggested and noted that this could possibly be discussed and be an outcome of the EWG chaired by USA to address specific questions related to endorsement (Agenda Item 3).
- The scheduling of the next CCMAS should take into account proper spacing between meetings to allow sufficient time for preparation and consideration should be given to holding an information session on rules and procedures of CCMAS for first time delegates.

79. The Chair welcomed the ideas and encouraged members to also think ahead to possible new issues for CCMAS to address in the future.

DATE AND PLACE OF NEXT SESSION (Agenda Item 10)

80. CCMAS was informed that the 40th Session would take place in Budapest, Hungary, within the next 12 months, the final arrangements being subject to confirmation by the host country and the Codex Secretariat.

[10] CRD16 (Report of IAM30)