



JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME

AD HOC CODEX INTERGOVERNMENTAL TASK FORCE ON ANTIMICROBIAL RESISTANCE

Fifth Session

MATTERS REFERRED BY THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION AND OTHER SUBSIDIARY BODIES

1. The Task Force is invited to note the information below on recent discussion and decision of CAC and CCEXEC on Codex work on antimicrobial resistance.

2015

2. At CCEXEC70¹, FAO and WHO presented a paper² on antimicrobial resistance (AMR), which highlighted relevant decisions of the FAO and WHO Governing bodies on AMR, including the WHO Global Action Plan on Antimicrobial Resistance³, adopted by the 68th World Health Assembly (May 2015); and the FAO Resolution of Antimicrobial Resistance⁴, adopted by the FAO Conference (June 2015).

3. The FAO and WHO Representatives noted that these documents included a specific reference to Codex texts on antimicrobial resistance, i.e. *Code of Practice to Minimise and Contain Antimicrobial Resistance* (CAC/RCP 61-2005) and *Guidelines on Risk Analysis of Foodborne Antimicrobial Resistance* (CAC/GL 77-2011) and called on Members to review these texts and take urgent action to mitigate risks of inappropriate antimicrobial use and antimicrobial resistance.

4. Noting the need for countries to provide information on the way they were adopting and using Codex texts on AMR, identify gaps and evaluate the need for their update, CCEXEC70 supported the proposal that the Codex Secretariat issue a Circular Letter asking Members to: (i) Review the extent to which they are adopting and applying the existing Codex guidance and identify major capacity development gaps and any other challenges they face in adopting and applying these standards; (ii) Review the existing Codex texts (CAC/RCP 61-2005 and CAC/GL 77-2011) and evaluate the need for their update, taking into consideration the developments in the area over the past 10 years; and (iii) Consider the need to request FAO, WHO and OIE to convene expert meetings to review any new scientific evidence related to AMR in the food chain including risk management options for the containment of AMR in support of any revision of Codex texts.

Conclusion

5. CCEXEC70 supported the proposal that the Secretariat issue a Circular Letter asking Members to:

- (i) review the extent to which they are adopting and applying the existing Codex guidance and identify major capacity development gaps and any other challenges they face in adopting and applying these standards;
- (ii) review the existing Codex texts (CAC/RCP 61-2005 and CAC/GL 77-2011) and evaluate the need for their update, taking into consideration the developments in the area over the past 10 years; and
- (iii) consider the need to request FAO, WHO and OIE to convene expert meetings to review any new scientific evidence related to the AMR in the food chain including risk management options for the containment of AMR in support of any revision of Codex texts.

6. CCEXEC70 requested the Codex Secretariat, in collaboration with FAO and WHO, to analyse the replies to the Circular Letter and prepare proposals as appropriate for consideration at the next session of the Commission.

¹ REP15/EXEC paras 105-110

² CX/CAC 15/38/16 Add.1

³ http://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/10665/193736/1/9789241509763_eng.pdf?ua=1

⁴ Resolution 4/2015 (<http://www.fao.org/3/a-mo153e.pdf>)

2016

7. CCEXEC71 and CAC39 considered the report⁵ prepared by the Secretariat in collaboration with FAO and WHO, which included recommendations with regard to: (i) new work on AMR, i.e. revision of the *Code of practice to minimise and contain antimicrobial resistance* (CAC/RCP 61-2005) and development of guidance on integrated surveillance of antimicrobial resistance; (ii) the establishment of a Task Force to carry out this work; (iii) provision of scientific advice on AMR by FAO and WHO in collaboration with OIE; and (iv) the development of a FAO and WHO capacity development programme.

8. CCEXEC71⁶ recognised that AMR was an issue requiring urgent attention and action, that it was important for Codex to take advantage of the current momentum and show leadership in this area; that it was important that Codex work is carried out in coordination with the work undertaken by FAO, WHO and OIE in order to ensure consistency and synergy, and that work on AMR be carried out in a dedicated forum.

Conclusion

9. CCEXEC71 supported the recommendations to:

- (i) establish an Ad-Hoc Intergovernmental Task Force on AMR with the proposed ToR:
 - a. the host country would be identified and selected by the Commission; and
 - b. the first duty of the Task Force would be to examine the two project documents and forward the revised project documents to the Commission (through CCEXEC);
- (ii) request scientific advice to FAO and WHO (in collaboration with OIE); and
- (iii) request FAO and WHO to keep the Commission informed of their capacity development programme on AMR.

10. CAC39⁷ recognised the need for Codex to make concrete steps to address the urgency of AMR, proceed in an expeditious way and show the leadership that was expected from Codex as the preeminent international food standard setting body.

11. CAC39 acknowledged the need to establish at its current session the TFAMR, which would start working after CAC40, and further acknowledged the need to revise the proposed ToR of the TFAMR to highlight that:

- (i) the work of the TFAMR would focus on the management of foodborne antimicrobial resistance and would fully take into account the WHO Global Action Plan on AMR (in particular objectives 3 and 4);
- (ii) the revision of CAC/RCP 61-2005 would address the entire food chain in line with the mandate of Codex; and
- (iii) the work would also take into account relevant texts of OIE.

12. CAC39 noted that at its first session the TFAMR would have the possibility to propose revision to its own ToR if necessary.

13. In order to further refine the specific work to be carried out by the TFAMR, the Commission recognised the need to establish a PWG which would review and refine the project documents and the request for scientific advice for consideration and approval by CAC40. It was noted that an electronic process could facilitate the work of the PWG.

Conclusion

14. CAC39 agreed to:

- (i) establish an Ad Hoc Intergovernmental Task Force on Antimicrobial Resistance (TFAMR), to be hosted by the Republic of Korea (see TOR in the Procedural Manual);
- (ii) establish a PWG, chaired by United Kingdom and co-chaired by Australia and the United States of America, to work in English, French and Spanish and open to all Members and Observers, with the following tasks:
 - a. revise the project documents for new work; and
 - b. revise the terms of reference for the request for scientific advice to FAO and WHO in collaboration with OIE;

⁵ CX/EXEC 16/71/3 - CX/CAC 16/39/12

⁶ REP16/EXEC paras 57-66

⁷ REP16/CAC paras 146-164 and Appendix VII

- (iii) request FAO and WHO to develop a capacity development programme to respond to the needs identified.

2017

15. CCEXEC73⁸ considered the two project documents prepared by the PWG on AMR, which met in London (United Kingdom) in December 2016, in the framework of the Critical review and noted that the PWG had discussed the process by which the draft texts might be elaborated for consideration by TFAMR5 and had agreed to recommend to CAC40 to establish EWGs.

Conclusion

16. CCEXEC73 recommended that CAC40:

- (i) consider for approval two proposals for new work on AMR; and
- (ii) establish EWGs to prepare the proposed draft texts for comments and consideration by TFAMR5, noting that the EWGs should complete their work by mid-September so as to allow adequate time, of approximately two months, for comments before TFAMR5.

17. CAC40⁹ considered the report of the PWG on AMR¹⁰, which included the two revised proposals for new work and the revised ToR for the request of scientific advice and supported the PWG recommendations to establish an EWG to facilitate the work of the TFAMR.

Conclusion

18. CAC40:

- (i) approved the new work;
- (ii) established two EWGs, working in English and Spanish and open to all Codex members and observers, to develop:
 - a. proposed draft revision of the *Code of Practice to Minimize and Contain Antimicrobial Resistance* (CAC/RCP 61-2005) (chaired by the United States of America and co-chaired by China, Kenya and the United Kingdom); and
 - b. proposed draft guidance on integrated surveillance of antimicrobial resistance (chaired by the Netherlands and co-chaired by Chile, China and New Zealand);
- (iii) noted that the EWGs would use the electronic platform for EWG;
- (iv) noted that the reports of the EWGs:
 - a. should be made available to the Codex Secretariat by 15 September 2017 to allow adequate time for circulation for comments; and
 - b. would be circulated via the Codex OCS for comments at Step 3 with a deadline of early November 2017, with comments compiled in original language only for consideration by TFAMR5;
- (v) thanked FAO and WHO for the support to the work of the TFAMR.

⁸ REP17/EXEC2 paras 83-84

⁹ REP17/CAC paras 98-103, 135-142

¹⁰ CX/CAC 17/40/12-Add 2