

CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



World Health
Organization

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Agenda Item 12

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CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION

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COMMENTS ON REGULAR REVIEW OF CODEX WORK MANAGEMENT: REPORT 2017 - 2018

Comments of European Union, India

Review of Codex work management: report 2017 - 2018

EUROPEAN UNION

The Member States of the European Union (MSEU) would like to thank the Codex Secretariat for the excellent work done in reviewing the relations between Codex and other relevant international organisations.

The MSEU attach high importance to a close cooperation and coordination between the Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC) and other relevant international organisations.

We consider that the conclusions and recommendations included in the Codex Secretariat's report are timely and useful as different views on the cooperation and coordination between Codex and other international standard-setting organisations have recently been expressed in several Codex Committees (e.g. CCFFV – UNECE standards, CCMAS – ISO standards) and work on certain Codex standards has been delayed or discontinued due to duplication or conflict with standards developed by other organisations.

Regarding the recommendations to the Codex Secretariat, the MSEU generally support the actions proposed, while having in mind the limited resources of the Codex Secretariat. We would also like to stress the need for guidance from the parent organisations regarding the use of the OECD led “partnership for effective international rule-making”.

The MSEU would like to underline that, according to the Statutes of the Codex Alimentarius Commission, Codex is tasked with promoting the coordination of food standards work undertaken by other international governmental and non governmental organisations¹. The preparation of Codex standards should therefore be carried out in liaison with such international organisations, by taking into account their work also with a view to avoid unnecessary duplications.

In addition, making reference to the work of other international organisations during the development of Codex standards with due regard for the provisions of the Procedural Manual, is useful and constructive. Such reference should be maintained in the adopted standards, preferably in the body of a standard rather than in a footnote.

Concerning the first three recommendations to CCEXEC75, the MSEU are of the opinion that CAC should decide whether new procedures and consequently amendments to the Codex Procedural Manual are necessary to improve the collaboration with other standard-setting bodies

The MSEU note the need for clarity on the work carried out by other standard-setting bodies in relation to Codex standards. We believe that the membership rules of the relevant international organisations should be amongst the criteria to be taken into account in this regard.

Considering the complexity and importance of the issue, the MSEU propose that further discussion should take place in full respect of the Codex values of collaboration, inclusiveness, consensus and transparency. We

¹See Statutes of the Codex Alimentarius Commission, Article 1 b)

consider therefore that the Codex Committee on General Principles (CCGP) is the appropriate body for addressing this issue.

CCGP could focus on establishing principles for making reference to standards / methods of other international organisations, as well as on exploring new and innovative ideas such as the establishment of a structured dialogue between Codex and other standard-setting organisations (in particular their secretariats). The discussion should however not go into internal working procedures of other international standard-setting organisations.

INDIA

Recommendation (ii)

In the absence of systematic approach to review Codex standard, there is always likelihood that the standard become out-dated and not useful in the current scenario. Therefore, India is in favour of developing a more systematic approach to review of Codex standards and their revision based on consideration of the technological advancement, change in preferences of consumers and current best practices.

Recommendation (iii)

India does not favour inclusion of references to standards/methods of other international organizations (IGOs and NGOs) in various Codex texts in general. However, while developing principles for making reference to standards/methods of other international organizations (both IGOs and NGOs), India suggests considering following aspects:

Perceived need for inclusion of such references in the Codex texts.

Inclusiveness (extent of participation by global community) and transparency in the working of other international organizations (IGOs and NGOs)

Ensuring that risk analysis principles of other international organisation are in line or complementary with that one of Codex.

Extent of recognition and acceptability of other international organizations (IGOs and NGOs) worldwide.

Objectives of these international organisations and their mandates.

Policy for review of their standards/methods