

CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



World Health
Organization

Viale delle Terme di Caracalla, 00153 Rome, Italy - Tel: (+39) 06 57051 - E-mail: codex@fao.org - www.codexalimentarius.org

Agenda Item 11

CAC/39 CRD/30

Original Language Only

JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME

CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION

39th Session

FAO Headquarters, Rome, Italy, 27 June – 1 July 2016

CODEX WORK ON ANTIMICROBIAL RESISTANCE

(COMMENTS OF AUSTRALIA)

Proposed Strategy for Addressing the Need for Codex work on Antimicrobial Resistance.

Objective

Fully recognising and taking into account existing principles and guidelines developed by relevant international bodies, the CAC seeks to develop, review and keep contemporary, risk-based and targeted guidance for national governments on:

- Minimising the occurrence of AMR in food and transmission of risks to consumers through best practice at the national level
- Minimising the risk of transmission of AMR via food in international trade

Supporting, in principle, the establishment of an Ad Hoc Intergovernmental Task Force on AMR by the CAC39.

Supporting, in principle, the establishment of an expert consultation

Process Forward - the CAC recognises that minimising the risk of transmission of AMR via the food chain is a significant current and future human health challenge.

It is essential that Codex applies a strategic approach to the growing global concerns regarding rising incidents of AMR. To this end Australia would propose that the Commission establish a physical working group (PWG) led by the UK (with assistance from Australia) open to all members and observers (working in English, French and Spanish). The PWG would consist of members and observers with technical (risk assessment) and policy (risk management) expertise related to animal, plant and human health as it relates to foodborne AMR.

The purpose of the pwg would be to:

1. develop draft Terms of Reference for the Ad Hoc Intergovernmental Task Force on AMR;
2. to revise, if necessary, the proposed ToR for the provision of scientific advice on AMR, (Appendix III, CAC/16/39/12)

The PWG would consider the risk assessment and risk management aspects of food borne AMR, be open to food safety experts and others as appropriate to ensure an fully integrated approach to Codex guidance. The outcome of the pwg should be congruent with the WHO Global Action Plan on AMR and the work of other international bodies in line with the need for a One Health approach.

The pwg would also consider the development of the terms of reference for the Task Force taking into account the mandate of Codex, discussion at the CAC, the WHO Global Action Plan on AMR, and other international work in the area of AMR. This approach would ensure that the TOR of the Task force is sufficiently scoped to also consider the potential work that may be generated by the expert consultation. Additionally, work produced by the task force is to be future proof and contemporary, therefore periodic reviews may also be necessary by the task force to assess the effectiveness of its guidance and assess the need for further work.

The report and outcomes of the pwg would then be considered by the CCExec and CAC in 2017.