

# codex alimentarius commission



FOOD AND AGRICULTURE  
ORGANIZATION  
OF THE UNITED NATIONS

WORLD  
HEALTH  
ORGANIZATION



JOINT OFFICE: Viale delle Terme di Caracalla 00100 ROME Tel: 39 06 57051 www.codexalimentarius.net Email: codex@fao.org Facsimile: 39 06 5705 4593

## JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME

### CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION

*Twenty-fifth (Extraordinary) Session, 13-15 February 2003  
International Conference Centre, Geneva, Switzerland*

## CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE JOINT FAO/WHO EVALUATION OF THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS AND OTHER FAO AND WHO WORK ON FOOD STANDARDS

### Note by the Secretariat

1. The Conclusions and Recommendations of the Joint FAO/WHO Evaluation of the Codex Alimentarius and Other FAO and WHO Work on Food Standards have been circulated to Members of the Commission as ALINORM 03/25/3; the responses of FAO Management and the Report of the Director-General of WHO to the WHO Executive Board have been circulated as ALINORM 03/25/3 – Add.1. As agreed by FAO and WHO in establishing the Terms of Reference of the Evaluation, the views of the Commission on the Evaluation Report will also be presented to the Governing Bodies.
2. The Evaluation report contains 42 recommendations; the prime responsibility for the implementation of 24 of these recommendations lies with the Codex Alimentarius Commission itself, or jointly with the parent organizations. The prime responsibility for the remaining recommendations is with the parent organizations themselves.
3. The present document outlines the approach and the possible actions that the Commission may wish to take during its Twenty-fifth (Extraordinary) Session, bearing in mind that discussion on the Evaluation report is scheduled to take place only on the opening day of the Session (see ALINORM 03/25/1). This document was prepared by the Secretariat on the advice of an informal meeting of the Chairperson and Vice-Chairpersons of the Commission and representatives of FAO and WHO that took place in Paris, 21-22 November 2002<sup>1</sup>.
4. The Commission may wish to consider the following:

---

<sup>1</sup> FAO was represented by the Dr. Jean-Louis Jouve, Chief, Food Quality and Standards Service, and Mr. John Markie, Senior Evaluation Officer, Office of Programme, Budget and Evaluation; WHO was represented by Dr. Jørgen Schlundt, Director, Food Safety Department. The Secretariat wishes to express its appreciation to the Director-General of OIE, Dr. B. Vallat, for his kind hospitality in making facilities available for the meeting.

- a) A general response to the Evaluation that may be considered by the Governing Bodies of FAO and WHO;
- b) A detailed response to the recommendations for which the Codex Alimentarius Commission has prime responsibility (see Annex 1).
- c) A selected response to the recommendations under the prime responsibilities of FAO and WHO (see Annex 2).

5. Positive responses to Recommendation 4 (Mandate) and Recommendation 9 (Executive Board) imply amendments to the Commission's Statutes that can only be made by the Governing Bodies of the parent Organizations. In order to expedite consideration of such amendments by the Governing Bodies, a draft proposal is attached as Annex 3. The Commission is invited to consider this proposal and to submit draft amendments to the Statutes to the Governing Bodies for their approval.

6. In addition to changes in the Statutes, many of the recommendations imply changes to the Rules of Procedure and other texts contained in the Procedural Manual. The Commission may wish to consider the proposed establishment of a specialized Task Force to draft the required changes or to consider further such changes, as may be necessary, and to submit them to the Commission for consideration in 2004 or 2005. It is recognized that such a task would normally be allocated to the Codex Committee on General Principles, however, the establishment of such a Task Force under the *Criteria for the Establishment of Subsidiary Bodies of the Codex Alimentarius Commission*<sup>2</sup> would provide the immediate impetus needed to implement the recommendations while allowing the Codex Committee on General Principles to continue with its current workload. Proposed draft Terms of Reference for the Task Force on Codex Procedures are presented in Annex 4 for consideration by the Commission.

7. The Commission may also wish to consider the recommendation of the Evaluation Report to establish a task force to follow up and monitor implementation of the evaluation recommendations, taking into account the relevant rules, procedures and practices of FAO and WHO.

---

<sup>2</sup> Procedural Manual, 12<sup>th</sup> ed., 2001, page 62.

---

**RECOMMENDATIONS CONCERNING THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION**


---

**A. Recommendations addressed to the Commission itself**

<b>Report Recommendation</b>	<b>Possible Response of the Commission</b>
<p><b>Recommendation 1:</b> <i>The scope of Codex should fully cover health related aspects of food standards. It will therefore need (subject to availability of resources for Codex and expert scientific advice and prioritisation on the basis of expert scientific advice as to the importance of alternative risks) to :</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>strengthen work on foods for special dietary uses, health claims and nutrient addition; and</i></li> <li>• <i>undertake new work on packaging materials; and on industrial processing agents, catalysts and bio-agents in foods.</i></li> </ul>	<p>Depending on the outcome of the Commission's discussions, the Commission may wish to ask the Secretariat include Recommendations 1, 2 and 3 in the Medium Term Plan as appropriate for consideration at the next regular session of the Commission (26<sup>th</sup> session) with attention drawn to the responses of the parent bodies.</p>
<p><b>Recommendation 2:</b> <i>It is recommended that Codex does not take on additional work in non-health related areas</i></p>	<p>The Commission may wish to endorse this recommendation, taking into account Recommendation 3.</p>
<p><b>Recommendation 3:</b> <i>In determining its standard-setting work programme, Codex should prioritise as follows:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) <i>standards having an impact on health and safety;</i></li> <li>2) <i>commodity standards responding to the expressed needs of developing countries;</i></li> <li>3) <i>commodity standards responding to the expressed needs of developed countries;</i></li> <li>4) <i>informational labelling relating to non health and safety issues.</i></li> </ol>	<p>The Commission may wish to endorse this recommendation and request the Secretariat to incorporate these priorities in the Medium-Term Plan for consideration by the 26<sup>th</sup> Session of the Commission.</p>
<p><b>Recommendation 6:</b> <i>Codex, supported by FAO/WHO independent expert advice, should intensify efforts to develop guidelines on determination of acceptable levels of protection (ALOP) for use by risk assessors in giving scientific advice to Committees and to reduce the scope of disputes in the WTO.</i></p>	<p>The Commission may wish to ask the Secretariat to include this in the Medium Term Plan as appropriate for consideration at the next regular session (26<sup>th</sup> session).</p>

<b>Report Recommendation</b>	<b>Possible Response of the Commission</b>
<p><b>Recommendation 8:</b> <i>Codex and OIE should intensify their collaboration to minimise overlaps and avoid gaps in standard setting with:</i></p> <p>a) <i>Delineation of work and specific modalities of collaboration should be defined by Codex and OIE within the near future and formalised in a memorandum of understanding;</i></p> <p>b) <i>Where work is in both organizations' interest it should be pursued through joint task forces.</i></p> <p><i>Continued close collaboration between Codex and IPPC should also be maintained.</i></p>	<p>The Commission may wish to endorse the recommendation, with due regard to the provisions of Rule VIII, paragraph VII.5 of the Rules of Procedure concerning relations with international organizations.</p> <p>It may wish to request a report at its 26<sup>th</sup> Session on the work of the IPPC and how it may relate to Codex work.</p> <p>See also Recommendation 27.</p>
<p><b>Recommendation 9:</b> <i>The Executive Committee should be replaced with an Executive Board, meeting every six months, charged with strategic and managerial responsibility but without the authority to consider standards. The function of the Board would be to improve speed and efficiency by assisting the Commission in strategic planning, budgeting and monitoring, including:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Preparation of the work plan and budget and the medium-term plan;</i></li> <li>• <i>Make recommendations to improve management and working procedures in Codex, including its committees and task forces; and</i></li> <li>• <i>Monitor and take corrective action for the delivery of the programme of work.</i></li> </ul>	<p>The Commission is invited to consider Recommendations 9, 10 and 11 as a group.</p> <p>A positive response by the Commission would require an amendment to the Statutes and substantial changes to the Rules of Procedure and the Elaboration Procedures of the Commission. See also para. 6 above concerning the establishment of a specialized Task Force on Codex Procedures and Annex 4.</p>
<p><b>Recommendation 10:</b> <i>The Executive Board should be small and include:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>2-3 observer representatives for consumers, industry and perhaps primary producers;</i></li> <li>• <i>formal participation of the Secretary of Codex and FAO and WHO.</i></li> </ul>	

<b>Report Recommendation</b>	<b>Possible Response of the Commission</b>
<p><b>Recommendation 11:</b> <i>The standards development management function should receive much greater attention in Codex and should be delegated from the Commission to a smaller body. In this context consideration should be given to the creation of a standards management committee to perform functions that otherwise would need to be undertaken in the Executive Board.</i></p>	
<p><b>Recommendation 12:</b> <i>It is desirable that the Codex Alimentarius Commission meets every year, but if the Executive Board and possibly Standards Management Committee perform their functions effectively it might be possible to reduce costs by continuing to hold meetings every two years.</i></p>	<p>The Commission may wish to defer consideration of the annual meeting question until its 26<sup>th</sup> session, when the proposed budgetary allocations are more definite.</p>
<p><b>Recommendation 16:</b> <i>Codex should undertake a review, including a detailed study by consultants of the work of General Subject and Commodity Committees as soon as possible, and thereafter on a fixed schedule, with a view to rationalisation where appropriate. The review should in particular examine:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>the existing committee mandates with a view to rationalisation;</i></li> <li>• <i>any need for redistribution of tasks and responsibilities between committees; and</i></li> <li>• <i>any need to split committees.</i></li> </ul>	<p>The Codex Alimentarius Commission is invited to endorse the proposal to undertake the study, and may wish to target the completion of the review by the end of 2003.</p>
<p><b>Recommendation 16 (cont.):</b></p> <p><i>a) Commodity work should be handled through time bound task-forces;</i></p> <p><i>b) No new Committee should be established even in a horizontal area of work until the possibilities for progress and the need for continuing work has been established through a task-force;</i></p> <p><i>c) The treatment of health issues in commodity committees should be reduced to the essential minimum and wherever possible handled through a task force with the relevant horizontal committee.</i></p>	<p>The Commission is invited to consider recommendations 16 a), b) and c) in the context of a revision of the Procedural Manual (Criteria for the Establishment of Work Priorities and Criteria for the Establishment of Subsidiary Bodies of the Codex Alimentarius Commission).</p> <p>See also the proposed establishment of a specialized <i>ad hoc</i> Task Force on Codex Procedures (paragrap 6 above and Annex 4).</p>

<b>Report Recommendation</b>	<b>Possible Response of the Commission</b>
<p><b>Recommendation 17:</b> <i>Codex should undertake a review of the mandate and work of Regional Committees within the next two years.</i></p>	<p>The Commission may wish endorse this recommendation and endorse the recommendation in paragraph 115 of the Evaluation report to involve the Regional Representatives/Coordinators in the review process. It may wish to target the completion of the review by the 27<sup>th</sup> Session of the Commission.</p>
<p><b>Recommendation 18:</b> <i>All Committee and Task Force work should be time-bound. It is proposed that no standard be permitted more than 5 years work before decision by the Commission on whether further work is justified.</i></p>	<p>The Commission may wish note that this has been included in the Medium Term Plan (Activity 3). Reference should also be made to Figure 4 (new elaboration procedures) which allows for extension of the time-frame on a case by case basis.</p>
<p><b>Recommendation 19:</b> <i>Codex must continue to strive for a clearer separation of the risk management and risk assessment functions to ensure transparency, the usefulness of scientific advice and the speed of decision-making.</i></p>	<p>The Commission is invited to consider the requesting the specialized <i>ad hoc</i> Task Force on Codex Procedures to redraft the Guidelines for Codex Committees to take into account the work already initiated within the main Codex Risk Management Committees under the Codex Action Plan for Risk Analysis. Alternatively, this task could be allocated to the Committee on General Principles as an extension of its current work.</p>
<p><b>Recommendation 20:</b> <i>The emphasis in Codex should switch from writing standards in meetings to developing standards through a consultative process between meetings. Much greater use should be made of consultants/facilitators to progress work between committee sessions, with the cost born by host countries. As well as speeding up work, greater inclusiveness would be ensured by full consultation including where appropriate the organisation of local workshops and:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>written comments should be fully taken into account;</i></li> <li>• <i>where between session working groups are used they should be electronic not generally physical meetings which are not inclusive in possible participation;</i></li> <li>• <i>Greater use should be made of NGOs in preliminary standard development.</i></li> </ul>	<p>The Commission is invited to separate its decision on the separate sub-recommendations in the view of the responsibilities of the host country and also, may wish to consider referring these matters to the Standards Management Committee (if established).</p>

<b>Report Recommendation</b>	<b>Possible Response of the Commission</b>
<p><b>Recommendation 21: Meeting reports</b> - <i>Although Codex is very effective in producing and agreeing full meeting reports before the end of meetings, the trend towards action oriented reports of meetings which focus on decisions and not discussion, should be further reinforced. Such reports facilitate a task-orientation as well as freeing up meeting time for more productive use than report writing.</i></p>	<p>The Commission may wish to endorse this recommendation for immediate application.</p>
<p><b>Recommendation 22:</b> <i>In order to improve the performance and ensure greater consistency among Committee chairs, explicit criteria for selection of chairs should be drawn up and chairs should be approved by the Executive Board. More emphasis should be placed on training and assessment of chairs and the explicit role of the Codex Secretariat in supporting effective chair-personship should be fully recognised.</i></p>	<p>The Commission is invited to refer to paragraphs 126-128 of the Evaluation Report for further detail. The Commission may wish to request the proposed specialized ad hoc Task Force on Codex Procedures to consider this recommendation further in light of the practice under Rule IX of the Rules of Procedure and develop appropriate guidelines as appropriate.</p>
<p><b>Recommendation 23:</b> <i>The present 8 step procedure should be simplified to a 5 step procedure for all standards. At Step 5 the Commission should not amend the standard but be required to either:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Adopt the standard;</i></li> <li>• <i>Refer the standard back to the Committee to explore certain changes; or</i></li> <li>• <i>Cancel or suspend work on the standard.</i></li> </ul>	<p>The Codex Alimentarius Commission is invited to initiate the revision of the Procedures for the Elaboration of Codex Standards and Related Texts (see also Recommendation 18).</p> <p>This is not the same as saying that standards should be adopted at the current Step 5. Under this proposal a decision on whether a text was sufficiently complete to be presented to the Commission should be left to the responsible drafting Committee or Task Force. This could involve several iterative processes at Committee level. Endorsement of specific provisions by the horizontal committees should be the penultimate step of the process and need not be associated with a formal “Step 5”.</p>

<b>Report Recommendation</b>	<b>Possible Response of the Commission</b>
<p><b>Recommendation 24:</b> <i>Wherever possible decisions should be made by consensus. Codex should define consensus for decision-making purposes in Committees and the Commission. We propose ‘no formal objection by more than one member present at the meeting’; and:</i></p> <p><i>a) Committees should, as the norm, achieve consensus before passing on standards to the Commission for adoption;</i></p> <p><i>b) Facilitators working between meetings should help to reach consensus and should be systematically used to assist in overcoming deadlock at any stage of the standard setting process)</i></p> <p><i>c) In cases of ‘near-consensus’, proposed standards should be passed on by Committees to the Commission for consideration. A consultative postal-balloting system should be considered as a way of ensuring inclusiveness and legitimacy;</i></p> <p><i>d) If no better than ‘near-consensus’ could be reached in the Commission, voting should take place but should require at least a 2/3 majority for a standard to be adopted.</i></p>	<p>The Codex Alimentarius Commission is invited to consider recommendations 24 a), b), c) and d) separately. The Commission is invited in particular to consider the proposed definition of consensus and its possible implications for its work and in light of the intergovernmental nature of the Commission and its Committees as well as other pertinent considerations. Endorsed recommendations should be referred to the proposed specialized ad hoc Task Force on Codex Procedures of appropriate texts.</p>
<p><b>Recommendation 25:</b> <i>Developing countries should be encouraged to co-ordinate their positions and these should be presented as positions of the group at Committee meetings.</i></p>	<p>The Commission may wish to have the Secretariat include this in the Medium Term Plan as appropriate for consideration at the next regular session of the Commission (26<sup>th</sup> session) or the Commission may wish to ask the proposed specialized <i>ad hoc</i> Task Force on Codex Procedures to amend the appropriate guidelines for Codex committees to take this into account.</p>
<p><b>Recommendation 26:</b> <i>Committees should be encouraged to appoint co-chairs of equal status, one of which would be from a developing country. Host countries should also hold meetings in the co-chair’s country.</i></p>	<p>The Codex Alimentarius Commission may wish to have the Secretariat include this in the Medium Term Plan as appropriate for consideration at the next regular session of the Commission (26<sup>th</sup> session) and the Commission may wish to request the proposed specialized <i>ad hoc</i> Task Force on Codex Procedures to draft/rewrite rule IX of the Rules of Procedure, to take this into account.</p>



<b>Report Recommendation</b>	<b>Possible Response of the Commission</b>
<p><b>Recommendation 27:</b> <i>Codex should review its principles and procedures for Observer status as required by the Procedural Manual and:</i></p> <p><i>a) should consider applying stricter criteria to ensure that Observers are genuinely international.</i></p> <p><i>New rules should apply to existing Observers as well as future ‘applicants’ and the credentials of Codex observers should be approved individually by the Executive Board.</i></p> <p><i>b) observers should be represented on the Executive Board and the Standards Management Committee(if established).</i></p>	<p>The Commission may wish to consider these recommendations in light of all the nature of the Commission as a joint FAO/WHO organ as well as the relevant provisions of Rule VII of the Rules of Procedure. The Commission may wish to request the proposed specialized ad hoc Task Force on Codex Procedures to study this question and to propose appropriate arrangements for the Commission, as required.</p>
<p><b>Recommendation 28:</b> <i>Clear criteria to be met in becoming a host country should be developed, including the resource requirements. Host countries should be required to commit to the minimum level of support including that for:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>between session work;</i></li> <li>• <i>meetings being held in the co-chair’s country;</i></li> </ul> <p><i>Shared hosting of meetings should be explored by host countries as an option in meeting increased commitments.</i></p>	<p>The Codex Alimentarius Commission may wish to have the Secretariat include this in the Medium Term Plan as appropriate for consideration at the next regular session of the Commission (26<sup>th</sup> session). (see also Recommendation 26)</p>

## **B. Recommendations addressed to FAO and WHO**

With the exception of Recommendation 4 (Mandate) which has been dealt with above, the Commission may wish to express its views on these recommendations, taking into account the responses of the parent Organizations, and request the Secretariat to keep the Commission informed of developments.

**Recommendation 4:** *It is important that a comprehensive and clear mandate be developed for Codex and ratified by the FAO Conference and the World Health Assembly. The mandate should be quite simple, for example:*

- *The formulation and revision of international standards for food, in collaboration with other appropriate international organisations, with priority to standards for the protection of consumer health while taking into full account the needs of developing countries.*

**Recommendation 5:** *FAO and WHO define how formal recommendations of Codex for consideration by FAO and WHO Governing Bodies may be brought to their attention (for example in FAO through one of the Committees of the Council).*

**Recommendation 7:** *Codex should remain within FAO and WHO but should have more independence, authority and responsibility over priority setting and management of its work programme. FAO and WHO Governing Bodies should endorse the overall Codex programme of work and the budget on a biennial basis.*

**Recommendation 13:** *The Codex Secretariat should be able to carry out managerial, strategic and communication functions. To attract someone of the calibre needed to provide continuing executive leadership and support in Codex and manage and motivate the enhanced Secretariat, a senior person should be appointed as Executive Secretary. The overall seniority of the Secretariat staff should also be raised.*

**Recommendation 14:** *The Secretariat would better achieve the independent identity, high status and authority it needs by becoming a separate FAO unit rather than continue under the Nutrition Division . The Secretariat would continue to report to FAO and WHO but in line with plans to give Codex more independence, the appointment of the Secretary would be carried out in consultation with Codex.*

**Recommendation 15:** *As a matter of priority more human and financial resources must be put into the Codex Secretariat to enable it adequately to perform existing functions and meet expanding demands.*

**Recommendation 29:** *Resources should be put into upgrading the Codex web-site as a matter of urgency.*

**Recommendation 30:** *FAO and Codex Review the possibilities for establishment of a database of national standards of importance in trade, including their application and methods of analysis.*

**Recommendation 31:** *FAO and WHO should make a detailed calculation of the incremental cost increases for the Codex Secretariat of implementing the agreed recommendations and provide the necessary increased core funding.*

---

**RECOMMENDATIONS ADDRESSED TO FAO AND WHO ON RISK ASSESSMENT,  
EXPERT ADVICE AND CAPACITY BUILDING**

---

The Commission is invited to endorse the following recommendations addressed to FAO and WHO. The Commission may wish to request FAO, WHO and the Secretariat to keep it informed of developments.

**A. Risk Assessment and Expert Advice**

**Recommendation 32:** *In light of the growing importance of microbiological hazards, JEMRA, should be ratified as a permanent committee and resources allocated to increase its output.*

**Recommendation 33:** *There should be a clear budget and human resource allocation for scientific advice and risk assessment. The major part of this allocation should be available for prioritisation by Codex. A small proportion of the budget should be retained for use by FAO and WHO to meet their own needs, particularly in relation to emerging issues. FAO and WHO should make proposals for discussion at the July 2003 session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission on how this may be achieved.*

**Recommendation 34:** *The increased funding of risk assessment is a top priority.*

**Recommendation 35:** *A high priority for WHO and FAO is to support the collection of data covering a much wider range of diets and production processes. Furthermore, FAO and WHO should increase their role in defining data requirements for risk assessment and guaranteeing good quality data. Adequate resources should be devoted to these activities.*

**Recommendation 36:** *Budgetary provision should be made to pay experts undertaking risk assessments, at the same time strict deadlines and quality requirements should be put in place.*

**Recommendation 37:** *Building on the findings of this evaluation, a consultancy study should be immediately undertaken of expert advice and risk assessment and this should be followed by an expert consultation and discussion in Codex<sup>3</sup>.*

**Recommendation 38:** *A Scientific Committee should be established by FAO/WHO.*

**Recommendation 39:** *We recommend that a post of Joint Coordinator be established and located in WHO. The Joint Secretaries of existing scientific committees would continue to be under the current units of their organizations.*

**Recommendation 40:** *FAO and, in particular WHO are recommended to markedly increase their contribution to health risk assessment and expert advice to feed into Codex. In addition to the immediate direct resource requirements referred to above:*

- *WHO should develop data on health risks from food around the world to better determine priorities;*
- *FAO should develop work on good handling and manufacturing practices for additives ,packaging, processing agents, etc.; and*
- *Both organizations should develop dietary data for the developing regions.*

---

<sup>3</sup> The Commission is invited to note the 24th CAC report, paragraph 196, concerning the Terms of Reference of the study and therefore may wish to endorse this recommendation in particular. In view of Recommendation 1, the Commission may wish to recommend that the study cover nutrition in addition to risk assessment.

**B. Capacity Building**

**Recommendation 41:** *It is recommended that the two Organizations agree on principles for coordination and delineation of responsibilities and ensure that these principles are communicated to regional and national offices. Such an agreement should be reported to the Codex Alimentarius Commission at its July 2003 session.*

**Recommendation 42:** *With a view to mobilising funds for capacity-building, it is recommended to further expand the existing FAO/WHO Codex trust fund in line with its wider objectives into a major multi-donor trust fund for capacity-building of national systems, with flexible arrangement to allow donors who wish to do so to earmark funds for a particular purpose. This will have to be done against clear delineation of capacity-building responsibilities between the two organizations.*

---

**PROPOSED DRAFT AMENDMENTS TO THE STATUTES OF THE CODEX  
ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION**

---

Replace Article 1 with the following:

**ARTICLE 1**

- a. With a view to a world afforded the highest attainable levels of consumer protection through sound regulatory frameworks for food safety and quality the FAO/WHO Codex Alimentarius Commission shall develop internationally agreed standards and related texts for use in domestic regulation and international trade in food that are based on scientific principles and fulfill the objectives of consumer health protection and fair practices in food trade.
- b. In pursuit of this mandate the Codex Alimentarius Commission shall give first consideration to the protection of consumers' health, due consideration to the special needs and situation of developing countries, and shall collaborate with other relevant international standard-setting and regulatory bodies.

Amend Article 6 as follows:

**ARTICLE 6**

The Commission shall establish an Executive ~~Committee~~ Board whose composition should ensure an adequate representation of the various geographical areas of the world to which the Members of the Commission belong. Between sessions, the Executive ~~Committee~~ Board shall act as the Executive organ of the Commission.

---

**PROPOSED DRAFT TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE  
AD HOC CODEX INTERGOVERNMENTAL TASK FORCE ON PROCEDURES**

---

***Objectives***

To assist the Codex Alimentarius Commission, in response to the Joint FAO/WHO Evaluation of the Codex Alimentarius and Other FAO and WHO Work on Food Standards (2002), in revising the procedural framework of the Commission..

***Time frame***

The Task Force shall complete its work by the commencement of the third Regular Session of the Commission following the 25<sup>th</sup> (Extraordinary) Session, or four years thereafter, whichever is the shorter period. It shall submit draft amendments to the Rules of Procedure mentioned under a), b) and c) below to the 27<sup>th</sup> Session of the Commission and report on such issues that were referred to it for further consideration and study.

***Terms of Reference***

To draft or revise, as appropriate, sections of the Procedural Manual of the Codex Alimentarius Commission, based upon the recommendations of the Joint FAO/WHO Evaluation of the Codex Alimentarius and Other FAO and WHO Work on Food Standards (2002), as endorsed by the Commission, or to such related issues as may have been referred to it by the Commission. In particular, the Task Force shall prepare:

- a) Revised Rules of Procedure of the Commission;
- b) New Rules of Procedure for the Executive Board;
- c) New Rules of Procedure for the Standards Management Committee;
- d) Revised Procedures for the Elaboration of Codex Standards and Related Texts;
- e) New texts (Statutes, Rules, and Principles) concerning Observer Organizations;
- f) Revised General Principles of the Codex Alimentarius
- g) Revised Guidelines for Codex Committees;
- h) Revised Establishment of Work Priorities;
- i) Revised Criteria for Establishment of Subsidiary Bodies; and
- j) Report to the Commission on such matters as were entrusted to it for further study.