



Agenda Item 12

CX/CAC 10/33/12

JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME

CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION

33rd Session

Geneva, Switzerland, 5-9 July 2010

RELATIONS BETWEEN THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

BACKGROUND

1. In accordance with Rule IX.4 of the Rules of Procedure, the Directors-General of FAO or WHO may invite intergovernmental and international non-governmental organizations to attend as observers sessions of the Commission and of its subsidiary bodies. Participation of international organizations in the work of the Commission, and the relations between the Commission and such organizations are governed by the relevant provisions of the Rules of Procedure of the Commission and of the Constitutions of FAO or WHO, as well as by the applicable regulations of FAO or WHO on relations with international organizations; such relations are handled by the Director-General of FAO or of WHO as appropriate.
2. The present document describes the relations with intergovernmental organisations (Part A) and nongovernmental organisations (Part B)
3. Following the request of the 63rd Session of the Executive Committee, the information is presented according to Activities 4.1 to 4.3 where applicable in the case of standard-setting organisations, taking into account available information, and with an analysis of how Codex works with IGOs. As regards NGOs, the only relevant organisation is ISO.

A. RELATIONS BETWEEN THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

World Trade Organization (WTO)

4. The Codex Secretariat regularly participated in the sessions of the SPS and TBT Committees of the WTO and informed the Committees, orally and in writing, of the work of the Codex Alimentarius Commission relevant to the WTO. The Codex Secretariat also participated in, and provided support to selected regional or sub-regional workshops on the SPS or TBT Agreements organised by WTO. The Codex Secretariat provided inputs to the meetings of the Standards and Trade Development Facility (STDF), as required. Representatives of WTO, in return, participated in selected meetings of the Codex Alimentarius Commission and its subsidiary bodies, in general the Commission and the Committee on General Principles.

5. The information provided by the WTO Secretariat on activities relevant to Codex work is contained in document CAC/33 INF/3 and an update on STDF is presented in CAC/33 INF/4.

International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)

6. Representatives of FAO/IAEA regularly participate in relevant Codex Committees, especially the Committee on Contaminants in Foods and the Committee on Pesticide Residues, in which IAEA provides important technical input on the work of the Committee on methods of analysis and sampling..

7. Information provided by the IAEA Secretariat on activities relevant to Codex work is contained in document CAC/33 INF/7.

8. The information for the standard setting organisations presented below, OIE, OECD, UNECE is presented in more detail according to the activities 4.1 to 4.3

World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE)

4.1 Track the activities of other international standard-setting bodies

9. The Codex Secretariat regularly invites OIE to provide information on relevant activities to the sessions of the Codex Alimentarius Commission and relevant Codex Committees and Task Force.

10. Information provided by the OIE Secretariat on activities relevant to Codex work to the 33rd Session of the Commission will be presented in document CAC/33 INF/2.

11. Since July 2009, OIE has presented information papers to the following sessions of Codex subsidiary bodies:

- Update on OIE standard-setting activities relevant to aquatic animal issues (Ref. CX/FFP 09/30/2, part 4 Matters arising from other organizations), prepared for the 30th Session of the Codex Committee on Fish and Fish products (Agadir, Morocco, 28 September – 2 October 2009);
- Information on the work by FAO, WHO and OIE on Antimicrobial Resistance, prepared by FAO, WHO and OIE (Ref. CX/AMR 09/3/3), prepared for the 3rd Session of the Codex Task Force on Antimicrobial Resistance (Jeju, Republic of Korea, 12-16 October 2009);
- Information from the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) (Ref. CX/FH 09/41/3 Add.1), prepared for the 41st Session of the Codex Committee on Food Hygiene (Coronado, United States of America, 16-20 November 2009);
- OIE Contribution to the 9th Session of the Codex Committee on Milk and Milk Products (Ref. MMP/9 INF/1), prepared for the 9th Session of the Codex Committee on Milk and Milk Products (Auckland, New Zealand, 1-5 February 2010);
- OIE Contribution to the 18th Session of the Codex Committee on Food Import and Export Inspection and Certification Systems (Ref. FICS/18 INF/2), prepared for the 18th Session of the Codex Committee on Food Import and Export Inspection and Certification Systems (Surfers Paradise, Australia, 1-5 March 2010).

4.2 Encourage Codex contributions to the work of other international bodies

OIE Working Group on Animal Production Food Safety

12. The OIE Working Group on Animal Production Food Safety (APFSWG) was established in May 2002 to coordinate animal production food safety activities of the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) and advise on technical matters the Director-General of the OIE and the Terrestrial Code Commission. The APFSWG has also a mandate to: consider all foodborne hazards arising from animal before slaughter; identify gaps and duplication in the OIE and Codex texts and to ensure their harmonisation; and to strengthen the collaboration between the OIE and Codex.

13. Since its establishment the Working Group has met eight times. The Chairperson and the Secretary of the Codex Alimentarius Commission have participated in the previous meetings of the Working Group. Since 2004 until now, Mr Stuart Slorach, former Chairperson of the Codex Alimentarius Commission, has been serving as the Chairperson the APFSWG.

14. The terms of reference and *modus operandi* of the APFSWG's are submitted to the annual General Session of the OIE; that the OIE Director-General is deciding on the composition of the working group.

15. At its last meeting (November 2009) the APFSWG decided that its terms of reference did not require significant changes. The text was amended to allow the APFSWG to advise the OIE Director General on all issues related to animal production food safety.

16. Participation of the Codex Secretariat in the APFSWG contributes to the coordination os work between the OIE and Codex and to the exchange of information of common interest.

OIE ad hoc Groups

17. In order to provide inputs in OIE texts, the Director General of OIE invites the Codex Secretariat to contribute to the work of *ad hoc* groups, responsible for the drafting and /or revision of chapters of the OIE Health Code (for Terrestrial Animal and for Aquatic Animal). In the recent year, the Codex Secretariat has been invited to participate in the work of the OIE *ad hoc* groups on: animal identification and traceability of live animals (June 2005, February and July 2006, January 2007 and January 2008); animal feed (October 2006), revision of the OIE Model Certificates (January 2007); and Salmonella in poultry (August 2009 and May 2010).

18. Participation of the Codex Secretariat in the OIE ad hoc Groups contributes to ensure coherence and complementarities between Codex and OIE texts and to limit duplication of work while ensuring coverage of the whole food chain.

4.3 Encourage contributions from other international bodies in Codex work

19. The 28th Session of the Commission endorsed the four recommendations of the 55th Session of the Executive Committee related to the collaboration between Codex and OIE:

- OIE be encouraged to continue to participate actively in the standard-setting work of the Commission, namely through the work of relevant subsidiary bodies of the Commission;
- OIE be invited to regularly submit, to relevant Codex subsidiary bodies, reports on its activities relevant to the work of these subsidiary bodies, while these subsidiary bodies continue to seek ways to improve cooperation with OIE in their respective area of work and inform the Executive Committee of their decisions/recommendations accordingly; and
- OIE be invited to submit a summary report to the regular sessions of the Commission on its activities of relevance to the work of the Commission, including the outcome of the OIE Working Group on Animal Production Food Safety.

20. The Commission also noted the recommendation of the Executive Committee that the effectiveness of cooperative arrangements being made between Codex and OIE in accordance with the four recommendations should be reviewed by the 30th Session of the Commission (2007) with a view to considering if further arrangements would be necessary or desirable, including those provisions mentioned in Paragraph 13 of the *Guidelines on Cooperation between the Codex Alimentarius Commission and International Intergovernmental Organizations in the Elaboration on Standards and Related Texts*.¹

21. Subsequently, the 30th Session of the Commission recommended that FAO and WHO study the possibility of reviewing or updating FAO and WHO Agreements with OIE, as might be required. It also requested the Codex Secretariat to identify, in cooperation with the Legal Offices of FAO and WHO, any practical problems affecting the cooperation between Codex and OIE that might need to be addressed in a pragmatic manner, and taking into account all relevant circumstances.²

22. In April 2008, OIE and WHO agreed to a modification to the text of the current OIE/WHO Agreement. This proposal would specifically include the insertion of a specific reference to the Codex Alimentarius Commission in this agreement; such reference being absent in previous versions of the agreement.

23. At the 32nd Session of the Commission, the Director General of OIE presented a comprehensive and informative report on the OIE activities relevant to Codex (ref. CAC/32 INF/4) with particular reference to the mutual interest and ongoing collaboration of OIE and Codex.

24. As an Observer organization to Codex, OIE contributes to the work of Codex providing comments and participating in the sessions of the Commission and of its Codex subsidiary bodies and in the work of electronic and physical working groups. The OIE is also invited to prepare information papers on relevant activities at the Codex Alimentarius Commission and at a number of Committees and Task Force, including the Codex Committees on Residues of Veterinary Drugs in Foods, on Food Hygiene, Food Import and Export Inspection and Certification Systems, Fish and Fish Products, Milk and Milk Products and the Task Force on Antimicrobial Resistance.

¹ ALINORM 05/28/41 paras 201-203

² ALINORM 07/30/REP paras 210-220

25. Since the 32nd Session of the Commission, OIE has attended and /or provided inputs to a number of Codex Committees and Task Force as outlined below:

26. Since July 2009, representatives of the OIE participated in:

- 4th Session of the Codex Task Force on Antimicrobial Resistance (October 2010);
- 41st Session of the Codex Committee on Food Hygiene (November 2009);
- 11th Session of the Codex Committee on Milk and Milk Products (February 2010);
- 17th Session of the Codex Committee on Food Import and Export Inspection and Certification Systems (March 2010); and
- 25th Session of the Codex Committee on General Principles (April 2010).

27. In addition OIE is contributing to the work of selected physical and electronic working groups, including the CCFH physical working group on *Campylobacter* and *Salmonella* spp. in chicken meat (September 2009); the CCFICS physical working groups on Principles and guidelines for the conduct of on-site audits and inspection and on Principles and guidelines for national food control systems (July 2009); the TFAMR electronic working group on the Guidelines for risk analysis of foodborne antimicrobial resistance.

28. Continued collaboration between Codex and OIE has resulted in a number of Codex and OIE texts which have been developed with inputs of the two organizations and which include cross reference to relevant texts of the two organizations.

29. The Table below lists Codex and OIE texts, which include cross-references to reference to the work of OIE and Codex.

Codex standards		
Reference	Title	Notes
CAC/GL 60-2006	<i>Principles for Traceability / Product Tracing as a Tool Within a Food Inspection and Certification System</i>	
(CAC/RCP 58-2005)	<i>Code of Hygienic Practice for Meat</i>	
CAC/RCP 61-2005	<i>Code of Practice to Minimize and Contain Antimicrobial Resistance</i>	
CAC/RCP 57-2004	<i>Code of Hygienic Practice for Milk and Milk Products</i>	
CAC/GL 62-2007	<i>Working Principles for Risk Analysis for Food Safety for Application by Governments</i>	
CAC/GL 67-2008	<i>Model Export Certificate for Milk and Milk Products</i>	
CAC/RCP 54-2004	<i>Code of Practice on Good Animal Feeding</i>	
CAC/GL 38-2001	<i>Guidelines for design, production, issuance and use of generic model official certificates</i>	
	Proposed Draft Guidelines for the Control of <i>Campylobacter</i> and <i>Salmonella</i> spp. in Chicken Meat	Under development (Codex Committee on Food Hygiene)
N01-2008, N02-2008, N03-2008	Draft Guidelines for risk analysis of foodborne antimicrobial resistance	Under development (Task Force on Antimicrobial Resistance)

OIE standards		
<i>OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Code:</i>		
Chapter	Title	Notes
Chapter 4.1.	General principles on identification and traceability of live animals	
Chapter 4.2.	Design and implementation of identification systems to achieve animal traceability	
Chapter 6.1.	The role of the Veterinary Services in food safety	
Chapter 6.2.	Control of biological hazards of animal health and public health importance through ante- and post-mortem meat inspection	
Chapter 6.3.	Control of hazards of animal health and public health importance in animal feed	
Chapter 6.4.	Hygiene and disease security procedures in poultry breeding flocks and hatcheries	
Chapter 6.5.	Prevention, detection and control of <i>Salmonella</i> in poultry	Under revision
Chapter 6.6.	<i>Salmonella enteritidis</i> and <i>Salmonella typhimurium</i> in poultry	Under revision
Chapter 6.7.	Introduction to the recommendations for controlling antimicrobial resistance	
Chapter 6.8.	Harmonisation of national antimicrobial resistance surveillance and monitoring programmes	
Chapter 6.9.	Monitoring of the quantities of antimicrobials used in animal husbandry	
Chapter 6.10.	Responsible and prudent use of antimicrobial agents in veterinary medicine	
Chapter 6.11.	Risk assessment for antimicrobial resistance arising from the use of antimicrobials in animals.	
<i>OIE Aquatic Animal Health Code:</i>		
Chapter	Title	Notes
Chapter 4.5.	Control of aquatic animal health hazards in aquatic animal feed.	
Chapter 6.1.	Introduction to the recommendations for controlling antimicrobial resistance	Under development
Chapter 6.2.	Responsible and prudent use of antimicrobial agents in veterinary medicine.	Under development

Quality standards and related texts for fruits and vegetables

United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE)

4.1 Track the activities of other international standard-setting bodies

30. The *UNECE Working Party on Agricultural Quality Standards* develops agricultural marketing standards to facilitate trade with and within the ECE Region covering a wide spectrum of agricultural products. This work is carried out through a number of Specialized Sections such as the *Specialized Section on Standardization of Fresh Fruits and Vegetables*. UNECE standards are used internationally by governments, producers, traders, importers, exporters and international organizations. Membership to the Working Party and its Specialized Sections are open to all members of the United Nations.

31. The Codex Committee on Fresh Fruits and Vegetables is entrusted to elaborate worldwide standards and related texts as may be appropriate for fresh fruits and vegetables. As established in its Terms of Reference, this task is performed in consultation with the *UNECE Working Party on Agricultural Quality Standards* and its *Specialized Section on Standardization of Fresh Fruits and Vegetables* to ensure harmonization of texts and that they follow the same broad format and to avoid duplication of work.

32. The following meetings were attended by both Secretariats as part of their collaborative work:

- 15th Session of the Codex Committee on Fresh Fruits and Vegetables (Mexico City, Mexico, 19-23 October 2009);
- 56th Session of the UNECE Specialized Section on Standardization of Fresh Fruits and Vegetables (Geneva, Switzerland, 2-4 November 2009);
- 65th Session of the UNECE Working Party on Agricultural Quality Standards (Geneva, Switzerland, 5-6 November 2009);
- 57th Session of the UNECE Specialized Section on Standardization of Fresh Fruits and Vegetables (Geneva, Switzerland, 25-28 May 2010).

4.2 Encourage Codex contributions to the work of other international bodies

33. The Codex Secretariat regularly attends meetings of the UNECE Working Party and its Specialized Section on Standardization of Fresh Fruits and Vegetables as Observer to exchange information on standardization work being performed by the two parties and to provide inputs on matters of common interest that are being discussed both in the Specialized Section and the Codex Committee on Fresh Fruits and Vegetables.

4.3 Encourage contributions from other international bodies in Codex work

34. The UNECE Secretariat regularly attends meetings of the Codex Committee on Fresh Fruits and Vegetables as Observer to exchange information on standardization work being performed by the two parties and to provide inputs on matters of common interest that are being discussed both in the Specialized Section and the Codex Committee on Fresh Fruits and Vegetables.

35. In addition, the Codex Committee on Fresh Fruits and Vegetables takes UNECE standards as a starting point for the development of corresponding Codex standards and, in order to facilitate this process, relevant UNECE standards are distributed as working documents for the Committee when like products were being considered as recommended by the Codex Alimentarius Commission. Also, information on matters arising from other international organizations on the standardization of fresh fruits and vegetables, i.e. UNECE and OECD, constitutes a standing item on the agenda of the Committee.

36. Furthermore, the Terms of Reference of the Committee allows the Working Party: to recommend that a worldwide Codex standard for fresh fruits and vegetables be elaborated and submit its recommendation to the Committee for consideration or to the Commission for approval; may also prepare “proposed draft standards” for fresh fruits or vegetables at the request of the Committee or of the Commission for distribution by the Codex Secretariat at Step 3 of the Codex Procedure or for further action by the Committee; may consider “proposed draft standards” and “draft standards” for fresh fruits and vegetables and transmit comments on them to the Committee at Steps 3 and 6 of the Codex Procedures; and may perform specific tasks in relation to the elaboration of standards for fresh fruits and vegetables at the request

of the Committee. Moreover, Codex “proposed draft standards” and “draft standards” for fresh fruits and vegetables at Steps 3 and 6 of the Codex Procedures should be submitted to the UNECE Secretariat for obtaining comments.

37. The draft Codex Standard for Apples that is now for final adoption by the 33rd Session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission is a text representing the harmonization to the extend possible of provisions that take into consideration the needs of both UNECE and Codex broader membership.

Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)

4.1 Track the activities of other international standard-setting bodies

38. The *OECD Scheme for the Application of International Standards for Fruits and Vegetables* aims at facilitating the mutual recognition of the export quality inspection regimes by participating countries of the Scheme through the harmonization of implementation and interpretation of internationally recognized marketing standards which includes the development of explanatory brochures, guidelines on sampling plans and testing methods for conformity checks, inspections and certification procedures, etc. Membership to the Scheme is open to any OECD or non-OECD country that is a member of the United Nations or of the World Trade Organization.

39. The Codex Committee on Fresh Fruits and Vegetables cooperates on a regular basis with the OECD Scheme on various standardization-related activities concerning fresh fruits and vegetables aimed at facilitating the implementation of international agricultural grade standards.

40. The Codex Secretariat attended the 68th Plenary Meeting of the OECD Scheme for the Application of International Standards for Fruits and Vegetables (Paris, France, 8-12 December 2009) which was the first meeting of the Scheme following the last Session of the CCFFV in October 2009.

4.2 Encourage Codex contributions to the work of other international bodies

41. The Codex Secretariat regularly attends Plenary Meetings of the OECD Scheme as Observer to exchange information on standardization-related work being performed by the two parties and to provide inputs on matters of common interest that are being discussed both in the OECD Scheme and the Codex Committee on Fresh Fruits and Vegetables.

42. In addition, the OECD Council Decision C(2006)95 revising the OECD Scheme includes a reference to the Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme so that also the relevant standards adopted by the Codex Alimentarius Commission, once approved by the Plenary Meeting of the OECD Scheme, shall be applied under the “Scheme” to the products specified in this Decision, at the export stage, when they enter into international trade between countries participating in the “Scheme”. The standards approved by the Plenary Meeting could be also used in the elaboration of explanatory brochures to facilitate inspection and other procedures for conformity to quality standards. In this regard, the 68th Plenary Meeting considered the possibility of developing OECD brochures for selected fresh fruits and vegetables for which Codex but not UNECE standards are available.

4.3 Encourage contributions from other international bodies in Codex work

43. The OECD Secretariat regularly attends meetings of the Codex Committee on Fresh Fruits and Vegetables as Observer to exchange information on standardization-related work being performed by the two parties and to provide inputs on matters of common interest that are being discussed both in the OECD Scheme and the Codex Committee on Fresh Fruits and Vegetables.

International Olive Council (IOC)

4.1 Track the activities of other international standard-setting bodies

44. The International Olive Council is an intergovernmental organization that brings together olive oil and table olive producing and consuming stakeholders. The Codex Committee on Processed Fruits and Vegetables is entrusted with the elaboration of worldwide standards for all types of processed fruits and vegetables including canned, dried and quick frozen fruits and vegetables.

45. The Committee usually takes into account the work done or being done by other international organizations active in the area of standardization of processed fruits and vegetables such as the IOC for the revision of the Codex Standard for Table Olives. In this regard, the past two IOC Expert Meetings on Table Olives held in Madrid, Spain on 10 December 2009 and 15 February 2010 were devoted to the

harmonization of the IOC Standard for Table Olives in view of the revision of the Codex Standard for Table Olives.

46. As regards the IOC work on olive oils, the Codex Committee on Fats and Oils took into account the work of the IOC on the standard for olive oils and olive pomace oils, with the result that the IOC and Codex Standards for Olive Oils and Olive Pomace Oils are mostly harmonised, with the exception of a few parameters.

47. The Codex Secretariat receives the documents for the meetings on olive oil chemistry organised by the IOC, and participated twice in these meetings, and provided an update on the ongoing work of the Committee on Fats and Oils on olive oil. As the methods are under regular revision and new methods are developed for various parameters, it is expected that when new methods are developed they would be later presented for consideration in the Committee on Fats and Oils.

4.2 Encourage Codex contributions to the work of other international bodies

48. The Codex Secretariat has actively been exchanging information with and providing inputs to the IOC Secretariat on the harmonization and revision of the IOC Standard for Table Olives in light of the revision of the Codex Standard for Table Olives that is for consideration by the next session of the Codex Committee on Processed Fruits and Vegetables in October 2010.

4.3 Encourage contributions from other international bodies in Codex work

49. The IOC has a long-standing cooperation with Codex in the development and revision of Codex texts concerning olive-related products. The IOC participates as an Observer in meetings of the Codex Committee on Processed Fruits and Vegetables when relevant commodities are discussed i.e. table olives. In this regard, the IOC has adopted a revised IOC Standard for Table Olives which has served as a basis for the revision of the Standard for Table Olives. In addition, the IOC has actively participated in the further revision of the Codex Standard for Table Olives as member of the CCPFV Working Group on Table Olives. The revised text produced by the Working Group is now for comments at Step 3 and consideration by the 25th Session of the Codex Committee on Processed Fruits and Vegetables (Bali, Indonesia, 25-29 October 2010).

50. The IOC participates regularly in the meetings of the Committee on Fats and Oils, and the Committee took into account the survey carried out by IOC when discussing the level of linolenic acid, the only parameter that is still under discussion in the Standard for Olive Oil and Olive Pomace Oils.

International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC)

4.4 Consider cooperation with other relevant international intergovernmental organizations

51. The Codex Secretariat regularly attends sessions of the Commission on Phytosanitary Measures of the International Plant Protection Convention and cooperates with the IPPC Secretariat on matters of common interest to both parties such as work on electronic certification. At the 5th Session of the CPM (March 2010), the Codex Secretariat presented a paper on the activities of the Codex Alimentarius Commission that may be of mutual interest to both parties, e.g. work on biotechnology, inspection/certification procedures, contaminants (mycotoxins), pesticides, etc., so that synergies can be sought in relevant areas where collaborative work can be developed. In addition, informal liaison between Codex and IPPC Secretariats continues on matters related to Codex work aimed at facilitating effective participation of Members in the work of the Commission and its subsidiary bodies e.g. working/communication strategies to develop international standards such as work in the intersession (i.e. work electronically/remotely).

OIML International Organization of Legal Metrology (OIML)

52. The OIML, the International Organization of Legal Metrology participates in the Codex Committees on Food Labelling (CCFL) and on Food Import and Export Inspection and Certification Systems (CCFICS). The organization presented a discussion paper to the CCFL on the need to align the General Standard for the Labelling of Prepackaged Foods (Codex Stan 1-1985) in line with OIML recommendations regarding the declaration of the quantity of product in prepackages. The discussion on this topic will continue at the next session of the CCFL.

B. RELATIONS BETWEEN THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION AND INTERNATIONAL NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

Procedure for Observer Status

53. 19. In accordance with Article 6 of the *Principles Concerning the Participation of International Non-Governmental Organizations in the Work of the Codex Alimentarius Commission*, a report is made to the Commission on the relations between the Codex Alimentarius Commission and international non-governmental organizations established in accordance with the present procedures and provides a list of organizations granted Observer Status, with an indication of the membership that they represent.

54. 20. The review of the organisations which have applied for observer status and were considered by the 63rd and 64th Sessions of the Executive Committee in the light of the criteria set out in the *Principles* will be presented to the Commission in the reports of these sessions.

International Organization for Standardization (ISO)

4.1 Track the activities of other international standard-setting bodies

55. Codex has liaison status with ISO TC 34 on food products and more recently was granted liaison status with ISO Policy Committee on Conformity Assessment (ISO/CASCO) (2008). The Secretariat therefore receives all the documents for the relevant sub-committees of TC 34, and participates in some meetings when the subject is of direct relevance and according to practical possibilities. The Codex Secretariat participated in the plenary meeting of TC 34 in 2008, in subcommittee TC 34/SC 4 on cereals and pulses in 2008 and 2010, in ISO/CASCO plenary sessions and CASCO STAR in 2008 and 2009.

4.2 Encourage Codex contributions to the work of other international bodies

56. As regards methods of analysis, in view of the nature of Codex work and the fact that Codex Committees generally do not develop methods but use existing methods, Codex committees cannot contribute directly to ISO work.

57. As indicated above, the Secretariat participated in ISO CASCO plenary meeting and workshop on "The role of international standards traceability in the supply chain" in November 2009, and in CASCO STAR (Strategic Alliance and Regulatory Group) provided an update of Codex work related to conformity assessment, mainly the Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling and the Committee on Food Import and Export Inspection and Certification Systems. An update of the general issues under discussion in the Commission was also provided, especially issues related to participation of developing countries and private standards.

4.3 Encourage contributions from other international bodies in Codex work

58. ISO participates regularly in the Codex Alimentarius Commission and in the Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling, where its technical contribution is very substantial

59. The contribution of ISO in the area of methods of analysis and sampling is very substantial, as indicated in the document provided by ISO CAC/33 INF/6, approximately 310 methods of analysis refer to ISO methods especially ISO/TC 34 (food products) or water quality methods. As regards milk and milk products, reference is made in Codex standards to a large number of joint ISO and IDF methods for these products, developed by ISO/TC 43/SC 5 Milk and Milk Products. Reference is made in several general Codex texts to ISO/IEC17025 for testing and calibration laboratories. ISO sampling plans are also referred to in the Codex General Guidelines on Sampling.