

# codex alimentarius commission



FOOD AND AGRICULTURE  
ORGANIZATION  
OF THE UNITED NATIONS

WORLD  
HEALTH  
ORGANIZATION



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## JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME

### SUMMARY REPORT OF A WORKING GROUP OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION

*WHO Headquarters, Geneva, 5-6 February 2001*

#### INTRODUCTION

1. At the invitation of the Chairperson of the Codex Alimentarius Commission, the Working Group established by the Forty-seventh Session of the Executive Committee to consider the development of the draft Medium-Term Plan 2003-2007 met at WHO Headquarters, Geneva, 5-6 February 2001. The participants to the meeting are listed in Annex I to this report.

2. The meeting discussed the following matters:

- Development of the Chairperson's Action Plan; and
- Finalization of the draft Strategic Framework and Medium-Term Plan 2003-2007.

#### DEVELOPMENT OF THE CHAIRPERSON'S ACTION PLAN

3. The Chairperson provided a draft of his Action Plan. The Action Plan was aimed at the following desired results:

- improved efficiency and speed of the Codex process and consensus building
- further strengthened scientific support and science-based decision-making
- increased participation of developing countries, supported by FAO/WHO managed trust fund
- greater transparency and participation of non-governmental organizations
- increased support from WHO and FAO.

4. On the first of these points, the Working Group recommended that the Chairperson take into account the current deliberations within the Committee on General Principles concerning the Executive Committee and related matters. In particular, concern was expressed that the creation of a General Committee comprising the Chairpersons of Codex Committees and Task Forces would be unbalanced regionally. It was suggested that if

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the current informal meetings of Chairpersons were to be given a formal status, then the mandate of the Chairpersons should be limited to facilitating the progress of work within Codex Committees and not to take decisions currently reserved to the Commission or the Executive Committee. The Working Group was generally supportive of the other elements of the draft Action Plan and made several suggestions to the Chairperson for amendments.

5. The Chairperson's Action Plan will be transmitted to Member governments as ALINORM 01/6-Add.1 in March 2001.

### **DRAFT STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK AND DRAFT MEDIUM-TERM PLAN 2003-2007**

6. The Working Group reviewed the Secretariat's proposals for the Draft Strategic Framework and the Draft Medium-Term Plan 2003-2007 and made several changes and additions. The documents have been distributed to Member governments as ALINORM 01/6.

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## **ANNEX 1: PARTICIPANTS**

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**Chairperson:** Thomas J. Billy (USA)

**Vice-Chairpersons:** David Nhari (Zimbabwe)  
Gonzalo Ríos (Chile)  
Stuart Slorach (Sweden)

**Secretariat:** Alan Randell (Secretary)

**FAO:** Maria de Lourdes Costarrica Gonzalez  
(Food Quality and Standards Service)

**WHO:** Jørgen Schlundt  
Yasuyuki Sahara (Food Safety Programme)