

codex alimentarius commission



FOOD AND AGRICULTURE
ORGANIZATION
OF THE UNITED NATIONS

WORLD
HEALTH
ORGANIZATION



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CL 2005/30-CAC

TO: Codex Contact Points
Interested International Organizations

FROM: Secretary,
Codex Alimentarius Commission, Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme
Viale delle Terme di Caracalla, 00100 Rome, Italy

SUBJECT: Further Study of Certain Recommendations Contained in the Consultants' Report on
the Review of the Codex Committee Structure and Mandates of Codex Committees
and Task Forces

DEADLINE: 1 December 2005

COMMENTS: **To:** Secretary
Codex Alimentarius Commission
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BACKGROUND

1. As the follow up to a recommendation of the Joint FAO/WHO Evaluation of the Codex Alimentarius Commission and Other FAO and WHO Work on Food Standards conducted in 2002, a review of the Codex Committee Structure and Mandates of Codex Committees and Task Forces had been undertaken by a team of consultants.¹

2. The consultants' final report, containing 20 recommendations, had been sent as a Circular Letter² (CL) to all members and observers for comment. The 56th Session of the Executive Committee reviewed the recommendations in the consultants' report in light of the comments received from members and observers in reply to the CL.

¹ ALINORM 03/25/3, para. 108 - 110

² CL 2005/12-CAC

3 The Commission, at its 28th Session, taking into consideration the recommendations of the Executive Committee³, endorsed ten of the recommendations as submitted or in a modified form, did not endorse four of the recommendations, and took no action on two of the recommendations.

4. The Commission also agreed that the following recommendations required further study:⁴

[4] Whenever possible, committees should be given enabling terms of reference only. They should be reactivated as necessary to undertake defined tasks and adjourned *sine die* once the task is completed.

[6] The relevance of the work of other international standard setting bodies should be determined, and a clear statement of demarcation lines made clear to all participants.

[11] All commodity committees and task forces should be given simple terms of reference which should be revised for a limited period only, to assign specific tasks to the committees.

[18] The Commission should consider carefully whether nutrition should play a role in Codex, and if so, what that role should be.

5. The Commission agreed that the role of Codex in nutrition should be considered in light of the role Codex could play in the implementation of WHO's Global Strategy on Diet, Physical Activity and Health.

6. The Commission also agreed that a Circular Letter be sent to Members and Observers to solicit comments on Recommendations 4, 6, and 11, particularly in the context of possible re-organization of Codex commodity work, including combining committees and adjusting the frequency/interval of meetings, while further analyzing the workload of commodity committees as well as the relationship between vertical committees and horizontal committees. The Commission agreed to consider this issue in light of comments received.

7. Governments and interested international organizations in observer status with Codex wishing to submit comments on the above matter should do so in writing, preferably by e-mail, to the Secretary, Codex Alimentarius Commission, by 1 December 2005. The Secretariat reminds Members and Observers that the Consultants' Final Report (CL 2005/12-CAC) will be made available to those in need upon request.

³ ALINORM 05/28/3A, para. 50-67

⁴ The number attached to each recommendation refer to those in Section 13 of the Consultants' Final Report (CL-2005/12-CAC)