



**JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME
FAO/WHO COORDINATING COMMITTEE FOR NORTH AMERICA
AND THE SOUTH WEST PACIFIC**

Eleventh session

Nuku'alofa, Tonga, 28 September - 1 October 2010

**COMMENTS ON STRATEGIC APPROACHES TO BE FOLLOWED FOR THE FUTURE WORK
OF THE CODEX TRUST FUND (CTF)**

(replies to CL 2010/41-NASWP of the United States of America)

Question 1: Should there be a shift in emphasis from Objective 1 to Objectives 2 and 3?

- *Members are asked to clarify their expectations and advise on where the emphasis should be placed for their region. Should the amount of support apportioned to each objective be equal? What eligibility criteria should be used to give support to Codex members on activities related to Objectives 2 and 3? Any relevant considerations for FAO and WHO to consider in developing the process to give increased emphasis to Objectives 2 and 3 are invited.*

The United States agrees with the Commission's observations that the Trust Fund has greatly benefited developing countries to increase their participation in Codex. Greater emphasis should be given to Objectives 2 and 3 in order to improve the quality of the participation in Codex. The United States also supports helping members in scientific analysis in support of standards development.

Question 2: If yes, what is the "niche" for the Codex Trust Fund?

- *Members are requested to advise on their vision and priorities for the scope of CTF funded capacity development activities (e.g. negotiation skills, strengthening Codex structures, developing national positions etc.) and what would be suitable mechanisms for delivery of the capacity-building activities? –networks of excellence, South-South cooperation, research studies etc.*
- *When advising FAO and WHO on the niche/scope, the Committee is requested to clearly suggest possible activities based on past experience and successful approaches in the region. It may include identifying regional or national institutions who could partner with the CTF in future activities.*
- *Members are also requested to consider how CTF supported activities to build capacity in Codex are integrated (rather than separate activities) to overall development of food safety and food control systems at country and regional level. Consideration could be given to other ongoing activities in the region to strengthen effective participation in Codex, such as FAO/WHO activities in the region, or other bilateral activities.*

The United States believes the niche for the Codex Trust Fund lies in capacity building in developing countries, to ensure that their national structures may support effective participation in Codex.

Question 3: Should there be a mechanism to continue support for physical participation for those who need it most (including graduates who cannot sustain participation)?

- *What is the opinion of the Committee on the need for a mechanism to address the issue of reduced physical participation of graduate countries (most in need), who have demonstrated effective participation in decision making in Codex, but are unable to identify funds to support continued participation.*

The United States believes that the Trust Fund should monitor post-graduation participation and have some flexibility in providing assistance to countries that do not have the necessary funds to attend the meetings, yet are not eligible for the Trust Fund.

Participant reports could provide information to Codex on trends and problems that can be addressed and on

progress that can be built upon. In addition, the information will be helpful in identifying trends regarding participation numbers and the reasons for participation or the lack of participation.

Question 4: Should there be re-consideration of the criteria for allocation of support?

- *What additional criteria might be used to guide the CTF in allocating support across the 3 different objectives?*

The United States agrees with the Executive Committee view, yet believes that the Trust Fund should develop some additional criteria for added flexibility for recent “graduates” of the program.

Question 5: Should the lifespan of the Codex Trust Fund be extended?

- *What are the views of the Committee on this issue? and what are the issues to be measured in your region to evaluate the impact of the CTF?*

The Trust Fund has just reached its mid-term point, with six years left in the lifespan. The United States believes it is too soon to make a determination as to whether the fund should be continued beyond that time. The U.S. was disappointed with the design and execution of the Trust Fund review and believes that it could have provided better information for making these types of decisions. At this time we can get input from a broad spectrum of countries through participant reports and perhaps an annual survey of all countries.