

# codex alimentarius commission

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE  
ORGANIZATION  
OF THE UNITED NATIONS

WORLD HEALTH  
ORGANIZATION

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**CX 3/20**

**CL 2000/34-NASWP  
September 2000**

**TO:** Codex Contact Points  
Interested International Organizations

**FROM:** Secretary, Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme  
FAO, 00100 Rome, Italy

**SUBJECT:** **Preparations for the Sixth Session of the Codex Coordinating Committee for North America and the South West Pacific (Perth, Australia, 5-8 December 2000)**

**DEADLINE:** **27 October 2000**

**COMMENTS:**

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## **A. FOOD LEGISLATION AND FOOD CONTROL MATTERS**

1. Coordinating Committees regularly consider issues relating to harmonization of food legislation, especially in the perspective of economic integration, food control systems, export/import matters, and relevant training activities, in order to promote exchange of information and cooperation within the Region. The forthcoming 6<sup>th</sup> Session of the Codex Coordinating Committee for North America and the South West Pacific (CCNASWP) will be considering these issues under Agenda Item 4, *Reports on Activities Related to Economic Integration and Harmonization of Food Legislation in the Region*.

2. Member countries are therefore invited to provide the following updated information for consideration by the next session of CCNASWP:

### **Official Agencies**

Updated structure and organization of the official services responsible for food legislation and food control.

### **Import/Export Matters**

Exchange of information on import/export matters relating to food safety and quality.

### **Food Legislation**

Developments regarding harmonization of food safety and quality regulations, including the use of Codex standards, Codes and related texts.

## **Cooperation activities**

Contacts with other countries on food legislation and food control matters (bilateral, subregional or regional), including training of inspection and laboratory personnel.

### **B. CONSUMER PARTICIPATION**

3. The 23<sup>rd</sup> Session of the Commission considered consumers' involvement in Codex work and agreed to consider the development of a checklist of measurable objectives to assess consumer participation in Codex activities at the national and international levels and asked the Committee on General Principles to review the proposal contained in the document (see Appendix).

4. The Commission also proposed that Regional Coordinating Committees continue to take the opportunity to provide a forum for the exchange of experiences on the ways and means of developing consumer input into National Codex Committees and Contact Points (ALINORM 99/37, para. 43).

5. The 15<sup>th</sup> Session of the Committee on General Principles considered the recommendations of the Commission concerning Measurable Objectives to Assess Consumer Participation in Codex.

6. The Committee welcomed the progress made in addressing the question of increasing consumer participation in Codex work, both in the Commission and at the national and regional levels. It welcomed the proposed draft Guidance on Measurable Objectives to Assess Consumer Participation in Codex and focussed its attention of the proposals in Appendix A to the discussion paper.

7. The Committee agreed to modify these proposals by providing that the names be included of countries that have established a national Codex Committee or Contact Point or held open consultations with consumers when developing national positions for Codex meetings. It was also agreed to include information on the action of governments to support the establishment and activities of consumer NGOs. On that basis, the Draft Guidance was endorsed by the Committee as being appropriate for the development of a baseline set of data and for consideration by the Regional Coordinating Committees when discussing the standing item on consumer participation in the countries of the various regions. The Committee called upon the Secretariat to begin the development of a set of baseline data as soon as possible. It was recommended that a report should be made to the Commission every two years (ALINORM 01/33, paras. 109-110).

8. The forthcoming 6<sup>th</sup> Session of the CCNASWP will be considering these issues under Agenda Item 8, *Consumer Participation in the Work of Codex and Related Matters*. Member countries are therefore invited to provide information on the "measurable objectives" listed above and in the Appendix to this paper, and generally about consumer participation in the work of Codex and related matters.

### **C. OTHER MATTERS UNDER CONSIDERATION BY CCNASWP**

9. The forthcoming 6<sup>th</sup> Session of the CCNASWP will also be considering the *Review and Promotion of Acceptances of Codex Standards and Maximum Residue Limits for Pesticides by Countries in the Region* (Agenda Item 6) and *Activities of Codex Contact Points and National Codex Committees, including the Promotion of Membership, in the Region* (Agenda Item 7).

10. Member countries are therefore invited to provide updated information on the above subject matters for consideration by the 6<sup>th</sup> Session of the CCNASWP.

**Proposed Draft Guidance on Measurable Objectives  
To Assess Consumer Participation in Codex**

To assist Codex in assessing the goal of increasing consumer participation in Codex over time, the following measures may be useful to consider:

1. the number or percentage of member countries that have established a National Codex Contact Point
2. the number or percentage of member countries that have established a National Codex Committee
3. the number or percentage of member countries which hold public consultations when developing national positions for Codex meetings
4. the number or percentage of member countries that have identified independent consumer NGOs and invited them to participate in Codex meetings or in submitting written comments
5. the number or percentage of member countries where independent consumer NGOs have participated in developing national positions for Codex meetings.
6. the number of consumer NGOs that participate in the Codex process at the national level.