

CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION

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**Food and Agriculture
Organization of
the United Nations**



**World Health
Organization**

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REP13/CAC

JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME

CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION

Thirty-sixth Session

FAO Headquarters, Rome, Italy

1-5 July 2013

REPORT

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Commission:

- a) Adopted several amendments to the Procedural Manual;
- b) Adopted 25 new or revised Codex standards or related texts or amendments to these texts and many new or revised provisions for additives and MRLs for pesticides and veterinary drugs;
- c) Adopted 10 Codex draft standards or related texts at Step 5;
- d) Approved 14 proposals for new work and two proposals for discontinuation of work;
- e) Agreed to consider further at its next session the issues related to possible work on a standard for processed cheese;
- f) Noted the Codex budget and expenditure for 2012-2013 and the budget for 2014-2015; thanked FAO, WHO and member countries for their support and encouraged them to continue to ensure the funding of Codex and related scientific advice; and agreed to establish a sub-committee of the Executive Committee to continue monitoring progress on sustainable options for funding scientific advice;
- g) Noted the status of the implementation of the Strategic Plan 2008-2013;
- h) Adopted the Codex Strategic Plan 2014-2019;
- i) Considered the 2012 Annual Report, Progress Report and Monitoring Report of the Codex Trust Fund, and noted the timeline for the final project evaluation; expressed its thanks to FAO, WHO and donor countries for their support to the Trust Fund;
- j) Noted the status of the provision of scientific advice by FAO/WHO and other relevant information from FAO and WHO;
- k) Supported continued cooperation and coordination with international governmental and non-governmental organizations; and
- l) Re-elected as Chairperson Mr Sanjay Dave (India), and as Vice-Chairpersons: Dr Samuel Godefroy (Canada), Mrs Awilo Ochieng Pernet (Switzerland), and Professor Samuel Sefa-Dedeh (Ghana).

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INTRODUCTION

1. The Codex Alimentarius Commission held its Thirty-sixth Session in Rome, Italy from 1 to 5 July 2013. Mr Sanjay Dave (India), Chairperson of the Commission presided over the Session, assisted by the Vice-Chairpersons, Dr Samuel Godefroy (Canada), Mrs Awilo Ochieng Pernet (Switzerland), and Professor Samuel Sefa-Dedeh (Ghana). The Session was attended by 620 delegates from 126 Member countries and 1 Member Organization, 1 Observer country and 41 international governmental and non-governmental organizations, including UN agencies. A list of participants, including the Secretariat, is given in Appendix I to this report.

Welcome addresses by the Directors-General of FAO and WHO

2. The Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, José Graziano da Silva and the Director-General of the World Health Organization, Dr. Margaret Chan welcomed the Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC) to Rome on its 36th Session. They recalled that in July 1963, the CAC held its first session as the principal organ of the Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme starting with 30 Members and now grown to 185 Member governments, one Member organization and 220 observers. The Directors-General praised Codex as one of the longest standing cooperations in the United Nations system. They praised the results that Codex delivers, its science based decision-making; its participatory nature and truly global membership that contributes to Codex's credibility and high reputation as a standard-setting body, which had also led to its recognition by WTO as a reference for food safety. They stressed the need to find ways to continue financing independent scientific advice to Codex and to explore ways to continue to engage developing countries in Codex work beyond the termination of the Codex Trust Fund in 2015. Mr Graziano da Silva said that it would be difficult to imagine what food, health, and economies would be like without Codex Alimentarius, which worked in the background largely unknown to the general public. He said that Codex and standard setting are important parts of FAO's mandate, as recognized in its reviewed strategic framework and programme of work. He stressed that food safety was also important to FAO's global goal of eradicating hunger and malnutrition, since people cannot be food secure if their food is not safe and that Codex helped to improve access to healthy, nutritious food, and provides standards to guide people who depend directly on agriculture and the food system for their livelihoods. He said that over the past 50 years, the Codex Alimentarius Commission had done much to strengthen national food safety systems and foster international food trade. Playing an active role in Codex had helped countries to compete in global food markets, while also improving food safety at home. He emphasized the need for Codex to keep up with change and to act in even greater collaboration, across different sectors, across national borders, and, among jurisdictions in line with the "One Health" approach, for the health of people, animals and the environment.

3. Dr Chan said that when Codex was started there was diverging food legislation without respect of scientific or nutritional principles which had caused significant barriers to trade. Codex had stepped in to reduce these barriers, to put science at the service of consumer protection and, in effect, to put a safety net around the world's food supply. Rooted in a rigorous scientific methodology, Codex had also lifted the standards for assessing food quality by stimulating food-related scientific and technological research. Contaminated food could be deadly, usually taking its heaviest toll on the very young and the very old. She said that today hunger had receded in many parts of the world, and dietary diversity could introduce significant health benefits, but that the complexity of the food chain had increased, introducing more critical points where something could go wrong and when it did, outbreaks could involve multiple countries on multiple continents with massive recalls and shattering of consumer confidence, which may take a very long time to recover. She noted that today, the cheapest, most convenient and most accessible foods were often energy rich, yet nutrient poor, and obesity and diet-related noncommunicable diseases often existed side-by-side with undernutrition in the same country, even in the same community or household and it was good to know that Codex was also addressing these concerns.

Welcome addresses by the Assistant Directors-General FAO and WHO

4. Dr Ren Wang, Assistant Director-General, Agriculture and Consumer Protection Department, FAO, noted that FAO hosted a number of international instruments, offering a forum to members to discuss and decide on a variety of issues on international standards guidelines and codes (Codex, IPPC and the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA)). He informed the Commission of the decision to move the Codex and food safety units to the AG Department level to give food safety a higher visibility. He stressed the importance of the new strategic plan of the Commission that would support FAO's new strategic framework and specifically Strategic Objective 4 "Ensure inclusive and efficient agricultural and food systems". He informed the Commission that the 38th Session of the FAO Conference had approved the budget for 2014-15 and that the Codex budget had been protected, which illustrated the priority FAO placed on Codex and on Codex-related activities while continuously seeking to improve efficiency in the use of these resources.

5. Dr Keiji Fukuda, Assistant Director-General, Health Security and Environment, WHO, informed the Commission that WHO had developed a "Strategic Plan for Food Safety Including Foodborne Zoonoses 2013-2022", to set out a coherent framework and objectives and identify priority areas of action for the next ten years. He informed the Commission about the WHO activities in nutrition, especially the double burden of undernutrition and obesity and diet-related noncommunicable diseases. He noted that WHO was in a critical situation in finding resources but keeping food safety and nutrition high on its agenda. He praised Codex for having taken important steps to modernize its operation and functioning since the Codex Evaluation in 2002 and noted that standards development had become speedier, developing countries were participating more actively in the debate and more consistency had been brought in to harmonize approaches between different Codex committees based on risk analysis principles, and that Codex was better known today thanks to enhanced communication and embracing Internet-based technologies, which should be further developed.

Welcome addresses by representatives of Codex members

6. Ministers from Codex members serving as regional coordinators, from the newest Codex member (Turkmenistan) and from Italy as host country to FAO had been invited to address the Commission on its 50th Anniversary.

7. Her Excellency Doña Gloria Abraham Peralta, Minister of Agriculture and Livestock of Costa Rica praised Codex's contribution to food safety and quality and said it had fostered "knowledge-based agriculture" in her country as Codex followed a transparent process that unites countries in the harmonization of international food standards based on science and consensus that in turn become the technical basis of national laws. She voiced concern however that even with the existence of Codex many countries still set new restrictive, contradictory standards and that private standards continued to proliferate without the necessary scientific support and representing high costs for the producer and exporter. She said that in a changing world demanding safe and quality food for a growing population, where the availability of land and water will be increasingly limited, it was great challenge for Codex to define how to address emerging issues within its mandate, without losing the scientific basis as a cornerstone.

8. His Excellency Ghulam Nabi Azad, Minister of Health and Family Welfare of India, said the Codex Alimentarius was vital as his country worked towards food and nutrition security and enacted food safety legislation. He said that the days when each country and local population confined themselves to food produced domestically were gone and food had brought all of us closer. He noted that food security was itself a great achievement for India and the challenge was now to ensure quality and safety, both in the import and export of food products. He said that the science-based framework adopted by Codex gave it a pre-eminent position in food safety and fair trade practices and would be worthwhile if the private standard-setting bodies would also consider participating in Codex work to facilitate the Codex standard setting process. He said that India welcomed the consideration of the Commission to establish a new Committee on spices and was prepared to play an even more active role in Codex and in capacity building activities.

9. The Honourable Assik Tommy Tomscoll, Minister of Agriculture and Livestock of Papua New Guinea, spoke about how important Codex was for the economies of small countries such as the Pacific island states. He said he could envision a world where trade barriers were removed and “Codex Alimentarius will be the global blueprint for free and fair global practice.” He expressed his gratitude on behalf of the Government of Papua New Guinea, and Prime Minister Honorable Peter O’Neill, for the excellent work done by FAO, WHO, and the Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC) in Papua New Guinea. He said that the CAC had provided the single forum for governments to express their concerns and ideas and seek new opportunities to construct a better world, without hunger, malnutrition and poverty. He said that Codex should play an increasing role in determining how the food system challenges faced by the Pacific island nations could be met.

10. Mr Giuseppe Castiglione, Undersecretary of State, Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Forestry Policies of Italy spoke on behalf of the Minister of Agriculture of Italy, Her Excellency Nunzia De Girolamo and the Italian Government. He praised the important achievements of Codex, which provided the most representative international forum for the development and harmonization of world-wide food standards. He considered that adoption of Codex standards by vote would not help the organization and would undermine the credibility and universal acceptance of Codex standards. He said that international food trade would continue to expand rapidly over the next years and decades, with more interest and demand for products with higher quality and that the worldwide food consumption will be affected by the increase of the middle class households in developing countries, which would be expected to double in the next ten years. He invited Codex to contribute to the preparation and success of Expo 2015 which is not by chance titled Feeding the Planet, Energy for Life.

11. Dr Ylham Gayipov, Deputy Chief of the State Sanitary Epidemiological Service, Turkmenistan, recalled that his country had become the latest Codex Member in 2012, following which a National Codex Committee had been established, and he expressed his thanks to FAO and WHO for their support in the process. He highlighted the role of food safety and food quality standards based on Codex for import control, and noted that Turkmenistan had recently adopted several regulations in the area of food safety and nutrition, as well as programmes to promote healthy diets. Dr Gayipov also stated that Turkmenistan was considering applying to WTO, and noted the importance of harmonized food standards on a global scale.

12. Ms Yayoi Tsujiyama, on behalf of the Regional Coordinator for Asia and the Government of Japan, spoke about the Asian region in four key words: “majority” because the Asian region constitutes a majority in terms of population and agricultural production; “diversity” because the Asian region covers 23 countries with very different geology, climate, religion and diet; “uniqueness” as climate may also influence the population and varieties of pests and microorganisms in the environment, which require the use of certain materials differently from other regions; and “higher visibility” as more Asian members were now host countries of Codex committees and task forces or had experiences co-hosting. She expressed the hope that Members in the Asian region would continue contributing to Codex activities with the aim of ensuring food safety not only regionally but also globally.

13. Prof Stanislaw Kowalczyk, Chief Inspector of Agricultural and Food Quality, Poland spoke on behalf of the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development of the Republic of Poland, His Excellency Stanisław Kalemba. He recalled the roots of Codex from the end of 19th Century when Codex Alimentarius Austriacus was established to 1961 when the FAO Conference established the Codex Alimentarius. He praised milestones of Codex for food safety and fair practices in the food trade such as ‘the General Principles of Food Hygiene’ or ‘the General Standard for the Labelling of Prepackaged Foods’. He cautioned against misinterpreting part of the Codex mandate “to ensure fair practices in the food trade” as simply facilitating global food trade which seems to be the major challenge for Codex in the future and was of the opinion that Codex should not refrain from launching a discussion on its procedures, which allows the Commission to adopt a standard on a basis of voting with only 1 vote majority.

14. Mr Louis Lahoud, Director-General, Ministry of Agriculture, Government of Lebanon recalled the importance of ensuring consumer protection, in the context of risks related to climate change and environmental pollution, and the relevance of Codex standards in trade as a reference under the WTO. He recalled the commitment of the Ministry of Agriculture in Lebanon to Codex work, especially as coordinator for the Near East. He pointed out that the new Codex Strategic Plan should be designed to meet the needs of developing countries and promote more effective participation in Codex, expressing thanks to FAO and WHO for their support; stressed the importance of making standards and documents available in all languages; and highlighted the importance of the principles of scientific credibility, consensus, trust, and cooperation to develop international standards for the benefit of member countries.

15. The Chairperson of the Commission, Mr Sanjay Dave, also welcomed the delegates, ministers and senior officials from Costa Rica, India, Papua New Guinea, Italy, Japan, Lebanon, Poland, Sudan and Turkmenistan, as the Delegation of Turkmenistan was the latest member to the Codex family. He also recognized the presence of former Codex Chairs and Vice-Chairs as well as Codex Secretaries. He highlighted the need for exploring new avenues for sustainable funding for scientific advice, a successor initiative for Codex Trust Fund and for greater role in capacity building of developing countries for harmonization of national standards with Codex, laboratory facilities and skill development. He acknowledged the excellent work done by the three Vice-Chairs on the Strategic Plan 2014-2019 (Dr Samuel Godefroy), the preparations of the 50th Anniversary celebrations (Ms Awilo Ochieng Pernet) and the funding of scientific advice (Prof. Samuel Sefa Dedeh). He also commended the Codex Secretariat, FAO and WHO, who had also been contributing tirelessly all these years and in the preparations for the golden anniversary celebrations; and without whose hard work Codex Sessions could not be concluded successfully. He said that the work done by Codex over the last 50 years was a joint achievement and urged all delegations to continue to work together also on the visibility of Codex around the globe so that it could be recognized as the pre-eminent food standards setting global body.

16. Mrs Awilo Ochieng Pernet, Vice-Chairperson of the Codex Alimentarius Commission, who coordinated the Codex 50th Anniversary celebrations, thanked all those who had contributed to the celebrations: FAO, WHO, Codex Secretariat, Codex Contact Points, National Codex Committees and their Chairpersons and Codex Committee Chairpersons. She also thanked Codex Members and Observers who had organized national, regional or international Codex 50th Anniversary events and host governments of Codex Committees who had organized side events during their committee sessions. She further highlighted some Codex 50th Anniversary activities which included a booklet containing contributions from Codex Committee Chairs on challenges and achievements/successes of their respective committees which would be distributed at the 50th Anniversary side-event on “50 years of Codex - Success stories, challenges and priorities. Global and regional perspectives”, a new Codex video which would be screened during the session, and that former and current Codex Chairpersons and Vice-Chairpersons would be awarded certificates signed by the Directors Generals of FAO and WHO during the official Codex 50th Anniversary reception.

Division of Competence

17. The Commission noted the division of competence between the European Union and its Member States, according to paragraph 5, Rule II, of the Rules of Procedure of the Codex Alimentarius Commission, as presented in document CRD 1.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA (Agenda Item 1)¹

18. The Commission adopted the Provisional Agenda as its Agenda for the session.

REPORT BY THE CHAIRPERSON ON THE 68th SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (Agenda Item 2)²

19. In accordance with Rule V.7 of the Rules of Procedure, the Chairperson reported to the Commission on the outcome of the 68th Session of the Executive Committee, and noted that the recommendation from the session on specific questions would be considered under the relevant Agenda items.

¹ CX/CAC 13/36/1

² REP13/EXEC

20. The Executive Committee undertook a critical review of standards and related texts proposed for adoption and of the standards at different steps of the procedure, and the recommendations of the Executive Committee are presented in the report. In the process, complementarity and synergy between Committees was noted, and the CCEXEC called for greater efficiency in Codex work management. Further discussion taking into account the work-load and merits of proposals is expected to take place in the near future. New work was recommended on a number of new work proposals.

21. The Executive Committee considered extensively the draft Codex Strategic Plan for 2014 - 2019 and agreed on a consensus document taking into account the concerns and expectations of all the regions, FAO and WHO.

22. The Committee reflected upon the various requests for scientific advice to support standards development and noted the acute shortage of financial resources for this purpose that is critical for Codex work. The Committee considered a paper on possible approaches to expand the donor base including private sector funding in a sustainable manner while maintaining neutrality, independence and transparency and noted that this matter required discussion with the Governing Bodies of FAO and WHO. The Committee agreed to focus on some of the short term options for which FAO and WHO agreed to present an update at the next session on their feasibility. The Committee also agreed to recommend to the Commission to invite its members to call upon FAO and WHO to sustain and support its funding for scientific advice. The Committee also considered the reports from the Codex Trust Fund.

23. The Executive Committee also requested the Codex Secretariat to develop a Codex Communication strategy which would require the approval of FAO and WHO.

REPORTS OF FAO/WHO REGIONAL COORDINATING COMMITTEES (Agenda Item 3)³

FAO/WHO Coordinating Committee for Africa (CCAFRICA)

24. The Coordinator for Africa (Cameroon) highlighted some of the key discussions in the 20th Session of CCAFRICA, namely, the implementation of the CCAFRICA Strategic Plan (2008 - 2013); the development of a new strategic plan for CCAFRICA (2014 - 2019); improvements in communication in CCAFRICA; and development of discussion paper on elaboration of regional standards. The Coordinator expressed its appreciation to the Codex Trust Fund, AU-IBAR, FAO and WHO, the Codex Secretariat and others for their support to countries in the African region, in particular with enhancing participation in the Commission and its subsidiary bodies; and improvement of food safety systems. The Coordinator also informed the Commission that it had been nominated as coordinator for a second term.

FAO/WHO Coordinating Committee for Asia (CCASIA)

25. The Coordinator for Asia (Japan) informed the Commission that the 18th CCASIA had agreed to forward two regional standards for adoption at Step 5/8 and at Step 5, which would be considered by the Commission in later agenda items. The Session also considered the draft Strategic Plan 2014-2019, agreed to propose new work, and nominated Japan as regional coordinator. It was noted that the Codex Trust Fund significantly helped the participation of Asian countries in Codex meetings.

FAO/WHO Coordinating Committee for Europe (CCEURO)

26. The Coordinator for Europe (Poland) informed the Commission that the CCEURO had considered the draft Strategic Plan 2014-2019 and made detailed comments and proposals; it had finalized the revision of the Regional Standard for Chanterelle (forwarded for adoption); and had returned the Proposed Draft Standard for Ayran for redrafting and consideration at the next session. The Committee had exchanged information on national food safety and food control systems, Codex structures, the use of Codex standards, and nutrition issues, and nominated the Netherlands as Coordinator for Europe. A workshop organized by FAO, WHO, Poland and Georgia had been held prior to the session. The Coordinator expressed his thanks to Georgia for co-hosting the session and to all countries in Europe for their support and excellent cooperation.

³ REP13/AFRICA, REP13/ASIA, REP13/EURO, REP13/LAC, REP13/NEA, REP13/NASWP

FAO/WHO Coordinating Committee for Latin America and the Caribbean (CCLAC)

27. The Coordinator for Latin America and the Caribbean (Costa Rica) informed the Commission that the 18th CCLAC (San José, Costa Rica, 19-23 November 2012) reiterated the following as a regional agreement: the defence of scientific principles in the Codex decision-making process; that there was no need for additional guidelines to achieve consensus; that it did not support revising the rules for voting; and that it supported the use of concern forms. It also discussed the draft Codex Strategic Plan 2014-2019, supported, with the exception of Mexico, further work on processed cheese and agreed on the importance of Codex work on spices and adopted regional positions on a number of other issues, especially the support to generate data on MLs for cadmium in cocoa and MRLs for pesticides in minor crops. The Committee agreed on a procedure for adopting regional positions in the CCLAC and coordinating positions between meetings for its internal use. The Committee adopted its Regional Strategic Plan 2013-2019 and agreed to start new work on an international standard for pirarucu, an Amazonian aquatic species, and a regional standard for yacon. The Committee nominated Costa Rica as regional coordinator for a second term.

FAO/WHO Coordinating Committee for the Near East (CCNEA)

28. The Coordinator for the Near East (Lebanon) informed the Commission that the 7th CCNEA (Beirut, Lebanon 21-25 January 2013) had finalized the Regional Code of Practice for Street Vended Foods and the Regional Standard for Date Paste, for consideration by the Commission. The Committee also considered the draft Strategic Plan 2014-2019, supported further Codex work on processed cheese and the establishment of a new Codex Committee on spices. The Committee also to propose four new work items (halal products, refrigerated and frozen meats, labneh and mixed zataar). The Committee nominated Lebanon as regional coordinator for a second term.

FAO/WHO Coordinating Committee for North America and the South West Pacific (CCNASWP)

29. The Coordinator for North America and the South West Pacific (Papua New Guinea) informed the Commission that the 12th CCNASWP (Madang, Papua New Guinea) supported the draft CAC Strategic Plan 2014-2019 in principle and agreed to use it as the basis for finalizing the Strategic Plan for the CCNASWP 2014-2019 at its next Session. The CCNASWP agreed to start new work on the development of a regional standard for fermented noni juices and to collect information on products and related food safety or trade issues, which could be addressed through regional standards and to develop mechanisms to prioritize products of potential interest for the Region. The CCNASWP also agreed that there was no need to establish either an international or a regional standard for processed cheese and generally supported Codex work on standards for spices, aromatic herbs and their formulations, noting that prioritization would be necessary. The CCNASWP unanimously agreed that Papua New Guinea be re-appointed as the Coordinator for North America and the South West Pacific.

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE PROCEDURAL MANUAL (Agenda Item 4)⁴**Proposed Amendment to the Guidelines for Establishing Numeric Values for Method Criteria and/or Assessing Methods for Compliance Thereof in the Procedural Manual (LOD and LOQ)⁵****Principles and Guidance for the Application of the Proportionality Concept to Estimation of MRLs for pesticides⁶**

30. The Commission adopted the texts as proposed.

Proposed Draft Revision of the Procedure for the Inclusion of Additional Species in Standards for Fish and Fishery Products⁷

31. The Commission adopted the proposed draft revision of the procedure for the inclusion of additional species in standards for fish and fishery products for inclusion in Section II: Elaboration of Codex Standards and Related Texts: Guidelines for the Inclusion of Specific Provisions in Codex Standards and Related Texts. The Delegation of Brazil, while not opposed to the adoption of the revised procedure, expressed their reservation on the fact that the procedure would not be used to confirm the species currently included in standards for fish and fishery products.

⁴ CX/CAC 13/36/2, CX/CAC 13/36/4 (Comments of Brazil, Cuba, Egypt)

⁵ REP13/MAS, paras 9, Appendix IV

⁶ REP13/PR, para. 98, Appendix VIII

⁷ REP13/FFP, para. 128, Appendix VI

DRAFT STANDARDS AND RELATED TEXTS AT STEP 8 OF THE PROCEDURE (INCLUDING THOSE SUBMITTED AT STEP 5 WITH A RECOMMENDATION TO OMIT STEPS 6 AND 7 AND AT STEP 5 OF THE ACCELERATED PROCEDURE) (Agenda Item 5)⁸

32. Taking into consideration the recommendation of the 68th Session of the Executive Committee in performing the critical review, the Commission adopted the Draft Standards and Related Texts submitted by its subsidiary bodies at Step 8 (including those submitted at Step 5 with a recommendation to omit Steps 6 and 7), as well as other standards and related texts submitted for adoption, as presented in Appendix III to this report. The standards and related texts were adopted as endorsed by the relevant committees as regards provisions for food additives, food hygiene, food labelling, contaminants in foods and methods of analysis and sampling, including editorial changes.

33. The following paragraphs provide additional information on the comments made and the decisions taken on certain items.

Fresh Fruits and Vegetables (CCFFV)

Standards for Avocado

34. The Delegation of Thailand referring to CRD 9 said that at the 17th CCFFV, Thailand had expressed a reservation to the allowances for decay in the quality tolerances for avocado Classes I and II because the definition of the term “decay” was not clear and additionally decay was only accepted in the tolerances of two of the 33 Codex standards for fresh fruits and vegetables and there should be consistency between the standards. They were however prepared to let the standard move forward, noting their reservation, and with the understanding that the allowance as well as the definition of “decay” would be discussed in the general framework under the Proposed Layout for Codex Standard for Fresh Fruits and Vegetables.

35. The Delegation of Mexico, speaking as Chair of the CCFFV, confirmed that a whole day would be reserved for discussion of the proposed layout at the next CCFFV session.

36. The Commission adopted the Standard noting the reservation of Thailand on decay and that these issues would be discussed under the Proposed Layout in the next CCFFV.

FAO/WHO Coordinating Committee for Europe (CCEURO)

Proposed Draft Revised Regional Standard for Chanterelles⁹

37. The Commission adopted the Regional Standard with the editorial corrections to common names in English and French presented in CRD 21.

Fish and Fishery Products (CCFFP)

Draft Standard for Smoked Fish, Smoke-Flavoured Fish and Smoke-Dried Fish¹⁰

38. The Commission adopted the draft Standard noting the reservations of the European Union and Norway on the use of sunset yellow FCF (INS 110). The Delegation of Egypt expressed the view that parasites and their larval stages should not be allowed in the flesh of the products covered by the standard or any other fish products that are not heat-treated.

⁸ CX/CAC 13/36/3 ; CX/CAC 13/36/3-Add.1; CX/CAC 13/36/4 (Comments of Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Egypt, European Union, France, Kenya, India, Japan, Malaysia, Paraguay, Uruguay, United States of America and IIF) ; CX/CAC 13/36/4 Add.1 (Comments of Brazil, Canada, Colombia, Costa Rica, European Union, Kenya, Norway, Philippines, United States of America and FoodDrink Europe); CRD 5 (Comments of Lebanon); CRD 7 (Comments of Colombia); CRD 8 (Comments of Japan); CRD 9 (Comments of Thailand); CRD 10 (Comments of IBFAN); CRD 14 (Comments of Peru); CRD 20 (Comments of Philippines); CRD 21 (Comments of CCEURO); CRD 22 (Comments of Malaysia)

⁹ REP13/EURO, para. 48, Appendix II

¹⁰ REP13/FFP, para. 40, Appendix III

Draft Standard for Live Abalone and for Raw Fresh Chilled or Frozen Abalone for Direct Consumption or for Further Processing¹¹

39. The Commission adopted the draft Standard with inclusion of the reference to the method for determination of biotoxins from the *Standard for Live and Raw Bivalve Molluscs* (CODEX STAN 292-2008) as proposed by CCFPP and recommended by the 68th Session of the Executive Committee. One delegation highlighted the importance of the detection of marine toxins being subject to risk assessment by the authorities.

Amendments to section I-6.5, I-8.5 and II-8.7 of the Standard for Live and Raw Bivalve Molluscs (CODEX STAN 292-2008) and Sections 7.1 and 7.2.2.2 to the Code of Practice for Fish and Fishery Products (CAC/RCP 52-2003)

40. The Commission adopted the amendments as proposed. The Delegation of Egypt expressed the view that the criterion for *Salmonella* should be retained in the *Standard for Live and Raw Bivalve Molluscs* as it would add further protection to the consumer.

FAO/WHO Coordinating Committee for Asia (CCASIA)

Proposed Draft Regional Standard for Tempe¹²

41. The Commission agreed to adopt the proposed draft Regional Standard for Tempe, as proposed by CCASIA with amendments made by CCMAS. The Delegation of the United States of America indicated that they would provide information in further discussion on the conversion factor for the calculation of the protein content.

Food Hygiene (CCFH)

Proposed Draft Annex on Berries to the Code of Hygienic Practice for Fresh Fruits and Vegetables (CAC/RCP 53-2003)¹³

42. The Commission adopted the proposed draft annex with an amendment to Section 2.1 by replacing the species names *Fragaria grandiflora* L. and *Fragaria vesca* L with only the genus *Fragaria* L to allow more flexibility with respect to the application of the annex. One delegation expressed the view that the Annex should include parasitological and physical parameters.

Nutrition and Food for Special Dietary Uses (CCNFSDU)

Draft Guidelines on Formulated Complementary Foods for Older Infants and Young Children (Revision of the Guidelines on Formulated Supplementary Foods for Older Infants and Young Children)¹⁴

43. Several delegations did not support adoption of the Guidelines as proposed by CCNFSDU as some major issues had not been addressed. They expressed the view that the provisions should include the prohibition of the following ingredients: defatted cotton seeds flour, in view of the lack of control of the process, which could result in products unfit for human consumption, especially in developing countries; genetically modified ingredients; and ingredients treated by ionizing radiation. With such amendments these delegations could support the adoption of the Guidelines in order to ensure the safety of formulated complementary foods.

44. Several other delegations supported adoption as the 1991 Guidelines were outdated and the revised guidelines were crucial for infants and young children, especially those in developing countries; all provisions had been extensively discussed in several sessions of the Committee and in working groups; and no country had expressed reservation on the advancement of the standard in the CCNFSDU. They were of the view that it was up to each country to decide whether or not ingredients produced by biotechnology were allowed; the Ad Hoc Intergovernmental Task Force on Food Derived from Biotechnology (TFBT) had established guidance documents for safety assessment. It was also noted that this text was a guideline and not a commodity standard and did not specify or prohibit ingredients.

¹¹ REP13/FFP, para.83, Appendix IV

¹² REP13/ASIA para. 117, Appendix II

¹³ REP13/FH, para. 118, Appendix IV

¹⁴ REP13/NFSDU para. 41, Appendix II

45. The Representative of WHO informed the Commission that it was urgent to update the Guidelines as the existing guidelines do require technical updates in order to provide appropriate contents for complementary foods. The Representative further informed the Commission that when the World Health Assembly adopted the Comprehensive Implementation Plan on maternal, infants and young children in May 2012, Member States were informed that the Guidelines on formulated complementary foods were being revised and updated by the Codex and therefore, it would not be required for WHO to develop such guidelines, but rather focus on addressing inappropriate marketing of such products. It was therefore important to have the updated Guidelines to guide the countries in their work to move forward in implementing their action in this area.

46. The Delegation of Germany, speaking as the Chair of CCNFSDU, explained that comparing with the current guidelines, the draft revised guidelines did not have any disadvantages. The comparison with the current guidelines, which would remain applicable if the revised guidelines were not adopted, showed that the provisions on defatted oil seed flours were identical, and there were no specific requirement on prohibition of ingredients. It was clarified that nothing in these Guidelines alters national authorities' ability to set their own safety and approval requirements including the exclusion of certain ingredients in imports and domestically produced foods.

47. After an extensive discussion, the Commission agreed to adopt the proposed draft Guidelines at Step 8 with amendment to include the following sentence in Section 4.1.3.1 after the work "gossypol":

The decision to add oil seeds flour to a formulated complementary food should take into account local conditions and requirements.

48. The Delegation of the United States of America expressed their reservation on the term "requirements" in the newly introduced text above.

Draft Nutrient Reference Values (NRVs)¹⁵

49. Some delegations, supported by some observers, did not support the adoption of the NRV for saturated fatty acids (SFA) because, in their view, the Commission should be consistent with the decision of the 35th Commission, which had agreed to request CCNFSDU to consider the matter in the light of the outcome of the WHO work, which was not yet available; several studies in scientific literature indicated that there was no sufficient evidence to draw conclusions on the risk of SFA; principles should be finalized before considering each nutrients; and several relevant nutrients should be considered altogether rather than one single nutrient. One observer commented that, in their view, replacing SFA with Polyunsaturated Fatty Acids (PUFA) may lead to an increase in strokes and other non-communicable diseases.

50. Several other delegations supported the adoption of the NRVs, recalling that these values had been extensively discussed in the Committee and they were based on sound scientific evidence provided by WHO.

51. The Representative of WHO stated that after being returned from the 35th Session of the Commission due to the need to wait for the completion of the work of the WHO Nutrition Expert Advisory Group (NUGAG) Subgroup on Diet and Health, the issue was further discussed at the 34th CCNFSDU in December 2012. It was then agreed that the proposed SFA value was based on sound science and in line with the recommendations and guidelines of WHO and FAO including the Joint FAO/WHO Expert Consultations and WHO guidelines. The Representative of WHO reminded the Commission that this work was initiated in 2005 in Codex as part of its effort in implementing the WHO Global Strategy and Diet, Physical Activity and Health endorsed by the World Health Assembly in 2004. The Representative of WHO highlighted that the amendments proposed to the Guidelines on Nutrition Labelling to incorporate NRVs-NCD will ensure the relevance of the Guidelines for addressing the increasing public health problem of diet-related NCDs. Furthermore, promotion of nutrition labelling for all pre-packaged foods is one of the proposed policy measures highlighted in the NCD Action Plan 2013 – 2020 which was adopted by the 66th WHA in May 2013 for promoting health diet and preventing NCDs. The need for and importance of this work have ever increased and it is important to have a value for countries to move forward with their work and implement the global commitment they have made. These views were supported by many delegations.

¹⁵ REP13/NFSDU para. 65, Appendix V

52. The Commission adopted the NRVs at Step 8. The Delegations of the Philippines and Malaysia expressed their reservation on the NRV for saturated fatty acids. The Chairperson noted that the NRVs should be reviewed when new scientific evidence became available.

Proposed Draft General Principles for Establishing Nutrient Reference Values (NRVs-NCD) for the general population; and consolidated version of the General Principles for Establishing Nutrient Reference Values¹⁶

53. One delegation was of the view that the use of the GRADE (Grading of Recommendations, Assessment, Development and Evaluation) approach had not been considered sufficiently at the CCNFSDU level and did not agree to adopt the Proposed Draft General Principles.

54. The Commission adopted the Proposed Draft General Principles at Step 5/8 and the consolidated text as proposed by CCNFSDU with amendments made by CCFL, including consequential amendments (see CCFL section). The Delegation of Malaysia expressed their reservation on this decision.

Proposed Draft Additional or Revised Nutrient Reference Values for Labelling Purposes in the Codex Guidelines on Nutrition Labelling¹⁷

55. One delegation and one observer did not support adoption of the proposed draft NRVs and were of the view that calcium should be considered together with magnesium. The Observer expressed their view that B vitamin values should not be lowered to subsistence levels but should be raised to optimal levels. Another observer said that the NRVs should be reconsidered by CCNFSDU taking into account bioavailability of calcium in milk and dairy products. Many delegations supported the adoption of these NRVs.

56. The Delegation of Germany, speaking as Chair of the CCNFSDU, recalled that the revision was a huge task and was proceeding step by step on the basis of scientific evidence, and work was ongoing on other NRVs for which some questions remained to be solved.

57. The Commission adopted the proposed draft NRVs at Step 5/8, with the addition of the word “only” before “supporting information” and with the removal of the last part of the note at the bottom of the conversion factors so as to end with “the application of NRVs at national level”. The Delegation of Benin expressed their reservation on this decision.

Task Force on Animal Feeding (TFAF)

Proposed Draft Guidance on Prioritizing Hazards in Feeds¹⁸

58. Many delegations supported the adoption of the proposed draft Guidance. The Delegation of Cameroon favoured the adoption and stated that the text was particularly important for African countries, which would like to continue to have a platform for discussion on matters related to feed safety.

59. The Delegation of Brazil, supported by many other Latin American and Caribbean delegations, was not in favour of retaining Annex 2 “Examples of Hazards in Feed with Potential Relevance for Human Health”. They pointed out that the information provided in the Annex was not complete and that the Annex would be difficult to maintain; that the 2008 report of the FAO/WHO Expert Meeting on Animal Feed Impact on Food Safety already included information on hazards in feed; and that countries could misinterpret the purpose of the Annex and use the examples as unjustified barriers to trade.

60. The Representative of FAO informed the Commission that an FAO coordinated Multi-stakeholder Partnership Platform was being prepared to address capacity development for feed safety through a common strategy and in an integrated manner. The Platform will provide a neutral forum to develop capacities and coordinate activities to enhance feed safety within a context of sustainable development of the livestock sector and ensure a safe production and supply of feed through adherence to Codex texts. The initiative will also promote an exchange among all relevant stakeholders of data and information, technical expertise and research results. FAO will inform Codex Contact Points of the initiative and welcome interested parties to participate.

¹⁶ REP13/NFSDU paras 51 & 59, Appendices III and IV

¹⁷ REP13/NFSDU para. 103, Appendix VII

¹⁸ REP13/AF, Appendix III

61. Other delegations supported the retention of the Annex noting that the introductory paragraphs to the Annex provided adequate explanation as to the non-comprehensive nature of its content, the need to update the information when new scientific knowledge became available and that it should not be taken as a risk assessment, and highlighted that they were examples of possible hazards in feed.

62. The Delegation of Switzerland, speaking as Chair of the TFAF, recalled the efficient and productive work of the Task Force and how the Annex had been extensively discussed, considering all arguments regarding its retention. In order to allow the document to be adopted by the Commission and in recognition of the importance of the information, the Delegation proposed to remove the Annex from the document and to place it on a dedicated FAO website, and noted that in this way the information would be available to everybody working on feed safety and could also be easily updated.

63. The Commission agreed to the proposal of the TFAF Chair and noted that the delegations of African countries had accepted it in a spirit of compromise. The Commission adopted the proposed draft Guidance with the removal of Annex 2 and an amendment to paragraph 17 to indicate the FAO website¹⁹ where the Annex would be made available.

64. The Commission congratulated the Task Force for having completed timely and successfully the task assigned by the 34th Session of the Commission.

Food Import and Export Inspection and Certification Systems (CCFICS)

Draft and proposed draft Principles and Guidelines for National Food Control System²⁰

65. The Delegation of Argentina, referring to the written comments in CX/CAC 13/36/4, noted that the document was a very important pillar of the work of Codex. While supporting the adoption, the Delegation proposed a number of changes aimed at improving the document and correcting some editorial errors in the Spanish version.

66. The Delegation of Australia, speaking as Chair of CCFICS, recalled that the document was the result of extensive discussion of three meetings of CCFICS and three physical working groups, which had reviewed the text in its entirety, noted that any change to the current version of the document could result in consequential changes in other parts and recommended to keep the text unchanged.

67. The Commission agreed to adopt the draft and proposed draft Principles and Guidelines as proposed with some minor editorial amendments to the Spanish version.

Food Additives (CCFA)

Draft and proposed draft food additives provisions of the General Standard for Food Additives (GSFA)²¹

68. The Commission adopted the draft and proposed draft food additive provisions, as proposed by the CCFA. The Delegations of the European Union and Norway expressed general reservation to the provisions of aluminium-containing food additives and stressed the importance to further restricting the exposure to aluminium from food additive uses (including aluminium lakes of colours and food additives containing aluminium impurities) and the necessity to seek alternatives to aluminium as a food additive.

Proposed draft Specifications for the Identity and Purity of Food Additives arising from the 76th JECFA meeting²²

69. The Commission adopted the proposed draft specifications, as proposed by the CCFA, and noted the general reservation of the European Union that food additive specifications should be related to the substances and not to the preparations.

¹⁹ http://www.fao.org/ag/againfo/home/en/news_archive/2013_Feed_and_food_safety.html

²⁰ REP13/FICS, Appendix II

²¹ REP13/FA, Appendix VI

²² REP13/FA, Appendix X

Sugars (CCS)

*Proposed draft Standard for Non-Centrifugated Dehydrated Sugar Cane Juice*²³

70. The Commission noted that the 68th Executive Committee had recommended adoption of the standard at Step 5 and agreed that the Commission would consider further steps in the elaboration process.²⁴

71. The Delegation of Colombia, speaking as the Chair of the CCS, explained that they had prepared the proposed draft standard which was circulated for comments under CL2013/9-CS, with a view to adopt it at Step 5/8. However, in view of the comments submitted, Colombia proposed adoption at Step 5 only and invited all countries to submit further comments to finalise the standard. Colombia was planning to have the standard at Step 6/7 in the second semester 2013 and to forward it to the 37th Session of the Commission in 2014 for adoption at Step 8.

72. In view of the support to the proposal of the CCS Chair, the Commission agreed to adopt the proposed draft Standard at Step 5 for further work to be carried out by Colombia through correspondence. It was noted that provisions for labelling and methods of analysis would be sent to CCFL and CCMAS for endorsement.

Contaminants in Foods (CCCF)

*Proposed Draft Maximum Levels for Lead in Fruit Juices and nectars, ready-to-drink; canned fruits; and canned vegetables*²⁵

73. Several delegations did not support adoption at Step 5/8 of the proposed draft MLs for lead in fruit juices, canned fruits and canned vegetables as they had concerns with the approach taken to derive the revised MLs; the lack of geographically representative data, especially from producer-countries; and the need for an adequate exposure assessment to determine which food categories contributed the most to the overall lead intake in different regions. These delegations expressed the view that setting MLs, when a complete exposure assessment was not possible, should be based on scientific evidence, on the ALARA Principle and should not create problems in international trade. A further concern was that the proposed lower MLs would require more sensitive methods of analysis. It was therefore proposed that the draft MLs be adopted at Step 5 with a request for CCCF to further analyze additional data.

74. The JECFA Secretariat explained that JECFA at its 73rd meeting undertook an updated risk assessment, taking all new data into account. An extensive exposure assessment was undertaken, mainly taking national estimates and international data into account. Based on the dose-response analysis from human studies, JECFA estimated that the previously established PTWI of 25µg/kg bw is associated with a measurable health impact in children and in adults. JECFA therefore concluded that the PTWI could no longer be considered health protective, and it was withdrawn. Since no threshold for these effects could be determined, no new PTWI was established.

75. The JECFA Secretariat also explained that the focus of the review, undertaken by the CCCF electronic working group, was to assess the occurrence data of lead in the selected commodities to determine what percentage of samples could meet the revised MLs. This was in accordance with general procedures used in cases where no safe exposure level could be determined. It was further explained that occurrence data were taken from the GEMS/Food Database, in total, over 110 000 data points from all regions of the world, except Africa.

76. It was further explained that while data might not have originated from producer-countries, because the products of concern were widely traded internationally, the data from importing countries reflected the occurrence of lead in products also from producer countries. It was also noted that limited data from the country raising concern with the MLs had been used in the work to revise the MLs and that it had been shown that only a small number would fail compliance with the proposed draft MLs.

77. A delegation supported the adoption at Step 5/8 and noted that the levels were based on scientific evidence, while an Observer noted that the ML for lead in fruit juices was manageable and acceptable.

²³ CL 2013/9-CS

²⁴ REP13/EXEC para. 18

²⁵ REP13/CF, para. 42, Appendix II

78. Another Observer expressed concern with the ML for lead in canned mushrooms and noted that tinned vegetables and non-tinned vegetables should have a harmonized ML as lead should no longer be used in the production of cans for foods and thus no longer affected the lead levels.

79. Noting the wide support for further work on the MLs, and the views expressed on the need to consider more geographically representative data, the Commission agreed to adopt the MLs at Step 5 with the understanding that countries that had intervened commit to submit data to GEMS/Food database within a year, to allow CCCF to further consider the revision of the MLs in 2015 for submission to the 38th Session of the Commission. It was further noted that JECFA had completed its work on risk assessment of lead, including a full exposure assessment, and that no further work in this regard was required.

Proposed Draft Maximum Level for Deoxynevalenol (DON) in Cereal-based Foods for Infants and Young Children²⁶

80. The ML for DON was presented to the Commission as applying to cereal-based foods “as consumed”. The Commission noted that clarification was needed on whether the ML should apply to cereal-based foods for infants and young children “as consumed” or to the “dry matter” and therefore agreed to adopt the proposed draft ML at Step 5 for further consideration in CCCF. One delegation also expressed concern that the level was too high and should be further reduced.

Pesticide Residues (CCPR)

Draft and Proposed Draft Maximum Residue Limits for Pesticides²⁷

81. The Delegation of the European Union expressed their reservation on several MRLs proposed for the following pesticide / commodity combinations: diflubenzuron; hexythiazox (strawberry); dichlorvos (eggs; poultry, edible offal of; poultry fats; poultry meat; rice; and wheat); dicofol (tea, green, black); chlorothalonil (banana and chard); phorate (potato); fenvalerate (Chinese broccoli); cyromazine (chick-pea (dry); lentil (dry) and lupin (dry)); buprofezin (tea, green); glufosinate-ammonium (assorted tropical and subtropical fruits, edible peel; assorted tropical and subtropical fruits, inedible peel; currants, black, red, white; potato; and stone fruits); cycloxydim (brassica (cole or cabbage) vegetables, head cabbage, flowerhead brassicas and eggs); imidacloprid (celery); methoxyfenozide (fruiting vegetables, cucurbits); spinetoram (celery; spinach and brassica vegetables); saflufenacil (pulses); sulfoxaflor; penthiopyrad (flowerhead brassicas; stone fruits; and leafy vegetables (except brassica leafy vegetables)); dinotefuran (brassicas; fruiting vegetables, cucurbits; fruiting vegetables other than cucurbits and leafy vegetables except water cress); fluxapyroxad (stone fruits); and ametocradin (brassica (cole or cabbage) vegetables, head cabbage, flowerhead brassicas; leafy vegetables and spring onion). The rationale for the reservations is explained in CX/CAC 13/36/4-add.1. The Delegation of Norway also expressed their reservation in this regard. The Delegation of Thailand informed the Commission that the MRL for fenvalerate (Chinese broccoli) does not apply to broccoli because Chinese broccoli is a leafy brassica and that the consumption data for broccoli does not apply to the commodity.

82. The Delegation of Egypt expressed their reservation on chlorothalonil, buprofezin, cyromazine and trifloxystrobin due to safety concerns.

83. The Commission adopted all the draft and proposed draft MRLs for the various pesticide / commodity combinations as proposed by the CCPR.

Standards and Related Texts Held at Step 8 by the Commission

Draft MRLs for bovine somatotropin²⁸

84. In response to the request for clarification on the deadline for the consideration of the draft MRLs for bovine somatotropin (BST), the WHO JECFA Secretariat clarified that following the request of the 35th Session of the Commission to perform a re-evaluation, taking all new data since its last evaluation into account, a Call for Data was published in January 2013 with a deadline for data submission of April 2013. Data were received from a sponsor and from governments and a review will be undertaken following the

²⁶ REP13/CF, para. 70, Appendix III

²⁷ REP13/PR paras. 17-90, Appendices II & III

²⁸ ALINORM 95/31, Appendix II

principles of a systematic review. The Commission was also informed that the JECFA assessment of BSTs was scheduled in November 2013 and, according to the decision of the 35th Session of the Commission²⁹, the report of JECFA would be presented for consideration by the 22nd Session of the Committee for Residues of Veterinary Drugs in Foods (CCRVDF), scheduled early 2015. The Commission also noted that the draft MRLs for BST were held at Step 8 and would be considered by the Commission in 2015 in the light of the CCRVDF recommendations.

PROPOSED DRAFT STANDARDS AND RELATED TEXTS AT STEP 5 (Agenda Item 6)³⁰

85. The Commission adopted at Step 5 the proposed draft Standards and Related Texts submitted by its subsidiary bodies, as presented in Appendix IV to this report, and advanced them to Step 6.

86. The following paragraphs provide additional information on the comments made and the decisions taken on certain items.

Fresh Fruits and Vegetables (CCFFV)

Proposed draft Standard for Golden Passion Fruit³¹

87. The Chairperson recalled that the Executive Committee³² had discussed this matter and had recommended adoption of the standard at Step 5, noting that following an extensive discussion on the scope, the CCFFV had noted that delegations could submit comments and information at Step 5 for consideration by the Commission on the economic importance of other species of passion fruits for their countries which could possibly allow the enlargement of the scope; however, no such comments had been received for consideration at the Commission.

88. Some delegations, while supporting adoption at Step 5, said they would like to see other varieties included as they had economic value in trade.

89. The Delegation of Colombia, who had initially proposed the standard, said that as no proposals for enlarging the scope had been received the standard should be adopted at Step 5 and progress according to its current scope and that any delegation could make comments or proposals for an annex to the standard in the CCFFV.

90. The Commission adopted the Standard at Step 5 with the current scope noting that any delegation could make comments or proposals regarding other species in CCFFV.

Fish and Fishery Products (CCFFP)

Proposed Draft Performance Criteria for Reference and Confirmatory Methods for Marine Biotoxins (Section I-8.6 Determination of Marine Biotoxins) in the Standard for Live and Raw Bivalve Molluscs (CODEX STAN 292-2008)³³

91. The Commission adopted the proposed draft performance criteria at Step 5. The Delegation of Chile noted that technical discussion would still be ongoing in CCFFP and stressed the importance of the mouse bioassay for biotoxin determination in Chile and other developing countries.

²⁹ REP12/CAC, paras 79-86

³⁰ CX/CAC 13/36/5; CX/CAC 13/36/5-Add.1; CX/CAC 13/36/6 (Comments of Cuba, France and IIF); CX/CAC 13/36/6 Add.1 (Comments of Canada, Costa Rica, Cuba, Philippines, India, IDF and IIR); CRD 7 (Comments of Colombia); CRD 8 (Comments of Japan); CRD 11 (Comments of Indonesia); CRD 13 (Comments of India); CRD 17 (Comments of Dominica)

³¹ REP13/FFV, para. 85, Appendix IV

³² REP13/EXEC, paras 24-26

³³ REP13/FFP, para. 99, Appendix VII

FAO/WHO Coordinating Committee for Asia (CCASIA)***Proposed Draft Standard for Non-Fermented Soybean Products***³⁴

92. Several delegations and one observer expressed the view that the use of the term “soybean milk” was inconsistent with general Codex texts, especially the *General Standard for Use of Dairy Terms* and that terminology should be used consistently in Codex standards. One Delegation expressed the view that in section 8.2 on the labelling of genetically modified soybean, it was not appropriate to include a reference to national legislation in a Codex standard.

93. Several delegations in the Asian region supported the adoption of the standard at Step 5 as proposed by the Committee.

94. The Commission recalled that the labelling provisions had been considered by the CCFL and had not been endorsed and therefore the CCASIA would reconsider them at its next session. The Delegation of Japan, speaking as Chair of CCASIA, confirmed that the CCASIA would consider these matters at its next session.

95. The Commission endorsed the view of the Executive Committee in this regard³⁵ and adopted the proposed draft Regional Standard at Step 5, with the recommendation that the CCASIA should review the standard in the light of the advice from the CCFL.

Contaminants in Foods (CCCF)***Proposed Draft MLs for DON in Raw Cereal Grains (Maize, Wheat and Barley) and Associated Sampling Plan and in Flour, Semolina, Meal and Flakes from Wheat, Maize or Barley***³⁶

96. The Chairperson, in introducing this item, informed the Commission of the recommendation of the 68th Session of the Executive Committee to adopt the MLs at Step 5, noting that there were still pending issues for CCCF to consider. The Commission noted while there was support for the adoption of the MLs, there were also concerns expressed either to all the MLs in general or to the MLs for raw cereal grains, in particular.

97. Several delegations questioned the need for a ML for raw cereals grains and pointed out that due to climatic changes, the ML might be difficult to achieve in some years that could lead to premature rejections, which could have implications for trade and food security. The Commission was informed that new data would be made available to CCCF for consideration before a final decision could be taken on the ML in raw cereal grains.

98. Some delegations supported adoption of the ML for raw cereal grains, noting that it was necessary to establish MLs for these commodities as these were the commodities most traded internationally. The Delegation of the European Union, while supporting the adoption of the ML, expressed a reservation on the sampling plan.

99. The Delegation of Norway expressed a general reservation regarding MLs for DON based on concerns for food safety, based on a comprehensive risk assessment on mycotoxins in cereal grains published by the Norwegian Scientific Committee for Food Safety in April 2013. The Scientific Committee found that even with concentrations much lower than the MLs proposed by CCCF, there are reasons to be concerned about the intake of DON, in particular the intake from cereal products such as bread, breakfast cereals and oatmeal, among children. The Delegation also questioned whether there was a need to set MLs for oats in addition to wheat, maize and barley. Another delegation noted that Codex MLs should be based on JECFA evaluation. An Observer noted that, in their view, epidemiological data, more occurrence data, and economic impact data will be necessary to more fully understand the impact from setting MLs for DON on raw cereal grains.

100. Noting the concerns expressed, the Commission adopted the MLs at Step 5 and recommended that CCCF give further consideration to the pending issues. The Commission noted the reservation of the United States of America and Jordan on the ML for raw cereal grains, of the European Union on the sampling plan for raw cereal grains, and of Norway and Egypt on the MLs for raw cereal grains and for flour, semolina, meal and flakes derived from wheat, maize or barley.

³⁴ REP13/ASIA para. 109, Appendix III

³⁵ REP13/EXEC paras 27 – 30

³⁶ REP13/CF, para.70, Appendix III

REVOCATION OF EXISTING CODEX STANDARDS AND RELATED TEXTS (Agenda Item 7)³⁷

101. The Commission agreed to revoke the texts proposed as presented in CX/CAC 13/36/7. The list of texts approved for revocation is summarized in Appendix V to this report. The following paragraphs provide additional information on the comments made and the decisions taken on certain items.

Committee on Contaminants in Foods (CCCF)***Maximum levels for lead in the individual standards for canned fruits and canned vegetables***

102. The Commission did not revoke these maximum levels because it was proposed as a consequential amendment to the establishment of new maximum levels, which the Commission did not adopt in the discussion under Agenda Item 5.

Committee on Pesticide Residues (CCPR)***Maximum residue limits for pesticide / commodity combinations³⁸***

103. The Delegation of Egypt expressed their reservation on the revocation of the MRLs set on the following pesticides: dichlorvos, glufosinate-ammonium, cycloxydim, methoxyfenozide and fluopyram. The Commission agreed to revoke these MRLs.

AMENDMENTS TO CODEX STANDARDS AND RELATED TEXTS (Agenda Item 8)³⁹

104. The Commission noted that this item was related to the ongoing work of the Codex Secretariat to ensure consistency throughout Codex texts.

105. The Commission adopted the amendments to update references in several texts on methods of analysis and sampling and in the Code of Hygienic Practice for Meat (CAC/RCP 58-2005) as presented in the working document.

PROPOSALS FOR THE ELABORATION OF NEW STANDARDS AND RELATED TEXTS AND FOR THE DISCONTINUATION OF WORK (Agenda Item 9)⁴⁰**ELABORATION OF NEW STANDARDS AND RELATED TEXTS**

106. The Commission approved the elaboration of new standards and related texts summarized in Appendix VI. The following paragraphs provide additional information on comments made and decisions taken on the following items:

Fresh Fruits and Vegetables (CCFFV)***New work on ware potatoes⁴¹***

107. The Commission noted the recommendation of the Executive Committee that new work on ware potatoes should not proceed and that the proposal should be returned to the CCFFV for further consideration of technical issues⁴².

108. Many delegations intervened in favor of approving new work on a standard for ware potatoes at the present session, as ware potatoes were widely produced, traded and consumed all around the world. Many countries were either importers or exporters, or consumers of potatoes and thus there was a need for an international reference. In their view technical discussions could be held when discussing the proposed draft standard in the CCFFV and there had been sufficient time since the last session of the CCFFV for all delegations to consult with their national experts.

³⁷ CX/CAC 13/36/7

³⁸ REP13/PR paras. 17-90, Appendix IV

³⁹ CX/CAC 13/36/8

⁴⁰ CX/CAC 13/36/9; CX/CAC 13/36/9-Add.1; CX/CAC 13/36/9-Add.2; CRD 3 (Comments of Philippines); CRD 4 (Comments of GAFTA); CRD 5 (Comments of Lebanon); CRD 6 (Comments of Egypt); CRD 9 (Comments of Thailand); CRD 13 (Comments of India); CRD 14 (Comments of Peru); CRD 15 (Comments of Singapore); CRD 16 (Comments of OIV); CRD 19 (Comments of ISO); CRD 23 (Comments of Uruguay)

⁴¹ REP13/FFV, paras. 123-124 and Appendix VI

⁴² REP13/EXEC, paras 52-54

109. One delegation mentioned that setting a new standard for ware potatoes fit well with the new strategic plan. Another delegation recalled that FAO had celebrated the International Year of the Potato in 2008 and that potatoes were one of the most important products in the world to ensure food security and poverty reduction and that a Codex standard could make an important contribution to its trade.

110. Some delegations stressed the need for a Codex standard for ware potatoes to protect their consumers against health problems e.g. contaminants and pesticide residues.

111. It was clarified that food safety issues would not be part of the work as this fell outside the terms of reference of the CCFFV and was the responsibility of general Codex committees such as CCCF and CCPR. It was noted that a Codex Standard for Quick Frozen French Fried Potatoes exists (CODEX STAN 114-1981).

112. Many delegations intervened in support of the recommendation of the Executive Committee and said that as the proposal for new work had been submitted very late, it had not been possible to consult with national experts and thus no substantial, technical discussion had been possible in the CCFFV. They were of the opinion that the scope of the proposal should be very clearly defined and agreed in the Committee before new work could be approved.

113. Several delegations mentioned that the international trade volume of ware potatoes was low, that the proposal did not take into account the views of the major potato producers and exporters and that no specific international trade issues had been identified.

114. One delegation said that they did not see the urgency of starting new work. If new work was started it should be on the basis of a common understanding that the standard did not deal with safety issues but with quality. Another delegation said that it should be evaluated if there were any issues in the international trade of potatoes that could be addressed by a quality standard.

115. One delegation said that there was clearly a lot of support for starting new work on ware potatoes, however there were many other delegations who wished to have more technical discussions in the Committee before agreeing on new work. The delegation suggested to have a clear project document otherwise the development of the standard could be problematic. Another delegation supported the intervention and requested the Chair to define the scope of the discussion within the Committee, as it should be clear that the discussion should not be opened on whether or not to proceed with the elaboration of a standard, but the discussion should focus on the scope of the standard and the technical aspects. One delegation proposed to ask for additional data.

116. The Chairperson concluded as follows: (i) The Commission recognizes the importance of starting new work on ware potatoes in view of the importance of the production, consumption and trade; (ii) The Commission requests the CCFFV to submit a clear project document with a well defined scope for consideration at the next sessions of CCEXEC and the Commission; and (iii) in order to assist preparation of the project document, the Codex Secretariat will prepare a circular letter in accordance with the format for project documents as contained in the Codex Procedural Manual.

117. The Delegation of Cuba reserved their position on this conclusion, as the development of the standard should proceed and technical issues could be considered in the Committee.

Processed Fruits and Vegetables (CCPFV)

Standard for Ginseng Products (conversion of the Regional Standard for Ginseng Products to a worldwide standard)⁴³

118. The Commission approved new work on a Standard for Ginseng Products. The Delegation of Brazil reiterated their reservation as expressed at the CCPFV with regard to ginseng extracts.

⁴³ REP13/PFV, para 138, Appendix VIII

FAO/WHO Coordinating Committee for Near East (CCNEA)***Standard for Halal Food***⁴⁴

119. The Chairperson recalled that the Executive Committee had recognised the importance of consumption and trade of halal products worldwide and agreed that, in the context of this new work proposal, the project document should be re-scoped in order to identify gaps with existing relevant Codex texts, and that the Member proposing new work should seek the advice of CCFL and CCFICS to assist the CCEXEC and Commission to take a decision⁴⁵.

120. The Observer from OIE informed the Commission that it had adopted relevant standards on slaughter methods that were compatible with Islamic law. They had also adopted traceability guidance to trace animals until the slaughterhouse whereas there was no guidance yet for the link from the animal to the meat, which would be important information for making sure that the appropriate slaughter method was used. The Observer said that in re-scoping the work relevant OIE texts on animal welfare should also be cross-referenced and that OIE would be happy to work together with Codex on this project.

121. The Delegation of Egypt, who had proposed the new work, stressed the importance of halal products worldwide and pointed out that issues related to halal were not limited to slaughter methods only but extended to other products e.g. food additives.

122. The Commission recognised the importance of halal products worldwide and requested Egypt to re-scope the project document in line with the recommendations of the Executive Committee (see para. 121) and to take into account, as appropriate, relevant OIE work.

Standard for frozen and chilled meat⁴⁶

123. The Chairperson recalled that the Executive Committee had agreed that the proposal should be redrafted to identify the gaps with existing texts, and that the advice of the Committee on Food Hygiene should be sought in order to assist the CCEXEC and Commission to take a decision⁴⁷.

124. One delegation noted the high volume of trade in these products and the importance of standards as most food poisoning was related to meat products. Another delegation mentioned that the project document only covered four types of meat (beef, camel, buffalo and sheep) and that it should be expanded if it was to be an international standard.

125. The Chairperson clarified that the *Code of Hygienic Practice for Meat* (CAC/RCP 58-2005) contained a definition for meat covering all types of meat and that the scope of the proposal was international rather than regional.

126. One delegation mentioned import/export problems with chilled/frozen meat due to residues of veterinary drugs and pesticides. The Secretariat clarified that there were international MRLs for veterinary drugs and pesticide residues.

127. The Observer from OIE proposed to cross-reference relevant OIE texts on animal diseases and zoonoses related to chilled and frozen meat.

128. The Delegation of New Zealand, speaking as Chair of the Meat Hygiene Committee, noted that when drafting the project document, the *Code of Hygienic Practice for Meat* should be consulted as frozen and chilled meats were a subset of the products dealt with in the Code.

129. The Commission agreed that the project document should be re-drafted by Egypt in line with the recommendations of CCEXEC (see para. 123), taking into account existing relevant OIE texts, as appropriate, identifying the gaps and seeking the advice of the CCFH.

DISCONTINUATION OF WORK

130. The Commission approved discontinuation of work as summarized in Appendix VII.

⁴⁴ REP13/NEA, paras 111-117

⁴⁵ REP13/EXEC, paras 58-61

⁴⁶ REP13/NEA, paras 123-125

⁴⁷ REP13/EXEC, paras 62-64

MATTERS REFERRED TO THE COMMISSION BY CODEX COMMITTEES AND TASK FORCES (Agenda Item 10)⁴⁸

Matters Related to Requests from the Commission

131. The Commission noted several matters arising from the reports of Codex Committees, namely CCFICS, CCFA and CCPR, in relation to requests from previous sessions of the Commission, as presented in CX/CAC 13/36/10.

132. The following paragraphs provide additional information on the comments made and decisions taken on certain items.

Code of Practice for the Storage and Transport of Edible Fats and Oils in Bulk: Draft and Proposed Draft Lists of Acceptable Cargoes

133. The Commission recalled that at its 34th Session it had adopted the Draft and Proposed Draft Lists of Acceptable Previous Cargoes at Step 8 and Step 5/8 and had directed the Committee on Fats and Oils (CCFO) to review the list against the criteria. The 23rd CCFO recognized that it was essential to have an approach in place for adding or removing substances from the list and decided that the review of the list should be a standing item on the agenda of the CCFO. The Committee, therefore, requested the Commission to reiterate its directive to the Committee to review the Codex List of Acceptable Previous Cargoes against the Criteria and to direct the Committee to carry out the review on a continuous basis with the view to facilitate the review process of the List.

Conclusion

134. The Commission agreed to the request the Committee on Fats and Oils to review the *List of Acceptable Previous Cargoes* against the Criteria and to carry out the review on a continuous basis with the view to facilitate the review process of the List.

New Work on Processed Cheese

135. The Chairperson briefly recalled that the 35th Session of the Commission had agreed to discontinue work on the development of a standard for processed cheese and requested the Codex Secretariat to analyse: (i) the information submitted by Members and Observers on gaps in the safety and quality provisions of Codex texts that would justify new work on processed cheese and the scope of new work to address these gaps; and (ii) the discussion held in the six FAO/WHO Coordinating Committees on the need for such a standard.⁴⁹

136. The Commission noted the analysis, which showed that: (i) a number of countries, in particular in Latin America and the Caribbean and Near East regions, still considered feasible and necessary the development of a standard (or two) to respond to their needs to ensure that processed cheese products traded internationally have certain compositional aspects and to be used as the basis of their national legislation; and (ii) that positions between countries/regions in favour and against new work on processed cheese had not substantially changed over the years.

137. The analysis concluded that, in the light of clear and continuing interest from a number of countries/regions in an international standard for processed cheese, it might be appropriate to make a further effort to determine whether its development is feasible by defining its scope and compositional aspects.

138. The Commission considered two possible options: (i) to establish an electronic Working Group to consider the development of a project document for new work on processed cheese (Option 1); and (ii) discontinue consideration of the matter (Option 2). It was clarified that the establishment of the electronic Working Group would not pre-empt any decision by the Commission on new work on an international standard for processed cheese and that discontinuation of consideration of the matter would not prevent any Member to submit proposals for new work to the Commission

⁴⁸ CX/CAC 13/36/10; CX/CAC 13/36/10 Add.1; CX/CAC 13/36/10 Add.2; CX/CAC 13/36/10 Add.3; CX/CAC 13/36/10 Add.4; CRD 2 (Comments of Kenya); CRD 3 (Comments of GAFTA); CRD 5 (Comments of Lebanon); CRD 6 (Comments of Egypt); CRD 13 (Comments of India); CRD 14 (Comments of Peru); CRD 15 (Comments of Singapore); CRD 16 (Comments of OIV); CRD 19 (Comments of ISO); CRD 23 (Comments of Uruguay)

⁴⁹ REP12/CAC paras 163-165.

139. The Delegation of New Zealand, speaking as the host of the Committee on Milk and Milk Products (CCMMP), recognised the continuous interest of a number of countries in the development of a standard for processed cheese, which focused on consumer issues. If there was consensus for Option 1, the Delegation offered to lead the electronic Working Group and facilitate the process in view of their long experience on the matter.

140. A number of delegations, noting that processed cheese was an important commodity traded globally, favoured Option 1 and recalled their discussion in the FAO/WHO Coordinating Committees. They expressed interest to participate in the electronic Working Group. The Delegation of Uruguay offered to co-chair the electronic Working Group and proposed to work also in Spanish to facilitate the participation of countries of their region.

141. Other delegations favoured Option 2; they recalled that CCMMP had failed to develop a standard for processed cheese after many years and that it was not possible to define what processed cheese is and reach a consensus on a common solution regarding a standard for processed cheese. They noted that the information submitted did not provide a clear solution to by-pass the problems faced by CCMMP and that it would be better for Codex to concentrate resources on other matters.

142. The Delegation of Lithuania, speaking on behalf of the Member States of the European Union present at the Session, said that, while favouring discontinuation of consideration of the matter (Option 2), they would be ready to support Option 1 in a spirit of compromise.

143. Noting that the position of delegations had not changed over the year, the Chairperson proposed to consider Option 1 as an ultimate effort to develop a standard for processed cheese. She stressed that Option 1 did not pre-empt in any way any future discussion and decision on new work by the Commission and proposed that the electronic Working Group work in English and Spanish.

144. Some delegations proposed to better clarify that the task of the electronic Working Group was to carry out a study to determine if it was feasible to standardise processed cheese and, if appropriate, to prepare a project document for new work for consideration by the Commission. They highlighted the need that information on new work be provided according to the requirements in the Procedural Manual.

Conclusion

145. In view of the above discussion and recognising the need to make a final effort to determine if the development of international standard(s) for processed cheese would be feasible, the Commission agreed to establish an electronic Working Group, co-chaired by New Zealand and Uruguay, open to all interested Members and Observers and working in English and Spanish. The Commission agreed that the electronic Working Group:

- Would conduct a study on the possibility to develop standard(s) for processed cheese and, depending on the outcome of the study, prepare project document(s) for new work on standard(s) for processed cheese that would clearly define: (i) the scope of the standard and the products to be covered; (ii) the compositional aspects of these products, i.e. minimum cheese content; and (iii) acceptability of use of gelatine, starches and stabilizers in the manufacture of processed cheese; and
- Could also consider the possibility of developing a standard covering products analogous to processed cheese but where cheese and milk products have been substituted by non dairy ingredients.

146. The report of the electronic Working Group and, if available, the project document(s) would be considered by the 37th Session of the Commission, through the 69th Session of the Executive Committee.

147. The Commission noted that the outcome of this work would not pre-empt in any way any decision of the Commission on new work on an international standard for processed cheese and the mechanism to carry out this work.

148. The Commission also noted that active participation of all countries supporting the development of a standard for processed cheese work would be necessary to complete the task of the electronic Working Group.

Establishment of Codex Committee on Spices, Aromatic Herbs and their Formulations

149. The Delegation of India, referring to their proposal in CX/CAC 13/36/10-Add.2, requested the Commission to consider the establishment of a Committee on Spices, Aromatic Herbs and their Formulations. The Delegation pointed out that these products were widely consumed and traded internationally and mainly produced by small farmers in developing countries. Harmonized standards would support fair practices in trade in line with the Codex mandate and furthermore the proposal was in line with both the new and the current Strategic Plans. Spices by nature were neither fresh or processed fruits and vegetables and therefore the work could not be undertaken by existing Committees (i.e. CCFFV and CCPFV). A time-bound Task Force was also not feasible due to the vast scope of work to be undertaken.

150. The Delegation proposed that the work could be done in consultation with various international organizations, including ISO. The Delegation stated that India was willing to host the Committee and was open to co-hosting after gaining sufficient experience through conducting two or three sessions. The work could be completed in 12 sessions by holding sessions every 18 months, which would support cost efficiency. They further noted that due to the number of committees that had been adjourned *sine die*, savings emanating out of this could be utilized for any additional expenses on the proposed Committee. The Delegation therefore invited the Commission to consider establishing a Committee on Spices, Aromatic Herbs and their Formulations with the terms of reference as outlined in the working document. The Commission noted that the proposal also included project documents for new work on selected commodities.

151. Several delegations supported the establishment of a committee to be hosted by India, noting the need for international harmonized standards to prevent barriers to international trade and the benefit to small farmers and developing countries. However, they pointed out that the scope of work and the mechanism for prioritization of work needed to be well defined. It was proposed that the Committee should be named "Committee for Spices and Culinary Herbs" to reflect that the herbs to be considered are limited to those for culinary purposes and not for use as food additives or other purposes.

152. It was noted that CCAFRICA had supported Nigeria to co-host the committee with India, noting that arrangement for co-hosting would be determined as per the provisions of the Procedural Manual. It was also proposed that Arabic should be one of the languages used by the Committee to facilitate participation of members from the Near East Region.

153. Several other delegations, while recognizing the importance of establishing standards for spices, expressed concerns with the cost implications associated with establishment of a new Committee. It was noted that many countries no longer benefited from the Codex Trust Fund and the lack of resources would make it difficult to participate in a new Committee. Some of these countries did not support the establishment of a new subsidiary body, and proposed to examine other ways to address standards for spices and that the Committee on Processed Fruits and Vegetables could be requested to undertake the work, in view of discussions on dehydrated products in that Committee.

154. One delegation expressed concern with the extent of the proposed work on spices, which should be prioritised with a clear work plan, and noted that the establishment of a new Committee, such as the one proposed, should be considered in the broader context of Codex work management. The Delegation noted that ten years had passed since the Joint Evaluation of Codex and there was a need to review Codex committee work management, and that a discussion paper would be prepared on this subject for consideration at the next session of the Committee on General Principles.

155. In view of the overwhelming support, the Commission agreed to establish a Committee on Spices and Culinary Herbs (CCSCH) to be hosted by India with the following terms of reference:

- a. To elaborate worldwide standards for spices and culinary herbs in their dried and dehydrated state in whole, ground, and cracked or crushed form.
- b. To consult, as necessary, with other international organizations in the standards development process to avoid duplication.

156. The Commission did not consider the proposals for new work and agreed that the first session of the Committee would consider its work management modalities, programme of work, including prioritizing criteria, and new work proposals from Codex Members. The Commission noted that the date and place of the first session of CCSCH would be planned by India in consultation with the Secretariat.

157. The Delegation of India expressed its gratitude to the Commission for the opportunity to host the CCSCH and stated that the languages of the Committee would be Arabic, English, French and Spanish.

STRATEGIC PLANNING OF THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION (Agenda Item 11)**GENERAL IMPLEMENTATION STATUS (Agenda Item 11a)⁵⁰**

158. The Commission was informed of the discussion that had been held on the monitoring of the Codex Strategic Plan 2008-2013 at the 68th Executive Committee, which had noted that there were no specific concerns and that the overall implementation of the Strategic Plan was progressing satisfactorily. The Commission was also informed of the request of the Executive Committee that the Codex Secretariat prepare a final report highlighting the status of the activities of the Strategic Plan for presentation at its 69th Session.⁵¹

159. The Delegation of Lithuania, speaking on behalf of the Members of the European Union present at the session, expressed general support for the activities of the Strategic Plan. In particular, encouraged FAO and WHO to support Activity 1.7 “Encourage FAO/WHO to expand capacity building programmes” and noted that the European Union and its Members States were implementing some training activities in developing countries for improving safety of food. In relation to Activity 1.8 “Publish and disseminate the Codex Alimentarius”, the Delegation congratulated the Codex Secretariat for the excellent work in preparing and disseminating Codex materials in a timely manner and encouraged them to continue work on this activity.

160. The Delegation of China supported the conclusion of the 68th Executive Committee, in particular the request to prepare the final report of the Strategic Plan 2008-2013, which would help to understand better the implementation of various activities.

Conclusion

161. The Commission supported the conclusion of the Executive Committee and noted that a final report highlighting the status of activities would be prepared for the next session. The Commission congratulated FAO and WHO and the Codex Secretariat for their work and noted that the implementation of the Codex Strategic Plan was underway and progressing in a satisfactory manner.

DRAFT CODEX STRATEGIC PLAN 2014 – 2019 (Agenda Item 11b)⁵²

162. Vice-Chairperson Samuel Godefroy introduced the item and provided a brief overview of the development of the draft Strategic Plan and of the 68th Executive Committee’s discussion. He recalled that work on the current draft was initiated at the 66th Executive Committee (February 2012) with the thorough discussion of the initial part of the document and that the 67th Executive Committee and 35th Commission had the opportunity to review and comment on a more complete version, which also included a full set of activities. The Vice-Chairperson further recalled the decision of the 67th Executive Committee to task a sub-Committee of the Executive Committee to update the document, based on the comments of the Commission and the Executive Committee and to complete the remainder of the Workplan. The sub-Committee addressed and documented each and every comment and this compilation of comments, along with an updated draft Strategic Plan, were the basis for the review and comments of all the six FAO/WHO Coordinating Committees which met from September 2012 to February 2013.

163. The Commission further noted that the sub-Committee met physically in March 2013, with representation from all regions, to address all comments of the coordinating committees and of FAO and WHO, and prepared a penultimate draft of the Codex Strategic Plan 2014-19. The sub-Committee had extensive discussion and was able to achieve consensus on the most critical parts of the document. To maintain transparency of the overall process of review and update of this document, the sub-Committee also fully documented and made available to all Members the way comments were addressed (CX/CAC 13/36/12 Part 2). The draft (CX/CAC 13/36/12 Part 1) was then circulated for comments to all Commission Members and Observers with a request for comments by 10 June 2013.

164. The Vice-Chairperson continued explaining that the 68th Executive Committee reviewed the last round of comments and focused the review on maintaining the consensus that was reached in March 2013. The Executive Committee considered the various comments with the guiding principles to limit changes to the text to only areas that required clarification of an ambiguity or correction of an inconsistency. The Executive

⁵⁰ CX/CAC 13/36/11

⁵¹ REP13/EXEC, paras 71-72

⁵² CX/CAC 13/36/12, Part 1 and Part 2; CX/CAC 13/36/12 Add.1 (Comments of Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica and Kenya); CX/CAC 13/36/12 Add.2 (Comments of Norway, Papua New Guinea, FAO and WHO, and IFAH); CRD 2 (Comments of Kenya); CRD 13 (Comments of India); CRD 14 (Comments of Peru); CRD 18 (Comments of Brazil)

Committee was very attentive not to make significant changes to the document because it considered that extensive discussion of the document already occurred and that continued drafting was not appropriate at this late stage of the development of the document. Moreover, continued drafting or changes to the text would present the risk of leading to a departure from the consensus already achieved. It was further felt that presenting to the Commission a document that might seem significantly different from the one that was circulated for comments would have a negative impact on its consideration for adoption. The resulting document (REP13/EXEC, Appendix II) therefore included only minor changes. The discussion of the Executive Committee was also fully documented in the report (REP13/EXEC, paras 73-110).

165. The Vice-Chairperson noted that the 68th Executive Committee had concluded that the document represented the outcome of a collegial effort and the result of a broad consensus. He suggested that the Commission follows the recommendation of the Executive Committee and adopt the slightly revised draft.

General Discussion

166. The Vice-Chairperson opened the discussion and sought the Commission's support to consider the document in its current state with no further modification to preserve the consensus achieved. He also sought the Commission's views on the recommendation of the Executive Committee to adopt the draft Strategic Plan (REP13/EXEC Appendix II).

167. A number of delegations supported the recommendation of the Executive Committee and highlighted that the text was the result of consensus and efforts made by all members to achieve the current draft; that the document was the result of comprehensive consultation and was robust enough to be adopted and moved forward. Members noted that the document was prepared with input from all FAO/WHO Coordinating Committees; that a lot of resources had been invested into its preparation; that the Strategic Plan was a dynamic forward-looking document that addresses the need to develop food standards in response to emerging issues, highlighting the importance of the risk analysis principles in the framework of Codex and the reliance on scientific advice for the development of Codex standards. Members highlighted some key points in the Strategic Plan that would ensure that Codex becomes an even more efficient and effective standard-setting organization. Some members also indicated that the Strategic Plan would serve as the basis for the development of regional Strategic Plans, e.g. for the CCNASWP and CCASIA; that it was a dynamic document addressing the needs of developing countries; that the document reflected consensus and thus demonstrated that consensus could be achieved.

168. It was also observed that the report of the Executive Committee reflected the comments made in a balanced way; and that indicators and outputs needed to be clearer to facilitate the implementation and monitoring.

169. The Delegation of Egypt, while not opposing the adoption of the Strategic Plan, raised the issue of water, in relation to food safety and protection of the life of the populations as one of factors that had not been identified in the drivers of change, given its impact on food safety issues around the world.

170. One Member requested a clarification on Activity 3.1.5, related to the use of the languages of the Commission. The Vice-Chairperson clarified that the intent of the activity was to encourage to the extent possible the use of other languages of the Commission. This would be achieved through encouraging the use of more than three languages commonly available at Committee and Task Force meetings i.e. beyond English, French and Spanish. This activity also sought to encourage the use of more languages of the Commission for electronic Working Groups (i.e. beyond one language as may be the practice currently in some electronic Working Groups). The measurable indicators and outputs were meant to report on the progress related to the expanded use of the various languages of the Commission, within the available resources.

171. Some delegations pointed out that the real challenge might arise from the implementation of the Strategic Plan and how Codex would translate this plan into action. These delegations emphasized the importance of acting on the need of certain countries related to capacity building, risk analysis and data availability. Support was expressed for developing and documenting progress on the implementation of the Strategic Plan and the associated activities.

172. The Delegations of Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Honduras, Jamaica, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Trinidad and Tobago, Uruguay, recognized the importance of the Strategic Plan and the need to be in accordance with the Codex Procedural Manual.

173. Therefore, they supported the adoption of the Strategic Plan but wished to express the following reservations:

- (i) Matters regarding consumer concerns must refer solely to the protection of their health. In this regard, the above delegations indicate that all factors should be considered strictly in the context of the provisions of the Procedural Manual regarding risk management.
- (ii) Support what is stated in the second sentence of paragraph three in the introduction, without reference to the expression "the interpretation of" indicated before "the Codex mandate". The Codex mandate is clear, precise and unequivocal.

174. The Observer from WTO noted that Codex standards had served as the reference for the quality and safety of internationally traded foods under the Standards Code of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) since 1979, and since 1995 under the WTO agreements on Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) and on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS). She found gratifying, on the occasion of the Codex 50th Anniversary, to observe that the SPS trade negotiators were fully justified in their confidence that Codex would continue to develop standards based on scientific justification that facilitate international trade. The Observer stated that the WTO supports the draft Strategic Plan, especially Goal 1, including activity 1.2 on developing standards to address emerging issues and activity 1.3 as the SPS Committee has encouraged greater coordination among Codex, IPPC and OIE. WTO also supports Goal 2, as WTO Members have stressed the need for Codex standards to be based on scientific risk assessments, and have expressed serious concern regarding the need for sufficient resources for the operation of the scientific advisory bodies. Goal 3 also directly addresses provisions in both the SPS and TBT agreements regarding the participation of all WTO members, in particular developing country members, in the Codex standard-setting process. With respect to objective 3.2 on building capacity, the Observer invited Codex members to consider seeking funds from the Standards and Trade Development Facility (STDF) for projects.

175. The Observer from IFAH congratulated the Commission on completing the development of the new Strategic Plan for 2014-19, and while not fully in agreement with the entire text, highlighted the statement concerning the role of science in Codex decision-making process.

Conclusion

176. The Chairperson noted the overwhelming level of support for the proposed Strategic Plan 2014-2019. The Chairperson noted some reservations expressed by some delegations on some limited and very specific sections and wording appearing in the document. He noted the support of these delegations as well as the consensus emerging from the Commission to adopt the Strategic Plan as tabled by the Executive Committee at its 68th Session. He reassured the delegations that the Strategic Plan would be effectively monitored and that a document would be prepared by the Codex Secretariat for that purpose.

177. Concurring with these conclusions, the Commission adopted the Strategic Plan 2014-2019 (Appendix IX) which would guide its activities for the next six years.

FINANCIAL AND BUDGETARY MATTERS (Agenda Item 12)⁵³

Codex Budget

178. The Secretariat presented the combined accounts for 2012-2013, the detailed expenditures for 2012, and the proposed budget for 2014-2015, including the increased contribution of WHO. The Commission was informed that the current budget structure reflected the goals and activities of the Codex Strategic Plan 2008-2013 and that expenditures for 2012 were reported accordingly in Annexes 1 and 2. It was expected that the development of the indicators for the new FAO programme of work and budget 2014-2015 would take into account the goals and activities of the Strategic Plan 2014-2019.

179. The Commission, noting the comment of one delegation that the document had been available very late and did not allow consultations at national level, agreed that the secretariat should make all efforts to provide working documents in a timely manner.

⁵³ CX/CAC 13/36/13-Rev1, CX/CAC 13/36/13-Add.2

180. The Representative of FAO indicated that new Strategic Objectives have been defined in the FAO Programme of Work and Budget 2014-2015 and that Codex and scientific advice fall under Strategic Objective 4: *Enable more inclusive and efficient agricultural and food systems at local, national and international levels*. The Representative pointed out that the management of the Strategic Objective programmes, as well as funding allocation, would be led by the Strategic Objective Coordinators, and that, while the Codex budget was protected, this was not the case of the related activities, including scientific advice.

181. The Representative of WHO informed the Commission that from 2014 onwards, WHO would implement the Twelfth General Programme of Work (GPW) 2014-2019. In order to take into account the concerns of member countries regarding the share of WHO funding in the Codex budget, the contribution of WHO to the Codex budget of the current biennium had been increased by USD 500,000, bringing it from 14.7% to almost 20%, and it was intended to maintain the same level of contribution in 2014-2015. This increase reflected the strong support expressed by member countries in the WHO governing bodies. The Representative drew the attention of the Commission to the critical financial situation and ongoing reform in WHO, and noted that due to the mobilisation of available funds towards normative activities to safeguard the Codex and related programmes, other activities, especially those related to capacity building, were exposed to greater risks and were becoming heavily dependent on voluntary contributions from donor countries.

FAO/WHO Scientific Support to Codex

182. The Representative of FAO presented the budgetary figures in relation to the provision of scientific advice for the biennium 2012-13 and 2014-15. He emphasised that these related to the advice specifically to Codex for both food safety and nutrition, and that the 2014-15 values were projected estimates.

183. The Representative of WHO highlighted the WHO budget for scientific advice in 2012-13, cost estimates for 2014-15 and explained that the forecast for nutrition advice covered overall cost for scientific advice on nutrition, including, but not limited to, the work directly related to Codex.

184. The Commission thanked FAO and WHO for their continued support to Codex and noted the precarious financial situation for Codex related activities, especially scientific advice and capacity building activities. The Commission called for FAO and WHO to continue their efforts in expanding their donor base, and called for countries to support funding for Codex and related activities, either through direct contributions or through interventions made at the governing bodies of FAO and WHO.

Funding Options

185. Vice-Chairperson Professor Sefa-Dedeh, who chaired the sub-Committee of the Executive Committee established by the last session of the CCEXEC to consider funding options for scientific advice, highlighted the steps followed in the development of the discussion paper, while thanking all participants in the sub-committee for their active contribution.

186. The discussion paper considered how FAO and WHO could secure funding in a sustainable manner through their own allocations; and how to sustain and increase funding for scientific advice from Codex members and other government sources. Consideration was also given to the possible mechanisms through which FAO and WHO could receive funding from non-governmental organizations and private funding sources such as through non-governmental organizations and foundations; international funding institutions; global funds; and multi-partner trust fund and joint programmes. As a result, several short-term and long-term actions were proposed in paragraphs 48 and 49 of the working document.

187. The Commission considered the recommendations of the CCEXEC on funding options and noted that the short-term option in para 48 d was not relevant for scientific advice as paragraphs 27-30 relate to funding for Codex work.

188. Several delegations expressed the view that this was a critical issue as Codex standards were based on science, and as current approaches were not sufficient for ensuring adequate funding, FAO and WHO should consider expanding the donor base, including private sector funding, with the appropriate safeguards to ensure independence, impartiality and integrity of the process.

189. The Representative of WHO stressed the need to ensure that member countries continue to request WHO to give high priority both to the Codex and scientific advice programmes in terms of resource mobilization. For this purpose, it was preferable to increase support to existing mechanisms funded by the core budget of the parent organisations, which had built-in systems for ensuring neutrality, excellence and independence. Some of the new approaches may entail the need to devise robust mechanisms from the start to ensure neutrality and independence of the scientific advice, and finding viable solutions could prove to be challenging and time-consuming. Once such a mechanism would be in place, that could eventually trigger a decrease or discontinuation of funding for scientific advice from the parent organisations through their core budgets. As regards funding from non-profit foundations, the Committee was informed that this was acceptable in WHO for capacity building programmes.

190. The Representative of the Legal Counsel of FAO, speaking on behalf of legal offices of FAO and WHO, recalled that resource mobilization was the responsibility of the parent organizations and subject to their policies. In that regard, he noted that WHO had decided on the basis of its applicable Guidelines on Working with the Private Sector to Achieve Health Outcomes⁵⁴ that no fund would be accepted from commercial entities for activities in connection with the normative function of WHO. He added that the application of similar policies of FAO would most likely lead to the same outcome. He would not exclude that policies could change, but this was a decision for senior management of the parent organizations in consultation with their Governing Bodies.

191. The Commission noted that FAO and WHO had agreed to present an update at the next session of the Executive Committee and the Commission on the examination of the feasibility of short term options a to c listed in paragraph 48 of the discussion paper.

192. The Commission called on FAO and WHO to sustain and support its funding of scientific advice, critical to the work of Codex, and to consider expanding the donor base, including through funding from the private sector with the adequate safeguards to ensure independence, impartiality and integrity of scientific advice, with the understanding that this would require consideration in the governing bodies of the organisations.

193. The Commission agreed to establish a sub-committee chaired by Vice-Chairperson Professor Sefa-Dedeh, open to all Members of the CCEXEC, working in English by electronic means, with the mandate of monitoring progress on sustainable options for funding of scientific advice.

MATTERS ARISING FROM FAO AND WHO (Agenda Item 13)

FAO/WHO PROJECT AND TRUST FUND FOR ENHANCED PARTICIPATION IN CODEX (Agenda Item 13a)⁵⁵

a) FAO/WHO Project and Trust Fund for Enhanced Participation in Codex

194. The Administrator of the FAO/WHO Project and Trust Fund for Enhanced Participation in Codex (Codex Trust Fund) presented to the Commission a summary of the Annual Report 2012, the 17th Progress Report 2012, the Monitoring Report of the Codex Trust Fund 2012 and the draft terms of reference and suggested timeline for the final project evaluation of the Trust Fund.

195. In the 2012 Monitoring Report, the Commission's attention was drawn to the overall performance review which had been provided on the Codex Trust Fund, and the implications for management containing actions to be undertaken by FAO/WHO, Codex Secretariat and the Codex Trust Fund Secretariat in 2013-2014.

196. The Delegation of Lithuania, speaking on behalf of the member states of the European Union present at the current session, called attention to the fact that Member States of the European Union provided almost 70% of the contributions to the Codex Trust Fund. They also provided training initiatives for safer food and assisted countries to prepare comments for Codex meetings. The Delegation called on other Codex Members to contribute to the Trust Fund and highlighted the decision of Malaysia, which was still an eligible country, but had taken the decision to no longer exercise their right to benefit from the Trust Fund and had decided to contribute to the Trust Fund. The contribution from India to the Trust Fund as an emerging economy was also highlighted.

⁵⁴ On the basis of paragraph 23 of the Guidelines

⁵⁵ CX/CAC 13/36/14; CX/CAC 13/36/13-Add.1; CAC/36 INF/9

197. One Delegation expressed appreciation for the operation of the Trust Fund which had worked effectively. It supported the conduct of a final project evaluation and recommended that this information should be available prior to discussing a successor initiative. Duplication between FAO/WHO core business and the activities of a possible successor initiative should be avoided.

198. The Representative of WHO informed the Commission that the parent bodies had begun discussions and brainstorming on a possible successor initiative. Inputs were needed for this process and these might include a scenario planning or other processes that would take place at the same time that the final project evaluation was being undertaken. This would allow FAO/WHO to present proposals for a successor initiative to the Commission's session in 2015 alongside the results of the final project evaluation.

199. The Chairperson concluded by expressing appreciation to donors for supporting the Trust Fund and to FAO/WHO and the Trust Fund Secretariat for their work on the Trust Fund. The Chairperson noted the call to expand the donor base to ensure sustainability. The Commission noted and supported current efforts to consider a successor initiative.

OTHER MATTERS ARISING FROM FAO AND WHO (Agenda Item 13b)⁵⁶

i. Provision of Scientific Advice

Scientific advice

200. The Representative of FAO drew the attention of the Commission to the work of the FAO/WHO expert meetings, in particular to the JECFA, JMPR and JEMRA and the reports of these committees. His intervention focused only on new or current initiatives in relation to provision of scientific advice, and in particular, he highlighted the publication of the tool to support the design and analysis of sampling plans for histamine. This tool, which is a free resource for countries, has just been made publicly available (www.fstools.org/histamine)

201. The Representative of FAO highlighted a recent FAO survey on the extent of trade-disruption resulting from low concentrations of GM in international traded food crops. Approximately 70 government responses were received. As a follow-up to this survey, FAO is planning a high-level Conference to be held on 29-30 October 2013 in Rome.

202. The Representative of FAO further noted that in developing scientific advice, FAO and WHO rely on the work of experts from around the world and expressed thanks to these experts for putting their time at the service of the FAO and WHO.

203. The Representative of WHO drew the attention of the Commission to two activities that were undertaken with support of the CTF to improve the scientific input from developing countries into the Codex process: the pilot partnership approach to elaborate practical examples for the establishment and application of microbiological criteria; and the project to analyse the type and amount of mycotoxins in sorghum to inform the discussion in the Committee on Contaminants in Foods on the need for MLs in this important commodity.

ii. Capacity building activities

204. The Representative of WHO highlighted the work on capacity building to contain antimicrobial resistance and ongoing work on risk assessment methodology including continuation of the work to improve the exposure assessments for veterinary drug residues in food. She then drew the attention of the Commission to the work undertaken by WHO to support countries in the surveillance, detection and estimation of the burden of foodborne diseases. The Commission was informed of a new tool recently launched on the WHO website, FOSCOLLAB, which combines different data bases and information sources for improved risk assessment and management decision making.

205. The Representative of FAO noted that it was unfortunate that there was very little time available to present and discuss the FAO and WHO capacity development programmes, particularly given the fact that during the course of the Commission there had been numerous direct references to the importance of Codex-related capacity development and provision by FAO/WHO of information on which decisions can be taken at national level on adaptation and implementation of Codex standards.

⁵⁶ CX/CAC 13/36/15; CX/CAC 13/36/15- Add 1

206. She noted the great interest shown by delegates in the side-event on the FAO “GM - platform” which was established at the request of Codex members to support the implementation of Annex 3 - *Food Safety Assessment in Situations of Low Level Presence of Recombinant-DNA Plant Material in Food in the Guideline for the Conduct of Food Safety Assessment of Foods Derived from Recombinant-DNA Plants* (CAC/GL 45-2003). So far 56 countries have registered to the platform although only three have started to upload information: Argentina, Australia and Canada. She emphasized that the utility of the Platform depends on the commitment of countries to upload information and looked forward to seeing more countries uploading information in the coming weeks. A clear message from the delegates attending the launch of the Platform was the need for FAO capacity building activities to improve developing countries’ understanding of GM safety assessment.

207. The Representative of FAO also noted the importance of the ongoing FAO work to develop a Food Control System Assessment Tool. The tool will allow systematic and reliable self-assessment of national food control systems to guide countries in developing rational plans for continuous improvement of their systems. FAO will be piloting the assessment tool in a few countries before the end of the year.

208. FAO further noted that several regional committees continue to emphasize the importance of technical assistance to enable them to apply the food safety risk analysis framework to food safety decision-making. She informed that FAO had developed, new guidance and information materials on risk profiling; data selection, collection and use; knowledge synthesis methods; risk prioritization and ranking. These materials were available from the FAO website. She added that there was ongoing work to develop guidance on risk communication. She also highlighted a regional project in Africa on Total Diet Studies that was being jointly implemented with WHO and encouraged delegates to review the other capacity development activities outlined in relevant CAC documents.

209. The Commission took note of the capacity building activities being undertaken by both the FAO and WHO, and thanked the two Organizations for the support being provided to members to strengthen their capabilities in the area of food safety. The Commission also called upon members to take advantage of the different tools being developed by FAO and WHO to enhance food safety and consumer protection.

RELATIONS BETWEEN THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS (Agenda Item 14)⁵⁷

A. Relations between the Codex Alimentarius Commission and other International Intergovernmental Organizations

World Organization for Animal Health (OIE)

210. Dr Vallat, Director-General of the OIE, noted that during the past 12 months representatives of the OIE and Codex have continued to participate in relevant meetings of each organization. He emphasized that the maintenance and further strengthening of these arrangements is essential to ensure that standards pertaining to the food production continuum are consistent and to avoid gaps, contradictions and duplication in coverage.

211. Dr Vallat acknowledged that although good progress had been made by the OIE and Codex in improving cooperation and coordination, he believed that further strengthening of the relationship could provide many important benefits, not only at the international level but also at the country level, in terms of wider acceptance and enhanced implementation of the standards of both international organisations. To this end, the OIE welcomed the decision of the 27th Session of the CCGP to establish an electronic working group on Codex/OIE Cooperation. Dr Vallat commented that the OIE is actively participating in this eWG and has also offered logistic support for a physical working group meeting prior to the next session of the CCGP.

212. Dr Vallat informed the Commission that the revised Terrestrial Code chapter on Infection with *Trichinella* spp., which recommends control measures at the on-farm level to help prevent foodborne illness in humans, was adopted at the recent General Session in May. He commented that the active involvement in each others’ work on this topic has strengthened collaboration and coordination to ensure respective standards cover the entire food production continuum for this pathogen.

⁵⁷ CAC 13/36/16. Information provided by OECD (CAC/36 INF/1); OIE (CAC/36 INF/2); WTO (CAC/36 INF/3); STDF (CAC/36 INF/4); OIV (CAC/36 INF/5); ISO (CAC/36 INF/6); and IAEA (CAC/36 INF/7)

213. Dr Vallat provided an update on its recent OIE Global Conference on the Responsible and Prudent Use of Antimicrobial Agents for Animals.

214. Dr Vallat congratulated the Commission on the adoption of the Principles and Guidelines for National Food Control Systems and noted that this standard along with other work of the CCFICS is of direct relevance to OIE standards and the OIE global programme for strengthening SPS capacity of Member countries. The OIE standards address animal production food safety, certification of animal products for trade, and the legislative framework within which they are implemented. He also noted that OIE Member Countries and donors continue to strongly support the OIE PVS Pathway as a framework to guide strengthening efficiency and quality of veterinary and aquatic animal health services.

215. Dr Vallat assured the Commission of his strong commitment, on behalf of OIE Member Countries, to maintaining and strengthening the close relationship between the OIE and the Codex Alimentarius Commission.

216. The Delegation of Japan, speaking as the Coordinator for CCASIA, informed the Commission of the Regional Seminar for OIE National Focal Points on Animal Production Foods Safety (Tokyo, Japan, 31 October – 2 November 2012), held in conjunction with the 18th Session of CCASIA, and highlighted the importance of a strengthened cooperation and communication between Codex and OIE at both national and regional level.

World Trade Organization (WTO)

217. The Observer from WTO reported that the WTO Committee on Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) was continuing its work on developing a voluntary list of principles and mechanisms on good regulatory practices. At its meeting two weeks ago, several specific trade concerns were raised with regard to specific labelling requirements on "unhealthy" foods that have been introduced by several developing countries, and the Codex representative had informed the TBT Committee about the Codex work on nutrition labelling. The report of food safety related issues raised in the SPS Committee during 2012 and the first quarter of 2013 is contained in INF/3. Nine new food safety requirements were challenged at the SPS Committee during this period of time, and 3 more were raised in the meeting last week. As noted in the report, more than two-thirds of regular notifications received during 2012 through May 2013 concerned food safety measures, and close to 40% of these identified relevant Codex standards. At the SPS meeting last week, Brazil tabled a document regarding the 50th Anniversary of Codex, the importance of Codex standards and the need for these to be scientifically justified. Many delegations supported Brazil's document, with developing countries in particular stressing the need for these safety evaluations. SPS delegates also suggested that Codex should work more closely with private standard-setting bodies to avoid private standards becoming unjustified trade barriers.

218. Speaking on behalf of the Secretariat of the Standards and Trade Development Facility (STDF), the Observer from WTO recalled that the STDF was a partnership among the FAO, WHO, OIE, the World Bank and WTO, to increase coordination in SPS-related capacity building, and to fund some projects. The STDF held a 2-day workshop (June 2013) on the experience of developing countries of using a multi-criteria decision analysis tool to set priorities for capacity building activities, described in STDF Briefing Note 6. STDF Briefing Note 7 describes work on SPS-related public-private partnerships, and another document describes new STDF work regarding trade facilitation negotiations. Almost half (46%) of STDF funds for project and project development are for food safety projects, (see INF/4). More information is available from the STDF website www.standardsfacility.org.

219. The Delegation of Costa Rica, speaking as Coordinator for Latin America and the Caribbean, recalled the concerns of countries in the region with the proliferation private standards and the following recommendations of the CCLAC in this respect⁵⁸:

- To express concern over the negative effects of private standards in developing countries and in international trade, and over the misleading of consumers;
- To reaffirm that Codex standards are the guarantee to protect consumers' health and that the stricter requirements of private standards do not ensure "greater protection";
- To reaffirm the need for a scientific basis for requirements regarding food;

⁵⁸ REP13/LAC para. 170

- To coordinate with other relevant international organizations (for example OIE);
- To initiate a constructive dialogue with the non-governmental organizations imposing compliance with private standards;
- To provide information and guidance to its members on this subject;
- To propose to the Commission that it monitor the private standards that cause problems for exports from developing countries, and also establish an information system so that the causes of the problems can be quantified; and
- To urge private standards-setting bodies to participate in Codex as observers.

220. The Secretariat indicated that the Executive Committee had recommended granting observer status to the Consumer Goods Council, which includes GFSI, and that granting observer status would allow participation of such organisations in the Codex process.

221. Some delegations welcomed this development and proposed that contacts should also be made with other private standard-setting bodies. One delegation referred specifically to the private standard-setting bodies referred to in the WTO SPS committee (G/SPS/GEN/932/Rev.1, dated 10 December 2009).

International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)

222. The Commission noted that information on the activities of the Joint FAO/IAEA Division of Nuclear Techniques in Food and Agriculture were presented in CAC/36 INF/7. With regard to the activities of the Joint FAO/IAEA Division related to the Japanese nuclear emergency of 2011, the Delegation of Japan presented an update of the situation following the nuclear accident, as presented in CRD 12.

Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)

223. The Commission noted that information on the activities of the OECD relevant to the work of Codex as presented in CAC/36 INF/1.

International Organization of Vine and Wine (OIV)

224. The Observer from OIV highlighted its participation in several ongoing work in Codex and had recommended that CCCF consider amending the ML for lead in wine from 0.2 mg/l to 0.15mg/l in its current work on reviewing/revising MLs for lead. The OIV was also actively involved in the review of food additive provisions in the GSFA, and in the CCMAS where OIV methods of analysis for vinegar were referenced. The Observer noted that a proposal had been submitted to CCFFV to review the *Standard for Table Grapes* to align with that of OIV. The Observer further reported that the last General Assembly of OIV had adopted a resolution on raisins which could be considered by CCPFV in its work on the review of remaining standards for miscellaneous processed fruits and vegetables, and dry and dried produce. It was also reported that OIV maintains an active collaboration with FAO to develop global statistics for the vine and wine sectors.

225. The Observer stressed the need for continued collaboration and coordination of the activities of common interest to both OIV and Codex.

B. Relations between the Codex Alimentarius Commission and International Non-governmental Organizations

International Organization for Standardization (ISO)

226. Mr Kevin McKinley, the Deputy-Secretary General of ISO, recalled that ISO was an international non-governmental organization consisting of the standards institutes of 164 countries and was the leading developer of formal, voluntary international standards with a collection of more than 20 000 standards. The Observer reported on the activities of ISO and mentioned that in the food area, hundreds of ISO standards existed as a complement to the work of Codex.

227. The Observer highlighted three strategic opportunities between ISO and Codex in their collaborative work, namely:

- Improving the situation with private standards. ISO was working closely with leading industry players to harmonize and improve the efficiency of private standards on food safety management systems, while still maintaining consistency with the recognized, science-based standards of Codex. ISO was serving as a bridge between the public and private sector in a number of such areas.
- Building confidence with conformity assessment. While ISO did not test, certify or inspect, it was developing a toolbox of international standards on which such activities are conducted to help ensure comparability and confidence in assessments. There were tremendous opportunities to leverage the work of ISO and the public food safety responsibilities of Codex to enhance and improve confidence in the assessment of conformity to Codex expectations, and to ISO standards.
- Communicating the message of complementarity. The complementarity of the work of ISO and Codex was especially highlighted in three regional food safety workshops, organized by ISO and held in cooperation with Codex, OIE and others. The regional workshops were successfully hosted by ISO members in Indonesia (BSN), Kenya (KEBS) and Cuba (CN).

228. Delegations expressed appreciation for the collaboration with ISO and were of the opinion that this type of collaboration should also be extended at the national level. It was noted that conformity assessment standards provided assistance for the implementation of Codex Standards. The Delegation of Cuba highlighted the need to give special attention to this aspect concerning the capacity of cooperation between international organisations, noted that the Commission was in a position to achieve important results, and welcomed the recent workshop held in Havana, which saw the participation of Codex, OIE, GFSI and others, explaining that such initiatives were welcome, had an impact on work being carried out on food safety and food security and, where possible, should be duplicated. Another delegation highlighted the complementarity of ISO and Codex standards in order to implement food safety standards, and the importance of cooperation in this respect at the national level.

Conclusion

229. The Commission expressed its appreciation to all international organizations that had provided information on their activities relevant to Codex work and looked forward to further cooperation and partnership that would result in mutual benefits for them and Codex. In this regard, the Commission noted that the Codex Secretariat had continued to communicate and strengthen coordination with these organizations, in line with objective 1.3 of the new Strategic Plan 2014-2014.

ELECTION OF THE CHAIRPERSON AND VICE-CHAIRPERSONS AND OTHER MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (Agenda Item 15)⁵⁹

General Discussion

230. Several delegations questioned the particular situation of the North American Group, which has two members, in relation to the composition of the Executive Committee, as no more than one delegate from any one country can be a member of the Committee under Rule V-1 of the Rules of Procedures. One Vice-Chairperson was from Canada, whilst Canada was also the only candidate eligible for election on a geographic basis.

231. The Representative of the Legal Counsel of FAO, also speaking on behalf of the Legal Office of WHO, recalled that the same question had been raised and had discussed in depth at the 21st extraordinary session of the CCGP in November of 2004, on the basis of a document prepared by the legal offices of FAO and WHO, but that no consensus was reached at that point. He further recalled that the issue had arisen in the context of the 32nd session of the Commission in 2009, when a delegate of the United States was Chair of the Commission, and the Commission elected the United States as member of the Executive Committee on a geographic basis, after the member of Canada had completed the maximum two terms and was not eligible for re-election. At that session, the Commission had accepted the election of a member of North America to CCEXEC on a no-objection basis.

⁵⁹ CX/CAC 13/36/17

232. However, the Representative stated that the proceedings at the Commission of 2009 could not be seen as conclusive guidance on the matter, or as a practice that confirms a rule. He emphasized that the question continues to be unsettled and that it continues to be a matter for the Commission to make a determination.

233. He nevertheless suggested that the Commission, as in 2009, elect Canada as geographic member of CCEXEC on a no-objection basis, and effectively apply the interpretation that the Officers of the Commission should not be considered “delegates” for the purpose of Rule V-1. in order to arrive at a full complement of members of the Executive Committee.

234. The Commission agreed to follow his suggestion and elected Canada as geographic member of CCEXEC. The Commission further agreed to request the CCGP to consider the role of the Chair and Vice-chairs of the Codex Alimentarius Commission for the purpose of Rule V.1 of the Rules of Procedure. The Commission noted that the Legal Counsels of FAO and WHO would prepare a document for the discussion at the forthcoming Committee on General Principles.

Chairperson and Vice-Chairpersons

235. The Commission elected the following persons to hold office from the end of its present Session to the end of the next regular (37th) Session of the Commission.

Chairperson: Mr Sanjay DAVE (India)

Vice-Chairpersons: Dr Samuel GODEFROY (Canada)

Mrs Awilo OCHIENG PERNET (Switzerland)

Professor Samuel SEFA-DEDEH (Ghana)

Members of the Executive Committee on a geographic basis

236. The Commission elected the following Members of the Executive Committee on a geographic basis for the period from the end of the current session to the end of the second succeeding regular session of the Commission:

Africa: Kenya

Asia: China

Europe: France

Latin America & the Caribbean: Jamaica

Near East: Tunisia

North America: Canada

South-West Pacific: New Zealand

Regional Coordinators

237. In accordance with Rule IV.2 of the Commission’s Rules of Procedure, and on the basis of the nominations made by the Coordinating Committees, the following Members of the Commission were appointed as Coordinators to hold office from the end of the Thirty-sixth Session of the Commission until the end of the regular session of the Commission held in 2015.

Africa: Cameroon

Asia: Japan

Europe: the Netherlands

Latin America & the Caribbean: Costa Rica

Near East: Lebanon

North America & South-West Pacific: Papua New Guinea

DESIGNATION OF COUNTRIES RESPONSIBLE FOR APPOINTING THE CHAIRPERSONS OF CODEX COMMITTEES AND TASK FORCES AND SCHEDULE OF SESSIONS 2014-2015 (Agenda Item 16)⁶⁰

238. The Commission recalled its earlier decision on establishment of the Committee on Spices and Culinary Herbs hosted by India (see Agenda Item 10) and noted that the *Ad hoc* Intergovernmental Task Force on Animal Feeding had completed its work (see Agenda Item 5) and would be dissolved. The Commission confirmed the designation of the Host Governments as listed in the Appendix VIII to this report.

OTHER BUSINESS (Agenda Item 17)**Granting of Visa to Delegations attending Codex meetings**

239. The Delegation of Nigeria stated that they had not been able to attend the 34th CCMAS (Budapest, Hungary, 4-8 March 2013) because they could not obtain the visa.

⁶⁰ CX/CAC 13/36/18.

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APPENDIX II

AMENDMENTS TO THE PROCEDURAL MANUAL

The following amendments were adopted by the 36th Session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission.

Codex Committee	Subject	Reference
CCMAS	Proposed Amendment to the Guidelines for Establishing Numeric Values for Method Criteria and/or Assessing Methods for Compliance Thereof in the Procedural Manual (LOD and LOQ)	REP13/MAS paras 9, Appendix IV
CCPR	Principles and Guidance for the application of the proportionality concept to estimation of maximum residue limits for pesticides	REP13/PR para. 98, Appendix VIII
CCFFP	Proposed Draft Revision of the Procedure for the Inclusion of Additional Species in Standards for Fish and Fishery Products (for inclusion in Section II: Elaboration of Codex Standards and Related Texts: Guidelines for the Inclusion of Specific Provisions in Codex Standards and Related Texts) ¹	REP13/FFP para. 128, Appendix VI

¹ Note: this item was adopted at Step 5/8 (Agenda Item 5)

APPENDIX III

**LISTS OF STANDARDS AND RELATED TEXTS ADOPTED BY THE THIRTY-SIXTH
SESSION OF THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION**

Part 1 – Standards and Related Texts Adopted at Step 8

Standards and Related Texts	Reference	Status
Standard for Avocado		
Provisions for uniformity rules and other size-related provisions (sections 5.1 – uniformity and 6.2.4 – commercial identification) in the Draft Standard for Avocado	REP13/FFV para. 42, Appendix II	Adopted
Standard for Pomegranate	REP13/FFV para. 53 and Appendix III	Adopted
Standard for Smoked Fish, Smoke-Flavoured Fish and Smoke-Dried Fish	REP13/FFP para. 40, Appendix III	Adopted
Standard for Live Abalone and for Raw Fresh Chilled or Frozen Abalone for Direct Consumption or for Further Processing	REP13/FFP para. 83, Appendix IV	Adopted
Guidelines on Formulated Complementary Foods for Older Infants and Young Children (Revision of the Guidelines on Formulated Supplementary Foods for Older Infants and Young Children)	REP13/NFSDU para. 41, Appendix II	Adopted with Amendments (See Agenda Item 5)
Nutrient Reference Values (NRVs)	REP13/NFSDU para. 65, Appendix V	Adopted
Guidelines on Application of Risk Assessment for Feed	REP13/AF para. 27, Appendix II	Adopted
Principles and Guidelines for National Food Control Systems (Section 1-3)	REP13/FICS para. 38, Appendix II	Adopted with amendments to Spanish Text, (See Agenda Item 5)
Principles for the Use of Sampling and Testing in International Food Trade	REP13/MAS para. 73, Appendix III	Adopted
Food additive provisions of the <i>General Standard for Food Additives</i> (GSFA) (CODEX STAN 192-1995)	REP13/FA para. 101, Appendix VI	Adopted

Standards and Related Texts	Reference	Status
Maximum residue limits for pesticides	REP13/PR paras. 17-90, Appendix II	Adopted
Amendments to the Guidelines for Use of Nutrition and Health Claims (CAC/GL 23-1997) concerning Non-Addition of Sodium Salts	REP13/FL Para 41, Appendix II	Adopted
Regional Code of Practice for Street-Vended Foods	REP13/NEA para. 46, Appendix II	Adopted

Part 2 – Standards and Related Texts Adopted at Step 5/8 (with omission of Step 6 and 7)

Standards and Related Texts	Reference	Status
Provisions for sizing and uniformity rules (sections 3 and 5.1) (Draft Standard for Pomegranate)	REP13/FFV para. 53 and Appendix III	Adopted
Revised Regional Standard for Chanterelles	REP13/EURO para. 48, Appendix II	Adopted
Amendment to the Standard for Quick Frozen Fish Sticks	REP13/FFP para. 108, Appendix V	Adopted
Standard for Table Olives (revision of CODEX STAN 66-1981)	REP13/PFV para. 38, Appendix II	Adopted
Regional Standard for Tempe	REP 13/ASIA para. 117, Appendix II	Adopted
Principles and Guidelines for the Establishment and Application of Microbiological Criteria	REP13/FH para. 56, Appendix III	Adopted
Annex on Berries to the <i>Code of Hygienic Practice for Fresh Fruits and Vegetables</i> (CAC/RCP 53-2003)	REP13/FH para. 118, Appendix IV	Adopted with Amendments (See Agenda Item 5)
General Principles for Establishing Nutrient Reference Values (NRVs-NCD) for the general population; and consolidated version of the General Principles for Establishing Nutrient Reference Values	REP13/NFSDU para. 51, Appendix III para. 59, Appendix IV	Adopted
Additional or Revised Nutrient Reference Values for Labelling Purposes in the Codex Guidelines on Nutrition Labelling	REP13/NFSDU para. 103, Appendix VII	Adopted with Amendments (See Agenda Item 5)
Regional Standard for Date Paste	REP13/NEA para. 89, Appendix III	Adopted

Standards and Related Texts	Reference	Status
Guidance on Prioritizing Hazards in Feed	REP13/AF para. 62, Appendix III	Adopted with Amendments (See Agenda Item 5)
Proposed Draft Principles and Guidelines for National Food Control Systems (Section 4)	REP13/FICS para. 38, Appendix II	Adopted
Amendment to parameters for rice bran oil in the Standard for Named Vegetable Oils	REP13/FO para. 89, Appendix III	Adopted
Food additive provisions of the <i>General Standard for Food Additives</i> (GSFA) (CODEX STAN 192-1995)	REP13/FA para. 101, Appendix VI	Adopted
Amendments to the <i>International Numbering System (INS) for Food Additives</i> (CAC/GL 36-1989)	REP13/FA para. 116, Appendix IX	Adopted
<i>Specifications for the Identity and Purity of Food Additives</i> arising from the 76 th JECFA meeting	REP13/FA para. 125, Appendix X	Adopted
Code of practice for the prevention and reduction of ochratoxin A contamination in cocoa	REP13/CF para. 79, Appendix IV	Adopted
Code of practice for the reduction of hydrocyanic acid in cassava and cassava products	REP13/CF para. 92, Appendix VI	Adopted
Maximum residue limits for pesticides	REP13/PR paras 17-90, Appendix III	Adopted
Amendments to the Guidelines for the Production, Processing, Labelling and Marketing of Organically Produced Foods concerning use of ethylene as sprouting inhibitor for Onions and Potatoes	REP13/FL para 69, Appendix IV	Adopted

Part 3 – Other Standards and Related Texts Submitted for Adoption

Standards and Related Texts	Reference	Status
Amendments to sections I-6.5, I-8.5 and II-8.7 of the Standard for Live and Raw Bivalve Molluscs (CODEX STAN 292-2008) and Sections 7.1 and 7.2.2.2 to the Code of Practice for Fish and Fishery Products (CAC/RCP52 – 2003)	REP13/FFP paras 12 and 14, Appendix II	Adopted
Amendment to the Guidelines for Packing Media for Canned Fruits (CAC/GL 51-2003)	REP13/PFV para. 80, Appendix IV	Adopted

Standards and Related Texts	Reference	Status
Amendment to the Standards for Certain Canned Citrus Fruits, Preserved Tomatoes and Processed Tomato Concentrates (section 4 – food additives)	REP13/PFV paras 123-124, Appendix VI	Adopted
Amendment to the Standard for Canned Applesauce (section 9 – methods of analysis)	REP13/PFV para. 128, Appendix VII	Adopted
Amendments to some food additive provisions in the Regional Standards for Fermented Soybean Paste (CODEX STAN 298R-2009) and for Chili Sauce (CODEX STAN 306R-2011)	REP13/ASIA paras 18, 19, 21	Adopted
Amendments to <i>Guidelines for the Exchange of Information in Food Safety Emergency Situations</i> (CAC/GL 19-1995)	REP13/FICS para. 58, Appendix III	Adopted
Methods of Analysis in Codex Standards at different steps	REP13/MAS paras 16 - 54, Appendix II	Adopted
Amendments to the Standards for Edible Fats and Oils not Covered by Individual Standards (CODEX STAN 19-1981), for Named Animal Fats (CODEX STAN 211-1999) and for Olive Oils and Olive Pomace Oils (CODEX STAN 33-1981) and for Named Vegetable Oils (CODEX STAN 210-1999)	REP13/FO paras 29 - 34, Appendix II	Adopted
Amendments to the lists of acceptable previous cargoes in the Code of Practice for the Storage and Transport of Edible Fats and Oils in Bulk (CAC/RCP 36-1987)	REP13/FO paras 22 – 24	Adopted
Consequential amendments to the Standards for Edible Cassava Flour, Gari and Sweet Cassava	REP13/CF para. 88, Appendix V	Adopted
Consequential amendments to the maximum residue limits for pesticides for fruit commodity groups due to revision of the Classification of Food and Feed as per these commodity groups	REP13/PR para. 110, Appendix XIII	Adopted
Consequential Editorial Amendments to the Guidelines on Use of Nutrition and Health Claims (CAC/GL 23-1997) concerning clarifying section 6.3 on Comparative Claims	REP13/FL para.45, Appendix III, part B (Referral from CCNFSDU)	Adopted
Amendments to the <i>Guidelines on Nutrition Labelling</i> (CAC/GL 2-1985) concerning definitions and replacing the existing annex with the new Annex: <i>General Principles for establishment of nutrient reference values for the general population</i>	REP13/FL para.59, Appendix III, part A	Adopted

APPENDIX IV

**LIST OF DRAFT STANDARDS AND RELATED TEXTS ADOPTED AT STEP 5
BY THE THIRTY-SIXTH SESSION OF THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION**

Standards and Related Texts	Reference
Draft Standard for Golden Passion Fruit	REP13/FFV para. 85, Appendix IV
Draft Performance Criteria for Reference and Confirmatory Methods for Marine Biotoxins (Section I-8.6 Determination of Biotoxins) in the Standard for Live and Raw Bivalve Molluscs (CODEX STAN 292-2008)	REP13/FFP para. 99, Appendix VII
Draft Standard for Certain Canned Fruits and the Proposed Draft Annex on Mangoes	REP13/PFV para. 79, Appendix III
Draft Standard for Certain Quick Frozen Vegetables	Rep13/PFV para. 86, Appendix V
Draft Standard for Non-Fermented Soybean Products	REP13/ASIA para. 109, Appendix III
Draft Standard for Non-centrifugated dehydrated sugar cane juice	CL 2013/09-CS
Draft maximum levels for DON in raw cereal grains (maize, wheat and barley) and associated sampling plan and in flour, semolina, meal and flakes from wheat, maize or barley	REP 13/CF para. 70, Appendix III
Draft Revision to the <i>Codex Classification of Food and Animal Feed</i> –selected vegetable commodity groups	REP 13/PR, para. 123, Appendix X
Draft Maximum levels for lead in fruit juices and nectars, ready-to-drink; canned fruits; and canned vegetables	REP13/CF para. 42, Appendix II
Draft Maximum level for deoxynivalenol (DON) in cereal-based foods for infants and young children	REP13/CF para. 70, Appendix III

APPENDIX V

**LIST OF STANDARDS AND RELATED TEXTS REVOKED
BY THE THIRTY-SIXTH SESSION OF THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION**

Standard and Related Texts	Reference
Food additive provisions of commodity standards	REP13/FA para.101, Appendix VII
Specifications for mineral oil, medium and low viscosity (INS 905e, f and g)	REP13/FA para. 125, Appendix X
Maximum residue limits for pesticide/commodity combinations	REP13/PR paras. 17-90, Appendix IV

APPENDIX VI

LIST OF DRAFT STANDARDS AND RELATED TEXTS APPROVED AS NEW WORK
BY THE THIRTY-SIXTH SESSION OF THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION

Responsible Body	Standard and Related Texts	Reference	Job Code
CCNASWP	Regional Standard for fermented noni juices	REP13/NASWP para. 135 CX/CAC 13/36/9 Annex 1	N01-2013
CCFFV	Standard for Okra	REP13/FFV Appendix V	N02-2013
CCFFP	Code of Practice for Processing of Fish Sauce	REP13/FFP Appendix X	N03-2013
CCPFV	Standard for Ginseng Products (conversion of the Regional Standard for Ginseng Products to a worldwide standard)	REP13/PFV Appendix VIII	N04-2013
CCASIA	Code of Hygienic Practice for Street-Vended Food	REP13/ASIA Appendix IV	N05-2013
CCFH	Code of Hygienic Practice for Low-Moisture Foods	REP13/FH Appendix V	N06-2013
CCNFSDU	Proposal to Review the Codex Standard for Follow-up Formula	REP13/NFSDU Appendix VIII	N07-2013
CCFA	Revision of the <i>Guidelines for the Simple Evaluation of Food Additive Intakes</i> (CAC/GL 3-1989)	REP 13/FA Appendix V	N08-2013
CCPR	Guidance document on performance criteria specific for methods of analysis for determination of pesticide residues	REP13/PR Appendix XII	N09-2013
CCPR	Priority list for the establishment of maximum residue limits for pesticides	REP13/PR Appendix XIV	ongoing
CCFL	Review of the <i>General Standard for the Labelling of Prepackaged Foods</i> to address the issue of date marking	REP13/FL Appendix VI	N10-2013
CCLAC	Regional Standard for Yacon	REP13/LAC Appendix III	N11-2013

Responsible Body	Standard and Related Texts	Reference	Job Code
CCNEA	Regional Standard for Labneh	REP13/NEA para. 122 CX/CAC 13/36/9-Add.2 Annex I	N12-2013
CCNEA	Regional Standard for Mixed Zataar	REP13/NEA para 122 CX/CAC 13/36/9-Add.2 Annex II	N13-2013

APPENDIX VII

LIST OF WORK DISCONTINUED BY THE THIRTY-SIXTH SESSION
OF THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION

Responsible Body	Standard and Related Texts	Reference
CCCF	Proposed draft revision of guideline levels for radionuclides in the General Standard for Contaminants and Toxins in Food and Feed including development of guidance to facilitate the application and implementation of the GLs	REP13/CF para. 54
CCCF	Proposed draft maximum levels hydrocyanic acid in cassava and cassava products	REP13/CF para 87

APPENDIX VIII

CHAIRMANSHIP OF CODEX SUBSIDIARY BODIES

Subsidiary Bodies Established under Rule XI.1(b)(i)

Code	Subsidiary Body	Member Responsible	Status
CX 703	Codex Committee on Milk and Milk Products	New Zealand	<i>Sine die</i>
CX 708	Codex Committee on Cocoa Products and Chocolate	Switzerland	<i>Sine die</i>
CX 709	Codex Committee on Fats and Oils	Malaysia	Active
CX 710	Codex Committee on Sugars	Colombia	Active
CX 711	Codex Committee on Food Additives	China	Active
CX 712	Codex Committee on Food Hygiene	United States of America	Active
CX 713	Codex Committee on Processed Fruits and Vegetables	United States of America	Active
CX 714	Codex Committee on Food Labelling	Canada	Active
CX 715	Codex Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling	Hungary	Active
CX 716	Codex Committee on General Principles	France	Active
CX 718	Codex Committee on Pesticide Residues	China	Active
CX 719	Codex Committee on Natural Mineral Waters	Switzerland	<i>Sine die</i>
CX 720	Codex Committee on Nutrition and Foods for Special Dietary Uses	Germany	Active
CX 722	Codex Committee on Fish and Fishery Products	Norway	Active
CX 723	Codex Committee on Meat Hygiene	New Zealand	<i>Sine die</i>
CX 728	Codex Committee on Vegetable Proteins	Canada	<i>Sine die</i>
CX 729	Codex Committee on Cereals, Pulses and Legumes	United States of America	<i>Sine die</i>
CX 730	Codex Committee on Residues of Veterinary Drugs in Foods	United States of America	Active
CX 731	Codex Committee on Fresh Fruits and Vegetables	Mexico	Active
CX 733	Codex Committee on Food Import and Export Certification and Inspection Systems	Australia	Active
CX 735	Codex Committee on Contaminants in Foods	The Netherlands	Active
	Codex Committee on Spices and Culinary Herbs	India	Active

Subsidiary Bodies Established under Rule XI.1(b)(ii)

Code	Subsidiary Body	Member Responsible
CX 706	FAO/WHO Coordinating Committee for Europe	Coordinator for Europe
CX 707	FAO/WHO Coordinating Committee for Africa	Coordinator for Africa
CX 725	FAO/WHO Coordinating Committee for Latin America and the Caribbean	Coordinator for Latin America and the Caribbean
CX 727	FAO/WHO Coordinating Committee for Asia	Coordinator for Asia
CX 732	FAO/WHO Coordinating Committee for North America and the South West Pacific	Coordinator for North America and the South West Pacific
CX 734	FAO/WHO Coordinating Committee for the Near East	Coordinator for the Near East

APPENDIX IX

STRATEGIC PLAN OF THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION 2014-2019

INTRODUCTION

The Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC) was established by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the World Health Organization (WHO) in 1963. Today, it has more than 180 Members, and more than 200 inter-governmental and international non-governmental organizations are accredited as observers. The Commission's main work is the development of international food standards¹, guidelines, and codes of practice to protect the health of consumers and ensure fair practices in the food trade. The Commission also promotes the coordination of all food standards work undertaken by international governmental and non-governmental organizations.

For food safety and nutrition matters, the Commission, as a risk manager, establishes its standards using the principles of risk analysis and bases its work on the scientific advice provided by the joint FAO/WHO expert bodies and consultations. Codex standards also address issues related to food quality to ensure fair practices in the food trade. With increased globalization, the Commission must also be capable of responding in a timely manner to emerging food safety issues and other factors² that may impact on food safety and fair practices in the food trade such as the effects of shifting populations, climate change and relevant consumer concerns. Food standards, guidelines and recommendations established by the Commission are recognized as reference points for food under the relevant WTO agreements.

The purpose of this Strategic Plan is to advance the mandate of the Codex Alimentarius Commission during the period 2014-2019. This document does not supersede, extend, or contradict the interpretation of the Codex mandate, standards or provisions of the Procedural Manual adopted or approved by the Commission.

The 2014-2019 Strategic Plan:

- Presents the vision, goals, and objectives for the Commission and is supported by a more detailed work plan that includes activities, milestones, and measurable indicators to track progress toward accomplishment of the goals.
- Underpins the high priority placed on food safety and quality by FAO and WHO and ensures that the Commission will carry out the responsibilities given to it by FAO and WHO.
- Informs Members, inter-governmental and international non-governmental organizations, and other stakeholders of how the Commission intends to fulfil its mandate and to meet the needs and expectations of its Members during the period 2014-2019.

DRIVERS FOR CHANGE

The dynamics of the standard-setting activities undertaken by the Commission have changed dramatically since it was established. Since its establishment, not only has the Codex membership increased significantly but Codex has also seen a more active contribution from all Members, more specifically the developing countries which are contributing more actively to the international food standard-setting process. Additionally, the environment in which Codex operates has also evolved. Food and food ingredients continue to be increasingly amongst the most traded commodities internationally. Changes in the global feed and food supply chain system, resource optimization efforts, food security concerns, innovation in food science and technology, climate change and consumer concerns² represent some of the drivers of change that introduce new food safety and nutrition related challenges. The Commission must adapt to this evolving

¹ The term "standards" is used to cover standards and all related texts.

² The consideration of other factors in the Codex standard-setting process is governed by the *Statements of Principle Concerning the Role of Science in the Codex Decision-Making Process and the Extent to Which Other Factors are Taken into Account*.

environment and be capable of proactively responding in a timely manner to emerging food safety, quality and nutrition issues with the aim to protect consumer's health and ensure fair practices in food trade.

STRATEGIC VISION STATEMENT

To be the preeminent international food standards-setting body to protect the health of consumers and ensure fair practices in the food trade.

CODEX CORE VALUES

In fulfilling its strategic vision, Codex adheres to core values that include,

- collaboration
- inclusiveness
- consensus building³
- transparency

In conducting its work, the Commission strives to ensure that the concepts of protecting the health of consumers and fair practise in the food trade are consistently followed in the Codex standard-setting process.

STRATEGIC GOALS

Strategic Goal 1: Establish international food standards that address current and emerging food issues.

Objective 1.1: Establish new and review existing Codex standards, based on priorities of the CAC.

- Activities:
 - 1.1.1 Consistently apply decision-making and priority-setting criteria across Committees to ensure that the standards and work areas of highest priority are progressed in a timely manner.
 - 1.1.2 Strengthen the critical review process to improve standards monitoring.

Objective 1.2: Proactively identify emerging issues⁴ and Member needs and, where appropriate, develop relevant food standards.

- Activities:
 - 1.2.1 Develop a systematic approach to promote identification of emerging issues related to food safety, nutrition, and fair practices in the food trade.
 - 1.2.2 Develop and revise international and regional standards as needed, in response to needs identified by Members and in response to factors that affect food safety, nutrition and fair practices in the food trade.

Objective 1.3: Strengthen coordination and cooperation with other international standards-setting organizations seeking to avoid duplication of efforts and optimize opportunities.

- Activities:
 - 1.3.1 Promote collaboration in standards development in Codex with the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) and the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) on standards that cover the farm to fork continuum and affect Codex and those organizations.
 - 1.3.2 Promote cooperation with other international governmental and non-governmental standard-setting organizations to support development of relevant Codex standards and to enhance awareness, understanding and use of Codex standards.

³ Consensus should be based on "Measures to facilitate Consensus" included in the Procedural Manual.

⁴ Emerging food safety and nutrition issues are interpreted to include scientific and technological innovations and emerging hazards, related to ongoing investigations or extra-ordinary events (e.g., natural disaster, external threats).

Strategic Goal 2: Ensure the application of risk analysis principles in the development of Codex standards.**Objective 2.1:** Ensure consistent use of risk analysis principles and scientific advice.

- Activities:
 - 2.1.1 Use the scientific advice of the joint FAO/WHO expert bodies to the fullest extent possible in food safety and nutrition standards development based on the “*Working Principles of Risk Analysis for Application in the Framework of the Codex Alimentarius*”.
 - 2.1.2 Encourage engagement of scientific and technical expertise of Members and their representatives in the development of Codex standards.
 - 2.1.3 Ensure that all relevant factors are fully considered in exploring risk management options in the context of Codex standard development.
 - 2.1.4 Communicate the risk management recommendations to all interested parties.

Objective 2.2: Achieve sustainable access to scientific advice.

- Activities:
 - 2.2.1 Encourage FAO and WHO governing bodies to identify the provision of scientific advice as a high priority and allocate sufficient resources for the FAO/WHO expert advice, in particular from expert bodies such as JECFA, JEMRA, JMPR and JEMNU.
 - 2.2.2 Encourage continued financial support from Members for the FAO/WHO expert advice, in particular from expert bodies such as JECFA, JEMRA, JMPR and JEMNU.
 - 2.2.3 Explore other appropriate funding sources for FAO/WHO scientific advice.

Objective 2.3: Increase scientific input from developing countries.

- Activities:
 - 2.3.1 Encourage developing countries to submit data in response to calls from FAO/WHO expert bodies, through enhanced food safety and nutrition data generation capabilities.
 - 2.3.2 Encourage FAO and WHO to support programs aimed at enhancing the capacity of developing countries to generate, collect and submit data.
 - 2.3.3 Encourage sustained and continuous participation of technical and scientific experts from developing countries in the work of Codex.
 - 2.3.4 Encourage the establishment of and participation in networks of Members to enhance collaboration in the generation of data that can be submitted for review by expert committees.

Strategic Goal 3: Facilitate the effective participation of all Codex Members.**Objective 3.1:** Increase the effective participation of developing countries in Codex.

- Activities:
 - 3.1.1 Encourage Members to develop sustainable national institutional arrangements to promote effective contribution to the Codex standard setting processes.
 - 3.1.2 Encourage the use of partnership initiatives to increase effectiveness of participation of developing countries, such as co-hosting of committees and working groups, including the development of guidance documents, building on lessons learned.
 - 3.1.3 Encourage financial contributions to the Codex Trust Fund and its successor initiative.
 - 3.1.4 Support the planning and development of a successor initiative for the Codex Trust Fund.
 - 3.1.5 To the extent possible, promote the use of the official languages of the Commission in committees and working groups.

Objective 3.2: Promote capacity development programs that assist countries in creating sustainable national Codex structures.

- Activities:
 - 3.2.1 Encourage FAO and WHO to implement capacity development programs that support the creation of sustainable national Codex-related structures.
 - 3.2.2 Encourage developing countries to identify and prioritize Codex committees and task forces of significance to them.
 - 3.2.4 Where practical, the use of Codex meetings as a forum to effectively conduct educational and technical capacity building activities.

Strategic Goal 4: Implement effective and efficient work management systems and practices.

Objective 4.1: Strive for an effective, efficient, transparent, and consensus based standard setting process.

- Activities:
 - 4.1.1 Periodically review the work processes and procedures used by the CAC and its subsidiary bodies to ensure impediments to standard-setting work are identified and addressed, if necessary.
 - 4.1.2 Assess benefits and, where cost effective, implement new technologies to improve, Codex communication, work flow, and management of activities.
 - 4.1.3 Assess benefits and, where cost effective, implement new technologies to improve Member participation in committees and working groups.
 - 4.1.4 Ensure timely distribution of all Codex working documents in the working languages of the Committee/Commission.
 - 4.1.5 Increase the scheduling of Work Group meetings in conjunction with Committee meetings.

Objective 4.2: Enhance capacity to arrive at consensus in standards setting process.

- Activities:
 - 4.2.1 Improve the understanding of Codex Members and delegates of the importance of and approach to consensus building of Codex work.
 - 4.2.2 Through networking, training and workshops, seek to improve the skill set of chairs of working groups and committees to achieve consensus.

WORK PLAN:

Note: The “Responsible Party” section identifies the lead party that is responsible for overseeing the implementation of the activity identified in the work plan. It is recognized that several other parties will play a significant role in the implementation of the activity. Codex should leverage the use of existing reports and data collection activities to monitor progress through the “Measurable Indicators”.

Strategic Goal	Objective	Activity	Responsible Party	Time-Line	Expected Outcome	Measurable Indicators/Outputs
<p><u>Strategic Goal 1:</u> Establish international food standards that address current and emerging food issues.</p>	<p><u>Objective 1.1:</u> Establish new and review existing Codex standards, based on priorities of the CAC.</p>	<p>1.1.1 Consistently apply decision-making and priority-setting criteria across Committees to ensure that the standards and work areas of highest priority are progressed in a timely manner.</p>	<p>All Committees</p>	<p>On-going</p>	<p>New or updated standards are developed in a timely manner.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Priority setting criteria are reviewed, revised as required and applied. 2. # of standards revised and # of new standards developed based on these criteria.
		<p>1.1.2 Strengthen the critical review process to improve standards monitoring.</p>	<p>CCEXEC</p>	<p>Jan 2014- July 2015</p>	<p>More effective work management oversight exercised by the CCEXEC.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Current critical review process reviewed by Dec. 2014. 2. Proposed changes, if required, to the critical review process identified. 3. Secretariat report submitted to the CCEXEC on outcomes of the review by April 2015. 4. Recommendations endorsed by CCEXEC.
	<p><u>Objective 1.2:</u> Proactively identify emerging issues⁴ and</p>	<p>1.2.1 Develop a systematic approach to promote identification of emerging issues related to food safety, nutrition, and fair practices in the food trade.</p>	<p>All Committees</p>	<p>2016</p>	<p>Timely Codex response to emerging issues and to the needs of Members</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Committees implement systematic approaches for identification of emerging issues. 2. Regular reports on systematic approach and emerging issues made to the CCEXEC through the Codex Secretariat.

Strategic Goal	Objective	Activity	Responsible Party	Time-Line	Expected Outcome	Measurable Indicators/Outputs
	Member needs and, where appropriate, develop relevant food standards.	1.2.2 Develop and revise international and regional standards as needed, in response to needs identified by Members and in response to factors that affect food safety, nutrition and fair practices in the food trade	All Committees	On-going	Improved ability of Codex to develop standards relevant to the needs of its Members.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Input from committees identifying and prioritizing needs of Members. 2. Report to CCEXEC from committees on how standards developed address the needs of the Members as part of critical review process.
	<u>Objective 1.3:</u> Strengthen coordination and cooperation with other international standards-setting organizations seeking to avoid duplication of efforts and optimize opportunities	1.3.1 Promote collaboration in standards development in Codex with the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) and the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) on standards that cover the farm to fork continuum and affect Codex and those organizations.	CAC	On-going	Optimized collaboration with OIE and IPPC	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Current collaboration between Codex, OIE and IPPC reviewed and where relevant, procedures are updated.
	1.3.2 Promote cooperation with other international governmental and non-governmental standard-setting organizations to support development of relevant Codex standards and to enhance awareness, understanding and use of Codex standards.	CAC	On-going	Optimized coordination and cooperation with international intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, including private standard settings bodies.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Current collaboration between international intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations reviewed and where relevant, procedures updated. 	

Strategic Goal	Objective	Activity	Responsible Party	Time-Line	Expected Outcome	Measurable Indicators/Outputs
<p>Strategic Goal 2: Ensure the application of risk analysis principles in the development of Codex standards.</p>	<p>Objective 2.1: Ensure consistent use of risk analysis principles and scientific advice.</p>	<p>2.1.1 Use the scientific advice of the joint FAO/WHO expert bodies to the fullest extent possible in food safety and nutrition standards development based on the <i>Working Principles of Risk Analysis for Application in the Framework of the Codex Alimentarius</i>.</p>	<p>All Committees</p>	<p>On-going</p>	<p>Scientific advice consistently taken into account by all relevant committees during the standard setting process.</p>	<p>1. # of times the need for scientific advice is: - identified, - requested and, - utilized in a timely manner.</p>
		<p>2.1.2 Encourage engagement of scientific and technical expertise of Members and their representatives in the development of Codex standards.</p>	<p>All Committees</p>	<p>On-going</p>	<p>Increase in scientific and technical experts at the national level contributing to the development of Codex standards.</p>	<p>1. # of scientists and technical experts as part of Member delegations. 2. # of scientists and technical experts providing appropriate input to country positions.</p>
		<p>2.1.3 Ensure that all relevant factors are fully considered in exploring risk management options in the context of Codex standard development.</p>	<p>All Committees</p>	<p>On-going</p>	<p>Enhanced identification, and documentation of all relevant factors considered by committees during the development of Codex standards.</p>	<p>1. # of committee documents identifying all relevant factors guiding risk management recommendations. 2. # of committee documents clearly reflecting how those relevant factors were considered in the context of standards development.</p>
		<p>2.1.4 Communicate the risk management recommendations to all interested parties.</p>	<p>All Committees</p>	<p>On-going</p>	<p>Risk management recommendations are effectively communicated and disseminated to all</p>	<p>1. # of web publication/communications relaying Codex standards. 2. # of media releases disseminating</p>

Strategic Goal	Objective	Activity	Responsible Party	Time-Line	Expected Outcome	Measurable Indicators/Outputs
					interested parties.	Codex standards.
	<u>Objective 2.2:</u> Achieve sustainable access to scientific advice.	2.2.1 Encourage FAO and WHO governing bodies to identify the provision of scientific advice as a high priority and allocate sufficient resources for the FAO/WHO expert advice, in particular from FAO/WHO expert bodies such as JECFA, JEMRA, JMPR and JEMNU	Codex Members	On-going	FAO and WHO expert advice to Codex is supported in a more sustainable manner.	1. Increase in # of Members making interventions at the FAO and WHO governing bodies in support of sustainable funding for scientific advice. 2. Adequate financial resources allocated to the provision of scientific advice by FAO/WHO.
		2.2.2 Encourage continued financial support from Members for the FAO/WHO expert advice, in particular from FAO/WHO expert bodies such as JECFA, JEMRA, JMPR and JEMNU.	CAC	On-going	Flexible and reactive operational framework for the provision of scientific advice for Codex.	1. Report on the Members financial contribution to the provision of scientific advice by FAO/WHO
		2.2.3 Explore other appropriate funding sources for FAO/WHO scientific advice.	CCEXEC	June 2014	Enhanced and more sustainable funding sources for FAO/WHO scientific advice.	1. Report from the CCEXEC sub-committee identifying potential options for financial support by June 2014.
	<u>Objective 2.3:</u> Increase scientific input from developing countries.	2.3.1 Encourage developing countries to submit data in response to calls from FAO/WHO expert bodies, through enhanced food safety and nutrition data generation capabilities.	Codex Members	On-going	Codex standards are increasingly more representative of a global environment.	1. Increase in # of developing countries responding to calls for data.

Strategic Goal	Objective	Activity	Responsible Party	Time-Line	Expected Outcome	Measurable Indicators/Outputs
		2.3.2 Encourage FAO and WHO to support programs aimed at enhancing the capacity of developing countries to generate, collect and submit data.	Codex Members	On-going	Risk assessments and scientific advice take into account increased suitable data provided by developing countries.	1. # of new or on-going initiatives aimed to support data collection in developing countries.
		2.3.3 Encourage sustained and continuous participation of technical and scientific experts from developing countries in the work of Codex.	Codex Members	On-going	Developing countries playing an increasingly effective role in Codex standard setting process.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Increase in # of subject matter and food safety risk analysis experts from developing countries contributing to Codex standard setting process. 2. Increase in # of developing countries providing scientific and technical experts to Codex committees.
		2.3.4 Encourage the establishment of and participation in networks of Members to enhance collaboration in the generation of data that can be submitted for review by expert committees.	Codex Members	On-going	Enhanced generation and submission of data from developing countries as a result of participation in networks.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. # of networks developed. 2. # of countries joining a network. 3. # of times input received from developing country by expert committees, as a result from participation in a network.

Strategic Goal	Objective	Activity	Responsible Party	Time-Line	Expected Outcome	Measurable Indicators/Outputs
<p>Strategic Goal 3: Facilitate the effective participation of all Codex Members.</p>	<p>Objective 3.1: Increase the effective participation of developing countries in Codex.</p>	<p>3.1.1 Encourage Members to develop sustainable national institutional arrangements to promote effective contribution to the Codex standard setting processes.</p>	<p>CAC</p>	<p>On-going</p>	<p>Increased and strengthened sustainable national Codex structures.</p>	<p>1. Baseline # of Member with permanent national Codex structures developed. 2. Annual reports on the # of Members with permanent national Codex structures reporting an increase in such structures.</p>
		<p>3.1.2 Encourage the use of partnership initiatives to increase effectiveness of participation of developing countries, such as co-hosting of committees and working groups, including the development of guidance documents, building on lessons learned.</p>	<p>CAC</p>	<p>On-going</p>	<p>Increased number of co-hosting arrangements for committees and working groups.</p>	<p>1. Baseline inventory of current co-hosting arrangements developed. 2. # of developing countries identifying their willingness to co-host Codex meetings 3. # of co-hosted meetings from 2014 to 2019. 4. # of guidance documents developed. 5. # of initiatives implemented using the guidance document developed.</p>
		<p>3.1.3 Encourage financial contributions to the Codex Trust Fund and its successor initiative.</p>	<p>CAC</p>	<p>On-going</p>	<p>Codex Trust Fund (and its successor) have sufficient resources for sustainable assistance to eligible countries.</p>	<p>1. Increase in # of countries contributing to Codex Trust Fund and its successor initiative.</p>
		<p>3.1.4 Support the planning and development of a successor initiative for the Codex Trust Fund.</p>	<p>CAC</p>	<p>Dec. 2015</p>	<p>A successor to the Codex Trust Fund is endorsed by the CAC</p>	<p>1. Options to successor initiative to Codex Trust Fund is proposed by FAO/WHO to CAC and a path forward is agreed upon.</p>

Strategic Goal	Objective	Activity	Responsible Party	Time-Line	Expected Outcome	Measurable Indicators/Outputs
		3.1.5 To the extent possible, promote the use of the official languages of the Commission in committees and working groups.	All Committees	On-going	Active participation of Members in committees and working groups.	1. Report on number of committees and working groups using the languages of the Commission.
	<u>Objective 3.2:</u> Promote capacity development programs that assist countries in creating sustainable national Codex structures.	3.2.1 Encourage FAO and WHO to implement capacity development programs that support the creation of sustainable national Codex-related structures.	CAC	On-going	Enhanced level of capacity development initiatives undertaken by FAO and WHO to support the creation of sustainable national Codex structures.	1.# of capacity development programs conducted by FAO/WHO to strengthen national Codex structures. 2.# of countries with functioning national Codex structures.
		3.2.2 Encourage developing countries to identify and prioritize Codex committees and task forces of significance to them.	CAC	On-going	Increased participation by developing countries in Codex committees of most relevance to them.	1.# of developing countries that have identified and are actively participating in their priority committees.
		3.2.3 Where practical, use Codex meetings as a forum to effectively conduct educational and technical capacity building activities.	All Committees	On-going	Enhancement of the opportunities to conduct concurrent activities to maximize use of the resources of Codex and Members.	1.# of activities hosted on the margins of Codex meetings
Strategic Goal 4: Implement effective and efficient work management	<u>Objective 4.1:</u> Strive for an effective efficient, transparent, and	4.1.1 Periodically review the work processes and procedures used by the CAC and its subsidiary bodies to ensure impediments to standard-setting work are identified and addressed, if	All Committees	On-going	Effective and efficient Codex standard-setting bodies.	1. Reports of reviews of work processes and procedures identifying: - # of impediments to standard-setting work identified. - # of processes and procedures updated to address the identified

Strategic Goal	Objective	Activity	Responsible Party	Time-Line	Expected Outcome	Measurable Indicators/Outputs
systems and practices.	consensus based standard setting process	necessary.				impediments, if necessary.
		4.1.2 Assess benefits and, where cost effective, implement new technologies to improve, Codex communication, work flow, and management of activities.	Codex Secretariat	2015	Improved functioning of Codex committees as a result of faster communication, and transparent work processes.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Potential cost-effective technologies identified. 2.# of feasible options recommended. 3.# of options implemented.
		4.1.3 Assess benefits and, where cost effective, implement new technologies to improve Member participation in committees and working groups.	Codex Secretariat	2018	Members more effectively able to participate in committees and working groups as a result of the implementation of new technologies.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1.# of new potential technologies identified and analyzed to determine their applicability to improving participation of Members in Codex standard-setting process. 2.# of new technologies piloted (e.g. new Codex document sharing system). 3.Report on meetings and work processes allowing electronic participation.
		4.1.4 Enhance timely distribution of all Codex working documents in the working languages of the Committee/Commission.	All Committees	Dec. 2015	Codex documents distributed in a more timely manner consistent with timelines in the Procedural Manual.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1.Baseline Ratio (%) established for documents distributed at least 2 months prior to versus less than 2 months prior to a scheduled meeting. 2.Factors that potentially delay the circulation of documents identified and addressed. 3.An increase in the ratio (%) of documents circulated 2 months or more prior to meetings.

Strategic Goal	Objective	Activity	Responsible Party	Time-Line	Expected Outcome	Measurable Indicators/Outputs
		4.1.5 Increase the scheduling of Work Group meetings in conjunction with Committee meetings.	All Committees	On-going	Improved efficiency in use of resources by Codex committees and Members.	1.# of physical working group meetings in conjunction with committee meetings, where appropriate.
	<u>Objective 4.2:</u> Enhance capacity to arrive at consensus in standards setting process.	4.2.1 Improve the understanding of Codex Members and delegates of the importance of and approach to consensus building of Codex work.	All committees	2016	Members and delegates awareness of the importance of consensus in the Codex standard setting process improved.	1. Training material on guidance to achieve consensus developed and made available in the languages of the Commission to delegates. 2. Regular dissemination of existing material to Members through Codex Contact Points. 3. Delegate training programs held in association with Codex meetings. 4. Impediments to consensus being achieved in Codex identified and analyzed and additional guidance developed to address such impediments, if necessary.
		4.2.2 Through networking, training and workshops, seek to improve the skill set of chairs of working groups and committees to achieve consensus.	CAC	2016	Consensus achieved at working groups and committees.	1. Training available to all Chairs and work group (physical and electronic) chairs on how to lead and facilitate committee meetings. 2. Best practices to achieve consensus at committees and working groups shared amongst chairs.