

codex alimentarius commission



FOOD AND AGRICULTURE
ORGANIZATION
OF THE UNITED NATIONS

WORLD
HEALTH
ORGANIZATION



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Agenda Item 10

JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME

CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION

Thirty-first Session

International Conference Centre, Geneva (Switzerland), 30 June - 4 July 2008

STRATEGIC PLANNING OF THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION

INTRODUCTION

1. The Thirtieth Session of the Commission adopted the Strategic Plan of the Codex Alimentarius Commission 2008-2013¹
2. Part 3 of the Strategic Plan incorporates a check list that should be regularly updated for review by the Executive Committee and the Commission to monitor the implementation of the Strategic Plan.
3. The Commission is **invited** to review the checklist as presented in Annex 1 to this document, together with additional notes by the Secretariat contained in Annex 2, with a view to providing views and recommendations, where appropriate.

¹ ALINORM 07/30/REP para. 138 and Appendix IX; Published in 2007 as ISSN 0259-2916.

Annex 1

IMPLEMENTATION OF STRATEGIC PLAN 2008-2013 (as of May 2008)

Goal 1: Promoting Sound Regulatory Frameworks							
Activities	Responsible parties	Timeframe	Output/Measurable indicators	Current Status	Notes	Advice by EXEC	Decision by CAC
1.1 Review and develop Codex standards and related texts for food safety	CCFH, CCFA, CCCF, CCPR, CCRVDF, CCNFSDU, relevant Task Forces and Commodity Committees	Continuing	Standards related texts adopted at respective steps	Ongoing	See CX/EXEC 07/60/3, CX/EXEC 08/61/4, and ALINORM 08/31/9		
1.2 Review and develop Codex standards and related texts for food quality	Relevant Task Forces, Commodity Committees and FAO/WHO Coordinating Committees	Continuing	Standards and related texts adopted at respective steps	Ongoing	See CX/EXEC 07/60/3, CX/EXEC 08/61/4, and ALINORM 08/31/9		
1.3 Review and develop Codex standards and related texts for food labelling and nutrition	CCFL, CCNFSDU	Continuing	Standards and related texts adopted at respective steps	Ongoing	See CX/EXEC 07/60/3, CX/EXEC 08/61/4, and ALINORM 08/31/9		
1.4 Review and develop Codex standards and related texts for food inspection and certification, and methods of analysis and sampling	CCMAS, CCFICS	Continuing	Standards and related texts adopted at respective steps	Ongoing	See CX/EXEC 07/60/3, CX/EXEC 08/61/4, and ALINORM 08/31/9		

Goal 1: Promoting Sound Regulatory Frameworks							
Activities	Responsible parties	Timeframe	Output/Measurable indicators	Current Status	Notes	Advice by EXEC	Decision by CAC
1.5 Develop guidance for safe and prudent non-human antimicrobial usage for containment of resistance	Existing relevant Codex Committees, <i>ad hoc</i> Intergovernmental Task Force on Antimicrobial Resistance	Completion by 2011	Guidance for safe and prudent non-human antimicrobial usage for containment of resistance	Ongoing	See CX/EXEC 07/60/3 and ALINORM 08/31/9		
1.6 Explore innovative risk management frameworks	CCRVDF, CCPR	Completion by 2009	Reports by CCRVDF and CCPR respectively to CCEXEC and CAC	Ongoing	<p><u>CCRVDF</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A new work proposal to develop risk management recommendations for veterinary drugs without ADI and/or MRLs due to specific human health concerns (ALINORM 08/31/31 paras 106-116). - Ongoing work on the establishment of a procedure to commit potential sponsors in order to share costs and efforts to facilitate submission of data for evaluation by JECFA (ALINORM 08/31/31 para. 123) <p><u>CCPR</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A new work proposal to revise the Risk Analysis Principles applied by the CCPR (MRLs periodic review procedure) (ALINORM 08/31/24 para. 133) 		

Goal 1: Promoting Sound Regulatory Frameworks							
Activities	Responsible parties	Timeframe	Output/Measurable indicators	Current Status	Notes	Advice by EXEC	Decision by CAC
1.7 Encourage FAO/WHO to expand capacity building programmes	CAC, CCEXEC and FAO/WHO Coordinating Committees	Continuing	Report from FAO/WHO to CAC, CCEXEC and Coordinating Committees	Ongoing	See ALINORM 08/31/9G Add.1		
1.8 Publish and disseminate the Codex Alimentarius	Codex Secretariat, Codex Contact Points	Continuing	Publication and dissemination of Codex Alimentarius	Ongoing	New and revised Codex standards and related texts have been published on the Codex website and in CD ROM, subsequent to the 30 th CAC. Several new special publications have been published by thematic area.		

Goal 2: Promoting Widest and Consistent Application of Scientific Principles and Risk Analysis							
Activities	Responsible parties	Timeframe	Output/Measurable indicators	Current Status	Notes	Advice by EXEC	Decision by CAC
2.1 Review the consistency of risk analysis principles elaborated by the relevant Codex Committees	CCGP	Completion by 2011	Report by CCGP of completed review to CAC.	Not yet started	CCNFSDU and CCFH have not finalised their risk analysis policy document. See ALINORM 08/31/26 para. 121 and ALINORM 08/31/13 paras 161-162		
2.2 Review risk analysis principles developed by relevant Codex Committees	CAC, CCEXEC, CCFA, CCCF, CCPR, CCRVDF, CCFH, CCNFSDU	Completion by 2013	Report by relevant Committees of completed review, taking into account the review of the activities in 2.1 and 2.3.	Not yet started	This activity should take place following completion of Activity 2.1.		

Goal 2: Promoting Widest and Consistent Application of Scientific Principles and Risk Analysis							
Activities	Responsible parties	Timeframe	Output/Measurable indicators	Current Status	Notes	Advice by EXEC	Decision by CAC
2.3 Enhance communication among relevant Codex subsidiary bodies and the FAO/WHO scientific expert bodies	CCFA, CCCF, CCPR, CCRVDF, CCFH, CCNFSDU	Ongoing	Incorporated into report as required in 2.2.		See Activity 2.2 above		
2.4 Review the set of criteria recommended to FAO and WHO for prioritization of requests from Codex for scientific advice.	CCEXEC	Completion by 2009	Report of review by CCEXEC to CAC, with recommendation to better match priorities and resources	Not yet started	The criteria were recommended by the 55 th CCEXEC and endorsed by the 28 th CAC (see ALINORM 05/28/3 para.75) See ALINORM 08/31/9G		
2.5 Encourage countries to channel their requests for scientific advice to FAO / WHO through the CAC	CAC, CCEXEC, all subsidiary bodies	Continuing	Reports by FAO and WHO of requests for scientific advice received directly from countries vs. requests received through CAC.	Ongoing	See ALINORM 08/31/9G		
2.6 Encourage FAO/WHO to provide training and capacity building on risk analysis for food safety	CAC, CCEXEC, FAO/WHO Coordinating Committees and Codex Members	Continuing	Report from FAO/WHO to CAC, CCEXEC and Coordinating Committees	Ongoing	See ALINORM 08/31/9G Add.1		

Goal 3: Strengthening Codex Work-Management Capabilities							
Activities	Responsible parties	Timeframe	Output/Measurable indicators	Current Status	Notes	Advice by EXEC	Decision by CAC
3.1 Review the Criteria for the Establishment of Work Priorities and procedures of the critical review carried out by the CCEXEC	CCEXEC, CCGP	Completion by 2009 Completion by 2011	Report by CCEXEC on analysis of the critical review process If there is need for revision, revise the Criteria for the Establishment of Work Priorities by CCGP	Not yet started.			
3.2 Ensure effective standards management	CCEXEC	Continuing	Report on compliance of standards development against timelines (associated with critical review process)	Ongoing.	See ALINORM 08/31/3 and ALINORM 08/31/3A		
3.3 Develop committee-specific decision making and priority setting criteria	All General Subject Committees and some other subsidiary bodies as appropriate	Completion of criteria by 2008 Review of criteria starting in 2008	Committee-specific decision-making and priority-setting criteria Confirmed review of criteria beginning in 2008	Decision making criteria <u>Completed:</u> CCFH, CCFA, CCCF, CCMMP <u>Ongoing:</u> CCRVDF <u>Under revision:</u> CCPR (MRLs), CCMAS (certain areas) <u>Inexistent:</u> CCGP, CCFICS Priority setting criteria <u>Completed:</u> CCFH, CCFA, CCCF, CCMMP (prioritisation of individual cheeses) <u>Ongoing:</u> CCRVDF <u>Under revision:</u> CCFFP and CCFO (specific areas)			

Goal 3: Strengthening Codex Work-Management Capabilities							
Activities	Responsible parties	Timeframe	Output/Measurable indicators	Current Status	Notes	Advice by EXEC	Decision by CAC
3.4 Analyse work-management approaches that facilitate advancement of texts in the Codex step process	Either by Codex Secretariat or by consultant for next step (3.5)	Completion by 2009	Report to the CCEXEC and CAC on analysis of work-management approaches	Not yet started.			
3.5 Adopt approaches proven to facilitate advancement of texts in the Codex step procedure by subsidiary bodies not currently using such approaches	CCEXEC and CAC	Completion by 2011	Adoption by CAC on work - management approaches.	Not yet started.	This activity should take place following completion of Activity 3.4.		
3.6 Implement priority-ranked comprehensive accounting of all requests for scientific advice	CCEXEC, CAC, FAO and WHO	Continuing	Comprehensive report by FAO/WHO to CAC on accounting of all requests for scientific advice	Ongoing	See ALINORM 08/31/9G Part III		
3.7 Evaluate the capacity of the Codex Secretariat to perform its function effectively	Codex Secretariat, CCEXEC, CAC	Completion by 2009	Report by Secretariat to CAC on the staff and other key resources	Not yet started.			
3.8 Streamline Codex Commodity work	CCEXEC, CAC	Completion by 2010	Accomplished Implementation of the decisions of the Commission on how to streamline Codex work on commodities through an improved structure of Codex subsidiary bodies	In progress	See ALINORM 08/31/9C Part II and ALINORM 08/31/9C Part II Add.1 as well as ALINORM 08/31/3 paras 6-12 and Appendices II and III		

Goal 4: Promoting Cooperation between Codex and other relevant international organizations							
Activities	Responsible parties	Timeframe	Output/Measurable indicators	Current Status	Notes	Advice by EXEC	Decision by CAC
4.1 Track the activities of other international standard-setting bodies	CAC, CCEXEC, Codex Secretariat, subsidiary bodies	Continuing	Report to the CCEXEC and CAC indicating potential complementarities, gaps, duplication, or conflict with the work of other international organizations	Ongoing	See ALINORM 08/31/9E		
4.2 Encourage Codex contributions to the work of other international bodies	Codex Secretariat	Continuing	Number of standards elaborated by other international organisations with a cross reference to Codex standards and relevant texts	Ongoing	See ALINORM 08/31/9E		
4.3 Encourage contributions from other international bodies in Codex work	Observers, Codex Secretariat	Continuing	Number of Codex standards elaborated with identifiable input from other international organisations	Ongoing	See ALINORM 08/31/9E		
4.4 Consider cooperation with other relevant international intergovernmental organizations	Legal Counsels of FAO and WHO, Codex Secretariat	Continuing	Devise the means by which Codex can strengthen cooperation with OIE and IPPC	Ongoing	See ALINORM 08/31/9E		

Goal 4: Promoting Cooperation between Codex and other relevant international organizations							
Activities	Responsible parties	Timeframe	Output/Measurable indicators	Current Status	Notes	Advice by EXEC	Decision by CAC
4.5 Promote interdisciplinary coordination at the national and regional level	Codex Members, FAO/WHO Coordinating Committees	Completion by 2009	Reports from members to Regional Coordinating Committees on mechanisms and evaluation criteria.	A questionnaire on inter-disciplinary coordination is being sent to governments with a view to discussion at Regional Coordinating Committees.			

Goal 5: Promoting Maximum and Effective Participation of Members							
Activities	Responsible parties	Timeframe	Output/Measurable indicators	Current Status	Notes	Advice by EXEC	Decision by CAC
5.1 Promote enhanced participation of developing countries in Codex	CAC, CCEXEC	Continuing	Reports from FAO / WHO presenting analysis of measures of enhanced participation achieved through the Codex Trust Fund.	Ongoing	See ALINORM 08/31/9F		
5.2 Promote effective use of written comments in the Codex process	Codex Members, Observers, CCEXEC, Codex Secretariat	Continuing	Reports by host countries on patterns of submission of written comments in response to CLs, and adherence by chairs to the guidelines for the conduct of the meetings.	Ongoing			
5.3 Evaluate effectiveness of Codex Committee sessions held in developing countries	Host countries, CCEXEC	Completion by 2009	Reports from host and co-hosting countries documenting experience co-hosting experience.	Not yet started...			

Goal 5: Promoting Maximum and Effective Participation of Members							
Activities	Responsible parties	Timeframe	Output/Measurable indicators	Current Status	Notes	Advice by EXEC	Decision by CAC
5.4 Strengthen Codex Contact Points and National Codex Committees	CAC, CCEXEC, Codex Secretariat	Continuing	Reports from FAO/WHO on countries whose National structure and codex Contact Points have been supported.	Ongoing	See ALINORM 08/31/9G Add.1		
5.5 Enhance participation of non-governmental organizations at international, regional and national levels	CAC, Codex Members, subsidiary bodies	Continuing	Reports from member countries under relevant agenda items of the Regional Committees, on participations of non-governmental organizations at National level.	Ongoing A questionnaire is being sent to governments with a view to discussion at Coordinating Committees.			
5.6 Enhance communication about Codex work at international and national levels	Codex Secretariat, WHO and FAO, Codex Contact Points, subsidiary bodies	Continuing	Reports by Secretariat to CAC on increased use of audio / webcasting, enhancement of WebPages, increase use of electronic distribution of codex materials, etc.		See ALINORM 08/31/9A and CAC/31 INF/8.		

Annex 2**Notes by the Secretariat****Goal 1: Promoting Sound Regulatory Frameworks**

1. **Activities 1.1 through 1.5** are ongoing activities that constitute the core business of the Commission. They are regularly monitored through the Critical Review undertaken by the Executive Committee.
2. **Activity 1.6** specifically addresses issues on exploring appropriate risk management frameworks to be applied in developing maximum residue limits (MRLs) of veterinary drugs and pesticides by the Committees on Residues of Veterinary Drugs in Foods (CCRVDF) and on Pesticide Residues (CCPR) respectively.
 - 1) Veterinary drugs residues
 - The CCRVDF at its 17th Session (September 2007) held discussion on how to solve problems related to substances without ADI and/or MRLs and identified possible options to solve these problems (ALINORM 08/31/31 paras 95-126).
 - For veterinary drugs with no ADI and/or MRLs due to lack of relevant data for JECFA to review, the CCRVDF agreed that it should consider establishing a procedure to commit potential sponsors to join forces in order to share costs and efforts (ALINORM 08/31/31 paras 123-124).
 - With regard to specific veterinary drugs without ADI and/or MRLs due to specific human health concerns, the CCRVDF agreed to start new work, pending the formal approval of new work by the Commission, to develop risk management recommendations/guidance for such the veterinary drugs (ALINORM 08/31/31 paras 116-117 and Appendix VIII).
 - 2) Pesticides residues
 - The CCPR at its 39th Session (May 2007) held discussion on *Periodic Review Procedure* that is referenced in Annex: *List of Risk Management Policies Used by the CCPR to the Risk Analysis Principles Applied by the Committee on Pesticide Residues* in the Procedural Manual, following the recommendation by the 24th Session of the General Principle Committee (ALINORM 07/30/33 para. 159). The *periodic Review Procedure* was adopted in 1997 as a useful guidance to the CCPR in its systematic review of MRLs. Since 1998, the *MRLs Periodic Review Procedure* was always attached to the document presenting the List of MRL at various Steps of the Procedure prepared for each session of the CCPR.
 - The CCPR considered as to whether the Periodic Review Procedure was still relevant for the work of the Committee and, if so, how it should be revised in the light of the *Risk Analysis Principles Applied by the CCPR* and *Criteria for Prioritization of Compounds for Evaluation by JMPR*. The CCPR at its 40th Session (April 2008) also discuss this matter and agreed to request the approval of the Commission for new work on the revision of the Risk Analysis Principles applied by the Codex Committee on Pesticide Residues, which would incorporate the *Criteria for the Prioritization Process of Compounds for Evaluation by JMPR* and the *MRL Periodic Review Procedure* (ALINORM 08/31/24 paras 129-133).
3. **Activity 1.7** may most suitably be addressed by the 61st Session of the Executive Committee and the 31st Session of the Commission, when these consider information on capacity building activities undertaken by FAO and WHO as presented in document ALINORM 08/31/9G Add.1.
4. **Activity 1.8** is being implemented by the Codex Secretariat on an ongoing basis, including using Internet. All Codex Contact Points play an important role in effective distribution and dissemination of the Codex Alimentarius at the national level. The Commission may wish to encourage Codex Contact Points to enhance their capacity to communicate with and provide Codex related information to interested parties in their territory.

Goal 2: Promoting Widest and Consistent Application of Scientific Principles and Risk Analysis

5. **Activity 2.1** has not yet been initiated by the Commission since the Committee on Nutrition and Foods for Special Dietary Uses (CCNFSDU) and the Committee on Food Hygiene (CCFH) have not completed their work for development of risk analysis principles (ALINORM 08/31/26 para. 121 and ALINORM 08/31/13 paras 161-162). The Commission may wish to recommend that the 25th Session of the Committee on General Principles (CCGP) in April 2009 consider this matter and agree on a timeline of work to complete the review by 2011. **Activity 2.2** has not yet been started, pending completion of Activity 2.1.

6. **Activity 2.3** aims at enhancing communication among relevant Codex subsidiary bodies (as risk managers) and the FAO/WHO scientific expert bodies (as risk assessors) in accordance with paragraph 38 of the *Working Principle for Risk Analysis for Application in the Framework of the Codex Alimentarius*. This Activity should make progress simultaneously and in close relation with Activity 2.2. In the meantime, CCFA, CCCF, CCPR, CCFH and CCRVDF have maintained communication with relevant scientific expert bodies in accordance with the existing risk analysis policy and/or the established practice. To assist in two-way communication between Codex bodies and FAO/WHO expert bodies, the secretariats of both bodies participate in each other's meeting to the extent possible.

7. **Activity 2.4** relates to the following criteria recommended to FAO and WHO by the 55th Session of the Executive Committee (ALINORM 05/28/3 para.75):

Criteria to be Used by FAO and WHO for Prioritization of Requests by Codex for Scientific Advice:

- *Relevance in relation to the strategic objectives and priorities as defined in the Strategic Plan;*
- *Clear definition of the scope and objective of the request as well as clear indication of the way in which the advice will be used in the work of Codex;*
- *Significance and urgency to the development or advancement of Codex texts taking into account public health and/or food trade relevance of the issue and the needs of developing countries;*
- *Availability of scientific knowledge and data required to conduct the risk assessment or to elaborate the scientific advice;*
- *High priority assigned by the Codex Alimentarius Commission.*

The 28th Session of the Commission, in response to the request that an additional criterion be added to the existing criteria for the prioritization to give consideration to the specific needs of developing countries, noted that the existing criteria adequately covered this matter and that the criteria could be further reviewed later, if required, in the light of experience with the application of existing criteria (ALINORM 05/28/41 para. 226).

The 61st Session of the Executive Committee may wish to discuss how to proceed with this Activity, taking into account the report from FAO and WHO on the use of these criteria (ALINORM 08/31/9G para. 15).

8. **Activity 2.5** is an ongoing activity. Document ALINORM 08/31/9G Part III provides a list of requests for scientific advice addressed to FAO and WHO, including those not specifically requested by Codex.

9. **Activity 2.6** may most suitably be addressed by the 61st Session the Executive Committee and the 31st Session of the Commission when these consider information on capacity building activities undertaken by FAO and WHO as presented in ALINORM 08/31/9G.

Goal 3: Strengthening Codex Work-Management Capabilities

10. **Activity 3.1** requires that the Executive Committee initiates a review of the *Criteria for the Establishment of Work Priorities* and the procedure of the critical review, for their effectiveness. The initial steps to be taken should be identified by the 61st Session of the Executive Committee.

11. **Activity 3.3** has been implemented to various degrees depending on the committees. The committee-specific criteria are additional to those applicable horizontally, which are found in the Procedural Manual, and may not be required for certain committees or for certain areas. The need for new committee-specific criteria or for their revision should be identified as appropriate.

12. **Activity 3.4** will be initiated by a consultant to be recruited by the secretariat. In the first place, a review should be conducted on the management approaches currently used by the Commission and its subsidiary bodies and on their effectiveness. **Activity 3.5** should follow Activity 3.4.

13. **Activity 3.6** may most suitably be addressed by the 61st Session the Executive Committee and the 31st Session of the Commission, when these consider information on the provision of scientific advice by FAO and WHO as presented in ALINORM 08/31/9G.

14. **Activity 3.7** will be initiated by the recruitment of a consultant by the Secretariat to evaluate the effectiveness and resource needs of the Codex Secretariat in the operation and work management of the Commission and its subsidiary bodies, and in communicating with and serving the needs of Codex Contact Points. A report will be presented at the 62nd Session of the Executive Committee.

15. **Activity 3.8** is underway. The 60th Session of the Executive Committee agreed on the Guidelines on the Application of the Criteria for the Establishment of Work Priorities Applicable to Commodities (ALINORM

08/31/3 Appendix II) and also recommended the Commission to adopt the Procedures for Conversion of Regional Standards into Worldwide Standards (ALINORM 08/31/3 Appendix III). Discussion continues in the 61st Session of the Executive Committee and the 31st Session of the Commission (ALINORM 08/31/9C Part II and ALINORM 08/31/9C Part II Add.1).

Goal 4: Promoting Cooperation between Codex and other relevant international organizations

16. **Activity 4.1** is implemented through the consideration of a working paper and several information documents submitted to the Commission. The information on the work of OIE, WTO, IAEA and ISO is presented at each session of the Commission, while the information on the work of other international organizations is presented to the Commission at a longer interval.

17. **Activity 4.2** is dependent on and limited by the human and other resources available to the Secretariat. Codex representatives currently participate in selected meetings of other international standards setting organizations either regularly or on an irregular basis. When physical participation is not possible, written communication is sent, mainly to draw the attention of other organizations to the existing or ongoing work of Codex.

18. **Activity 4.3** may take a general or specific form. The 28th Session of the Commission has encouraged the OIE to actively participate in Codex standards setting through the work of several subsidiary bodies, while other organizations such as the UNECE have been participating in the work of a specific Codex subsidiary body.

19. **Activity 4.4** may most suitably be addressed by the 61st Session the Executive Committee and the 31st Session of the Commission when these consider information on the collaboration with the OIE and the IPPC as presented in ALINORM 08/31/9E.

20. **Activity 4.5** will be undertaken by the FAO/WHO Coordinating Committees meeting between October 2008 and March 2009. The Commission may wish to recommend that the Coordinating Committees review the current status, identify areas for improvement and report to the 32nd Session of the Commission any additional measures to be taken by the governments or other parties to enhance interdisciplinary coordination.

Goal 5: Promoting Maximum and Effective Participation of Members

21. **Activity 5.1** may most suitably be addressed by the 61st Session the Executive Committee and the 31st Session of the Commission when these consider information presented in ALINORM 08/31/9F.

22. **Activity 5.2** will start with a consultation between the host governments and the Codex Secretariat to identify steps to be followed. The first step would be to review the current practice on how written comments are submitted and how they are considered during a Codex session. A survey for this purpose could take place in 2009.

23. **Activity 5.3** would be implemented in two steps: 1) questionnaire survey among the host governments which have the experience of holding Codex sessions in developing countries as well as collection of statistical data on attendance of member governments in Codex sessions, and 2) analysis of the information and data collected. Any challenges encountered at the level of the Codex Secretariat should also be documented. A progress report would be presented to the 62nd Session of the Executive Committee and the 32nd Session of the Commission.

24. **Activity 5.4** may most suitably be addressed by the 61st Session the Executive Committee and the 31st Session of the Commission when these consider information presented in ALINORM 08/31/9G Add.1. Besides, the Executive Committee and the Commission may wish to recommend that the Coordinating Committees pay full attention to this matter during their forthcoming sessions and report back to the 62nd Session of the Executive Committee. It should be noted that this Activity is supported by Activity 5.6.

25. **Activity 5.5** will be undertaken by the FAO/WHO Coordinating Committees meeting between October 2008 and March 2009. The Commission may wish to recommend that the Coordinating Committees review the current status, identify areas for improvement and report to the 32nd Session of the Commission any additional measures to be taken by the governments or other parties to enhance participation of non-governmental organizations at international, regional and national levels.

26. Under **Activity 5.6**, the Codex Secretariat continues to improve the functionality of the Codex website and make better use of communication by electronic mail. Audio visual and other advocacy materials have been produced to support the activity of Codex Contact Points. Issuance of a regular Codex newsletter is currently planned for. Regional Coordinators have been putting in place the websites for coordinating committees in order to enhance and maintain communication among Codex members of the respective region in-between sessions of the Coordinating Committees. In May 2008, an e-learning course on Codex was launched by FAO and WHO.