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# codex alimentarius commission



FOOD AND AGRICULTURE  
ORGANIZATION  
OF THE UNITED NATIONS

WORLD  
HEALTH  
ORGANIZATION



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## Agenda Item 7

### JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME

### FAO/WHO COORDINATING COMMITTEE FOR ASIA

*Fourteenth Session, Jeju-Do, Republic of Korea 7-10 September 2004*

## REPORT ON CONSUMER PARTICIPATION IN FOOD STANDARDS SETTING AT THE CODEX AND NATIONAL LEVEL IN RESPONSE TO CL2004/10-ASIA

### INDONESIA

1. Indonesia has established National Codex Contact Point located in National Standardization Agency. CCP carried out the core functions as outlined at Codex Procedural Manual. In order to provide guidance for all Codex activities and to accommodate the need of all stakeholders, Indonesia is in the process of developing guidelines for mechanisms of National Codex Committee (NCC).
2. Recognizing the fact that there are many stakeholders whose interests and concern need to be taken while taking decision on Codex matters, Indonesia has established National Codex Committee (NCC) which consist of Director General of Ministry of Health, Director General of Ministry of Agriculture, Director General of Ministry of Industry and Trade, Director General of Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries, Director General of National Food and Drugs Agency, Director General of National Standardization Agency, Experts and representatives of Food Industries Associate.
3. Public consultations usually hold by government institutions through participation of consumers' organization at regular meeting. Codex Contact Point is in the process of establishing a website to ensure that public could access information about Codex activities as well as draft of national position, and to facilitate their participation in developing national positions. The provision for holding public consultation will be described in the guidelines for mechanisms of National Codex Committee (NCC). When developing national positions for Codex meetings, NCC is assisted in technical matters by working group which consist of representative from institution concerned, included consumers' organization, experts, and representatives of food industries. Each institution may propose the Indonesian positions to be discussed by working group. Result of working group discussion is submitted to NCC for policy decision before submitting to Codex Secretariat as Indonesian positions.
4. Consumer participation is an important element in the work of Codex. Therefore, Indonesia has identified one of the oldest independent consumer NGOs. For the time being, only one consumer organization (Indonesian Consumer Organization/YLKI) has been regularly involved in the elaboration of Codex as well as national standards. There are several consumer NGOs exist in Indonesia and will be identified their interests to participate in specific Codex Committee. Therefore, in the future, there will be more consumer NGOs which participate in developing Codex Standards.

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**International Association of Consumer Food Organizations (IACFO)**

The International Association of Consumer Food Organizations (IACFO) would like to comment on point B of the circular letter.

5. IACFO supports the use of a “Measurable Objectives” checklist as detailed in paragraphs B(i) through B(vi) of the circular letter. Further, IACFO supports the recommendation that reports to the Commission be submitted every two years on the status of consumer participation in the countries of the various regions. IACFO believes that mandatory reporting requirements promote consumer participation at the national level.
  
6. Codex can not accomplish its mission, which is to protect the health of consumers and promote fair practices in food trade, unless it ensures that consumers have a full opportunity to participate in its proceedings. IACFO thus supports the list of measurable objectives and mandatory reporting requirements to encourage the participation of consumers in Codex proceedings.