

codex alimentarius commission



FOOD AND AGRICULTURE
ORGANIZATION
OF THE UNITED NATIONS

WORLD
HEALTH
ORGANIZATION



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Agenda Item 2.1

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JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME

FAO/WHO COORDINATING COMMITTEE FOR LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

16th Session

Acapulco, Mexico, 10-14 November 2008

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CODEX STRATEGIC PLAN 2008-2013

**COMMENTS IN RESPONSE TO CL 2008/16-LAC, PART D FROM BOLIVIA, CHILE, COSTA RICA,
CUBA, GUATEMALA, EL SALVADOR AND URUGUAY**

- (i) **Mechanisms and evaluation criteria at country level to improve horizontal coordination and communication among national delegates to various food-standards-related international organizations (see Activity 4.5 of the Strategic Plan)**

Bolivia

No coordination mechanism has been established.

Chile

Chile has a National Codex Committee which oversees 18 technical sub-committees. The National Committee coordinates the country positions which are duly conveyed at the meetings of the Codex Committees and the Commission. Each Codex Committee includes representatives of the Public Ministries concerned, industry, consumers, universities and of course the delegates who will attend the meetings.

There is also an Interministerial National Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures, related to the WTO SPS agreement and bilateral agreements, with the involvement of representatives of the Ministries concerned and the delegates who attend the meetings.

The National Codex Committee includes a representative of the SPS Committee, which in turn includes a representative of the National Codex Committee.

Both Committees discuss the country positions which will be taken to each meeting and which are approved by consensus. On their return, the delegates report to their respective committees on the meeting proceedings and give an assessment.

Costa Rica

Costa Rica's goal is to increase national participation in defining the country's positions in response to Codex requests for comments, seeking transparency and accessibility to any national user so that he or she may express his or her views and have them reach the National Technical Codex Secretariat for subsequent analysis.

Cuba

Cuba participates in different international organizations involved in standard setting (Codex, ISO, COPANT, etc.) and the views expressed by its delegates are agreed with the Directorate of the National Standardization Office and the National Codex Committee.

Guatemala

Guatemala is seeking to persuade the other Central American countries that we should harmonize our standards with the Codex and determine national positions that reflect the opinions of the countries of the area, given that our concerns are almost identical and our problems similar. We wish to channel this operating mechanism through the CCLAC and to determine positions as a region.

El Salvador

The intervention of the Food Safety Commission is expected to improve the levels of interinstitutional communication, in coordination with the National Codex Commission.

Uruguay

The 2008-2009 Working Plan of the National Codex Committee includes the task of establishing links among national delegates to WTO, SPS, TBT, MERCOSUR, OIE and IPPC. Meetings will then be held between delegates of the National Codex Committee and national delegates to international organizations. Reports are at present being drawn up on participation in international meetings, and these will be discussed in the meetings to be held.

- (ii) **Establishment of sound structures and processes for consultation on codex matters to ensure effective involvement and participation of all interested parties, with a view to in particular enhancing the participation of non-governmental organizations in codex work at national, regional and international levels (see Activity 5.5 of the Strategic Plan).**

Bolivia

Seminars have been held to publicize CNCA activities in the three largest cities of Bolivia.

These seminars were directed towards technical personnel working in different areas of national and local government, industry, primary producers, traders, universities, and professionals working in the food sector.

The seminars set out to raise awareness of the importance of participating in Codex Alimentarius activities and of applying Codex standards at national level.

Information was given on the work procedures of the Codex Commission and all its subsidiary bodies, and on Bolivia's participation in those bodies and on the application of this work at national level.

These seminars and the ongoing work of the technical committees have succeeded in broadening the involvement of the private and public sectors and academia in Codex-related activities.

Chile

The National Codex Committee and the Technical Sub-Committees invite to their meetings the government sector, industry and consumers, NGOs and representatives of the universities. The work to shape country positions with all stakeholders takes place in meetings and by e-mail.

There is also a web page at national level with information on the work of the National Codex Committee and links to relevant NGOs.

There are industrial sectors that have in certain cases participated on a continuous basis (Committee on Pesticide Residues, Committee on Fresh Fruits and Vegetables) and others on a sporadic basis (Committee on Labelling) in Codex meetings at international level, in both cases as members of the national delegations.

Representatives of National Consumer Associations have participated by invitation of Consumers International.

The possibility of being a member of the official delegation of the National Codex Committee exists, but the problem for NGOs is funding. A programme to publicize the functions and benefits of Codex is being developed to emphasize the importance of active participation.

Costa Rica

In order to ensure the effective participation of interested parties in Codex work, especially national, regional and international NGOs, Costa Rica should soon have an information system providing an automatic information service on current Codex Alimentarius issues and also allowing users to express an opinion on any particular topic of interest within a specified timeframe.

Cuba

The National Codex Committee involves all agencies associated with the food chain and the National Standardization Office has the necessary means of communication to update Codex texts and issues.

Guatemala

We consider it vitally important that non-governmental organizations should participate in the work of the Codex. As this is an international reference body, all participants should have sound structures and processes for consultation.

El Salvador

The structure of the National Codex Commission allows the establishment of mechanisms for consultation on Codex issues with a view to increasing the effective participation of all interested parties. A plan of action has been drawn up for such consultation, establishing lines of action to ensure coordination with the representatives of the interested parties.

Uruguay

The following Technical Subcommittees have been appointed in Uruguay, coordinated by experts from the Ministry of Livestock, Agriculture and Fisheries, the Ministry of Public Health and the Technological Laboratory of Uruguay: General Principles; Food Additives, Contaminants in Foods; Food Hygiene; Food Labelling; Methods of Analysis and Sampling; Pesticide Residues; Residues of Veterinary Drugs in Food; Food Import and Export Inspection and Certification Systems; Nutrition and Foods for Special Dietary Uses; Processed Fruits and Vegetables; Milk and Milk Products; and Foods Derived from Biotechnology. The technical subcommittees are made up of representatives of the public, private and academic sectors.