

# codex alimentarius commission E



FOOD AND AGRICULTURE  
ORGANIZATION  
OF THE UNITED NATIONS

WORLD  
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JOINT OFFICE: Viale delle Terme di Caracalla 00153 ROME Tel: 39 06 57051 www.codexalimentarius.net Email: codex@fao.org Facsimile: 39 06 5705 4593

Agenda Item 2

CX/AMR 07/1/2  
August 2007

## JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME

### AD HOC CODEX INTERGOVERNMENTAL TASK FORCE ON ANTIMICROBIAL RESISTANCE

*First Session*

*Seoul, Republic of Korea, 23-26 October 2007*

#### MATTERS REFERRED BY THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION AND OTHER CODEX COMMITTEES AND TASK FORCES

#### A. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE 29<sup>TH</sup> SESSION OF THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION (GENEVA, SWITZERLAND, 2006)

##### Adoption of the Establishment of Ad Hoc Intergovernmental Task Force<sup>1</sup>

1. The Commission agreed to establish the Ad Hoc Intergovernmental Task Force on Antimicrobial Resistance and, with the necessary adjustments, agreed on its objectives, terms of reference and timeframe.
2. The Task Force is therefore invited to review its terms of reference (attached as Appendix 1 to this document) and to inform the Commission as to whether it is satisfied with them, together with any observations as appropriate.
3. The Commission agreed that a Circular Letter be sent to request concrete proposals for new work, preferably in the form of draft project documents, which would be compiled in a working document to be circulated for comments and consideration by the first meeting of the Task Force. The responses to the CL 2006/38-AMR will be considered under Agenda Item 4.

#### B. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE 30<sup>TH</sup> SESSION OF THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION (ROME, ITALY, JULY 2007)

##### Strategic Plan 2008-2013 of the Codex Alimentarius Commission<sup>2</sup>

4. The Commission adopted the Strategic Plan 2008-2013. The Task Force should draw attention to all the Activities relevant to its work as well as relevant Output/Measurable Indicators listed in Part 3 of the Strategic Plan.
5. The Task Force is invited to take note of the following Activities 1.1 and 1.5 of Goal 1 and Activity 2.5 of Goal 2 that identify the *Ad Hoc* Intergovernmental Task Force on Antimicrobial Resistance as one of the responsible parties for their implementation. The Activities of 3.3 of Goal 3 and 4.1 of Goal 4 should also be carefully considered and implemented by the Task Force.

<sup>1</sup> ALINORM 06/29/41 paras 168-169 and Appendix XI

<sup>2</sup> ALINORM 07/30/REP paras 131-138 and Appendix IX

## Goal 1 “Promoting Sound Regulatory Frameworks

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| <b>1.1 : Review and develop Codex standards and related texts for food safety</b>   |
| <b>Description:</b> Review and develop Codex standards and related texts for food safety, taking into account scientific and technological developments, to ensure that they: emphasize a horizontal approach; employ an approach to food safety that is based on risk and that addresses the entire food chain; and reflect global variations so as to avoid being more trade restrictive than necessary, while respecting the basic objectives of the CAC, taking into consideration the technical and economic implications for all members as well as the special needs of developing countries including infrastructure, resources and technical and legal capabilities. |
| <b>Timeline :</b> Continuing  |
| <b>Responsible parties:</b> CCFH, CCFA, CCCF, CCPR, CCRVDF, CCNFSU, relevant Task Forces and Commodity Committees   |

**Output/Measurable indicators:** Standards related texts adopted at respective steps.

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| <b>1.5 : Develop guidance for safe and prudent non-human antimicrobial usage for containment of resistance</b>   |
| <b>Description:</b> Develop guidance within the remit of the Codex mandate for safe and prudent antimicrobial usage for containment of resistance in food production which focuses on public health, is based on sound science and follows risk analysis principles, and takes into account the work of other international organizations. |
| <b>Timeline:</b> Completion by 2011  |
| <b>Responsible parties:</b> Existing relevant Codex Committees, <i>ad hoc</i> Intergovernmental Task Force on Antimicrobial Resistance   |

**Output/Measurable indicators:** Guidance for safe and prudent non-human antimicrobial usage for containment of resistance.

## Goal 2 “Promoting Widest and Consistent Application of Scientific Principles and Risk Analysis”

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| <b>2.5 : Encourage countries to channel their requests for scientific advice to FAO / WHO through the CAC</b>   |
| <b>Description:</b> Encourage countries to channel their requests through the CAC in order to make the best use of the limited resources available at FAO and WHO for the provision of scientific advice. Encourage FAO and WHO to inform the CCEXEC and the CAC of all requests on provision of scientific advice on food safety received from member countries. |
| <b>Timeline:</b> Continuing   |
| <b>Responsible parties:</b> CAC, CCEXEC, all subsidiary bodies  |

**Output/Measurable indicators:** Report by FAO and WHO of requests for scientific advice received directly from countries vs. requests received through CAC.

## Goal 3 “Strengthening Codex Work-Management Capabilities”

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| <b>3.3 : Develop committee-specific decision making and priority setting criteria</b>  |
| <b>Description:</b> Develop committee-specific decision-making and priority-setting criteria and use these criteria for management of work. Implement and review criteria where necessary. |
| <b>Timeline:</b> Completion of decision making and priority setting criteria by 2008. Review of criteria, beginning in 2008.   |
| <b>Responsible parties:</b> All General Subject Committees and some other subsidiary bodies as appropriate   |

**Output/Measurable indicators:** Committee-specific decision-making and priority-setting criteria, Confirmed review of criteria beginning in 2008.

## Goal 4 “Promoting Cooperation between Codex and Other Relevant International Organizations”

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| <b>4.1 Track the activities of other international standard-setting bodies</b>  |
| <b>Description:</b> Track the activities of other international standard-setting bodies to identify areas of potential complementarities, gaps, duplication, or conflict. A summary of such activities relevant to Codex shall be reported to the Executive Committee and to the Commission annually. |
| <b>Timeline:</b> Continuing   |
| <b>Responsible parties:</b> CAC, CCEXEC, Codex Secretariat, subsidiary bodies   |

**Output/Measurable indicators:** Report to the CCEXEC and CAC indicating potential complementarities, gaps, duplication, or conflict with the work of other international organizations.

**Review of Codex Committee Structure and Mandates of Codex Committees and Task Forces<sup>3</sup>**

6. The Commission considered 11 Proposals as contained in Circular Letter CL 2006/29-CAC. Due to time constraints, the Commission only made decisions regarding Proposal 1 (numbers of meetings), Proposal 2 (number of subsidiary bodies), Proposal 3 (interval of meetings), Proposal 4 (duration of meetings) and Proposal 8 (conversion of regional standards into world-wide standards) and agreed to request the 60<sup>th</sup> Session of the Executive Committee for further consideration of the other six Proposals.

7. The Task Force should draw attention to the Proposals 3 and 4, reproduced below, when discussing the date of its next meeting (Agenda Item 6: Date and Place of the next Session).

- Proposal 3 (interval of meetings): The Task Force should consider adopting a longer interval with the understanding that a structured, effective inter-session working mechanism should then be put in place in accordance with the Guidelines on Physical Working Groups and on Electronic Working Groups.
- Proposal 4 (duration of meetings): The duration of a Codex session should be kept within seven days, including the pre-session meetings of working groups, if any, in order to keep its proceedings well focused, ensure transparency, and facilitate effective participation of the members, with the understanding that certain margin of flexibility should be allowed, depending on the workload of each subsidiary bodies.

**Elaboration of new Standards and Related Texts<sup>4</sup>**

8. The Commission noted that project documents submitted to the 59<sup>th</sup> Session of the Executive Committee contained information that, while respecting the overall format as set out in the Procedural Manual, varied significantly in terms of quantity and quality, and therefore, endorsed the recommendation of the Executive Committee to encourage Codex committees, task forces and Codex Members to prepare future project documents according to the format set out in the current revision of the Procedural Manual and provide sufficiently detailed, relevant information with particular regard to the evidence-based assessment against each of all the Criteria for the Establishment of Work Priorities.

<sup>3</sup> ALINORM 07/30/REP paras 146-161

<sup>4</sup> ALINORM 07/30/REP para. 97

**Appendix 1****TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE *AD HOC* CODEX INTERGOVERNMENTAL TASK FORCE  
ON ANTIMICROBIAL RESISTANCE****Objectives**

To develop science based guidance, taking full account of its risk analysis principles and the work and standards of other relevant international Organizations, such as FAO, WHO and OIE. The intent of this guidance is to assess the risks to human health associated with the presence in food and feed including aquaculture and the transmission through food and feed of antimicrobial resistant microorganisms and antimicrobial resistance genes and to develop appropriate risk management advice based on that assessment to reduce such risk.

**Terms of reference**

To develop guidance on methodology and processes for risk assessment, its application to the antimicrobials used in human and veterinary medicine as provided by FAO/WHO through JEMRA, and in close cooperation with OIE, with subsequent consideration of risk management options. In this process work undertaken in this field at national, regional and international levels should be taken into account.

**Time frame**

The Task Force shall complete its work within four sessions, starting 2007.