

# codex alimentarius commission



FOOD AND AGRICULTURE  
ORGANIZATION  
OF THE UNITED NATIONS

WORLD  
HEALTH  
ORGANIZATION



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 11(a)

### JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME

#### CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION

##### *Thirty-second Session*

*FAO Headquarters, Rome, 29 June – 4 July 2009*

### STRATEGIC PLANNING OF THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION

#### INTRODUCTION

1. The Thirtieth Session of the Commission adopted the Strategic Plan of the Codex Alimentarius Commission 2008-2013<sup>1</sup>.
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.

---

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



## Annex 1

## IMPLEMENTATION OF STRATEGIC PLAN 2008-2013

<b>Goal 1: Promoting Sound Regulatory Frameworks</b>							
<b>Activities</b>	<b>Responsible parties</b>	<b>Timeframe</b>	<b>Output/Measurable indicators</b>	<b>Current Status</b>	<b>Notes</b>	<b>Advice by EXEC</b>	<b>Decision by CAC</b>
<b>1.1 Review and develop Codex standards and related texts for food safety</b>	CCFH, CCFA, CCCF, CCPR, CCRVDF, CCNFSDU, relevant Task Forces and Commodity Committees	Continuing	Standards related texts adopted at respective steps	Ongoing	See CX/EXEC 09/62/2 CX/EXEC 09/62/3, and ALINORM 09/32/9		
<b>1.2 Review and develop Codex standards and related texts for food quality</b>	Relevant Task Forces, Commodity Committees and FAO/WHO Coordinating Committees	Continuing	Standards and related texts adopted at respective steps	Ongoing	See CX/EXEC 09/62/2 CX/EXEC 09/62/3, and ALINORM 09/32/9		
<b>1.3 Review and develop Codex standards and related texts for food labelling and nutrition</b>	CCFL, CCNFSDU	Continuing	Standards and related texts adopted at respective steps	Ongoing	See CX/EXEC 09/62/2 CX/EXEC 09/62/3, and ALINORM 09/32/9		
<b>1.4 Review and develop Codex standards and related texts for food inspection and certification, and methods of analysis and sampling</b>	CCMAS, CCFICS	Continuing	Standards and related texts adopted at respective steps	Ongoing	See CX/EXEC 09/62/2 CX/EXEC 09/62/3, and ALINORM 09/32/9		

<b>Goal 1: Promoting Sound Regulatory Frameworks</b>							
<b>Activities</b>	<b>Responsible parties</b>	<b>Timeframe</b>	<b>Output/Measurable indicators</b>	<b>Current Status</b>	<b>Notes</b>	<b>Advice by EXEC</b>	<b>Decision by CAC</b>
<b>1.5 Develop guidance for safe and prudent non-human antimicrobial usage for containment of resistance</b>	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 ALINORM 09/32/42		
<b>1.6 Explore innovative risk management frameworks</b>	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"> <li>- new work addressing risk management recommendations for veterinary drugs with no ADI/MRL, including process to promulgate risk management recommendations (ALINORM 09/32/31, para. 165);</li> <li>- review all factors considered for establishing ADI and recommending MRLs (ALINORM 09/32/31, para. 148)</li> </ul> <p><u>CCPR</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Revision of the Risk Analysis Principles applied by the CCPR: ongoing (ALINORM 09/32/24, paras. 177-185)</li> </ul>		
<b>1.7 Encourage FAO/WHO to expand capacity building programmes</b>	CAC, CCEXEC and FAO/WHO Coordinating Committees	Continuing	Report from FAO/WHO to CAC, CCEXEC and Coordinating Committees	Ongoing	See ALINORM 09/32/9F-Add.1		
<b>1.8 Publish and disseminate the Codex</b>	Codex Secretariat,	Continuing	Publication and dissemination of	Ongoing	New and revised Codex standards and related texts have		

<b>Goal 1: Promoting Sound Regulatory Frameworks</b>							
<b>Activities</b>	<b>Responsible parties</b>	<b>Timeframe</b>	<b>Output/Measurable indicators</b>	<b>Current Status</b>	<b>Notes</b>	<b>Advice by EXEC</b>	<b>Decision by CAC</b>
<b>Alimentarius</b>	Codex Contact Points		Codex Alimentarius		been published on the Codex website and in CD ROM, subsequent to the 31 <sup>st</sup> CAC.  Several new special publications have been published by thematic area.		

<b>Goal 2: Promoting Widest and Consistent Application of Scientific Principles and Risk Analysis</b>							
<b>Activities</b>	<b>Responsible parties</b>	<b>Timeframe</b>	<b>Output/Measurable indicators</b>	<b>Current Status</b>	<b>Notes</b>	<b>Advice by EXEC</b>	<b>Decision by CAC</b>
<b>2.1 Review the consistency of risk analysis principles elaborated by the relevant Codex Committees</b>	CCGP	Completion by 2011	Report by CCGP of completed review to CAC.	underway	CCNFSDU risk analysis policy document. finalised for adoption by the Commission.  CCFH is developing a risk analysis policy document.  CCGP confirmed the timeframe (2011).		
<b>2.2 Review risk analysis principles developed by relevant Codex Committees</b>	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.		
<b>2.3 Enhance communication among</b>	CCFA, CCCF, CCPR,	Ongoing	Incorporated into report as required in		See Activity 2.2 above		

<b>Goal 2: Promoting Widest and Consistent Application of Scientific Principles and Risk Analysis</b>							
<b>Activities</b>	<b>Responsible parties</b>	<b>Timeframe</b>	<b>Output/Measurable indicators</b>	<b>Current Status</b>	<b>Notes</b>	<b>Advice by EXEC</b>	<b>Decision by CAC</b>
<b>relevant Codex subsidiary bodies and the FAO/WHO scientific expert bodies</b>	CCRVDF, CCFH, CCNFSDU		2.2.				
<b>2.4 Review the set of criteria recommended to FAO and WHO for prioritization of requests from Codex for scientific advice.</b>	CCEXEC	Completion by 2009	Report of review by CCEXEC to CAC, with recommendation to better match priorities and resources	Not yet started	The 61 <sup>st</sup> CCEXEC agreed that there was no need to revise the criteria at this stage. See ALINORM 09/32/9F		
<b>2.5 Encourage countries to channel their requests for scientific advice to FAO / WHO through the CAC</b>	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 09/32/9F		
<b>2.6 Encourage FAO/WHO to provide training and capacity building on risk analysis for food safety</b>	CAC, CCEXEC, FAO/WHO Coordinating Committees and Codex Members	Continuing	Report from FAO/WHO to CAC, CCEXEC and Coordinating Committees	Ongoing	See ALINORM 09/32/9F Add.1		

<b>Goal 3: Strengthening Codex Work-Management Capabilities</b>							
<b>Activities</b>	<b>Responsible parties</b>	<b>Timeframe</b>	<b>Output/Measurable indicators</b>	<b>Current Status</b>	<b>Notes</b>	<b>Advice by EXEC</b>	<b>Decision by CAC</b>
<b>3.1 Review the Criteria for the Establishment of Work Priorities and procedures of the critical review carried out by the CCEXEC</b>	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.	The 61 <sup>st</sup> CCEXEC agreed that it was premature to make concrete proposals and decided to revisit the matter after gaining more experience in the conduct of the critical review.		
<b>3.2 Ensure effective standards management</b>	CCEXEC	Continuing	Report on compliance of standards development against timelines (associated with critical review process)	Ongoing.	See ALINORM 09/32/3		
<b>3.3 Develop committee-specific decision making and priority setting criteria</b>	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	<b>Decision making criteria</b> <u>Completed:</u> CCFH, CCFA, CCCF, CCPR, CCMMP, CCMAS, CCRVDF <u>Under revision:</u> CCFPP <b>Priority setting criteria</b> <u>Completed:</u> CCFH, CCFA, CCCF, CCRVDF, CCMMP (prioritisation of	Other committees consider that the general criteria for priority setting are adequate.  CCFO noted that the information required in its specific criteria for oils developed earlier was generally covered by the current format for project documents (ALINORM 09/32/17, para. 8)		

<b>Goal 3: Strengthening Codex Work-Management Capabilities</b>							
<b>Activities</b>	<b>Responsible parties</b>	<b>Timeframe</b>	<b>Output/Measurable indicators</b>	<b>Current Status</b>	<b>Notes</b>	<b>Advice by EXEC</b>	<b>Decision by CAC</b>
				individual cheeses)			
<b>3.4 Analyse work-management approaches that facilitate advancement of texts in the Codex step process</b>	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.			
<b>3.5 Adopt approaches proven to facilitate advancement of texts in the Codex step procedure by subsidiary bodies not currently using such approaches</b>	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.		
<b>3.6 Implement priority-ranked comprehensive accounting of all requests for scientific advice</b>	CCEXEC, CAC, FAO and WHO	Continuing	Comprehensive report by FAO/WHO to CAC on accounting of all requests for scientific advice	Ongoing	See ALINORM 09/32/9F		
<b>3.7 Evaluate the capacity of the Codex Secretariat to perform its function effectively</b>	Codex Secretariat, CCEXEC, CAC	Completion by 2009	Report by Secretariat to CAC on the staff and other key resources	Completed	See ALINORM 09/32/9B Part II and ALINORM 09/32/9B Part II-Add.1		
<b>3.8 Streamline Codex Commodity work</b>	CCEXEC, CAC	Completion by 2010	Implementation of the decisions of the Commission on how to streamline Codex work on commodities through an improved	In progress	See ALINORM 08/31/9C Part II and ALINORM 08/31/9C Part II Add.1 and ALINORM 08/31/REP, para. 150		

<b>Goal 3: Strengthening Codex Work-Management Capabilities</b>							
<b>Activities</b>	<b>Responsible parties</b>	<b>Timeframe</b>	<b>Output/Measurable indicators</b>	<b>Current Status</b>	<b>Notes</b>	<b>Advice by EXEC</b>	<b>Decision by CAC</b>
			structure of Codex subsidiary bodies				

<b>Goal 4: Promoting Cooperation between Codex and other relevant international organizations</b>							
<b>Activities</b>	<b>Responsible parties</b>	<b>Timeframe</b>	<b>Output/Measurable indicators</b>	<b>Current Status</b>	<b>Notes</b>	<b>Advice by EXEC</b>	<b>Decision by CAC</b>
<b>4.1 Track the activities of other international standard-setting bodies</b>	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 09/32/9D Part I		
<b>4.2 Encourage Codex contributions to the work of other international bodies</b>	Codex Secretariat	Continuing	Number of standards elaborated by other international organisations with a cross reference to Codex standards and relevant texts	Ongoing	See ALINORM 09/32/9D Part I		
<b>4.3 Encourage contributions from other international bodies in Codex work</b>	Observers, Codex Secretariat	Continuing	Number of Codex standards elaborated with identifiable input from other international organisations	Ongoing	See ALINORM 09/32/9D Part I		
<b>4.4 Consider</b>	Legal Counsels	Continuing	Devise the means by	Ongoing	See ALINORM		

<b>Goal 4: Promoting Cooperation between Codex and other relevant international organizations</b>							
<b>Activities</b>	<b>Responsible parties</b>	<b>Timeframe</b>	<b>Output/Measurable indicators</b>	<b>Current Status</b>	<b>Notes</b>	<b>Advice by EXEC</b>	<b>Decision by CAC</b>
<b>cooperation with other relevant international intergovernmental organizations</b>	of FAO and WHO, Codex Secretariat		which Codex can strengthen cooperation with OIE and IPPC		09/32/9D Part I		
<b>4.5 Promote interdisciplinary coordination at the national and regional level</b>	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.	ALINORM 09/32/15, para. 10 (CCASIA) ALINORM 09/32/40, para. 20 (CCNEA) ALINORM 09/32/28, paras 19 - 21 (CCAFRICA) ALINORM 09/32/19, paras. 8-9) (CCEURO) ALINORM 09/32/36, paras 12 and 21 (CCLAC)		

<b>Goal 5: Promoting Maximum and Effective Participation of Members</b>							
<b>Activities</b>	<b>Responsible parties</b>	<b>Timeframe</b>	<b>Output/Measurable indicators</b>	<b>Current Status</b>	<b>Notes</b>	<b>Advice by EXEC</b>	<b>Decision by CAC</b>
<b>5.1 Promote enhanced participation of developing countries in Codex</b>	CAC, CCEXEC	Continuing	Reports from FAO / WHO presenting analysis of measures of enhanced participation achieved through the Codex Trust Fund.	Ongoing	See ALINORM 09/32/9E		
<b>5.2 Promote effective use of written comments</b>	Codex Members,	Continuing	Reports by host countries on patterns of	Ongoing			

<b>Goal 5: Promoting Maximum and Effective Participation of Members</b>							
<b>Activities</b>	<b>Responsible parties</b>	<b>Timeframe</b>	<b>Output/Measurable indicators</b>	<b>Current Status</b>	<b>Notes</b>	<b>Advice by EXEC</b>	<b>Decision by CAC</b>
<b>in the Codex process</b>	Observers, CCEXEC, Codex Secretariat		submission of written comments in response to CLs, and adherence by chairs to the guidelines for the conduct of the meetings.				
<b>5.3 Evaluate effectiveness of Codex Committee sessions held in developing countries</b>	Host countries, CCEXEC	Completion by 2009	Reports from host and co-hosting countries documenting experience co-hosting experience.	For consideration at the 32 <sup>nd</sup> CAC	ALINORM 09/32/9B Part III		
<b>5.4 Strengthen Codex Contact Points and National Codex Committees</b>	CAC, CCEXEC, Codex Secretariat	Continuing	Reports from FAO/WHO on countries whose National structure and Codex Contact Points have been supported.	Ongoing	ALINORM 09/32/9F-Add.1 and ALINORM 09/32/32 para. 14 (CCNASWP) ALINORM 09/32/15, para. 101 (CCASIA) ALINORM 09/32/28, paras 17 – 21 (CCAFRICA) ALINORM 09/32/19, paras. 49-50) (CCEURO) ALINORM 09/32/36, paras 12 and 21 (CCLAC)		
<b>5.5 Enhance participation of non-governmental organizations at international, regional</b>	CAC, Codex Members, subsidiary bodies	Continuing	Reports from member countries under relevant agenda items of the Regional Committees, on	Ongoing A questionnaire was sent to governments for discussion in	ALINORM 09/32/32 para. 16 (CCNASWP) ALINORM 09/32/15, para. 12 (CCASIA)		

<b>Goal 5: Promoting Maximum and Effective Participation of Members</b>							
<b>Activities</b>	<b>Responsible parties</b>	<b>Timeframe</b>	<b>Output/Measurable indicators</b>	<b>Current Status</b>	<b>Notes</b>	<b>Advice by EXEC</b>	<b>Decision by CAC</b>
<b>and national levels</b>			participations of non-governmental organizations at National level.	Coordinating Committees.	ALINORM 09/32/40, para. 20 (CCNEA) ALINORM 09/32/28, paras 17 – 21 (CCAFRICA) ALINORM 09/32/19, paras. 47-48) (CCEURO)		
<b>5.6 Enhance communication about Codex work at international and national levels</b>	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 09/32/9A and CAC/32 INF/9		

**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 17<sup>th</sup> 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). The Commission at its 31<sup>st</sup> Session, noting a proposal to revise the project document which would have broaden the scope of the proposal, returned the project document to the CCRVDF for further consideration (ALINORM 08/31/REP para. 93).
- The CCRVDF at its 18<sup>th</sup> Session (May 2009) held discussion on the revised project document and agreed to establish an electronic working group to (i) define the scope for the new work addressing risk management recommendations for veterinary drugs for which no ADI and MRL has been recommended by JECFA due to specific human health concerns or lack of information needed to resolve existing human health concerns; (ii) develop a process by which the Committee will promulgate risk management recommendations; (iii) make proposals on how to address the remaining veterinary drugs for which JECFA clearly identified human health concerns listed in Annex II of CX/RVDF 09/18/8 ; and (iv) propose procedures for conveying these risk management recommendations in the Codex standard setting process consideration (ALINORM 09/32/31 paras. 158-166).
- The 18<sup>th</sup> CCRVDF agreed to review all the factors taken into account in connection with establishing the ADI and the current process of recommending MRLs (ALINORM 09/32/31 para. 148).

**2. Pesticide residues**

- The CCPR at its 39<sup>th</sup> 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 24<sup>th</sup> Session of the Committee on General Principles (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 40<sup>th</sup> 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).

- The 41<sup>st</sup> CCPR agreed to retain the Periodic Re-Evaluation Procedure while acknowledging that there was a need to review data requirements and procedures for revocation of MRLs for pesticides.
- The revision is ongoing (ALINORM 09/32/24 paras. 177-185). however the document should be finalized by 2010 in order to present a revised Risk Analysis Principles to the CCGP in 2011.

3. **Activity 1.7** is an ongoing activity. Information on capacity building activities undertaken by FAO and WHO are presented in document ALINORM 09/32/9F-Add.1. These activities are also considered regularly by FAO/WHO Coordinating Committees (see Agenda Item 3 in the reports of Coordinating Committees held in 2008-2009).

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** - The Committee on Nutrition and Foods for Special Dietary Uses (CCNFSDU) finalised a risk analysis policy document for adoption by the Commission (ALINORM 09/33/26 para. 121). The Committee on Food Hygiene (CCFH) is in the process of developing such a document (ALINORM 08/31/13 paras 161-162). The 25<sup>th</sup> Session of the Committee on General Principles had a general discussion on this activity and confirmed the timeline of work to complete the review by 2011 (ALINORM 09/32/33, paras. 91-98). **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.

7. **Activity 2.4** relates to the following criteria recommended to FAO and WHO by the 55<sup>th</sup> 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 61<sup>st</sup> Session of the Executive Committee noted the view of FAO and WHO that the current criteria were useful and appropriate and that they were willing to use the same set of criteria. The Committee agreed that there was no need to revise the criteria at this stage (ALINORM 08/31/3A, para.132). FAO and WHO are currently using these criteria, as mentioned in ALINORM 09/32/9F, Part III, Table I.

8. **Activity 2.5** is an ongoing activity. Document ALINORM 09/32/9F, 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** is an ongoing activity. Capacity building activities on risk analysis undertaken by FAO and WHO are presented in ALINORM 09/32/9F Add.1. These activities are also considered regularly by FAO/WHO Coordinating Committees (see Agenda Item 3 in the reports of Coordinating Committees held in 2008-2009).

### **Goal 3: Strengthening Codex Work-Management Capabilities**

10. **Activity 3.1** - The 61<sup>st</sup> Session of the Executive Committee agreed that it was premature to make concrete proposals on how to initiate review of these criteria and procedures and decided to revisit the matter after the Executive Committee had gained more experience in the conduct of the critical review (ALINORM 08/31/3A, para.133).

11. **Activity 3.2** is an ongoing activity and will be considered under Agenda Item 2 of the 62<sup>nd</sup> Session of the Executive Committee.

12. **Activity 3.3** has been implemented to various degrees depending on the committees. Most committee have considered this question and provided a reply, whether to develop specific criteria or to confirm that the use of the general criteria was adequate. The Executive Committee may wish to consider how to review existing (specific) criteria.

13. **Activity 3.4**. A review should be conducted on the management approaches currently used by the Commission and its subsidiary bodies and on their effectiveness. This activity may be considered in the light of the experience gained with the Critical Review. **Activity 3.5** should follow Activity 3.4.

14. **Activity 3.6** is an ongoing activity. The information on the provision of scientific advice by FAO and WHO is presented in ALINORM 09/32/9F.

15. **Activity 3.7** will be considered by the 62<sup>nd</sup> Session of the Executive Committee and the 32<sup>nd</sup> Session of the Commission (ALINORM 09/32/9B Part II and ALINORM 09/32/9B Part II-Add.1).

16. **Activity 3.8** is underway. The 60<sup>th</sup> 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 the 31<sup>st</sup> Session of the Commission adopted the *Procedures for Conversion of Regional Standards into Worldwide Standards*. As regards the "Consideration of merging or dissolving existing committees" the 61<sup>st</sup> Session of the Executive Committee was not able to consider this question. The 31<sup>st</sup> Session of the Commission agreed to postpone consideration of this proposal until it had been considered by the 62<sup>nd</sup> Session of the Executive Committee (ALINORM 08/31/REP, para. 150). The reference documents are 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**

17. **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 when relevant.

18. **Activity 4.2** is implemented through the participation of the Codex Secretariat in relevant meetings of other international standards setting organizations either regularly or as required for subjects of specific interest. 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.

19. **Activity 4.3** may take a general or specific form. The 28<sup>th</sup> 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.

20. **Activity 4.4** may most suitably be addressed by the 62<sup>nd</sup> 1<sup>st</sup> Session the Executive Committee and the 31<sup>st</sup> Session of the Commission when these consider information on the collaboration with the OIE and the IPPC as presented in ALINORM 09/32/9D Part I.

21. **Activity 4.5** was undertaken by the FAO/WHO Coordinating Committees meeting between October 2008 and March 2009, following the recommendation of the 31<sup>st</sup> Session of the Commission. The reports of the Committees will also be considered under Agenda Item 3 of the 32<sup>nd</sup> Session of the Commission.

**Goal 5: Promoting Maximum and Effective Participation of Members**

22. **Activity 5.1** is an ongoing activity. The FAO/WHO Trust Fund report is presented in ALINORM 09/32/9E.

23. **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.

24. **Activity 5.3** will be considered by the 62<sup>nd</sup> Session of the Executive Committee (Agenda Item 4c) and the 32<sup>nd</sup> Session of the Commission (Agenda 11c) as presented in ALINORM 09/32/9B Part III.

25. **Activity 5.4** was referred to the FAO/WHO Coordinating Committees held in 2008-2009, as recommended by the 31<sup>st</sup> Session of the Commission. This Activity is supported by Activity 5.6.

26. **Activity 5.5** was referred to the FAO/WHO Coordinating Committees held in 2008-2009, as recommended by the 31<sup>st</sup> Session of the Commission.

27. 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. A regular Codex newsletter is currently issued. 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.