

SECTION VI

MEMBERSHIP

- Membership of the Codex Alimentarius Commission as of August 2009.
- Core Functions of Codex Contact Points. (Adopted in 1999)
- Up-to-date information on Codex Contact Points and Membership is available on the Codex website at: <http://www.codexalimentarius.net>.

MEMBERSHIP OF THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION**Member countries and years of accession (as of AUGUST 2009)**

AFRICA		AFRICA	
Angola	1990	Niger	1997
Benin	1974	Nigeria	1969
Botswana	1978	Rwanda	1988
Burkina Faso	2002	Sao Tome and Principe	2009
Burundi	1964	Senegal	1966
Cameroon	1969	Seychelles	1984
Cape Verde	1981	Sierra Leone	1980
Central African Republic	1971	Somalia	2009
Chad	1978	South Africa	1994
Comoros	2009	Swaziland	1972
Congo	1971	Togo	1968
Côte d'Ivoire	1969	Uganda	1964
Democratic Republic of the Congo	1970	United Republic of Tanzania	1972
Djibouti	2009	Zambia	1971
Equatorial Guinea	1988	Zimbabwe	1985
Eritrea	1996		
Ethiopia	1968	ASIA	
Gabon	1972	Afghanistan	2005
Gambia	1971	Bangladesh	1975
Ghana	1966	Bhutan	1999
Guinea	1978	Brunei Darussalam	1997
Guinea-Bissau	1974	Cambodia	1974
Kenya	1969	China	1984
Lesotho	1984	Democratic People's Republic of Korea	1981
Liberia	1971	India	1964
Madagascar	1966	Indonesia	1971
Malawi	1971	Japan	1963
Mali	2003	Lao People's Democratic Republic	1995
Mauritania	1996	Malaysia	1971
Mauritius	1971	Maldives (Republic of)	2008
Morocco	1968	Mongolia	1992
Mozambique	1984		
Namibia	1999		

Member countries and years of accession

ASIA		EUROPE	
Myanmar	1978	Ireland	1963
Nepal	1974	Israel	1963
Pakistan	1970	Italy	1966
Philippines	1968	Kazakhstan	2003
Republic of Korea	1971	Kyrgyzstan	2002
Singapore	1969	Latvia	1993
Sri Lanka	1972	Lithuania	1992
Thailand	1963	Luxembourg	1963
Viet Nam	1989	Malta	1966
		Moldova	1997
EUROPE		Netherlands	1963
Albania	1992	Norway	1963
Armenia	1994	Poland	1963
Austria	1963	Portugal	1963
Belarus	2006	Romania	1969
Belgium	1963	Russian Federation	1993
Bosnia and Herzegovina	2007	Serbia	2006
Bulgaria	1969	Slovakia	1994
Croatia	1994	Slovenia	1993
Cyprus	1971	Spain	1963
Czech Republic	1994	Sweden	1963
Denmark	1963	Switzerland	1963
Estonia	1992	The former Yugoslav	
Finland	1964	Republic of Macedonia	1994
France	1963	Turkey	1963
Georgia	1998	Ukraine	2004
Germany	1963	United Kingdom	1963
Greece	1963	Uzbekistan	2005
Hungary	1968	<i>Member Organization:</i>	
Iceland	1970	European Community	2003

Member countries and years of accession

LATIN AMERICAN AND THE CARIBBEAN		NEAR EAST	
Antigua and Barbuda	1988	Algeria	1970
Argentina	1963	Bahrain	1981
Bahamas	2002	Egypt	1972
Barbados	1970	Iran (Islamic Republic of)	1966
Belize	1992	Iraq	1969
Bolivia	1971	Jordan	1966
Brazil	1968	Kuwait	1964
Chile	1969	Lebanon	1970
Colombia	1969	Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	1972
Costa Rica	1970	Oman	1972
Cuba	1964	Qatar	1971
Dominica	1990	Saudi Arabia	1968
Dominican Republic	1971	Sudan	1968
Ecuador	1970	Syrian Arab Republic	1968
El Salvador	1975	Tunisia	1965
Grenada	1982	United Arab Emirates	1972
Guatemala	1968	Yemen	1988
Guyana	1970		
Haiti	1984	NORTH AMERICA	
Honduras	1988	Canada	1963
Jamaica	1971	United States of America	1963
Mexico	1969	SOUTH WEST PACIFIC	
Nicaragua	1971	Australia	1963
Panama	1972	Cook Islands	1998
Paraguay	1969	Fiji	1971
Peru	1963	Kiribati	1990
Saint Kitts and Nevis	1996	Micronesia, Federated	
Saint Lucia	1987	States of	1993
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	2004	New Zealand	1963
Suriname	1984	Papua New Guinea	1989
Trinidad and Tobago	1964	Samoa	1974
Uruguay	1970	Solomon Islands	1998
Venezuela	1969	Tonga	1997
		Vanuatu	1997

CORE FUNCTIONS OF CODEX CONTACT POINTS

The operation of Codex Contact Points will differ in each country depending on national legislation, government structures and practices.

Codex Contact Points:

1. Act as the link between the Codex Secretariat and Member countries;
2. Coordinate all relevant Codex activities within their own countries;
3. Receive all Codex final texts (standards, codes of practice, guidelines and other advisory texts) and working documents of Codex sessions and ensure that they are circulated to those concerned within their own countries;
4. Send comments on Codex documents or proposals to the Codex Alimentarius Commission or its subsidiary bodies and/or the Codex Secretariat;
5. Work in close cooperation with the national Codex committee, where such a committee has been established. The Codex Contact Point acts as the liaison point with the food industry, consumers, traders and all other concerned to ensure that the government is provided with an appropriate balance of policy and technical advice upon which to base decisions relating to issues raised in the context of the Codex work;
6. Act as a channel for the exchange of information and coordination of activities with other Codex Members;
7. Receive the invitation to Codex sessions and inform the relevant chairpersons and the Codex Secretariat of the names of participants from their own countries;
8. Maintain a library of Codex final texts; and
9. Promote Codex activities throughout their own countries.

SECTION VII

RELATIONS WITH OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

- Guidelines on Cooperation between the Codex Alimentarius Commission and International Intergovernmental Organizations in the Elaboration of Standards and Related Texts. (Adopted in 2005)
- Principles concerning the Participation of International Non-Governmental Organizations in the Work of the Codex Alimentarius Commission. (Adopted in 1999, amended in 2005, 2007)

GUIDELINES ON COOPERATION BETWEEN THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION AND INTERNATIONAL INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS IN THE ELABORATION OF STANDARDS AND RELATED TEXTS

Scope and Application

1. These guidelines establish the modalities of cooperation between the Codex Alimentarius Commission and International Intergovernmental Organizations when elaborating food standards or related texts.
2. These guidelines should be read in conjunction with the "Uniform Procedure for the Elaboration of Codex Standards and Related Texts".

Types of Cooperation

3. The Codex Alimentarius Commission may undertake the elaboration of any standard or related text in cooperation with another international intergovernmental body or organization.
4. Such cooperation may consist of:
 - a) Cooperation at the initial drafting stages of a Codex standard or related text;
 - b) Cooperation through mutual exchange of information and participation in meetings.

Cooperating International Intergovernmental Organization

5. The cooperating international intergovernmental organization shall have observer status with the Codex Alimentarius Commission.
6. The cooperating International Intergovernmental Organization shall have the same principles of membership⁴² that form the basis for membership in the Codex Alimentarius Commission and equivalent principles of standards-setting⁴³.

Cooperation at the Initial Drafting Stages of a Codex Standard or Related Text⁴⁴

7. The Commission, or a subsidiary body of the Commission subject to approval by the Commission and taking into account the Critical review conducted by the Executive Committee, as appropriate, may entrust the initial drafting of a proposed draft standard or related text to an international intergovernmental organization with competence in the relevant field, in particular one of those referred to in Annex A of the World Trade Organization Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (WTO/SPS Agreement),

⁴² "The same principles of membership" shall be taken to mean that the membership of the organization is open to all Members and Associate Members of FAO and of WHO.

⁴³ "Equivalent principles of standards-setting" refers to the General Decisions of the Commission set out in the Appendix to the Procedural Manual.

⁴⁴ See also Article 1 of the Statutes of the Codex Alimentarius Commission, Step 2 of the Uniform Procedure for the Elaboration of Codex Standards and Related Texts, and the Terms of reference of the Codex Committee on Fresh Fruits and Vegetables.

on a case-by case basis, provided that the willingness of the cooperating organization to undertake such work has been ascertained. Such texts shall be circulated at Step 3 of the « Uniform Procedure for the Elaboration of Codex Standards and Related Texts ». When appropriate, the international intergovernmental organisations referred to Annex A of the WTO/SPS Agreement shall be associated in the drafting of standards or related texts at Step 2 of the Elaboration Procedure. The Commission shall entrust the remaining steps to the relevant Codex subsidiary body within the Codex Elaboration Procedure.

8. The Commission, or a subsidiary body of the Commission, may use, in whole or in part, an international standard or related text developed by an international intergovernmental organization with competence in the relevant field as a basis for preparing a proposed draft standard or related text at Step 2 of the Elaboration Procedure, subject to concurrence of the cooperating organization. The proposed draft standard or related text shall be circulated at Step 3 of the "Uniform Procedure for the Elaboration of Codex Standards and Related Texts".

Cooperation through Mutual Exchange of Information and Participation in Meetings

9. The Commission or a subsidiary body of the Commission may identify an international intergovernmental organization having specific expertise of particular importance to the work of the Commission. Such organization may be encouraged to actively participate in the elaboration of standards by the Commission and its subsidiary bodies.
10. The Commission or a subsidiary body of the Commission may invite a cooperating organization having specific expertise of particular importance to the work of the Commission to report about its relevant work at their sessions on an *ad hoc* or regular basis.
11. The Commission or a subsidiary body of the Commission may recommend that the Chairperson of the Commission, the Chairperson of the subsidiary body, or, if they are not available, a Vice-chairperson or the Secretary of the Commission, as appropriate, participate in meetings of the cooperating organization, subject to the concurrence of the cooperating organization.
12. The Commission or a subsidiary body of the Commission may recommend that the Chairperson or the Secretary of the Commission forward comments, opinions or other relevant information of the Commission to the cooperating organization as regards international standard setting work in areas of mutual interest.
13. The Codex Alimentarius Commission may recommend to the Directors-General of FAO and WHO the conclusion of an appropriate arrangement with the executive head of the cooperating organization with a view to agreeing upon specific modalities to facilitate continuing cooperation between the Commission and the cooperating organization, as set out in the paragraphs above.

PRINCIPLES CONCERNING THE PARTICIPATION OF INTERNATIONAL NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS IN THE WORK OF THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION

1. Purpose

The purpose of collaboration with International Non-Governmental Organizations is to secure for the Codex Alimentarius Commission, expert information, advice and assistance from International Non-Governmental Organizations and to enable organizations which represent important sections of public opinion and are authorities in their fields of professional and technical competence to express the views of their members and to play an appropriate role in ensuring the harmonizing of intersectoral interests among the various sectoral bodies concerned in a country, regional or global setting. Arrangements made with such organizations shall be designed to advance the purposes of the Codex Alimentarius Commission by securing maximum cooperation from International Non-Governmental Organizations in the execution of its programme.

2. Types of Relationship

Only one category of relationship shall be recognized, namely "Observer Status"; all other contacts, including working relations, shall be considered to be of an informal character.

3. Organizations Eligible for "Observer Status"

The following shall be eligible for Observer Status:

- (i) International Non-Governmental Organizations in consultative status, specialized consultative status or liaison status with FAO;
- (ii) International Non-Governmental Organizations having official relations with WHO; and
- (iii) International Non-Governmental Organizations that:
 - (a) are international in structure and scope of activity, and representative of the specialized field of interest in which they operate;
 - (b) are concerned with matters covering a part or all of the Commission's field of activity;
 - (c) have aims and purposes in conformity with the Statutes of the Codex Alimentarius Commission;
 - (d) have a permanent directing body and Secretariat, authorized representatives and systematic procedures and machinery for communicating with its membership in various countries. Its members shall exercise voting rights in relation to its policies or action or shall have other appropriate mechanisms to express their views; and
 - (e) have been established at least three years before they apply for observer status.

For the purpose of paragraph (a), International Non-Governmental Organizations shall be considered "international in structure and scope of activity" if they have

members and carry out activities in at least three countries. The Directors-General of FAO and WHO may, upon the advice of the Executive Committee, grant observer status to Organizations not meeting this requirement if it is clear from their application that they would make a significant contribution to advancing the purposes of the Codex Alimentarius Commission.

4. Procedure for Obtaining "Observer Status"

4.1 International Non-Governmental Organizations having Status with FAO and/or Official Relations with WHO

"Observer status" shall be accorded to those International Non-Governmental Organizations in consultative status, specialized consultative status or liaison status with FAO or International Non-Governmental Organizations having official relations with WHO that inform the Secretary of the Codex Alimentarius Commission of their desire to participate in the work of the Commission and/or any or all of the Commission's subsidiary bodies⁴⁵ on a regular basis. They may also request invitations to participate at specific sessions of the Commission or its subsidiary bodies on an *ad hoc* basis.

4.2 International Non-Governmental Organizations neither having Status with FAO nor Official Relations with WHO

Before any form of formal relationship is established with a Non-Governmental Organization, such Organization shall supply the Secretary of the Commission with the information outlined in the Annex to these Procedures.

The Secretary of the Commission will verify the completeness of the information provided by the Organization, and will also perform an initial assessment of whether the Organization appears to meet the requirements indicated in Section 3 of these Principles. In case of doubts, he or she will consult with the Directors-General of FAO and WHO and may seek further information and clarifications from the Organization as appropriate.

Upon satisfactory completion of the verification and assessment referred to in the previous paragraph, the Secretary of the Commission will submit the application and all relevant information received from the applicant to the Executive Committee for its advice, pursuant to Rule IX.6 of the Rules of Procedure of the Codex Alimentarius Commission.

The Secretary of the Commission will transmit the application, together with all relevant information received from the applicant and the advice of the Executive Committee, to the Directors-General who will decide whether an Organization is to be granted observer status. In case of rejection of an application, a re-application by the same Organization shall not normally be considered until two years have elapsed since the Directors-General's decision on the original application.

The Secretary of the Commission shall inform each Organization of the Directors-General's decision on its application, and shall provide a written explanation of the decision in case of rejection.

⁴⁵ The term "subsidiary bodies" means any body established under Rule XI of the Commission's Rules of Procedure.

Section VII: Relations with other organizations

Observer Status at specific meetings will not normally be granted to individual organizations that are members of a larger organization authorized and that intends to represent them at these meetings.

5. Privileges and Obligations

International Non-Governmental Organizations in Observer status shall have the following privileges and obligations:

5.1 Privileges of International Non-Governmental Organizations in "Observer Status"

An Organization in Observer Status:

- (a) shall be entitled to send an observer (without the right to vote) to sessions of the Commission, who may be accompanied by advisers; to receive from the Secretary of the Commission, in advance of the session, all working documents and discussion papers; to circulate to the Commission its views in writing, without abridgement; and to participate in discussions when invited by the Chairperson⁴⁶;
- (b) shall be entitled to send an observer (without the right to vote) to sessions of specified Subsidiary Bodies, who may be accompanied by advisers; to receive from the Secretaries of the Subsidiary Bodies, in advance of the session, all working documents and discussion papers; to circulate to these Bodies its views in writing, without abridgement; and to participate in discussions when invited by the Chairperson;
- (c) may be invited by the Directors-General to participate in meetings or seminars on subjects organized under the Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme which fall within its fields of interest, and if it does not so participate it may submit its views in writing to any such meeting or seminar;
- (d) will receive documentation and information about meetings planned on subjects agreed upon with the Secretariat;
- (e) may submit, under the authority of its governing body, written statements on matters before the Commission, in one of the languages of Commission, to the Secretary, who may communicate them to the Commission or the Executive Committee as appropriate.

5.2 Obligations of International Non-Governmental Organizations in "Observer Status"

An Organization in Observer Status shall undertake:

- (a) to cooperate fully with the Codex Alimentarius Commission for the furtherance of the objectives of the Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme;
- (b) in cooperation with the Secretariat, to determine the ways and means of co-ordinating activities within the scope of the Joint FAO/WHO Food

⁴⁶ An invitation to a Codex meeting and representation thereof by an observer shall not imply the granting to an international non-governmental organization of a status different from that which it already enjoys.

- Standards Programme, with a view to avoiding duplication and overlapping;
- (c) to contribute, as far as possible, and at the request of the Directors-General, to the promotion of a better knowledge and understanding of the Codex Alimentarius Commission and the Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme through appropriate discussions or other forms of publicity;
 - (d) to send to the Secretary of the Commission on an exchange basis, its reports and publications concerned with matters covering all or part of the Commission's field of activity;
 - (e) to promptly report to the Secretary of the Commission changes in its structure and membership, important changes in its secretariat as well as any other important changes in the information provided in accordance with the Annex to the present Principles.

6. **Review of "Observer Status"**

The Directors-General may terminate observer status if an Organization no longer meets the criteria in sections 3 and 4 above, or for reasons of exceptional nature, in accordance with the procedures set out in this section.

Without prejudice to the preceding paragraph, an International Non-Governmental Organization in Observer Status which has neither attended any meetings nor provided any written comments during a period of four years shall be deemed not to have sufficient interest to warrant the continuance of such relationship.

If, in the view of the Directors-General, the conditions indicated in the previous paragraphs materialize, they shall inform the Organization concerned accordingly and invite it to submit its observations. The Directors-General will seek the advice of the Executive Committee and will submit any observation received from the Organization to it. The Directors-General, taking into account the advice of the Executive Committee and any observation submitted by the Organization, shall decide whether to terminate its observer status. A re-application from the same Organization shall not normally be considered until two years have elapsed since the Directors-General's decision to terminate its observer status.

The Secretary shall report to the Codex Alimentarius Commission on the relations between the Codex Alimentarius Commission and international non-governmental organizations established in accordance with the present Procedures and shall provide a list of organizations granted Observer Status, with an indication of the membership that they represent. He or she shall also report to the Commission the termination of the observer status of any Organization.

The Commission shall periodically review these principles and procedures and shall consider, as necessary, any amendments which may seem desirable.

ANNEX: Information required of International Non-Governmental Organizations requesting “Observer Status”

- (a) Official name of the organization in different languages (with initials).
- (b) Full postal address, Telephone, Facsimile and Email, as well as Telex and website addresses as appropriate.
- (c) Aims and subject fields (mandate) of organization, and methods of operation. (Enclose charter, constitution, by-laws, rules of procedures, etc.). Date of establishment.
- (d) Member organizations (name and address of each national affiliate, method of affiliation, giving number of members where possible, and names of principal officers. If the organization has individual members, please indicate approximate number in each country. If the organization is of a federal nature and has International Non-Governmental Organizations as members, please indicate whether any of those members already enjoy observer status with the Codex Alimentarius Commission).
- (e) Structure (assembly or conference; council or other form of governing body; type of general secretariat; commissions on special topics, if any; etc.).
- (f) Indication of source of funding (e.g. membership contributions, direct funding, external contributions, or grants).
- (g) Meetings (indicate frequency and average attendance; send report of previous meeting, including any resolutions passed) that are concerned with matters covering all or part of the Commission's field of activity.
- (h) Relations with other international organizations:
 - UN and its organs (indicate consultative status or other relationship, if any).
 - Other international organizations (document substantive activities).
- (i) Expected contribution to the Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme.
- (j) Past activities on behalf of, or in relation to, the Codex Alimentarius Commission and the Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme (indicate any relationship by national affiliates with the Regional Coordinating Committees and/or the National Codex Contact Points or Committees for at least the last three years preceding the application).
- (k) Area of activity in which participation as an observer is requested (Commission and/or Subsidiary Bodies). If more than one organization with similar interests is requesting observer status in any field of activity, such organizations will be encouraged to form themselves into a federation or association for the purpose of participation. If the formation of such a single organization is not feasible, the application should explain why this is so.
- (l) Previous applications for observer status with the Codex Alimentarius Commission, including those made by a member organization of the applicant organization. If successful, please indicate why and when observer status was terminated. If unsuccessful, please indicate the reasons you were given.
- (m) Languages (English, French or Spanish) in which documentation should be sent to the International Non-Governmental Organization.
- (n) Name, Function and address of the person providing the information.
- (o) Signature and date.

APPENDIX

GENERAL DECISIONS OF THE COMMISSION

- Statements of Principle concerning the Role of Science in the Codex Decision-Making Process and the Extent to which other Factors are Taken into Account. (Adopted in 1995, amended in 2001)
- Statements of Principle Relating to the Role of Food Safety Risk Assessment. (Adopted in 1997)
- Measures to facilitate consensus. (Adopted in 2003)

STATEMENTS OF PRINCIPLE CONCERNING THE ROLE OF SCIENCE IN THE CODEX DECISION-MAKING PROCESS AND THE EXTENT TO WHICH OTHER FACTORS ARE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT⁴⁷

1. The food standards, guidelines and other recommendations of Codex Alimentarius shall be based on the principle of sound scientific analysis and evidence, involving a thorough review of all relevant information, in order that the standards assure the quality and safety of the food supply.
2. When elaborating and deciding upon food standards Codex Alimentarius will have regard, where appropriate, to other legitimate factors relevant for the health protection of consumers and for the promotion of fair practices in food trade.
3. In this regard it is noted that food labelling plays an important role in furthering both of these objectives.
4. When the situation arises that members of Codex agree on the necessary level of protection of public health but hold differing views about other considerations, members may abstain from acceptance of the relevant standard without necessarily preventing the decision by Codex.

Criteria for the Consideration of the Other Factors Referred to in the Second Statement of Principle⁴⁸

- when health and safety matters are concerned, the *Statements of Principle Concerning the Role of Science* and the *Statements of Principle Relating to the Role of Food Safety Risk Assessment* should be followed;
- other legitimate factors relevant for health protection and fair trade practices may be identified in the risk management process, and risk managers should indicate how these factors affect the selection of risk management options and the development of standards, guidelines and related texts;
- consideration of other factors should not affect the scientific basis of risk analysis; in this process, the separation between risk assessment and risk management should be respected, in order to ensure the scientific integrity of the risk assessment;
- recognized that some legitimate concerns of governments when establishing their national legislation are not generally applicable or relevant worldwide;⁴⁹
- only those other factors which can be accepted on a worldwide basis, or on a regional basis in the case of regional standards and related texts, should be taken into account in the framework of Codex;

⁴⁷ Decision of the 21st Session of the Commission, 1995.

⁴⁸ Decision of the 24th Session of the Commission, 2001.

⁴⁹ Confusion should be avoided between justification of national measures under the SPS and TBT Agreements and their validity at the international level.

- the consideration of specific other factors in the development of risk management recommendations of the Codex Alimentarius Commission and its subsidiary bodies should be clearly documented, including the rationale for their integration, on a case-by-case basis;
- the feasibility of risk management options due to the nature and particular constraints of the production or processing methods, transport and storage, especially in developing countries, may be considered; concerns related to economic interests and trade issues in general should be substantiated by quantifiable data;
- the integration of other legitimate factors in risk management should not create unjustified barriers to trade⁵⁰; particular attention should be given to the impact on developing countries of the inclusion of such other factors.

⁵⁰ According to the WTO principles, and taking into account the particular provisions of the SPS and TBT Agreements.

STATEMENTS OF PRINCIPLE RELATING TO THE ROLE OF FOOD SAFETY RISK ASSESSMENT⁵¹

1. Health and safety aspects of Codex decisions and recommendations should be based on a risk assessment, as appropriate to the circumstances.
2. Food safety risk assessment should be soundly based on science, should incorporate the four steps of the risk assessment process, and should be documented in a transparent manner.
3. There should be a functional separation of risk assessment and risk management, while recognizing that some interactions are essential for a pragmatic approach.
4. Risk assessment should use available quantitative information to the greatest extent possible and risk characterizations should be presented in a readily understandable and useful form.

⁵¹ Decision of the 22nd Session of the Commission, 1997.

MEASURES TO FACILITATE CONSENSUS⁵²

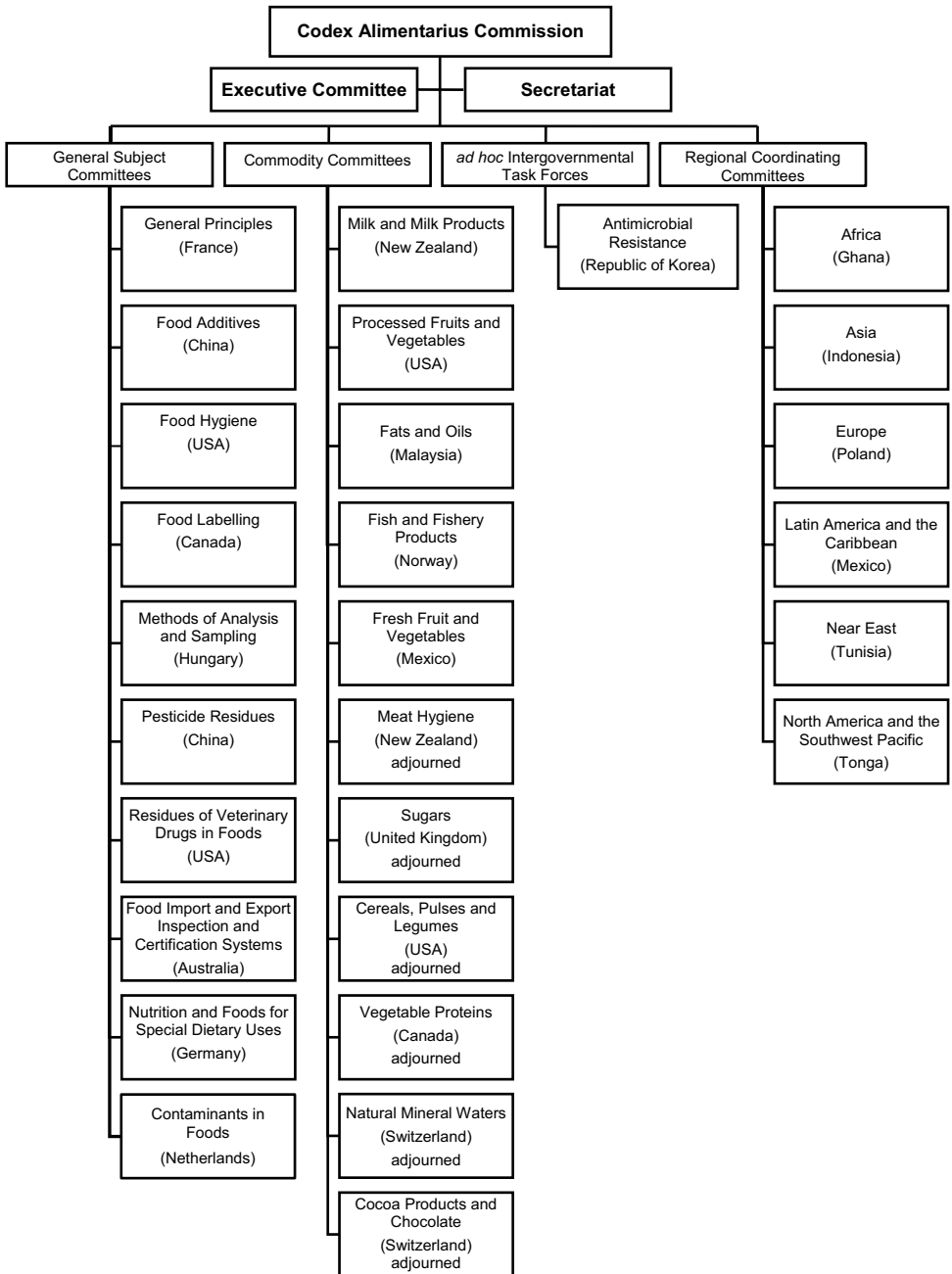
The Codex Alimentarius Commission, desiring that every effort should be made to reach agreement on the adoption or amendment of standards by consensus, recommends the following measures to facilitate consensus:

- Refraining from submitting proposals in the step process where the scientific basis is not well established on current data and, where necessary, carry out further studies in order to clarify controversial issues;
- Providing for thorough discussions and documentation of the issues at meetings of the committees concerned;
- Organizing informal meetings of the parties concerned where disagreements arise, provided that the objectives of any such meetings are clearly defined by the Committee concerned and that participation is open to all interested delegations and observers in order to preserve transparency;
- Redefining, where possible, the scope of the subject matter being considered for the elaboration of standards in order to cut out issues on which consensus could not be reached;
- Providing that matters are not progressed from step to step until all relevant concerns are taken into account and adequate compromises worked out;
- Emphasizing to Committees and their Chairpersons that matters should not be passed on to the Commission until such time as consensus has been achieved at the technical level;
- Facilitating the increased involvement and participation of developing countries.

⁵²

Decision of the 26th Session of the Commission, 2003.

Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme



www.codexalimentarius.net

The Procedural Manual of the Codex Alimentarius Commission is intended to help Member Governments participate effectively in the work of the joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme. The manual is particularly useful for national delegations attending Codex meetings and for international organizations attending as observers. It sets out the basic Rules of Procedure, procedures for the elaboration of Codex standards and related texts, basic definitions and guidelines for the operation of Codex committees. It also gives the membership of the Codex Alimentarius Commission.

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