



**AFRICAN UNION
INTERAFRICAN BUREAU FOR ANIMAL RESOURCES**

**REPORT OF THE FIRST PAN-AFRICAN MEETING OF
NATIONAL CODEX CONTACT OFFICERS TO REVIEW DRAFT
CODEX DOCUMENTS OF INTEREST TO AFRICA**

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The first Panafrican meeting of the Codex National Contact Point Officers was held at the African Union Interafrican Bureau for Animal Resources (AU-IBAR), in Nairobi, Kenya from 1 to 4 December 2009, to review draft Codex documents related to Codex issues of interest to Africa. The general objective of the meeting was to strengthen the role and enhance the effective participation of African Union Member States in the Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC) Committees meetings, by ensuring adequate preparation and proper coordination of country positions.
2. The specific objectives of the meeting were
 - a) To collate national views and develop regional positions on issues of interest to Member States currently being discussed in CAC
 - b) Use Information Communications Technology to foster and enhance communication between the AU Member States and International Standard Setting Organizations.
 - c) To achieve effective participation of all countries in the Region in the activities of Codex Alimentarius Commission and its subsidiary bodies and
 - d) To promote the establishment of Codex Contact Points and National Codex Committees in Member Countries of the African Region and strengthen their performance.
3. The meeting discussed a number of issues related to the following:
 - a) The PAN-SPSO project and purpose of the meeting
 - b) CCAFRICA strategic plan (website, databases, chat sessions)
 - c) Codex committee on contaminants in food. The 4th session of the CCCF contaminants in food. Next session 24-30 March 2010.
 - d) CODEX Alimentarius Commission: Review of the proposal for new work on maximum levels of fumonisins in maize and maize products, and associated sampling plans
 - e) Some items under consideration of code of practice for the reduction on ethyl carbamates in stone fruit distillate

- f) Draft maximum levels for melamine in food consumption in humans and animals (new activity).
 - g) Codex Committee on fruit and fresh vegetables (CCFFV); 16th session CCFFV fresh fruits and vegetables CCFFV took place in October CCPR. Next session 2-6 May 2011
 - h) Proposed draft revision of the CODEX classification of foods and animal feeds.
 - i) Proposed draft revision of the guidelines on the estimation of uncertainty of results for the determination of pesticide residue.
 - j) PAN-SPSO Meeting of NCC-session: CODEX committee on pesticides residues (CCPR), 42nd session CCPR to take place on 19th-24 April 2010.
 - k) PAN-SPSO meeting of NCC- session CODEX committee on food imports and export inspection certification systems.
 - l) Food safety: EU imports conditions (Better training for safe foods)
 - m) Proposal to revise CODEX guidelines on formulated supplementary foods for infants and young children (CAC/GL-8-1991).
 - n) Proposal to review codex guidelines on formulated supplementary foods for older infants and young children (CAC/GL-8-1991)
 - o) PANSPO meeting of NCC-session. CODEX committee on general principles.
 - p) Proposed draft annex on the control measures for *Vibrio parahaemolyticus* and *vibrio vulnificus* in molluscan shellfish: Proposed guidelines on the application of general principles of food hygiene to the control of pathogenic vibrio species in seafood and Annex 5/8.
 - q) Continuing discussion on the outcome of the CC which took place on 16-20 November 2009. Proposed draft guidelines for the control of *Campylobacter* and *Salmonella spp* in chicken meat-CCFH. Proposed draft code of hygiene practice for control of viruses in food at 5/8
 - r) Contribution to CCFH (Codex commission for food hygiene) and CCFICS (Codex committee for food import and export inspection and certification systems).
 - s) Codex committee on food labeling 38th Session on 03-07 May 2010. Proposed draft recommendations for the labeling of foods obtained through certain techniques of GM/GE (report of CCFL, ALINORM 09/32/22 APPENDIX VII).
 - t) How to improve coordination between CCPs and NCCs, and other stakeholders: Codex coordination within Africa.
 - u) Private standards
4. Several conclusions and common positions were agreed upon by the meeting. The details of the deliberations, conclusions, recommendations and common positions are presented below.

II. OPENING SPEECHES

- a. **Speech by Prof. S. K. Sefa -Dedeh, Codex Committee for Africa-Coordinator, read for him by Mr. Kwamina Van-Ess, National Codex Committee, Ghana.**

5. Prof. Sefa-Dedeh opened his remarks by recalling the assurances made by the African Union at the EU sponsored Better Training for Safer Food workshop held in Accra, Ghana and in other similar meetings which followed thereafter, to the effect that it would assist in whatever possible ways to raise the level of involvement and participation of African Nations in Codex in order to promote African interest in the global organisation. He emphasised that the AU definitely recognised the important role food safety played in modern economies in food and impediments which hindered the full access of African Nations to the global market in food. He added that the AU further recognised Africa's internal weakness, which did not offer the expected protection to the health of its people.
6. Prof. Sefa-Dedeh noted the re-launch of the CCAfrica Website after some years of dormancy. He pointed out that the CCAfrica Website was a platform of sharing information about Africa's strength, success, achievements and progress. He added that it was envisaged to be a platform for soliciting for African expertise in order to improve on capacity building efforts.
7. He was, however, displeased that after 10 months since the re-launch, African Members Nations had not made full use of the website and had, therefore, not been able to derive the full benefits of the facility.
8. He hoped the 47 African Members representing 40% of Codex membership would use the meeting as part of an internal capacity building efforts to improve on effective participation in Codex, with the expectation that it would improve the health of African people and greater access to international trade in food, leading to an improvement in the economies of African countries.
9. He appreciated the relationship between AU/IBAR and CCAfrica and expressed gratitude for the assistance provided to CCAfrica by AU-IBAR. He concluded by wishing all the participants a fruitful meeting.

b. Remarks by the Representative of the European Union Delegation in Kenya, Mr. Peter Sturesson

10. In his remarks, Mr. Sturesson gave a background to the support to the PANSPSO project. He pointed out that many African countries could not comply with SPS measures and, therefore, could not take advantage of the market access opportunities provide by regional trading blocks such as the EU.
11. Mr. Sturesson noted that it was only by taking part in the development of standards that countries could really ensure that they had their share of market access, noting that African countries have been more of standards consumers than producers.

12. Mr. Sturesson hoped that the participants would make use of the meeting to come up with strategies to ensure effective participation in the SPS standard-setting process.

c. Speech by Prof. Ahmed El-Sawalhy, Director of AU-IBAR,

13. In his opening speech the Director welcomed the participants and hoped that they would find their stay rewarding.
14. He reiterated that the meeting was being organized under the auspices of the Participation of African Nations in SPS Standard Setting Organisations (PAN-SPSO) Project which started in 2007, and that it was one of the series of activities that had been taking place under the project in the year. He added that most of the project activities were being implemented through the Regional Economic Communities (RECs).
15. The Director outlined the objectives of the project, stating that its primary objective was to attain more effective participation of African nations in ISSOs activities, through appropriately qualified national representatives, facilitating SPS standards related capacity building, and strengthening common Africa/regional policy options. He added that in that regard, the Project highly welcomed and supported relevant national/regional/continental initiatives/efforts aimed at developing draft standards.
16. The Director recalled two other similar activities that had been carried out already, these being the meeting of all African delegates to the World Organisation for Animal health (OIE) and the meeting of the African National Plant Health Officers. He expressed happiness over the successful outcomes of those efforts especially at OIE General Session, pointing out, that Africa was able to participate effectively by making quality comments and by uniting in presenting and defending common positions.
17. He noted that those achievements demonstrated that Africa had the capacity to impact and influence the course of SPS standard setting in the world and that what was needed was to get the countries organized in the right manner.
18. The Director indicated that it was for that reason that AU-IBAR, as the main executing agency of the PAN-SPSO Project, was determined to bring the same experience to the Food Safety specialization in general and to the African Codex Contact points, in particular.
19. He then outlined the main objective of the meeting, which was, to strengthen the role and enhance the effective participation of African Union Members States in the Codex Alimentarius Committees meetings

by ensuring adequate preparation and proper coordination of country positions.

20. He reiterated the fact that the world was slowly but surely becoming a global village, in which scenario, survival would depend on how effectively one coped with the rapid change brought about by the movement of the world towards attaining such concepts as “One World, One Health”™ and “From Farm to Fork”. He emphasised the importance of Africa fully and effectively participating in influencing the course of that movement by effectively participating and contributing to the standard formulation process.

III. PARTICIPANTS

21. The meeting was attended by participants from Angola, Benin, Cape Verde, Congo DR, Ethiopia, Ghana, Guinea, Ivory Coast, Kenya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Somalia, South Africa, Swaziland, Tanzania, Togo, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe. The detailed list of participants is attached to this report in Annex 1.
22. Regional Economic Communities represented at the meeting included CEN-SAD, COMESA, EAC, ECOWAS, IGAD, SADC. Other organisations represented included the Codex Alimentarius Commission, EC (Ethiopia & Kenya), FAO, WHO, USDA, USAID, OIE, COLEACP-PIP, SACAU, AU-IBAR & Regional Offices (Botswana & Mali).
23. The meeting was facilitated by Dr. Patrick Clerkin, USDA Consultant.

IV. PRESENTATIONS

24. All presentations made in the meeting were provided to the participants on a CD, with all other documentation relevant to the meeting.

V. AGENDA

25. The Agenda of the meeting (included in this report as Annex 2) was agreed upon after it was amended by adding two more items (6 and 7) to the list of topics to be discussed, namely:
 - a) Proposed draft revision of the CODEX classification of foods and animal feeds.
 - b) Proposed draft revision of the guidelines on the estimation of uncertainty of results for the determination of pesticide residue.

VI. DELIBERATIONS OF THE MEETING

a. Presentations of PAN-SPSO project and purpose of the meeting.

i. Discussions

1. AU-IBAR Participation in the Codex Committee

26. It was pointed out that the African Union already had observer status in the CODEX committee. It was further pointed out that several African countries were also involved in various sub committees. It was noted that the participation by African countries in Codex work still needed to be strengthened. In addition, IBAR was also planning to apply for membership in the WTO-SPS committee.

2. SPS Experts Data Base

27. It was felt that IBAR needed a database for all SPS experts in Africa so that they could participate fully in the Codex process on behalf of the African continent. The countries were also encouraged to post names and details of their experts/scientists on the websites of the FAO, OIE or Codex, in order for them to be selected whenever there was an opportunity.
28. Ghana reported that they already had some data, in this regard. Other countries too reported having the data. It was emphasised that countries needed to consolidate this data (on African scientists) and forward it to CCAFRICA.
29. It was, however, noted that African countries seemed to be at different levels of development in their food control systems, an example being the availability of the right equipment in all the laboratories for research, in order to provide credible data, especially on consumption patterns and food surveillance systems.
30. It was noted that in formulating International food standards, generation of such data was mandatory.
31. The AU/IBAR highlighted that it was running an EU funded food safety program, through which it was exploring possibilities of establishing a regional laboratory to address the above issue.
32. With regard to what links exist between IBAR and CCAfrica the meeting was informed that the PAN-SPSO initiated a process to assist CCAFRICA to have its website linked to IBAR's website. The issue needed to be followed up.
33. The meeting observed that the challenges related to reliable and credible data in Africa were still enormous. Having a database on national food control systems with data from recognized laboratories was still a big challenge. It was noted that a science based approach was fundamental and critical to CODEX and, therefore, African countries needed to be supported in this aspect. As African countries needed to come up with

ideas related to common positions on CODEX issues, it was important for them to come up with credible data. Participants expressed the need for physical meetings (in addition to the electronic discussions) to discuss African common position before CODEX meetings.

34. A big challenge in relation to pesticides and food contaminants was known and the required data as well as how to obtain it. Participants suggested that Africa could take a lead in training on this aspect, possibly with FAO support. The participants were advised that WHO was willing to support such training, but regional proposals needed to be drawn up and training effected through CCAFRICA.
35. Participants noted that Codex contact points were usually left out of WTO training, and sometimes reports or information generated from such events were not circulated. This made it impossible for African countries to come up with common positions. It was clarified that coordination of activities, including nominations of participants to trainings, was done at the National level. It was further emphasized that reports on WTO, SPS and TBT meetings were always posted to websites, and further that information regarding the three 'sisters' should be coordinated within countries.

b. CCAFRICA strategic plan (website, databases, chat sessions).

i. Discussions

36. One of the biggest challenges noted during the meeting was the high turnover of African delegates in participation in CODEX meetings. This led to low numbers of participants from Africa because when CCAFRICA sent emails calling for participants, there were either no responses to them or the emails bounced.
37. Countries noted the following as budgetary constraints contributing to low participation to CODEX.
 - a) Few countries (delegates) able to meet travel expenses
 - b) Few countries able to participate in both physical and electronic working groups
 - c) Low awareness in African countries
38. The meeting was informed that the FAO always organised meetings before CCAFRICA meetings, and African countries could take advantage of these to come up with common positions. Participants were advised that countries with common interests should coordinate and have common positions before CCAFRICA meetings. The countries could even organize workshops or seminars before the CCAFRICA meetings or sessions. However, communication was noted as a big constraint, possibly due to the dynamic nature of delegates' representation to the CCAFRICA meetings.

39. As food commodity trade was very crucial to Africa, African countries were requested to send, to CCAFRICA, a list of food products traded internationally for the purposes of CCAFRICA assisting in the development of international standards. Such commodities would include animal feeds.
40. The meeting was informed that CODEX contact points in Africa faced a number of challenges including the following
- a) **Lack of human resources**, since CODEX staff worked part time-and this led to lack of dedication by officers. It was noted that in Mali, there were permanent contact point staff as well as a national committee that was functional. It was further noted that, this was still not sufficient, as the contact points needed empowering in totality.
 - b) **Low awareness at National level**. It was observed that much as the CCAFRICA was doing well, the situation at National level was very different. Participation by African countries needed strengthening. The WTO needed to allow CCAFRICA to make presentations to Ministers responsible for trade on food safety in Africa, during meetings organized by them. It was further thought that this could also be the case when the EU organized ministerial meetings. It was pointed out that doing so would create or increase awareness among the Ministers. In order for the NCCs to be able to sensitize relevant Ministers, countries needed to harmonize their reports and use them for the sensitization exercise, as funding by governments could only be realised if relevant stakeholders including heads of ministries had been sensitized adequately to understand the importance of NCCs.
41. It was felt that the Kenyan Ministers responsible for the Agriculture and Health portfolios should have been invited to this particular meeting.
42. The AU-IBAR was requested by participants to explore the possibility, through the AUC, of sensitising the Ministers at the Ministerial meeting. However, IBAR emphasized the need to look at the issue more comprehensively and strengthen existing National SPS committees, and forming them where these do not exist, pointing out that this should be done through RECs.
43. It was felt that relevant institutions such as Universities, Research institutions, private sector, etc, needed to be represented in one form or another in the National SPS committees. The SPS committees needed to be supported by relevant Ministries (starting with the Ministries responsible for Agriculture and livestock). In the meantime, the Ministries responsible for Health were being sensitized, and all activities would be done in collaboration with RECs.
- a) **Lack of credible data**- It was observed that countries were limited with regard to the collection of data which needed to be submitted to CODEX. A lot of countries were conducting research, but some were not accredited. It was also noted that countries needed to ensure skill enhancement at regional level. It was proposed that countries needed to create networks for data collection at sub-regional level, as it was impossible to participate fully at CODEX without credible data.

- b) **Low representation at NCC-** Participants reported that participation at NCCs had a high turnover, and emphasized on the need for policy makers to have representation on this body. The participation of the WTO and the FAO in these committees through their country representatives was also desired.
- c) **Official language of communication while circulating CODEX documents-** Participants raised concerns about some CODEX documents (especially for electronic discussion) being circulated in English, but not in French. In reference to the document over which Ghana was designated to take lead in discussion (preparation of guidelines on how to prepare infant food), the CODEX secretariat representative clarified that an electronic working group was commissioned to work on the subject and that the language agreed upon was English, and further that it was a decision taken by the committee, and was not entirely a decision made by Ghana. Although there was always a cost implication in translation, participants were advised to raise such issues directly to the committee. Moreover, lead countries needed to advise CODEX when they need to translate documents and if they had the resources to do so. In case partner countries had funds, they would also be encouraged to facilitate translation of documents. Countries could also source for funds from other organizations for this purpose.

1. GHANA experience

- 44. The participants observed that in some countries, the NCCs were run by individuals and noted that this was not realistic. They further noted that a lot of lessons/success could be learnt from Ghana. Ghana reported that CODEX activities in the country were co-funded by several Ministries (Trade, Health, and Agriculture). Ghana achieved this after realising that particular institutions, such as research and academic ones had different interests and would therefore not fund CODEX activities.
- 45. It was further reported that in Ghana, the Ministry of Health was sensitized to play a key role in CODEX activities, and consequently the activities were run by the Ministry of Health (as Chair) and the Ministry of Agriculture (as Deputy Chair). The Ghana Food Board also supported CCAFRICA activities.
- 46. Besides, there was a NCC account to which the various Ministries forwarded their contributions. Industries also contributed to this account. Ghana was in the process of requesting the Department of Veterinary Services to introduce fees on regulatory services and the money realised would be used to run some of NCC activities.
- 47. Finally, Ghana reported that the country was already working on a relevant Act of Parliament to provide for CODEX issues.

2. Coordination and information sharing

48. Since coordination and information sharing was a big challenge, participants were encouraged to borrow from the Ghana experience by involving various Ministries in the NCC. Countries were also reminded other alternative of involving standard setting organizations similar to the CODEX, as this would help empower the CODEX NCCs.
49. It was also reported that Ethiopia had a reactivated CODEX committee, which included research institutions, the Ministry of Agriculture, the WHO and FAO. It was further reported that the Ethiopian NCC also had developed a website, despite many challenges. It was also noted that other African countries with websites included Kenya, Nigeria and South Africa. These countries were advised to send their web links to CCAFRICA for them to be linked on the CCAfrica Website.
50. In response to whether or not the FAO could assist countries to acquire equipment in order to resolve the problem of communication, it was clarified that the FAO, being a non-funding agency, could only build capacity of the contact points. It could also do this through raising awareness of the policy makers. It was pointed out that the NCCs should be funded by their own countries. It was further mentioned that the Trust fund was specifically established to facilitate attendance to meetings. Countries were encouraged to reach out to donors for such support.
51. In relation to common regional positions, it was pointed out that the only organization that had the capacity to speak for European countries on CODEX was the EU. But in case a country was not able to participate in a CODEX meeting, it could also request another country to presents its views on its behalf. The AUC should work on having this capacity for the future but as a recognized Codex member not as an observer.
52. In response to a question from one of the participants, it was clarified that NCC could stand for National Coordinating Committee in CODEX terms or in SPS terms.
53. In clarifying one of the participants' notion to the effect that a particular Ministry should host the SPS enquiry point, it was pointed out that there should be a single notification body in any country for WTO, and in case of Ghana, it was the Ministry of Trade and Industry. It was further clarified that the SPS Agreement indicated that there should be a single enquiry point. In Ghana, the SPS enquiry point was at the Ministry of Food and Agriculture.

3. Regional sharing of standards

54. Participant emphasized the need for sharing of standards at Regional level. It was reported that ASARECA was already making efforts towards this. It was further pointed out that what was very fundamental was for countries to have a clear focus on creating regional coordination. Countries also reported having constraints related to resources that varied from region to region. It was pointed out that the available

resources could be shared, and a lot could be borrowed from the Ghana's experience.

4. Level of expertise of African scientists

55. It was pointed out that CCAFRICA needed to know the level of expertise of scientists if they were going to participate in CODEX activities. The CODEX NCCs were urged to forward the details of the experts to CCAfrica, after vetting them. It was emphasised that the forwarding of details by individuals directly to CCAFRICA should be discouraged. Zambia noted that although it had forwarded a filled in questionnaire to CCAFRICA in relation to the subject, CCAFRICA had not include it on the list of countries that had complied. Countries that had submitted their lists and were not appearing on the CODEX website were requested to re-send the information to the CCAFRICA secretariat for follow up.

c. Codex committee on contaminants in food. 4th session of the CCCF contaminants in food. Next session 24-30 March 2010.

i. Discussions

1. Lack of relevant information

56. It was pointed out that countries did not have information regarding the status of the following
- a) Contaminant prevalence and concentration in Sorghum
 - b) Known or expected trade problems related to sorghum.

2. Non availability of data

57. Some countries, such as **Zimbabwe**, reported that they used and traded the product. It was observed, however, that developing African countries in general had problems with data related to this product. It was emphasised that very sophisticated materials were required to isolate the very low levels of mycotoxins which could be present. It was further pointed out that countries needed to be empowered with resources to be able to produce relevant data. In addition, countries need to establish an ML and capacities for daily sampling.
58. There was concern that overall farming practices posed a big challenge in generating data. The determination of mycotoxin levels in sorghum products was particularly a big challenge. Countries were urged to focus more on the codes of ethics. The use of the Code of Practice was recommended as the way to go. It was pointed out that due to the high levels of mycotoxin in maize, a bias was going to be created towards sorghum production, and as such, African Governments would be confronted with the challenge of having a better system of data

collection. It was recommended that the ML should, therefore, be established for each country. There was a general concern that it could not be possible to know whether the Code of Practice was working or not, in order for it to address the elimination of mycotoxins in sorghum, yet, countries have no capacities to do an ML.

59. **Mali** reported that sorghum was one of the staple foods in the country. It further reported that studies were going on, regarding consumer risks related to sorghum and other aspects. Preliminary data collected had been sent to FAO.
60. It was reported that **Tunisia** was preparing a discussion document on sorghum contamination, which would be circulated to all NCC contact points for comments. Countries were encouraged to submit any relevant data to Tunisia, who, in turn, would disseminate the data.
61. It was reported that **in South Africa**, some scientists had for decades, been involved in studying the fungi and their mycotoxins in sorghum, and that they could be contacted for more information.
62. It was agreed that **since sorghum was** also traded internationally, an international approach was required for developing standards.

ii. Common Position

63. *Since it was not clear what Tunisia was going to present, it was agreed that if Tunisia obtained sufficient data, African countries could convince the Codex Commission to come up with standards on sorghum, but in case data obtained by Tunisia was not sufficient, countries could try to generate more of it. Nonetheless, based on available data, Tunisia could develop a proposal for discussion.*

d. CODEX Alimentarius Commission: Review of the proposal for new work on maximum levels of fumonisins in maize and maize products, and associated sampling plans.

i. Discussions

1. Setting of standards

64. It was pointed out that if standards in this regard were going to be set, it was important to consider determining the quantity consumed per person per day. It was also important to know the risks associated with other cereals such as sorghum, in order to advice consumers appropriately. It was further felt that there should be data indicating compliance with good agricultural practices in the area, e.g. levels of fertilizer used and choice of seed planted.
65. The proposal should set ML of fumonisins in maize and maize products for animal feed

Countries were cautioned to study sampling plan carefully before collecting samples to achieve statistically significant results.

66. Importance of data in decision making

67. It was noted that food consumption surveys had not been done in most countries and, therefore, relevant data was not available. It was felt that something needed to be done in relation to this. Notwithstanding, it was agreed that USA or EU limits could be used.

2. Effects of dehulling

68. It was noted that fine maize had impact on the choice of levels, since dehulling reduced toxication. It was noted that Maximum levels of 1000 ppm could be achieved through dehulling.

69. It was reported that **Brazil** was going to present an ML for fumonisin s in maize. There was concern with regard to the data on which Brazil was going to base its presentation. It was pointed out that contamination data was not different, noting that whatever scenarios she was going to present would take into consideration the data from Tanzania, European Union, and South Africa. It was further noted that a maximum limit for Africa could be concluded, even though this would not be practical at the moment. It was felt that with good agricultural practices, an ml of 1000 could be achieved. It was suggested that after Brazil presented the document, an African country, such as Tanzania, would be tasked to coordinate electronic discussions.

70. It was noted that the only scenario in the presentation was based on exposure rate for rural people, who depend entirely on maize for their 3 meals in a day. It was felt that other scenarios could also be considered in future studies. These would include:

- a) Other foods eaten together with maize
- b) Other set-ups, such as urban set-ups
- c) Agricultural practices

71. It was suggested that before the CODEX meeting, African delegates were going to meet separately for the purposes of consolidating their positions. Countries were urged to submit their comments electronically, since not all of them would attend the CODEX meeting.

3. Need for physical meetings

72. Participants expressed concern that although online discussions were important, they would not be very efficient, and that oral discussions were the most effective. They expressed the need for face to face meetings, possibly twice in a year, before they could go online. This would facilitate development of a common position before the major

CODEX meeting. It was clarified that a similar meeting was scheduled for the year 2010, but only key people would be invited to provide input to the delegates. They will be expected to advise delegates on a common position. Nevertheless, it was emphasized that countries needed to have meetings with good impact, not just meetings for the sake of it. However, after the electronic discussions, countries would advise IBAR, if there was need for another meeting.

ii. Common Position

73. *It was noted that **Morocco** was the lead country in the working group for contaminants for Africa. It was reported that CCAFRICA was going to open a discussion forum in its website and all information collected would be forwarded to Morocco.*

e. Draft maximum levels for melamine in food consumption in humans and animals (new activity).

i. Discussions

1. Intentional adulteration of products

74. It was noted that Intentional adulteration of food with melamine led to automatic disqualification of the product from some manufacturers from China. A risk analysis needed to be done to verify unintentional contamination from adulteration so that a standard could be set.

2. Levels of infant milk uptake

75. It was further noted that the committee did look at levels of infant milk uptake as well as the age factor. There was need to perform screening test on infant milk at the entry sites. However, under HPLC machine test in laboratory, melamine contamination levels can be further verified and confirmed.
76. It was noted that Kenya did not support moving of this agenda forward since it was convinced that an ML of 2.5 ppm melamine in infant milk was too high, considering its (melamine) effects on the kidney.

f. Some items under consideration of code of practise for the reduction on ethyl carbamates in stone fruit distillate.

i. Discussions

77. It was agreed that more clarity on the issue was needed, and the proposal already done by Germany on stone fruit distillates, would be very handy in this respect. Participating countries strongly felt that contamination with the compound was a priority in the region. Nevertheless, it was agreed that the issue was of world-wide concern,

and the danger could come from manufacturing, handling and good agricultural practices and storage. It was further agreed that other countries not represented would be asked if the contamination was also a priority in their region. Information was also needed regarding the number of countries producing distillates in Africa. CCAFRICA was going to circulate an email to the effect.

78. Participants recommended that the title of the document should be revised so as to give the same meaning in both French and English, and that concern should be explored further as to whether it is on production or consumption side.

ii. Common Position

79. *Since available data on stone fruit distillates comes from developed countries and there may be no available data from developing countries, it was agreed that a common position on this would be made after feedback had been received.*

- g. Codex Committee on fruit and fresh vegetables (CCFFV). 16th session CCFFV fresh fruits and vegetables CCFFV took place in October CCPR. Next session 2-6 May 2011**

CCFFV discussion on the outcome of the CC which took place 19-23 October 2009 with special regards to selected issues (fresh fruit and vegetables draft standards (chilli pepper, avocado, tree tomato, etc).

i. Discussions

1. Relevant data

80. It was noted that it was important to establish if countries had sufficient data on the subject. This data would be forwarded either to the shadow or technical committees. In case of availability of sufficient data, the agenda could be pushed forward. Countries had up to March 2010 to submit their data.

2. Consideration of size

81. Since avocado depended on the size of the variety produced for export, it was proposed that quality and desirable physical standards (such as weight and size) needed to take into consideration particularly the variety intended for an export. Specifics related to weights and sizes could rely on scientifically produced data.

3. Circulation of documents

82. It was noted that documents had already been circulated for comments and that the deadline for submission of comments was 31st January 2010.

4. Selection of standards

83. It was noted that any standard needed to be selected carefully and be verifiable, emphasizing that if a proposed standard was not verifiable, it could not be passed. It was further emphasized that for any commodity, countries had to develop national standards first, and then they would try to harmonise these with the CODEX standards.

5. Food additives

84. It was highlighted that the term 'food additives' should not appear in the proposal because it is included in Codex standards, there is no room for food additives in fresh fruit and vegetables.

6. Scope of standards

85. Regarding the scope of the standards, it was noted that Chilli has many varieties varied for various varieties, and as a result, participants suggested that the standards should consider all varieties of chilli when developing standards. However, the quality characteristics are needed to be defined carefully to avoid some varieties from being cut off from export. It was, therefore, proposed that other varieties of chilli other than the long slender ones needed to be included when setting the standards.

7. Lead country

86. It was pointed out that the electronic group for Chilli was led by Mexico. The document had already been circulated by the CODEX secretariat for comments. Comments were due to be submitted to Mexico by 31st January 2010.

8. Working in English and Spanish languages

87. A concern was expressed with regard to the use of English and Spanish only in the working group. The CODEX secretariat clarified that the working languages were agreed upon by participants at the CODEX committee meeting. However, membership of the electronic discussion group was not limited to English and Spanish speakers, as it was open to all. It was further emphasised that comments were to be submitted to the electronic working group by the CODEX secretariat in either English or Spanish. French and other language speakers could also submit their comments in original languages. The secretariat would then translate

them into English and Spanish and transmit them to the electronic working group. It was emphasised that comments needed to be submitted in good time.

9. Impacts of late comments submission

88. It was highlighted that comments on section A of discussion documents during CODEX meetings were the ones that were translated late because they were always in the original language, noting that it made comments and participation in CODEX committee less effective. For full utilization of comments, countries were advised and encouraged to transmit comments in good time. It was further noted that in most cases, African countries commented on documents after standards had already been developed. Participants were encouraged to own the process of standards development through active participation in discussions.

ii. **Common Position**

89. *It was agreed that the agenda on fruits and vegetables standard could be pushed forward if the available data was sufficient.*

h. **Proposed draft revision of the CODEX classification of foods and animal feeds.**

i. Discussions

90. There was a concern as to why 'Okra' was bracketed in the document. It was clarified that initially, the Commission thought that this product could be treated in the same way as cotton while developing standards. However, it was later recognized that okra was a vegetable commodity traded in its mature form, but not in the bud form as was the case with cotton. Regarding the egg plant, participants agreed that countries needed to submit comments to the committee and propose the inclusion of the African egg plant and other varieties.
91. It was suggested that the issue of crop grouping system needed to be looked at thoroughly, since it was noticed that some commodities were being discussed in wrong groupings.

ii. **Common Position**

92. *Regions were going to gather and forward as much data as possible concerning similar products and this would facilitate proper groupings by the CODEX committee. Existing national standards, or protocols used domestically for the product where they exist should be provided. Scientific names for commodities should be suggested in order to avoid the use of names such as 'African egg plant' in the standard document.*

i. Proposed draft revision of the guidelines on the estimation of uncertainty of results for the determination of pesticide residue.

i. Discussions

93. It was highlighted that when developing standards, the EU policy should be referenced so that harmonization with national policies can be achieved. African countries should advise the CODEX secretariat on this, and work on the agenda continuously. Written requests should, therefore, be submitted to CODEX secretariat.
94. It was emphasised that MI measurement of uncertainty will be asked for when sending analysis results. The participants were advised that a bottom-up approach that improves analytical measures and skills could be used. Otherwise although top-bottom approaches (proficiency testing) seemed to be easier, they were difficult to implement and not workable, since the laboratory must have capacity to collect samples, run them and give results in a week's time.
95. Moreover, while setting limits, methods applied to produce data should be attached. It was important to produce convincing data/results in order to avoid conflicts. Information such as the number of labs in Africa that could carry out the kind of test, their technical capacities, etc needed to be provided.
96. It was clarified that a paper was passed before on methods used and that this particular agenda talked of approaches only. The approach suggested here was the bottom-up approach. The paper recommended compilation of a list of all errors (uncertainty) possible at all steps and this called for countries to build their required capacities.
97. Canada, Japan, and Australia were reported to be the leading countries in this area. Their support could be solicited in order to move the process forward.

ii. Common Position

98. *As the approach is very technical, participants agreed to approach relevant departments/experts in their countries for proper advice.*

j. PAN-SPSO Meeting of NCC-session: CODEX committee on pesticides residues (CCPR), 42nd session CCPR to take place on 19th-24 April 2010.

i. Discussions

99. In view of the short time remaining for comments for this document (deadline 4th December 2009), the CODEX secretariat advised that the

chair of any sub-committee was at liberty to extend deadlines as long as more time was required to collect more data on a particular subject.

100. It was noted that CODs documents were not translated before circulation and as such, they were circulated in the original languages. COD is, therefore, one of the least means of participation in CODEX.

ii. Common Position

101. *Since country views on this matter were not yet known, participants were urged to comment on the document and to do so on time.*

k. PAN-SPSO meeting of NCC- session CODEX committee on food imports and export inspection certification systems.

i. Common Position

102. *The document needed to be supported at step three (3).*

I. Food safety: EU imports conditions (Better Training for safe foods)

i. Discussions

103. Participants noted that BTSF programme issue was unclear, and as such, countries needed more information on what had been done.

104. Participants raised concern on the fact that in the last five years, African products had not been allowed into the EU market. There was also concern regarding some products imported into African countries which could be of harm to consumers. Participants, therefore, wanted to know what the AU was doing towards protecting lives of its citizens. It was clarified that it was a country's responsibility to protect its consumers by applying the appropriate food standards.

105. The issue of private standards was reported to have been discussed extensively since 2002 within the WTO-SPS circles. It was agreed that those setting the private standards should consult others. It was noted that private standards were to remain around for a long time. Ways of mitigating and assessing the impacts had to be found. Some countries such as Kenya were reported as having complied with some of the standards, especially in export of fresh fruit and vegetables. In Ethiopia too, there was a lot going on in terms of implementation in this regard.

106. It was noted that some EU member states were not in compliance with CODEX standards. However, it was explained to participants that most EU food regulations were based on CODEX standards, except where they did not exist, in which case the EU set standards, based on supportive data.

107. With regard to capacity building, it was noted that West Africa was the first region to be trained on BTSF in Accra Ghana. Training was planned to take place in Mali, Bamako in May 2010. The OIE was also going to train CVOs and focal points on BTSF. Topics to be covered would include pathology, drugs, information, animal welfare, wildlife and aquatic animal diseases.

m. Proposal to revise CODEX guidelines on formulated supplementary foods for infants and young children (CAC/GL-8-1991).

i. Discussions

108. It was agreed that African countries needed to seize the opportunity to review this document. The issues involved needed to be discussed at length, and gaps needed to be identified.

109. It was noted that the document was still to be approved by the commission and would be discussed as new work by the commission in June-July 2010.

110. It was agreed that children's ages needed to be reviewed, as they were not consistent. The UNICEF classification of infants could be adopted.

111. Since there was little time remaining to deadline of submission of comments, it was agreed that the process would start immediately, but the document would be sent to CODEX two months before the meeting and this will allow enough time for translation.

112. Countries would agree to fight against the malpractice in which labels did not indicate the right contents of the product. Such products do not conform to regulations.

113. It was agreed that African countries would participate actively in electronic discussion groups as well present written comments to CCAFRICA. The document forwarded to CODEX would be done in line with CODEX guidelines, and the secretariat would make sure that the right documents were referenced. Key organizations such as FAO and WHO would also submit their views.

ii. Common Position

114. African countries agreed to support the document and participate fully in electronic discussions as well written comments.

n. Proposal to review codex guidelines on formulated supplementary foods for older infants and young children (CAC/GL-8-1991)

i. Discussions

1. Enterobacter sakazakii

115. It was noted that *Enterobacter sakazakii* had been associated with baby formulas and foods. Participants wanted to know what BSTF was doing to address the issue. The facilitator clarified that the document currently under discussion concerned supplementary feeds only, but that guidelines for development of standards had already been covered in control measures for *Enterobacter sakazakii*.
116. It was reported that the document was pending approval by the commission and that it would be discussed in New York by the commission in June-July 2010.
117. It was agreed that African countries needed to seize the opportunity and review the document and that the issue needed to be discussed further at length. The countries were urged to look at the guidelines with a bias towards gaps.
118. Since the document was not consistent in terms of ages, it was agreed that the criteria used by UNICEF for classification of infant ages should be used.

2. Submission of comments

119. It was noted that the deadline for comments was too close. However, participants were advised that submission of comments needed to be done two months before the commission's meeting. Meanwhile, Codex representative advised that the process for document review by countries could continue unofficially, as this was still acceptable by CODEX. Countries were encouraged to participate in electronic discussions groups as well as presenting written comments to CCAFRICA.

3. Input from other institutions

120. The presenter was advised to ensure that the document was done in accordance with Codex guidelines. It was emphasised that institutions such as FAO, and WHO, that had done similar documents would also participate in electronic discussions, failing which CODEX would ensure the right references were made.

4. Labelling

121. It was further noted that product labelling gives information about the product. However it was found that Some labels do not indicate the contents of the product and countries need to confront this malpractice

by taking appropriate action when the product label does not conform to the labelling regulations.

5. Packaging

122. In relation to packaging, participants were informed that there was already a general Codex guideline (standards) for packages.

ii. Common Position

123. *All countries agreed to support the document fully and participate in electronic discussions as well as providing written comments.*

o. **PANSPO meeting of NCC-session. CODEX committee on general principles.**

i. Discussions

1. Document at stage 5

124. It was reported that the document had been advanced to step 5 (June-July 2009). However, there was an agreement to adopt it at step 5 and circulate it for comments. Unfortunately, only Kenya had commented on it.

2. Article 4.2

125. The commission had an issue with article 4.2 and countries were urged to look at it.

3. Improvement on document Structure

126. The document was reported to be fine and countries needed to concentrate on improving the structure. It was also pointed out that since the deadline for submission of comments was 15th December 2009, countries needed to send written comments to CCAFRICA to allow sufficient time for translation.

4. Compliance to the standards

127. It was noted that although the intention to have standards was good, but compliance was difficult since, in food trade, anyone is allowed to bring in and sell several brands of the same commodity. It was further noted that food sold was not necessarily purchased directly from the manufacturer but a wholesaler agent and re-exporting certification is usually issued by the local authority to the re-exporter. In most cases, the exporter was quite different from the manufacturer.

5. The 2/3 shelf life rationale

128. With regard to the 2/3 shelf life rationale, participants were informed that the rationale was based on some practice.

6. Circulation of products in mother countries

129. It was noted that in addition to certification and compliance, exporting countries of products needed to accept that the product/s would be circulated and sold freely in the country of manufacture.

7. Expiry dates

130. Although a time frame within which a product needed to be consumed was important, the period could be too short, especially for fresh fruits and vegetables. Countries were urged to ensure that the expiry date should be written in a way that it could not be erased or have the dates altered.

8. Release of products from the port of entry

131. Concerning the release of products from the port of entry, countries were advised to revamp their systems in order to avoid delays, that compromised food quality and safety.

p. Proposed draft annex on the control measures for *Vibrio parahaemolyticus* and *Vibrio vulnificus* in molluscan shellfish: Proposed guidelines on the application of general principles of food hygiene to the control of pathogenic *Vibrio* species in seafood and Annex 5/8.

i. Discussions

132. It was pointed out that in the circulated document, sea foods included among others, fish, crabs etc.

133. In relation to standards for fish and fish soup, it was agreed that countries should propose and forward names of experts in the subject matter, who would submit their CVs for consideration for participation in experts consultation meetings organized by the FAO.

1. More data required

134. With the information at hand, it was agreed that more data was required. Delegates needed to request for data from relevant institutions in their countries, such as research institutions. This had to be done through the contact point personnel, who would submit written statements to the commission, as a show of endorsement for the document to move

forward. It was pointed out that the commission had promised that with the contribution of relevant data, it would develop a document which was more relevant to the prevailing condition in African countries. Participants also agreed to refer to other similar studies carried out on the same subject, but done in other conditions different from what had been presented in the current document, noting that improving the document did not harm the decision to endorse it.

2. Histamines in developing standards for fish and fish soup

135. Concerning the issue of histamines in developing standards for fish and fish soup, participants were advised that the two standards had gone to the Commission for endorsement (step 5), after which the issue would be referred to the fish committee. It was also noted that the committee did not review some documents which had been submitted late. Countries were also urged to liaise with the food hygiene sub-committee to avoid conflicts.

3. Addressing African interests in food hygiene

136. With regard to opportunities in addressing African interests in food hygiene in the absence of the code for leafy greens, the commission representative informed the participants that the document had advanced in adoption, but that there were a lot of concerns raised on the capability and compliance by small holders and the decision had since been revised.

ii. Common Position

137. *It was resolved that the document should be supported in order for it to go through and be adopted.*

q. Continuing discussion on the outcome of the CC which took place on 16-20 November 2009. Proposed draft guidelines for the control of *Campylobacter* and *Salmonella* spp in chicken meat-CCFH. Proposed draft code of hygiene practise for control of viruses in food at 5/8.

i. Discussions

1. Use of active chlorine to decontaminate water

138. It was noted that the use of active chlorine was a contentious issue in developing countries, as it was widely used for sanitation in those countries. It was further noted that with Rapid mitigation or Rapid appraisals approach, some countries may be left out in case the guidelines were pushed forward. It was reported that the Commission had already done guidelines on how such issues would be handled and countries were encouraged to comment..

2. Delay in passing the document

139. It was noted that the document had taken quite long to be passed. However, it was also noted that CODEX should consider seemingly minor but pertinent issues while developing standards. It was felt that the impacts on the environment needed to be considered, especially in use of chlorine for decontamination. Countries were advised to identify how hazards could be introduced as well as be mitigated. On how to reach a consensus, participants were advised that there was already a discussion going on in the committee.
140. it was noted that since *Salmonella* and *Campylobacter* are serious issues especially in fertilized eggs, day old chicks and poultry in general, there was need to look for ways of dealing with the organisms. Besides, the EU had a legitimate concern on the use of chlorine for decontamination and a common position had to be arrived at.

3. Salmonellosis

141. It was agreed that the issue of salmonella was quite serious in Africa especially in chicken. It was further reported that Uganda was already doing some work and the data generated may be used to support the presented guidelines. It was also reported that Zambia had discussed the document intensively. Countries were advised to use scientific approaches when either supporting or not supporting the document.

4. Consumer preferences

142. It was emphasised that Codex standards were made on the basis of Risk Analysis, and this way, issues of consumer preferences were hard to deal with, noting that consumer information was provided through labelling.

ii. **Common Position**

143. *it was agreed that African delegates should negotiate with EU and other concerned CAC member countries to facilitate the moving forward of the document.*

- r. **OIE: Contribution to CCFH (Codex commission for food hygiene) and CCFICS (Codex committee for food import and export inspection and certification systems).**

i. Discussions

144. Members were informed that the OIE actually participated in development of standards by Codex, and it took care of primary production on the issue of animal feeds.

145. It was indicated that just as at the national level countries had Codex contact points and NCCs, OIE also had structures (focal points) on the ground that had been trained through the BSTF, dealing with wildlife, veterinary issues, health information, and aquatic diseases.

s. Codex committee on food labelling 38th Session on 03-07 May 2010. Proposed draft recommendations for the labelling of foods obtained through certain techniques of GM/GE (report of CCFL, ALINORM 09/32/22 APPENDIX VII).

i. Discussions

It was noted that there were two apparent positions that differed from each other, one on the side of the US and the other on the side of the EU. It was noted that EU consumers need the GM foods be declared on the label so that consumer's right choice is respected. The US required to promote new standards for the labelling of GM/GE product. The US argues that the GMP is only a modified natural product through genetic manipulation techniques without harming the quality and the safety of the product. So labelling GMP will discriminate the product marketability and imposes unfair trade practices.

146. It was clarified that some countries had the capacity to test GM foods. These included Kenya, Nigeria and South Africa.

147. In relation to all guidelines, participants were encouraged to continue with informal discussions and debates with experts back home.

ii. Common Position

148. *It was agreed that if a food product was a GM product, it had to be labelled.*

t. How to improve coordination between CCPs and NCCs, and other stakeholders: Codex coordination within Africa.

i. Discussions

149. Participants noted that problems existed in this regard both within and between countries.. It was noted that Ghana seemed to be doing relatively well in the coordination of Codex activities. The coordinator from Ghana promised to assist other countries in this aspect, for as long as the country in question was willing to meet travel and accommodation expenses for the Ghanaian team.

u. Private standards

i. Discussions

150. It was noted that private standards were set for individual farms, collective national schemes, or collective international schemes.

151. It was further noted that private standards started in 2005, with those for yoghurt being the first. Both SPS and PTO discussed the standards as a concern. It was observed that for them to be beneficial, the standards needed to be transparent.

152. Participants recommended that a study needed to be done to analyse the role, cost and benefits of private standards in a more critical manner, especially with respect to the impact on developing countries. It was emphasised that this needed to be science based, to ensure protection to the consumer and promotion of trade.

ii. Common Position

153. *Countries agreed to support the stand taken on this matter by the OIE, WHO and Codex*

VII. DECISIONS AND ACTIONS ADOPTED

1. Review of the proposal for new work on maximum levels for fumonisins in maize and maize products and associated sampling plans, presented by Martin Kimanya

Decision: Codex would circulate a document proposing a specific ML for fumonisins in maize by the end of December 2009 and the Coordinator would organize a chat session of the CCAFRICA Delegates on Contaminants led by Morocco and CCP Officers thereafter, to discuss the proposal for an ML for fumonisins in maize and maize products and associated sampling plans amongst them.

2. Discussion paper on mycotoxins in sorghum, presented by Patrick Clerkin

Decision: CCPs in African countries decided to commit themselves to providing information to Tunisia on contaminants in sorghum in the region. Additionally, information on Contaminants in the region would be sought from ICRISAT and other sources. The deadline was accepted as end of December 2009.

3. Proposal for New Work on a Code of practice for the reduction on ethyl carbamate in stone fruit distillate, presented by Lucy Namu

Decision: Since most countries in the region were not producing stone fruit distillates, the CCAFRICA Coordinator was tasked to send an e-mail to find out which countries are manufacturing or importing stone fruit distillates in the region and to see if it was an issue of importance to countries of the region and respond for comments for submission to Germany.

4a. Proposed Draft standard for chilli pepper at step 3, presented by Eunice Adams

Decision: All CCPs are expected to submit comments by 31-01-2010, with the request for the inclusion of other types/ranges of species of chilli apart from the slim conical type.

4b. Proposed Draft standard for avocado at step 5

Decision: All CCPs are expected to submit comments by 31-03-2010.

4c. Proposed Draft standard for tree tomato at step 5

CCPs are advised to submit comments on Tree Tomato at step 5 by 31-03-2010.

5. Proposal to revise codex guidelines on formulated supplementary foods for older infants and young children (CAC /GL 8 -1991)

Decision: African countries agreed to join the EWG, led by Ghana, to revise the above mentioned document. The CCAFRICA Coordinator would send an invitation for countries to join the EWG.

6. Proposed Draft Guideline for the Control of Campylobacter and Salmonella spp in Chicken Meat

Decision: Africa should actively participate in EWG led by New Zealand, Sweden and supported by Brazil in English, to address the text and any issues identified in the text. AU/IBAR should be requested to provide French translation in the work of the EWG. Codex countries could push the document forward.

The African Group should negotiate with the EC to move this document forward by engaging in discussions in areas of concern. The CCAFRICA Coordinator would arrange for a meeting for African Delegates to meet the EC and the US separately during the CAC meeting to discuss the issue.

7a. Revision of Codex classification system for food and feed

Decision: CCPs should contact CCPR Delegates in their home countries to generate a position that aims at supporting the retention or continuation of work on revision of guidelines to include simplified examples such as pepino and okra:

Africa should request for proposals for inclusion of egg plant in the classification system. Okra has been included in the category of cotton so there is the need to contact agronomists & botanists and submit written comments to correct the matter

The deadline is 15-12-2009, so the CCPs should submit comments as soon as possible.

7b. Proposed draft revision of the Guidelines on the estimation of uncertainty of results for the determination of pesticides residues

Decision: CCPs should dialogue with counterparts in countries to submit written comments for the attention of the Codex Secretariat. Before written comments are submitted, discussions should be ongoing in the African CCPR WG.

7c. Discussion paper on the Guidance to facilitate the establishment of Codex MRLs for Minor uses and specialty crops

Decision: Request for support from African countries to submit residue trial data to be scheduled into the list of residue data compounds. CCPs should contact COLEACP/PIP Coordinators in countries for data.

8. Principles and Guidelines for National Food Control Systems

Decision: CCPs are to thoroughly discuss issue in their countries and submit comments although deadline has elapsed (16th November 2009). Governments might consider this document in line with other FAO documents on same issue to see if they are sufficient. Members are encouraged to implement these Guidelines.

9. Proposed Draft Revised Code of Ethics for International Trade In Foods (Report of CCGP, ALINORM 09/32/33 APPENDIX II)

Only Kenya had submitted written comments and the deadline for submission of comments is 15-12-2009.

Decision: African countries decided to submit written comments before the deadline to address whether specific amendments should be made to the different clauses apart from the scope, noting that the scope was not open for discussions. The CCAFRICA Coordinator will start chat sessions on the introduction of a paragraph on 2/3 expiry date.

10. Proposed Draft Recommendations for the Labeling of Foods obtained through certain techniques of GM/GE (Report of CCFL, ALINORM 09/32/22 APPENDIX VII)

Decisions: Countries decided to go back home and decide within their countries and send written comments in support of the chapeau developed by Africa. However, the general support was that in order to enable Consumers

make informed choices and also if the GM product is significantly different from the conventional, then it must be labelled.

**FOR THE 33RD SESSION OF CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION
(GENEVA, SWITZERLAND, FROM 28 JUNE – 3 JULY 2010)**

1. Draft maximum levels for melamine in food consumption human and animal (new activity), presented by Patrick Clerkin

Decision: Countries of the region agreed to discuss internally the submission of written comments in support of the adoption of maximum melamine levels of 1mg/kg in infant formula and 2.5 mg/kg in foods (other than infant formula) and feed of the above mentioned at step 5/8 at the 33rd session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission scheduled for June 2010. Kenya reserves its position on this.

2. Proposal to revise codex guidelines on formulated supplementary foods for older infants and young children CAC /GL 8 -1991

Decision: African countries agreed to submit written comments in support of its approval the 33rd session of CAC in late June 2010

3. Proposed Draft Revised Code of Ethics for International Trade In Foods (Report of CCGP, ALINORM 09/32/33 APPENDIX II)

Decision: African countries should send written submissions to support the adoption of this document.

4. Proposed Draft Code of Hygienic Practice for *Vibrio* spp. in Seafood and Proposed Draft Annex on Control Measures for *Vibrio parahaemolyticus* and *Vibrio vulnificus* in Molluscan Shellfish at Step 5/8

Decision: CCPs to engage in discussions in home countries to endorse or oppose the idea of moving these documents forward and submit written responses to this effect. CCPs should respond when FAO/WHO's call for data is announced on environmental and water conditions for molluscs.

5. Proposed Draft Code of Hygienic Practice for Control of Viruses in Food at Step 3

Decision: Consider participation in the physical working group led by The Netherlands from 23-25 March 2010 to consider comments received at last session and additional information to be gathered. African countries are encouraged to identify experts who would provide inputs to Uganda as lead of CCAFRICA working group. Uganda would then advice CCAFRICA on whether we need to solicit funds to participate in the WG in The Netherlands.

6. Discussion and sensitization on the proliferation of private standards and their role in food safety

It was noted that

- ◆ Some private standards are more stringent than Codex Standards
- ◆ Some requirements of private standards are not science based

It was resolved that

- ◆ African countries continue to rely on Codex standards for public health protection and fair trade in food
- ◆ African countries affected with implementation of private standards communicate their concerns to WTO-SPS Committee
- ◆ African countries to ensure private sector is involved in standard setting activities
- ◆ African countries improve cooperation among themselves with a view to strengthening and harmonizing Food Safety regulation systems at national and regional levels

OTHERS

- ◆ Countries requested support to host and maintain the CCAFRICA Website
- ◆ Countries requested support from AU/IBAR to organize Codex preparatory meetings in Africa for technical Experts
 - ◆ In Pesticide Residues (May 2010)
 - ◆ In Contaminants in foods (March 2010)
 - ◆ For CCPs to meet before the Codex Alimentarius Commission
- ◆ Consistent with the strategic plan, countries pledged to provide regular updates of CCPs to Codex Secretariat in Rome and the CCAFRICA Coordinator.

- ◆ Working Groups to examine strategic aspects
 - ◆ CCPR- Kenya assisted by Nigeria
 - ◆ CCFICS- Ghana assisted by Tanzania
 - ◆ CCFH- Uganda assisted by
 - ◆ CCCF- Morocco assisted by Tanzania
 - ◆ CCGP- Mali assisted by Ghana & Uganda
 - ◆ CCNFSDU- Ghana assisted by South Africa & Senegal
 - ◆ CCFFV - Kenya assisted Togo
 - ◆ CCFL- Guinea assisted by Nigeria

OIE inputs

Following the presentation of the inputs of OIE to the CCFH and CCFICS on different subjects (Salmonella, Draft principles and guidelines for national food control systems...) CODEX contact officers, encourage both OIE and CODEX to enhance this already close collaboration in the development of standards relevant to the whole food production continuum.

Acknowledgements

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- The European Commission for its continuous support to African member states for the development of the Agriculture sector
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- Codex Alimentarius Commission for providing in-house Expert to assist the National Codex Contact Points