

# Regional Positions in Codex

Presented to Second North  
America South West Pacific  
Colloquium

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# **Agenda**

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- History
- Procedures
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# **Introduction**

## **What are Regional Positions?**





## Regional Positions

- Formal positions adopted by the region
- Reflect general agreement by the members of a region on a given issue
- Not necessarily complete unanimity by all members

# Why have regional positions

- Other regions such as CCAFRICA (49 members), CCEURO (52 members) and CCLAC (33 members) adopt regional positions either formally or informally
- We are the smallest region (14 members), and often have low participation at committee meetings. When other regions have regional positions it can drown out our voice or make it more difficult for our views to be considered
- Regional positions can make it easier to coordinate with and garner support from other regions on issues of concern to us

# History



# **CCLAC16 (2008)**

- At its 16<sup>th</sup> Session, the Coordinating Committee for Latin America and the Caribbean (CCCLAC16) discussed whether the FAO/WHO Regional Coordinating Committees (RCCs) could adopt regional positions and whether there was a need to amend their Terms of Reference (TOR) to allow this.
- Members decided to request the Commission, through the Committee on General Principles (CCGP), to clarify whether the current terms of reference for the RCCs could be interpreted to give them full freedom to issue regional opinions on all themes under discussion in Codex of strategic importance to the region concerned. (ALINORM 09/32/36 para 9)

# CCGP25 (2009)

- When considering the Terms of Reference of FAO/WHO coordinating committees, the CCGP25 noted the specific request from CCLAC for clarification on whether the current terms of reference for the Coordinating Committees could be interpreted to permit the adoption of regional positions (ALINORM 09/32/33, para. 101).
- The Secretariat clarified that, in addition to the current Terms of Reference of the Coordinating Committees, the Codex Rules of Procedure (Rule IV, paragraph 3(c)), stated that one of the functions of the Regional Coordinators was to advise the Executive Committee and the Commission of the views of countries in their regions. Therefore, there was no need to modify the Terms of Reference (ALINORM 09/32/33, paras. 102-103).



# CCLAC17 (2012)

Based on this confirmation from CCGP that the current terms of reference of the RCCs granted them complete freedom to issue regional opinions on all topics under discussion in Codex that were of strategic importance to the region concerned and to promote the adoption of regional positions on strategic topics, CCLAC17 agreed to establish an electronic working group, led by Costa Rica and working in English and Spanish, that would prepare a discussion paper on to address

- the scope of regional positions
- elements that needed to be considered
- proposed procedures

(REP11/LAC, paras. 145-46)

# CCLAC EWG Conclusions

- Agreed to establish a procedure for adoption of regional positions
- Regional positions are considered those agreements that have been made in plenary (formal) sessions of CCLAC and are recorded in the report of that session
- To identify issues and establish priority levels, each CCLAC country should send their matters of interest to the Coordinator with a view to identifying cross-cutting issues
- If appropriate, countries may request support for a specific subject area. To this purpose, relevant technical and scientific justification should be sent to the Coordinator
- The Coordinator will contact Coordinators of other regions to determine whether there are issues of common interest

# The Procedure



## **2.1 Procedure to reach and present regional positions**

- In accordance with the Procedural Manual and the Terms of Reference of the FAO/WHO RCCs, regional positions must reflect agreements reached in plenary (official) sessions of the CCLAC.
- Regional positions must be clearly recorded in the report of the session, which should also indicate the number of countries present at the session.
- The following should be complied with to achieve and present regional positions:

## 2.1 Procedure

- a) Initially, the Regional Coordinator reports to member countries of the region on those issues identified as being of regional interest and verifies if they are on the agenda. If the matters of interest are not included in the agenda, the Regional Coordinator will provide for their inclusion in the agenda of the next CCLAC session under the heading “Issues relevant to the region.”
- b) The proponent countries will develop a document providing the basis for discussion by member countries present at the CCLAC session in order to reach a regional agreement by consensus.
- c) This agreement represents the position of the CCLAC taken by consensus among members of the region present at the plenary session of this Committee.

## 2.1 Procedure

d) The agreement [agreed regional position], once taken, will be presented by the Regional Coordinator to the respective Codex subsidiary body together with any reservation presented by any country regarding this agreement. If the Coordinator cannot attend the meeting, a country submitting the agreement should be designated.

e) Once the position has been introduced in the meeting of the relevant Codex committee by the country named in point 2.1(d), the other countries of the CCLAC that have supported the position in the CCLAC meeting should support the position in the meeting of the relevant Codex committee. Countries of the CCLAC that were not present at the meeting may also support this position.

f) A CCLAC member that cannot participate in the meeting of the relevant Codex committee should make an effort to have a representative of their embassy participate in the meeting to support the regional position.



## 2.2 Procedure for support on issues of interest

At any time or close to a meeting of interest, countries sharing a matter of interest will proceed as follows:

- a) Develop a document, which will be enriched by electronic means in order to harmonize it.
- b) Circulate the document to all members of the CCLAC through the CCLAC Coordinator with a deadline for comments in order to finalize the document.
- c) One country submits the document to the Codex Secretariat, listing in the title the countries that participated in its elaboration therefore supporting the views or position expressed in the document.
- d) The agreement, once taken, can be presented by one of the drafting countries to the respective Codex subsidiary body.

## **2.2 Procedure for support on issues of interest**

This procedure applies to documents like Conference Room Documents (CRDs), discussion papers, or any other document for discussion on topics of interest.

In the case of responses to documents [e.g., Circular Letters] sent by the Codex Secretariat requesting comments at different steps in the Codex procedure, comments should be sent by each country concerned.

# **Next Steps**

# We need to address the questions

- Should CCNASWP adopt regional positions?
- Should CCNASWP adopt the same procedure as CCLAC?
- Do we need to amend the CCLAC procedure?



**Thank you!**