



TO: Codex Contact Points
Interested International Organisations

FROM: Secretariat, Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme,
Codex Alimentarius Commission,
Viale delle Terme di Caracalla,
00153 Rome, Italy

SUBJECT: Codex work on Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR)

DEADLINE: 31 December 2015

BACKGROUND

1. In view of recent decisions at FAO and WHO Governing Bodies addressing antimicrobial resistance: the WHO Global Action Plan to Combat Antimicrobial Resistance¹, prepared in collaboration with FAO and OIE and a resulting resolution adopted by the 68th World Health Assembly (May 2015); and the FAO Resolution of Antimicrobial Resistance², adopted by the FAO Conference (June 2015), the 70th Session of the Executive Committee supported the proposal that the Codex Secretariat issue a Circular Letter asking Members to:

- Review the extent to which they are adopting and applying the existing Codex guidance and identify major capacity development gaps and any other challenges they face in adopting and applying these standards.
- Review the existing Codex texts (CAC/RCP 61-2005 and CAC/GL 77-2011) and evaluate the need for their update, taking into consideration the developments in the area over the past 10 years.
- Consider the need to request FAO, WHO and OIE to convene expert meetings to review any new scientific evidence related to the AMR in the food chain including risk management options for the containment of AMR in support of any revision of Codex texts.

2. The Executive Committee requested the Codex Secretariat, in collaboration with FAO and WHO, to analyse the replies to the Circular Letter and prepare proposals as appropriate for consideration at the next session of the Commission. (Ref. [REP15/EXEC](#), paras 105-110).

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION AND COMMENTS

3. Members are invited to provide the following information and comments:

- a) Review the extent to which *Code of Practice to Minimise and Contain Antimicrobial Resistance* ([CAC/RCP 61-2005](#)) and *Guidelines on Risk Analysis of Foodborne Antimicrobial Resistance* ([CAC/GL 77-2011](#)) have been adopted and applied.
- b) Identify major capacity development gaps and any other challenges faced in adopting and applying CAC/RCP 61-2005 and CAC/GL 77-2011.
- c) Review the existing CAC/RCP 61-2005 and CAC/GL 77-2011 and evaluate the need for their update, taking into consideration the developments in the area over the past 10 years.
- d) Consider the need to request FAO, WHO and OIE to convene expert meetings to review any new scientific evidence related to the AMR in the food chain including risk management options for the containment of AMR in support of any revision of Codex texts.

4. Members wishing to provide the above information and comments should do so in writing to Codex@fao.org before **31 December 2015**.

¹ WHA67.25

² C2015/28 Rev.1