

Codex Alimentarius Commission



Introduction to Codex and the U.S. Codex Office

Syed Ali
U.S. Codex Office

US
codex

Dubai International Food Safety Conference

Dubai

Feb. 19 - 22, 2006

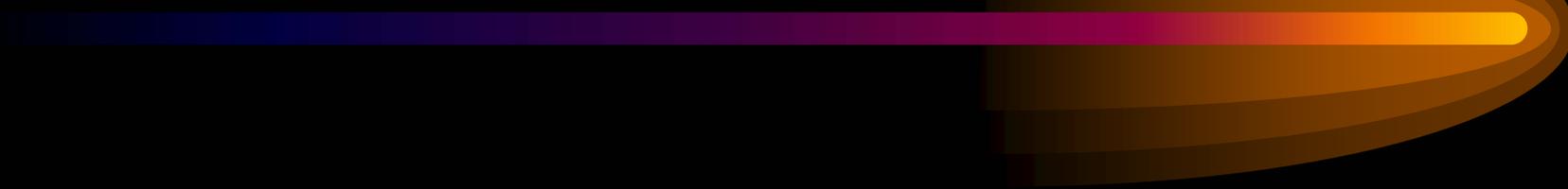
**US
codex**

Codex Alimentarius Commission

- **Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) /World Health Organization (WHO)**
- **Founded - 1963**



Codex Objectives



- **Protect the health of consumers**
- **Ensure fair food trade practices**

*Codex Alimentarius**

- Food standards for commodities (237)
- Codes of hygienic or technological practice (41)
- Pesticides evaluated (185)
- Limits for pesticide residues (3, 274)
- Guidelines for contaminants (25)
- Food additives evaluated (1, 005)
- Veterinary drugs evaluated (54)

* 1999 numbers

What is the value of Codex standards?

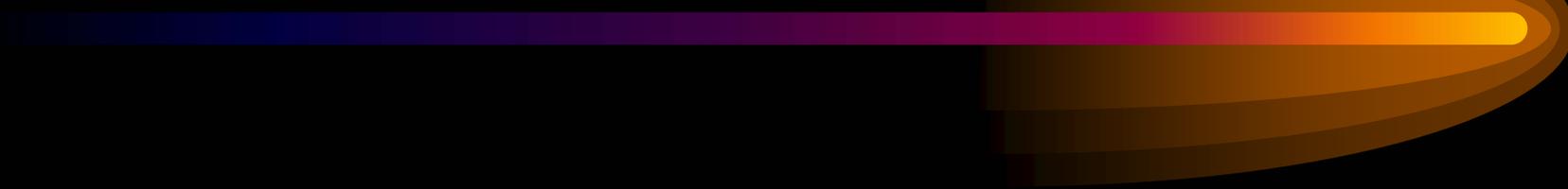
- **Based on sound science**
- **Useful in development of national requirements**
- **Relationship to trade agreements**

World Trade Organization (WTO)



- **Sanitary and Phytosanitary Agreements (SPS)**
- **Technical Barriers to Trade Agreement (TBT)**

Codex Alimentarius Commission



- **Includes 172 Member countries**
- **Meets every year**
- **Adopts standards, etc.**
- **Assigns new work to Subsidiary Bodies**

Subsidiary Bodies of Codex

- **Executive Committee**
- **Regional Coordinating Committees**
- **Commodity Committees**
- **General Subject Matter Committees**
- *Ad hoc* **Intergovernmental Task Forces**

Codex Alimentarius Commission

Executive Committee

FAO/WHO Secretariat

General Subject
Committees

Commodity
Committees

ad hoc
Intergovernmental
Task Forces

Regional
Coordinating
Committees

Executive Committee

- **Membership**
 - **Chair**
 - **Vice Chairs (3)**
 - **Members from 7 geographical areas:**
 - **Africa (Cameroon)**
 - **Asia (India)**
 - **Europe (Belgium)**
 - **Latin America & Caribbean (Mexico)**
 - **North America (Canada)**
 - **South West Pacific (New Zealand)**
 - **Near East (Egypt)**

Executive Committee

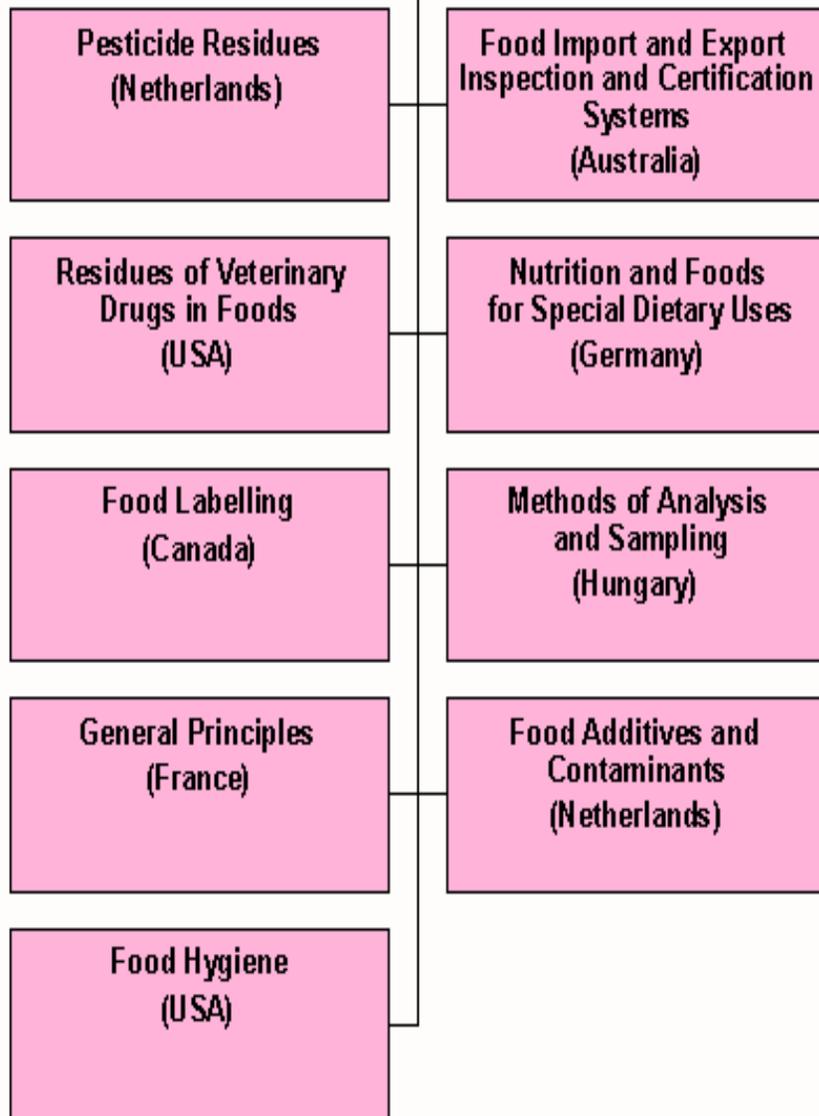
- **Chairman - Dr. Claude J.S. Mosha, Tanzania**
- **Vice Chairs:**
 - Dr. Karen Hulebak, U.S.A**
 - Ms. Noraini Mohd. Othman, Malaysia**
 - Dr. Wim Van Eck, The Netherlands**

Regional Coordinating Committees

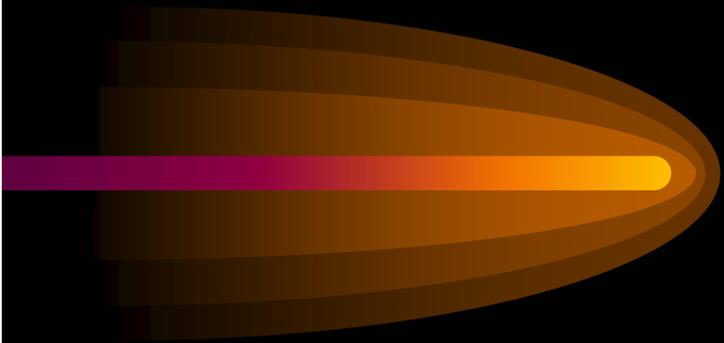
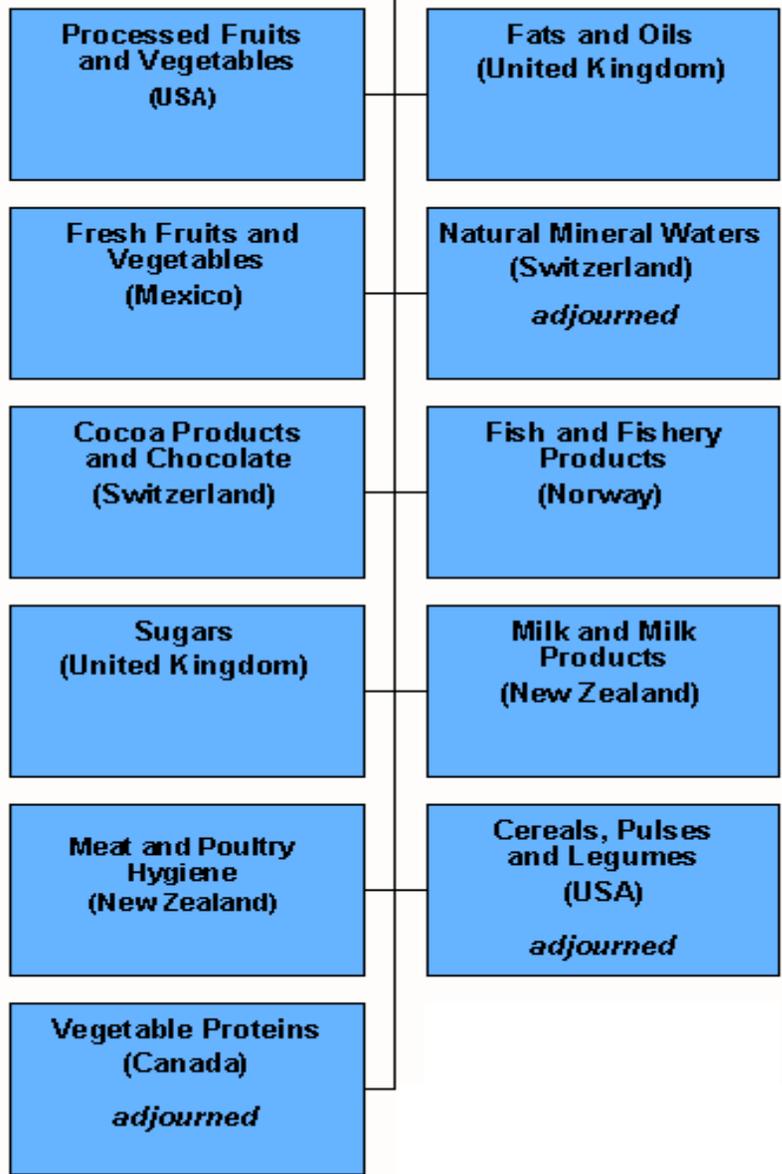


US
codex

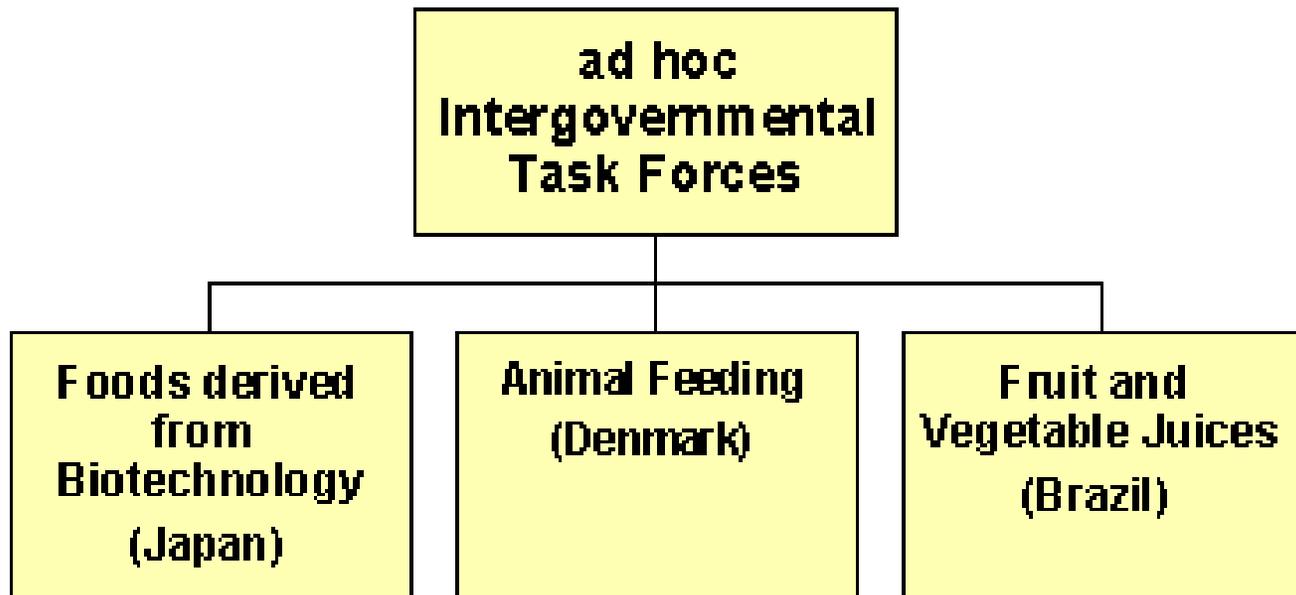
General Subject Committees



Commodity Committees



Ad hoc Intergovernmental Task Forces



Eight Step Procedure

- **STEP 1 - Commission decides to develop a Codex standard. Assigns the work.**
- **STEP 2 - Assigned subsidiary body drafts the standard.**
- **STEP 3 - Draft standard is sent for comments by interested parties.**

Eight Step Procedure

(continued)

- **STEP 4 - Received comments are sent to the subsidiary body for further work.**
- **STEP 5 - Draft standard submitted to the Commission for adoption as a draft standard.**
- **STEP 6 - Draft standard sent to all interested parties for comments.**

Eight Step Procedure

(continued)

- **STEP 7 - Received comments sent to subsidiary body for further work.**
- **STEP 8 - Draft standard submitted to Commission for adoption as a Codex standard.**

Important Issues

- **Risk analysis principles, and the role of factors other than science within risk analysis.**
- **Method of Production labeling is non-safety issue**

Important Issues

- **Equivalence, within both the framework of sanitary measures and non-technical measures.**
- **Microbiological risk assessment and the role of the FAO/WHO bodies of international experts.**
- **Use of antimicrobials (Chlorine) in Food processing**

New Challenges for Codex and National Governments

- **Growth in world food trade**
- **Increasing concern regarding food-borne diseases**
- **New food technologies and products**
- **Risk of food terrorism**
- **Status of Codex standards under WTO Agreements**

The 2001 Commission Adopted 6 Strategic Objectives

- 1. Promotion of sound national food control and regulatory systems from farm to table**
- 2. Promotion of the widest application of risk analysis**
- 3. Promotion of seamless linkages between Codex and other multilateral bodies**

The 2001 Commission Adopted 6 Strategic Objectives (continued)

- 4. Increased efficiency and stronger management oversight of Codex work**
- 5. Full participation by Codex members and interested parties**
- 6. Promote the maximum use of Codex standards, nationally and internationally**

Recent Developments



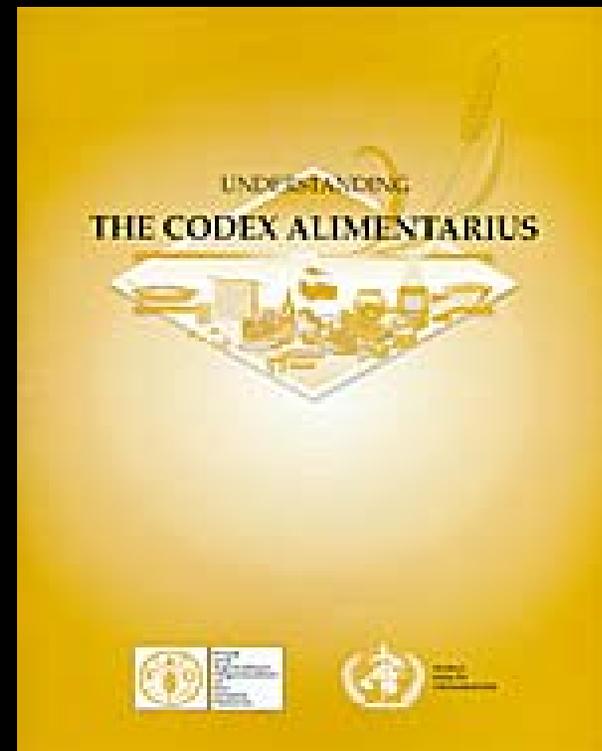
- **WHO/FAO Established Codex Participation Trust Fund for developing countries**
- **FAO/WHO has conducted a review and evaluation of Codex operations and procedures**

Summary

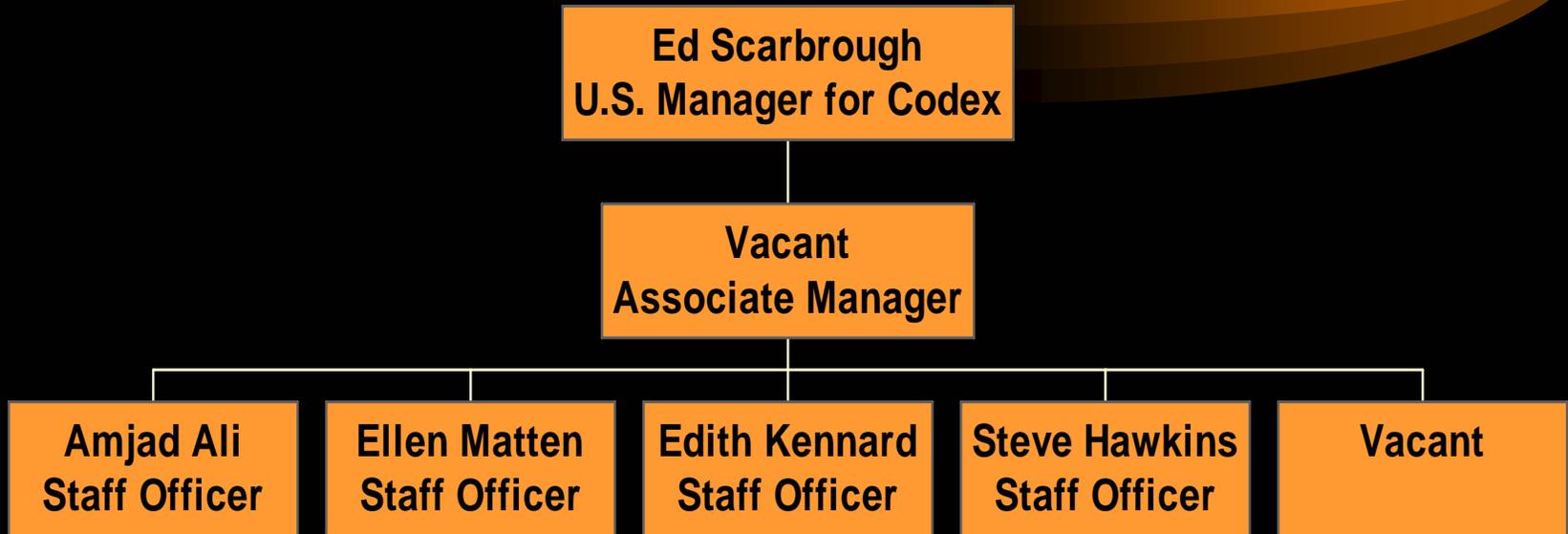
- **International recognition that Codex's role will be more important than ever**
- **The process of strengthening Codex's effectiveness and efficiency has begun**
- **Codex's future work has a particular emphasis on the needs of developing countries**

Codex (Rome) Home Page

www.codexalimentarius.net



U.S. Codex Office

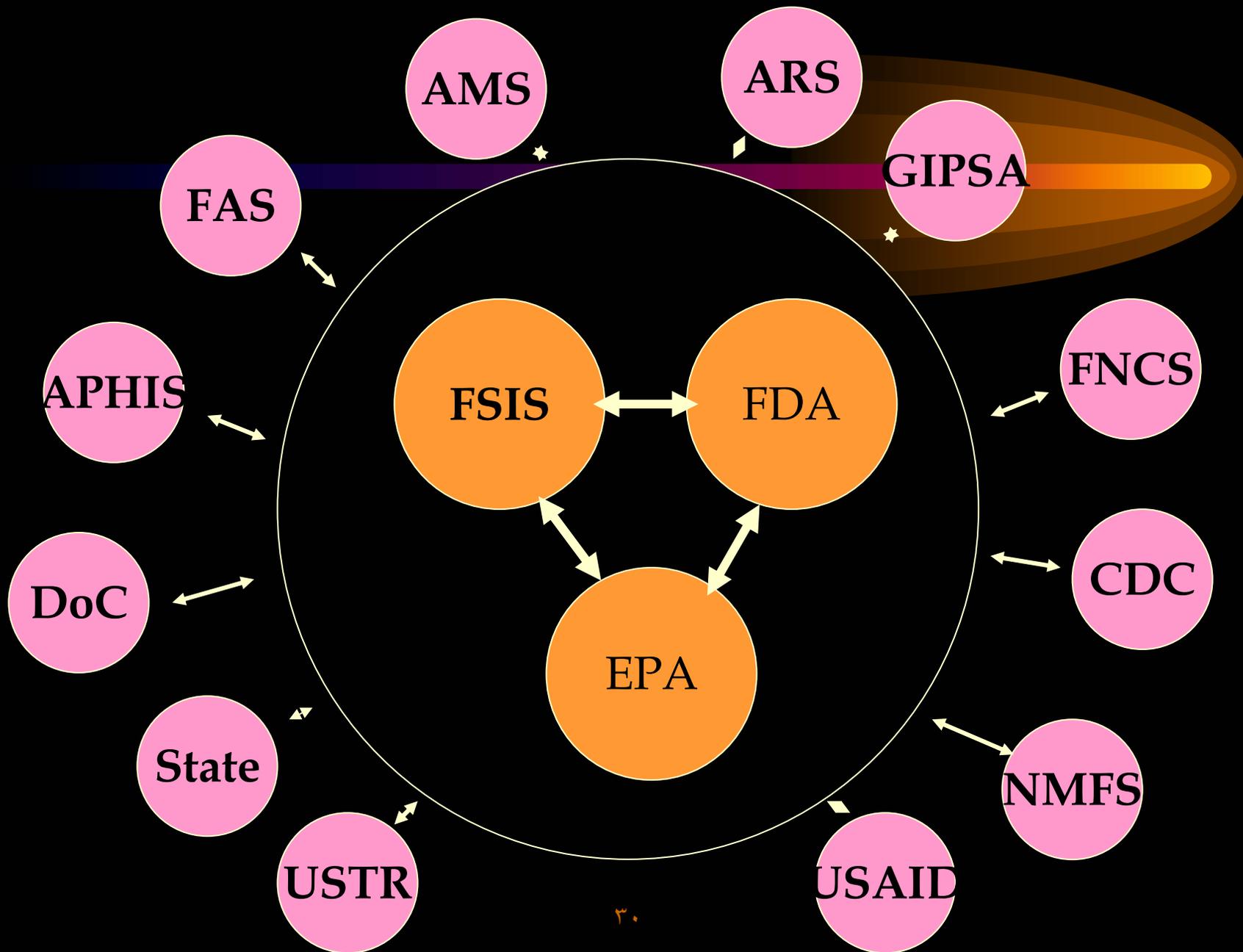


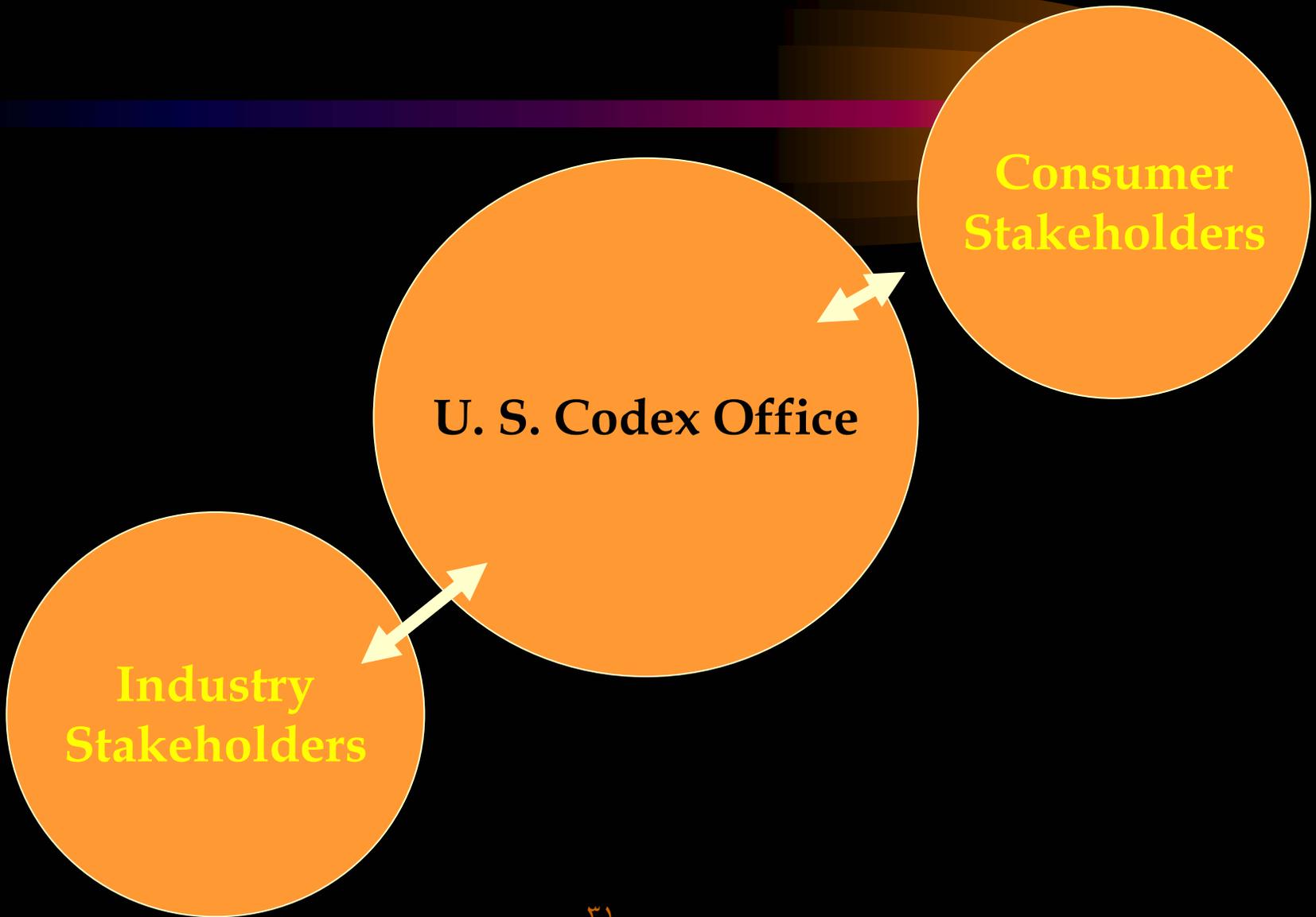
U.S. Codex Office



**Manages the program of planning,
policy development, support and
coordination for all U.S.
involvement and participation in
Codex**

INTERNATIONAL FOOD SAFETY





U.S. Codex Office

1. Represents the United States in the Executive, Procedural and Regional bodies of Codex

- ☞ Codex Alimentarius Commission**
- ☞ Codex Executive Committee**
- ☞ Codex Committee on General Principles**
- ☞ Coordinating Committee for North America and South West Pacific**

U.S. Codex Office

2. Serves as a focal point for dissemination of information to Government officials and members of the public on Codex activities and related activities of the World Trade Organization

☞ Commission and 30 subsidiary bodies (General Subject Matter Committees, Commodity Committees, Task Forces, Regional Coordinating Committees)

☞ Annual Federal Register Notice

U.S. Codex Office

3. Performs outreach activities to educate the public on Codex and to share U.S. positions with other Codex member countries

📅 10 to 15 major presentations per year - domestically

📅 Represent U.S. Codex on numerous interagency groups

International Outreach

- 📖 **Technical Seminars (Tunisia, San Juan, Hong Kong, China, India, Egypt)**
- 📖 **Assistance to CCLAC (Dominican Republic) and to CCNEA (Egypt)**
- 📖 **CCLAC Planning Sessions - (Washington, San Jose)**
- 📖 **Specific Issues (e.g., Food Additives)**
- 📖 **Specific Committees (e.g., CCFL Outreach)**

U.S. Codex Office

4. Seeks mechanisms to enhance public participation, and the effectiveness of U.S. Government participation, in Codex

- ⌘ Conducts at least one public meeting before every Codex Committee or Commission meeting**
- ⌘ Maintains a web site**

U.S. Codex Office

5. Develops strategies to accomplish U.S. objectives in Codex

- ✧ **U.S. Codex Strategic Plan**

- ✧ **Extensive comment on Codex Mid-Term Plan and on Chair's action plan**

- ✧ **Extremely active with QUADS and Latin countries (meeting before every committee meeting)**

U.S. Codex Office

6. Establishes harmonized, agreed upon U.S. positions on Codex issues, through coordination with all relevant federal agencies

📄 **Review of all Codex papers**

📄 **Steering Committees**

U.S. Codex Office

7. Provides direction and assistance to the U.S. Delegates to Codex Committees, in carrying out activities of these committees

☞ U.S. Codex staff attend virtually all Codex Sessions

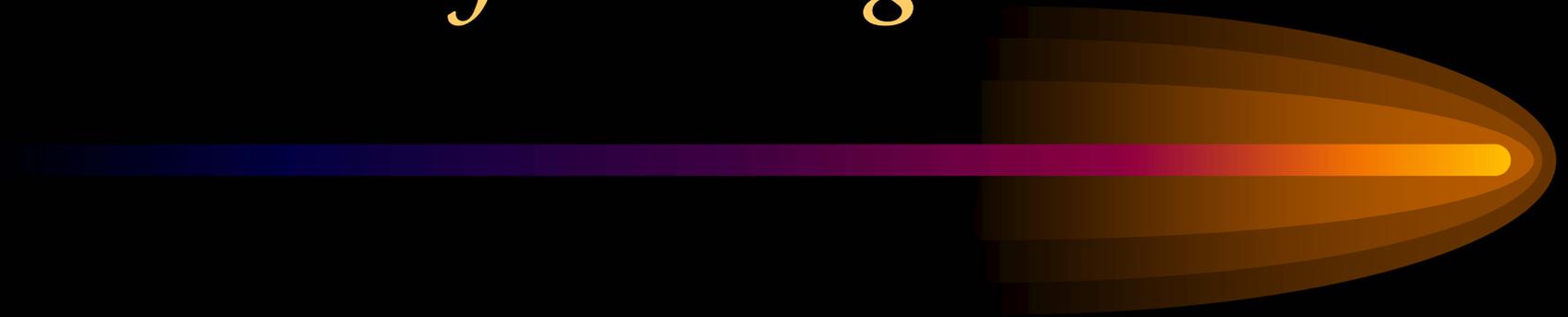
☞ Provide logistic support such as meeting rooms, etc.

Policy guidance for Codex

Provided by a *Codex* Policy Committee chaired by the Under Secretary for Food Safety, USDA

- Committee composed of senior policy level officials from USDA, Department of Health and Human Services, Environmental Protection Agency, Commerce, State, and U.S. Trade Representatives, officials responsible for broad policy decisions within a department or agency.

Policy Steering Committee



Guidance on Cross-cutting Technical Issues

Provided by a *Codex* Technical Committee

- composed of officials with broad responsibility for implementing food regulatory and trade programs from within USDA (FSIS, FNCS, GIPSA, FAS, ARS, APHIS, AMS) DHHS (CDC, FDA (CFSAN and CVM)), EPA, the NMFS, and State.**

***Codex* Technical Committee is chaired by the U.S. *Codex* Manager for *Codex*.**

U.S. Hosted Meetings

- ✧ **Codex Committee on Food Hygiene**
- ✧ **Codex Committee on Residues of Veterinary Drugs in Food**
- ✧ **Codex Committee on Processed Fruits and Vegetables**
- ✧ **Codex Committee on Pulses, Cereals, and Legumes (adjourned)**

U.S. Hosted Meetings



Host Country

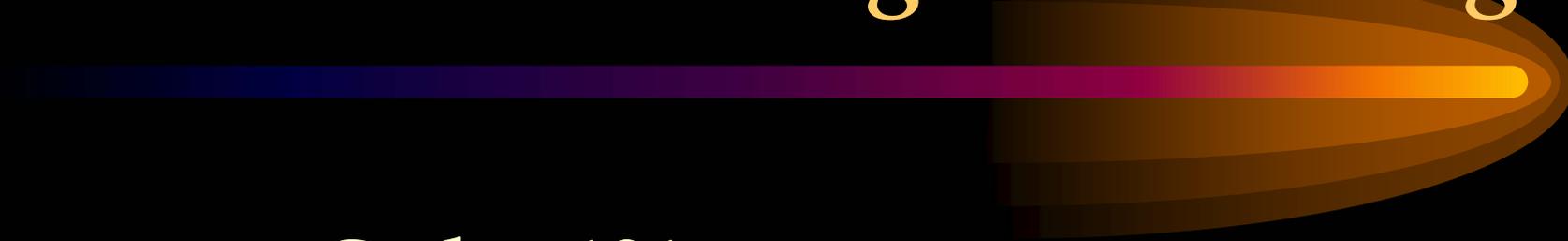
▣ Bears Expense of Meetings

interpretation, translation, facilities, etc.

▣ Names Chairperson

US
codex

Delegate Training



📖 **Codex 101**

📖 **Cross-Culture Training**

📖 **Negotiation Skills**

US
codex

US CODEX HOME PAGE



- <http://www.fsis.usda.gov/OA/codex>