

**To: Codex Contact Points
International Observer Organizations**

23 August 2016

**INVITATION TO PARTICIPATE IN THE
PHYSICAL WORKING GROUP ON CODEX WORK ON ANTIMICROBIAL RESISTANCE (AMR)**

The 39th Session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC39) (Rome, Italy, 27 June - 1st July 2016), considered a document regarding Codex Work on Antimicrobial Resistance (CX/CAC 16/39/12) and recognised the need for Codex to make concrete steps to address the urgency of AMR, to proceed in an expeditious way and to show the leadership that was expected from Codex as the preeminent international food standards setting body.

CAC39 agreed to:

- i) Establish an Ad Hoc Intergovernmental Task Force on Antimicrobial Resistance (TFAMR), with the Terms of Reference (ToR) as presented in Appendix VIII of REP 16/CAC, to be hosted by the Republic of Korea (to start work after CAC40 in July 2017);
- ii) Establish a Physical Working Group (PWG), chaired by the United Kingdom and co-chaired by Australia and the United States, to work in English, French and Spanish and open to all Members and Observers, with the following tasks:
 - Revise the project documents for new work (CX/CAC 16/39/12, Appendix 1, part 1 and 2)
 - Revise the terms of reference for the request for scientific advice to FAO and WHO in collaboration with OIE (CX/CAC 16/39/12, Appendix 3)
- iii) Request FAO and WHO to develop a capacity development programme to respond to the needs identified.

The United Kingdom and its co-chairs from the governments of Australia and the United States are pleased to inform you that the Physical Working Group (PWG), established by CAC39 will be held in London, United Kingdom at **15 Hatfields, Chadwick Court, London, SE1 8DJ from Tuesday 29 November – Friday 2 December 2016.**

The PWG will be conducted in English, French and Spanish.

In order to facilitate the work of the PWG, a pre-consultation will be undertaken electronically with all interested members and observers to assist in the preparation of documents for the meeting. The United States in their capacity as co-chair has kindly volunteered to coordinate this work. Members and observers wishing to participate in the pre-consultation work to prepare the documents are invited to send an email, providing their name, title, member country or international organization, by **2 September** to:

United Kingdom: mike.oneill@foodstandards.gsi.gov.uk

USA: Kenneth.lowery@fsis.usda.gov

Australia: codex.contact@agriculture.gov.au

Venue and Accommodation: The meeting will be held in the United Kingdom at **15 Hatfields, Chadwick Court, London, SE1 8DJ**. An information pack for delegates will be sent separately on registration.

Travel Arrangements: Delegates are responsible for making their own travel arrangements including accommodation. Recommended hotels close to the venue will be circulated along with the information pack for delegates. Whilst out of season, delegates are advised to book their accommodation early to secure the best rates.

Visas: Delegates should check with the nearest United Kingdom Embassy or High Commission with regards to visa requirements for entry to the United Kingdom. For those participants that require an official invitation to support their application for an entrance visa to the United Kingdom please contact Oladapo Fakoyede at the UK Food Standards Agency's international team directly via email: oladapo.fakoyede@foodstandards.gsi.gov.uk

Registration

Please note that owing to venue capacity restrictions the UK can only assure seating arrangements for a maximum of three members per delegation.

Codex Contact Points and International Organisations with observer status with the Codex Alimentarius Commission are requested to submit their registration forms via email to oladapo.fakoyede@foodstandards.gsi.gov.uk by **25 October 2016**.

Indicative Timetable leading up to the PWG

Task	
Deadline for Registration of members and observers for the electronic pre-consultation.	2 September 2016
Deadline for written comments to the electronic pre-consultation on: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Revision of the project documents for new work (CX/CAC 16/39/12, Appendix 1, part 1 and 2)• Revision of the terms of reference for the request for scientific advice to FAO and WHO in collaboration with OIE (CX/CAC 16/39/12, Appendix 3)	30 September 2016
Deadline for registration for Physical Working Group.	25 October 2016
Draft circulated to members.	7 November 2016
Physical Working Group meeting London.	29 November to 2 December 2016

The United Kingdom and its co-chairs, Australia and the United States, look forward to receiving your replies and we hope to welcome you in London in November.