



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



International Federation
of Organic Agriculture
Movements



United Nations Conference
on Trade and Development

INTERNATIONAL TASK FORCE ON HARMONIZATION AND EQUIVALENCE IN ORGANIC AGRICULTURE

Terms of Reference Tool for Equivalency

Work Plan

Element (of strategy)	Action	Status
International Standard	Acknowledge a standard	Decision: recognize Codex Guidelines & IBS
Equivalency	Common regulatory objectives	Proposal
	Guidelines and criteria	Terms of reference
	Influence of/effect on producers	Concept note
	Consumer research	Information note
Certification Body Requirement	International certification body requirement	Proposal
Recognition of & Cooperation among CABs	Organic MLA	Terms of Reference
	Other cooperation	Presentation (PGS)



Objective

Provide a tool for governments and private sector to judge equivalency (of standards and technical regulations)

Identify process and criteria for equivalency judgment

Base it on sound principles and decision criteria

Apply it within and between government and private sectors.



UNCTAD

Current Situation - Agreements

No government mutual equivalency agreements

European Commission approves 7 countries as equivalent.

USDA NOP approvals are about compliance to NOP regulation, not equivalence

Japan has approved EU countries, US, Australia, others as equivalent, but agreement is limited, and direct CB accreditation required.



UNCTAD

Current Situation - Agreements

IFOAM system

- Multi-lateral equivalency agreement among Accredited Certification Bodies (the ACB MLA)
- Policy and criteria for approving Standards as either compliant or equivalent with the IFOAM Basic Standards



IFOAM



UNCTAD

Current Situation - Frame

TBT Article 2 - Common objectives

- Common objectives
- Useful mainly in standards development

CAC/GL 34

- Equivalence concerning inspection and certification systems (assumes that the Codex standards apply).



UNCTAD

Tool Development Process

General

- Within TBT and CAC Frameworks
- Policy and legal analysis
- Include the context of unregulated markets
- Consider regional trade agreements as vehicle



UNCTAD

Tool Development Process

Specific

- Experience and tools from government equivalence determinations
- IFOAM Policy for Approval of Other Standards
- model the implementation of the tool within and among government and private sectors



IFOAM



UNCTAD

Report to ITF

Contents

- Background
- Conceptual basis and rationale for tool
- Description
- Practical Format
- Implementation



UNCTAD



IFOAM



UNCTAD