

CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



World Health
Organization

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**CL 2018/67/OCS-CAC
August 2018**

TO: Codex Contact Points
Contact Points of international organizations having observer status with Codex

FROM: Secretariat, Codex Alimentarius Commission,
Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme

SUBJECT: **Request for Comments on the draft Codex Strategic Plan 2020-2025**

DEADLINE: **30 November 2018**

BACKGROUND

1. The development of the third Codex Strategic Plan (SP) for the period 2020-2025 was initiated in 2016 at CCEXEC71. Initial discussions at CCEXEC71 and CAC39 highlighted that the development should:
 - take the current Strategic Plan 2014-2019 as its starting point;
 - consider the findings of ongoing internal work management reviews;
 - consider the effectiveness and measurability of indicators, with an aim to substantially reduce their number;
 - note the strategies/work programmes of FAO and WHO; and
 - note the UN goals outlined in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (SDGs).
2. CCEXEC73 considered the draft strategic goals and objectives for the SP reaffirming the need to take into account the strategic goals of FAO and WHO and the SDGs, among other things. It also established a Drafting Team, consisting of the Chairperson and Vice-Chairpersons of the Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC) to prepare a revised first draft (excluding implementation plan), based on the comments submitted in response to CL 2017/50/OCS-EXEC and proposals made by CCEXEC73 and CAC40. The development process was further informed by a workshop of the members of CCEXEC immediately preceding CCEXEC74.
3. CCEXEC74 noted that the process for finalizing the SP would involve broad consultation with the entire Codex membership. CCEXEC74 agreed on the text of a revised draft vision statement and five strategic goals and that the core values enshrined in the current Codex Strategic Plan 2014-2019 should be retained. It established a subcommittee to develop coherent content for a complete draft SP.
4. The draft SP 2020-2025 (CX/EXEC 18/75/6) prepared by the Subcommittee was considered by CCEXEC75 and the items contained in Appendix 1 of CX/EXEC 18/75/6 were specifically discussed. Discussions highlighted in particular the need for further work on the implementation plan to:
 - improve alignment across the goals, objectives, outcomes and indicators;
 - review and revise the indicators to differentiate between indicators and data sources and consider the use of baselines and targets to measure progress;
 - further consider broader strategic issues relating to the development of the food and agriculture sector and how Codex may address challenges that may arise;
 - review and clarify the objectives and activities where needed (e.g. objectives 2.1, 2.3, 4.2) including their appropriate location within the action plan (e.g. activity 5.4.3); and
 - clarify or update the definition of “developing countries”.
5. CCEXEC 75 recalling the importance of inclusivity and timeliness in developing the SP, encouraged the Regional Coordinators to hold consultations with members from their respective regions during CAC41, seeking feedback to facilitate a decision at CCEXEC76 regarding the process and timetable for the completion of the SP. Emphasis was placed on the use of innovative methods to ensure the continued inclusivity of the process. It was also agreed that a Circular Letter be issued in August 2018 to all members

seeking their comments on the current version of the SP. It was further noted that outstanding issues would be addressed at forthcoming meetings of the drafting group and CCEXEC.

6. CCEXEC76 agreed on its ambition to submit the draft SP for endorsement by CAC42 in accordance with the timeline (Appendix II REP19/EXEC1) and noted a number of mechanisms by which consultation with countries could be promoted and supported.
7. CCEXEC76 also established a subcommittee, open to all members of CCEXEC, that would consider comments and generate revised drafts after each round of consultation with members and develop a complete draft of the Strategic Plan 2020-2025 for consideration by CCEXEC77 and endorsement by CAC42;
8. With reference to Appendix II of REP19/EXEC1, the Chairperson and Vice-Chairpersons would like to recall the importance of inclusiveness and timeliness in the development of the SP, and that:
 - strategic planning is an evolutionary process;
 - regions and their members own the plan, which requires their active participation in its construction;
 - regional coordinators play a key role in promoting engagement in the discussions on the draft Strategic Plan; and
 - regional implementation of the plan will be key and regional coordinating committees in 2019 could be used to discuss and agree regional implementation roadmaps, which link explicitly to delivery of the Strategic Plan 2020-2025.

REQUEST FOR COMMENTS

9. Codex members and observers are invited to submit comments on the draft Codex Strategic Plan 2020-2025, which is uploaded to the Codex Online Commenting System (OCS): <https://ocs.codexalimentarius.org/>, as per the guidance below.
10. Please note that in preparing your comments you are encouraged to actively participate in discussions convened in each region promoted by the regional coordinator and supported by the Codex Secretariat. The aim of such discussions is to familiarise members in the region with the plan, and facilitate the commenting process.
11. In preparing your comments, you are asked to carefully review the background information presented above, noting those areas of the SP that have been identified as needing particular attention and taking into consideration that it is the members of Codex that own the strategic plan and are ultimately the drivers of both its development and implementation.

GUIDANCE ON THE PROVISION OF COMMENTS

12. Comments should be submitted through the Codex Contact Points of Codex members and observers using the OCS.
13. Contact Points of Codex members and observers may login to the OCS and access the document open for comments by selecting "Enter" in the "My reviews" page, available after login to the system.
14. Contact Points of Codex members and observers organizations are requested to provide proposed changes and relevant comments/justifications on a specific paragraph (under the categories: editorial, substantive, technical and translation) and/or at the document level (general comments or summary comments). Additional guidance on the OCS comment categories and types can be found in the OCS [Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQs\)](#).
15. Other OCS resources, including the user manual and short guide, can be found at the following link: <http://www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/resources/ocs/en/>.
16. For questions on the OCS, please contact Codex-OCS@fao.org.