

# CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION



Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations



World Health  
Organization

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**CL 2019/21/OCS-CAC**  
**February 2019**

**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 revised draft Codex Strategic Plan 2020-2025**

**DEADLINE:** **30 April 2019**

## BACKGROUND

1. Following the decisions of CCEXEC 76<sup>1</sup>, CL 2018/67/OCS-CAC was issued in August 2018 requesting comments on the draft Codex Strategic Plan 2020-2025. Fifty-two members responded to the CL (comments available [here](#)), and the comments were considered by a sub-committee of the CCEXEC that met on 19-20 December 2018. A [chairperson's summary](#) of that meeting of the sub-committee has been circulated to Codex members.
2. CCEXEC75<sup>2</sup> recalled the importance of inclusiveness and timeliness in the development of its new Strategic Plan (SP) and the value of regional consultation. Thus, the Regional Coordinators hosted a range of meetings in the period September - November 2018 to facilitate discussions on the SP and to support Members in the preparation of their comments. The Regional Coordinators provided feedback on these discussions directly to the meeting of the sub-committee of the CCEXEC.
3. In the course of the meeting and the subsequent follow-up, the draft Strategic Plan 2020-2025 was revised. The revisions include the following:
  - minor revisions to the introductory text and the table related to the SDGs
  - revisions to the text relating to drivers to take into consideration standardisation needs that arise from the possible consumer health and food trade impacts of trends and challenges in the broader global environment
  - revision of the vision statement and inclusion of a mission statement
  - retention of the core values as written but with recognition that there may need to be further discussions on whether any changes should be made considering the comments provided
  - minor editing of the five goals for clarity
  - inclusion of a short narrative under each goal, taking into consideration the rationale for each goal in the original draft and the consequential removal of the rationale
  - revision of the objectives for clarity and simplicity
  - substantial revision of the indicators in line with the revised objectives to facilitate monitoring of the implementation of the strategic plan. [An information note on data sources for monitoring against the indicators will be prepared in advance of CAC42]
  - revision of the outcomes in line with the above.
  - removal of the activities as the sub-committee agreed that there should be a clear separation between the SP and the work plan for its implementation. It is proposed that the supporting work plan be developed following adoption of the SP by CAC42 and reviewed by CAC43 in 2020. The separation of the work plan would allow for more flexibility and engagement of members in planning the implementation of the SP.
4. In line with the decisions of CCEXEC76 the revised SP is now being circulated to all Members for a second round of comments. The CCEXEC sub-committee will consider responses to this CL and any outputs from regional physical meetings in producing a final draft of the SP, which will be submitted for adoption by CAC42.

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<sup>1</sup> REP19/EXEC1

<sup>2</sup> REP18/EXEC2-Rev.1

## REQUEST FOR COMMENTS

5. Codex members and observers are invited to submit comments on the revised 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.
6. Please note that in preparing your comments you are encouraged to actively participate in any discussions convened at a regional level promoted by the Regional Coordinator.
7. In preparing your comments, you are asked to take into consideration the changes made by the sub-committee and in particular consider the following issues:
  - The revisions made to the section on drivers and whether this section now (i) reflects comments made by members in their responses to the earlier CL; and (ii) strikes an appropriate balance between, on the one hand, the aim for brevity in the strategic plan and, on the other hand, the importance of recognising that these drivers may lead to impacts on consumer health and fair practices in the food trade, and the management of these impacts may be amenable to standardisation within the unique mandate of Codex
  - The recognition that, in the absence of consensus among comments received from members regarding possible amendment of the core values, any further discussion should take place in an appropriate forum, outside the process of elucidation of the strategic plan
  - The simplification of the objectives and indicators, in the light of comments received in response to the CL and discussions at the regional physical meetings
  - The proposal to develop a supporting work plan with the input of the responsible parties

## GUIDANCE ON THE PROVISION OF COMMENTS

8. Comments should be submitted through the Codex Contact Points of Codex members and observers using the OCS.
9. 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.
10. 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 \(FAQs\)](#).
11. 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/>.
12. For questions on the OCS, please contact [Codex-OCS@fao.org](mailto:Codex-OCS@fao.org).