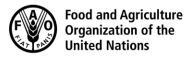
CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION





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REP18/EXEC1

JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION

41st Session

Rome, Italy, 2 - 7 July 2018

REPORT OF THE SEVENTY-FOURTH SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION

FAO Headquarters, Rome, Italy, 26 - 28 September 2017

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Introduction

1. The Executive Committee of the Codex Alimentarius Commission held its 74th Session (CCEXEC74) at FAO Headquarters in Rome, Italy, from 26 to 28 September 2017. A list of participants is contained in Appendix I.

2. Assistant Director-General of the Agriculture and Consumer Protection Department of FAO, Dr Ren Wang, and Director of the Department of Zoonoses and Food Safety of WHO, Dr Kazuaki Miyagishima, welcomed the participants on behalf of the parent organizations.

Adoption of the agenda (Agenda item 1)1

- 3. CCEXEC74 adopted the provisional agenda with the addition, under item 9, Other business, of:
 - i. update on the work of the Committee on Agriculture Open-Ended Working Group on Sustainable Funding for the FAO/WHO Food Safety Scientific Advice Programme; and
 - ii. the role and work programme of CCEXEC.

Codex and the Sustainable Development Goals (Agenda item 2)2

4. Recalling the discussion at CCEXEC73 and CAC40 on the linkages between Codex work and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), CCEXEC74 reviewed the recommendations contained in document CX/EXEC 17/74/2 and reiterated the value at the national and international levels alike of clearly articulating the linkage between Codex work and the SDGs.

CCEXEC74:

- i. recognized the multiple linkages between the work of Codex and SDGs and highlighted the importance of how Codex work can support countries in their implementation efforts with respect to those Goals directly related to food safety and fair practices in trade (SDGs 2, 3, 12 and 17); and
- ii. agreed:
 - a. that the subcommittee developing the draft Codex strategic plan 2020–2025 (see agenda item 3) prepare a short text detailing how Codex work supports the SDGs; and
 - b. that the Secretariat prepare a short document for use in communicating with a broad range of stakeholders, including by Regional Coordinators, capturing examples of the use countries made of Codex standards as part of national efforts to achieve the SDGs.

Draft Codex strategic plan 2020-2025 (Agenda item 3)3

- 6. CCEXEC74 welcomed the work of the Drafting Team, composed of the Chairperson and Vice-Chairpersons, as the basis for its discussion and highlighted value of the workshop for members of CCEXEC held immediately prior to the Session in providing an opportunity for reflection and exchange of views on the strategic plan.
- 7. CCEXEC74 noted that the process for finalizing the draft strategic plan 2020–2025 would involve broad consultation with the entire Codex membership, including through the FAO/WHO Coordinating Committees and the Commission.
- 8. CCEXEC74:
 - agreed on the text of a revised draft vision statement and five strategic goals (contained in Appendix II-A)
 and that the core values enshrined in the current Codex Strategic Plan 2014–2019 should be retained;
 and
 - ii. convened a subcommittee with the terms of reference contained in Appendix II-B.

Update on Codex Communications Strategy 2017-2019 (Agenda item 4)4

9. CCEXEC74 noted that the term "workplan" better reflected the content of the document than "strategy" and the need for members to contribute to its development and implementation by providing strategic guidance on and insight into how best to reach its primary target groups.

¹ CX/EXEC 17/74/1

² CX/EXEC 17/74/2

³ CX/EXEC 17/74/3

⁴ CX/EXEC 17/74/4

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10. CCEXEC74 commended the major improvement in Codex communications of recent years, including in social media, and underscored the importance of coherent communications, especially in support of the Codex Trust Fund and the ongoing drive for sustainable funding for scientific advice.

11. CCEXEC74 noted the potential for greater engagement and impact through tailored collaboration with the FAO/WHO Coordinating Committees.

12. CCEXEC74:

- i. noted and supported the Codex Communications Workplan 2017–2019 and encouraged all relevant parties to work to ensure its successful implementation; and
- ii. encouraged the Secretariat to stress that the scientific advice programme is integral to the work of Codex and to evaluate how to target consumers with information on food safety and the relevance of Codex.

Codex Work Management (2017–2018 regular review) (Agenda item 5)⁵

13. CCEXEC74:

- noted that the Secretariat would incorporate follow-up to the 2016-2017 review on electronic working groups into the implementation report of the Codex Strategic Plan;
- ii. noted the selection of "cooperation and collaboration with other international standard-setting organizations" (for example, in methods of analysis) as the topic of the 2017–2018 review and that the Secretariat would provide the preliminary list of organizations included in the review, agreeing to submit any comments on that list to the Secretariat by 15 October 2017; and
- iii. welcomed the opportunity for members of CCEXEC to identify and submit to the Secretariat for its consideration by 31 May 2018 topics for the 2018–2019 regular review, including the following initial suggestions: intersessional modalities for advancing the work of Codex committees; opportunities for cross-committee collaboration; efficiency of Codex reporting methodologies; timely delivery of working documents; and modalities and efficiency of procedures for interaction with scientific advisory bodies.

Matters Deferred by CCEXEC73 (Agenda item 6.1)⁶

- A. Biopesticides, Biofertilizers, Biostimulants
- B. Matters arising from FAO and WHO: Policy and Related Matters
- C. Co-chairing of Codex committee meetings
- 14. Recalling that sub-items 6.1 A and B had been considered at CAC40 and therefore required no further discussion, CCEXEC74:
 - welcomed the proposal regarding co-chairing in the absence of co-hosting as a positive development, using the FAO/WHO Coordinating Committees as an appropriate forum as suggested by CCASIA, and the confirmation by the Secretariat that there were no procedural impediments to proceeding with this initiative;
 - ii. noted that, since there was no applicable procedure or protocol in place, it was a matter for host countries to experiment with arrangements in this area, underscoring the significant responsibilities involved and preparation required, including consideration of issues such as technical support and the clear delineation of responsibilities; and
 - iii. welcomed the willingness of members with relevant experience to share their insights.

Applications from international non-governmental organizations for observer status in Codex (Agenda item 6.2)⁷

15. CCEXEC74 recommended that the Directors-General of FAO and WHO grant Codex Observer status to the Center for Climate Change and Environmental Studies, the European Specialist Sports Nutrition Alliance and the International Food Authenticity Assurance Organization.

⁵ CX/EXEC 17/74/5

⁶ CX/EXEC 17/74/6

⁷ CX/EXEC 17/74/7

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Horizontal agenda for 2018/2019 round of FAO/WHO Coordinating Committees (Agenda item 7)8

16. CCEXEC74 agreed with the recommendations in paragraph 35 of document CX/EXEC 17/73/8 and amended the provisional generic agenda for the 2018–2019 round of RCC meetings to include: the draft Codex strategic plan 2020–2025 and the Codex Communications Workplan, including linkages with the SDGs.

Draft provisional agendas for CCEXEC75 and CAC41 (Agenda item 8)9

- 17. CCEXEC74 recommended that:
 - i. CAC41 should meet over five days with night sessions as necessary;
 - ii. item 15.1 should remain on the CAC41 agenda but could be merged with item 13;
 - iii. items 15.2, 15.3 and 16 could be removed from the CAC41 agenda and held as side events with a mechanism to report to the plenary;
 - iv. the "Proposal for the establishment of a committee on standards advancement (CCSA) under Rule XI 1(a)" should be added to the CAC41 agenda;
 - v. CCEXEC75 should be held from Tuesday to Friday; and
 - vi. CCEXEC would consider the item on Applications from International Non-Governmental Organizations for Observer Status in Codex only once per year.
- 18. CCEXEC74 also discussed the advantages and disadvantages of holding CCEXEC sufficiently in advance of the Commission to allow members to study the CCEXEC outcomes.

Other business (Agenda item 9)

Update on the work of the Committee on Agriculture Open-Ended Working Group on Sustainable Funding for the FAO/WHO Food Safety Scientific Advice Programme

19. CCEXEC74 heard an oral report on the activities of the Open-Ended Working Group on Sustainable Funding for the FAO/WHO Food Safety Scientific Advice Programme (COAG-OEWG), noting the proposal that FAO funds unspent at the close of the biennium could be allocated for food safety scientific advice as an interim relief measure. CCEXEC74 noted the importance of members advocating in support of the proposal of the COAG-OEWG at forthcoming meetings of the FAO Finance and Programme Committees and FAO Council (December 2017).

Role and work programme of CCEXEC

20. CCEXEC74 requested the Chairperson and Vice-Chairpersons to prepare and submit for consideration at CCEXEC75 a paper on the role of CCEXEC based on the discussions held at the CCEXEC workshop.

⁸ CX/EXEC 17/74/8

⁹ CX/EXEC 17/74/9

Appendix I

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

LISTE DES PARTICIPANTS LISTA DE PARTICIPANTES

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Appendix II-A

CODEX STRATEGIC VISION STATEMENT, CORE VALUES AND GOALS OF STRATEGIC PLAN 2020-25

Codex Strategic Plan 2020-2025

Strategic Vision Statement

The Codex Alimentarius Commission establishes globally recognized international food standards that are used world-wide to protect consumer health and promote fair practices in the food trade for everyone, everywhere.

Codex Core Values

In fulfilling its strategic vision, Codex adheres to core values that include:

- Collaboration
- Inclusiveness
- Consensus building (Consensus should be based on "Measures to facilitate Consensus" included in the Procedural Manual)
- Transparency

Codex Strategic Goals

Strategic Goal 1: Codex standards address Members' demonstrated current, emerging and critical issues.

Strategic Goal 2: Codex standards are based on science and risk analysis principles.

Strategic Goal 3: Codex standards are globally used.

Strategic Goal 4: All Codex Members participate effectively in Codex work.

Strategic Goal 5: Codex work management systems and practices are effective and efficient.

Appendix II-B

TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR STRATEGIC PLANNING SUB-COMMITTEE OF CCEXEC

Scope of work:

To develop coherent content for a complete draft of the Strategic Plan 2020-2025 which will drive delivery of the goals and vision agreed by CCEXEC74. This content will include:

- a preamble recommitting Codex to its values and setting out how its work contributes to achievement of the SDGs;
- ambitious but achievable objectives for the period 2020-2025, which would demonstrably deliver progress towards the goals set by CCEXEC74;
- practical and discrete activities which would deliver these objectives, clearly identifying for each activity the responsible party/parties and the timescale for delivery;
- a clear description of the expected outcome(s) from each of the activities; and
- indicator(s) for each activity with a description of how the indicators would be measured and assessed in a proportionate way, minimising the burden associated with generating new streams of management information.

Timetable and deliverables:

The sub-committee will start work on 26 September 2017.

To develop a complete draft of the above content by 31 January 2018.

To develop a revised draft of the above content and forward it to the Codex Secretariat at least one month before CCEXEC75, for discussion by that meeting of the Executive Committee.

Membership and ways of working:

The sub-committee will be chaired by Vice-Chair, Steve Wearne, with Vice-Chair, Mariam Eid as alternate chair.

The sub-committee will primarily work electronically using the online platform. All members of CCEXEC will be able to register and participate. Physical meetings may be arranged if necessary.

The sub-committee will work in English.