

# codex alimentarius commission



FOOD AND AGRICULTURE  
ORGANIZATION  
OF THE UNITED NATIONS

WORLD  
HEALTH  
ORGANIZATION



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Agenda Item 9

## JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME

### CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION

#### *Twenty-ninth Session*

*International Conference Centre, Geneva (Switzerland), 3 – 7 July 2006*

### STRATEGIC PLANNING OF THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION

#### BACKGROUND

1. As agreed by the 57<sup>th</sup> Session of the Executive Committee<sup>1</sup>, the meeting of the Working Group, comprising the Chairperson and three Vice- Chairpersons of the Commission, took place in Rome on 24- 26 May 2006.
2. The Working Group reviewed the comments<sup>2</sup> on the Draft Strategic Plan 2008 – 2013 received in response to a Circular Letter (CL 2005/55-EXEC) and had an intensive discussion to amend the draft Strategic Plan 2008-2013. The revised draft Strategic Plan 2008 – 2013 is attached to this document as Annex.
3. In the course of the discussion, the Working Group also intensively looked into Part 3, which had not been discussed by the last session of the Executive Committee. The Working Group, in particular, endeavoured to identify what kind of output/measurable indicators should be utilized to monitor and manage all activities listed in Part 2 of the Strategic Plan. The Working Group agreed that Part 3 contain the following two tables:
  - Table 1: Implementation of Strategic Plan, a checklist of the Strategic Plan activities to monitor the progress and achievement of the activities listed in Part 2.
  - Table 2: Critical review of Proposals for New Work and Monitoring Progress of Standards Development, as a checklist of ongoing work, to manage current and future work undertaken by the subsidiary bodies of the Commission.

<sup>1</sup> ALINORM 06/29/3 paras 5-36

<sup>2</sup> ALINORM 06/29/9A

4. The Working Group agreed to put forward the following recommendations to the 58<sup>th</sup> Session of the Executive Committee, for further discussion.

- As agreed by the 57<sup>th</sup> Session of the Executive Committee (see ALINORM 06/29/3 para. 36), the revised Strategic Plan 2008 – 2013 should be circulated to all Coordinating Committees for comments, prior to the final adoption by the Commission 2007.
- The current format used by the Executive Committee for Critical Review should be replaced with the Table 2 in Part 3 of the draft Strategic Plan 2008 – 2013, because this table was prepared as the new tracking mechanism for effective implementation of Critical Review
- As in-depth and effective implementation of Critical Review by utilising this new table may require at least one more staff of the Codex Secretariat, the constraints of staff shortage in the Codex Secretariat and insufficient budgetary situation for the work of Codex has to be solved so as to facilitate the achievement of Strategic Plan 2008-2013.

5. The Commission is invited to discuss on how to proceed with the work to develop Strategic Plan 2008 – 2013, taking into consideration the recommendation of the Working Group as well as comments submitted.

## ANNEX

**CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION  
DRAFT STRATEGIC PLAN 2008-2013<sup>1</sup>**

(Revised by the Working Group)

**PART 1****STRATEGIC VISION STATEMENT**

*The Codex Alimentarius Commission envisages a world afforded the highest attainable levels of consumer protection including food safety and quality. To this end, the Commission will develop internationally agreed standards and related texts for use in domestic regulation and international trade in food that are based on scientific principles and fulfil the objectives of consumer health protection and fair practices in food trade.*

**INTRODUCTION**

1. This document sets out the strategic plan for the Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC), stating strategic goals of the Commission (Part 1) and incorporating a list of programme areas and planned activities with a clearly defined timetable (Part 2). The strategic vision and goals for the CAC underpin the high priority attached to food safety by its parent organizations, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the World Health Organization (WHO). *The Strategic Framework for FAO: 2000-2015* accords high priority to promoting policy and regulatory frameworks for food at the international and national levels. Several resolutions adopted by the World Health Assembly recognized the need to highlight health considerations in international food trade and acknowledged the importance of the CAC for ensuring the highest levels of consumer health protection. These resolutions and related documents<sup>2</sup> urged WHO to work towards integrating food safety as one of its essential public health functions with the goal of developing sustainable, integrated food safety systems for the reduction of health risks along the entire food chain. It is understood that Codex, when elaborating standards, guidelines and recommendations, gives full consideration to those resolutions and decisions from WHO and FAO that are relevant within the framework of the Codex mandate. The fundamental mandate of the CAC is to develop international standards, guidelines and other recommendations for protecting the health of consumers and ensuring fair practices in the food trade.
2. The CAC has always operated in an environment of change and technological advancement. The growth in world food trade, advances in modern communication and increasing mobility of populations are all contributing to elevating the profile and significance of food safety and regulation. There is growing international concern related to a perceived emergence of or increase in food-borne diseases. Consumers around the world are seeking ever-greater assurances about the safety and quality of foods they eat. In its endeavour to promote food safety and quality, the CAC needs to ensure more effective participation and involvement of all members in setting globally relevant standards and to consider opportunities for strengthening partnerships with all stakeholders, in particular consumers and their representative organizations, at the global and national levels. It is also likely that developing countries will account for an increasing proportion of global food and agricultural trade. CAC, FAO and WHO are striving to respond to the new challenges and keep abreast of most recent developments.<sup>3</sup>
3. The recognition and status that Codex standards, guidelines and other recommendations acquired under the World Trade Organization (WTO) Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures has presented challenges and brought responsibilities, including the need to ensure that Codex standards and related texts are based on scientific principles and meet the needs and

<sup>1</sup> This plan will be updated in the light of the status of all current and projected activities at the time of adoption by the Commission in 2007.

<sup>2</sup> WHO Global Strategy for Food Safety (WHO, 2002).

<sup>3</sup> Joint FAO/WHO Evaluation of the Codex Alimentarius and Other FAO and WHO Food Standards Work.

mandate of the organization. The WTO Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade is also of great relevance, given the significance of the provisions pertaining to product description, labelling, packaging and quality descriptors for consumer information and fair practices in trade. The CAC has an important role in providing for essential composition and quality requirements that are not more trade-restrictive than necessary. The CAC needs to maintain its pre-eminent status as the internationally recognized body for food standard-setting and to call for the use of its standards to the widest extent possible by all members as a basis for domestic regulation and international trade. This will help members to be more aware of the importance of the international harmonization of food safety and quality standards, as well as the enhancement of food control systems for ensuring food safety and quality.

#### **DECISION-MAKING BASED ON SCIENTIFIC EVIDENCE**

4. The CAC, as a risk management body, does not undertake scientific evaluations *per se* but relies on the opinions of scientific expert bodies convened by FAO and WHO on specific issues. These expert bodies such as the Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Food Additives (JECFA), the Joint FAO/WHO Meetings on Pesticide Residues (JMPR) and the Joint FAO/WHO Expert Meetings on Microbiological Risk Assessment (JEMRA) and other *ad hoc* expert consultations are functionally separate from the CAC and its subsidiary bodies and do not directly fall within the scope of the present Strategic Plan. The mandates, functions, composition and agendas of these bodies are established by FAO and WHO. The independence of the expert bodies is critical to the objectivity of their opinions, and meetings of these bodies should interact with the CAC in accordance with the Working Principle for Risk Analysis for Application in the Framework of the Codex Alimentarius. There is considerable synergy between the scientific bodies of FAO and WHO and the intergovernmental bodies of the CAC in order to take decisions based on scientific evidence.

#### **STRATEGIC GOALS AND SHARED RESPONSIBILITIES**

5. To enable the overall achievement of the strategic vision, the CAC must take action jointly with its parent organizations and its members. The Commission urges FAO and WHO to mobilise sufficient resources to allow the CAC to fulfil its mandate. Their other key roles are to provide scientific advice requested by the CAC and to offer technical assistance to developing members so that they can effectively participate in the standard-setting process and build capacity for the development of sound food control systems. The Commission fully recognises the efforts of the members of the CAC, especially those which provide significant financial and other support to the work of the CAC as host governments of subsidiary bodies or as contributors to extra-budgetary programmes of FAO and WHO. In close cooperation with the partners above, the Commission will focus on the following goals to achieve its strategic vision.

#### **GOAL 1: PROMOTING SOUND REGULATORY FRAMEWORKS**

6. An effective food control system is critical in enabling all countries to ensure the safety of their foods entering international trade and to ensure that imported foods conform to national requirements. International harmonization based on Codex standards, guidelines and recommendations is essential to promoting a global approach to consumer health protection, including systems for the reduction of food-borne risks, and minimizing the negative effects of technical regulations on international trade. For this purpose, the CAC will provide essential guidance for its members through the continued development of international standards and guidelines relating to food safety and hygiene, nutrition, labelling, and import/export inspection and certification and quality of food stuff. This will require sustained commitment and effort in the following key directions:
  - The CAC will develop international standards, guidelines, and recommendations based on scientific principles for the reduction of health risks along the entire food chain, including feed when appropriate. In strengthening the strategic focus of the CAC in the development of risk-based, performance-based standards and related texts for broad application across a range of commodities, the CAC must give priority to establishing a coherent and integrated set of food standards covering the entire food chain. Such an approach can serve as a model for the members of the CAC to pursue food regulatory systems that provide consumers with safe food and ensure fair practices in the food trade;
  - Codex standards and related texts for food safety and quality, including labelling aspects, should be carefully prepared to reflect global variations. Codex standards for food quality

should focus on essential characteristics of products to ensure that they are not overly prescriptive and that the standards are not more trade restrictive than necessary; and

- The CAC, when elaborating and deciding upon Codex standards and related texts should take into consideration the technical and economic implications for all members as well as the special needs of developing countries including infrastructure, resources and technical and legal capabilities, Codex standards and related texts should not have the effect of creating unnecessary, unjustified or discriminatory obstacles to the exports of developing countries.

7. In many countries, effective food control is undermined by the existence of fragmented legislation, multiple jurisdictions and weaknesses in surveillance, monitoring and enforcement. Sound national food control and regulatory systems are essential to ensuring the health and safety of the domestic population as well as ensuring the safety and quality of foods entering international trade. The FAO and WHO have made significant advances in promoting sound regulatory frameworks at the national level. The Commission, while encouraging members to use Codex relevant standards, strongly encourages FAO and WHO to continue to promote national regulatory systems that are based on international principles and guidelines and address all components of the food chain. The development of sound food control and regulatory infrastructure including human resources is particularly important for developing countries as they seek to achieve higher levels of food safety and nutrition and will require high-level political and policy commitment.<sup>4</sup> Successful negotiation of bilateral mutual recognition and equivalence of food control systems also depends on the abilities of countries to assure each other of the integrity and international conformity of their regulatory systems.

## **GOAL 2: PROMOTING WIDEST AND CONSISTENT APPLICATION OF SCIENTIFIC PRINCIPLES AND RISK ANALYSIS**

8. The scientific basis of decision-making by the CAC is spelled out in the Statements of Principle on the Role of Science in the Codex Decision-Making and the Extent to Which Other Factors are Taken into Account and in the Working Principles for Risk Analysis for Application in the Framework of the Codex Alimentarius<sup>5</sup>. The CAC will ensure their consistent application by relevant Codex subsidiary bodies, in order to maintain its focus on this Goal. Risk analysis as it applies to food safety across the food chain is an internationally accepted discipline and will require ongoing and sustained inputs from the CAC, its parent organisations and national governments to promote its understanding and application at the international and national levels.
9. In recent years the scope of scientific advice sought by the CAC from the parent organisations increased considerably and went beyond chemical and microbiological hazards. FAO and WHO responded to these requests through several FAO/WHO *ad hoc* consultations on topics such as foods derived from genetically modified organisms and antimicrobial resistance. The Commission requests FAO and WHO to continue to promote the understanding of risk analysis and to continue to explore new areas of work, such as nutritional risk assessment, so as to provide the scientific advice relevant to CAC activities for standard setting.
10. The timely availability of scientific advice is a prerequisite for the CAC to fulfil its mandate. The Commission will continue to encourage FAO and WHO to make sufficient resources available to ensure that the scientific advice to the CAC can be provided in a timely and sustainable way. To make more efficient and effective use of the FAO/WHO expert bodies and *ad hoc* consultations, particularly given the rapidly expanding scope of scientific advice requested from FAO and WHO, the CAC will continue to strengthen the interaction between the risk managers (relevant Codex subsidiary bodies) and the risk assessors (FAO/WHO expert bodies and *ad hoc* expert consultations). The Commission has agreed to recommend to FAO and WHO a set of criteria for the prioritization of requests from the CAC for scientific advice and will review the usefulness of this approach. The CAC, in close

<sup>4</sup> Report of the Conference on International Food Trade beyond 2000: Science based Decisions, Harmonization, Equivalence and Mutual Recognition, Melbourne, Australia, 11-15 October, 1999, Appendix 1.

<sup>5</sup> Codex Alimentarius Procedural Manual.

cooperation with its parent organizations, will enhance its capacity to respond efficiently to emerging food borne risks by strengthening its work management capabilities (see Goal 3).

11. The CAC has the goal of elaborating standards that cover the needs of its entire membership to ensure these standards are applicable globally. A constraint to this goal is the persistent lack of relevant data from all major parts of the world. The CAC will continue to encourage countries from both the developed and developing worlds to submit relevant data to the CAC and the parent organizations. The Commission recommends that FAO and WHO build on the achievements already accomplished<sup>6</sup> and take meaningful steps to ensure that scientific advice is provided more quickly, with even higher quality, that more requests are addressed, and that the process is conducted with enhanced transparency. The Commission particularly encourages FAO and WHO to explore new approaches to enhance participation of experts and the use of data from developing countries in the elaboration of scientific advice. Where relevant data are not available from developing countries, the CAC encourages FAO and WHO to assist the developing countries in generating such data.

### **GOAL 3: STRENGTHENING CODEX WORK-MANAGEMENT CAPABILITIES**

12. Attention to food safety and global food trade has continued to increase among countries and among the international governmental and non-governmental organizations concerned with these matters. More expeditious and efficient work by the CAC is necessary to provide members and international organizations with the standards, guidelines, and recommendations that they need.
13. The CAC has already made several important advances towards achieving more efficient work-management procedures, such as strengthening the role of the Executive Committee as a strategic and standards-management body, holding annual Commission sessions, and instituting more effective use of information technology. But the CAC must take additional steps to keep pace with international developments by better managing its work so that it addresses high priority issues in a timely manner and that standards development work is completed within specified time frames.
14. The implementation of new Codex work-management procedures<sup>7</sup> must make the CAC more effective and efficient, while maintaining the valuable reputation that the CAC has earned as an open, fair, transparent, and rules-based body. Key features of continuing enhancements include<sup>8</sup>:
  - Enhancing the capabilities of the Executive Committee with respect to strategic oversight, direction, and cross coordination of the work programmes of all subsidiary bodies through recommendations to the Commission;
  - Ensuring that the Commission and its subsidiary bodies make decisions about work prioritization using criteria that enable effective decision making, taking into consideration the need to initiate new work and to revise existing standards;
  - Ensuring that new work and standard-revision work is completed within defined time frames. Work progress is monitored by the Executive Committee, and in the event that work exceeds specified time frames, the Executive Committee recommends to the Commission that corrective actions be taken as necessary;
  - Exploring mechanisms for progressing the work of subsidiary bodies in between sessions, while maintaining transparency and inclusiveness;
  - Promoting consensus-based decision-making; and
  - Strengthening the Secretariat of the CAC to ensure effective operation and work management of the Commission and its subsidiary bodies and to maintain effective communication with the Codex Contact Points.

<sup>6</sup> FAO/WHO Consultative Process for the Provision of Scientific Advice to Codex and Member Countries.

<sup>7</sup> As suggested by both the Report of the Evaluation of the Codex Alimentarius and Other FAO and WHO Food Standards Work and the Report on the Review of Codex Committee Structure and Mandates of Codex Committees and Task Forces and as endorsed by the Commission.

<sup>8</sup> Key features are not listed in priority order.

#### GOAL 4: PROMOTING COOPERATION BETWEEN CODEX AND RELEVANT INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

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15. The CAC must work closely on matters of common interest with other relevant international organizations, including those whose work has indirect but significant implications for food-standard issues. Monitoring by the CAC of activities of other organizations that are relevant to food standards, and coordination with them, where appropriate and consistent with Codex procedures, is necessary to achieve complementarity, avoid duplication and prevent development of contradictory standards or guidelines. Such collaboration is also critical to the development of health-protection and food-trade measures that address the food chain from farm to table in a coherent and seamless manner.
16. The WTO recognizes the CAC as the pre-eminent international body for establishing food safety standards. The Commission must, therefore, play a leadership role in establishing international food standards for protecting the health of consumers and ensuring fair practices in food trade, while taking due account of international regulatory initiatives of international governmental and non-governmental organizations. The CAC also has a responsibility to provide its technical input and expertise towards the building of international consensus on food standards and regulatory policy matters. Establishment or promotion of cooperation, between the CAC and other relevant international intergovernmental organizations, in particular, OIE and IPPC, should be considered, where appropriate, to ensure effective collaboration and coordination, and that such cooperation should be in line with the Guidelines on Cooperation between Codex Alimentarius Commission and International Intergovernmental Organizations in the Elaboration of Standards and Related Texts.

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#### GOAL 5: PROMOTING MAXIMUM AND EFFECTIVE PARTICIPATION OF MEMBERS

17. Full participation by all Codex Members and other interested parties in the work of the CAC is now more important than ever. The participation of all members and relevant intergovernmental and international non-governmental organizations is critical to sound decision-making and ensuring that Codex standards and related texts take account of the full range of interests and viewpoints. Since the early 1990s there has been a significant increase in the membership of the CAC with developing countries now constituting a significant proportion of total membership. The Commission welcomes some initiatives undertaken so far to mitigate the financial and human resource constraints hitherto hampering the effective participation of developing countries and countries with economies in transition in the activities of the CAC. Such initiatives include the establishment of the Joint FAO/WHO Project and Trust Fund for Enhanced Participation in Codex, and the development of training manuals and other Codex related capacity building tools. Capacity building programmes under FAO and WHO also have a bearing on strengthening these countries' participation in Codex activities. The Trust Fund and other FAO and WHO programmes are efforts aimed at enabling the members to further gain experience in the Codex process. The Commission strongly urges beneficiary members to take these opportunities offered and create sustainability towards more effective participation, by making firm commitments to adequate allocation of national resources towards Codex work.
18. There is a continuing need for FAO and WHO to implement capacity building programmes in a coherent manner, especially in developing countries and countries with economies in transition, aimed at strengthening national administrative and consultative structures on Codex (e.g. Codex Contact Point, National Codex Committee) and enhancing technical expertise required for effective participation in international standards development. The CAC will play an advisory role in facilitating the efforts made by FAO and WHO so that those efforts address the needs of the CAC and its members.
19. In addition to actions to promote participation of member countries, the CAC will continue to enhance inclusiveness and transparency of the Codex process by furthering its efforts to encourage the participation of consumers and public interest groups in its processes at the international level and encourage governments to take action at the national level. The CAC will take advantage of any information technological developments for advancement of inclusiveness and transparency in the Codex process.

## PART 2

## PROGRAMME AREAS AND PLANNED ACTIVITIES 2008-2013

**Goal 1: Promoting Sound Regulatory Framework**

<b>1.1 : Review and develop Codex standards and related texts for food safety</b>
<b>Description:</b> Review and develop Codex standards and related texts for food safety, <a href="#">taking into account scientific and technological developments</a> , to ensure that they: emphasize a horizontal approach; employ a risk-based approach to food safety that addresses the entire food chain; and reflect global variations so as to avoid being more trade restrictive than necessary, taking into consideration the technical and economic implications for all members as well as the special needs of developing countries including infrastructure, resources and technical and legal capabilities.
<b>Timeline :</b> Continuing
<b>Responsible parties:</b> CCFH, CCFAC, CCPR, CCRVDF, CCNFSU, relevant Task Forces and Commodity Committees
<b>1.2 : Review and develop Codex standards and related texts for food quality</b>
<b>Description:</b> Review and develop Codex standards and related texts for food quality, <a href="#">taking into account scientific and technological developments</a> , to ensure that they are generic in nature and whilst maintaining inclusiveness, reflect global variations and focus on essential characteristics so as to avoid being overly prescriptive and not more trade restrictive than necessary, taking into consideration the technical and economic implications for all members as well as the special needs of developing countries including infrastructure, resources and technical and legal capabilities.
<b>Timeline :</b> Continuing
<b>Responsible parties:</b> Relevant Task Forces and all Commodity Committees
<b>1.3 : Review and develop Codex standards and related texts for food labelling and nutrition</b>
<b>Description:</b> Review and develop Codex standards and related texts for food labelling and nutrition, <a href="#">taking into account scientific and technological developments</a> , to ensure that they: emphasize a horizontal approach and the need to maintain inclusiveness, and address food labelling and nutrition so as to avoid being overly prescriptive and not more trade restrictive than necessary, taking into consideration the technical and economic implications for all members as well as the special needs of developing countries including infrastructure, resources and technical and legal capabilities.
<b>Timeline:</b> Continuing
<b>Responsible parties:</b> CCFL, CCNFSU
<b>1.4 : Review and develop Codex standards and related texts for food inspection and certification, and methods of sampling and analysis</b>
<b>Description:</b> Review and develop Codex standards and related texts for food inspection and certification as well as methods of sampling, including guidance on equivalence, mutual recognition and traceability / product tracing, <a href="#">taking into account scientific and technological developments</a> , to ensure that they: emphasize a horizontal approach and the need to maintain inclusiveness, and reflect global variations so as to avoid being overly prescriptive and not more trade restrictive than necessary, taking into consideration the technical and economic implications for all members as well as the special needs of developing countries including infrastructure, resources and technical and legal capabilities.
<b>Timeline:</b> Continuing
<b>Responsible parties:</b> CCMAS, CCFICS
<b>1.5 : Develop guidance for safe and prudent non-human antimicrobial usage for containment of resistance</b>
<b>Description:</b> Develop guidance within the remit of the Codex mandate for safe and prudent antimicrobial usage for containment of resistance in food production which focuses on public health,

is based on sound science and follows risk analysis principles, and takes into account the work of other international organisations.

**Timeline:** Completion by 2011

**Responsible parties:** Existing relevant Codex Committees or an *ad hoc* Intergovernmental Task Force (Final decision by the 29<sup>th</sup> session of the Commission)

#### 1.6 : Explore innovative risk management frameworks

**Description:** Explore innovative risk management frameworks to address gaps in the existing Codex standards, guidelines, and recommendations and share the results of new approaches among Codex Committees, for example, develop guidance on residues of veterinary drugs without ADI/MRLs and their development process.

**Timeline:** Completion by 2009

**Responsible parties:** CCRVDF, CCPR

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#### 1.7 : Encourage FAO/WHO to expand capacity building programmes

**Description:** Encourage FAO/WHO to strengthen their programmes to enhance food control infrastructures and to provide technical assistance including assistance on generating data to countries in need to promote application or use of Codex standards and related texts at the national level. Request FAO/WHO to report to the Commission on the implementation status of their capacity building activities.

**Timeline:** Continuing

**Responsible parties:** CAC, CCEXEC and Coordinating Committees

#### 1.8 : Publish and disseminate the Codex Alimentarius

**Description:** Ensure timely publication and availability of Codex standards, guidelines and recommendations to all interested parties through the Internet and other appropriate means.

**Timeline:** Continuing

**Responsible parties:** Codex Secretariat, Codex Contact Points

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### Goal 2: Promoting Widest and Consistent Application of Scientific Principles and Risk Analysis

#### 2.1 Review the consistency of risk analysis principles elaborated by the relevant Codex Committees

**Description:** Review the risk analysis principles elaborated by the relevant Codex Committees for consistency with the Working Principles for Risk Analysis for Application in the Framework of the Codex Alimentarius. The review might result in the CAC advising Codex Committees to amend their risk analysis principles document relevant to their area of work.

**Timeline:** Completion by 2011.

**Responsible parties:** CCGP

#### 2.2 Review risk analysis principles developed by relevant Codex Committees

**Description:** Review risk analysis principles developed by relevant Codex Committees in the light of the experience gained assuming that by 2008 all relevant Codex Committees have elaborated risk assessment policies pertaining to their area of work and that these policies have been adopted by the CAC.

As these risk assessment policies play a pivotal role in the interaction between risk managers and risk assessors, communication between these two parties should be further improved, where appropriate. The result of such a review may be revised documents on risk analysis principles for adoption by the Commission. The review should also take into account the outcome of the activities described under 2.1 and 2.3.

**Timeline:** Completion by 2013

**Responsible parties:** CAC, CCEXEC, CCFAC, CCPR, CCRVDF, CCFH, CCNFSU

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<b>2.3 Enhance communication among relevant Codex subsidiary bodies and the FAO/WHO scientific expert bodies</b>
<b>Description:</b> Enhance communication between the risk managers and risk assessors in accordance with paragraph 38 of the Working Principle for Risk Analysis for Application in the Framework of the Codex Alimentarius.
<b>Timeline:</b> <u>Ongoing</u>
<b>Responsible parties:</b> CCFAC, CCPR, CCRVDF, CCFH, CCNFSDU

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<b>2.4 Review the set of criteria recommended to FAO and WHO for prioritization of requests from Codex for scientific advice.</b>
<b>Description:</b> Review the usefulness of the criteria agreed upon by the 28 <sup>th</sup> Session of the CAC for use by FAO/WHO to prioritize requests from Codex for scientific advice.
<b>Timeline:</b> Completion by 2009.
<b>Responsible parties:</b> CCEXEC

<b>2.5 Encourage countries to channel their requests for scientific advice to FAO / WHO through the CAC</b>
<b>Description:</b> Encourage countries to channel their requests through the CAC in order to make the best use of the limited resources available at FAO and WHO for the provision of scientific advice. <u>Encourage FAO and WHO to inform the CCEXEC and the CAC of all requests on provision of scientific advice on food safety received from member countries.</u>
<b>Timeline:</b> Continuing
<b>Responsible parties:</b> CAC, CCEXEC, all subsidiary bodies

<b>2.6 Elaborate guidelines for risk analysis for application by governments.</b>
<b>Description:</b> Complete the elaboration of a guideline for risk analysis to be used by governments.
<b>Timeline:</b> Subject to decision by CAC in 2007
<b>Responsible parties:</b> CCGP

### Goal 3: Strengthening Codex Work-Management Capabilities

<b>3.1 Review the Criteria for the Establishment of Work Priorities and procedures of the critical review <u>carried out by the CCEXEC</u></b>
<b>Description:</b> Review and revise, if necessary, the Criteria for the Establishment of Work Priorities and the effectiveness of the critical review process.
<b>Timeline:</b> Completion of analysis by CCEXEC by 2009; if there is need for revision, completion of revision by CCGP by 2011
<b>Responsible parties:</b> CCEXEC, CCGP

<b>3.2 Ensure effective standards management</b>
<b>Description:</b> Annually review progress of all subsidiary-body activities (i.e., standards, codes of practice, codes of hygienic practice, guidelines) against specified timeframes for completion of each activity, and recommend corrective actions to the Commission for activities that appear likely to exceed or have exceeded specified timeframes.
<b>Timeline:</b> Continuing
<b>Responsible parties:</b> CCEXEC

<b>3.3 Develop committee-specific decision making and priority setting criteria</b>
<b>Description:</b> Develop committee-specific decision-making and priority-setting criteria and use these criteria for management of work. Implement and review criteria where necessary.
<b>Timeline:</b> Completion of decision making and priority setting criteria by 2008. Review of criteria, beginning in 2008.
<b>Responsible parties:</b> All General Subject Committees and some other subsidiary bodies as appropriate

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<b>3.4 Analyse work-management approaches that facilitate advancement of texts in the Codex step process.</b>
<b>Description:</b> Analyse work-management approaches used by committees that facilitate advancement of texts in the Codex step procedure in the light of the criteria referred to in 3.3 and their use by these committees.
<b>Timeline:</b> Completion of analysis by 2009
<b>Responsible parties:</b> Analysis work to be done possibly either by Codex Secretariat or by consultant for next step (3.5)

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<b>3.5 Adopt approaches proven to facilitate advancement of texts in the Codex step procedure by subsidiary bodies not currently using such approaches.</b>
<b>Description:</b> Recommend adoption of approaches proven to facilitate advancement of texts in the Codex step procedure by subsidiary bodies not currently using such approaches, in the light of the analysis undertaken as per 3.4.
<b>Timeline:</b> Completion by 2011
<b>Responsible parties:</b> CCEXEC and CAC

<b>3.6 Implement priority-ranked comprehensive accounting of all requests for scientific advice</b>
<b>Description:</b> Request FAO and WHO annually to produce a priority-ranked comprehensive accounting (including budget information as it has impacts on Codex work) of all requests for scientific advice (i.e. continuing, ad hoc, requested by subsidiary bodies, or requested by members). The criteria that shall be used for priority ranking are those agreed to at the 55 <sup>th</sup> Session of the Executive Committee (ALINORM 05/28/3). FAO and WHO are also requested to include budget information relevant to provision of scientific advice.
<b>Timeline:</b> Continuing
<b>Responsible parties:</b> CCEXEC

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<b>3.7 Evaluate the capacity of the Codex Secretariat to perform its function effectively</b>
<b>Description:</b> Evaluate the effectiveness and resource needs of the Codex Secretariat in the operation and work management of the Commission and its subsidiary bodies, and in communicating with and serving the needs of Codex Contact Points.
<b>Timeline:</b> Completion by 2009
<b>Responsible parties:</b> Codex Secretariat, CCEXEC, CAC

<b>3.8 Streamline Codex Commodity work</b>
<b>Description:</b> Implement the decisions of the Commission on how to streamline Codex work on commodities through an improved structure of Codex subsidiary bodies.
<b>Timeline:</b> Completion by 2010
<b>Responsible parties:</b> CCEXEC, CAC

**Goal 4: Promoting Cooperation between Codex and other relevant international organizations**

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<b>4.1 Track the activities of other international standard-setting bodies</b>
<b>Description:</b> Track the activities of other international standard-setting bodies to identify areas of potential complementarities, gaps, duplication, or conflict. A summary of such activities relevant to Codex shall be reported to the Executive Committee and to the Commission annually.
<b>Timeline:</b> Continuing
<b>Responsible parties:</b> CAC, CCEXEC, Codex Secretariat, subsidiary bodies

<b>4.2 Encourage Codex contributions to the work of other international bodies</b>
<b>Description:</b> Encourage other relevant international bodies, when elaborating food standards and related texts to take due account of Codex standards, related texts and any relevant ongoing work. Where appropriate, propose inclusion of appropriate cross-reference to Codex standards and relevant

texts.
<b>Timeline:</b> Continuing
<b>Responsible parties:</b> Codex Secretariat
<b>4.3 Encourage contributions from other international bodies in Codex work</b>
<b>Description:</b> Invite international bodies concerned with food safety and food quality to participate in the standards development process of Codex
<b>Timeline:</b> Ongoing
<b>Responsible parties:</b> Observers, Codex Secretariat
<b>4.4 Consider cooperation with other relevant international intergovernmental organizations</b>
<b>Description:</b> While recognizing the needs to further improve interaction with OIE and IPPC, where appropriate, explore possibilities for cooperation to ensure effective collaboration and coordination, and that such cooperation should be in line with the Guidelines on Cooperation between Codex and International Intergovernmental Organizations.
<b>Timeline:</b> Continuing
<b>Responsible parties:</b> Legal Counsels of FAO and WHO, Codex Secretariat
<b>4.5 Promote interdisciplinary coordination at the national level</b>
<b>Description:</b> Encourage Codex member countries to establish effective mechanisms within their own countries so that horizontal coordination and communication occurs among national delegates to various food-standards-related international organizations. Invite members to develop evaluation criteria to assess the success of the mechanisms that they have established and report progress in this activity through their respective Codex Regional Coordinating Committees to the CAC.
<b>Timeline:</b> Completion by 2009
<b>Responsible parties:</b> Codex Members, Coordinating Committees

#### **Goal 5: Promoting Maximum and Effective Participation of Members**

<b>5.1 Promote Enhanced Participation of developing countries in Codex</b>
<b>Description:</b> Request FAO/WHO to encourage current donors to continue to provide funds to the FAO/WHO Trust Fund and invite other donors to contribute to the Fund to ensure sustainability. Request FAO/WHO to analyse the impact of the Codex Trust Fund on the capacity of beneficiary countries and report its findings to the CCEXEC and the Commission. Provide recommendations to FAO / WHO with a view to improved operation of the Trust Fund based on the outcome of the Trust Fund mid-term evaluation.
<b>Timeline:</b> Continuing
<b>Responsible parties:</b> CAC , Executive Committee,
<b>5.2 Promote effective use of written comments in the Codex process</b>
<b>Description:</b> Encourage members and observers to make maximum use of opportunities to submit written comments <u>in response to Circular Letters (CLs)</u> while respecting the deadlines for such submissions to allow all members and observers to study the positions of other members and observers in a timely manner. <u>Codex Secretariat and Chairs of the Committees will examine how best to handle the late submission of comments in response to CLs from the view points of transparency and inclusiveness.</u>
<b>Timeline:</b> Continuing
<b>Responsible parties:</b> Codex Members, Observers, CCEXEC, Codex Secretariat
<b>5.3 Evaluate effectiveness of Codex Committee sessions held in developing countries</b>
<b>Description:</b> Evaluate the effectiveness of holding Codex sessions in developing countries in terms of enhanced participation. Analyse the effectiveness of co-hosting arrangements, and continue to explore possibilities of convening Codex sessions outside the host countries.
<b>Timeline:</b> Completion by 2009
<b>Responsible parties:</b> Host countries, CCEXEC

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<b>5.4 Strengthen Codex Contact Points and National Codex Committees</b>
<b>Description:</b> Request FAO and WHO to provide technical assistance for the strengthening of national Codex structures; provide improved support by the Codex Secretariat to Codex Contact Points through the effective use of Internet facilities.
<b>Timeline:</b> Continuing
<b>Responsible parties:</b> CAC, CCEXEC, Codex Secretariat
<b>5.5 Enhance participation of non-governmental organizations at international and national levels</b>
<b>Description:</b> Encourage non-governmental organizations to participate in Codex work at national and international levels. Encourage members to establish sound structures and processes for consultation on Codex matters to ensure effective involvement and participation of all interested parties.
<b>Timeline:</b> Continuing
<b>Responsible parties:</b> CAC, Codex Members, Coordinating Committees
<b>5.6 Enhance communication about Codex work at international and national levels</b>
<b>Description:</b> Develop new communication approaches to promote the work of Codex at national and international levels. Develop direct and easily understandable messages on Codex to interested parties including consumers and especially emphasizing high level policy makers. .
<b>Timeline:</b> Continuing
<b>Responsible parties:</b> Codex Secretariat, WHO and FAO, Codex Contact Points, subsidiary bodies

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## PART 3

**IMPLEMENTATION OF STRATEGIC PLAN**Deleted: PROPOSED  
TEMPLATE

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This Part contains two tables:

- Table 1: Implementation of Strategic Plan  
(This table is a checklist of the Strategic Plan activities to monitor the progress and achievement of the activities listed in Part 2. This table will be regularly updated for review by the Executive Committee.)
- Table 2: Critical Review of Proposals for New Work and Monitoring Progress of Standards Development  
(This table is a checklist of ongoing work, to manage current and future work undertaken by the subsidiary bodies of the Commission. This Part will regularly be presented for critical review by the Executive Committee (to monitor the progress of the ongoing work of standards setting mentioned in 1.1, 1.2, 1.3 and 1.4 of Part 2.)

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**Table 1: Implementation of Strategic Plan**

Goal	Activities	Responsible parties	Timeframe	Output/Measurable indicators	Current Status	Notes *	Advice by EXEC	Decision by CAC
<b><u>GOAL 1:</u></b> <b><u>PROMOTING</u></b> <b><u>SOUND</u></b> <b><u>REGULATORY</u></b> <b><u>FRAMEWORK</u></b>	<b>1.1 Review and develop Codex standards and related texts for food safety</b>	CCFH, CCFAC, CCPR, CCRVDF, CCNFSDU, relevant Task Forces and Commodity Committees	Continuing	Standards related texts adopted at respective steps	See Table 2			
	<b>1.2 Review and develop Codex standards and related texts for food quality</b>	Relevant Task Forces and all Commodity Committees	Continuing	Standards and related texts adopted at respective steps	See Table 2			
	<b>1.3 Review and develop Codex standards and related texts for food labelling and nutrition</b>	CCFL, CCNFSDU	Continuing	Standards and related texts adopted at respective steps	See Table 2			
	<b>1.4 Review and develop Codex standards and related texts for food</b>	CCMAS, CCFICS	Continuing	Standards and related texts adopted at respective steps	See Table 2			

	<b>inspection and certification, and methods of sampling and analysis</b>							
	<b>1.5 Develop guidance for safe and prudent non-human antimicrobial usage for containment of resistance</b>	Existing relevant Codex Committees or an <i>ad hoc</i> Intergovernmental Task Force (Final decision by the 29 <sup>th</sup> Session of the Commission)	Completion by 2011	Guidance for safe and prudent non-human antimicrobial usage for containment of resistance	See Table 2			
	<b>1.6 Explore innovative risk management frameworks</b>	CCRVDF, CCPR	Completion by 2009	Reports by CCRVDF and CCPR respectively to CCEXEC and CAC				
	<b>1.7 Encourage FAO/WHO to expand capacity building programmes</b>	CAC, CCEXEC and Coordinating Committees	Continuing	Report from FAO/WHO to CAC, CCEXEC and Coordinating Committees				
	<b>1.8 Publish and disseminate the Codex Alimentarius</b>	Codex Secretariat, Codex Contact Points	Continuing	Publication and dissemination of Codex Alimentarius				

\* (Notes from Committees, Secretariat, whichever necessary)

<b>Goal</b>	<b>Activities</b>	<b>Responsible parties</b>	<b>Timeframe</b>	<b>Output/Measurable indicators</b>	<b>Current Status</b>	<b>Notes *</b>	<b>Advice by EXEC</b>	<b>Decision by CAC</b>
<b><u>GOAL 2:</u></b> <b><u>PROMOTING</u></b> <b><u>WIDEST AND</u></b> <b><u>CONSISTENT</u></b> <b><u>APPLICATION OF</u></b> <b><u>SCIENTIFIC</u></b> <b><u>PRINCIPLES AND</u></b> <b><u>RISK ANALYSIS</u></b>	<b>2.1 Review the consistency of risk analysis principles elaborated by the relevant Codex Committees</b>	CCGP	Completion by 2011	Report by CCGP of completed review to CAC.	See Table 2			

	<b>2.2 Review risk analysis principles developed by relevant Codex Committees</b>	CAC, CCEXEC, CCFAC, CCPR, CCRVDF, CCFH, CCNFSDU	Completion by 2013	Report by relevant Committees of completed review, taking into account the review of the activities in 2.1 and 2.3.	See Table 2			
	<b>2.3 Enhance communication among relevant Codex subsidiary bodies and the FAO/WHO scientific expert bodies</b>	CCFAC, CCPR, CCRVDF, CCFH, CCNFSDU	Ongoing	Incorporated into report as required in 2.2.				
	<b>2.4 Review the set of criteria recommended to FAO and WHO for prioritization of requests from Codex for scientific advice.</b>	CCEXEC	Completion by 2009	Report of review with recommendation to better match of priorities and resources by CCEXEC to CAC				
	<b>2.5 Encourage countries to channel their requests for scientific advice to FAO / WHO through the CAC</b>	CAC, CCEXEC, all subsidiary bodies	Continuing	Reports by FAO and WHO of requests for scientific advice received directly from countries vs. requests received through CAC.				
	<b>2.6 Elaborate guidelines for risk analysis for application by governments.</b>	CCGP	Subject to decision by CAC in 2007	Guideline for risk analysis for application by governments	See Table 2			

\* (Notes from Committees, Secretariat, whichever necessary)

Goal	Activities	Responsible parties	Timeframe	Output/Measurable indicators	Current Status	Notes *	Advice by EXEC	Decision by CAC
<b><u>GOAL 3:</u></b> <b><u>STRENGTHENING</u></b> <b><u>CODEX WORK-</u></b> <b><u>MANAGEMENT</u></b> <b><u>CAPABILITIES</u></b>	<b>3.1 Review the Criteria for the Establishment of Work Priorities and procedures of the critical review carried out by the CCEXEC</b>	CCEXEC, CCGP	Completion by 2009  Completion by 2011	Report by CCEXEC on analysis of the critical review process  If there is need for revision, revise the Criteria for the Establishment of Work Priorities by CCGP				
	<b>3.2 Ensure effective standards management</b>	CCEXEC	Continuing	Report on compliance of standards development against timelines (associated with critical review process)	See Table 2			
	<b>3.3 Develop committee-specific decision making and priority setting criteria</b>	All General Subject Committees and some other subsidiary bodies as appropriate	Completion by 2008  Continuing	Committee-specific decision-making and priority-setting criteria  Confirmed review of criteria beginning in 2008				
	<b>3.4 Analyse work-management approaches that facilitate advancement of texts in the Codex step process</b>	Either by Codex Secretariat or by consultant for next step (3.5)	Completion by 2009	Report to the CCEXEC and CAC on analysis of work-management approaches				
	<b>3.5 Adopt approaches proven to facilitate advancement of texts in the Codex step procedure by subsidiary bodies not currently</b>	CCEXEC and CAC	Completion by 2011	Adoption by CAC on work - management approaches.				

	using such approaches							
	<b>3.6 Implement priority-ranked comprehensive accounting of all requests for scientific advice</b>	FAO and WHO	Continuing	Comprehensive report by FAO/WHO to CAC on accounting of all requests for scientific advice				
	<b>3.7 Evaluate the capacity of the Codex Secretariat to perform its function effectively</b>	Codex Secretariat, CCEXEC, CAC	Completion by 2009	Report by Secretariat to CAC on the staff and other key resources				
	<b>3.8 Streamline Codex Commodity work</b>	CCEXEC, CAC	Completion by 2010	Accomplished Implementation of the decisions of the Commission on how to streamline Codex work on commodities through an improved structure of Codex subsidiary bodies				

\* (Notes from Committees, Secretariat, whichever necessary)

Goal	Activities	Responsible parties	Timeframe	Output/Measurable indicators	Current Status	Notes *	Advice by EXEC	Decision by CAC
<b><u>GOAL 4:</u></b> <b><u>PROMOTING</u></b> <b><u>COOPERATION</u></b> <b><u>BETWEEN</u></b> <b><u>CODEX AND</u></b> <b><u>OTHER</u></b> <b><u>RELEVANT</u></b> <b><u>INTERNATIONAL</u></b> <b><u>ORGANIZATIONS</u></b>	<b>4.1 Track the activities of other international standard-setting bodies</b>	CAC, CCEXEC, Codex Secretariat, subsidiary bodies	Continuing	Report to the CCEXEC and CAC indicating potential complementarities, gaps, duplication, or conflict with the work of other international organizations				

	<b>4.2 Encourage Codex contributions to the work of other international bodies</b>	Codex Secretariat	Continuing	Number of standards elaborated by other international organisations with a cross reference to Codex standards and relevant texts				
	<b>4.3 Encourage contributions from other international bodies in Codex work</b>	Observers, Codex Secretariat	Continuing	Number of Codex standards elaborated with identifiable input from other international organisations				
	<b>4.4 Consider cooperation with other relevant international intergovernmental organizations</b>	Legal Counsels of FAO and WHO, Codex Secretariat	Continuing	Devise the means by which Codex can strengthen cooperation with OIE and IPPC				
	<b>4.5 Promote interdisciplinary coordination at the national level</b>	Codex Members, Coordinating Committees	Completion by 2009	Reports from members to Regional Coordinating Committees on mechanisms and evaluation criteria.				

\* (Notes from Committees, Secretariat, whichever necessary)

<b>Goal</b>	<b>Activities</b>	<b>Responsible parties</b>	<b>Timeframe</b>	<b>Output/Measurable indicators</b>	<b>Current Status</b>	<b>Notes *</b>	<b>Advice by EXEC</b>	<b>Decision by CAC</b>
<b><u>GOAL 5:</u></b> <b><u>PROMOTING</u></b> <b><u>MAXIMUM AND</u></b> <b><u>EFFECTIVE</u></b> <b><u>PARTICIPATION</u></b> <b><u>OF MEMBERS</u></b>	<b>5.1 Promote enhanced participation of developing countries in Codex</b>	CAC, CCEXEC	Continuing	Reports from FAO / WHO presenting analysis of measures of enhanced participation achieved through the Codex Trust Fund.				
	<b>5.2 Promote effective use of written comments</b>	Codex Members, Observers, CCEXEC, Codex Secretariat	Continuing	Reports by host countries on patterns of submission of written comments in response to CLs.				

	<b>in the Codex process</b>							
	<b>5.3 Evaluate effectiveness of Codex Committee sessions held in developing countries</b>	Host countries, CCEXEC	Completion by 2009	Reports from host and co-hosting countries documenting experience co-hosting experience.				
	<b>5.4 Strengthen Codex Contact Points and National Codex Committees</b>	CAC, CCEXEC, Codex Secretariat	Continuing	Reports from FAO/WHO on countries whose National structure and codex Contact Points have been supported.				
	<b>5.5 Enhance participation of non-governmental organizations at international and national levels</b>	CAC, Codex Members, Coordinating Committees	Continuing	Reports from member countries under relevant agenda items of the Regional Committees, on participations of non-governmental organizations at National level.				
	<b>5.6 Enhance communication about Codex work at international and national levels</b>	Codex Secretariat, WHO and FAO, Codex Contact Points, subsidiary bodies	Continuing	Reports by Secretariat to CAC on increased use of audio / webcasting, enhancement of webpages, increase use of electronic distribution of codex materials, etc.				

\* (Notes from Committees, Secretariat, whichever necessary)

**Table 2: Critical Review of Proposals for New Work and Monitoring Progress of Standards Development**

Sample:

<i>Codex Committee on xx</i> <sup>9</sup>	Timeframe		Current Status <sup>10</sup>	Relevant Output Codes <sup>11</sup>	Provision of scientific advice	Explanatory notes	Specific Comments from the Chairperson of the Committee	Advice given by the Executive Committee
	Document title	Job ID <sup>12</sup>						
Draft Guidelines for A	N03-2005	2009	6/7	1.2	Not required			
Draft Standard for B	N04-2006	2011	5	1.3	Not required			
Proposed Draft Guidelines for C	N05-2006	2011	3/4	1.2	FAO/WHO Expert Consultation planned in 2009			
Proposed Draft Standard for D	N04-2008	2013	2	1.3	FAO/WHO Expert Consultation requested by 2011			
General comments by the Chairperson / <u>host countries</u> of the Committee:								

**Deleted:** as a checklist of ongoing work, the purpose of managing current and future work undertaken by the subsidiary bodies of the Commission. This Part will regularly be presented for review by the Executive Committee.¶

<sup>9</sup> Name of the subsidiary body.

<sup>10</sup> Step in the Elaboration Procedure.

<sup>11</sup> Reference made to Part 2 of the Strategic Plan.

<sup>12</sup> Job IDs are assigned by the Commission upon approval as new work.

<sup>13</sup> Year by which the draft text is to be adopted at Step 8, as agreed by the Commission on the basis of the Project Document.