

codex alimentarius commission



FOOD AND AGRICULTURE
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Agenda Item 9

JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME

CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION

*Twenty-seventh Session,
International Conference Centre, Geneva (Switzerland), 28 June – 3 July 2004*

STRATEGIC PLANNING OF THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION

Status of Strategic Framework 2003-2007 and Medium-Term Plan 2003-2007

1. The Codex Alimentarius Commission at its 23rd Session (1999) initiated the process of developing the Medium-Term Plan for the subsequent five-year period, namely 2003-2007. Between 2000 and 2001, the Executive Committee developed a structured model consisting of a strategic vision statement, a strategic framework described by objectives, and a detailed medium-term plan described by specific activities. The 24th Session of the Commission (2001) adopted the Strategic Vision Statement and the Strategic Framework¹. The “Strategic Framework 2003-2007” provided the basis for the elaboration of the Medium-Term Plan (MTP) for the period 2003-2007.
2. The Draft MTP was considered by the 50th Session of the Executive Committee (June 2002) in conjunction with the comments received in response to Circular Letter CL2001/26-EXEC. The Draft MTP was subsequently revised by the Secretariat for consideration of the Regional Coordinating Committees. The Regional Coordinating Committees, at their sessions in winter 2002/2003, reviewed the revised Draft MTP and provided their comments and observations².
3. The Executive Committee at its 51st Session (February 2003) agreed that it would be premature to finalize the MTP before the Commission had completed its review of the Joint Evaluation. The Executive Committee therefore proposed that the Commission postpone its consideration of the MTP until its 27th Session. The Commission at its 25th Session (February 2003) agreed that, due to the implications of

¹ ALINORM 01/41 paras. 68-69, and Appendix II.

² ALINORM 03/40 paras. 42-49; ALINORM 03/36 paras. 29-52; ALINORM 03/28 paras. 26-38; ALINORM 03/32 paras. 28-50; ALINORM 03/15 paras. 38-58; ALINORM 03/19 paras. 16-29.

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implementing the outcome of the Joint Evaluation in the medium-term, the development of the Draft MTP 2003-2007 should be suspended for one year.

4. The Commission at its 26th Session (June-July 2003) when reviewing the functions of the Executive Committee based on the Joint Evaluation, endorsed Proposal No.7 regarding the strategic and managerial functions of the Executive Committee. According to this proposal³, the Executive Committee should make recommendations to the Commission in the following areas:

- strategic planning over a period of 5-7 years;
- medium-term planning over a period of 3 years;
- monitoring the implementation of the strategic and medium-term plans.

5. The Commission also endorsed Proposal No.13 concerning strategic planning of standards development⁴. It was foreseen in this proposal that the Commission establish a strategic plan for the development of standards over a six-year period, containing broadly stated priorities and criteria against which individual proposals for standards can be evaluated and that the strategic plan be renewed at two-yearly intervals on a rolling basis.

6. The Codex Committee on General Principles at its 19th (extraordinary) session agreed on the proposal to amend the Procedures for the Elaboration of Codex Standards and Related Texts and forwarded it for adoption by the 27th Session of the Commission⁵. The proposal does not include specific reference to MTPs but includes the following provision on the strategic plan:

STRATEGIC PLANNING PROCESS

1. Taking into account the “Criteria for the Establishment of Work Priorities”, the strategic plan shall state broad priorities against which individual proposals for standards (and revision of standards) can be evaluated during the critical review process.

2. The strategic plan shall cover a six-year period and shall be renewed every two years on a rolling basis.

7. The Executive Committee at its 53rd session (February 2004) considered this matter⁶ and noted that the Commission should in the future have a strategic plan covering a period of six years which incorporates both strategic objectives and priorities of the Commission as well as a list of planned activities serving the purpose of standards management. The Committee agreed that the current Strategic Framework 2003-2007 should continue to serve as Codex-wide guidance until a new Strategic Plan is adopted.

8. With regard to the Draft Medium Plan (MTP) 2003-2007, the Executive Committee decided to discontinue further elaboration of the draft MTP, with the understanding that its elements would however be used as a basis for preparing a list of programme areas/activities to be incorporated in the new Strategic Plan 2008-2013. During the absence of a MTP, the Executive Committee would exercise its critical review function, closely coordinate work between different Codex Committees and monitor the progress of standards development in accordance with the current Strategic Framework 2003-2007 and the Criteria for the Establishment of Work Priorities.

9. The Commission is invited to **endorse** the recommendations of the 53th Session of the Executive Committee as above.

Preparation of Strategic Plan 2008-2013

10. The Executive Committee at its 53rd session also agreed to start the preparation of a new Strategic Plan covering the period of 2008-2013 by early 2005, with a view to requesting the views of Regional

³ ALINORM 03/26/11: Add.2 paras.10-12.

⁴ ALINORM 03/26/11: Add.3 paras.9-12.

⁵ ALINORM 04/27/33 Appendix III; ALINORM 04/27/5.

⁶ ALINORM 04/27/3 paras.11-15

Coordinating Committees on the draft Plan in due course and to presenting it for adoption by the Commission in 2007⁷.

11. The Commission may wish to **recommend** that:

- The Executive Committee, at its next session, discuss the structure and format for a new Strategic Plan covering a six-year period of 2008-2013 as well as the ways to further proceed with the development of the Strategic Plan;
- The Strategic Plan state strategic objectives and priorities of the Commission and incorporate a list of programme areas/planned activities with a clearly defined timetable for each of the activities.
- After requesting the views of Regional Coordinating Committees, the draft Plan be submitted to the Commission for adoption by 2007; and
- The Strategic Plan, once adopted, be renewed every two years on a rolling basis.

Action Plan for Codex-wide Development and Application of Risk Analysis Principles and Guidelines

12. As a follow-up to the Action Plan endorsed by the 22nd Session of the Commission⁸, the Commission at its 26th Session adopted the Working Principles for Risk Analysis for Application in the Framework of the Codex Alimentarius and requested that relevant Codex Committees develop or complete specific guidelines on risk analysis in their respective area, for inclusion in the Procedural Manual, as recommended in the Action Plan. The Commission noted that these texts would be submitted to the Committee on General Principles in order to ensure coordination of work and consistency with the overarching Working Principles⁹.

13. The Executive Committee at its 53rd session followed up this matter¹⁰ and decided to:

- a) request each relevant Codex Committee, when developing or completing specific guidelines on risk analysis, to review and document the mechanism it uses to identify and prioritise proposals for new work, particularly in the light of needs for and availability of scientific advice;
- b) request the Committee on General Principle, when examining specific guidelines submitted by other Committees, to ensure as much consistency as possible between the guideline texts;
- c) request the Committee on General Principles to continue the revision of the Criteria for the Establishment of Work Priorities, especially from the viewpoint of the need for clear prioritisation of requests for scientific advice; and
- d) monitor the progress of all the work mentioned above and take into account its outcome in the development of the next Strategic Plan.

14. The Commission is invited to **note** that progress is being made by several Codex Committees in regard to the implementation of the Action Plan.

15. The Commission may wish to **endorse** the decision of the 53th Session of the Executive Committee as above and request the relevant Committees to take necessary actions.

⁷ ALINORM 04/27/3 para.14

⁸ ALINORM 97/37, para. 164

⁹ ALINORM 03/41, para.147

¹⁰ ALINORM 04/27/3 paras.21-22