



**JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME**  
**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION**  
**74<sup>th</sup> Session**

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

**DRAFT CODEX STRATEGIC PLAN 2020-2025**

(Prepared by the Codex Chair and Vice-Chairs)

## BACKGROUND

1. CAC39 noted the recommendation of CCEXEC71<sup>1</sup> regarding the development of a third Strategic Plan of the Codex Alimentarius Commission for the period 2020-2025 (SP), which among other things should:

- take the current Strategic Plan 2014-2019 as its starting point;
- 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 draft strategic goals and objectives for the SP and reaffirmed the need to take into account the strategic goals of FAO and WHO and the SDGs, among other things<sup>2</sup>. CCEXEC73 suggested that a clear vision was needed and that the subsequent content of the SP would follow from that vision<sup>3</sup>. CCEXEC73 agreed that the Drafting Team consisting of the CAC Chair and Vice-Chairs<sup>4</sup> would 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. CCEXEC74 would review the revised draft and, following the timeline for further development of and consultations on the draft SP, the next step in that timeline would be the finalisation of a second draft (including the implementation plan) for review by CCEXEC75.<sup>5</sup>

3. CAC40 noted the discussion and decisions of CCEXEC73 in relation to the SP. Other discussions at that meeting also relevant to the continuing development of the SP are those on sustainable scientific advice and on FAO and WHO strategies and policies.

4. A workshop of the members of CCEXEC that will immediately precede CCEXEC74 will further inform the process.

## DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION

5. The Drafting Team has noted and acted on the suggestion of CCEXEC73 that a clear vision is needed. In doing so, the Drafting Team has sought to build on the vision set out by the former Codex Chairperson<sup>6</sup> of "Codex for inclusive health, wealth and growth".

6. Codex Strategic Vision Statement: To be the preeminent and practical international food standards-setting body for inclusive health, wealth and growth.

*Rationale: the words preeminent (distinguished, outstanding, famous, well-known, foremost, leading, dominant, excellent) and practical (applied, real-world, hands-on, every day, real, useful, concrete) cover what it is important as a Vision for Codex. The second part of the phrase is based on the content of Paragraph 112 of Document REP17/EXEC2.*

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<sup>1</sup> REP16/EXEC, para 88.

<sup>2</sup> CX/EXEC 17/73/6, Annex 1.

<sup>3</sup> REP17/EXEC2, para 107 and 111.

<sup>4</sup> Dr Guilherme da Costa Junior (CAC Chair) and Mme Mariam Eid, Prof Purwiyatno Hariyadi and Mr Steve Wearne (CAC Vice-Chairs).

<sup>5</sup> REP17/EXEC2, para 113 and Appendix II.

<sup>6</sup> Mrs Awilo Ochieng-Pernet.

7. The Drafting Team has considered the draft strategic goals and objectives as well as the related discussions held and decisions taken at both CCEXEC73 and CAC40. The Drafting Team also considered comments received to CL 2017/50-EXEC<sup>7</sup>. On that basis, the Drafting Team submits its draft strategic goals and objectives of the Codex Strategic Plan 2020-2025 in Annex 1 to CCEXEC74 for review including relevant rationales where appropriate.

8. The Drafting Team acknowledges with gratitude the excellent advice and support provided by the Codex Secretariat.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

9. The Executive Committee is invited to:

- (i) review and agree the strategic vision proposed by the Drafting Team;
- (ii) review and agree the draft strategic goals and objectives proposed by the Drafting Team
- (iii) agree that the strategic vision and draft strategic goals and objectives should form the basis for preparation by the Drafting Team of a further draft, including an implementation plan, for review by CCEXEC75 in June 2018, prior to consultation through the Co-ordinating Committees in line with the timeline agreed by CCEXEC73.

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<sup>7</sup> REP17/NASWP, para 56-60; REP17/ASIA, para 77-88; REP17/EURO, para 54-58; REP17/LAC, para 115-120; REP17/AFRICA, para 57-62; REP17/NE, para 36; CX/EXEC 17/73/6 Add.1; EXEC/73 CRD/3.

**DRAFT STRATEGIC GOALS AND OBJECTIVES**

- Strategic Goal 1:** **Establish Codex standards, guidelines and related texts that address Members' demonstrated current and emerging issues.**
- Objective 1.1:** Proactively identify emerging issues and Members' demonstrated needs to inform prioritisation of work.  
*Rationale: the strategic idea is to base the standards, guidelines and related text establishment on Member needs.*
- Objective 1.2:** Ensure that the Codex standards, guidelines and related texts that are developed are in line with the priorities of the Codex Alimentarius Commission.  
*Rationale: the objective is to have possibly more horizon scanning which gives the Organization the best background to continue working towards prioritisation.*
- Objective 1.3:** Always strive to enhance the capacity for arriving at consensus in the Codex standard-setting process.
- Objective 1.4:** Promote cooperation with other relevant international governmental and non-governmental organisations, advancing synergies with the food standards they develop and managing any gaps and inconsistency.
- Strategic Goal 2:** **Ensure that Codex Food safety standards are established based on science.**
- Objective 2.1:** Advocate for sustainable access to scientific advice and its use in line with Codex risk analysis principles.
- Objective 2.2:** Advocate for the generation, collection and analysis of quantitative and robust scientific data, also from developing and transition economy countries.
- Objective 2.3:** Advocate that the scientific information taken used in risk assessment integrates all relevant sources and data.
- Strategic Goal 3:** **Stimulate use of Codex standards and raise awareness of their contribution to the achievement of the strategic objectives of FAO and WHO and to the achievement of SDGs.**
- Objective 3.1:** Increase the visibility and build the reputation of the Codex Alimentarius Commission within the governing bodies of FAO and WHO, promoting a wider understanding of the contribution that the Codex standards make to the achievement of the strategic objectives of those bodies and to the achievement of SDGs.
- Objective 3.2:** Increase the visibility of the Codex Alimentarius Commission among all relevant stakeholders involved in the food chain.
- Objective 3.3:** Encourage and facilitate practical use of Codex standards, guidelines and related texts at the national level.  
*Rationale: Activities developed by the Codex National Committees should also focus on capacity building to encourage and facilitate practical use of Codex standards, guidelines and related texts. As the Strategic Plan is for the Organization as a whole, including activities at national level, this objective is worthwhile.*
- Objective 3.4:** Promote the use of Codex standards, guidelines and related texts through international governmental and non-governmental initiatives.
- Strategic Goal 4:** **Promote the effective participation of all Codex Members.**
- Objective 4.1:** Support the sustainable participation of Codex Members, in particular developing and transition economy countries, in all the work of Codex.

**Objective 4.2:** Continue developing tools to facilitate effective and efficient contributions from all Codex Members.

**Objective 4.3:** Ensure that Codex standard-setting processes are transparent.

*Rationale: It is a fact that transparency is part of our values, and Codex has been very good at it. Nevertheless, it always can be improved.*

**Objective 4.4:** Promote capacity development programs that assist countries in creating sustainable national Codex structures.

*Rationale: we understand we should keep the Objective 3.2 of the Current Strategic Plan as it is.*

**Strategic Goal 5:** **Implement effective and efficient work management systems and practices.**

**Objective 5.1:** Improve the efficiency of processes in the development of Codex standards, guidelines and related texts, monitoring and reducing the time and other resources required.

**Objective 5.2:** Enhance the capacity of Chairs of Committees and Working Groups and the host country secretariats to support Codex work.

**Objective 5.3:** Ensure that the Executive Committee of the CAC conducts the critical review process in a well informed and efficient manner.