

CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
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World Health
Organization

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Inclusiveness and timeliness in the development of the Codex Strategic Plan 2020-2025

CCEXEC75 recalled the importance of inclusiveness and timeliness in the development of its new Strategic Plan. Members also recalled the value of regional consultation and the chairperson highlighted the need to use innovative approaches to achieving this. In this context informal discussions were held between the CAC Bureau, the Regional coordinators and the Secretariat to consider possible options.

Some of the important principles that emerged from the discussion were:

- strategic planning is an evolutionary process;
- regions and their members own the plan, which requires their active participation in its construction;
- regional coordinators play a key role in promoting engagement in the discussions on the strategic plan
- regional implementation of the plan will be key.

Bearing the above in mind, it was agreed that we should aim to facilitate opportunities for discussion, both electronically and physically, that are tailored to the individual needs of the regions and focused on the strategic plan, rather than applying an overly rigid approach. To facilitate further discussion and potential agreement at CCEXEC76 on a framework for regional engagement, a timetable for completion is proposed below.

The proposed process, to facilitate adoption at CAC 42, provides three opportunities for discussion at the regional level – two on the content of the strategic plan (in July-November 2018 and in January-March 2019 (with the opportunity of meeting in the margins of CCGP as an option)), with the document being available for a final round before CCEXEC 77 and CAC42. The RCCs would then facilitate the development of regional implementation roadmaps¹ for their respective regions.

While noting that a decision on the timetable for the completion of the new Strategic Plan would be discussed at CCEXEC76, the process below outlines the steps to be taken towards adoption at CAC 42. If it is agreed to extend the timetable for development, it is proposed that this would simply lengthen the period for consultation (Rounds 2 and 3) and that the final drafting would take place in December 2019 rather than April 2019. As the discussions highlighted the importance of having a regional roadmap for implementation of the Strategic Plan and, irrespective of the timetable followed, it is proposed that this be considered at the next round of Regional Coordination Meetings, in September-October 2019.

¹ In line with the observation that regions and members own the strategic plan, development of a regional roadmap for implementation is envisaged, as enabling the Regional Coordinating Committees to identify the specific activities where they would take leadership, identify where regions can lead the provision of relevant data etc. to help in monitoring the implementation of the strategic plan (building on existing data collection mechanisms where possible), and where regions could use the output to further promote and facilitate the work of Codex.

Process of engagement and revision of the Strategic Plan to support adoption at CAC42

Timeline	Action
1 August 2018	A circular letter requesting comments issued together with the revised Strategic Plan based on discussions at CCEXEC75 (and CCEXEC76)
1 August 2018 - 30 November 2018 (Round 1 of comments)	Face to face discussions convened in each region, using the margins of existing scheduled meetings or workshops where possible. These meetings would be preceded by a proactive electronic discussion promoted by the regional coordinator and supported by the Codex secretariat. Their aim would be to familiarise members in the region with the plan, and promote the importance of comments from members in this first iteration.
30 November 2018	Deadline for comments from countries
1 December 2018 – 15 January 2019	Revision of the Strategic Plan based on first round of comments. Drafting Group meeting convened in December (possibly in the margins of a subsidiary body meeting) to incorporate the comments received from the open comment period
16 January 2019 (approx.)	Circular Letter issued requesting members' comments and, to the extent possible, regional positions on the revised version of the Strategic Plan.
16 January – 30 April 2019 (Round 2 of comments)	Comment period on the revised version. Regional coordinators are encouraged to seek regional input to inform regional positions through electronic means or face-to-face discussions (e.g. in the margins of CCGP). Further comments from individual members would also be welcome.
1 – 30 May 2019	Final revision of the Strategic Plan by the Drafting Group.
1 June 2019	Final draft strategic plan in all languages posted on the CAC42 and CCEXEC77 webpages
1 – 4 July 2019	Discussion and recommendation on next steps by CCEXEC77
8 – 12 July 2019	Discussed and, if agreed, adopted at CAC
September – October 2019	Regional roadmaps for the implementation of the strategic plan discussed by the RCCs