

CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION **E**



**Food and Agriculture
Organization of
the United Nations**



**World Health
Organization**

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REP13/EXEC

**JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME
CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION
36th Session
Rome, Italy, 1-5 July 2013**

**REPORT OF THE SIXTY-EIGHTH SESSION OF THE
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION**

FAO Headquarters, Rome, Italy, 25 – 28 June 2013

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INTRODUCTION

1. The sixty-eighth Session of the Executive Committee of the Codex Alimentarius Commission was held at FAO Headquarters, Rome, from 25 to 28 June 2013. The Session was chaired by Mr Sanjay Dave (India), Chairperson of the Codex Alimentarius Commission, with the assistance of the three Vice-chairpersons, Dr Samuel Godefroy (Canada), Mrs Awilo Ochieng Pernet (Switzerland), and Professor Samuel Sefa-Dedeh (Ghana). A complete list of participants is attached as Appendix I to this report.

OPENING

2. The Session was opened by Dr Ren Wang, the Assistant Director General of the Agriculture and Consumer Protection Department of the FAO. He welcomed the participants and congratulated the Committee on the work on the draft Codex Strategic Plan 2014-2019. He highlighted the importance of the Executive Committee's work on standards management to control costs and focus on the main issues. He informed the Committee that the 38th Session of the FAO Conference had approved the Plan of Work and Budget (PWB) for 2014-15 which is based on a nominal growth of the budget in order to support the implementation of the new Strategic Framework. The PWB clearly spells out that FAO's contribution to the CODEX Secretariat will be protected, which illustrates the priority FAO places on CODEX and to Codex-related activities while continuously seeking to improve efficiency in the use of these resources. However, the budget for scientific advice was unfortunately less secure and solutions needed to be found. He noted that the importance of science in Codex work had also been stressed at a high-level side event during the FAO Conference in celebration of the 50th anniversary of Codex.

3. Dr Kazuaki Miyagishima, Director Department for Food Safety and Zoonoses, WHO welcomed the participants on behalf of WHO. He recalled that the Codex Evaluation had taken place in 2002 and observed that the follow-up measures implemented had now been in place for about ten years, including the critical review and standards management functions assigned to the Executive Committee. He indicated that it was high time to evaluate the impact of these functions on the entire standard setting work of Codex. He stated further that the WHO was experiencing severe organisation-wide funding gaps and while the ongoing WHO Reform and Financial Dialogue might bring a new thrust in coming years, Member States needed to voice their strong support to Codex and related work so that this work remains a high priority of WHO and that sufficient funds be mobilized from assessed contributions and un-earmarked voluntary contributions. Earmarked voluntary contributions from Member States to WHO, which could complement the core funding, should systematically provide for staff costs in addition to activity costs in order to allow WHO technical units to maintain certain key staff involved in normative activities catering to Codex work.

4. The Chairperson of the Commission welcomed the delegates to the 50th anniversary session of the CCEXEC and said that Codex had come a long way in setting the building blocks of food safety for the health of consumers worldwide. He said that the Commission looked up to the Executive Committee for providing a strategic direction to the overall functioning of the institution and it has been discussed recently how further value can be added to the role of CCEXEC, particularly, in the critical review process. He congratulated the Vice-Chairs who had together with Codex members around the world, FAO, WHO and the Codex Secretariat, prepared the celebrations of Codex's 50 years, co-ordinated the development of the new Codex Strategic Plan 2014-2019 as well as put together suggestions for enhanced funding support for the Codex scientific advice which would be discussed at the session. He stressed the need to consider a successor to the Trust Fund in the interest of the countries who still need support.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA (Agenda Item 1)¹

5. The Committee adopted the Provisional Agenda and agreed to consider under Agenda Item 8 "Other Business and Future Work": Codex management in relation to the work of committees and task forces and the critical review; and the development of a communication strategy for Codex.

¹ CX/EXEC 13/68/1.

CRITICAL REVIEW FOR THE ELABORATION OF CODEX STANDARDS AND RELATED TEXTS (Agenda Item 2)

DRAFT STANDARDS AND RELATED TEXTS SUBMITTED TO THE COMMISSION FOR ADOPTION (Agenda Item 2a)²

Part I – Proposed Draft and Draft Standards and Related Texts at Steps 8, 5/8 or 5 Accelerated

Coordinating Committee for Europe (CCEURO)

Proposed Draft Revised Regional Standard for Fresh Fungus “Chanterelle”

6. The Committee noted that some editorial comments had been received on the common names and, after final consultation with CCEURO members, could be easily inserted in the text, and would not prevent its adoption by the Commission.

Committee on Fish and Fishery Products (CCFFP)

Draft Standard for Fresh/Live and Frozen Abalone

7. The Committee noted that the Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling (CCMAS) had not endorsed the reference to the method for biotoxins as this question was discussed in conjunction with the Proposed Draft Performance Criteria for Reference and Confirmatory Methods for Marine Biotoxins, which were not endorsed and which will require further consideration in CCFFP and CCMAS. However, the Draft Standard for Abalone contained a reference to the method for biotoxins in the *Standard for Live and Raw Bivalve Molluscs* (CODEX STAN 292-2008) that had already been endorsed for bivalve molluscs.

8. The Committee therefore recommended that the Commission adopt the Standard for Fresh/Live and Frozen Abalone with a reference to the methods for biotoxin determination in the *Standard for Live and Raw Bivalve Molluscs*.

Coordinating Committee for Asia (CCASIA)

Proposed Draft Regional Standard for Tempe

9. The Committee recalled that the CCASIA had proposed a conversion factor of 5.71 for the determination of protein content, taking into account FAO references in this respect. The CCMAS had endorsed the methods for protein content with a conversion factor of 5.71 and had asked the CCASIA to review the use of the factor of 5.71. The Member for North America indicated that they intended to provide information in further discussion on the conversion factor.

10. The Committee recommended adoption of the standard at Step 5/8.

Committee on Nutrition and Foods for Special Dietary Uses (CCNFSDU)

Proposed Draft Additional or Revised Nutrient Reference Values (NRVs) for Labelling Purposes

11. The Committee recommended the adoption of the Proposed Draft NRVs, noted that several recommendations on new or revised NRVs for vitamins and minerals had been finalised and encouraged the CCNFSDU to complete its work on the NRVs.

Coordinating Committee for the Near East (CCNEA)

Proposed Draft Regional Standard for Date Paste

12. The Committee noted that the editorial amendments proposed in the Arabic version or comments on the presentation of the raw material could easily be integrated into the standard, and recommended adoption of the standard at Step 5/8.

² CX/EXEC 13/68/2.

Task Force on Animal Feeding (TFAF)

Proposed Draft Guidance on Prioritizing Hazards in Feed

13. One Member did not support the inclusion of Annex 2 in the Guidance as it could not be easily updated; the FAO/WHO Expert Meeting on Animal Feed Impact on Food Safety addressed feed hazards of relevance to food safety; and competent authorities could misinterpret the purpose of the Annex and use the information therein as unnecessary sanitary requirements and use the examples as unjustified barriers to trade.

14. The Committee recalled that these issues had been discussed in the Task Force and that there had been considerable support to retain the Annex.

15. It was also noted that the Task Force, recognizing that new information on hazards in feed of relevance to human health had become available since the FAO/WHO Expert Meeting (2008), requested FAO and WHO to provide updated information and that FAO and WHO would consider this request in the light of their work plans and availability of resources.

16. The Committee supported adoption of the Proposed Draft Guidance at Step 5/8 and noted that the comments and reservations on the content of the text should be considered by the Commission.

Committee on Fats and Oils (CCFO)

17. The Committee noted that the Standard for Named Vegetable Oils (amendment to methods of analysis) was also listed in REP13/FO, Appendix II, listing consequential amendments to several standards.

Committee on Sugars (CCS)

18. The Committee recalled that the CCS was developing the Proposed Draft Standard for Non-Centrifugated Dehydrated Sugar Cane Juice by correspondence. The Coordinator for Latin America and the Caribbean informed the Committee that Colombia, as CCS host country, had received many comments in reply to CL 2013/09-CS and in view of the need for further consideration of these comments, proposed to submit the standard at Step 5 instead of Step 5/8 as initially proposed in the Circular Letter.

19. The Committee noted various proposals in order to facilitate the work of the CCS: proceeding with electronic consultations in the following year as a first step and if necessary consider later the possibility of a physical meeting, which may be a meeting of the Committee, or a working group; considering co-hosting to reduce the cost for the host country; or holding a session of the CCS in conjunction with another committee, especially a committee which would cover related products.

20. As regards possible support for participation in a meeting of the CCS, it was noted that the eligibility criteria and procedures for Trust Fund support applied to all Codex sessions or working groups.

21. The Committee recommended adoption of the standard at Step 5 and agreed that the Commission would consider further steps in the elaboration process, including the possibility of a physical meeting, including the possibility of co hosting, in consultation with the host country.

Other standards and related texts

22. The Committee supported the adoption of all the standards developed by the Committees mentioned above and for which no specific comments were made.

23. The Committee, recognising that the criteria for the critical review were met, supported the adoption of all other texts submitted by the following subsidiary bodies:

- **Committee on Fresh Fruits and Vegetables**
- **Committee on Processed Fruits and Vegetables**
- **Committee on Food Hygiene**
- **Committee on Food Import and Export Inspection and Certification Systems**
- **Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling**

- **Committee on Food Additives**
- **Committee on Pesticide Residues**
- **Committee on Food Labelling**

Part II – Proposed Draft Standards and Related Texts at Step 5

Committee on Fresh Fruits and Vegetables (CCFFV)

Proposed Draft Standard for Golden Passion Fruit

24. Several members expressed the view that the scope of the standard was very limited and that it should be extended to cover other types of passion fruit, and proposed either to recommend adoption at Step 5 and extension of the scope afterwards, or returning the standard for redrafting as it would be more difficult to extend the scope when the standard was closer to finalisation. One member pointed out that as new work had been approved and the standard was at Step 5, work should proceed according to the current scope and the development of annexes to cover other products could be considered in the future.

25. The Committee recalled that, following extensive discussion on the scope, the CCFFV had noted that delegations could submit comments and information at Step 5 for consideration by the Commission on the economic importance of other species of passion fruits for their countries which could possibly allow the enlargement of the scope by having specific annexes attached to common provisions in the main body of the standard. However no such comments had been received for consideration at the Commission.

26. The Committee therefore supported adoption of the standard at Step 5 and noted that further comments should be considered by the Commission.

FAO/WHO Coordinating Committee for Asia (CCASIA)

Proposed Draft Standard for Non Fermented Soybean Products

27. Some members expressed the view that the use of the term “soybean milk” was in contradiction with the General Standard for Use of Dairy Terms and with the terminology used in the General Standard for Food Additives (GSFA), and pointed out that regional standards should be consistent with general Codex texts.

28. The Coordinator for Asia recalled that the term soybean milk was used in the Asian region, that the Committee was aware of these concerns and that the next session of CCASIA would reconsider section 2.2 to take into account the comments at Step 5 and the recommendations of the CCFL, as the labelling section had not been endorsed. It was noted that the food categories in the GSFA are not used for the purpose of labeling.

29. As regards food additives, the Committee noted that the provisions in the standard were still under development in the CCASIA and would be forwarded for endorsement to the CCFA when finalised.

30. The Committee supported adoption at Step 5 and recommended that the CCASIA review the standard in the light of the advice from the CCFL and the concerns expressed in the comments.

Committee on Contaminants in Foods (CCCF)

Proposed Draft Maximum Levels for DON in Raw Cereal Grains (maize, wheat and barley) and associated sampling plan and in flour, semolina, meal and flakes from wheat, maize or barley

31. One member expressed the view that North American countries and possibly other countries would have difficulties in meeting the MLs for raw grains in certain years. Another member drew the attention of the Committee to the difficulties of developing countries to reduce the levels of contamination through processing.

32. The Committee recommended that the Commission adopt the MLs at Step 5 and that the CCCF give further consideration to pending issues with respect to MLs for DON in raw grains at its next session.

Other standards and related texts

33. The Committee, recognising that the criteria for the critical review were met, supported the adoption at Step 5 of all other texts submitted by the following subsidiary bodies:

- **Committee on Fish and Fishery Products**
- **Committee on Processed Fruits and Vegetables**
- **Committee on Pesticide Residues**

MONITORING OF STANDARD DEVELOPMENT (Agenda Item 2b)³

34. The Committee considered the status of all standards and related texts under development and noted that many of them were progressing according to schedule and following the recommendations previously made in the critical review. Individual committees are mentioned below only when specific comments were made.

Coordinating Committee for Europe (CCEURO)Proposed Draft Standard for Ayran

35. The Coordinator for the Near East pointed out that the CCNEA was developing a standard for doogh, a product similar to ayran and that consideration should be given to the development of a single standard. The Coordinator for Europe recalled that the standard was still in an early stage of development and that countries from other regions were welcome to make comments and participate in the development of the standard.

36. It was recalled that once regional standards were finalised they could be converted into world-wide standards if this was justified in terms of international trade.

Committee on Fish and Fishery Products (CCFFP)

37. The Committee noted that substantial progress had been made on the Draft Standard for Quick Frozen Scallop Adductor Muscle Meat, which was scheduled for completion in 2014, and that this would facilitate progress on the corresponding Code of Practice, which was expected to be finalised in 2016.

Committee on Nutrition and Foods for Special Dietary Uses (CCNFSDU)Proposed Draft Additional or Revised Nutrient Reference Values (NRVs) for Labelling Purposes

38. The Committee noted that several new or revised NRVs had been forwarded for adoption and encouraged the CCNFSDU to set a realistic time frame complete its work for the remaining NRVs.

Proposed Draft Amendment of the Standard for Processed Cereal-Based Foods for Infants and Young Children (CODEX STAN 74-1981) to Include a New Part B for Underweight Children

The Committee encouraged the CCNFSDU to set a realistic time frame complete its work.

Coordinating Committee for the Near East (CCNEA)Proposed Draft Standard for Doogh

39. The Coordinator for the Near East indicated that, in view of the similarities between doogh and ayran, as mentioned above, it should be possible to develop a single standard for these products.

40. The Committee recalled that the recommendation to develop regional standards for ayran and doogh originated from the Committee on Milk and Milk Products as it had not been possible to integrate these products into an international standard.

41. The Committee recommended that the regional standards should proceed as initially approved and encouraged the CCEURO and CCNEA to coordinate their work, with the understanding that it was possible to convert regional standards into world-wide standards at a later stage.

³ CX/EXEC 13/68/3.

Committee on Food Import and Export Inspection and Certification Systems (CCFICS)

42. The Representative of WHO pointed out that the CCFICS had been very efficient in finalising many important texts, but currently only discussion papers were under consideration, and therefore the Committee may consider working by electronic means rather than convening meetings, or consider alternative options such as merging its activities with another committee. The Representative recalled that the use of Task Forces was an excellent example of focusing on specific tasks and should be more widely followed, and noted that the discussion scheduled under other business on the management of Codex work would allow the CCEXEC to discuss this question from a general perspective.

43. This view was supported by one Member, who also referred to the need for further discussion on work management.

44. The Member for the South West Pacific recalled that the CCFICS had carried out substantial work between sessions, whether by electronic means or physical meetings in order to analyse and solve the problems. In his view, discussion between delegates remained essential to reach consensus. Merging activities in the context of the Committee on General Principles, as recommended by the Representative of WHO, was not practical as regulators with a specific expertise participated in CCFICS, and as regards the workload of the Committee he noted that challenges in international trade and the need for guidance in this area were increasing and, therefore, the potential work of the Committee was increasing. The discussion papers were intended to address these issues and prepare future work.

45. One Member supported these views and highlighted the need to revise some old texts developed by CCFICS as well as the importance of discussion papers to prepare new work carefully, and did not support merging CCFICS with another committee.

46. The Committee noted that the general issue of work management would be discussed under Other Business.

Committee on Food Additives (CCFA)

47. The Member for Asia indicated that the last CCFA had made substantial progress and that currently the total number of the GSFA provisions for which work had been completed (approximately 2950) equals the number of the provisions to be considered.

Committee on Contaminants in Foods (CCCF)

48. The Chair recalled that two items of work approved in 2012 were now proposed for discontinuation and that in some cases the timeframe proposed initially was too short, and that in general a realistic timeframe and clear time commitment to generate data were necessary when undertaking new work.

49. One Member proposed not to discontinue work on the MLs for hydrocyanic acid in cassava in order to leave time for interested countries to provide relevant data. Another member supported discontinuation of work and noted that four discussion papers on potential new work were put forward in CCCF and that the Committee should be realistic when undertaking new work and proposing a time schedule for its completion.

50. The Representative of WHO indicated that the main issue with hydrocyanic acid in cassava related to processing conditions and that in the absence of data on consumption patterns and processing studies the revision of the MLs was discontinued but that a code of practice had been developed and finalized.

51. The Committee recognized the importance of the work carried out by the CCCF to ensure health protection and encouraged the Committee, when proposing new work, to set realistic target dates and to ensure that proposals for new work were supported by a commitment to provide relevant data.

PROPOSALS FOR THE ELABORATION OF NEW STANDARDS AND RELATED TEXTS (Agenda Item 2c)⁴

Committee on Fresh Fruits and Vegetables (CCFFV)

Standard for Ware Potato

52. Two Members proposed to return this proposal for further discussion to the committee concerned for the following reasons: the proposal had been submitted very late and it had not been possible for delegations to consult with their national experts and no substantial technical discussion had therefore taken place in the session; the proposal did not take into account the views of the major producers and exporters of potato; and no specific issues had been identified in international trade.

53. Another member noted that the process had been followed as the discussion on new work had taken place in the Committee.

54. The Executive Committee recommended that new work should not proceed and that the proposal should be returned to the CCFFV for further consideration of technical issues.

Coordinating Committee for Asia (CCASIA)

Code of Hygienic Practice for Street-Vended Foods

55. One member pointed out that three similar regional codes existed, of which two were already adopted (Africa and Latin America and the Caribbean) and one submitted for adoption (Near East), and that they could be merged into a single code. The Committee recalled that these codes had been developed for specific regions, that they were not related to international trade and that their scope could not be extended by the same process as a commodity standard; the provisions in the codes were intended for use at the national level; and there were differences between regional codes, taking into account the specificity of each region. It was also noted that all these codes had been forwarded to the Committee on Food Hygiene to ensure consistency with general food hygiene texts.

56. One member pointed out that due to tourism there was also an international aspect in these codes, and that as terminology or other provisions differed significantly according to the region, they should be retained as regional codes.

57. The Committee noted that there had been unanimous support for the development of this code in the CCASIA and recommended its approval as new work.

Coordinating Committee for the Near East (CCNEA)

Standard for Halal Food

58. One member pointed out that the proposals submitted by Egypt were similar to the existing halal standards developed by the Standards and Metrology Institute for Islamic Countries (SMIIC) under the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) and therefore Codex should not duplicate this work, and that the General Guidelines for Use of the Term Halal were sufficient to ensure fair practices in trade.

59. The Coordinator for the Near East indicated that, while there were standards developed by the SMIC, an international standard was necessary in view of considerable trade in halal products, in order to clarify the definition of “halal” and to address the differences in certification requirements applied by various countries.

60. Several members expressed the view that any work in this area should be carried out at the international level, not at the regional level, as the wide range of certification requirements could create barriers to trade, and that before undertaking any new work, it was necessary to identify the gaps in general labelling texts and the General Guidelines for Use of the Term Halal, or in food hygiene texts as regards food safety, or to clarify the questions regarding certification. One member commented that halal related issues for meat products should be considered jointly with OIE.

⁴ CX/EXEC 13/68/4, CX/EXEC 13/68/4-Add.1, CX/EXEC 13/68/4-Add.2.

61. The Committee recognised the importance of consumption and trade of halal products worldwide and agreed that, in the context of this new work proposal, the project document should be re-scoped in order to identify gaps with existing relevant Codex texts, and that the Member proposing new work should seek the advice of CCFL and CCFICS to assist the CCEXEC and Commission to take a decision.

Proposal to develop regional/international standards for frozen and chilled meat

62. Several members expressed the view that the scope of the work should be more clearly defined, especially to identify the gaps in current Codex texts. It was recalled that the Code of Hygienic Practice for Meat Hygiene, developed by the Committee on Meat Hygiene (currently adjourned) was a risk-based code and addressed safety issues related to meat products. The Committee noted a comment that animal health issues should be considered jointly with OIE.

63. The Coordinator for the Near East pointed out that, while there was a wide range of standards for fresh and frozen fish, there was no Codex standard for chilled or frozen meat although it was a widely traded commodity; and as standards existed at the national level in many countries, there was a need for international harmonisation.

64. The Committee agreed that the proposal should be redrafted to identify the gaps with existing texts, and that the advice of the Committee on Food Hygiene should be sought in order to assist the CCEXEC and Commission to take a decision.

Other Proposals for New Work

65. The Committee agreed to recommend that the Commission approve all other items proposed as new work.

66. Some members expressed the view that some products proposed for standardisation may be produced and known only in a specific region, but quite unknown in other regions and therefore it would be useful to present a clear description of the nature of the products, possibly with illustrations.

STRATEGIC PLANNING OF THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION (Agenda Item 3)

GENERAL IMPLEMENTATION STATUS (Agenda Item 3a)⁵

67. The Committee noted the implementation status presented in CX/CAC 13/36/11 concerning Goals 1 to 4 and that most of the activities, for which a deadline had been set, had been completed.

68. With regard to the activities still to be completed, the Committee was informed that: (i) the Committee on Pesticide Residues (CCPR) was progressing on the revision of the *Risk Analysis Principles applied by the CCPR*, which was expected to be finalized by its next Session in 2014; and (ii) the Committee on Residues of Veterinary Drugs in Foods (CCRVDF), which would meet only after the 36th CAC, was working on the development of a Concern Form, a Risk Analysis Policy on Extrapolation of MRLs to additional species and tissues (including honey) and Risk Management Recommendations for Veterinary Drugs for which ADI and/or MRLs have not been recommended by JECFA due to specific human health concern.

69. With regard to Goal 5 “Promoting Maximum and Effective Participation of members”, the Committee noted the information from the Secretariat on progress made on Activity 5.6 “Enhance communication about Codex work at international and national levels” in particular on the online commenting and registration systems and monthly bulletin and the preparation of the Codex Secretariat newsletter and fact sheets.

70. In response to the comments of the Coordinator for the Near East that the document should contain more detailed and quantifiable information of the activities listed in the Strategic Plan, such as figures of adopted standards, new texts, ongoing work, meetings, etc, the Secretariat explained that in the context of Codex work, numbers of standards were not indicative of the quality and quantity of work of the Committees but that the Codex website already provided detailed and updated information of the number of texts adopted by the Commission, availability of documents in various languages and other information on the activities of

⁵ CX/CAC 13/36/11.

the Commission and its subsidiary bodies. The Secretariat also indicated that it made continuous efforts to improve the website and the accessibility of information for members.

Conclusion

71. The Committee noted that there were no specific concerns and that the overall implementation of the Strategic Plan was progressing satisfactorily.

72. The Member from North America, noting that the current Strategic Plan was ending in 2013, suggested to prepare a final report highlighting the status of the activities. The Committee supported the proposal and requested the Codex Secretariat to prepare the report for presentation at its 69th Session.

DRAFT CODEX STRATEGIC PLAN 2014-2019 (Agenda Item 3b)⁶

73. Vice-Chairperson Samuel Godefroy introduced the draft Codex Strategic Plan 2014-2019 and recalled the main steps that had led to the current draft, namely: (i) the 66th CCEXEC discussion on a first draft, which included the Introduction, Strategic Goals and Objectives, in February 2012; (ii) the 67th CCEXEC review of an updated draft, which included a full set of activities, in June 2012; and (iii) the discussion of the 35th Session of the Commission (July 2012), which agreed on a plan of work for the completion of the Strategic Plan up to its adoption by its 36th Session.

74. The Vice-Chairperson recalled that the 35th Session of the Commission had agreed that a sub-Committee of the Executive Committee would revise the draft Strategic Plan on the basis of the comments of the Executive Committee and Commission, develop a work plan with a description of the expected outcomes, potential outputs and measurable indicators, and document how all comments had been taken into account.

75. The Committee further noted that, according to the plan of work, all the six FAO/WHO Coordinating Committees, which met between September 2012 and February 2013, had the opportunity to review and provide input on the revised draft. In March 2013, the sub-Committee of the Executive Committee met in Ottawa (Canada) to consider and address all the comments of the coordinating committees and prepared a further draft, as presented in CX/CAC 13/36/12, which was circulated for review and comments to all Codex Members and Observers. The Vice-Chairperson also recalled that at the meeting in Ottawa all six Codex regions had been represented.

76. The Vice-Chairperson explained that the objective of the current discussion was to address all comments submitted, as compiled in CX/CAC 13/36/12 Add.1 and Add.2, and prepare a final draft for adoption by the 36th Session of the Commission. He explained that failure to reach this objective would result in more extensive discussion at the Commission with the potential of not reaching a consensus and, therefore, with the risk to start 2014 without a new Strategic Plan. He highlighted the need to maintain the consensus reached in March 2013 so that Executive Committee Members could act as advocates amongst their respective regions to support the adoption of the draft Strategic Plan by the Commission.

77. In order to expedite work on the finalization of the Strategic Plan, the Committee agreed to the proposal of the vice-Chairperson to base the review of the draft and consideration of the comments on the following principles: (i) to consider updating/amending the document to correct omissions, inconsistencies or to clarify an ambiguity; (ii) maintain the consensus achieved to date through previous rounds of discussion of the document; (iii) refrain from changing /rewriting if the proposed changes contradict one of the above points; and (iv) not to consider changes for which there is no consensus.

Specific Comments

Introduction

78. The Coordinator for Europe suggested deleting a number of references to provisions of the Procedural Manual, such as the text of footnote 2. The rationale provided was that these references were irrelevant, repetitive and not within the purpose and scope of the Strategic Plan. The Committee agreed to consider the references on a case by case basis.

⁶ CX/CAC 13/36/12 Part 1 and Part 2; CX/CAC 13/36/12 Add.1 (Comments of Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica and Kenya); CX/CAC 13/36/12 Add.2 (Comments of Norway, Papua New Guinea, FAO and WHO, and IFAH).

79. In keeping with its guiding principle to maintain previous consensus on parts that had been thoroughly discussed, the Committee did not support a proposal to delete in the second paragraph a sentence on the description of the environment in which Codex evolves. The Committee acknowledged that the sentence might be considered as repetitive of some of the description in section “Drivers for change” and that some repetitions were unavoidable throughout the document. It was also recalled that the text, up to the work plan, had been considered several times and was the result of long discussions and compromises and that changes to the text could make the adoption of the Strategic Plan more difficult by the Commission.

80. The Committee noted that footnote 2 was inserted during the March 2013 meeting of the Sub-Committee of the Executive Committee as a result of long discussions and consensus. Therefore, the Committee agreed to maintain it in the text.

Drivers for Change

81. The Committee discussed a proposal made by Brazil in the written comments to include a sentence, which emphasizes increasing food trade and the importance of Codex standards in this context. It was recognised that the proposal was not controversial and added some value to the text but that the increase of food trade was already mentioned in the section. The Committee agreed not to add the sentence in line with the guiding principle to preserve the integrity of those sections that had been thoroughly discussed.

82. The Member of Europe noted that footnote 2 was misplaced as it referred to consideration of other factors in the Codex standard setting process, which are much broader than consumer concerns. The Member suggested deleting the footnote, explaining that it could be misinterpreted. The Committee recalled that the inclusion of the footnote had been critical to achieve consensus on this section and that its deletion could jeopardise the consensus agreed to on the current text. The Committee also clarified that the footnote was applicable to all factors listed in the section, including consumers concerns. Therefore, the Committee agreed to keep the section unchanged.

Core Values

83. The Vice-Chairperson recalled that this section had been thoroughly discussed and that in the February 2012 meeting it was decided to retain only four values, while recognising that they were not exclusive and that Codex had many other values. The Committee agreed not to consider a proposal resulting from a written comment to include another value.

Work Plan

84. The Vice-Chairperson noted that a number of comments were of editorial nature; that many focused on measurable indicators/outputs; and that a comment from FAO and WHO proposed to clearly distinguish between measurable indicators and outputs. In this regard, it was noted that it was not always easy to distinguish among the two and that, in certain cases, the only difference was the way an output or an indicator were phrased, e.g. if an output is “a report”, the indicator may be that “the report is delivered”. He explained that in some cases the draft did not list for all activities both indicators and outputs.

85. The Representative of FAO commented that while the outputs were clear, the indicators needed an additional level of information. She said that not all activities needed an indicator and that, in some cases, the indicator should reflect a measure towards achieving the outcome that the objective was aiming for. One indicator could, therefore, be applicable to several activities. Both Representatives of FAO and WHO indicated that clear differentiation between indicators and outputs would help the monitoring of the implementation of the Strategic Plan and the identification of the data needed to track progress.

86. Several Members expressed concern that differentiating between outputs and indicators, at this late stage of the development of the document could create confusion amongst Members, who would be seeing a significantly revised version of the document. This, therefore, could impact negatively the adoption.

87. The Committee agreed not to change the draft Strategic Plan to be submitted for the consideration of the Commission and to rely on the comments of FAO and WHO to document the differentiation between outputs and indicators. The Committee also noted that FAO and WHO comments could serve as the basis for monitoring the implementation of the Strategic Plan.

Activity 1.1.1

88. The Committee noted that the comment of Colombia was in line with the current draft and that there was no need to change the activity.

Activity 1.1.2

89. The Committee noted that the change proposed by Colombia would result in narrowing the scope of the activity and, therefore, agreed to keep the activity unchanged.

90. With regard to the Responsible Party, the Committee recalled that the Note to the Work Plan clarified that the Responsible Party Section identified the lead party responsible for the implementation of the activity and that several other parties could play a significant role in the implementation of the activity. Therefore, the Committee agreed to retain the CCEXEC as the responsible party for this activity, noting that the CCEXEC would work within its mandate, that any activity would need to be approved by the Commission and that any referral for changes to the Procedural Manual would be the responsibility of the Committee on General Principles (CCGP).

91. The Committee agreed to change “procedure” with “process” in the first measurable indicator/output for consistency with the activity and to avoid any potential ambiguity between the procedural aspects and the whole process of the critical review.

Activity 1.2.1

92. The Committee had an extensive discussion on the proposal of Costa Rica, supported by other Latin American and Caribbean countries, to replace in the wording of the Activity and footnote 4 “food safety, nutrition, and fair practices in the food trade” with “the mandate of Codex”. These countries, while recognising that nutrition is part of the work of Codex, were of the view that a specific reference to nutrition might lead to the perception that nutrition is put at the same level as food safety and fair practice in food trade.

93. In view of previous discussion on this matter and the guiding principles to review the document, the Committee maintained the wording of this activity unchanged and noted that the current text does not suggest in any way that nutrition is intended beyond the mandate of Codex. The Committee also recalled that the paragraph added by the sub-Committee in March 2013 clearly indicates that the text in the Strategic Plan “does not supersede, extend or contradict the interpretation of Codex mandate, standards or provisions of the Procedural Manual adopted by the Commission”. The Committee emphasised that this section applies to all the text of the Strategic Plan.

94. The Committee further agreed to refer to “Members” instead of “Member governments” throughout the text, as appropriate.

Activity 1.2.2

95. The Committee agreed to keep the activity unchanged, in line with the discussion on activity 1.2.1. It was also agreed that the first measurable indicators/outputs were sufficiently clear and did not need to be further specified in more specific outputs.

Activity 1.2.3

96. The Committee noted some comments which questioned if the activity belonged to Objective 1.2 on the identification of emerging issues, and if it was appropriate to have this activity in the Strategic Plan. The Committee also noted that the purpose of the activity, i.e. to measure the relevance of Codex standards to Members, was already covered in activities 1.2.1 and 1.2.2 on the development and monitoring of standards (new and updated) in line with Codex priorities. Therefore, to avoid duplication and possible misinterpretation and to address comments relayed by some Members the Committee agreed to delete activity 1.2.3.

Activities 1.3.1 and 1.3.2

97. The Committee recalled that a number of comments addressed the adequacy of the Responsible Party, listed in the Work Plan, and in particular the role of the CCEXEC. The Committee, recognising that collaboration with international organizations was clearly supervised by the Commission, agreed to replace CCEXEC with CAC, as the Responsible Party of both activities 1.3.1 and 1.3.2.

98. To address the concern of some Members that activity 1.3.2 might lead to joint activities with organisations with different procedures and level of transparency, the Committee deleted the word “programmes”. It was also noted that every activity of the Strategic Plan should be undertaken in accordance

with Codex mandate and provisions of the Procedural Manual, which includes guidance on relation with other organizations⁷.

Activity 2.1.3

99. The Vice-Chairperson noted that there were some proposals from Latin American and Caribbean countries to amend the activity and align it with the Codex *Statement of Principles Concerning the Role of Science in the Codex Decision Making Process and the Extent to which Other Factors are Taken into Account*⁷. The proposals aimed at reaffirming that Codex bases its decision on sound science and that factors outside the mandate of Codex should not be considered in the standard-setting process.

100. The Vice-Chairperson noted that this activity was part of Strategic Goal 2 “Ensure the application of risk analysis principles on the development of Codex standards”, which deals with different aspects of risk analysis, i.e. risk assessment, risk management and risk communication, and was intended to ensure that Codex considers and documents the different risk management considerations in a more consistent and systematic manner, when developing standards. He proposed to address the concern of Latin American and Caribbean countries by adding footnote 2, which clarified the nature of some relevant factors. He added that this addition was in line with the consensus agreed to by the sub-Committee in March 2013.

101. A number of members did not support the proposal, pointing out that such addition was repetitive and put the focus on a limited section of the Procedural Manual. One Member reminded the Committee of the placement of this activity, as part of objective 2.1 dealing with consistent use of risk analysis principles and scientific advice. He emphasised that risk analysis should be understood within the context of the “*Working Principles of Risk Analysis for Application in the Framework of the Codex Alimentarius*” and, therefore, “relevant factors” should be understood in the context of risk management considerations applicable in the framework of Codex.

102. In view of this discussion and the reference throughout the document, in particular in the Introduction, which emphasises the alignment of the content of the entire Strategic Plan with the Codex mandate and the Procedural Manual, the Vice-Chairperson proposed to leave the text as currently drafted and to document the discussion in the report.

103. The Committee agreed to this proposal.

Activity 2.3.4

104. The Committee discussed the necessity to keep the activity given that it is a means to achieve the Objective 2.3 “Increase scientific input from developing countries”. The Committee agreed to retain the activity and recalled that a number of FAO/WHO Coordinating Committees had recommended the same.

105. The Committee discussed the proposed amendment by Colombia to qualify the type of networks as scientific. The Committee, however, acknowledged that these networks could be both scientific and regulatory in nature. Therefore, it was agreed not to add any specific qualifier.

106. The Committee also discussed that this activity was not intended to focus solely on the establishment of networks but also on participation in such networks. The Committee agreed to slightly amend the text of the activity accordingly and add “and participation in”.

Activities 3.1.3 and 3.1.4

107. The Representative of WHO, on behalf of FAO and WHO, recommended to amend these two activities to more accurately represent the roles and responsibilities of FAO, WHO and Codex *vis a vis* the Trust Fund and any successor initiative. The Committee agreed to amend the activities as proposed by FAO and WHO in their written comments.

Activity 4.2.2

108. The Committee considered the suitability of identifying the Chairperson as the Responsible Party for this activity. In recognising the pre-eminent role of the Commission, the Committee agreed to replace the

⁷ *Guidelines on Cooperation between the Codex Alimentarius Commission and International Intergovernmental Organizations in the Elaboration of Standards and Related Texts; and Principles Concerning the Participation of International Non-Governmental Organizations in the Work of the Codex Alimentarius Commission.*

listed party with CAC and acknowledged that the Chairperson would likely play a leadership role in its implementation.

Conclusion

109. The Vice-Chairperson noted that all possible efforts had been made to address the comments submitted and to achieve the goal of preparing a final draft Strategic Plan, which would guide the Codex activities for the next five years. He added that the draft was the result of a collegial effort to achieve and maintain consensus and called on each of the Executive Committee Members to act as advocates amongst their respective regions to support the adoption of the draft Strategic Plan 2014-2019 at the 36th Session of Commission. The Vice-Chairperson thanked the Committee Members for their willingness to compromise and for the broad consensus achieved with the current version of the document.

110. The Committee agreed with these conclusions and to forward the draft Strategic Plan 2014-2019 as amended (*see* Appendix II) to the 36th Session of the Commission for adoption.

FINANCIAL AND BUDGETARY MATTERS (Agenda Item 4)⁸

Codex Budget

111. The Committee was informed that only the figures for the biennium 2012-2013 were presented at the present session as the estimates for 2014-2015 were in the process of clearance by FAO and WHO, and an update would be presented to the Commission.

112. The Secretariat presented the budget for 2012-13 and the expenditures for 2012, noted the increased Russian language coverage in 2012-2013, the use of Portuguese in the CCAFRICA held in 2013, and the substantial contribution made by the host countries to support the Codex programme.

113. The Representative of WHO indicated that, in order to take into account the concerns of member countries regarding the share of WHO funding in the Codex budget, the contribution of WHO to the Codex budget of the current biennium had been increased by USD 500,000, which reflected the strong support of the WHO governing bodies for the programme. In reply to a question on WHO funding in 2014-2015, the Representative indicated that the budget for the next biennium was still under consideration.

114. The Committee noted the comment from one member that a budget committee following a process similar to IPPC could be established in Codex, taking into account the results based management approach in FAO.

FAO/WHO Scientific Support to Codex

115. The Representative of FAO indicated that the regular programme budget for scientific advice to Codex for the 2012-2013 biennium was USD 3,347,282 of which staff costs were USD 1,965,694 and non-staff/activity costs were USD 1,381,588.

116. The Representative WHO informed the Committee that the estimated cost for scientific advice in food safety, as it relates to Codex work for the 2014-15 biennium, amounts to 2.6 million US\$ for staff and 1.6 million US\$ for activities. The Representative also clarified that the cost estimates related to scientific advice in nutrition refer to the overall cost for scientific advice in nutrition matters, not only as it relates to Codex work, since it was not possible to make a clear distinction or separate estimate.

117. The Committee expressed its satisfaction with the increase in the WHO contribution and its appreciation to FAO, WHO and host countries for their support to the Codex programme and encouraged them to continue their efforts to ensure the funding of Codex and related scientific advice.

⁸ CX/CAC 13/36/13, CX/CAC 13/36/13-Add.1

FUNDING OPTIONS FOR SCIENTIFIC ADVICE FOR THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION

118. Following the discussion on the funding for scientific advice, the 35th Session of the Commission had supported the proposal of the 67th session CCEXEC to establish a sub-Committee, chaired by Vice-Chair Professor Samuel Sefa-Dedeh, to consider funding options.

119. Vice-Chair Professor Sefa-Dedeh highlighted the steps followed for the development of the document and the recommendations presented in a series of short-term and long-term actions in paragraphs 48 and 49 of the working document, while thanking all participants in the sub-committee for their active contribution.

120. The Representative of WHO clarified that the sections in para 27-30 relate to an aspect of funding for Codex work and is not relevant for scientific advice. Therefore the described short-term option in para 48 d is also not relevant for the discussion on scientific advice.

121. One Member expressed the view that the paper considered the usual approaches to funding; however, in particular for long term options, a policy change was necessary rather than focusing on mainly legal aspects, drawing on the example of countries in which funding from the private sector supported activities which were usually the responsibility of the government, such as inspection. As industry was largely benefiting from scientific advice, a similar approach could be applied at the international level and a new policy involving private funding could be considered with the appropriate safeguards.

122. Another member stated that the focus of scientific advice was on consumer protection and it should be funded in a way to ensure its independence.

123. The Representative of FAO stressed the importance of ensuring the impartiality and independence of scientific advice. Any failure to do so might negatively affect the credibility of Codex standards.

124. The Representative of the Legal Counsel of FAO, also speaking on behalf of the Legal Office of WHO, reconfirmed that the responsibility for resources mobilization rests with the parent organizations. He further informed the Committee that WHO had decided not to accept funding from commercial entities for activities related to the normative work of WHO.⁹ In connection with FAO, he mentioned that the application of relevant private sector policies would most likely lead to a similar outcome, and that any change in the policies of the parent organizations would involve discussions in, or consultations with the Governing Bodies of the parent organizations.

125. The Representative of WHO stressed the need to ensure that member countries continue to request WHO to give high priority both to the Codex and scientific advice programmes in terms of resource mobilization. For this purpose, it was preferable to increase support to existing mechanisms funded by the core budget of the parent organisations, which had built-in systems for ensuring neutrality, excellence and independence, rather than devising new approaches which may have serious implications and may not be practical or applicable. The Representative questioned the need for extended discussions on the long term options within the Executive Committee. As regards funding from non-profit, independent foundations, the Committee was informed that this was acceptable in WHO, but such funding generally targeted time-bound projects on poverty reduction or combating diseases on the field.

126. Some Members expressed concern that current approaches might not be adequate and that expanding the donor base, including private sector funding, could assist in achieving sustainability in support to scientific advice.

127. Some members suggested that the Committee could focus on the short term options (paragraph a to c), which seemed more feasible, such as expanding the base of funding or developing a communication strategy. It was noted that this could take into account future work on the development of a Codex communication strategy.

128. The Representatives of FAO and WHO agreed to present an update at the next session of the CCEXEC on the examination of feasibility for short term options a to c listed in paragraph 48 of the discussion paper.

⁹ On the basis of paragraph 23 of the 'Guidelines on Working with the Private Sector to Achieve Health Outcomes' of WHO.

129. The Committee agreed to make a recommendation to the Commission to invite its members to call on the parent organizations, FAO and WHO, to sustain and support its funding of scientific advice, critical to the work of Codex.

130. The Committee agreed to establish a sub-committee chaired by one of the Vice-Chairs (to be decided at the Commission), open to all Members of the CCEXEC, working in English by electronic means, with the mandate of monitoring progress on sustainable options for funding of scientific advice.

APPLICATIONS FROM INTERNATIONAL NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS FOR OBSERVER STATUS IN CODEX (Agenda Item 5)¹⁰

131. The Executive Committee was invited, in accordance with Rule IX.6 of the Rules of Procedure and taking into account the Principles concerning the Participation of International Non-Governmental Organizations in the Work of the Codex Alimentarius Commission as contained in the Procedural Manual, to provide advice regarding the applications for observer status of international non-governmental organizations having neither status with FAO, nor official relations with WHO.

General Discussion

132. One coordinator proposed to establish a compendium of observers together with indications of their areas of work to facilitate identifying observers working on specific topics. The Secretariat noted that the complete list of observers was on the Codex website, that the Secretariat could assist members to identify specific organizations when needed, and that it could be considered how to provide additional information. A member stated that this should not be a high priority for the Secretariat as its resources were limited.

133. Another coordinator said that more detailed information about observers was useful especially for host governments that had to provide visas to representatives of these organizations. The Legal Advisor of FAO clarified that once accredited, a Codex observer can participate in any Codex session and it was part of the responsibilities of host governments of Codex sessions (Memorandum of responsibilities between the host country government and FAO) to grant visas and accord relevant privileges and immunities to delegates and observers and this was why the review of observers was carried out very carefully by the legal advisors of FAO and WHO.

134. One member noted that Codex already had over 220 observers and that it should be reviewed if criteria should be strengthened to avoid the risk of not being able to accommodate all observers. The Secretariat clarified that Codex already had criteria for admitting observers and that each year on the average five new observers were admitted and that only relatively few of these observers attended Codex Sessions regularly.

135. Another member questioned the usefulness of the involvement of the Executive Committee in the process of observer applications as this seemed to be a purely administrative issue and little value seemed to be added by the Committee as the final decisions were taken by the Directors General of FAO and WHO. He also said that it had not been possible to prepare for the discussion as the relevant document had been received only at the session.

136. In reply to a question on the time frame to submit applications, it was noted that there was no time frame and as applications were reviewed only once a year by the CCEXEC, the Secretariat, FAO and WHO legal offices attempted to present as many applications as possible, even if in some cases it meant that the documentation was presented late.

Culinaria Europe

137. The Secretariat introduced the application and said that the Codex Secretariat and the Legal Advisors of FAO and WHO had checked it and found it complete. The organization had been established in October 2010 and had integrally taken over the work of the previous Codex observer AIIBP/FAIBP (Association internationale des industries de bouillons et potages (AIIBP) Federation des Associations de L'industrie des Bouillons et Potages de la CEE (FAIBP)). The Secretariat confirmed that with the taking over of AIIBP/FAIBP by Culinaria Europe, the observer status with Codex had been extinguished. The Executive

¹⁰ CX/EXEC 13/68/5; CRD 1 (Culinaria Europe); CRD 2 (IFFO), CRD 3 (WPHNA) and CRD 4 (CGF-GFSI).

Committee agreed to recommend to the Directors-General of FAO and WHO to grant observer status to this organisation.

IFFO (International Fishmeal and Fish Oil Organisation) and HKI (Helen Keller International)

138. The Committee noted that IFFO had official relations with FAO and HKI had official relations with WHO and that for this reason these two applications had been granted automatically.

WPHNA (World Public Health Nutrition Association) and Consumer Goods Forum (CGF) – GFSI

139. The Executive Committee agreed to recommend to the Directors-General of FAO and WHO to grant observer status to WPHNA and CGF.

MATTERS ARISING FROM FAO AND WHO (Agenda Item 6)

FAO/WHO PROJECT AND TRUST FUND FOR ENHANCED PARTICIPATION IN CODEX (Agenda Item 6a)¹¹

140. The Administrator of the FAO/WHO Codex Trust Fund (CTF) presented the Annual Report and Monitoring Report of the Codex Trust Fund for the year 2012. In the 2012 Monitoring Report, the Executive Committee's attention was drawn to the following issues:

- The full information that is provided on indicators for monitoring from the Monitoring and Evaluation Framework of the Codex Trust Fund.
- The performance overview which highlights areas requiring urgent attention, areas that should be monitored closely, and areas where good progress should be maintained.
- The implications for management related to planned action that will be taken by FAO/WHO, Codex Secretariat and Codex Trust Fund Secretariat in 2013/2014 to address priority areas highlighted in the performance overview.
- The proposed timeline for the final project evaluation that would ensure that the maximum impact from Codex Trust Fund activities could be assessed, while still ensuring that the results of the evaluation would be available as an input to the discussions and decisions of CCEXEC and CAC in 2015 on a possible successor initiative to the Codex Trust Fund.

141. The Executive Committee's attention was also drawn to the fact that the Codex Trust Fund will end in 2015 and that contributions to the Codex Trust Fund will need to be maintained for the full lifespan. Currently there is a \$1.1 million funding gap to meet projected expenditures for 2014 alone. Members were also informed that the CTF administrator would be available to provide more information on any issues of interest on the project, including eligible countries for the two additional years.

142. Responding to issues highlighted in the Reports, some Members noted that the Codex Trust Fund had increased awareness and participation of developing countries in Codex activities. It was also proposed that a successor initiative to the Trust Fund should be concerned not only with physical participation in Codex meetings, but also the quality of that participation.

143. The Executive Committee appreciated the support extended by FAO/WHO and donor countries through the CTF during the past nine years of implementation, and looked forward towards a successful end of project along with the development of a successor programme.

MATTERS ARISING FROM FAO AND WHO: CONSIDERATION OF REQUESTS FOR SCIENTIFIC ADVICE (Agenda Item 6b)¹²

144. The Representative of FAO highlighted the work of the three FAO/WHO expert committees, JECFA, JMPR and JEMRA and also drew attention of the Committee to the recent publishing of the

¹¹ CX/CAC 13/36/14, CX/CAC 13/36/14-Add.1, CAC/36 INF/9.

¹² CX/CAC 13/68/15; CX/CAC 13/69/15-Add.1.

summary report of the 77th session of JECFA, held in Rome on 4 – 13 June 2013 available on the FAO and WHO websites.

145. The Representative of WHO drew the attention of the Committee to specific activities supported by the Codex Trust Fund aimed at improving the scientific basis of Codex standards, namely the pilot initiative using a partnership approach for the establishment and application of microbiological criteria, and the FAO/WHO project on mycotoxins in sorghum. The work on sorghum was undertaken to provide sufficient data for CCCF and JECFA to decide on the need for maximum levels of specific mycotoxins in this important commodity. The Representative highlighted the importance of scientific advice for the work of Codex and the difficulty the organizations face for sufficient and sustainable funding for this work.

146. The Representative of WHO also briefly introduced the different sections of CX/CAC 13/36/15-Add.1, highlighting some of the future focus, namely initiatives to develop guidance on early warning systems, building on existing efforts at national and regional levels. FAO and WHO are currently developing guidance on risk communication as one of the elements in the risk analysis paradigm. In an effort to move from demands-based to a more needs-based capacity building approach, needs assessment tools were being developed. FAO will be piloting a tool before the end of 2013, to enable reliable self-assessment by interested countries of their national food control systems. FAO is also placing emphasis on strengthening national capacities to make best use of available data and information when making food safety decisions. This includes considering a range of issues when making food safety decisions, which can include impact on consumer health, markets and trade and food security.

147. The Committee was also informed of a recently launched tool by WHO called FOSCOLLAB, a global platform linking different data bases to improve and guide risk management decisions. The tool is available on the WHO website and comments and feedback is encouraged.

148. The Committee acknowledged and expressed appreciation for the efforts of FAO and WHO to provide Codex with the scientific advice essential to its work. The Committee recognised the resource challenges being faced by the two organizations to support scientific advice activities and encouraged members to provide support to ensure the continued provision of scientific advice.

DRAFT PROVISIONAL AGENDA OF THE 37TH SESSION OF THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION (Agenda Item 7)¹³

149. The Committee recalled that the Draft Provisional Agenda for the 37th Session of the Commission was presented in accordance with Rule VII.1 of the Rules of Procedure.

150. The Committee was informed that the Draft Provisional Agenda comprised the usual agenda items and that any other items arising from the 36th Commission would also be included.

151. The Committee agreed with the Draft Provisional Agenda and noted that the final Agenda would be prepared by the Directors-General of FAO and WHO.

OTHER BUSINESS (Agenda Item 8)

Codex management in relation to the work of committees and task forces and the critical review

152. The Committee noted concern about the management of additional Committees or Task Forces and increasing workload, which would require more Codex resources. This was also considered in the context of the 2002 Evaluation of Codex.

153. The Committee generally supported that such issues and possible solutions could be brought to the next session of the CCGP and subsequently to the CCEXEC, and one Member proposed to prepare such a paper. Another Member expressed support for this proposal and also suggested that the paper should reflect upon a merit based approach in the establishment of committees given that a new committee might be the preferred option depending on the circumstances. The Member also suggested some potential also existed for bringing some committees together.

¹³ CX/EXEC 13/68/6.

154. One Member proposed, in light of WHO's previous comments, to explore the potential for a pilot joint session of CCFICS and CCFL and that host governments would look into the feasibility of this approach. Such a pilot would also inform future CCGP discussions and deliberations on this issue.

Development of a communication strategy for Codex

155. The Committee recalled that at its last session it had requested the Secretariat to study the possibilities for developing a communication strategy for Codex in close collaboration with FAO and WHO legal services and communications departments.

156. The Secretariat explained that it had been in touch with the legal, communications and technical departments of FAO and WHO and had prepared a brief document outlining the steps that could be undertaken to develop a Codex Communications strategy. This document had been shared with FAO and WHO for clearance and would be made available for information to the 36th Commission. On the basis of the outline, the Codex Secretariat would develop a communication strategy for final approval by FAO and WHO.

157. The Secretariat highlighted that the communications strategy should support the new Codex strategic plan 2014-2019.

158. The Representative of WHO stressed that the Codex Communications strategy needs clear objectives.

Visas for attending Codex sessions

159. The Committee noted concerns that in some cases it had not been possible for delegates to attend Codex sessions because the visas delivered by host countries had not been received on time or were denied.

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Appendix II**DRAFT STRATEGIC PLAN OF THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION 2014-2019****INTRODUCTION**

The Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC) was established by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the World Health Organization (WHO) in 1963. Today, it has more than 180 Members, and more than 200 inter-governmental and international non-governmental organizations are accredited as observers. The Commission's main work is the development of international food standards¹, guidelines, and codes of practice to protect the health of consumers and ensure fair practices in the food trade. The Commission also promotes the coordination of all food standards work undertaken by international governmental and non-governmental organizations.

For food safety and nutrition matters, the Commission, as a risk manager, establishes its standards using the principles of risk analysis and bases its work on the scientific advice provided by the joint FAO/WHO expert bodies and consultations. Codex standards also address issues related to food quality to ensure fair practices in the food trade. With increased globalization, the Commission must also be capable of responding in a timely manner to emerging food safety issues and other factors² that may impact on food safety and fair practices in the food trade such as the effects of shifting populations, climate change and relevant consumer concerns. Food standards, guidelines and recommendations established by the Commission are recognized as reference points for food under the relevant WTO agreements.

The purpose of this Strategic Plan is to advance the mandate of the Codex Alimentarius Commission during the period 2014-2019. This document does not supersede, extend, or contradict the interpretation of the Codex mandate, standards or provisions of the Procedural Manual adopted or approved by the Commission.

The 2014-2019 Strategic Plan:

- Presents the vision, goals, and objectives for the Commission and is supported by a more detailed work plan that includes activities, milestones, and measurable indicators to track progress toward accomplishment of the goals.
- Underpins the high priority placed on food safety and quality by FAO and WHO and ensures that the Commission will carry out the responsibilities given to it by FAO and WHO.
- Informs Members, inter-governmental and international non-governmental organizations, and other stakeholders of how the Commission intends to fulfil its mandate and to meet the needs and expectations of its Members during the period 2014-2019.

DRIVERS FOR CHANGE

The dynamics of the standard-setting activities undertaken by the Commission have changed dramatically since it was established. Since its establishment, not only has the Codex membership increased significantly but Codex has also seen a more active contribution from all Members, more specifically the developing countries which are contributing more actively to the international food standard-setting process. Additionally, the environment in which Codex operates has also evolved. Food and food ingredients continue to be increasingly amongst the most traded commodities internationally. Changes in the global feed and food supply chain system, resource optimization efforts, food security concerns, innovation in food science and technology, climate change and consumer concerns² represent some of the drivers of change that introduce new food safety and nutrition related challenges. The Commission must adapt to this evolving environment and be capable of proactively responding in a timely manner to emerging food safety, quality and nutrition issues with the aim to protect consumer's health and ensure fair practices in food trade.

¹ The term "standards" is used to cover standards and all related texts.

² The consideration of other factors in the Codex standard-setting process is governed by the *Statements of Principle Concerning the Role of Science in the Codex Decision-Making Process and the Extent to Which Other Factors are Taken into Account*.

STRATEGIC VISION STATEMENT

To be the preeminent international food standards-setting body to protect the health of consumers and ensure fair practices in the food trade.

CODEX CORE VALUES

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

- collaboration
- inclusiveness
- consensus building³
- transparency

In conducting its work, the Commission strives to ensure that the concepts of protecting the health of consumers and fair practise in the food trade are consistently followed in the Codex standard-setting process.

STRATEGIC GOALS

Strategic Goal 1: Establish international food standards that address current and emerging food issues.

Objective 1.1: Establish new and review existing Codex standards, based on priorities of the CAC.

- Activities:
 - 1.1.1 Consistently apply decision-making and priority-setting criteria across Committees to ensure that the standards and work areas of highest priority are progressed in a timely manner.
 - 1.1.2 Strengthen the critical review process to improve standards monitoring.

Objective 1.2: Proactively identify emerging issues⁴ and ~~M~~member ~~c~~ountry-needs and, where appropriate, develop relevant food standards.

- Activities:
 - 1.2.1 Develop a systematic approach to promote identification of emerging issues related to food safety, nutrition, and fair practices in the food trade.
 - 1.2.2 Develop and revise international and regional standards as needed, in response to needs identified by Members and in response to factors that affect food safety, nutrition and fair practices in the food trade.

~~1.2.3 Develop a pilot approach to measure the relevance of Codex standards to mMembers.~~

Objective 1.3: Strengthen coordination and cooperation with other international standards-setting organizations seeking to avoid duplication of efforts and optimize opportunities.

- Activities:
 - 1.3.1 Promote collaboration in standards development in Codex with the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) and the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) on standards that cover the farm to fork continuum and affect Codex and those organizations.
 - 1.3.2 Promote cooperati~~on~~ ~~ve~~ ~~programs~~ with other international governmental and non-governmental standard-setting organizations to support development of relevant Codex standards and to enhance awareness, understanding and use of Codex standards.

³ Consensus should be based on “Measures to facilitate Consensus” included in the Procedural Manual.

⁴ Emerging food safety and nutrition issues are interpreted to include scientific and technological innovations and emerging hazards, related to ongoing investigations or extra-ordinary events (e.g., natural disaster, external threats).

Strategic Goal 2: Ensure the application of risk analysis principles in the development of Codex standards.

Objective 2.1: Ensure consistent use of risk analysis principles and scientific advice.

- Activities:
 - 2.1.1 Use the scientific advice of the joint FAO/WHO expert bodies to the fullest extent possible in food safety and nutrition standards development based on the “*Working Principles of Risk Analysis for Application in the Framework of the Codex Alimentarius*”.
 - 2.1.2 Encourage engagement of scientific and technical expertise of ~~Mmembers~~ countries and their representatives in the development of Codex standards.
 - 2.1.3 Ensure that all relevant factors are fully considered in exploring risk management options in the context of Codex standard development.
 - 2.1.4 Communicate the risk management recommendations to all interested parties.

Objective 2.2: Achieve sustainable access to scientific advice.

- Activities:
 - 2.2.1 Encourage FAO and WHO governing bodies to identify the provision of scientific advice as a high priority and allocate sufficient resources for the FAO/WHO expert advice, in particular from expert bodies such as JECFA, JEMRA, JMPR and JEMNU.
 - 2.2.2 Encourage continued financial support from Members for the FAO/WHO expert advice, in particular from expert bodies such as JECFA, JEMRA, JMPR and JEMNU.
 - 2.2.3 Explore other appropriate funding sources for FAO/WHO scientific advice.

Objective 2.3: Increase scientific input from developing countries.

- Activities:
 - 2.3.1 Encourage developing countries to submit data in response to calls from FAO/WHO expert bodies, through enhanced food safety and nutrition data generation capabilities.
 - 2.3.2 Encourage FAO and WHO to support programs aimed at enhancing the capacity of developing countries to generate, collect and submit data.
 - 2.3.3 Encourage sustained and continuous participation of technical and scientific experts from developing countries in the work of Codex.
 - 2.3.4 Encourage the establishment of and participation in networks of ~~Mmembers~~ to enhance collaboration in the generation of data that can be submitted for review by expert committees.

Strategic Goal 3: Facilitate the effective participation of all Codex Members.

Objective 3.1: Increase the effective participation of developing countries in Codex.

- Activities:
 - 3.1.1 Encourage ~~Mmembers~~ countries to develop sustainable national institutional arrangements to promote effective contribution to the Codex standard setting processes.
 - 3.1.2 Encourage the use of partnership initiatives to increase effectiveness of participation of developing countries, such as co-hosting of committees and working groups, including the development of guidance documents, building on lessons learned.
 - 3.1.3 Encourage financial contributions ~~from Members~~ to the Codex Trust Fund and its successor initiative.
 - 3.1.4 ~~Support Plan, with the involvement of Codex Members the planning and development of;~~ a successor initiative for the Codex Trust Fund.

- 3.1.5 To the extent possible, promote the use of the official languages of the Commission in committees and working groups.

Objective 3.2: Promote capacity development programs that assist countries in creating sustainable national Codex structures.

- Activities:
 - 3.2.1 Encourage FAO and WHO to implement capacity development programs that support the creation of sustainable national Codex-related structures.
 - 3.2.2 Encourage developing countries to identify and prioritize Codex committees and task forces of significance to them.
 - 3.2.4 Where practical, the use of Codex meetings as a forum to effectively conduct educational and technical capacity building activities.

Strategic Goal 4: Implement effective and efficient work management systems and practices.

Objective 4.1: Strive for an effective, efficient, transparent, and consensus based standard setting process.

- Activities:
 - 4.1.1 Periodically review the work processes and procedures used by the CAC and its subsidiary bodies to ensure impediments to standard-setting work are identified and addressed, if necessary.
 - 4.1.2 Assess benefits and, where cost effective, implement new technologies to improve, Codex communication, work flow, and management of activities.
 - 4.1.3 Assess benefits and, where cost effective, implement new technologies to improve [M](#)member participation in committees and working groups.
 - 4.1.4 Ensure timely distribution of all Codex working documents in the working languages of the Committee/Commission.
 - 4.1.5 Increase the scheduling of Work Group meetings in conjunction with Committee meetings.

Objective 4.2: Enhance capacity to arrive at consensus in standards setting process.

- Activities:
 - 4.2.1 Improve the understanding of Codex [M](#)members and delegates of the importance of and approach to consensus building of Codex work.
 - 4.2.2 Through networking, training and workshops, seek to improve the skill set of chairs of working groups and committees to achieve consensus.

DRAFT WORK PLAN:

Note: The “Responsible Party” section identifies the lead party that is responsible for overseeing the implementation of the activity identified in the work plan. It is recognized that several other parties will play a significant role in the implementation of the activity. Codex should leverage the use of existing reports and data collection activities to monitor progress through the “Measurable Indicators”.

Strategic Goal	Objective	Activity	Responsible Party	Time-Line	Expected Outcome	Measurable Indicators/Outputs
<u>Strategic Goal 1:</u> Establish international food standards that address current and emerging food issues.	<u>Objective 1.1:</u> Establish new and review existing Codex standards, based on priorities of the CAC.	1.1.1 Consistently apply decision-making and priority-setting criteria across Committees to ensure that the standards and work areas of highest priority are progressed in a timely manner.	All Committees	On-going	New or updated standards are developed in a timely manner.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Priority setting criteria are reviewed, revised as required and applied. 2. # of standards revised and # of new standards developed based on these criteria.
		1.1.2 Strengthen the critical review process to improve standards monitoring.	CCEXEC	Jan 2014- July 2015	More effective work management oversight exercised by the CCEXEC.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Current critical review procedures <u>process</u> reviewed by Dec. 2014. 2. Proposed changes, if required, to the critical review process identified. 3. Secretariat report submitted to the CCEXEC on outcomes of the review by April 2015. 4. Recommendations endorsed by CCEXEC.
	<u>Objective 1.2:</u> Proactively identify emerging issues ⁴ and Member <u>country</u> needs and, where appropriate, develop relevant food standards.	1.2.1 Develop a systematic approach to promote identification of emerging issues related to food safety, nutrition, and fair practices in the food trade.	All Committees	2016	Timely Codex response to emerging issues and to the needs of Members <u>governments</u> .	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Committees implement systematic approaches for identification of emerging issues. 2. Regular reports on systematic approach and emerging issues made to the CCEXEC through the Codex Secretariat.
		1.2.2 Develop and revise international and regional standards as needed, in	All Committees	On-going	Improved ability of Codex to develop standards relevant to the needs of its	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Input from committees identifying and prioritizing

Strategic Goal	Objective	Activity	Responsible Party	Time-Line	Expected Outcome	Measurable Indicators/Outputs
		response to needs identified by Members and in response to factors that affect food safety, nutrition and fair practices in the food trade:			Members.	needs of <u>M</u> members. 2. Report to CCEXEC from committees on how standards developed address the needs of the <u>M</u> members as part of critical review process.
		1.2.3 Develop a pilot approach to measure the relevance of Codex standards to members.	CCEXEC	2016	Indicators to measure the relevance of Codex standards to members developed.	A pilot approach implemented.
	<u>Objective 1.3:</u> Strengthen coordination and cooperation with other international standards-setting organizations seeking to avoid duplication of efforts and optimize opportunities.	1.3.1 Promote collaboration in standards development in Codex with the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) and the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) on standards that cover the farm to fork continuum and affect Codex and those organizations.	CCEXEC <u>CAC</u>	On-going	Optimized collaboration with OIE and IPPC	1. Current collaboration between Codex, OIE and IPPC reviewed and where relevant, procedures are updated.
		1.3.2 Promote cooperation programs with other international governmental and non-governmental standard-setting organizations to support development of relevant Codex standards and to enhance awareness, understanding and use of Codex standards.	<u>CAC</u> CCEXEC	On-going	Optimized coordination and cooperation with international intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, including private standard settings bodies.	1. Current collaboration between international intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations reviewed and where relevant, procedures updated.

Strategic Goal	Objective	Activity	Responsible Party	Time-Line	Expected Outcome	Measurable Indicators/Outputs
Strategic Goal 2: Ensure the application of risk analysis principles in the development of Codex standards.	Objective 2.1: Ensure consistent use of risk analysis principles and scientific advice.	2.1.1 Use the scientific advice of the joint FAO/WHO expert bodies to the fullest extent possible in food safety and nutrition standards development based on the <i>Working Principles of Risk Analysis for Application in the Framework of the Codex Alimentarius</i> .	All Committees	On-going	Scientific advice consistently taken into account by all relevant committees during the standard setting process.	1. # of times the need for scientific advice is: - identified, - requested and, - utilized in a timely manner.
		2.1.2 Encourage engagement of scientific and technical expertise of <u>Members-countries</u> and their representatives in the development of Codex standards.	All Committees	On-going	Increase in scientific and technical experts at the national level contributing to the development of Codex standards.	1. # of scientists and technical experts as part of <u>Member country</u> delegations. 2. # of scientists and technical experts providing appropriate input to country positions.
		2.1.3 Ensure that all relevant factors are fully considered in exploring risk management options in the context of Codex standard development.	All Committees	On-going	Enhanced identification, and documentation of all relevant factors considered by committees during the development of Codex standards.	1. # of committee documents identifying all relevant factors guiding risk management recommendations. 2. # of committee documents clearly reflecting how those relevant factors were considered in the context of standards development.
		2.1.4 Communicate the risk management recommendations to all interested parties.	All Committees	On-going	Risk management recommendations are effectively communicated and disseminated to all interested parties.	1. # of web publication/communications relaying Codex standards. 2. # of media releases disseminating Codex standards.

Strategic Goal	Objective	Activity	Responsible Party	Time-Line	Expected Outcome	Measurable Indicators/Outputs
	<p><u>Objective 2.2:</u> Achieve sustainable access to scientific advice.</p>	<p>2.2.1 Encourage FAO and WHO governing bodies to identify the provision of scientific advice as a high priority and allocate sufficient resources for the FAO/WHO expert advice, in particular from FAO/WHO expert bodies such as JECFA, JEMRA, JMPR and JEMNU</p>	<p>Codex Members Governments</p>	<p>On-going</p>	<p>FAO and WHO expert advice to Codex is supported in a more sustainable manner.</p>	<p>1. Increase in # of Mmembers countries-making interventions at the FAO and WHO governing bodies in support of sustainable funding for scientific advice. 2. Adequate financial resources allocated to the provision of scientific advice by FAO/WHO.</p>
		<p>2.2.2 Encourage continued financial support from Members for the FAO/WHO expert advice, in particular from FAO/WHO expert bodies such as JECFA, JEMRA, JMPR and JEMNU.</p>	<p>CAC</p>	<p>On-going</p>	<p>Flexible and reactive operational framework for the provision of scientific advice for Codex.</p>	<p>1. Report on the Mmembers countries financial contribution to the provision of scientific advice by FAO/WHO</p>
		<p>2.2.3 Explore other appropriate funding sources for FAO/WHO scientific advice.</p>	<p>CCEXEC</p>	<p>June 2014</p>	<p>Enhanced and more sustainable funding sources for FAO/WHO scientific advice.</p>	<p>1. Report from the CCEXEC sub-committee identifying potential options for financial support by June 2014.</p>
	<p><u>Objective 2.3:</u> Increase scientific input from developing countries.</p>	<p>2.3.1 Encourage developing countries to submit data in response to calls from FAO/WHO expert bodies, through enhanced food safety and nutrition data generation capabilities.</p>	<p>Codex Members Governments</p>	<p>On-going</p>	<p>Codex standards are increasingly more representative of a global environment.</p>	<p>1. Increase in # of developing countries responding to calls for data.</p>
		<p>2.3.2 Encourage FAO and WHO to support programs aimed at enhancing the capacity of developing countries to generate, collect and submit data.</p>	<p>Codex Members Governments</p>	<p>On-going</p>	<p>Risk assessments and scientific advice take into account increased suitable data provided by developing countries.</p>	<p>1. # of new or on-going initiatives aimed to support data collection in developing countries.</p>

Strategic Goal	Objective	Activity	Responsible Party	Time-Line	Expected Outcome	Measurable Indicators/Outputs
		2.3.3 Encourage sustained and continuous participation of technical and scientific experts from developing countries in the work of Codex.	Codex Members Governments	On-going	Developing countries playing an increasingly effective role in Codex standard setting process.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Increase in # of subject matter and food safety risk analysis experts from developing countries contributing to Codex standard setting process. 2. Increase in # of developing countries providing scientific and technical experts to Codex committees.
		2.3.4 Encourage the establishment of <u>and participation in</u> networks of <u>M</u> members to enhance collaboration in the generation of data that can be submitted for review by expert committees.	Codex Members Governments	On-going	Enhanced generation and submission of data from developing countries as a result of participation in networks.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. # of networks developed. 2. # of countries joining a network. 3. # of times input received from developing country by expert committees, as a result from participation in a network.
Strategic Goal 3: Facilitate the effective participation of all Codex Members.	Objective 3.1: Increase the effective participation of developing countries in Codex.	3.1.1 Encourage <u>M</u> members <u>countries</u> to develop sustainable national institutional arrangements to promote effective contribution to the Codex standard setting processes.	CAC	On-going	Increased and strengthened sustainable national Codex structures.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Baseline # of <u>M</u>member <u>governments</u> with permanent national Codex structures developed. 2. Annual reports on the # of <u>M</u>members with permanent national Codex structures reporting an increase in such structures.
		3.1.2 Encourage the use of partnership initiatives to increase effectiveness of participation of developing countries, such as co-hosting of committees and working groups, including the development of guidance documents, building on	CAC	On-going	Increased number of co-hosting arrangements for committees and working groups.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Baseline inventory of current co-hosting arrangements developed. 2. # of developing countries identifying their willingness to co-host Codex meetings 3. # of co-hosted meetings from 2014 to 2019.

Strategic Goal	Objective	Activity	Responsible Party	Time-Line	Expected Outcome	Measurable Indicators/Outputs
		lessons learned.				4. # of guidance documents developed. 5. # of initiatives implemented using the guidance document developed.
		3.1.3 Encourage financial contributions from Members to the Codex Trust Fund and its successor initiative.	CAC	On-going	Codex Trust Fund (and its successor) have sufficient resources for sustainable assistance to <u>eligible developing</u> countries.	1. Increase in # of countries contributing to Codex Trust Fund <u>and its successor initiative</u> 2. Increase in # of countries benefiting from Codex Trust Fund.
		3.1.4 Support Plan, with the involvement of Codex Members, the planning and development of a successor initiative for the Codex Trust Fund.	CCEXEC CAC	Dec. 2015	A successor to the Codex Trust Fund is <u>endorsed by the CAC established and functioning.</u>	1. Transition management team establish <u>Options to successor initiative to Codex Trust Fund is proposed by FAO/WHO to CAC and a path forward is agreed upon. d.</u> 2. Options for a successor program identified. 3. 2. Option selected and implemented.
		3.1.5 To the extent possible, promote the use of the official languages of the Commission in committees and working groups.	All Committees	On-going	Active participation of <u>M</u> members in committees and working groups.	1. Report on number of committees and working groups using the languages of the Commission.
	Objective 3.2: Promote capacity development programs that assist countries in creating sustainable	3.2.1 Encourage FAO and WHO to implement capacity development programs that support the creation of sustainable national Codex-related structures.	CAC	On-going	Enhanced level of capacity development initiatives undertaken by FAO and WHO to support the creation of sustainable national Codex structures.	1.# of capacity development programs conducted by FAO/WHO to strengthen national Codex structures. 2.# of countries with functioning national Codex structures .

Strategic Goal	Objective	Activity	Responsible Party	Time-Line	Expected Outcome	Measurable Indicators/Outputs
	national Codex structures.	3.2.2 Encourage developing countries to identify and prioritize Codex committees and task forces of significance to them.	CAC	On-going	Increased participation by developing countries in Codex committees of most relevance to them.	1.# of developing countries that have identified and are actively participating in their priority committees.
		3.2.3 Where practical, use Codex meetings as a forum to effectively conduct educational and technical capacity building activities.	All Committees	On-going	Enhancement of the opportunities to conduct concurrent activities to maximize use of the resources of Codex and Mmembers-governments .	1.# of activities hosted on the margins of Codex meetings
Strategic Goal 4: Implement effective and efficient work management systems and practices.	Objective 4.1: Strive for an effective efficient, transparent, and consensus based standard setting process	4.1.1 Periodically review the work processes and procedures used by the CAC and its subsidiary bodies to ensure impediments to standard-setting work are identified and addressed, if necessary.	All Committees	On-going	Effective and efficient Codex standard-setting bodies.	1. Reports of reviews of work processes and procedures identifying: - # of impediments to standard-setting work identified. - # of processes and procedures updated to address the identified impediments, if necessary.
		4.1.2 Assess benefits and, where cost effective, implement new technologies to improve, Codex communication, work flow, and management of activities.	Codex Secretariat	2015	Improved functioning of Codex committees as a result of faster communication, and transparent work processes.	1. Potential cost-effective technologies identified. 2.# of feasible options recommended. 3.# of options implemented.
		4.1.3 Assess benefits and, where cost effective, implement new technologies to improve Mmember participation in committees and working groups.	Codex Secretariat	2018	Members-governments more effectively able to participate in committees and working groups as a result of the implementation of new technologies.	1.# of new potential technologies identified and analyzed to determine their applicability to improving participation of Mmembers in Codex standard-setting process. 2.# of new technologies piloted (e.g. new Codex document sharing system).

Strategic Goal	Objective	Activity	Responsible Party	Time-Line	Expected Outcome	Measurable Indicators/Outputs
						3.Report on meetings and work processes allowing electronic participation.
		4.1.4 Enhance timely distribution of all Codex working documents in the working languages of the Committee/Commission.	All Committees	Dec. 2015	Codex documents distributed in a more timely manner consistent with timelines in the Procedural Manual.	1.Baseline Ratio (%) established for documents distributed at least 2 months prior to versus less than 2 months prior to a scheduled meeting. 2.Factors that potentially delay the circulation of documents identified and addressed. 3.An increase in the ratio (%) of documents circulated 2 months or more prior to meetings.
		4.1.5 Increase the scheduling of Work Group meetings in conjunction with Committee meetings.	All Committees	On-going	Improved efficiency in use of resources by Codex committees and Mmembers_governments .	1.# of physical working group meetings in conjunction with committee meetings, where appropriate.
	Objective 4.2: Enhance capacity to arrive at consensus in standards setting process.	4.2.1 Improve the understanding of Codex Mmembers and delegates of the importance of and approach to consensus building of Codex work.	All committees	2016	Members countries and delegates awareness of the importance of consensus in the Codex standard setting process improved.	1. Training material on guidance to achieve consensus developed and made available in the languages of the Commission to delegates. 2. Regular dissemination of existing material to Mmembers through Codex Contact Points. 3. Delegate training programs held in association with Codex meetings. 4. Impediments to consensus being achieved in Codex identified and analyzed and additional guidance developed to address

Strategic Goal	Objective	Activity	Responsible Party	Time-Line	Expected Outcome	Measurable Indicators/Outputs
						such impediments, if necessary.
		4.2.2 Through networking, training and workshops, seek to improve the skill set of chairs of working groups and committees to achieve consensus.	CAC Chair of the Commission	2016	Consensus achieved at working groups and committees.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Training available to all Chairs and work group (physical and electronic) chairs on how to lead and facilitate committee meetings. 2. Best practices to achieve consensus at committees and working groups shared amongst chairs.