



**JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME**  
**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION**  
**Seventy-fourth Session**

**CODEX WORK MANAGEMENT (2017-18 REGULAR REVIEW)**

(Prepared by the Codex Secretariat)

## INTRODUCTION

1. Following the request of CAC39 that the Codex Secretariat regularly review Codex work management as part of the monitoring of the Strategic Plan 2014-19 (Strategic Plan) and to regularly inform both CCEXEC and CAC on the findings and recommended actions deriving from such a regular review, a report on the first regular review for 2016-17, which focused on Electronic Working Groups (EWGs), was presented to CCEXEC73 and CAC40.
2. CCEXEC73 recommended that the Secretariat: (i) develop practical guidance for EWGs; (ii) examine barriers to active participation and identify possible solutions; (iii) record actions taken as part of the report on the implementation of the Codex Strategic Plan 2014-19; and (iv) continue the regular review of Codex work management.<sup>1</sup>
3. CAC40 endorsed the recommendation of CCEXEC73 and further recommended that the Secretariat work with regional coordinators in examining barriers to active participation and identifying possible solutions and that the matter be included on the agenda of forthcoming RCC meetings; and took note of the proposal by several delegations to discuss EWG-related guidance at CCGP if considered necessary in future.<sup>2</sup>
4. CAC39 noted that Members could identify specific topics for improvement, which could be brought to the attention of CCEXEC and CAC.<sup>3</sup>
5. Similarly to the document presented at CCEXEC73, the purpose of this document is to present the focus of the 2017-18 regular review of work management entrusted to the Codex Secretariat by CAC39.

## REVIEW FOCUS AND RATIONALE

6. The Secretariat did not receive any proposal for topics and, following internal discussion, identified the cooperation and collaboration with other international standard-setting organizations as the focus of the 2017-18 regular review of work management entrusted to the Codex Secretariat by CAC39.
7. The Secretariat monitoring and reporting on relations with other intentional organizations (including other standard setters) has in the past been restricted to an inventory of events and meetings attended and no substantive information can currently be provided on the extent to which potential synergies between Codex and other international standard setting organisations are sought. In addition, a closer review of work management practices of these organisations could inform Codex work planning and contribute to strategic goal 4 “*Implement effective and efficient work management systems and practices*”.
8. The subject of the review is connected to activity 1.3.2 of the Strategic Plan “*Promote cooperation 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*” and is in line with one of the core mandates of CAC, namely “*promoting coordination of all food standards work undertaken by international governmental and non-governmental organizations*”.<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> REP17/EXEC2, para. 91

<sup>2</sup> REP17/CAC, para. 116

<sup>3</sup> REP16/CAC, para. 134(iii)

<sup>4</sup> Statutes of the Codex Alimentarius Commission, Article 1(b)

**REVIEW SCOPE**

9. Based on the indicator of activity 1.3.2 of the Strategic Plan, the scope of the review is to assess the status of current collaboration between international intergovernmental and nongovernmental standard-setting organisations, with Observer status in Codex, with a view to formulating recommendations to strengthen cooperation and collaboration, and identify good practices and possible synergies. In particular the review will cover, as appropriate: (i) information exchange and mutual participation in activities; (ii) work modalities in standard development; and (iii) membership and capacity.

10. Collaboration with OIE and IPPC is covered by a separate activity of the Strategic Plan, namely 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*”.

11. The review will not include OIE and IPPC due to their specific relationship with Codex under the WTO Agreement on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS Agreement) and the recently concluded discussions in CCGP on Codex/OIE cooperation.

**PLANNING**

12. The Codex Secretariat will work in consultation with the FAO and WHO evaluation units and will report its findings and recommendation to CCEXEC75 and CAC41.

**RECOMMENDATION**

13. EXEC74 is invited to:

- i. note the focus of the 2017-18 regular review of Codex work management on cooperation and collaboration with other international standard-setting organizations;
- ii. provide any additional elements that could assist the Secretariat in the review; and
- iii. encourage Members to identify specific topics for the 2018-19 regular review for consideration by the Secretariat.