



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

**FAO Headquarters, Rome, Italy, 20-23 June 2016**  
**PREPARATION OF CODEX STRATEGIC PLAN 2020-2025**  
(Prepared by the Codex Secretariat)

## 1. Background

1. At its 36<sup>th</sup> Session in 2013, the Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC36) adopted the Strategic Plan for the period 2014-2019. It is the second Strategic Plan containing goals, objectives and a detailed implementation plan. Prior to 2008, the Commission adopted a Strategic Framework.<sup>1</sup>
2. The timeframe of the current Codex Strategic Plan is aligned with the *FAO Strategic Plan* and the *WHO 12<sup>th</sup> General Programme of Work* which are now in their second year of implementation and will expire in 2019.
3. The development process of the present Strategic Plan took approximately three years and included the following steps:
  - (i) In 2010, CAC33 agreed to seek suggestions from FAO/WHO Coordinating Committees (2010-2011) via a questionnaire, which was prepared by an electronic working group consisting of the Chair and the Vice-Chairs and distributed via circular letters;<sup>2</sup>
  - (ii) In 2011, CCEXEC65 discussed the initial draft Strategic Plan, decided that the Member for North America would collect and compile comments on the draft from Executive Committee members and agreed to circulate a new version for comments to all members and observers of the Commission;<sup>3</sup>
  - (iii) In 2012, CCEXEC67 reviewed an updated second draft which included a full set of activities, and CAC35 agreed to establish a sub-Committee, to be chaired by one of the Vice-chairpersons and open to all CCEXEC members, to further develop the draft Strategic Plan;
  - (iv) Between September 2012 and January 2013 FAO/WHO Coordinating Committees discussed the second draft Strategic Plan as part of their meeting agendas;
  - (v) In March 2013, the sub-Committee of the Executive Committee met in Ottawa, Canada, to address all the comments of the FAO/WHO Coordinating Committees and prepare a final draft Strategic Plan<sup>4</sup> for comments and consideration at CCEXEC68 in June and subsequent adoption by CAC36 in July 2013.

## 2. Discussion and conclusion

4. In the three year development process of the Strategic Plan 2014-19 FAO/WHO Coordinating Committees provided input to the first draft and feedback on a later draft.
5. Five FAO/WHO Coordinating Committees have also developed or are developing Regional Strategic Plans (RSPs). Some RSPs include specific elements for the region, which are not necessarily included in the global Strategic Plan, while others greatly overlap with the global Strategic Plan.
6. CCASIA decided to discontinue operating under a RSP and considers it more adequate to use a *List of Activities of Interest* to the region in support of the global Strategic Plan.<sup>5</sup>

<sup>1</sup> [Codex Alimentarius Commission Strategic Framework 2003-2007](#)

<sup>2</sup> [CL 2010/37-NEA](#), [CL 2010/41-NASWP](#), [CL 2010/42-ASIA](#), [CL 2010/43-AFRICA](#), [CL2010/44-EURO](#), [CL2010/46-LAC](#)

<sup>3</sup> [CL2012/2-EXEC](#)

<sup>4</sup> [CX/CAC 13/36/12](#)

<sup>5</sup> [REP15/ASIA](#), para. 78.

7. Two recent events may be considered of relevance to a Strategic Plan for the period 2020-2025, i.e.:
- (i) In 2015, CAC38 agreed “to start phase 1 (a Secretariat led- internal review of Codex Work Management and Functioning of the Executive Committee) after CAC39” in 2016 and noted that “the Strategic Plan 2014-19 should be the basis for designing the work management evaluation”.<sup>6</sup>
  - (ii) In September 2015, the United Nations General Assembly adopted new global Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to be implemented by 2030. The SDGs touch upon food safety, trade and nutrition issues that relate to the strategic goals and activities of FAO, WHO and the Codex Alimentarius.
8. If ample consultation with RCCs and Codex Members and Observers are to be ensured prior to the eventual adoption of a new plan by the Commission in 2019 it is a timely moment to start the process of developing a Strategic Plan for the period 2020-25.

### 3. Recommendations

9. The Executive Committee is invited to consider the process as described in points i-v below, for approval by the Commission, to develop a new Strategic Plan for the period 2020-25.
- (i) FAO/WHO Coordinating Committees (meeting between September 2016 and February 2017) provide suggestions on possible goals and objectives for a new Strategic Plan;
  - (ii) The Chair and Vice-Chairs of the Commission prepare a first draft Strategic Plan (without a detailed implementation plan) for circulation for comments and consideration by the Executive Committee in 2017. Further to inputs from Coordinating Committees, the draft should take due account of the annual status report on the implementation of the Strategic Plan 2014-19 and the outcome of the internal review (as appropriate). Other relevant sources to be considered are the strategies/work programmes of FAO and WHO and overarching UN goals outlined in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;
  - (iii) The Chair and Vice-Chairs prepare a complete draft (including implementation plan) for review by the Executive Committee in 2018;
  - (iv) FAO/WHO Coordinating Committees meeting between autumn 2018 and spring 2019 provide comments on the reviewed complete draft (including implementation plan);
  - (v) The Chair and Vice-Chairs of the Commission prepare a final draft for circulation for comments by all members and observers of the Commission, subsequent consideration by CCEXEC (2019), and adoption by the Commission (2019).

**Table 1: Proposed timeline for the development process of Strategic Plan 2020-25**

When	Action	by
Second half 2016 First half 2017	Suggestions for goals and objectives of a new Strategic Plan	FAO/WHO Coordinating Committees
First half 2017	Finalisation of first draft (without implementation plan)	Chair and Vice Chairs
First half 2017	Submission of comments on first draft	Members and Observers
Second half 2017	Review	CCEXEC
First half 2018	Preparation of second draft (with implementation plan)	Chair and Vice Chairs
Second half 2018 First half 2019	Inputs on second draft	FAO/WHO Coordinating Committees
First half 2019	Preparation of final draft	Chair and Vice Chairs
First half 2019	Comments	Members and Observers
First half 2019	Final review	CCEXEC
Second half 2019	Adoption	CAC

<sup>6</sup> [REP15/CAC](#)