

CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION E



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



World Health
Organization

Viale delle Terme di Caracalla, 00153 Rome, Italy - Tel: (+39) 06 57051 - E-mail: codex@fao.org - www.codexalimentarius.org

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JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME

CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION

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REPORT OF THE SEVENTY-SEVENTH SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION

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INTRODUCTION

1. The Executive Committee of the Codex Alimentarius Commission held its Seventy-Seventh Session (CCEXEC77) at the Headquarters of the World Health Organization (WHO), in Geneva, Switzerland, from 1 to 5 July 2019. The Chairperson of the Commission, Guilherme da Costa Junior (Brazil), opened the session. The Director of the Department of Food Safety and Zoonoses of the World Health Organization (WHO), Kazuaki Miyagishima and the Acting Head of the Food Safety and Quality Unit of FAO, Markus Lipp welcomed the participants on behalf of the parent organizations.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA (Agenda item 1)¹

2. CCEXEC77 adopted the provisional agenda with the addition, under item 12, Any other business, of:
 - i. Proposal for a new standing agenda item called: *Matters arising from the Critical Review* (proposed by the Member for Europe)

CRITICAL REVIEW (Agenda item 2)²

3. CCEXEC77 acknowledged the improvement to the documentation supporting the critical review work and thoroughly discussed the content presented to them committee by committee.
4. CCEXEC77 noted that overall due processes were followed and recommended that the Forty-Second Session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC42):
 - i. consider for adoption all the texts as proposed by the respective committees, except as noted below, and take note of those on which it made specific comments and recommendations below;
 - ii. revoke all texts proposed for revocation;
 - iii. discontinue all work as proposed for discontinuation;
 - iv. approve all items proposed as new work;
 - v. agree to all proposed amendments to Codex texts; and
 - vi. agree to the extension of timelines where requested and, where no timeline had been provided, to request the relevant committee to provide one.

5. CCEXEC77 furthermore made the specific comments and recommendations below:

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

6. While recommending to CAC42 to adopt the proposed draft principles and guidelines for the assessment and use of voluntary third-party assurance (VTPA) programmes at Step 5, concerns were expressed from one region whether such a programme could not undermine government food control. It was noted that such concerns had been discussed and addressed in CCFICS.
7. CCEXEC77 highlighted the importance of the ongoing discussions in CCFICS potential new work on food fraud and noted the need to expedite discussions with a view to advance this potential work, which currently remains at the level of a discussion paper on a gap analysis. CCEXEC77 noted that in addition to the United States of America as chairperson and Iran and the EU as co-chairpersons, China will also be a co-chairperson of the electronic working group (EWG) on Food Fraud.

8. CCEXEC77 noted that use of webinar technology had been piloted by CCFICS to increase participation in Codex work and that the effectiveness of such work modalities would have to be evaluated.

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

9. CCEXEC77 recommended to CAC42 to adopt the draft scope, description and labelling for follow-up formula for older infants (Section A) of the proposed revised *Standard for Follow-up Formula (CX 156-1987)* at Step 5 as endorsed and amended by CCFL noting in particular that the part on restriction of cross-promotion had not been endorsed by CCFL and required further discussion in CCNFSDU. CCEXEC77 further noted that the work on follow-up formula presently has a target date of 2019 and CCNFSDU is encouraged to complete this work in 2019 or to establish a more realistic target date.

¹ CX/EXEC 19/77/1 Rev.1

² CX/EXEC 19/77/2 Rev.1 and CX/EXEC 19/77/2 Add. 1 – Rev.1

10. CCEEXEC77, while noting that the work on biofortification had been on the agenda for several years and that CCFL saw no need for a definition for biofortification related to food labeling, requested CCNFSDU to clarify how a definition would be useful in the context of Codex work and to consider discontinuation of this work if no use was identified.

11. CCEEXEC77 recalled and reaffirmed the advice given by CCEEXEC75³ regarding use of references to WHO/WHA documents.

Committee on Spices and Culinary Herbs (CCSCH)

12. CCEEXEC77 noted and welcomed the ongoing work on developing and/or updating a template for group standards, which eventually will accelerate the work of CCSCH.

13. CCEEXEC77 recommended that CAC42 adopt the Proposed Draft Standard for Dried or Dehydrated Garlic at Step 5/8 on the understanding that it will only be published after the endorsement of the three outstanding labelling provisions by CCFL. It was clarified that methods are not an integral part of a standard and therefore the proposed standard could be adopted and published despite the lack of CCMAS endorsement of provisions for testing.

Committee on General Principles (CCGP)

14. CCEEXEC77 welcomed the resumption of CCGP and noted the ongoing important work on the guidance for committees working by correspondence.

Committee on Food Additives (CCFA)

15. CCEEXEC77 recommended that CAC42 adopt the Proposed Draft Specifications for the Identity and Purity of Food Additives including the Erratum in CX/EXEC 19/77/2 Rev.1 Appendix 7, section 4.1.

16. CCEEXEC77 commended CCFA and the respective EWGs on finding solutions and reaching consensus regarding the replacement notes to Note 161 and the revisions to some provisions for sweeteners.

17. In response to an intervention on a possible reference to OIV in the *General Standard on Food Additives (CXS 192-1995)* as well as possible reopening of the discussion regarding additives used in wine, the Codex Secretariat clarified that:

- i. this matter was considered at CCFA49, but no consensus was reached;
- ii. the draft and proposed draft provisions for wine had continued being held at Step 7 and 4, respectively; and
- iii. Members could reopen the discussion at CCFA and make proposals on how to advance work on these provisions.

18. CCEEXEC77 noted that Iran will be a co-chair for the EWG on the International Numbering System (INS).

Committee on Pesticide Residues (CCPR)

19. CCEEXEC77 congratulated CCPR in advancing the work on maximum residue limits based on risk assessment from JMPR for adoption in a timely manner.

20. CCEEXEC77 called upon CCPR and CCRVDF to collaborate and synchronize work on issues of common interest to both committees to the extent possible to facilitate the establishment of maximum residue limits (MRLs) for pesticides / veterinary drugs for compounds with dual uses.

Committee on Methods of Analyses and Sampling (CCMAS)

21. CCEEXEC77 encouraged CCMAS to liaise with other committees regarding methods of analysis/performance criteria and sampling and the use of the *General Standard on Methods of Analysis and Sampling (CXS 234 – 1999)* as the single reference point for methods of analysis/performance criteria and sampling as much as possible.

Task Force on Antimicrobial Resistance (TFAMR)

22. CCEEXEC77 encouraged TFAMR to find consensus and advance the work in the step procedure to finalize within the given timeframe.

23. CCEEXEC77 further noted that TFAMR will need to use four sessions to complete its work (possible adoption at CAC44 in 2021).

³ REP18/EXEC2-Rev.1, para 14

24. It was emphasized that the work is in response to an urgent public health topic and with links to ongoing work of high priority at the international level.

Committee on Cereals, Pulses, and Legumes (CCCPL)

25. The Secretariat clarified that the *Standard for Quinoa* except for the provisions for moisture content and grain size had been adopted at Step 8 by CAC41 (2018), subject to endorsement of the labelling provisions by CCFL45. CCFL45 (May 2019) had endorsed the labelling provisions. The Secretariat had postponed publication of the standard to after CAC42 in case the pending discussions could be concluded.
26. Noting that the standard development process had been duly followed and noting the conclusions of CCCPL, CCEEXEC77 recommended that CAC42 adopt the section on moisture content (section 3.2.1) and delete the section on grain size (section 3.2.7).
27. CCEEXEC77, noting that a sentence related to the acceptance procedure appears in many CCCPL standards (including the *Standard for Quinoa*), also recommended that CAC42 agree to delete this sentence from all pertinent CCCPL standards⁴.
28. CCEEXEC77 noted that CCCPL would be adjourned *sine die* upon completion of the current work.

Committee on Processed Fruits and Vegetables (CCPFV)

29. CCEEXEC77 recommended that CAC42 agree with the proposals of the CCPFV Chairperson that:
- i. CCPFV continue its work by correspondence;
 - ii. based on the progress of the work of CCPFV, the need for a physical meeting in 2020 would be assessed.
30. CCEEXEC77 noted an opinion that, in view of the number of EWGs, it would be necessary to convene the physical meeting in the first half of 2020. CCEEXEC77 also noted that participation in some EWGs had been relatively low, and expressed the hope that participation in the full committee by correspondence could increase and allow progression of standards.
31. CCEEXEC77 noted the interest in activating the work on cashew kernels and that members were encouraged to participate in the work of CCPFV and this could be further discussed in the upcoming FAO/WHO Coordinating Committees (RCCs).

Committee on Sugars (CCS)

32. CCEEXEC77, noting that the timeline for completion of the work on the development of a Standard for Non-Centrifuged Dehydrated Sugar Cane Juice had been postponed several times and no progress had been made, reiterated the conclusion of CCEEXEC75 to recommend discontinuation of the work. CAC42 could consider future work in this area should there be sufficient interest on the part of members and a new work proposal presented.

Cross-cutting matters arising from the Critical Review

33. CCEEXEC77 noted the following cross-cutting issues that arose from the Critical Review discussions:
- i. Use of the Critical Review documents (including comments from Chairpersons) to identify cross-cutting issues where discussion by the CCEEXEC might add particular value.
 - ii. Further exploration of the use of webinar technologies by physical working groups of subsidiary bodies.
 - iii. A possible proposal for an amendment to the format for commodity standards to include a section on traceability. This is relevant to the CCFICS work on food fraud.
 - iv. Planning of sequencing and frequency of meetings of Codex subsidiary bodies, particularly in respect of the committees not meeting annually and where the committees collaborate on matters of common interest to expedite the process of standard setting.
 - v. Discussion of use of different definitions for the same terms in different Codex subsidiary bodies.
34. CCEEXEC77 requested the Secretariat to prepare a discussion paper on the issue identified in paragraph 33 iv.

⁴ CX/CAC 19/42/10

CODEX STRATEGIC PLAN 2020-2025 (Agenda item 3)⁵

35. CCEXEC77 acknowledged and appreciated the work undertaken by the sub-committee in developing the revised Strategic Plan 2020-2025 and, noting the outcome of the physical meeting of the sub-committee⁶ that was convened immediately prior to the session, agreed to focus their discussions on the text in square brackets. Reiterating the importance of transparency, CCEXEC77 agreed that in revising the text, they would strive to keep it as simple and clear as possible, to facilitate communication of the strategic plan, and to record the rationale for their decisions.

36. CCEXEC77 made the following amendments and observations, as described in paras. 37-60 below:

Title

37. Agreed that the title read “Codex Strategic Plan 2020-2025” for consistency with the current and previous strategic plans.

Introduction

38. *Paragraph 1.3:* Agreed to revert to the language of the current strategic plan, indicating Codex as a “risk manager”, and deleted “risk management” as a descriptor of Codex standards, to avoid confusion over the nature of Codex standards; and to delete reference to standards being “used as non-legislative standards” in order to simplify the text and not limit the way standards may be used in food trade.

39. *Paragraph 1.6:* Revised the text at the end of bullet 2 to read “...fair practices in the food trade” for consistency with the mandate of Codex.

Drivers of change

Paragraph 2.3:

40. Deleted “the effects of shifting populations” due to the lack of clarity on the relationship to food safety and quality.

41. Retained “water scarcity” as there was a clear linkage to food safety and its inclusion had been specifically requested by one region, but decoupled it from “climate change” to avoid an overly narrow interpretation of the concept.

42. Noted the following opinions regarding the continued inclusion of “consumer concerns” as an example of the drivers of change that may introduce new opportunities and challenges:

- That this concept is very broad, could suggest consideration of issues beyond the mandate of Codex, and lead to expectations that standards be developed due to perception rather than evidence;
- That the concept could be clarified in terms of the types of consumer concerns that were relevant to Codex; and
- That the text be retained as the purpose of Codex standards is to protect consumers; it was included in the current Strategic plan (2014-2019) and no specific concerns had been raised and that further clarity on the importance of the inclusion of consumer concerns was provided in the Codex Strategic Framework 2003-2007⁷; and in recognition of the range of opinions expressed, agreed to include the words ‘related to food safety and quality’ immediately after consumer concerns.

Codex Vision Statement

43. Noted that a vision statement should be inspirational, clear and memorable, with an outward focus on deliverables and avoid appearing as self-serving and, accordingly, agreed to return to the original text proposed by the sub-committee in CL 2019/21, recognizing the importance of communicating this rationale to the Codex membership.

Codex Mission Statement

44. Agreed to reflect the importance of science in the statement, noting that science is a broad concept that encompasses many disciplines and is fundamental to Codex work; and encouraged Members to read the vision and mission together.

⁵ CX/CAC 19/42/12

⁶ CRD1

⁷ ALINORM 01/41, Appendix II, para 17

Core values

45. Agreed to delete the text and footnote in square brackets; noted the proposals to include science-based as a core value and to modify consensus-building to consensus. However, considering that there was no agreement to modify them, concluded to retain the core values unchanged; and further noted that the current core values were also already agreed in the Strategic Plan 2014-2019, that science-based was now captured in the mission statement and consensus- was captured in the Procedural Manual (PM) (footnote to Rule II and rule XII point 2).
46. Agreed to retain paragraph 4.2 as originally written and delete the additional proposed text in square brackets; and to move this paragraph to the introductory section immediately after para 1.3, noting that it was not directly related to the core values but rather the overall content of the document.

Goals and objectives

47. *Goal 1:* For the purpose of simplicity and clarity agreed to delete all the proposed text in square brackets but, noting the importance of timeliness of standard setting, as commented by the Committee in undertaking the Critical Review, agreed to add “in a timely manner” to the end of the goal.
48. *Goal 2:* Agreed to remove the square brackets, noting that science, in its broadest sense, contributed to all types of Codex standards and that specific reference to Codex risk analysis principles improved clarity, given that other standards-setting organizations/risk management bodies have also established risk analysis principles. It was also noted that not all parts of all Codex standards are based on science.
49. *Goal 4:* Agreed to revise the goal to reflect the style of the other goals and to align with the current strategic plan and proposed that the concept of capacity development be captured in the activities to support achievement of the goal.
50. *Paragraph 5.5:* Agreed to delete the first sentence as it lacked clarity and its key elements were captured elsewhere in the paragraph.

Goal 1

51. Included two additional indicators under *Objective 1.2* to capture the timely progression from prioritization of emerging issues to the completion of Codex standards and the use of prioritization mechanisms within Codex committees.

Goal 2

52. Agreed to remove the brackets from “regional distribution” in the indicator under *Objective 2.2*, but noted that this indicator will also need to consider other factors, such as the global breadth of production of a food commodity which might inform the understanding of “globally representative” in each case.
53. Agreed to delete part II of the indicator as it was not directly related to the outcome and was not within the control of the Codex membership. However, CCEEXEC77 noted that Member Countries can play an important role in facilitating participation of experts in FAO/WHO expert meetings.
54. Noted that, based on the experience of the current Strategic Plan, monitoring against the indicators did present challenges and there may be a need to refine the indicators at a later date, as part of the proposed two-yearly review of the Strategic Plan by CAC.
55. Noted the view of the Representative of WHO, on *Indicator 1* under *Objective 2.3*, that core funding is not necessarily the only and most sustainable modality of funding for scientific advice, considering the current WHO funding structures and the ongoing transformation process within the organization with possible consequences on WHO’s future financing model.
56. Highlighted the importance of emphasizing an increase in core funding as part of the effort to making scientific advice for Codex more sustainable; and revised the indicator to include “sufficient” before “core funding” to reflect both WHO and CCEEXEC perspectives.

Goal 3

57. Agreed to delete the text in square brackets in *paragraph 5.8* “on consumer health and fair practices in the food trade” noting that there were a number of challenges to measuring such an impact.
58. Replaced the word “promulgate” with “promote” in *Objective 3.3* to encompass the wider intention of active championing of Codex standards, as well as their communication and awareness-raising.
59. Noted the concerns expressed on how *Outcome 2 of Objective 3.2* could be achieved but agreed to retain the text highlighting the importance of being ambitious and trying to get more information on all aspects of use of Codex standards from all potential users.

Goal 4

60. Revised the indicator under *Objective 4.3* to read “Reduce the barriers...” to provide further clarity and adjusted the outcome accordingly.

Goal 5

61. Agreed to delete the text in square brackets at the end of *Objective 5.2*, noting that this goal reflected the efficiency of the support mechanisms which underpin the other 4 goals of the SP, that timeliness of standards is already considered as part of the critical review and some elements of timeliness are also captured under Goal 1.

Other issues

62. CCEEXEC77 noted the comments of the Representative of WHO on the progress being made by shifting from output indicators to measurable outcome indicators.
63. CCEEXEC77 noted the request from a Member for clarification on the process through which evaluation of the Strategic Plan 2014-2019 would be completed, and the relevant recommendation in CX/EXEC 19/77/4.

Conclusions

64. CCEEXEC77:
- Recommended to CAC42 that it adopt the Strategic Plan 2020-2025 as revised by CCEEXEC77 (Appendix II);
 - Strongly encouraged the Regional Coordinators and all CCEEXEC members to communicate the basis of the discussion and the rationale for the outcome with the wider membership of Codex in an effort to facilitate adoption of the Strategic Plan 2020-2025 by CAC42; and
 - Agreed to establish a third strategic-planning subcommittee, with terms of reference as set out in Appendix III, to facilitate and support development of the workplan for implementation of the Strategic Plan 2020-2025 and ensure all relevant Codex actors can participate in that process.

STRATEGIC PLAN 2014-2019: IMPLEMENTATION STATUS (Agenda item 4)⁸

65. CCEEXEC77 acknowledged and appreciated the 2018 report on the implementation status of the Strategic Plan 2014-2019 (current SP).
66. With regard to the content of CX/EXEC 19/77/4, CCEEXEC77 noted the following :
- The high number of indicators in the current strategic plan, 61 in total, many of which could not be measured, has led to monitoring problems;
 - The productivity of CAC appears understated in the quantitative presentation of standards adopted (activity 1.1.1). The values presented would increase if for instance individual MRLs were counted as individual Codex standards;
 - There was a mismatch between data on participation presented in the narrative of Appendix I (under objective 2.3) and the figures (Figure 2 and 3), which will require correction when preparing the final status report;
 - For documents in original language (e.g. compilations of comments) the absence of official translations (activity 3.1.5) constituted an issue for some regions;
 - The percentage of working documents submitted on time (activity 4.1.4) was low and had further decreased and this affected the ability of Members to prepare adequately for Codex meetings. Sufficient time was needed to facilitate consultations at national level. Furthermore, all language versions of working documents should be available well ahead of a meeting.
67. The Codex Secretariat clarified that delays in the timely distribution of working documents was observed across almost all committees including CCEEXEC and CAC and there were multiple factors contributing to such delays. These included delays in reports from EWGs, the high workload of the secretariat e.g. the need to prepare documents for multiple meetings within the same time-frame, as well as the limited time available between some subsidiary body meetings.
68. In discussing the timeliness of working documents and possible solutions, the Committee noted that:
- It was important to identify the reasons for delays so that possible solutions could be proposed;

⁸ CX/EXEC 19/77/4

- CAC subsidiary bodies meeting less frequently than every 12 months had more time for EWG discussions, which may positively impact on the timeliness of EWG reports;
- Explicitly stating in EWG Terms of Reference, which are contained in meeting reports, that EWG reports were to be submitted three months prior to the start of the respective committee meeting could serve as a strong reminder for EWG Chairpersons;
- Meetings of Codex committee chairpersons and host country secretariats could serve as suitable fora to exchange best practices (e.g. regarding dissemination of reminders, realistic timetables) on EWG work management together with the Codex Secretariat;
- Working documents could be marked as delayed or on time;
- Circular Letters requesting comments should be sent shortly after subsidiary body meetings (a practice already followed by many committees);
- The Critical Review document could be prepared in more than two instalments to make more information available in the timely manner. However, it was also noted that information from committees meeting in May would always be late;
- If an EWG had created a report in several languages this should be taken into account when preparing official translations to save time and resources and avoid linguistic discussions on substantive issues in the committee;
- The Codex Secretariat had published an EWG reporting template and was in the process of implementing further follow-up actions to the 2017 EWG review (e.g. discussions in RCCs, webinar and practical guidance for EWG Chairpersons); and
- The Codex Secretariat was preparing a multilingual glossary of frequently used terms in Codex with the aim of enhancing translations.

69. With regard to the expectations of CCEEXEC for the final status report on the current SP, CCEEXEC77 suggested that lessons learnt and challenges with measuring activities should be clearly highlighted.
70. CCEEXEC77 noted that the implementation status of the current SP would also be discussed at the upcoming sessions of the RCCs. In this context CCEEXEC77 further noted that the current term for the Regional Coordinators would run until CAC43 following the postponement of the RCCs by one year.

Conclusions

71. CCEEXEC77:
 - i. Noted that the high number of indicators in the current SP (in total 61) had led to monitoring problems and welcomed that the new draft Strategic Plan had reduced the number of indicators by almost two thirds;
 - ii. Requested the Codex Secretariat to prepare a discussion paper on the timeliness of working documents for CCEEXEC78, identifying potential reasons for delays and suggesting possible solutions taking into account observations made by CCEEXEC77.
 - iii. Requested the Codex Secretariat, in collaboration with FAO and WHO, to prepare a final implementation report for the full duration of the Strategic Plan 2014-2019 for CCEEXEC79 taking into account observations made by CCEEXEC77.

REGULAR REVIEW OF CODEX WORK MANAGEMENT 2018-2019: CRITICAL REVIEW PROCESS (Agenda item 5.1)⁹

72. CCEEXEC77 agreed that the Secretariat would continue its review of the Critical Review by examining its impact and report to CCEEXEC before CAC43.

FOLLOW-UP TO REGULAR REVIEW OF CODEX WORK MANAGEMENT 2017-2018: PERIODIC REVIEW OF CODEX STANDARDS (Agenda item 5.2)¹⁰

73. CCEEXEC77 noted that this item would be considered by CCEEXEC before CAC43.

⁹ CX/EXEC 19/77/5

¹⁰ CX/EXEC 19/77/6

FOLLOW-UP TO REGULAR REVIEW OF CODEX WORK MANAGEMENT 2017-2018: USE OF REFERENCES IN CODEX TEXTS (Agenda item 5.3)¹¹

74. CCEXEC77 noted that this item would be considered by CCEXEC before CAC43.

FOLLOW-UP TO REGULAR REVIEW OF CODEX WORK MANAGEMENT 2017-2018: RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (Agenda item 5.4)¹²

75. CCEXEC77 noted that this item would be considered by CCEXEC before CAC43.

REGULAR REVIEW OF CODEX WORK MANAGEMENT: 2019-2020 THEME (Agenda item 5.5)¹³

76. CCEXEC77 agreed regular reviews of Codex work management would only be initiated on a biennial basis since such reviews require significant investment of time and human resources to be conducted and implemented thoroughly.

HISTORY AND IMPLICATIONS OF THE FOURTH PARAGRAPH OF THE STATEMENTS OF PRINCIPLE (Agenda item 6)¹⁴

77. The Codex Secretariat introduced the document and highlighted the similarity of the situation that Codex had found itself in 1991 with that of 2018 when Members agreed on the JECFA evaluation of certain MRLs for veterinary drugs, but there was no consensus to adopt a Codex standard. He clarified that the Statements of Principle Concerning the Role of Science had been developed following the 1991 situation to assist Codex with such cases; however, they did not seem to have helped in resolving such problems. Since then there had been seven similar situations that had led to voting, most recently in 2012 on ractopamine. In most cases the results were very close, showing how divided the Commission was on the topic.

78. The Codex Secretary emphasized that during this period of almost 30 years, thousands of Codex standards and maximum limits had been adopted by consensus, even though finding consensus had sometimes been difficult. The Codex Secretary considered that the value and effectiveness of Codex should not be measured by the few problematic cases, but on its overall success and that the time dedicated to these few issues took time and attention away from other important topics.

79. The Codex Secretary outlined the different approaches (besides voting) that the Commission had taken when difficult situations had arisen: reservations; holding standards at step 8; building differences of application into the text to explain different situations in different countries/regions; and declaring a topic as not amenable to standardization and discontinuing work, all of which had advantages and disadvantages.

80. The Codex Secretary noted that reservations had been a successful tool though it had never been explicitly mentioned in Codex reports where this was related to an application of Statement 4. An exception to this was of the Twenty-Fourth Session of the Codex Committee for Residues of Veterinary Drugs in Foods (CCRVDF24) where this possibility had been proposed. The Codex Secretary further explained that the document contained a textual analysis of Statement 4, illustrating how the statement could be interpreted.

81. The Codex Secretary clarified that the final two paragraphs in the document contained proposals for possible further steps: (i) to explore how a consistent application of the Statements of Principle Concerning the Role of Science could help Codex setting standards that are needed by members and are based on science, while acknowledging different situations in different areas of the world; and/or (ii) to follow up on the legal opinion transmitted to CCEXEC75, which suggests "a review of the Statements of Principle to better clarify the extent to which 'other legitimate factors relevant for health protection and fair trade practices' may be taken into account in the adoption of Codex standards".

82. CCEXEC77 welcomed the thorough document prepared by the Codex Secretariat.

83. CCEXEC77, in a first round of interventions, noted the following:

- Codex should be an impartial, science-based and rules-based, predictable standards setting body and everything needed for this is contained in the PM including the Statements of Principle and the Criteria for the Consideration of Other Factors referred to in the Second Statement of Principle. The only guidance needed is to send clear instructions to apply them. The failures are not due to unclear rules, but to the fact that the rules have not been consistently applied.

¹¹ CX/EXEC 19/77/7

¹² CX/EXEC 19/77/8

¹³ CX/EXEC 19/77/9

¹⁴ CX/EXEC 19/77/10

- A cursory review, by one Member, of committee reports showed that over the last 10 years the issue of “other factors” had been raised 98 times in various Codex committees, and not just in CCRVDF. In the assessment of the Member, of these 98 instances, factors outside the mandate of Codex, and excluded by the criteria in the Procedural Manual, had been raised at least 24 times to delay or prevent adoption of standards. The Member concluded that on at least 74 occasions committees and chairpersons had followed the Statements and the criteria so more often than not Codex had been successful in following its principles.
 - In order to find a solution there needs to be a mechanism for dialogue that should be open and inclusive so that the views of all parties are properly considered.
 - The mandate of CCEEXEC is to work for Codex as a whole, and not to repeat arguments and positions given at committee level. History shows the success of Codex as it has adopted thousands of standards, and where applicable based these on scientific advice provided by FAO and WHO scientific bodies. The periodic problems experienced in CCRVDF related to MRLs for growth promoters should not create polarization and division. Codex should rather find ways to work together. One possibility could be to explore how the Statements of Principle could be applied in order to move forward and find a good solution.
 - We need to be careful not to undermine science and our scientific expert bodies. However, we need to keep the concerns of all in mind and since we know there is an issue, there is a need to look for a solution. It is difficult to say that one side is right and the other is wrong. An option could be to establish a small task force within CCRVDF to look at this.
 - Codex is at a critical point in time and it is important not to undermine the work of the scientific expert bodies or waste limited resources. The delay in advancing standards is a real hindrance. Consumer health protection and not creating food trade obstacles should be the focus of Codex work. Since Codex standards are the basis of national regulations, and are particularly important for countries with limited resources it is difficult to justify participating in Codex if the work leads to a deadlock. Voting is a legitimate tool, and consensus is not the only option, we can also take decisions by majority. We need to be creative and innovative, but presently there is no need to revise Codex procedures.
 - Members place a high value on the role of science. Even though blockages do not arise often, when they do, they cause problems. We should not continue discussing in the abstract but find a way forward to make the Statements of Principle work for Codex and apply them consistently across Codex committees.
 - Codex should not draft yet another document on this topic, but rather communicate on the need to apply the established Statements of Principles, to prevent damage to the work and reputation of Codex. Codex standards allow Members to contribute to international food trade due to their science-based nature.
 - It is time to think innovatively and identify what else we can do. More importantly, the Statements of Principle should not be reopened, but a small group or sub-committee could address this issue in a process that will feed into decision-making.
 - The guidance in the PM is sufficient and the important thing is to operationalise it. Codex has many other issues to discuss and should not lose time by reopening procedures but rather use what is already there.
84. Following the emerging consensus in the discussion of CCEEXEC77 on the usefulness to develop guidance to committees and chairpersons on how to operationalise the Statements of Principle while not reopening them, the Committee discussed the best way to develop such guidance and identified the following options:
- The CCEEXEC could give direct instructions to Committees and chairpersons to apply the Statements of Principles;
 - An electronic working group could be formed by the Commission to allow this topic to be discussed in an open and inclusive forum where all interested parties could participate. The EWG could for example be co-chaired by the USA and the European Union (EU). An example of the important success of such a group is the work on Note 161 in the CCFA;
 - A sub-committee of the CCEEXEC could be established to develop draft guidance while consulting with Codex chairpersons and the membership;
 - The chairpersons of technical committees could be consulted at the meeting of chairpersons to understand their views on what guidance would be helpful to them;

- The decision of whether to use a sub-committee of the CCEXEC or an EWG under CAC, could be left to the Commission;
 - The task could be given to CCGP as the forum for procedural questions.
85. A question arose on how the EU as one of the main interested parties in the debate could contribute to the work if it was undertaken by a CCEXEC sub-committee. The Representative of the Legal Counsel of WHO indicated that this could be done through the Coordinator for Europe.
86. The Chairperson taking into consideration the views expressed, proposed to create a sub-committee of the CCEXEC to further address the issue.

Conclusion

87. CCEXEC77 agreed to establish a sub-committee of the CCEXEC on the application of Statements of Principle Concerning the Role of Science with the Terms of Reference as contained in Appendix IV.

CODEX BUDGETARY AND FINANCIAL MATTERS (Agenda item 7)¹⁵

88. CCEXEC77 noted that this item would be considered at CAC42.

FAO/WHO SCIENTIFIC SUPPORT TO CODEX: ACTIVITIES, BUDGETARY AND FINANCIAL MATTERS (Agenda item 8)¹⁶

89. CCEXEC77 noted that this item would be considered at CAC42.

MATTERS ARISING FROM FAO AND WHO (Agenda item 9)¹⁷

90. CCEXEC77 noted that this item would be considered at CAC42.

APPLICATIONS FROM INTERNATIONAL NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS FOR OBSERVER STATUS IN CODEX (Agenda item 10)¹⁸

91. The Secretariat introduced the paper and noted that the Legal Offices of WHO and FAO had checked the seven applications contained in the working document and found that they were complete and receivable.

Conclusion

92. CCEXEC77 recommended that the Directors-General of FAO and WHO:

- i. grant observer status to the European Federation of Allergy and Airways Diseases Patients' Associations (EFA), the European Alcohol Policy Alliance (EUROCARE), the Food Safety Consortium, the European Margarine Association (IMACE), and the MoniQA Association;
- ii. grant observer status to the Federation of Veterinarians of Europe (FVE) and the Natural Products Association (NPA) pending their acceptance of the following conditions to avoid double representation:
 - a. At meetings where WVA is represented, FVE can only participate as part of the delegation of WVA and cannot speak as FVE. FVE can submit written comments only on those issues for which WVA does not submit any comments. FVE would only participate as such in Codex meetings when WVA is not represented.
 - b. At meetings where IADSA is represented, NPA can only participate as part of the delegation of IADSA and cannot speak as NPA. NPA can submit written comments only on those issues for which IADSA does not submit any comments. NPA would only participate as such in Codex meetings when IADSA is not represented.

ORGANIZATION OF CAC42: REPORT ON CHANGES MADE TO IMPROVE EFFICIENCY AND EFFECTIVENESS OF THE CAC (Agenda item 11)¹⁹

93. CCEXEC77 noted that this item would be considered by CCEXEC before CAC43.

¹⁵ CX/CAC 19/42/13

¹⁶ CX/CAC 19/42/14

¹⁷ CX/CAC 19/42/15

¹⁸ CX/EXEC 19/77/11

¹⁹ CX/EXEC 19/77/12

ANY OTHER BUSINESS (Agenda item 12)

Proposal for a new standing agenda item called: Matters arising from the Critical Review (proposed by the Member for Europe)

94. CCEXEC77 noted that this item would be considered by CCEXEC before CAC43.

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS
LISTE DES PARTICIPANTS
LISTA DE PARTICIPANTES

CHAIRPERSON
PRÉSIDENT
PRESIDENTE

Mr Guilherme Antonio Costa Junior
Chair of the Codex Alimentarius Commission
Brazil

VICE-CHAIRPERSONS
VICE-PRÉSIDENTS
VICEPRESIDENTES

Mr Purwiyatno Hariyadi
National Codex Committee of Indonesia
Southeast Asian Food & Agricultural Science &
Technology (SEAFAST) Center
Indonesia

Ms Mariam Eid
Head of Agro-Industries Service
Ministry of Agriculture
Lebanon

Mr Steve Wearne
Director of Policy and Science
UK Food Standards Agency
United Kingdom

MEMBERS ELECTED ON A GEOGRAPHIC BASIS
MEMBRES ÉLUS SUR UNE BASE GÉOGRAPHIQUE
MIEMBROS ELEGIDOS SOBRE UNA BASE GEOGRÁFICA

AFRICA

AFRIQUE
 ÁFRICA

Mr Charles Emeka Nwagbara
 Head, Codex Contact Point Nigeria
 Standards Organisation of Nigeria
 Nigeria

Advisors to the Member for Africa

Conseillers du Membre pour l'Afrique
 Asesores del Miembro para África

Mr Amadou Diouf
 Président du Comité national du Codex
 Alimentarius Direction générale de la Santé
 Ministère de la Santé et de l'Action sociale
 Senegal

Mr Lazaro Henry Msasalaga
 Director of Quality Management
 Tanzania Bureau of Standards
 United Republic of Tanzania

ASIA

ASIE
 ÁSIA

Ms Norrani Eksan
 Director
 Food Safety and Quality Division
 Ministry of Health Malaysia
 Malaysia

Advisor to the Member for Asia

Conseillère du Membre pour l'Asie
 Asesora del Miembro para Ásia

Ms Yayoi Tsujiyama
 Acting Director for International Standards Office
 Food Safety and Consumer Affairs Bureau
 Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries
 Japan

EUROPE

EUROPE

EUROPA

Ms Vigdis S. Veum Møllersen
 Senior Adviser
 Norwegian Food Safety Authority
 Head Office
 Norway

Advisors to the Member for Europe

Conseillers du Membre pour l'Europe
 Asesores del Miembro para Europa

Mr Mike O'Neill
 Head of Codex Policy & Programmes
 Food Standards Agency
 United Kingdom

Mr Niklas Schulze Icking
 Deputy Head of Division
 Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture
 Germany

LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

Amérique Latine et Caraïbes
 América Latina y el Caribe

Mr Felipe Pietrini Sánchez
 First Secretary
 Permanent Mission of Mexico to WTO in
 Geneva
 Ministry of Economy
 Switzerland (attending 1st July)

Ms Elisa Olmeda
 Counsellor
 Permanent Mission of Mexico to WTO in
 Geneva
 Ministry of Economy
 Switzerland (attending 2 from 5 July)

Advisors to the Member for Latin America and the Caribbean

Conseillers du Membre pour l'Amérique Latine et
 Caraïbes
 Asesores del Miembro para América Latina y el
 Caribe

Ms Tatiana Cruz Ramírez
 Punto de Contacto Codex
 Ministerio De Economía Industria y Comercio
 Costa Rica

Mr Igor Da Silva Barbosa
 First Secretary
 Permanent Mission of Brazil to UNOG in Geneva
 Switzerland

NEAR EAST

PROCHE-ORIENT
CERCANO ORIENTE

Mr Ashraf Esmael Mohamed Afify
Chairman of Egyptian Organization for
Standardization and Quality (EOS)
Egypt

Advisor to the Member for Near East

Conseillère du Membre pour le Proche Orient
Asesora del Miembro para el Medio Oriente

Ms Hanan Fouad Hamid Ibrahim Hashem
Head of Food Standards Department
Egyptian Organization for Standardization
and Quality (EOS)
Egypt

NORTH AMERICA

AMÉRIQUE DU NORD
AMÉRICA DEL NORTE

Ms Mary Frances Lowe
US Manager for Codex Alimentarius
US Codex Office
Department of Agriculture
United States of America

Advisors to the Member for North America

Conseillers du Membre pour l'Amérique du Nord
Asesores del Miembro para América del Norte

Mr Kenneth Lowery
Senior International Issues Analyst
U.S. Codex Office
United States of America

Ms Mae Johnson
Director, Bureau of Policy, Intergovernmental
and International Affairs
Health Canada, Government of Canada
Canada

SOUTH WEST PACIFIC

PACIFIQUE SUD-OUEST
PACÍFICO SUDOCCIDENTAL

Ms Usha Sriram-prasad
Director Department of Agriculture
Australia

Advisor to the Member for South West Pacific
Conseiller du Membre pour Pacifique Sud-Ouest
Asesor del Miembro para Pacífico Sudoccidental

Mr Raj Rajasekar
Senior Programme Manager
Ministry for Primary Industries
New Zealand

COORDINATORS
COORDONNATEURS
COORDINADORES**COORDINATOR FOR AFRICA**

Coordonnateur pour l'Afrique
Coordinador para África

Mr Kimutai William Maritim
Senior Assistant Director
Directorate of veterinary Services
Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries and
Irrigation
Kenya

COORDINATOR FOR EUROPE

Coordonnatrice pour l'Europe
Coordinadora para Europa

Ms Nailya Karsybekova
Head of the Department for Codex Issues
Ministry of Health
Committee for the Control of Safety
and Quality of Goods and Services
National Center for Expertise
Kazakhstan

COORDINATOR FOR ASIA

Coordonnateur pour l'Asie
Coordinador para Asia

Mr Sunil Bakshi
Head
(Codex / Regulations)
Food Safety and Standards Authority of India
India

COORDINATOR FOR LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

Coordonnateur pour l'Amérique Latine et les Caraïbes

Coordinador para América Latina y el Caribe

Mr Diego Varela

Coordinador Asuntos Internacionales

Agencia Chilena para la Inocuidad y Calidad Alimentaria, ACHIPIA

Ministerio de Agricultura

Chile

COORDINATOR FOR NEAR EAST

Coordonnateur pour le Proche-Orient

Coordinador para el Cercano Oriente

Mr Mohammad Hossein Shojaee Aliabadi

Senior Scientific Adviser

Institute of Standards & Industrial Research of IRAN

Director and Laboratory Manager Faroogh Life Sciences Research Laboratory

Iran (Islamic Republic of)

COORDINATOR FOR NORTH AMERICA AND SOUTH WEST PACIFIC

Coordonnateur pour l'Amérique du Nord et le Pacifique Sud-Ouest

Coordinador para América del Norte y Pacífico Sudoccidental

Mr Timothy Tekon Tumukon

Director

Department of Biosecurity

Vanuatu

WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION (WHO)

Organisation mondiale de la Santé (OMS)

Organización Mundial de la Salud (OMS)

Mr Kazuaki Miyagishima

Director, Food Safety and Zoonoses Department

World Health Organization (WHO)

Switzerland

Ms Chizuru Nishida

Coordinator, Nutrition Policy & Scientific Advice Unit

World Health Organization (WHO)

Switzerland

Mr Peter K. Ben Embarek

Coordinator a.i Risk Assessment and Management Unit

World Health Organization (WHO)

Switzerland

Ms Satoko Murakami

Technical Officer

World Health Organization (WHO)

Switzerland

Ms Amina Benyahia Chaieb

Coordinator a.i. Foodborne and Zoonotic Diseases Unit

World Health Organization (WHO)

Switzerland

Ms Egle Granziera

Legal Officer

World Health Organization (WHO)

Switzerland

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS (FAO)

Organisation des Nations Unies pour l'alimentation et l'agriculture (FAO)

Organización de las Naciones Unidas para la Alimentación y la Agricultura (FAO)

Mr Markus Lipp
 Senior Food Safety Officer
 Agriculture and Consumer Protection Department
 Food and Agriculture Organization of the U.N.
 Italy

CODEX SECRETARIAT

Secrétariat du Codex
 Secretaría del Codex

Mr Tom Heilandt
 Secretary Codex Alimentarius Commission
 Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme
 Food and Agriculture Organization of the U.N.
 Italy

Ms Sarah Cahill
 Senior Food Standard Officer
 Codex Alimentarius Secretariat
 Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme
 Food and Agriculture Organization of the U.N.
 Italy

Ms Hilde Kruse
 Senior Food Standard Officer
 Codex Alimentarius Secretariat
 Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme
 Food and Agriculture Organization of the U.N.
 Italy

Ms Anne Beutling
 Monitoring and Evaluation Officer
 Codex Alimentarius Secretariat
 Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme
 Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN
 Italy

Mr David Massey
 Special Advisor
 Codex Alimentarius Secretariat
 Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme
 Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN
 Italy

Mr Roberto Sciotti
 Record & Information Management Officer
 & Webmaster
 Codex Alimentarius Secretariat
 Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme
 Food and Agriculture Organization of the U.N.
 Italy

Mr Giuseppe Di Chiera
 Programme Specialist
 Codex Alimentarius Secretariat
 Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme
 Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN
 Italy

Ms Jocelyne Farruggia
 Administrative Assistant
 Codex Alimentarius Secretariat
 Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme
 Food and Agriculture Organization of the U.N.
 Italy

Mr Peter Di Tommaso
 Administrative Assistant
 Codex Alimentarius Secretariat
 Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme
 Food and Agriculture Organization of the U.N.
 Italy

APPENDIX II**CODEX STRATEGIC PLAN 2020 – 2025: REVISED DRAFT**

(as revised by CCEXEC77)

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. The Codex Alimentarius Commission (the Commission) was established by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the World Health Organization (WHO) in 1963. Today, it has 188 Member Countries and 1 Member Organization. In addition, 229 inter-governmental and international non-governmental organizations are accredited as observers.

1.2. The Commission's main work is the development of international food standards, 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.

1.3. For food safety and nutrition matters, the Commission, as risk manager, establishes its standards (this generic term includes guidelines, codes of practice and other texts) which may be used by Member Countries or used by the food trade. The Commission establishes these 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, for which there needs to be sufficient and sustainable funding. Codex standards may also address issues related to food quality and labelling. With increased globalization and increases in the volumes of food traded internationally, the Commission must also be capable of responding in a timely manner to the impacts of emerging trends and challenges on consumer health protection or fair practices in food trade, and to the extent that steps to address those impacts are amenable to standardization.

1.4. In conducting its work, the Commission takes into account, where appropriate, the relevant policies, strategies and guidelines of FAO and WHO, and of other intergovernmental organizations such as the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE), consistent with fulfilling its unique mandate to protect the health of consumers and promote fair practices in the food trade through the development of international food standards.

1.5. International food safety standards established by the Commission are explicitly recognized in the World Trade Organization's Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (WTO SPS Agreement). Codex standards also serve as references under the WTO Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade (WTO TBT Agreement).

1.6. The purpose of this Strategic Plan is to advance the mandate of the Codex Alimentarius Commission during the period 2020-2025. 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.

1.7. The 2020-2025 Strategic Plan:

- Presents the mission, vision, goals, objectives and measurable indicators for the Commission.
- Underpins the high priority that continues to be placed on food safety and quality by FAO and WHO and guides the Commission in carrying out its responsibilities and unique mandate to protect consumer health and ensure fair practices in the food trade.
- 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, including emerging issues, and expectations of its Members during the period 2020-2025.

1.8. This Strategic Plan will be supported by a more detailed work plan that includes activities and milestones that permit tracking of progress toward accomplishment of the goals. The relevant elements of the work plan will be developed and maintained by the responsible parties identified for each of the objectives. The Strategic Plan and its supporting work plan will be reviewed by the Commission in 2020 and then every two years subsequently through its six-year timespan, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the *Procedural Manual*.

1.9. This plan incorporates a new focus on promoting the relevance and use of Codex standards by governments and others to protect the health of consumers and as a reference for ensuring fair practices in the food trade, recognizing the extent to which Codex standards play a fundamental role in trade facilitation.

2. DRIVERS OF CHANGE

2.1. The dynamics of the standard-setting activities undertaken by the Commission have changed dramatically since it was established. Not only has the number of Members increased significantly, Codex has also seen more active participation by its Members, in particular by developing countries¹ engaged in the international food standard-setting process. Sitting alongside programmes for technical cooperation, broader inter- and intra-regional cooperation and the activities of regional economic communities, the FAO/WHO Codex Trust Fund (CTF1&2) is a key initiative in this regard. It supports Codex Members in building robust and sustainable national capacity to engage in Codex with the ultimate vision of all countries engaging fully and effectively in Codex and benefitting fully from Codex standards.

2.2. The focus and needs of Codex Members are also evolving, for example, as they consider the voluntary United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) adopted by world leaders in September 2015². Codex standards can assist Members in their implementation efforts with respect to the SDGs that are directly related to food safety and fair practices in the food trade. In particular, adoption of Codex standards can support the achievement of the following SDGs.

SDG ³	SDG TARGET ³	CONTRIBUTION OF CODEX
SDG 2 – ending hunger, achieving food security and improved nutrition, and promoting sustainable agriculture	Ensuring sustainable food production systems and implementing resilient agricultural practices	Promoting access to knowledge of good practices and new methods and technologies in agriculture, through Codex standards.
	Ensuring access by all people to safe, nutritious and sufficient food.	The adoption of food safety standards helps reduce risk of death and illness from food that may otherwise contain chemical or (micro)biological agents at levels higher than those provided for in the standards.
SDG 3 – ensuring healthy lives and promoting well-being for all, at all ages	Combatting communicable diseases	Codex also provides guidance on nutritional issues, including the development of Nutrient Reference Values (NRVs), product standards for foods for special dietary uses, and other technical information used in the development of labelling standards.
	Reducing by one third premature mortality from non-communicable diseases through prevention and treatment	
	Substantially reducing the number of deaths and illnesses from hazardous chemicals	
	Strengthening the capacity of all countries, in particular developing countries, for early warning, risk reduction and management of national and global health risks.	Developing countries are contributing more actively to the international food standard-setting process. CTF supports countries to build strong, solid and sustainable national capacity to engage in Codex and reap the benefits of Codex standards. Codex texts also provide guidelines for Member countries that can be used to build national capacity in risk analysis.
SDG 12 – ensuring sustainable consumption and production patterns	Halving per capita global food waste at retail and consumer levels and reducing food losses along production and supply chains, including post-harvest losses	Codex standards support the safe and effective production, preservation, inspection, certification and transport of food along the food chain and its appropriate labelling.
SDG 17 – revitalizing the global partnership for sustainable development	Promoting a universal, rules-based, open, non-discriminatory and equitable multilateral trading system	Codex standards also support fair practices in the food trade, which in turn supports food security and

¹Although there is no established convention for the designation of "developed" and "developing" countries or areas in the United Nations system, in 1996 this concept was introduced to the Standard country or area codes for statistical use (known as M49). From 2018, the M49 adopted the same definition as that used in the final report of the Millennium Development Goals (MDG). See the list of countries in developing regions at <https://unstats.un.org/unsd/methodology/m49/>

² See <http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/development-agenda/>

³ A full description of the SDG goals and Targets is available at: <https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/sustainable-development-goals/>

SDG ³	SDG TARGET ³	CONTRIBUTION OF CODEX
		economic growth. The standards are considered by the WTO as the international reference for the safety and quality of food traded internationally.

2.3. The environment in which Codex operates continues to evolve. Food and food ingredients are among the most traded commodities internationally. Changes in the global feed and food supply chain system, resource optimization efforts, food security and safety concerns, innovations in food science and technology, climate change, water scarcity, and consumer concerns relating to food safety and quality⁴ represent some of the drivers of change that may introduce new opportunities and challenges. The Commission must maintain a steady focus on its mandate. It must be sufficiently capable of being proactive, flexible and responding in a timely manner to emerging issues that impact on food safety and quality with the aim of protecting consumer health and ensuring fair practices in the food trade.

3. CODEX VISION AND MISSION

Codex Vision Statement

3.1. “Where the world comes together to create food safety and quality standards to protect everyone everywhere.”

Codex Mission Statement

3.2. “Protect consumer health and promote fair practices in the food trade by setting international, science-based food safety and quality standards.”

4. CODEX CORE VALUES

4.1. The Codex Alimentarius Commission re-commits itself to the following core values, which will guide its work to fulfil its strategic vision;

- Collaboration
- Inclusiveness
- Consensus building⁵
- Transparency

5. GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

5.1. The Codex Alimentarius Commission commits itself to work towards achievement of the following five goals:

1. Address current, emerging and critical issues in a timely manner
2. Develop standards based on science and Codex risk-analysis principles
3. Increase impact through the recognition and use of Codex standards
4. Facilitate the participation of all Codex members throughout the standard setting process
5. Enhance work management systems and practices that support the efficient and effective achievement of all strategic plan goals.

5.2. The objectives under each of the goals for the period 2020-2025, the parties responsible for achievement of the objectives, the expected outcomes and the indicators against which progress will be monitored are as follows:

⁴ 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*.⁵ Consensus should be based on the *Measures to Facilitate Consensus* included in the Procedural Manual.

⁵ Consensus should be based on the *Measures to Facilitate Consensus* included in the Procedural Manual.

Goal 1: Address current, emerging and critical issues in a timely manner

The focus and needs of Codex Members are evolving, as is the environment in which Codex operates. Codex will need to be proactive and flexible and to respond in a timely manner to the opportunities and challenges that result.

Objectives

- 1.1 Identify needs and emerging issues.
- 1.2 Prioritize needs and emerging issues.

5.3. The primary responsibility for achieving these objectives lies with Codex subsidiary bodies and the Executive Committee of the Codex Alimentarius Commission.

Measuring progress towards and achievement of Goal 1 objectives for the period 2020-2025

Objective	Outcome	Indicators
1.1 Identify needs and emerging issues.	Improved ability of Codex to develop standards relevant to the needs of its members	The number of emerging issues identified by subsidiary bodies. (<i>Meeting reports</i> ⁶)
1.2 Prioritize needs and emerging issues.	Timely Codex response to emerging issues and the needs of members	Proportion of identified, prioritized emerging issues that lead to proposals for new work (<i>Meeting reports</i>) Time taken from the identification of new issues to the submission of proposals for new work to the Executive Committee (<i>Meeting reports</i>) Time taken for prioritized emerging issues to result in revised or new Codex texts (<i>Meeting reports</i>) Committees documenting their approach to work prioritization based on criteria for establishment of work priorities in the Procedural Manual

Goal 2: Develop standards based on science and Codex risk-analysis principles

5.4. . Members and those engaged in the food trade who use Codex standards value the strong scientific basis of Codex, which is currently threatened by unsustainable resourcing. Codex must prioritize the securing of independent, timely and high-quality scientific advice, identifying the steps that each actor – Members, the FAO, and WHO – can take to ensure, support and advocate for the delivery of timely scientific advice to Codex through a fully and sustainably funded program. Furthermore, globally representative data are needed for scientific advice to be comprehensive and for Codex standards to be relevant to the global food supply. This will require, among other things, capacity building in developing countries that is specific to robust data generation, scientific analysis, and overall increased capacity to conduct such work.

Objectives

- 2.1 Use scientific advice consistently in line with Codex risk-analysis principles.
- 2.2 Promote the submission and use of globally representative data in developing and reviewing Codex standards.
- 2.3 Promote sufficient and sustainable funding for expert bodies that deliver scientific advice.

5.5. The primary responsibility for achieving objective 2.1 lies with Codex Subsidiary bodies. The responsibility for objective 2.2 is shared between Codex Subsidiary bodies and Codex Member countries. The responsibility for objective 2.3 lies with the Codex Alimentarius Commission, the Executive Committee and Member countries.

Measuring progress towards and achievement of goal 2 objectives for the period 2020-2025

Objective	Outcome	Indicator
2.1 Use scientific advice consistently in line with Codex	Scientific advice is taken into account consistently and in line with Codex risk analysis principles by all relevant	Proportion of texts considered by CCEXEC, as part of its work to monitor the progress of standards development, for which reports by subsidiary body Chairs indicate how scientific advice was used and any other legitimate factors

⁶ Potential data sources to facilitate measurement of progress against the indicators have been identified to the extent possible and are included in parenthesis after each of the indicators)

Objective	Outcome	Indicator
risk analysis principles	committees during the standard setting process	were considered in developing Codex texts. (<i>Reports from Chairs of subsidiary bodies to CCEXEC</i>)
2.2 Promote the submission and use of globally representative data in developing and reviewing Codex standards	Codex standards are developed with reference to globally representative data	Proportion and regional distribution of Codex members who contribute to calls for data from working groups and Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committees/Meetings. (<i>EWG forums, reports of pWGs and data from the expert committee secretariats</i>)
2.3 Promote sufficient and sustainable funding for expert bodies that deliver scientific advice	FAO and WHO expert bodies are providing scientific advice within time frames agreed between committees and FAO/WHO, and these time frames allow standard development to progress in a timely manner	Extent of and any changes in sufficient core funding for scientific advice within FAO and WHO (<i>Reports on budget from FAO and WHO</i>) Proportion of scientific advice provided within established timeframes (<i>FAO/WHO papers on scientific advice and meeting reports</i>)

Goal 3: Increase impact through the recognition and use of Codex standards

5.6. Communications that drive greater awareness, understanding, and recognition of available, harmonized standards are essential to the effectiveness of Codex. Even in the absence of adoption of Codex standards into national legislation, the greater use of Codex standards by the food trade and other actors can contribute to consumer health protection and ensuring fair practices in the food trade.

Objectives

- 3.1 Raise the awareness of Codex standards.
- 3.2 Support initiatives to enable the understanding and implementation/application of Codex standards.
- 3.3. Recognise and promote the use and impact of Codex standards.

5.7. Raising awareness and promotion of the use of Codex standards is the responsibility of all Member countries and Observers of Codex. The Codex Secretariat also has responsibility to raise awareness and assess the impact of Codex standards.

Measuring progress towards and achievement of goal 3 objectives for the period 2020-2025

Objective	Outcome	Indicators
3.1 Raise the awareness of Codex standards	Codex Members are proactively promoting the use of Codex standards	Number of country contributions to the Codex regional and observer webpages reflecting events/activities that raise awareness on Codex standards (<i>Codex regional and observer webpages</i>) Number of activities in the Codex communications work plan that explicitly address the visibility of Codex standards and extent of implementation (<i>Annual report to CCEXEC</i>)
3.2 Support initiatives to enable the understanding and implementation/application of Codex standards	Increased use of Codex standards in the development of national food standards and regulations. Increased use of Codex standards by the food trade	Proportion of Member countries participating in national or regional capacity development initiatives to encourage and facilitate practical use of Codex standards have been undertaken (<i>Circular Letter or reports from Regional Co-ordinating Committees</i>) Proportion of specified Codex standards adopted or used by Codex Members (<i>Biennial regional survey on use of specific Codex texts</i>) Proportion of specified Codex standards adopted or used by relevant Codex Observers (<i>Survey to observers</i>)
3.3. Recognise and promote the impact of Codex standards	Having a mechanism/tool to measure the impact of Codex standards developed and piloted	Progress on the development of a mechanism to measure impact of Codex standards (<i>Annual progress report</i>)

Goal 4: Facilitate the participation of all Codex members throughout the standard setting process

5.8. Members' abilities to participate actively in the development of Codex texts still varies widely and is dependent on the capacity and sustainability of national Codex systems. While the responsibility for these systems resides with Members, there is a role for support that will help to close gaps in capabilities as much as possible over the life of this Strategic Plan. Sources of funding and a broad range of formal and informal capacity building, partnering, and technical knowledge sharing activities will all play important roles in strengthening the capacity of Members for sustainable, active participation in Codex activities, supporting all Members in maintaining national systems and expanding the potential for co-hosting of committees, consistent with our value of inclusiveness.

Objectives

- 4.1 Enable sustainable national Codex structures in all Codex Member countries.
- 4.2 Increase sustainable and active participation of all Codex Members.
- 4.3 Reduce barriers to active participation by developing countries.

5.9. FAO and WHO also are responsible for providing support to developing countries and to facilitate their effective participation through the Codex Trust Fund and other funding sources. Member countries supplement this through their support for, and participation in, formal and informal capacity building, partnering, and knowledge sharing activities

Measuring progress towards and achievement of goal 4 objectives for the period 2020-2025

Objective	Outcome	Indicators
4.1. Enable sustainable national Codex structures in all Codex Member countries	Participation by all Codex Member countries in the work of Codex Committees and working groups	<p>Proportion of countries with effective capacity in their:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Codex Contact Point, structure and processes 2. Consultation structures (e.g., national Codex Committees) and processes 3. Management of Codex work <p>(Results of application of the Codex diagnostic tool by Members)</p> <p>Sustainable resource allocation for the above, which may be reflected in national legislation and/or organization structures (Reports by Member countries)</p> <p><i>Additional indicator for CTF recipient countries:</i></p> <p>Proportion of CTF2 recipient countries sustaining national Codex systems and related activities once the funding ends (EWG forum and OCS)</p>
4.2 Increase sustainable and active participation of all Codex members	Sustained, active participation in the work of Codex Committees and working groups	<p>Proportion of countries with a sustained or increased:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contribution to EWGs • Chairing of EWGs • Response to Circular Letters <p>(EWG forum and OCS)</p>
4.3 Reduce barriers to active participation by developing countries.	Capacity building, partnering, and knowledge sharing activities are effective in building active participation by developing countries	<p>Documented discussions from the regional coordinating committees (RCC) or related meetings on barriers and potential solutions to participation by developing countries (Reports of RCCs and related meetings)</p> <p>Increase in reports of mentorship and experience sharing on Codex issues between countries (Reports by members and/or RCC reports)/</p>

Goal 5: Enhance work management systems and practices that support the efficient and effective achievement of all strategic plan goals

5.10. *The continuing review and improvement of Codex work management systems and practices will help align these to the achievement of all strategic plan goals. Improvements to work flows, proposal prioritization, and input/comment management will support participation by Members with significant resource constraints and enhance inclusiveness in the standard-setting process. The effective development of Codex texts depends heavily on the resources contributed by host countries of subsidiary bodies and their working groups, particularly their chairpersons and secretariats. Enhancing and maintaining capacity is critical to the successful management of the work of Codex.*

Objectives

- 5.1 Develop and maintain efficient and effective work management practices and systems.
- 5.2 Enhance the capacities of committee and working group chairpersons, regional coordinators and host country secretariats to support the work of Codex.

5.11. The Codex Secretariat, host country secretariats, chairpersons of committees and working groups and regional coordinators have the primary responsibility to achieve these objectives.

Measuring progress towards and achievement of goal 5 objectives for the period 2020-2025

Objective	Outcome	Indicators
5.1 Develop and maintain efficient and effective work management practices and systems.	<p>Codex work processes and procedures support the effective and efficient operation of Codex standard setting bodies</p> <p>The efficient design of agendas and use of time in meetings of the Codex Alimentarius Commission, its Executive Committee and Subsidiary bodies maximises the time allocated to the development of Codex texts</p>	<p>Of the recommendations of regular review of Codex work management that are adopted by CAC, the proportion that are implemented (<i>Annual reports to CCEXEC</i>)</p> <p>Proportion of meeting documents distributed in a timely manner consistent with the Codex <i>Procedural Manual</i> or timeframes established by committees (<i>Meeting webpages</i>)</p> <p>Proportion of sessions where all agenda items were covered within the allotted Committee meeting time and work was completed by the project deadline (<i>Agendas and meeting reports</i>)</p>
5.2 Enhance the capacities of committee and working group chairpersons, regional coordinators and host country secretariats to support the work of Codex.	<p>Subsidiary body meetings and working groups are effectively and efficiently chaired and conducted</p>	<p>Proportion of chairs and host countries of subsidiary bodies and working groups taking part in training and/or in the development of tools and guidance. (<i>Available guidance and workshop reports</i>)</p> <p>Satisfaction ratings on meeting efficiency, role of chairs and host and Codex secretariats (<i>Post meeting surveys</i>)</p>

APPENDIX III**TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE THIRD STRATEGIC PLANNING SUB-COMMITTEE OF CCEXEC****Scope of work:**

To inform and support further discussion of the Strategic Plan 2020-2025, in particular its implementation, by Regional Coordinating Committees, other subsidiary bodies, and Members and Observers.

To lead the development of the implementation workplan.

Timetable and deliverables:

The sub-committee will start work on 13 July 2019. It will:

- i. provide a forum for planning and development of materials to inform and support discussion of the Strategic Plan 2020-2025 at Regional Coordinating Committee meetings;
- ii. advise and support other subsidiary bodies on their role in the implementation of the strategic plan;
- iii. advocate for and facilitate the direct roles of Members and Observers in developing the work plan; and
- iv. consolidate the output of discussions into a single document/workplan, with a preliminary draft being presented to CCEXEC78 and a final proposed workplan circulated to members of CCEXEC at least one month in advance of CCEXEC79.

Membership and ways of working:

The sub-committee will be chaired by one of the vice-chairpersons of the Codex Alimentarius Commission and co-chaired by the other two. The sub-committee will primarily work electronically using the online platform. All members of CCEXEC will be able to register and participate. Physical meetings may be convened if necessary. The sub-committee will work in English.

APPENDIX IV**TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR A SUB-COMMITTEE OF CCEXEC ON APPLICATION OF THE
STATEMENTS OF PRINCIPLE CONCERNING THE ROLE OF SCIENCE****Scope of work**

To develop practical guidance for Codex Subsidiary Bodies and their chairpersons on the operationalisation of the *Statements of Principle Concerning the Role of Science* to allow Codex to set standards that are needed by Members and are based on science, while acknowledging different situations in different areas of the world and to complement the guidance provided in the *Measures to Facilitate Consensus*.

Timetable and deliverables

The sub-committee will start work on 13 July 2019.

It will develop a draft document for consideration by CCEXEC78 and a final proposal for consideration by CCEXEC79, and the outcome will be reported to CAC43.

Membership and ways of working

The sub-committee will be chaired by one of the vice-chairpersons of the Codex Alimentarius Commission with the other two vice-chairpersons as co-chairpersons and open to all members of the CCEXEC. The sub-committee will work electronically using the online platform and consult with the chairpersons of subsidiary bodies and the whole Codex membership (by means of Circular Letters). Physical meetings may be convened if necessary. The sub-committee will work in English only.