



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

REGULAR REVIEW OF CODEX WORK MANAGEMENT: 2018-2019 THEME

(Prepared by the Codex Secretariat)

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 The purpose of this document is to present the focus of the 2018-19 regular review of work management.

1.2 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. The second regular review on *“Collaboration between the Codex Alimentarius Commission and other international standard-setting organizations”* will be presented to this session of CCEXEC and to CAC41.

1.3 CAC39 noted that Members could identify specific topics for improvement, which could be brought to the attention of CCEXEC and CAC¹ and at time of publication of this paper a suggestion from Australia has been received: to analyse *‘Physical Working Groups - the advantages and disadvantages of holding them between the sessions of Committees’*. This suggestion will feed into subsequent examination of themes to be considered for review ahead of CCEXEC77 (2019).

2. REVIEW FOCUS, RATIONALE AND SCOPE

2.1 The Secretariat has identified the *“Critical review of proposals to undertake work and monitoring the progress of standards development”* as the 2018-19 theme.

2.2 The critical review process is outlined in the *Procedural Manual, Section II: Elaboration of Codex texts – Part 2*. An examination of the planning, preparation and presentation of the critical review by the Codex Secretariat to CCEXEC will seek to highlight opportunities to enhance the type, nature and quantity of information presented to CCEXEC so that it may perform its strategic oversight function to the best extent possible. Following consultation with FAO and WHO as well as, for example, with Chairs of Codex committees and past and present members of the CCEXEC and the regional committees, the Codex Secretariat will report to CCEXEC77 (June/July 2019) with a series of assessments and recommendations.

2.3 Work on the *critical review* responds directly to Strategic Goal 1 of the 2014-19 Strategic Plan: “Establish international food standards that address current and emerging food issues”, specifically through activity 1.1.2: “Strengthen the critical review process to improve standards monitoring”.

3. RECOMMENDATION

EXEC75 is invited to:

- i. note the selection of the 2018-19 theme: *Critical review of proposals to undertake work and monitoring the progress of standards development*;
- ii. provide any additional elements that could assist the Secretariat in the review; and
- iii. encourage Members to identify specific topics for the 2019-20 regular review for consideration by the Secretariat by 31 March 2019.

¹ REP16/CAC, para. 134(iii)