

CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION



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

Agenda Item 5

CX/EXEC 21/80/CRD1

JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION

Eightieth Session
Virtual, 13-21 January 2021

WORK PLAN FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE STRATEGIC-PLAN 2020-2025 – UPDATE

PROPOSAL FOR NEXT STEPS

Prepared by the Chairperson of the third Strategic Planning Sub-committee of CCEXEC and the Codex Secretariat

1.1 The Codex Strategic Plan 2020-2025 brings together the shared ambitions of Codex Members and Observers for the Codex Alimentarius Commission and aims to align the activities of all Codex actors towards this shared and common purpose. During the ongoing discussions of CCEXEC80, the role that the Strategic Plan played in ensuring that the work of Codex continued in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic has been clear; for example, the core values of Codex as outlined in the Strategic Plan became the principles underpinning any new approaches proposed for work continuity in the absence of physical meetings. In responding to the pandemic, Members relied on some key Codex texts such as those relevant to food hygiene and food import and export inspection and certification systems, reflecting the ambition of Goal 3 of the Strategic Plan (Increase impact through the recognition and use of Codex standards). CCEXEC80 discussions to date also highlighted that more work needs to be done to illustrate the role of Codex Standards in addressing some of the weaknesses in food control systems that became evident during the pandemic. CCEXEC80 has noted that the transformative activities underway in FAO and WHO, including the development of new food safety strategies within each of the parent organizations and the preparation of the UN Food Systems Summit provide important opportunities for engagement that will support achievement of the Codex Strategic Plan.

1.2. The Codex Strategic Plan should be central to Codex' work and shared endeavour, rather than ancillary to it. This Strategic Plan was developed based on a participatory approach with strong engagement from the Codex Membership and thus ownership of the plan and responsibility for its delivery and evaluation is shared. It should be a living plan that, in the words of the Procedural Manual, will be renewed on a biennial basis to ensure its continuing relevance.

1.3. The current pandemic has precipitated rapid transformation in response to an immense challenge – variously described as an opportunity to reset, or to “build back better”. Codex is no different. Thus, in light of what was learned in the course of 2020 and the transformative initiatives in which the parent organizations are currently engaged, it is proposed that Codex take this opportunity to refocus its tasks for 2021 in the sub-committee on Strategic planning, to look beyond the collation of inputs from the Codex regions and others and considering the various indicators in the Strategic Plan and work towards a report that would reflect the achievements made in the initial 18 months of the Strategic Plan. Such a report would enable CCEXEC and CAC to reflect on resilience, innovation, and use of the virtual operating environment to bring the Codex family closer together, despite the challenging circumstances. The report would include an assessment of the value that Codex activities have generated, going beyond the indicators agreed back in 2019, which, in reality, were developed in different times and a different operating environment. The report might even identify some early learning points, both to ensure the Codex Strategic Plan remains strong and relevant, and also to inform planning for the next strategic plan period from 2026.

1.4. Bearing in mind the above, CCEXEC80 is invited to consider the following revised terms of reference for the Sub-committee.

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

The sub-committee will prepare a report for CCEXEC81 that highlights the achievements, lessons learned and opportunities for redirection and invigoration of Codex work in response to the ongoing global crises.

In doing so the sub-committee will:

- consider the progress made on implementation of the regional work plans as well as the activities undertaken by other subsidiary bodies, the Codex Secretariat, Members and Observers;
- review the relevant linkages to the work programmes of FAO and WHO, including the Codex Trust Fund, and in particular the relationship to the FAO and WHO food safety strategies currently under development;
- take into consideration how Codex can contribute to and achieve recognition for its key food standards work in the global and UN initiatives such as the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the UN Food Systems Summit; and
- work closely with the Codex Secretariat to consider how to approach monitoring and evaluation in a manner that reflects the fundamental purpose of the Codex Strategic Plan.

Timetable and deliverables:

The sub-committee will start work on 25 January 2021. It will consolidate the elements set out in the scope of work into a single document, to be circulated to members of CCEXEC at least one month in advance of its meeting prior to CAC44.

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. Virtual meetings may be convened if necessary. The sub-committee will work in English.