

CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



World Health
Organization

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JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME

CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION

Forty-sixth Session

FAO Headquarters, Rome, Italy, 27 November - 2 December 2023

REPORT OF THE EIGHTY-FIFTH SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION

FAO Headquarters, Rome, Italy, 20 - 24 November 2023

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INTRODUCTION

1. The Executive Committee of the Codex Alimentarius Commission held its Eighty-fifth Session (CCEXEC85) at the Headquarters of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), Rome, Italy, from 20 to 24 November 2023.
2. The Vice-Chairperson of the Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC), Mr Raj Rajasekar (New Zealand), chaired the meeting due to the unavailability of Mr Steve Wearne (United Kingdom), the CAC Chairperson. The Deputy Director-General, FAO, Ms Maria Helena Semedo, and the Assistant Director-General, Universal Health Coverage/Healthier Populations of the World Health Organization (WHO), Ms Ailan Li, welcomed the participants on behalf of the parent organizations. The Codex Secretary ad-interim, Ms Corinna Hawkes, also greeted the participants.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA (Agenda item 1)¹

3. CCEXEC85 adopted the agenda with the following addition under agenda item 9 (Other business):
 - Proposal for the investigation and development of recycling guidance in the Codex Alimentarius (CRD01)
4. CCEXEC85 also agreed to consider the “Report on further informal consultations on the draft MRLs for zilpaterol hydrochloride” following agenda item 2. CCEXEC85 further agreed to consider, under agenda item 6, Comments of the Member from North America on the “Joint FAO/WHO Scientific Expert Advice Program and International Agency for Research in Cancer: Procedures for review of chemicals in foods”, recalling that due to time constraints, CCEXEC84 was unable to complete discussions on this issue.

CRITICAL REVIEW (Agenda item 2.1 and 2.2)²

5. The Codex Secretariat reminded CCEXEC85 of the purpose of the Critical Review as described in the Codex Procedural Manual (PM). CCEXEC85 discussed the proposals committee by committee and made the following comments and recommendations.

Codex Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling (CCMAS)³

Final adoption

6. CCEXEC85 recommended that CAC46 adopt:
 - Methods of analysis / performance criteria / sampling plans for provisions in Codex standards (CXS 234-1999, CXS 193-1995); and
 - the revised *General Guidelines on Sampling* (CXG 50-2004) (Step 8).
7. CCEXEC85 acknowledged the progress made on the review of methods of analysis for provisions in Codex standards in CXS 234-1999 and that in doing so CCMAS would be continuing to refine its guidance on endorsement work.
8. CCEXEC85 furthermore encouraged the relevant committees to use the information document that CCMAS prepared on how to submit methods for endorsement.
9. In relation to the finalization of the revised *General Guidelines on Sampling* (CXG 50-2004), CCEXEC85 encouraged CCMAS to complete the supporting information document (e-book and sampling plan apps) to support the implementation of the guidelines and commended CCMAS on its innovative approach.

Revocation

10. CCEXEC85 recommended that CAC46 revoke:
 - Methods of analysis for provisions in Codex standards in the *Recommended Methods of Analysis and Sampling* (CXS 234-1999); and
 - *General Methods of Analysis for Contaminants* (CXS 228-2001).

Other issues

11. A Member highlighted the importance of delegates attending commodity committees that were sending issues for endorsement to CCMAS, to also participate in CCMAS so that all methods of analysis can be endorsed by CCMAS at the earliest possibility. The Member also referred to an intervention at CCEXEC84⁴ encouraging participation of delegates from the Codex Committee on Food Labelling (CCFL) in the Electronic Working

¹ CX/EXEC 23/85/1 Rev.2; CX/EXEC 23/85/7; CCEXEC84 CRD05.

² CX/EXEC 23/85/2 and Add.1

³ CX/EXEC 23/85/2, Appendix 1

⁴ REP23/EXEC1, Paragraph 65

Group (EWG) under CCMAS to support the CCFL work on development of guidelines on precautionary allergen labelling.

12. A Regional Coordinator and a Member highlighted the importance of allowing remote participation in, or providing webcasting of, CCMAS so as to increase participation of Members and thereby strengthen inclusivity in the work of CCMAS. They expressed concern that the next session of CCMAS may be physical only.
13. CCEXEC85:
 - encouraged delegates attending Committees that had sent items for endorsement or advice to CCMAS to also participate in CCMAS; and
 - noted the concerns expressed regarding the removal of a virtual option to participate or listen in from the next CCMAS session and appreciated the clarification from the Codex Secretariat that there was ongoing consideration of how to improve participation without being physically present.

Codex Committee on Pesticide Residues (CCPR)⁵

Final adoption

14. CCEXEC85 recommended that CAC46 adopt at Steps 5/8 the:
 - Maximum Residue Levels (MRLs) for different combinations of pesticide/commodity(ies); and
 - Revision of the *Classification of Foods and Animal Feeds* (CXA 4-1989) and consequential amendment to the *Principles and Guidance on the Selection of Representative Commodities for the Extrapolation of MRLs for Pesticides to Commodity Groups* (CXG 84-2012) (completion of Class B Primary commodities of animal origin - and Class E – Processed commodities of animal origin and corresponding tables of representative commodities).

Discussion

15. A Regional Coordinator expressed support for the final adoption of the *Classification of Foods and Animal Feeds* (CXA 4-1989) while recalling the discussion at CCPR54 on the inclusion of endangered marine mammal species therein and the options given to address this concern, e.g. by including a reference to CITES either in the foreword or the relevant sections of CXA 4-1989. The Regional Coordinator recalled that the Codex Secretariat had noted that this matter should be considered at a higher level. The Regional coordinator indicated that this matter should be reflected in the critical review document, and further proposed that the specific issue of endangered species could be considered as part of a broader discussion on the elaboration of the Codex Strategic Plan 2026-2031 without precluding the possibility of revisiting CXA 4-1989.
16. A Member stressed the importance of providing information on all challenging discussions in committees in the critical review documents. The Member also highlighted the relevance of consideration of endangered species in relation to discussions on biodiversity loss either as a separate item or as part of a broader discussion under the Codex Strategic Plan 2026-2031. If the Strategic Plan would not be an appropriate venue to consider this matter, a discussion paper could be prepared by the Codex Secretariat on the loss of biodiversity and its relevance to Codex work.
17. While highlighting the importance of biodiversity, other Regional Coordinators and Members stressed that they did not support the proposal that Codex could consider biodiversity loss within its work, since the purpose of Codex was to address food safety and quality without excluding specific commodities or available risk management options. These Regional Coordinators and Members also did not agree that it should be included within the Codex Strategic Plan 2026-2031 and noted that discussions at CCPR54, indicating that Codex texts including document CXA 4-1989, could be revised as necessary, consistent with the purpose of Codex. It was further recalled that CCPR54 agreed to retain CXA 4-1989 unchanged.
18. CCEXEC85 noted the interest of ~~one a~~ a Member and Regional Coordinator in further discussion on ~~the a~~ possible nexus between Codex work and loss of biodiversity and noted that the Member/Regional Coordinator was free to prepare a paper on the issue for discussion at a future session of CCEXEC.

Adoption

19. CCEXEC85 recommended that CAC46 adopt the:
 - Consequential amendments to the CXLs for peppers groups/subgroups to cover okra, martynia and roselle;

⁵ CX/EXEC 23/85/2, Appendix 2

- Consequential amendment to the *Classification of Foods and Animal Feeds* (CXA 4-1989) (revised definitions for the portion of the commodity to which MRLs apply and which is analyzed for Group 006 – Assorted tropical and subtropical fruits of inedible peel and Group 023 – Oilseeds and oilfruits); and
- Consequential amendment to the *Classification of Foods and Animal Feeds* (CXA 4-1989) and to the *Principles and Guidance on the Selection of Representative Commodities for the Extrapolation of MRLs to Commodity Groups* (CXG 84-2012) (additional commodity groups in Class A – Primary food commodities of plant origin and Class D – Processed commodities of plant origin and revised Group 12C – Eggplant and eggplant-like commodities, Table 2)

Approval

20. CCEXEC85 recommended that CAC46 approve the:

- Priority list of pesticides for evaluation by JMPR; and
- Proposal for new work on the development of guidance for monitoring the stability and purity of reference materials and related stock solutions of pesticides during prolonged storage.

Revocation

21. CCEXEC85 recommended that CAC46 revoke the:

- Guidelines on *Portion of Commodities to which Maximum Residue Levels Apply and which is Analyzed* (CXG 41-1993)
- CXLs for different combinations of pesticide/commodity(ies).

Discontinuation

22. CCEXEC85 recommended that CAC46 discontinue the:

- MRLs for different combinations of pesticide/commodity(ies) withdrawn from the Step Procedure.

Other issues

23. CCEXEC85 applauded the good collaboration between CCPR and Codex Committee on Residues of Veterinary Drugs in Foods (CCRVDF), including the Joint CCPR/CCRVDF working group, which was a cost-efficient and effective approach for facilitating coordination of work on matters of common interest, specifically those related to compounds with dual use.
24. CCEXEC85 also noted the revised Terms of Reference for this joint EWG and the addition of Brazil and New Zealand as co-chairs of the joint EWG to be endorsed by CAC46.

FAO/WHO Coordinating Committee for the Near East (CCNE)⁶

Adoption at Step 5

25. CCEXEC85 recommended that CAC46 adopt at Step 5 the:

- Regional Standard for Maamoul, noting that there would be a need for endorsement of the food additive and food labelling provisions by CCFA and CCFL, respectively, in the future.

Codex Committee on General Principles (CCGP)⁷

Approval

26. CCEXEC85 recommended that CAC46 approve the:

- Move of Section 6 (Membership of the Codex Alimentarius Commission) of the PM to the Codex website;
- Changes to the PM to align with modern technologies and current practices;
- Review of the procedures in section 3 of the PM, guidelines for subsidiary bodies by host country secretariats; and
- Issuing of a Circular Letter soliciting proposals from Members on inconsistencies in language, and superseded content of the PM, apart from section 3.

⁶ CX/EXEC 23/85/2 Add.1, Appendix 1

⁷ CX/EXEC 23/85/2 Add.1, Appendix 2

Other issues

27. Two Regional Coordinators highlighted the importance of ensuring the correct terminology was used across the language versions of Codex texts, to promote a common understanding thereof and indicated their willingness to support efforts to achieve this.
28. CCEXEC85 noted:
- that the proposed changes to the PM will be implemented in the next edition of the PM; and
 - the importance of consistent and accurate translation of key terms across all languages and encouraged Members to support the Codex Secretariat in this endeavor.

BLUEPRINT ON THE FUTURE OF CODEX - FINAL REPORT FROM CCEXEC SUBCOMMITTEE (Agenda item 3)⁸

Introduction

29. The Vice-Chairperson that had led the work on the Blueprint for the Future of Codex introduced the item, noting that this had been discussed at CCEXEC84 and recalled that, in the evolution of the work, its two main elements had taken different pathways. The element relating to the global context and how it may impact the nature of future Codex work was being used as an input to the development of the Codex Strategic Plan 2026-2031, while the section on the Model for Future Codex Work remained the focus of the current discussion. Thus, CCEXEC was no longer developing a blueprint as such.
30. The Vice-Chairperson recalled that written comments on the Model for Future Codex Work had been sought from Members and Observers through a Circular Letter (CL) and informal discussions had also taken place on the margins of CCGP33, both of which had confirmed much of the information in the document and as such, had validated the work to date as well as provided some additional perspectives and experiences. The Vice-Chairperson also recalled that CCEXEC84 had agreed to revisit the recommendations presented at that session (section 5.2 of CX/EXEC 23/84/3) following the comments received.
31. Some Members noted the delay in publication of the working document which would impede consultation and preparation, and therefore the discussion of the item would be of a preliminary nature. The Vice-Chairperson noted that this was a continuation of previous discussions but recognized the document remained open to continuous improvement.

Discussion

32. CCEXEC85 Members shared a range of views including that:
- there was useful information in the document on the Model for Future Codex Work (CX/EXEC 23/85/3, Appendix II) which could be particularly valuable to host secretariats and prompt them to try new meeting approaches and tools;
 - there were further updates to be made to this document based on experiences in recent months, but this would require more time than was available at CCEXEC85 and, in this context, it would be useful for this to remain a living document to gather such experiences;
 - it would be premature to make any statements on efficacy and appropriateness of any single meeting modality;
 - if it was to be used for the purpose of guidance, the Model for Future Codex Work document would need to be made more concise and practical;
 - it was not clear where such a document could ultimately be housed;
 - different aspects of the document may take different paths; and
 - regardless of meeting modality, the late availability of working documents reduced the efficiency of the plenary discussions.
33. Based on the Model for Future Codex Work document, Members also identified some key questions to take forward from this work such as:
- how to increase participation in Codex meetings?
 - whether a virtual participation option could be provided for all Codex meetings?
 - how to collect data and information on best practices as a basis for any possible procedural changes?

⁸ CX/EXEC 23/85/3 and Add.1; EXEC/85 CRD02

- the need to better monitor virtual participation and webcast viewership to inform further discussion?
and
 - how to use virtual meetings to reduce the burden on the agenda of physical meetings?
34. A particular issue of recurring concern related to interpretation and translation, including the late availability of documents in other languages. Looking towards extending the range of languages used in all Codex meetings was also highlighted as an important issue for the future.
35. CCEXEC85 considered some of the challenges related to the timely availability of documents in all languages, from resources to quality of translation, availability of translation services, and turnaround time. It was also noted that translation was not an isolated issue and availability of other language versions was also related to availability of the original language version and whether they were delivered on time or not, the requirement to use official translation services and competing priorities within the organization's translation teams, and whether high volumes of documents became available for translation at the same time. Hence this needed to be addressed in a holistic manner considering the whole cycle of document preparation and the Codex meeting schedule.
36. A Member proposed that technology be used to increase the timeliness of documents in all languages. The importance of glossaries to ensure harmonisation of terminology across different language versions was also highlighted. Some Members underlined that this was not a new challenge, but that it was time to make real progress in addressing the timely availability of all language versions of documents, as it was also a key contributor to the core value of inclusiveness within Codex.
37. Some Members suggested that there was not enough time for discussion at this session to update the Model for Future Codex Work document and consider the key recommendations coming from this work, and in that context, it would be premature to make any recommendations to CAC46. CCEXEC85 therefore considered that there should be further discussions at CCEXEC86. Some Members noted their disappointment at not being able to deliver any outcomes on the Blueprint for the Future of Codex on the occasion of the 60th anniversary, but acknowledged that the important work of the last two years would continue and contribute to the future work of Codex.

Conclusion

38. CCEXEC85:
- agreed that rather than develop a blueprint for the future of Codex, it was more appropriate to use the Codex Strategic Plan 2026-2031 to guide the future direction of Codex and to consider, in parallel, a working model for future Codex work;
 - noted the value and richness of inputs from the informal and formal consultation, as well as the discussions in CCEXEC on the model for future Codex work, and acknowledged that this has been an important learning experience;
 - agreed that the document describing the key elements of a model for future Codex work (CX/EXEC 23/85/3, Appendix II) remained a living document that should be periodically reviewed in light of experiences and learnings, and that this would be further considered at CCEXEC86; and
 - expressed appreciation to Members, Observers, Host governments, Chairpersons and delegates who provided extensive and valuable inputs and proposals that would continue to inform how Codex would need to work as it navigated the environment in which it operates.

CODEX STRATEGIC PLAN 2026-2031 – REVIEW OF INTERSESSIONAL WORK AND NEXT STEPS AND COMMENTS (Agenda item 4)⁹

Introduction

39. The Chairperson introduced the item recalling the CCEXEC84 decision that CCEXEC85 should consider two substantive elements of the work to develop the content of the Codex Strategic Plan 2026-2031¹⁰.
- First, that CCEXEC85 should develop a first draft of the following elements of the Codex Strategic Plan 2026-2031: Vision; mission; core values; a narrative on drivers for change; the role of Codex; and a high-level description on Codex ways of working;

⁹ CX/EXEC 23/85/4; CX/EXEC 23/85/4 Add.1

¹⁰ REP23/EXEC1, Paragraph 136, Appendix III

- Second, that CCEXEC85 should discuss and agree on questions to be used as a basis for initial engagement with Members and Observers on goals and outcomes for inclusion in the Codex Strategic Plan 2026-2031.

Discussion of the first draft of the following elements of the Codex Strategic Plan 2026-2031: Vision; Mission; Core values; a narrative on Drivers for change; the Role of Codex; High level description of Codex ways of working¹¹

40. While welcoming the proposed draft sections of the Codex Strategic Plan 2026-2031, Members expressed their desire that this part be more concise and focused. In reviewing the text, several suggestions were made to improve clarity.

Vision, Mission, and Core Values

41. While a Member noted that the vision and mission might need to be revisited at a later stage, there were no changes proposed at this time.

Introduction

42. An introductory section was added to the document by moving the two first paragraphs of the drivers for change section to a new Introduction section and adding two additional paragraphs from the Codex Strategic Plan 2020-2025. Discussions were held to clarify the scope. Some Members were of the view that the last paragraph of this new section was redundant and proposed its deletion, while others were of the view that this was important to retain, thus the paragraph was put in square brackets for future consideration.

Drivers for change

43. Members agreed to the inclusion of several additional drivers, and deleted reference to consumer concerns. A proposal to include biodiversity loss as a relevant driver was discussed extensively with some arguing that the link between loss of biodiversity and the purpose of Codex was not clear. Others were of the view that this was an important issue that at least warranted further consideration and it was agreed to retain it in square brackets. Further revisions were made with the aim of improving the clarity of the text.
44. The FAO Representative added that, in his view, the purpose of Codex did indeed connect to many of the SDG goals. The Representative continued that in his view there was no established link on how loss of biodiversity affected food safety, and that while food safety and food security were intricately connected, care must be taken to not infringe on the mandate of other UN committees in this area.

Role of Codex

45. Members shortened and simplified this section with the aim of achieving a more concise and focused text. The concept of Codex as a risk manager was added. The text was changed so that it no longer implied that Codex did not yet play a role in supporting the advancement of global goals through its international standards. There were different views on whether this text should state that Codex should continue or strengthen this function. Some were of the view that in order to contribute to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda, Codex needed to strengthen its role, while others were of the view that such terminology suggested that Codex was not effectively carrying out its role currently, therefore the text was put in square brackets.

A high-level description of Codex ways of working

46. The promotion of coordination of all food standards work was proposed to be added by a Regional Coordinator, in line with the Codex statutory purpose. A Member expressed the view that this addition was redundant, recalling that in the development of the Codex Strategic Plan 2020-2025, clauses b)-d) were considered to be supportive of clause a) of article 1 of the Codex statutes (protecting the health of consumers and ensuring fair trade practices in the food trade), therefore the proposal was put in square brackets for future consideration. With regard to the language in brackets around Codex working closely with other relevant organizations to avoid duplication and development of contradictory standards, the Codex Secretariat noted that the relationships with other organizations varied by committee and each organization was working within their own mandate.
47. It was agreed that the revised draft (Appendix II) would be circulated through a CL to Members and Observers to gather their comments, in accordance with the schedule for the development of the Codex Strategic Plan 2026-2031 (Appendix III).

Discussion on proposals regarding questions to be used as a basis for initial engagement with Codex Members and Observers on goals and outcomes for inclusion in the Codex Strategic Plan 2026-2031¹²

¹¹ CX/EXEC 23/85/4, Appendix I

¹² CX/EXEC 23/85/4, Appendix II

48. It was agreed that the CL to be issued to gather Members and Observers' comments on the first part of the Strategic Plan 2026-2031 (vision; mission; core values; drivers for change; the role of Codex; ways of working) would be complemented by recommendations and questions to engage Members and Observers on goals and outcomes for the Codex Strategic Plan 2026-2031.
49. In formulating the proposed recommendations and questions, the following issues were discussed:
- the risks and benefits of repeated references to the statutory purpose of Codex;
 - the need to avoid overly directive questions which can bias responses;
 - the importance of steering the consultations towards ambitious and aspirational goals and outcomes;
 - the need to outline the envisaged results chain of the Codex Strategic Plan 2026-2031 at this stage; and
 - references to higher strategies and plans, to avoid repetition with the drivers for change section of the Codex Strategic Plan 2026-2031.

50. For the purpose of engaging Members and Observers, CCEXEC agreed on the following text:

"Members and Observers will be invited to note the following recommendations for drafting of the Codex Strategic Plan 2026-2031:

- A few high-level, ambitious strategic goals should be formulated;
- The strategic goals should be aspirational. As such, Codex would only be contributing to these goals, not necessarily achieving them during the strategic plan cycle;
- The Strategic Goals should be within the Codex statutory purpose and should take into consideration the draft narrative on "drivers for change"; and
- A clear timeline for the engagement with Members and Observers.

The purpose of Codex is to develop standards that protect the health of consumers and ensure fair practices in the food trade.¹³ Members and Observers will also be invited to answer the following questions:

- What could Codex do to have the greatest impact on the protection of consumer health and promotion of fair practices in the food trade in the period to 2031?
- Consistent with its purpose, how can Codex respond to the food safety, nutrition and food quality implications of, and support efforts to address, the drivers for change that have been identified in the related draft section of the Strategic Plan 2026-2031?"

51. It was also agreed that the recommendations and questions contained in the CL would be used by the Chairperson and Vice-Chairpersons of the Codex Alimentarius Commission (CVCs) to hold informal consultations with the Regions through the Regional Coordinators and with Observers. CVCs would make their best effort to hold these informal consultations before the CL was issued or as soon as possible after its issuance. The purpose of the informal consultations would be to encourage interaction, discussion and reflection, and to support Members and Observers in responding to the CL. The results of the consultation would be reported to CCEXEC86.

52. The schedule to engage Members and Observers in the development of the Codex Strategic Plan 2026-2031 was updated accordingly (Appendix III).

Survey on the use and impact of Codex texts

53. The Codex Secretariat presented high level results from the survey on the use and impact of Codex texts conducted by the Codex Secretariat in 2023, and highlighted with appreciation the key role that Regional Coordinators played in increasing the response rate to this year's survey.

Conclusion

54. CCEXEC85:

- i. agreed to send a CL to Codex Members and Observers requesting:

¹³ Article 1 of the Statutes of the Codex Alimentarius Commission

- a) comments on the agreed first draft of the vision; mission; core values; drivers for change; the role of Codex; and a high-level description on Codex ways of working of the Codex Strategic Plan 2026-2031 (Appendix II); and
 - b) replies to questions outlined in paragraph 50 to initiate the discussion around goals and outcomes of the Codex Strategic Plan 2026-2031 while noting the recommendations for drafting as outlined in paragraph 50.
- ii. agreed that the CVCs hold informal consultations with Members and Observers to encourage interaction, discussion and reflection, and to support Members and Observers in responding to the CL; and
 - iii. amended the schedule to engage Members and Observers in the development of the Codex Strategic Plan 2026-2031 (Appendix III).

CODEX BUDGETARY AND FINANCIAL MATTERS (Agenda item 5)¹⁴

55. The Codex Secretariat presented the document which contained a report on expenditure for the calendar year 2022 and provided an estimate of expenditure for 2023. It also contained a budget proposal for 2024-25.
56. The Codex Secretariat noted the increase of interpretation and translation costs due to inflation and holding meetings with both in-person and virtual dimensions and/or with an increased number of meeting days during 2022-23 as well as higher staff costs in 2022-23 compared to the budget. The Codex Secretariat highlighted that this generated a deficit that had been covered by a special allotment by FAO in 2023.
57. The Codex Secretariat further noted that the proposed budget for the 2024-25 biennium was in line with the set objectives of the Codex Strategic Plan 2020-2025. The Codex Secretariat indicated that they would continue to try to identify efficiency savings. However, the Codex Secretariat noted that it was important to highlight that the deficit experienced in 2022-23 was likely to recur in the next biennium.
58. The Codex Secretariat indicated that, as no savings were foreseen in the 2024-25 biennium, it was seeking extra-budgetary contributions to support work under Goal 3 of the Strategic Plan on the recognition and use of Codex texts. Additional resources would be required to support the ongoing project to increase accessibility to all Codex texts in the six official languages, which were estimated at about USD 1.5 Million over a period of 5 years, and to continue and expand work on monitoring the use and impact of Codex texts.

Discussion

59. Members welcomed the document and requested additional information on the following issues:
 - 2024-25 biennium budget on events and publications;
 - A budgeted work plan to better understand Secretariat expenditures and be better placed to provide guidance on areas of prioritization;
 - Information on the comparative cost analysis of different meeting modalities requested at CCEXEC83;
 - The current share of the budget allocated to interpretation and translation; and
 - The extra-budgetary resources requested and their purpose.
60. A Member noted the budget constraints of the Secretariat and referred to the need to either increase the budget or decrease activities in the next biennium in order not to incur a deficit. A few Members encouraged Codex to explore new working modalities and continue achieving efficiency gains to make better use of available resources. The importance of timely access to Codex documents in all relevant languages was also stressed (see paragraph 35).
61. The Chairperson questioned the sustainability of the budget based on the information provided and agreed with the requests for additional information in order for CCEXEC to provide better indications on the financial needs for the Codex Secretariat.
62. The Secretariat clarified that:
 - a budget broken-down by cost types was provided in the document;
 - a comparative analysis of the cost of the different meeting formats of CCEXEC and CAC was carried out, but it did not provide a clear indication on variations in cost related to meeting format, as cost was impacted by several factors including meeting venue, number of meeting days, number of words to be

¹⁴ CX/CAC 23/46/23

translated, and meeting modality. In addition, costs associated with back-to-back sessions of CCEXEC and CAC were difficult to separate due to the shared services and venues;

- the Codex Secretariat was always trying to achieve additional savings, however the flexibility had decreased over the years, in particular upon returning to a pre-pandemic setting;
- events in the biennium, in addition to those that directly supported CAC or Codex subsidiary bodies, were undertaken primarily in response to requests from Regional Coordinators or Members focusing on increasing awareness of Codex and facilitating participation in Codex work, and normally in a virtual format;
- the primary publication was the annual CODEX magazine, and in the past year a new project to make Codex standards more visible and accessible had been initiated. Additional resources would be required to continue the project; and
- communication activities in the Codex Secretariat were covered by both staff and consultants and a review of activities would be undertaken in 2024 to determine how to optimally implement ongoing and future communications work.

63. Some Members considered that the level of details provided was insufficient for the evaluation and decision task that was to be carried out by CCEXEC.

64. The FAO Representative informed CCEXEC85 that financial matters related to Codex were also discussed in the related Governing Bodies of the parent organizations FAO and WHO.

Conclusion

65. CCEXEC85:

- thanked FAO and WHO for their ongoing recognition and support for the work of the CAC and the ring-fencing of its budget;
- noted the progress report 2022–2023, and proposal 2024-25, including the FAO special allocation to cover the budgetary shortfall for the current biennium;
- reiterated the importance of timely access to Codex documents in all relevant languages;
- requested more detailed information, particularly regarding the breakdown of cost types to better understand areas of expenditure, identify future needs and priorities;
- urged the Secretariat to explore and identify new work modalities and/or efficiency gains that would allow better use of available resources;
- noted the need for a continued flexible approach, the redistribution of resources to support the delivery of the Codex work programme, and the need for sustainable funding for Codex to address current and anticipated shortfalls;
- urged Members to advocate with their government representatives to FAO and WHO for adequate funding for the Codex work programme, and provision of information to support a more forward-looking consideration of budget and financial matters by CCEXEC and CAC;
- noted the increasing difficulty in delivering the Codex work plan in a zero-growth budget environment, and noted the Secretariat's request for Members to consider extra-budgetary funding of the ongoing project to increase accessibility to Codex texts in the 6 official languages, and work on monitoring the use and impact of Codex texts; and
- requested the Secretariat to provide a comparative analysis of meeting costs, with inputs from the host secretariats on subsidiary body meetings, to improve recognition and understanding of the significant contribution of Member governments in support of the Codex programme.

MATTERS ARISING FROM FAO AND WHO (Agenda item 6)¹⁵

66. The Representatives of FAO and WHO introduced the item and summarized the issues included in the document.

Discussion

¹⁵ CX/CAC 23/46/24; CX/CAC46 INF1, INF2, INF3; EXEC/85 CRD03; EXEC/84 CRD05

67. Members welcomed the comprehensive information provided and commended FAO and WHO for the important work they were doing in advancing food safety through international, regional and national level activities, and through their support to Codex work.
68. The importance of supporting implementation of FAO and WHO guidelines at national level through capacity building was emphasized, with Members requesting development of more practical guidance and support to facilitate this. FAO and WHO indicated that their regional offices were actively working with governments to provide tailored capacity building support in line with country needs, noting that global guidance documents needed to be generic and advisory in nature to be globally relevant and promote harmonized approaches.
69. Members recalled events organized to celebrate World Food Safety Day, noting that the day was creating enthusiasm in and engagement on food safety at national levels. Acknowledging increasing engagement in World Food Safety Day, FAO and WHO encouraged Members to continue making active use of this annual day to promote and enhance efforts to ensure food safety.
70. The crucial role of FAO and WHO in providing evidence-based scientific advice to guide the standard setting work of Codex was highlighted.
71. A Member referred to the FAO strategic priorities that encouraged a more consistent integration of food safety in the development of sustainable and inclusive agri-food systems and noted its relevance to the discussions on the Codex Strategic Plan 2026-2031.
72. A Regional Coordinator referred to the joint work carried out with the parent organizations, together with other institutions, and highlighted the great scope of virtual and hybrid formats as tools that supported greater reach (CRD03).
73. In response to a question on the GM platform, the FAO Representative explained that the platform had been created based upon a very specific mandate from Codex that could be revisited if there was a desire from Codex to modify, enlarge or enhance that mandate. The current discussion around gene editing, including precision fermentation, might prompt Members to consider the need to revisit the GM platform.
74. A Member, recalling the CRD presented at CCEXEC84¹⁶, expressed concerns about duplicative reviews of food use chemicals that were undertaken by two WHO affiliated bodies, the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) and the Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Food Additives (JECFA), since duplicative reviews could cause consumer confusion, undermine confidence in the Joint FAO/WHO risk assessment, exacerbate the current climate of public scepticism around the validity of science, and potentially undermine the Joint FAO/WHO scientific advice program. The Member proposed that CCEXEC re-iterate its support for the Joint FAO/WHO scientific advice program and recognize its role as the risk assessment bodies for food use chemicals.
75. The WHO Representative noted the issues of duplication of evaluations by the Joint FAO/WHO scientific advice bodies and IARC, which might be attributed to differences in methodologies and the scope of the evaluation. The Representative highlighted that it was critical to note that IARC only carried out one component of the assessment, hazard identification, whereas the Joint FAO/WHO scientific advice bodies performed a full risk assessment. Unlike the Joint FAO/WHO scientific advice bodies, the Representative noted that IARC investigated various routes of exposure, such as via inhalation or contact, and occupational exposures. Furthermore, the Representative noted the expression of hazard identification findings varied between the two bodies and the use of the word “possible” in the context of aspartame caused obstacles to communication.
76. The Representative emphasized that IARC did not use the word “possible” to declare presence of a hazard, but rather as an appeal to the scientific community to put more effort into research to remove the uncertainty around a substance’s hazardous nature. The Representative informed CCEXEC85 that a meeting with IARC had taken place following the evaluation of aspartame; it was decided that in the future, double evaluations should be limited to circumstances when non-dietary exposure was noteworthy, and that scientific and communications activities should be coordinated as appropriate.

Conclusion

77. CCEXEC85:
 - noted the information provided and thanked FAO and WHO for their continued support to Codex;
 - encouraged FAO and WHO to continue their fruitful collaboration when implementing the FAO Food Safety Priorities and WHO Global Strategy for Food Safety, and agreed to consider these strategies in the discussions on the Codex Strategic Plan 2026-2031;

¹⁶ EXEC/84 CRD05

- recognized the importance of the Joint FAO/WHO scientific advisory bodies to underpin the work of Codex;
- recognized the benefits to Codex Members of capacity building and awareness raising events delivered both physically and virtually, and supported their continuation as part of an appropriately blended approach that continues to build engagement; and
- with regard to the concerns about possible duplication of work between the Joint FAO/WHO scientific advisory bodies and IARC, noted that WHO had acknowledged concerns expressed and efforts were underway to proactively avoid unnecessary duplication and enhance coordination in future.

REVIEW OF INTERNATIONAL NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS WITH OBSERVER STATUS IN CODEX – DOUBLE REPRESENTATION CLAUSE (Agenda item 7)¹⁷

78. The Codex Secretariat introduced the item recalling previous discussions on the double representation clause and highlighted that the Secretariat could not actively monitor Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) subject to the double representation clause as it relied on the information directly provided by these entities when e.g. applying for observer status or during the review process. The Codex Secretariat stressed that, as prescribed in the PM, it was the responsibility of NGOs with Observer Status with Codex to share any relevant information also regarding their memberships of any other NGO to allow the correct implementation of the double representation clause.
79. The Codex Secretariat concluded the introduction by noting that consideration could be given to gathering information on a trial period on the participation of NGOs to Codex meetings as it would aid Chairpersons in their management of meetings and allow a better assessment of the issue.

Discussion

80. CCEXEC85 welcomed the information provided and noted the following:
- the responsibility of NGOs with Observer Status with Codex to provide relevant information regarding their respective organizations to the Codex Secretariat, including during their participation in a Codex committee or during the regular review of NGOs with Observer Status with Codex, and the concern that the currently available information might not fully reflect the extent of NGO relations with other organizations;
 - the importance of NGOs participating in Codex work in accordance with the principles, while also recognizing that some flexibility, as outlined in the working document, would be possible such that both the umbrella and smaller organization could contribute to Codex work as appropriate and in line with their knowledge, expertise and experiences;
 - the challenges faced by EWG Chairs in checking the origin of comments sent by NGOs in order to ensure the double representation clause was correctly implemented and by Chairpersons in managing interventions from NGOs subject to the double representation clause;
 - the need to sensitize Chairpersons of Codex Committees, EWGs and PWGs, on the rules regarding the participation of NGOs, through e.g. the handbook for Chairpersons or the future handbook for EWGs; and
 - the need to use new mechanisms, such as e-tools hosted on the Codex website, and to update existing ones, such as the Online Registration System and the application form for observer status, to facilitate receipt and maintenance of up-to-date information related to the double representation clause, and means of communication on when the double representation clause applied, through more visible information on the Codex webpage or appropriate announcements at Codex meetings.
81. The Codex Secretariat recalled that the role of NGOs with Observer Status was to secure for the CAC their expert information, advice and assistance, and that NGOs were not part of the decision-making process which belonged to Codex Members only.

Conclusion

82. CCEXEC85:
- noted the information provided;
 - requested the Codex Secretariat to collect further information regarding the participation of NGOs subject to the double representation clause in Codex meetings, EWGs and PWGs, and to inform

¹⁷ CX/EXEC 23/85/5

CCEXEC of any recommendations for changes in the way the double representation principle was implemented;

- recommended CAC to encourage NGO observers to be proactive and provide the necessary information as needed according to the procedures set forth in the PM; and
- recognized the need to sensitize Chairpersons of committees, PWGs and EWGs regarding the procedures and considerations around the participation of NGOs subject to the double representation clause.

REGIONAL STANDARDS – CHALLENGES WITH APPLICATION OF THE CRITERIA FOR REGIONAL STANDARDS IN THE CONTEXT OF CURRENT REGIONAL NEEDS (Agenda item 8)¹⁸

Introduction

83. The Codex Secretariat introduced this item, recalling the questions posed by CCASIA22, highlighting the further analysis undertaken and noting that the paper presented at CCEXEC84 had also been updated with input from the Regional Coordinators and had served as an input for the analysis presented.
84. The Codex Secretariat highlighted that current procedures within the PM provided the means to address challenges related to regional standards, underlining the importance of fully applying these procedures. The Codex Secretariat emphasized the value of a well-researched discussion paper together with a well-presented and complete project document in facilitating application of the procedures.

Discussion

85. CCEXEC85 expressed appreciation for the information and analysis provided and requested further clarifications on the nature of standards that Regional Coordinating Committees (RCCs) could develop, and whether commodity standards could be established for processed foods. The Codex Secretariat noted that the normal practice was for RCCs to develop regional standards. However, previous discussions in the Commission¹⁹ indicated no procedural impediment to RCCs developing worldwide standards, if the Commission so desired, and the agenda item was open to all Codex Members, but the Codex Secretariat noted this had never been done. By contrast, there were cases where regional standards were developed and converted to worldwide standards in line with Codex procedures if needed.
86. One Member expressed concern regarding the possibility of RCCs preparing worldwide standards, noting that, while procedurally possible, it might be challenging as a mechanism. The Member further noted that proposals for worldwide standards could be submitted directly to CCEXEC when a relevant commodity committee was adjourned or did not exist.
87. With regard to the nature of standards for processed foods, the Codex Secretariat noted that this could be determined based on the issue the standard was intended to address or resolve and that such a decision could be optimally informed by a well-prepared discussion paper and project document. The Codex Secretariat further highlighted the evolution of Codex commodity standards over the years with safety issues being addressed horizontally and a move towards group standards in some areas.
88. Several Members supported the Codex Secretariat's view on the importance of well researched proposals and the need to highlight this to Members. Members also emphasized the inclusion of a convincing rationale for new work in their proposals.
89. A Regional Coordinator noted that the information provided was also relevant to regions other than Asia.
90. There were different views on the development of practical guidance related to new work and work prioritization, which should be available within 2024, with one perspective being that this should be developed as soon as possible and available in advance of the next round of RCCs. Another view was that further guidance documents were not needed and sometimes the utility of such documents was overestimated. Rather, the guidance provided in the PM was considered sufficient, and hands-on support to Members in the regions in preparing their discussion papers and project documents to optimally deploy the information already available would be more useful. This was further supported with a proposal for webinars at the regional level, to share experiences, address challenges and facilitate improvements, and when necessary, engage relevant experts to support proposal development.
91. Acknowledging the value of hands-on support, the Codex Secretariat noted that this might also come from other sources, such as FAO and WHO, and provided an example of how such an approach was being deployed following CCNE11 in relation to the identifying the focus of potential standard setting work for camel milk.

¹⁸ CX/EXEC 23/85/6

¹⁹ Report of the 14th Session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission (1981), paragraph 529

Conclusion

92. CCEXEC85:

- i. noted the information provided by the Codex Secretariat;
- ii. responded to the request of CCASIA22 by indicating that:
 - a) regardless of whether a commodity was traded internationally or not, a proposal for new work for either a regional or worldwide standard could be submitted from RCCs to CCEXEC for critical review, and to CAC for final approval and decision on the nature of the standard and by whom it should be developed; and
 - b) RCCs (and proponents of new work) should prepare well researched and complete discussion papers/proposals for new work, which would facilitate the role of CCEXEC and enable it to advise CAC accordingly on a possible way forward; and
- iii. recommended that the Codex Secretariat work to prepare practical guidance as well as engage with Members to address the challenges related to new work and work prioritization, as recommended by CCEXEC83.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS (Agenda item 9)**Report on further informal consultations on the draft MRLs for zilpaterol hydrochloride by the Chairperson and Vice-Chairpersons of the Codex Alimentarius Commission²⁰**

93. The Chairperson underlined the purpose of the document was to inform CCEXEC85 and CAC46 of the ongoing commitment of the Chairperson and Vice-Chairpersons (CVCs) to engage with Members on the draft MRLs for zilpaterol hydrochloride so as to keep the lines of communication open, in order to improve the understanding of the different perspectives and facilitate a well-informed and constructive engagement, consistent with the Codex procedures.
94. As was welcomed by CAC45, the CVCs had held a further round of regional informal consultations reaching 89 Codex Members.
95. Summarizing the outcome of their informal discussions, the Chairperson noted that there was no fundamental shift or changes in positions of Members on this issue since CAC45, and that a broad acceptance of the science remained. While some Members did raise concerns on the science during the informal consultations, the CVCs had highlighted that it was incumbent on those Members to provide the appropriate data to the risk assessment bodies to facilitate any further risk assessment work. The Chairperson noted that the view of the CVCs was that science was not the issue, but rather other considerations.
96. In the informal consultations, the CVCs had noted the overwhelming desire of Members to have a final resolution of this issue at CAC46 and had presented various options or routes for resolution for consideration without preference. The Chairperson noted that it was within the competence of CAC to conclude the issue on the draft MRLs for zilpaterol hydrochloride and Members had the sovereign right to express their positions. CCEXEC85 was reminded that the Chairperson of CAC had shared a letter in the previous days outlining the intended approach to the discussions on the draft MRLs for zilpaterol hydrochloride. The Chairperson reiterated the ongoing availability of the CVCs for informal discussions in advance of CAC.
97. Noting that this matter was not open for discussion at CCEXEC85 since the matter remained in the hands of CAC, the Chairperson underlined that the report was for information only.

Conclusion

98. CCEXEC85 noted the update from the CVCs.

²⁰ CX/EXEC 23/85/7; EXEC/85 CRD04

Proposal for the investigation and development of recycling guidance in the Codex Alimentarius²¹

99. The Advisor to the Member from North America presented the proposal contained in CRD01 regarding investigation and development of recycling guidance in the Codex Alimentarius. The Advisor stressed that the aim of the proposal was to consider how Codex might support global efforts in this area, noting the increase in the use of recycled material for food packaging purposes by Member countries and the private sector and that this could raise food safety concerns. The Advisor further noted that the development of this guidance could be useful to Members and Observers, and would focus on food safety in line with the Codex statutory purpose. The Advisor concluded by proposing that a CL be issued to gauge whether there was interest, value, or need for new work in Codex on food safety considerations related to the use of recycled material in food packaging. The CRD contained examples of the types of questions that could be posed in a CL; the Advisor observed that questions on labeling would not be necessary, since CCFL had already collected that information.
100. A Regional Coordinator questioned the urgency and the necessity of developing recycling guidance at this stage.

Conclusion

101. CCEXEC85:
- thanked the Member and the Advisor to the Member from North America for submitting the proposal for the investigation and development of recycling guidance in the Codex Alimentarius as contained in CRD01;
 - agreed to recommend CAC46 to request the Codex Secretariat to issue a CL to Codex Members and Observers to gauge whether there was interest, value, or need for new work on guidance from Codex Alimentarius on food safety considerations related to the use of recycled material in food packaging; and
 - agreed to consider next steps based on the response of Members and Observers to the CL.

²¹ EXEC/85 CRD01

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APPENDIX II**FIRST DRAFT OF THE FOLLOWING ELEMENTS OF THE CODEX STRATEGIC PLAN 2026-2031: VISION; MISSION, CORE VALUES; A NARRATIVE ON DRIVERS FOR CHANGE; THE ROLE OF CODEX; HIGH-LEVEL DESCRIPTION OF CODEX WAYS OF WORKING*****Vision***

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

Mission

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

Core values

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

- Inclusiveness
- Collaboration
- Consensus building²²
- Transparency

Introduction

The Codex Alimentarius 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 one Member Organization. In addition, 240 intergovernmental and international non-governmental organizations are accredited as Observers.

The Commission’s statutory purpose²³ 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. 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 to consumer health protection of fair practices in the food trade, to the extent that steps to address those impacts are amenable to standardization.

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 consistent with fulfilling its unique purpose to protect the health of consumers and ensure fair practices in the food trade through the development of international food standards. Codex works closely on matters of common interest with such organizations, as appropriate.

[The objective of this strategic plan is to advance the statutory purpose of the Codex Alimentarius Commission during the period 2026-2031. This document does not supersede, extend, or contradict the Codex statutory purpose or provisions of the Procedural Manual.]

Drivers for change

The environment in which Codex operates continues to evolve. Changes in the global feed and food supply chain system, resource optimization efforts, reduction of food loss and waste, food security and safety concerns, malnutrition, demographic changes, innovations in food science and technology, food fraud, climate change, [loss of biodiversity,] pollution, and water scarcity may introduce new opportunities and challenges.

Both the FAO and WHO strategic directions on food safety acknowledge the importance of food control systems, based on scientific evidence, in achieving the UN Sustainable Development Goals. They also recognize the importance of agri-food systems in responding to major global drivers ranging from environmental changes and digital advances to emerging hazards in the food chain and the approaches to mitigating these challenges, such as food system transformation and promotion of the One Health approach.²⁴

²² Consensus should be based on the Measures to Facilitate Consensus included in the Procedural Manual.

²³ Statutes of the Codex Alimentarius Commission, Article 1(a).

²⁴ FAO Strategic Framework 2022-2031, FAO Strategic Priorities for Food Safety within the FAO Strategic Framework 2022-2031 and WHO Global Strategy for Food Safety 2022-2030.

The One Health joint plan of action (2022-2026) of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the UN Environment Programme (UNEP), the World Health Organization (WHO) and the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH) quadripartite also highlights the importance of a One Health approach to food safety.

The World Trade Organization (WTO) acknowledges the centrality of Codex standard setting in the multilateral system in the context of emerging global challenges.

All these initiatives point to the important role food safety plays to support public health, food security and trade and the need to integrate foresight and preparedness for the emerging issues to come. They further highlight that food safety has a critical role in the successful transformation of the agrifood system in order to meet the needs of the world.

The role of Codex

The Commission must maintain a steady focus on its statutory purpose. It must be sufficiently capable of being proactive, flexible and responding in a timely manner to emerging issues that impact on food safety and quality²⁵ with the aim of protecting consumer health and ensuring fair practices in the food trade.

The system for Codex standards elaboration has served well in the 60 years that Codex has been in existence. The system is anchored in the process described in the Procedural Manual with the product being Codex standards, guidelines and codes of practice, commonly referred to as Codex texts. The Commission, as risk manager, establishes Codex texts that when incorporated into national legislation by Members contribute to ensuring that food is safe and can be traded. The scientific basis that underpins Codex texts is fundamental to ensuring that Codex maintains its pre-eminence as the international reference for food safety and fair practices in food trade, as well as the primary source of science-based food standards for many countries and recognized by the WTO.

As we move into the future, Codex can [continue playing a/strengthen its] pivotal role in supporting the advancement of global goals by developing international food standards. Collaboration across the multilateral system for trade and food, offers Codex and its members numerous benefits, including enhanced food safety, strengthened partnerships, effective risk communication, regulatory harmonization, and the ability to address complex global challenges.

Codex texts can provide an enabling environment which facilitates the uptake and implementation of policies and programmes to address global challenges around areas such as climate change, environment, sustainability, and trade. In doing so, Codex recognises that the inherent international diversity of food systems means that, different values or solutions may be relevant in different national or regional situations or contexts.

A high-level description of Codex ways of working

The Codex Alimentarius Commission re-commits itself to the following ways of working, through which it will develop Codex texts that will contribute to achievement of its goals:

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.

Develop standards based on science and Codex risk analysis principles

Members and those engaged in the food trade who use Codex standards value the strong scientific base of Codex. Codex must continue to prioritize the securing of independent, timely and high-quality scientific advice to Codex through a fully and sustainably funded program.

Globally representative data are needed for scientific advice to be comprehensive and for Codex standard to be relevant to the global food supply. This requires, 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.

²⁵ 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*. Consensus should be based on the *Measures to Facilitate Consensus* included in the Procedural Manual.

Increase impact through the recognition and use of Codex standards

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.

[Promote coordination of all food standards work]

[Codex works closely on matters of common interest with other relevant international organizations to avoid duplication and development of contradictory standards.]

Facilitate the participation of all Codex Members throughout the standard setting process

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. Sources of funding and a broad range of formal and informal capacity building, partnering and technical knowledge sharing activities 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.

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

Our ways of working are supported by the continuing review and improvement of Codex work management systems and practices. Improvements to workflows, proposal prioritisation and input/comment management will support participation by Members with significant resource constraints and enhance inclusiveness in the standard-setting process.

The Commission recognises that 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, and thanks them for their contributions.

APPENDIX III**SCHEDULE FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE CODEX STRATEGIC PLAN 2026-2031**

WHEN	WHAT	WHO
07/2023	Agree the timetable, process, governance and framework for the Codex Strategic Plan 2026-2031.	CCEXEC84
07/2023 – 11/2023	(i) Discuss informally and agree with CCEXEC Members questions and their framing to be used as a basis for initial engagement with Members and Observers (ii) CVCs lead engagement and discussion with Members and Observers on a clear statement on the role of Codex in addressing the challenges and opportunities posed by drivers of change	CVCs, CCEXEC, Codex Secretariat, Regional Coordinators
11/2023	Review the intersessional work undertaken by CVCs and the Codex Secretariat. Develop a first draft of the following elements of the Codex Strategic Plan 2026-2031: vision; mission; core values; drivers for change; the role of Codex; ways of working. Discuss and agree questions to be used as a basis for engagement with Members and Observers on goals and outcomes. Adjust the schedule for the development of the Codex Strategic Plan 2026-2031 as needed.	CCEXEC85
1/2024	Issue a Circular Letter (CL) with the following elements of the Codex Strategic Plan 2026-2031 to Members and Observers for comment, following discussion and agreement by CCEXEC85: a draft first version of vision; mission; core values; drivers for change; the role of Codex; ways of working for review and comments, and; Recommendations on the drafting of the Strategic Plan and questions to gather comments from Members and Observers around possible goals and outcomes.	Codex Secretariat
01/2024 – 05/2024	Hold a round of informal consultations with regions through the Regional Coordinators and Observers to encourage interaction, discussion and reflection and support Members and Observers in responding to the CL. The CVCs will make their best efforts to hold these informal consultations before the CL is issued or as soon as possible after. The Codex Secretariat initiates work on a monitoring framework.	CVCs, Codex Secretariat
07/2024	Review the intersessional work undertaken by CVCs and the Codex Secretariat and adjusts the draft Strategic Plan as needed. Review the responses from Members and Observers on the first draft of the following elements of the strategic plan: vision; mission; core values; drivers for change; the role of Codex; ways of working, and the replies to the questions around goals and outcomes. Report back to CCEXEC86. To adjust the schedule for the development of the Codex Strategic Plan 2026-2031 as needed.	CCEXEC86
07/2024 – 10/2024	Lead a second round of engagement and discussion with Members and Observers on outcomes that Codex should aim to achieve by 2031, in parallel with which the Codex Secretariat completes work on a monitoring framework.	CVCs, Codex Secretariat
11/2024	Review the intersessional work undertaken by CVCs and the Codex Secretariat and makes recommendations to CAC47.	CCEXEC87

11/2024	Discuss and adopt the Codex Strategic Plan 2026-2031 with its monitoring framework.	CAC47
Through 2025 and into 2026	Development of implementation work plans	FAO/WHO Coordinating Committees, Other actors
01/2026	Codex Strategic Plan 2026-2031 comes into operation.	