The step procedure for elaborating Codex standards

1. The Commission approves new work based on a Project Document and the recommendations of the Executive Committee.

2. The Codex Secretariat arranges for the preparation of a proposed draft standard.

3. The proposed draft text is circulated by the Codex Secretariat to Codex members and observers for comment.

4. Comments received are sent by the Codex Secretariat to the body assigned the work for consideration. The proposed draft standard is amended.

5. The proposed draft standard is submitted to the Executive Committee for critical review and to the Commission for adoption at step 5.

6. The draft text is circulated by the Codex Secretariat to Codex members and observers for another round of comments.

7. The body assigned the work considers the comments and amends the draft standard.

8. The draft standard is submitted to the Executive Committee for critical review and forwarded to the Commission for adoption as a Codex standard. It is then published on the Codex website.

Step 5/8: Increasingly subsidiary bodies are utilizing a Step 5/8 procedure. This entails texts being submitted for adoption at Step 5 having a recommendation that Steps 6 and 7 be omitted and that the text also be adopted at Step 8. This practice substantially speeds up the adoption process.