



**JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME  
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION  
Eighty-first Session**

**Sub-committee on the Codex Strategic Plan 2020-2025**

**Monitoring framework of the Codex Strategic Plan 2020-2025**

**(Prepared by the Codex Secretariat)**

The Codex Secretariat has carried-out an in-depth review of the monitoring framework of the Codex Strategic Plan 2020-25 (SP), with a view to providing complete, objective and reliable information to the Membership on the implementation of the SP.

Indicators are quantitative or qualitative variables that allow stakeholders to verify changes caused by one or more development interventions in comparison to what was planned. Quantitative indicators are expressed by a number, percentage or ratio. In contrast, qualitative indicators seek to measure quality and often are based on perception, opinion or levels of satisfaction. Baseline is the status of the indicator at the beginning of a programme or project that acts as a reference point against which progress or achievements during a certain time period can be assessed. The target is what one hopes to achieve during the set time period. For each output or outcome results statement, there should be a maximum of two or three quantitative and/or qualitative indicators. It is important not to exceed this number of indicators per result or the collection of data becomes cumbersome and expensive. Two to three indicators per result will ensure that the findings are corroborated by different indicators and/or sources of information and that the findings are solid and credible. The Means of Verification (MoV) are the persons, beneficiaries or organizations from whom information will be gathered to inform initial baselines and measure results.<sup>1</sup>

Based on the above standardised approach, several indicators included in the current SP are not readily amenable to monitoring and evaluation. They all require a baseline and a target, and in most cases further specification of the Means of Verification. Several indicators measure (qualitative) dimensions on progress on a specific outcome. Qualitative information collected is more subjective and may not be comparable between biennia. In addition, data collection for several indicators relies on manual counting and/or on a survey to be submitted to Members. The Secretariat has limited capacity in this regard and surveys often have low response rates and, in this context, can be difficult to interpret. Members have also cautioned the Secretariat against sending too many surveys and the capacity of members to provide support monitoring of the implementation of SP

Against this background, the Secretariat proposals on how to report on the implementation of the Codex SP 2020-25 is presented in the table below.

## **Recommendation**

That CCEXEC81 recommends to CAC44 the adoption of these proposals from the Secretariat on how to report on the implementation of the Codex Strategic Plan 2020-2025.

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<sup>1</sup> United Nations Development Group, Results-Based Management Handbook, October 2011. Available at the following link: <https://unsdg.un.org/sites/default/files/UNDG-RBM-Handbook-2012.pdf>

<b>Goal 1. Address current, emerging and critical issues in a timely manner</b>		
<b>Objective 1.1 Identify needs and emerging issues</b>		<b>Comments</b>
Outcome 1.1.1 Improved ability of Codex to develop standards relevant to the needs of its members	Indicator 1.1.1 The number of emerging issues identified by subsidiary bodies	Counting the number of emerging issues identified by subsidiary bodies provides limited information and does not necessarily reflect an improved ability to develop standards that meet member's needs. To answer to the outcome statement, the question is to understand if Codex has put in place the right mechanisms to identify and act on emerging issues. The Secretariat will provide a short narrative report on the evolution of the procedures to identify emerging issues in Codex Committees.
<b>Objective 1.2 Prioritize needs and emerging issues</b>		<b>Comments</b>
Outcome 1.2.1 Timely Codex response to emerging issues and the needs of members	Indicator 1.2.1 Proportion of identified emerging issues that lead to proposals for new work	The intent of this indicator with regard to the outcome statement which focuses on timely response is encompassed in indicators 1.2.2 and 1.2.3 and is not considered to provide any additional value or information to the extent that it would justify the effort required to collect such data.
	Indicator 1.2.2 Time taken from the identification of new issues to the submission of proposals for new work to the Executive Committee	The Secretariat will measure this indicator by looking at emerging issues of General Subject Committees raised in the 2018-19 biennium and assess the time taken to lead to new work proposals. This will serve as the baseline for which subsequent biennium can be compared.
	Indicator 1.2.3 Time taken for prioritized emerging issues to result in revised or new Codex texts	The indicator will be measured as is.

	Indicator 1.2.4 Committees documenting their approach to work prioritization based on criteria for establishment of work priorities in the Procedural Manual.	The Secretariat will provide a short narrative report to reflect progress against this indicator.
<b>Goal 2. Develop standards based on science and Codex risk-analysis principles</b>		
<b>Objective 2.1 Use scientific advice consistently in line with Codex risk analysis principles</b>		<b>Comments</b>
Outcome 2.1.1 Scientific advice is taken into account consistently and in line with Codex risk analysis principles by all relevant committees during the standard setting process	Indicator 2.1.1 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 were considered in developing Codex texts	The Secretariat will provide a short narrative report to reflect any progress against this indicator.
<b>Objective 2.2 Promote the submission and use of globally representative data in developing and reviewing Codex standards</b>		<b>Comments</b>
Outcome 2.2.1 Codex standards are developed with reference to globally representative data	Indicator 2.2.1 Proportion and regional distribution of Codex members who contribute to calls for data from working groups and Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committees/Meetings	The intent of this indicator is to encourage Member countries to increase their willingness to generate and/or share data. FAO and WHO can only facilitate data transfer and strengthen capacities. Therefore, ownership of this indicator is with the data owners, i.e. Member countries. A short narrative report on contributions to calls of data will be provided, based on eWG chairs and Regional Coordinators reports, where data issues were prioritized.
<b>Objective 2.3 Promote sufficient and sustainable funding for expert bodies that deliver scientific advice</b>		<b>Comments</b>
Outcome 2.3.1 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	Indicator 2.3.1 Extent of and any changes in core funding for scientific advice within FAO and WHO	FAO and WHO report regularly on core funding for scientific advice to CAC. Information about this indicator is therefore found in the related CAC document from FAO/WHO on scientific advice.

	Indicator 2.3.2 Proportion of scientific advice provided within established timeframes	Codex Committees have the mandate to request scientific advice. Currently no agreed timelines for delivery of scientific advice are in place in several committees. Therefore, the Secretariat will provide a short narrative report to reflect progress against this indicator based on information available from the Committees' reports and the Critical Review process.
<b>Goal 3. Increase impact through the recognition and use of Codex standards</b>		
<b>Objective 3.1 Raise the awareness of Codex standards</b>		<b>Comments</b>
Outcome 3.1 Codex Members are proactively promoting the use of Codex standards	Indicator 3.1.1 Number of country contributions to the Codex regional and observer webpages reflecting events/activities that raise awareness on Codex standards	This dimension is included in the regional work plans. Regional Coordinators report regularly on progress of their work plans. Information about this indicator is therefore found in the related progress report on regional work plans.
	Indicator 3.1.2 Number of activities in the Codex communications work plan that explicitly address the visibility of Codex standards and extent of implementation	The Secretariat will provide a short narrative report to reflect progress against this indicator.
<b>Objective 3.2 Support initiatives to enable the understanding and implementation/application of Codex standards</b>		<b>Comments</b>
Outcome 3.2.1 Increased use of Codex standards in the development of national food standards and regulations.	Indicator 3.2.1 Proportion of Member countries participating in national or regional capacity development initiatives to encourage and facilitate practical use of Codex standards have been undertaken	This dimension is included in the regional work plans. Regional Coordinators report regularly on progress of their work plans. Information about this indicator is therefore found in the related progress report on regional work plans.

Outcome 3.2.2 Increased use of Codex standards by the food trade	Indicator 3.2.2 Proportion of specified Codex standards adopted or used by Codex Members	<p>This dimension is included in the regional work plans. Regional Coordinators report regularly on progress of their work plans. Information about this indicator is therefore found in the related progress report on regional work plans.</p> <p>The Secretariat and FAO/WHO periodically conducts a survey on adoption and use of a subset of Codex texts. Based on the results of these surveys, the Secretariat will also provide a short narrative report to reflect progress against this indicator.</p>
	Indicator 3.2.3 Proportion of specified Codex standards adopted or used by relevant Codex Observers	The Secretariat will provide a short narrative report to reflect progress against this indicator.
<b>Objective 3.3 Recognise and promulgate the impact of Codex standards</b>		<b>Comments</b>
Outcome 3.3.1 Having a mechanism/tool to measure the impact of Codex standards developed and piloted	Indicator 3.3.1 Progress on the development of a mechanism to measure impact of Codex standards	The Secretariat will provide a short narrative report to reflect progress against this indicator.
<b>Goal 4. All Codex members have the capacity to participate at all stages of the Standard setting process</b>		
<b>Objective 4.1 Enable sustainable national Codex structures in all Codex Member countries</b>		<b>Comments</b>
Outcome 4.1.1 Participation by all Codex Member countries in the work of Codex Committees and working groups	<p>Indicator 4.1.1 Proportion of countries with effective capacity in their:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Codex Contact Point, structure and processes</li> <li>2. Consultation structures (e.g., national Codex Committees) and processes</li> <li>3. Management of Codex work</li> </ol>	<p>This indicator relies on the application of the Codex diagnostic tool, which is done on a voluntary basis by countries and is used more as a self-help tool than a reporting one often in the context of submitting an application to CTF. Therefore, measuring this indicator would prove challenging and provide subjective/not comparable data.</p> <p>Initial evidence suggests that the shift of Codex committees and working groups to virtual platforms has significantly increased registration and feedback indicates a greater sense of engagement among some who are participating directly in Codex meetings for the first time. The Secretariat proposes that, in order to track progress towards this outcome, it monitors trends in Member Countries' registration in Codex meetings, comparing 2018-19 data with 2020-21 in the first instance. Registration to Codex meetings must be done by the Codex Contact Point, hence such registration reflects the presence of an active contact point that and a degree of management of Codex work at the national level. Measurement required no further input from Members. Application of the Codex Diagnostic Tool remains a valuable activity, also promoted by several of the regional implementation plans, rather than an indicator.</p>

	Indicator 4.1.2 Sustainable resource allocation for the above, which may be reflected in national legislation and/or organization structures	This indicator would prove quite difficult to measure as Member Countries have different ways to fund Codex structures. It would also require reporting by Members which would be an additional burden. The Secretariat suggests that monitoring trends in registration, proposed above, sufficiently reflects Member's investment in Codex.
	Indicator 4.1.3 Additional indicator for CTF recipient countries: Proportion of CTF2 recipient countries sustaining national Codex systems and related activities once the funding ends	CTF2 recipient countries still have to complete their projects, therefore information on countries sustaining progress made with CTF2 support is limited. The CTF2 monitoring and evaluation framework outlines impact measurement of CTF support and will inform this indicator. The mid-term evaluation of the CTF2 (likely to start in late 2021/early 2022) will further look into the sustainability issue. A short narrative report based on preliminary information available will be provided by the CTF manager Administrator.
<b>Objective 4.2 Increase sustainable and active participation of all Codex members</b>		<b>Comments</b>
Outcome 4.2.1 Sustained, active participation in the work of Codex Committees and working groups	Indicator 4.2.1 Proportion of countries with a sustained or increased: - Contribution to eWGs - Chairing of eWGs - Response to Circular Letters	The Secretariat proposes, in line with the definition of indicators in the chapeau text to this table, that in order to determine these trends the following two indicators are measured: 1 - "Number of Member countries who participated in eWGs during the biennium (2020-21 biennium will be the first to be reported on)" (participation is defined as registration to at least in one eWG during the biennium). 2 - "Number of Member countries that replied to CLs in the biennium (2020-21 biennium will be the first to be reported on " (A member will be counted if they replied to at least one CL during the biennium)
<b>Objective 4.3 Reduce barriers to active participation by developing countries</b>		<b>Comments</b>
Outcome 4.3.1 capacity building, partnering, and knowledge sharing activities are effective in building active participation by developing countries	Indicator 4.3.1 Documented discussions from the regional coordinating committees (RCC) or related meetings on barriers and potential solutions to participation by developing countries	This dimension is included in the regional work plans. Regional Coordinators report regularly on progress of their work plans. Information about this indicator is therefore found in the related progress report on regional work plans.
	Indicator 4.3.2 Increase in reports of mentorship and experience sharing on Codex issues between countries	This dimension is included in the regional work plans. Regional Coordinators report regularly on progress of their work plans. Information about this indicator is therefore found in the related progress report on regional work plans.

<b>Goal 5. Enhance work management systems and practices that support the efficient and effective achievement of all strategic plan goals</b>		
<b>Objective 5.1 Develop and maintain efficient and effective work management practices and systems</b>		<b>Comments</b>
Outcome 5.1.1 Codex work processes and procedures support the effective and efficient operation of Codex standard setting bodies	Indicator 5.1.1 Of the recommendations of regular review of Codex work management that are adopted by CAC, the proportion that are implemented	<p>The Secretariat will provide a short narrative report to reflect progress against this indicator based on the review of the Codex work processes and procedures and the critical review exercise.</p> <p>The Secretariat further proposes to report in parallel on delivery of the Codex budget during the biennium. This would be based on the paper on the Budgetary matters prepared annually for the Commission.</p>
Outcome 5.1.2 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	Indicator 5.1.2 Proportion of meeting documents distributed in a timely manner consistent with the Codex Procedural Manual or timeframes established by committees	The indicator will be measured as is.
	Indicator 5.1.3 Proportion of sessions where all agenda items were covered within the allotted Committee meeting time and work was completed by the project deadline	The Secretariat will provide a short narrative report to reflect the intended outcome, based on input from chairpersons and host secretariats and information provided through the critical review. It will not provide quantitative data on proportion of sessions where all agenda items were covered within allotted meeting times but rather identify challenges and how they were overcome.

<b>Objective 5.2 Enhance the capacities of committee and working group chairpersons, regional coordinators and host country secretariats to manage the work of Codex</b>		<b>Comments</b>
Outcome 5.2.1 Subsidiary body meetings and working groups are effectively and efficiently chaired and conducted	Indicator 5.2.1 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.	The Secretariat regularly reports on activities carried-out during the biennium through the implementation of the Codex work plan for Goal 5. Information on initiatives reflected in this indicator is therefore found in the related progress report of the Codex work plan and the monitoring report will more generally reflect progress towards the outcome statement. The pandemic has illustrated how planned activities need to be adapted to ensure Codex continues to work effectively and can go beyond chairs and hosts. In this past year, efforts also focused on Members' participation to virtual meetings.
	Indicator 5.2.2 Satisfaction ratings on meeting efficiency, role of chairs and host and Codex secretariats	The indicator will be measured as is.