



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

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CODEX BUDGETARY AND FINANCIAL MATTERS

*Prepared by the Coordinator for Latin America and the Caribbean,
the Member from Latin America and the Caribbean elected on a geographical basis and its advisors*

1. At the 85th session of the Executive Committee, on agenda item 5, "Codex budgetary and financial matters," among its conclusions (REP23/EXEC2, paragraph 65), it states:
 - "... noted the need for a continued flexible approach, the prioritization and 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;
 - noted the increasing difficulty of delivering the Codex work plan, thanked Members already contributing extra-budgetary resources to Codex, and encouraged Members to consider extra-budgetary funding of the ongoing project to increase accessibility to Codex texts in the six official languages and work on monitoring the use and impact of Codex texts; and
 - requested more detailed information, particularly regarding the breakdown of cost types by programme and activity, to better understand areas of expenditure, identify future needs and priorities, and requested that an interim report containing this information be presented exceptionally at CCEXEC86".
2. Along the same lines, on the initiative of the Regional Coordinating Bodies of Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean, and Europe, a letter was signed on March 26, 2024, and sent by e-mail on April 17, 2024, to the Codex Secretariat, requesting that the Secretariat submit to the CCEXEC86 detailed information on the expenses incurred in Codex activities. As mentioned in the letter "*The requested information would allow Members of CCEXEC to:*
 - i. analyze whether the resources allocated to the various activities are consistent with the priorities defined in the Codex Strategic Plan 2020-2025;*
 - ii. identify, if necessary, which resources could be reallocated within the framework of the current and subsequent budget; and*
 - iii. assess to what extent the "flexible approach" to the allocation of available resources is compatible with Members' current needs and objectives to be defined in the next strategic plan."*
3. We acknowledge and appreciate the report CX/EXEC 24/86/5 presented as a result of these findings is a significant advance over the previous report in terms of the level of detail that will be the starting point of a very fruitful discussion intended to contribute to the management of budget execution. Notwithstanding this, we consider that it is still insufficient to provide the key information that was required:
 - What is the cost of the various activities being carried out. Perhaps the wording of the conclusions of the 85th Session of the Executive Committee led the secretariat into confusion, since the various Codex activities were described there as "areas of expenditure.
4. The following is a description of the issues that need to be examined in greater depth in order to provide the Executive Committee and the CAC with sufficient information to enable them to make informed decisions on budgetary and strategic issues:
 - Salaries accounted for 52% of the expenditure in the 2022-2023 biennium, but it is not possible to establish how this resource has been allocated to the various activities.
 - Translation and interpretation costs have represented 28% of what was spent in the 2022-2023 period. In the 2024-2025 budget there is insufficient information to determine this amount.

- There is insufficient information to know how much is being spent on information technology (IT), as well as on the project on the use of Codex standards or communication/dissemination activities.
- The basis on which the 2024-2025 budget was formulated is not clear.
- There is no information that would make it possible to evaluate the efficiency of spending on the different activities. This is because it is not known how much of the expenditure is allocated to each activity, but also because there is no information on the evolution of costs and expenditures over time.

5. In conclusion, we believe that there is a need for complementary information:

- To understand how resources have been recorded and used in the years under consideration.
- Establish the current cost of the main activities carried out by Codex.
- Evaluate the effectiveness and efficiency of the performance of these activities by means of quantitative indicators.
- Identify that part of Codex resources that can eventually be reallocated according to the strategic directions to be defined for the future.
- Make visible how budget execution is linked to implementation of the Codex Strategic Plan.

6. In view of the foregoing, the undersigned Members believe that providing an accurate assessment of the progress made makes it possible to show which actions have been carried out with outstanding performance, and also to take steps to improve and make the necessary adjustments to the plan in time to optimize the use of the available resources.

7. We are confident that an accurate and concrete report that provides absolute transparency will not only strengthen confidence in Codex management, but will also encourage donors to increase their investment and to have a vision of the impact of their contributions.