



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

Ninetieth Session

WHO Headquarters, Geneva, Switzerland

29 June – 3 July 2026

MATTERS ARISING FROM FAO AND WHO

(Prepared by FAO and WHO)

1. Introduction

This document highlights evolving policies and related matters of FAO and WHO that could be of interest or relevance to the work of Codex.

2. Recommendations

CCEXEC90 and CAC49 are invited to:

- note the information given in this document; and
- take necessary actions to best take into consideration the policies of the parent organizations.

3. Matters arising jointly from FAO and WHO

3.1 *World Food Safety Day 2026*

The theme for the World Food Safety Day 2026 is “From burden to solutions – safe food everywhere”. The theme highlights how data on illness and its burden can guide action towards focused and cost-effective solutions. This theme was selected because WHO will release updated estimates on the global burden of foodborne diseases, providing a new evidence base to support food safety action. The communication toolkit¹, which will be available in all six UN languages, was prepared to assist food safety advocates around the world in preparing their World Food Safety Day events. The website², hosted by Codex, features again all relevant information about campaign materials, related events and activities.

3.2 *The Healthy Diets Monitoring Initiative*

The Healthy Diets Monitoring Initiative (HDMI), launched by FAO, United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF), and WHO in 2022, brings together experts to improve national and global monitoring of healthy diets. A first version of the guidance (2024) is being updated in 2026, focusing on recommending low burden tools, such as the Dietary Quality Questionnaire (DQQ) and effective metrics.

A major milestone was reached in March 2025, when the UN Statistical Commission endorsed a new Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 2 indicator: “Prevalence of minimum dietary diversity (MDD), by population group – children aged 6-23.9 months and women aged 15 to 49 years”. This indicator measures diet quality in children (MDD-C) and women (MDD-W) and is jointly overseen by UNICEF and FAO. MDD is a simple metric, which is also a proxy for micronutrient adequacy, informed through a cost-effective tool, such as the DQQ. It enables countries to collect, analyze, and use data to inform policies and programs that combat micronutrient deficiencies and support achievement of the 2030 Agenda. The guidance also covers the need for collecting and using, beyond the food groups needed to compute MDD, the DQQ food groups reflecting the moderation dimension of a healthy diet. Consequently, the guidance will also be a key instrument to identify and measure the impact of policies and interventions designed to reduce non communicable disease.

¹ <https://www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/world-food-safety-day/en/> and

<https://www.who.int/publications/m/item/world-food-safety-day-2026--from-burden-to-solutions---safe-food-everywhere>

² <https://www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/world-food-safety-day/wfsd-homepage/en/>

4. Matters arising from FAO

The 179th Session of the **Council of FAO** was held in Rome in December 2025³. FAO Members agreed by consensus, inter-alia, to Adjustments to the Programme of Work and Budget 2026-27. Amongst these adjustments, the FAO Council recommended that FAO reallocate USD 1 million to data and statistics, the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) and Codex, and further recommended that these additional increased allocations to Codex Alimentarius be utilized in line with the conclusions of the CAC48, and requested Management to provide an update through the regular corporate reporting processes.

FAO has been entrusted by the Brazil Conference of the Parties (**COP30**) Presidency to lead several key initiatives under the Action Agenda, such as the Resilient Agriculture Investment for Net-Zero Land Degradation⁴, aimed at accelerating investment in agricultural land restoration. At COP30, FAO also supported two new forest initiatives; the Tropical Forest Forever Facility and a Call to Action on Integrated Fire Management.

In the realm of urban development, the **First International Green Cities Conference**⁵ during the World Food Forum 2025⁶ resulted in the adoption of the FAO Green Cities Principles, which guide local governments in implementing integrated urban solutions. FAO's Green Cities in Action for Africa project, for example, focuses on developing climate-adaptive plans for ten cities across five African nations.

FAO also continues to be a partner of choice for **financing agrifood systems** in Small Island Developing States, Least Developed Countries, and Landlocked Developing Countries, successfully securing over USD 400 million for projects in 2025 through its partnership with the Green Climate Fund (GCF).

FAO has deepened collaboration with the **Asian Development Bank** under a new agreement to scale private sector investment in agrifood value chains and promote digital, artificial intelligence (AI)-enabled, and climate-resilient solutions. The launch of the FAO Risk Monitor Platform⁷ allows proactive management of agrifood crises using geospatial data and automated alerts, enabling timely decision-making to mitigate food security risks.

Additionally, the **Financing for Shock-Driven Food Crises Facility** (FSFC)⁸ introduces innovative solutions in collaboration with re-insurance partners to provide rapid financing for vulnerable households affected by shocks.

FAO has welcomed the entry into force of the Agreement under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the **Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity of Areas beyond National Jurisdiction** (BBNJ Agreement)⁹ and looks forward to contributing to its implementation. It is a binding global treaty, aimed at ensuring the sustainable use and conservation of biodiversity in ocean areas beyond national jurisdiction. The Agreement covers four main issues: marine genetic resources; area-based management tools; environmental impact assessments; and capacity building and technology transfer.

The **2026 Global Forum for Food and Agriculture (GFFA)** agreed that addressing water scarcity and competing uses requires placing agriculture at the core of water policy and governance. In the final ministerial communiqué¹⁰, adopted at the Berlin Agriculture Ministers' Conference, ministers recognized FAO for its leadership in supporting countries to translate global water and food security commitments into coordinated, on-the-ground action.

FAO has produced a report, **Environmental Inhibitors in Agrifood Systems – Considerations for Food Safety Risk Assessment**¹¹, along with a technical brief¹², to help guide policy makers and all stakeholders in evaluating any possible food safety risks from the use of substances called environmental inhibitors (EIs) that can help mitigate methane emissions from cows and other livestock, and limit the loss of nitrogen from fertilizers used on farms. The report notes that the potential transfer of EIs residues into the food chain requires careful evaluation and food safety risk assessment to minimize possible negative implications for human health and trade disruptions.

The United Nations General Assembly's (UNGA) decision to make **16 November** the annual **International Day of the Mediterranean Diet** is a welcome initiative to help foster awareness and appreciation of the

³ <https://openknowledge.fao.org/server/api/core/bitstreams/ee2da716-3b6b-4cf6-b3cf-bd44c1d0faf4/content>

⁴ <https://www.fao.org/climate-change/fao-at-cop30/raiz/en>

⁵ <https://www.fao.org/green-cities-initiative/events/international-green-cities-conference/en>

⁶ <https://www.world-food-forum.org/>

⁷ <https://riskmonitor.fao.org/>

⁸ <https://www.fao.org/new-york/events/detail/the-financing-for-shock-driven-food-crisis-facility/en>

⁹ <https://www.un.org/bbnjagreement/en>

¹⁰ <https://www.bmlh.de/SharedDocs/Downloads/EN/International-Affairs/gffa-2026-communique-en.html>

¹¹ <https://openknowledge.fao.org/handle/20.500.14283/cd7224en>

¹² <https://openknowledge.fao.org/handle/20.500.14283/cd7658en>

importance of healthy diets, sustainability and territorial traditions in achieving food security and better nutrition, the core mandate of FAO. FAO will have the lead role in supporting efforts to celebrate the International Day, which was considered by UNGA after the approval of the proposal at the 44th session of the FAO Conference.

FAO published a report outlining the **Regulatory options to address food e-commerce in national legislation**¹³. It examines the challenges of food e-commerce, particularly with regards to food safety and consumer protection. It identifies several recommendations to guide policy and rule makers in their mission to build effective regulatory mechanisms towards safety and compliance on food e-commerce channels. Considering the inherent cross-border nature of food e-commerce and the extensive role of online platforms in today's economy, this study also focuses on the importance of international regulatory guidance and the involvement of private self- and co-regulatory schemes to complement national frameworks.

4.1 *FAO's work on harmful algal blooms and biotoxins*

Harmful algal blooms (HABs) threaten food safety and security by contaminating aquatic organisms and causing mass mortalities. To address these risks, FAO led the development of Joint FAO-IOC-International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) technical guidance in 2023 for early warning systems targeting HABs, focusing on marine and brackish waters¹⁴ that affect food safety or security. In collaboration with the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO (IOC-UNESCO) and IAEA, FAO also organized an Expert Meeting on Marine Biotoxins and HAB Monitoring in October 2025, resulting in guidance for monitoring algal toxins in bivalve molluscs and managing harvesting areas. These efforts build upon recent initiatives concerning ciguatera poisoning^{15,16} and mollusc sanitation.

4.2 *FAO's work on microplastics and food safety*

The FAO presented its "Microplastics in food commodities"¹⁷ report at the 19th Committee on Fisheries Sub-Committee on Fish Trade (COF-FT) session, recommending that FAO contribute to standardizing testing¹⁸. FAO notified the Codex Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling (CCMAS) of the need for appropriate sampling and testing methods, vital for assessing exposure and conducting toxicological studies by accurately measuring microplastic particles and identifying their polymers and additives. CCMAS43 acknowledged FAO's points and advised that FAO and WHO update the Committee on microplastics-related initiatives to inform future evaluations and work. In 2026, FAO plans an Expert Consultation with the IAEA to provide information on sampling and testing methods.

4.3 *FAO's work on import notifications for fisheries and aquaculture products*

Diverse inspection frameworks and requirements to assure consumer protection in importing countries pose one of the most significant challenges for food exporters of aquatic products. Exporters frequently struggle to comprehend import controls, resulting in food products being rejected, detained, or destroyed. Since 2016, FAO has analysed import notifications of aquatic products from the leading importing countries and made them publicly available to promote transparency and disseminate information. The resulting data is organised into six categories: chemical, microbiological, histamine, toxins, parasites, and a broad category known as "other causes". The analysis is available on the FAO GLOBEFISH website¹⁹ and seaweed has been recently added. Raw data on import notifications is publicly available in FAO FishstatJ. The FAO FishstatJ²⁰ database contain rejections, detentions, recalls, and issues reported by competent authorities in Australia from 2019 to 2025, and in China, the European Union, Japan, and the United States of America from 2016 to 2025. An analysis of the notifications was prepared for the 20th Session of the COF-FT, and this can inform the Codex Committee on Fish and Fishery Products (CCFFP37) about food safety issues found in international trade for aquatic products²¹.

4.4 *FAO's work on food fraud for fisheries and aquaculture products*

In 2018, FAO developed and published the FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Circular Overview of Food Fraud in the Fisheries Sector, which emphasizes that the fisheries and aquaculture sector is among the food sectors most vulnerable to fraud. Building on this effort, FAO collaborated with the IAEA to produce a joint publication detailing tools to combat food fraud in the aquatic sector while convening experts from multiple countries to create case studies illustrating prevalent instances of food fraud in the fisheries and aquaculture sector, their

¹³ <https://doi.org/10.4060/cd3730en>

¹⁴ <https://doi.org/10.4060/cc4794en>

¹⁵ <https://doi.org/10.4060/ca8817en>

¹⁶ <https://elearning.fao.org/course/view.php?id=648>

¹⁷ <https://doi.org/10.4060/cc2392en>

¹⁸ <https://www.fao.org/fishery/en/meeting/41402>

¹⁹ <https://www.fao.org/in-action/globefish/markets---trade/import-notifications-for-fisheries-and-aquaculture-products/en>

²⁰ <https://www.fao.org/fishery/en/statistics/software/fishstatj>

²¹ <https://openknowledge.fao.org/server/api/core/bitstreams/378fd506-cb4d-4b71-aab1-0814395f4192/content>

frequency, and the implications for public health. The report, titled *Joint FAO/IAEA Centre report on food fraud in the fisheries and aquaculture sector*, published in February 2026 is available online²².

4.5 FAO work on Horizon Scanning under the FAO Foresight Programme

Within the FAO Foresight Programme, FAO is advancing our Horizon Scanning initiative to identify and assess emerging issues that may influence the future of food safety and agrifood systems. We have developed a structured methodology that combines evidence review, expert input, and systematic evaluation to ensure scientific quality, inclusiveness, and policy relevance. The approach captures signals across scientific, technological, environmental, socio-economic, and governance areas and translates them into practical foresight insights for Members. The results of this work, including a comprehensive list of emerging drivers and analytical briefs, will be published by the end of 2026 to support strategic planning and preparedness.

4.6 FAO/IAEA's work on food safety

The Joint FAO/IAEA Centre helps Member States improve risk assessment, monitoring, and regulatory systems, supporting Codex Alimentarius. Ongoing and new Coordinated Research Projects (CRPs) address veterinary drug depletion, biotoxin detection, rapid food screening, and seafood authenticity, aiming to produce harmonized datasets, reference databases, and validated procedures. FAO/IAEA Laboratories advance methods for monitoring contaminants like aflatoxins, antimicrobial residues, multi-element analysis, inorganic arsenic, and microplastics using nuclear techniques. Food authenticity is also verified through isotope analysis, nuclear magnetic resonance (NMR), and infrared spectroscopy. A CRP focuses on optimizing novel irradiation technologies for food safety and phytosanitary standards, aiding safe trade and global plant health.

4.7 Artificial intelligence and digital tools for food safety risk management

FAO advanced the responsible use of AI and digital tools to enhance risk-based decision making in food safety systems. Technical exchanges and publications consolidated practical use cases on data integration, signal detection, inspection prioritization and the interpretation of laboratory and genomic data, highlighting synergies between AI, whole genome sequencing (WGS) and digital surveillance²³.

4.8 Food safety foresight: approaches to identify future food safety issues

In April 2025, FAO convened a diverse group of global experts in Rome to discuss several approaches to food safety foresight, advancing the continuous collaborative process to better anticipate future food safety risks and opportunities in agrifood systems. Building on those discussions, FAO published in September 2025 the report *Food safety foresight: approaches to identify future food safety issues*²⁴, which brings together best practices, guiding principles and insights from governments, international bodies and the private sector to strengthen foresight capacity worldwide. This process culminated in a December 2025 webinar, *Beyond the horizon: food safety foresight for smarter preparedness and anticipation*²⁵, where key findings from the new publication were shared and experts explored strategic approaches to proactively address emerging food safety challenges. Together, these events reflect a harmonised effort to enhance long-term preparedness, foster multisectoral dialogue, and integrate both human expertise and innovative digital tools in food safety foresight.

5. Matters arising from WHO

5.1 Update on the implementation of the WHO Global Strategy for Food Safety²⁶

WHO is working with regional offices to monitor and support progress on the three strategy indicators, particularly those derived from the International Health Regulations (IHR, 2005). Together, they capture health outcomes and system capacities including the capacity for multisectoral collaboration on food safety events, the capacity for surveillance of foodborne diseases and food contamination and incidence of foodborne diarrheal disease.

WHO and the International Finance Corporation/World Bank developed a tool to help Member States identify priority actions and strengthen national food safety roadmaps in line with resolution of the World Health Assembly (WHA) 73.5 (2020). The tool has been tested in all regions and is expected to be rolled out in 2026.

The WHO Alliance for Food Safety²⁷ held its first Annual General Meeting in Oman, hosted by the Food Safety and Quality Centre. The meeting brought together WHO Collaborating Centres (WHO CCs) and partners from all WHO regions to reflect on progress, share experiences, and plan the next phase of collective work to

²² <https://doi.org/10.4060/cd8244en>

²³ <https://doi.org/10.4060/cd7242en>

²⁴ <https://openknowledge.fao.org/items/7961a82f-d66e-4e54-b97d-4d11e85a399e>

²⁵ <https://www.fao.org/food-safety/news/detail/food-safety-foresight-approaches--summary-report-of-fao-webinar/en>

²⁶ [https://apps.who.int/gb/ebwha/pdf_files/WHA75/A75\(22\)-en.pdf](https://apps.who.int/gb/ebwha/pdf_files/WHA75/A75(22)-en.pdf)

²⁷ <https://www.who.int/initiatives/who-alliance-for-food-safety>

advance the implementation of the strategy. The meeting highlighted major milestones including the completion of the second edition of the WHO manuals on foodborne disease surveillance and response²⁸. Participants reaffirmed the Alliance's strategic role in coordinated technical collaboration, especially as a global coordination mechanism for WHO CCs working on food safety.

5.2 WHO guidelines on the optimal intake of animal source foods (ASF)

WHO has initiated work on developing guidelines on the optimal intake of animal source foods which will include guidance on commonly consumed animal source foods (including red meat, dairy, poultry, eggs and seafood) and plant alternatives (legumes, whole grains, nuts/seeds and soy). In addition to the health effects of consuming these foods, this work will address food safety considerations (both microbial and chemical) as well as sustainability and environmental impacts enabling a comprehensive assessment of the risks and benefits associated with different consumption and substitution patterns.

The first expert meeting was held in 2024 at which the scope of the guideline and the framework of the risk-benefit assessment were established²⁹. This has been followed up by several informal virtual meetings and working sessions. The necessary systematic reviews, modelling exercises and other analyses are underway.

5.3 WHO guidance on the consumption of “ultra-processed” foods (UPF)

WHO is developing normative products addressing the consumption of highly processed foods, commonly referred to as “ultra-processed” foods. This will include ingredient-based approaches to identify ultra-processed foods that will be incorporated into a broader food profiling tool as described below in section 5.5. Also in development is a WHO guideline on the consumption of ultra-processed foods. Provisional composition of the guideline development group has been established and released for public notice and comment. Work to finalize the composition of the guideline development group is underway³⁰.

5.4 WHO guideline development on food environment policies (WHO Nutrition Guidance Expert Advisory Group (NUGAG) Subgroup on Policy Actions)

The NUGAG Subgroup on Policy Actions is working on developing evidence-based guidelines on priority food environment policies to reduce diet-related noncommunicable diseases (NCDs) and support Member States in implementing effective regulatory measures. The WHO guideline on fiscal policies to promote healthy diets³¹ was launched in 2024. The guidelines on policies to protect children from the harmful impact of food marketing³² was launched in 2023.

WHO is supporting countries in strengthening regulatory frameworks and implementation mechanisms in line with the guidelines. The WHO guideline on policies and interventions to create healthy school food environments, developed by NUGAG, was launched in January 2026 following peer review³³. The guideline provides two strong recommendations on setting and using nutrition standards, and school food provision and a conditional recommendation on nudging interventions. WHO is working with countries to adapt and implement the recommendations in national school food and nutrition programmes. The guideline on nutrition labelling policies is being finalized for launch in mid-2026. It includes recommendations and good practice statements on the list of ingredients on nutrient declarations, front-of-pack labelling, and the use of claims³⁴.

5.5 Food classification, including nutrient profiling, to support food environment policies

WHO has been working on establishing nutrient profile models (NPMs)^{35,36}. WHO has developed region-specific models in five WHO regions to support governments in implementing policies to protect children from

²⁸ <https://www.who.int/news/item/14-01-2026-updated-who-manuals-released-to-help-countries-strengthen-foodborne-disease-surveillance-and-response>

²⁹ <https://www.who.int/publications/m/item/first-who-meeting-on-optimal-intake-of-animal-source-foods-RBAG-summary-and-conclusions>

³⁰ <https://www.who.int/news-room/articles-detail/call-for-experts-to-develop-a-who-guideline-on-consumption-of-ultra-processed-foodshttps://www.who.int/news-room/articles-detail/public-notice-and-comment-who-guideline-development-group-for-ultra-processed-foods>

³¹ <https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789240091016>

³² <https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789240075412>

³³ <https://iris.who.int/server/api/core/bitstreams/6989e26c-c181-4ec8-bb99-104415a2e142/content>

³⁴ <https://www.who.int/news-room/articles-detail/online-public-consultation-draft-guideline-on-nutrition-labelling-policies>

³⁵ https://apps.who.int/nutrition/publications/profiling/WHO_IASO_report2010/en/index.html

³⁶ https://www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/sh-proxy/pt/?lnk=1&url=https%253A%252F%252Fworkspace.fao.org%252Fsites%252Fcodex%252FMeetings%252FCX-720-43%252FCRDs%252FNFSDU43_CRD37x.pdf

the harmful impact of the marketing of foods and non-alcoholic beverages^{37,38,39,40,41} and a region-specific model in one WHO region to support implementation of multiple food environment policies, including front-of-pack warning labels, marketing restrictions, school food procurement policies, and taxation⁴².

As countries increasingly adopt a suite of complementary regulatory measures to reduce dietary risks, there is an opportunity to consider how foods are identified for regulatory purposes in a more coherent and consistent manner. While nutrient profiling remains central to many policies, emerging evidence and policy experience suggest that nutrient composition alone may not fully capture all characteristics relevant to dietary risk. WHO is therefore developing an Information brief on food profiling for regulatory measures. The brief outlines a public health approach that integrates nutrient-based criteria with regulatory parameters to identify foods commonly referred to as ultra-processed food products, intended to provide regulators and policy-makers with a practical and streamlined tool that can assess individual food products and support multiple regulatory applications.

5.6 *Elimination of industrially produced trans-fatty acids*

Global efforts to eliminate industrially produced *trans*-fatty acids (iTFA) from the food supply continue to advance, with 65 countries adopting best-practice policies to date. These policies consist of a mandatory limit of 2 grams of iTFA per 100 grams of total fat in all foods, and/or a ban on the production and use of partially hydrogenated oils, the primary source of iTFA.

Since 2024, six countries (Colombia, Malaysia, Mauritius, Nepal, Pakistan, and Qatar) have adopted best-practice policies⁴³. In May 2025, WHO awarded validation certificates to four countries (Austria, Norway, Oman, and Singapore) in recognition of implementing best-practice policies alongside effective monitoring and enforcement mechanisms. These achievements underscore the growing momentum to eliminate iTFA and reduce diet-related NCDs⁴⁴.

WHO continues to provide technical support, policy guidance, and tools to help countries implement effective iTFA elimination measures. Governments are urged to take decisive action, and food manufacturers and oil suppliers are encouraged to reformulate products and transition to healthier alternatives⁴⁵. WHO is currently developing a guideline on tropical oils consumption⁴⁶.

5.7 *Population sodium/salt intake reduction*

WHO continues to support countries to reduce population sodium intake, and achievement of the nine global voluntary targets, including a 30% relative reduction in mean population sodium intake, achieving an intake of <2,000 mg/day sodium; and a 25% relative reduction in the prevalence of raised blood pressure by 2030. WHO has published several tools and technical documents: the updated SHAKE Technical Package for Salt Reduction, which will be re-released in 2026, the Action Framework for developing and implementing public food procurement and service policies to promote healthy diets, the Global Sodium Benchmarks for different food categories⁴⁷ and the Sodium Country Score Card, hosted within the Global database on the Implementation of Food and Nutrition Action (GIFNA) database⁴⁸. WHO is also working on a "step-by-step" guidance on national adaptation of the WHO sodium targets, either the WHO global sodium benchmarks or regional sodium targets⁴⁹.

5.8 *Alcohol*

Public health warning labels are a high-reach and low-cost means of informing the people about alcohol-related health risks and safety as well as countering the persuasive impact of marketing at the point of purchase or consumption. WHO has provided technical and secretarial support to a group of countries gathered in 2025 to

³⁷ https://www.euro.who.int/data/assets/pdf_file/0005/270716/Nutrient-children_web-new.pdf

³⁸ <https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789290617853>

³⁹ <https://apps.who.int/iris/handle/10665/253459>

⁴⁰ https://applications.emro.who.int/dsaf/EMROPUB_2017_en_19632.pdf

⁴¹ <https://apps.who.int/iris/handle/10665/329956>

⁴² https://iris.paho.org/bitstream/handle/10665.2/18621/9789275118733_eng.pdf

⁴³ <https://gifna.who.int/summary/TFA>

⁴⁴ <https://www.who.int/news/item/19-05-2025-who-recognizes-four-countries-with-life-saving-trans-fat-elimination-policies>

⁴⁵ <https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/trans-fat>

⁴⁶ <https://www.who.int/groups/guideline-development-group-on-consumption-of-tropical-oils>

⁴⁷ <https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789240092013>

⁴⁸ <https://gifna.who.int/summary/sodium>

⁴⁹ <https://iris.who.int/bitstream/handle/10665/375596/9789290210818-eng.pdf> and

https://iris.paho.org/bitstream/handle/10665.2/54658/PAHONMHRF210016_eng.pdf

develop a proposal to adapt the Codex standards to alcoholic beverages. The result of this work was submitted to the Codex Committee on Food Labelling (CCFL49)⁵⁰.

In 2025, the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) published the Handbooks of Cancer Prevention Volume 20B⁵¹. It provides comprehensive reviews and consensus evaluations of cancer-preventive actions that governments worldwide can use to develop recommendations and policies. Its outcomes leave no doubt: alcohol taxation, restricting availability, and strong marketing bans reduce alcohol consumption at the population level, and, in turn, will reduce the cancer burden.

5.9 *WHO Guidance on Traditional Markets for Food*

The WHA75 (2022)⁵², requested to update the interim guidance on reducing public health risks associated with the sale of live wild animals of mammalian species in traditional food markets to answer questions on the scope of the guidance, including the species that the guidance covers and farmed or nature-caught wild animals.

The first meeting took place in 2023 to define the research criteria for the systematic reviews. The WHO commissioned the systematic reviews, which are now complete. The WHO Guideline Development Group (GDG) will meet in 2026 to draft the recommendations. The document will be peer-reviewed and submitted for public consultation before final publication at the end of 2026.

5.10 *WHO technical support on the Code of marketing of breast-milk substitutes*

The WHA78 (2025) adopted the resolution on Regulating the digital marketing of breast-milk substitutes⁵³. It calls on Member States to implement the WHO Guidance on regulatory measures aimed at restricting digital marketing of breast-milk substitutes⁵⁴. It also calls for stronger monitoring systems, the assignment of government agencies responsible for implementing the Code, and safeguards against conflicts of interest in applying the recommendations.

To address compliance with the WHO recommendation to prohibit sponsorship of health professional and scientific meetings by companies that market foods for infants and young children, WHO has published many briefs, including an information note clarifying the understanding of sponsorship⁵⁵, a model sponsorship policy⁵⁶, a brief on alternative funding options⁵⁷, and a compendium of case studies of associations that have refused sponsorship⁵⁸. WHO plans to publish a status report explaining the national implementation of the Code.

5.11 *WHO Activities to promote healthy diets and reduce NCD risk factors*

Member States committed to reducing exposure to unhealthy diets through the Political Declaration of the High-level Meeting of the United Nations General Assembly on the Prevention and Control of Noncommunicable Diseases (NCDs) (2011). The Fourth High-level Meeting (2025) adopted an updated political declaration to accelerate progress toward achieving the voluntary global NCD targets and SDG 3.4.

In response to the decision WHA75(11) (2022), WHO has been operationalizing the Acceleration Plan through intensified country support, policy implementation tools and coordinated technical assistance. WHO has worked with “frontrunner countries” through focused 100-day challenges to advance implementation in priority policy areas, including sugar-sweetened beverage taxation and early food environments. Additional 100-day challenges on nutrition labelling, school food and nutrition policies are under preparation. The WHO technical package is being prepared for launch. The package provides practical guidance to support countries in prioritizing, sequencing and implementing obesity prevention policies.

For the resolution WHA76(9) (2023), GIFNA⁵⁹ enables monitoring of global progress in implementing legislative and other measures and increased accountability towards political commitments.

⁵⁰ https://www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/sh-proxy/en/?link=1&url=https%253A%252F%252Fworkspace.fao.org%252Fsites%252Fcodex%252FMeetings%252FCX-714-49%252FWorking%2Bdocuments%252Ffl49_08e%2BAdd.1.pdf

⁵¹ <https://publications.iarc.who.int/Book-And-Report-Series/Iarc-Handbooks-Of-Cancer-Prevention/Alcohol-Policies-2025>

⁵² [https://apps.who.int/gb/ebwha/pdf_files/WHA75/A75\(23\)-en.pdf](https://apps.who.int/gb/ebwha/pdf_files/WHA75/A75(23)-en.pdf)

⁵³ https://apps.who.int/gb/ebwha/pdf_files/WHA78/A78_R18-en.pdf

⁵⁴ <https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789240084490>

⁵⁵ <https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789240074422>

⁵⁶ <https://iris.who.int/handle/10665/378985>

⁵⁷ <https://iris.who.int/handle/10665/378267>

⁵⁸ <https://iris.who.int/handle/10665/378977>

⁵⁹ <https://gifna.who.int/>