

CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



World Health
Organization

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CL 2025/49-EXEC
August 2025

TO: Codex Contact Points
Contact Points of international organizations having observer status with Codex

FROM: Secretariat, Codex Alimentarius Commission,
Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme

SUBJECT: Request for comments on the indicators for the monitoring framework for the Codex Strategic Plan 2026-2031

DEADLINE: 10 OCTOBER 2025

BACKGROUND

1. The Codex Strategic Plan 2026-2031 was adopted by CAC47 (2024) noting that the Codex Secretariat would present a monitoring framework at CCEXEC88 for review.¹ At CCEXEC88 (2025), the Codex Secretariat indicated that the proposed monitoring framework sought to present an efficient way to track progress while striking a balance between data availability, methodology and required resources and included a rationale for each indicator.²
2. CCEXEC88 made comments and agreed on the revised monitoring framework as contained in Appendix II of its report³ and noted that comments on the revised monitoring framework would be sought from Members and Observers through a CL.⁴
3. CCEXEC88 requested the Codex Secretariat to provide feedback on the ways of measuring the indicators, and to present an updated version of the means of verification of the monitoring framework for consideration at CCEXEC89, and include baselines for those indicators already used in the Codex Strategic Plan 2020-2025.
4. To facilitate the review by CCEXEC89, the Codex Secretariat has elaborated a rationale based on CCEXEC88 discussions for each proposed indicator, included as Annex I to this CL.
5. A pre-session working group will be held in advance of CCEXEC89 to review comments received in response to this CL.

REQUEST FOR COMMENTS

6. The monitoring framework of the Codex Strategic Plan 2026-2031 is uploaded to the Codex Online Commenting System (OCS)⁵ per the guidance in paragraphs 7-11.
7. Comments should address whether the proposed indicators are suitable to measure progress against the related outcome and, if not, present alternative proposals.
8. Codex Members and Observers are encouraged to submit comments in reply to this CL⁶ to facilitate decision-making at CCEXEC89.

¹ REP24/CAC para 216 iii.

² CX/EXEC 25/88/3

³ REP25/EXEC1 Appendix II

⁴ REP25/EXEC1, Paragraph 82

⁵ <https://ocs.codexalimentarius.org>

⁶ <https://www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/resources/circular-letters/en/>

GUIDANCE ON THE PROVISION OF COMMENTS

9. Comments should be submitted through the Codex Contact Points of Codex Members and Observers using the OCS.
10. Contact Points of Codex Members and Observers may login to the OCS and access the document open for comments by selecting “Enter” in the “My reviews” page, available after login to the system.
11. Contact Points of Codex Members and Observers are requested to provide general comments at the document level. Additional guidance on the OCS comment categories and types can be found in the OCS Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)⁷.
12. Other OCS resources, including the user manual and short guide, can also be found on the Codex website⁸.
13. For questions on the OCS, please contact Codex-OCS@fao.org.

⁷ http://www.fao.org/fileadmin/user_upload/codexalimentarius/doc/OCS/Codex_OCS_FAQs_2017-11-06.pdf

⁸ <https://www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/resources/ocs/en/>

ANNEX I - Rationale (as elaborated by the Codex Secretariat based on CCEXEC88 discussions)

Proposed indicator (Indicators carried over from the previous M & E Framework are marked with *)	Rationale (as elaborated by the Codex Secretariat based on CCEXEC88 discussions)
Indicator 1.1.1 Proportion of sessions in which Codex committees have used foresight and horizon scanning to inform work planning and prioritization.	This outcome can be achieved by promoting foresight and horizon-scanning activities and the use of activity (e.g. foresight reports, food outlook, factors affecting food and feed markets, trade flows etc.) of organizations such as FAO and WHO across Codex subsidiary bodies to inform their work planning and to take decision with regard to prioritization or standards development. This can be monitored by looking at whether discussions and work in Codex committees and related events used such information.
Indicator 1.2.1 Time taken to respond to a request for scientific advice.	This outcome is about the provision of scientific advice to Codex. Codex committees have the mandate to request scientific advice. Availability of that advice is critical to standard setting and also impacts the pace of standards development. Monitoring the time taken for requested scientific advice to be delivered by the relevant Joint FAO/WHO expert committees to Codex committees would allow the identification of trends and possible delays in the provision of scientific advice thus indicating areas for further investigation.
Indicator 1.3.1 Number of quantitative standards adopted or revoked by CAC.	This outcome is about the establishment or revision of science-based standards. Science could also contribute to the revocation of standards. A quantitative dimension that is currently being measured for the Codex magazine (scorecards) is the total number of quantitative standards being adopted every year. As establishment, revision or revocation of quantitative standards (ie MLs and MRLs) are directly based on scientific advice, it is proposed to use these as an indicator for this outcome.
*Indicator 1.4.1 Time taken for approved new work to result in revised or new Codex texts.	This indicator was established under the Codex Strategic Plan 2020-2025. While the focus then was on emerging issues it was considered that it should be expanded to assesses the time taken for all approved new work to result in new or revised Codex texts.
Indicator 2.1.1 Percentage of standards published in English within one month following adoption by CAC.	This outcome is about ensuring that systems and practices are in place to enable timely development and availability of Codex standards and documents that support development of standards. Therefore, dimensions such as the timely distribution of documents (already used for

Indicator 2.1.2 Percentage of standards published in all working languages within one year following adoption by CAC.	the Codex Strategic Plan 2020-2025), the publication rate of standards, in all languages are proposed as a means of monitoring this outcome. Noting that timely publication of the reports of joint FAO/WHO expert bodies was important to facilitate informed discussions in Codex subsidiary bodies and timely development and availability of Codex standards this dimension is also captured in indicator.
Indicator 2.1.3 Proportion of working documents, including reports of joint FAO/WHO expert bodies, distributed at least two months before the meeting, consistent with the <i>Codex Procedural Manual</i>	
Indicator 2.2.1 Proportion of Codex committees that apply prioritization mechanisms to assess work proposals.	This indicator is an initial attempt to quantitatively measure progress against this outcome, noting that not all Codex committees have to apply such mechanisms. This indicator would not consider coordinating committees.
Indicator 2.3.1 Number of people trained by the Codex Secretariat every year.	This output is about enhancing capacities of chairs, coordinators, hosts, CCPs and delegates. This can happen in many different ways multilaterally or bilaterally and tracking that would be challenging. Hence, for ease of monitoring the number of people trained by the Codex Secretariat is proposed.
Indicator 2.3.2 Number of people who undertook the Codex e-learning course	In order to try and address the need to more widely capture training efforts tracking the number of people who undertook the Codex e-learning course is proposed, noting that this was a relevant and accessible tool to develop capacities.
*Indicator 2.3.3 Satisfaction ratings on meeting efficiency, role of chairs and host and Codex secretariats.	Satisfaction ratings could also be an indicator of the capacities of Chairs, host and Codex secretariats. This information is already collected via post meeting surveys and the indicator was already used for the Codex Strategic Plan 2020-2025 and can thus be carried over.
*Indicator 2.4.1 Number of Members who participated in EWGs during the biennium.	Three indicators to monitor whether Codex Members are enabled to participate actively and sustainably throughout the standards-setting process are proposed. Two of them were used for the Codex Strategic Plan 2020-2025. It is proposed that these indicators are carried over. Reflecting on the need to encourage more Members to take a leadership role in Codex tracking which members took on leadership roles in EWGs was proposed.
Indicator 2.4.2: Number of different Members who chaired or co-chaired EWGs during the biennium	

*Indicator 2.4.3 Number of Members participating to CAC and the active Codex committees and Task Forces.	
Indicator 3.1.1 Number of international organizations formally engaged by the Codex Secretariat through bilateral meetings, workshops, etc. during the biennium	This is a new outcome and it is proposed that this dimension could be reflected in the level of engagement between Codex (committees and Codex Secretariat) with relevant international organizations. Hence the proposed indicator is based on the meetings of the Codex Secretariat with international organizations, back-to-office reports (BTOs).
Indicator 3.2.1 Number of international organizations that have presented their work or provided inputs to codex committees (including identification of gaps in approaches that Codex could contribute to)	This is a new outcome and it is proposed to measure it by tracking the opportunities provided at Codex committees for international organizations to provide information about their work as it relates to Codex.
Outcome 3.3 Narrative report	As this is a new outcome, it is proposed to report against it through a narrative report with a view of developing a quantitative indicator in the future.
Indicator 3.4.1 Number of Observers that replied to CLs and/or EWGs in the biennium.	Contributions from relevant international organizations can be measured through the number of international organizations participating to CAC and its subsidiary bodies and their contribution to Codex work.
Indicator 3.4.2 Number of Observers participating to CAC, active Codex committees and task forces.	
Indicator 3.4.3 Number of Codex standards elaborated in cooperation with another international intergovernmental body or organization (as defined in PM section 7.1).	Contributions can also be measured by looking at the number of Codex standards elaborated in cooperation with another international intergovernmental body or organization (as defined in Codex Procedural Manual section 7.1 <i>Guidelines on cooperation between the Codex Alimentarius Commission and international intergovernmental organizations in the elaboration of standards and related texts</i> where it is indicated that cooperation may consist of: a) cooperation at the initial drafting stages of a Codex standard or related text; and b) cooperation through mutual exchange of information and participation in meetings).

<p>*Indicator 4.1.1 Extent that Codex Members recognize Codex texts as meeting Members' priority food safety and quality needs.</p>	<p>The profile and recognition of Codex as the international food standards setting body for protecting consumer health and ensuring fair practices is measured at the Member level through the Codex annual survey and was already used as an indicator in the Codex Strategic Plan 2020-2025.</p>
<p>Indicator 4.1.2 Codex' online presence.</p>	<p>Noting that it was also important to consider the wider extent of the codex profile, tracking the Codex online presence was also proposed to measure progress against this outcome.</p>
<p>Indicator 4.2.1 Number of references to Codex in international policy instruments</p>	<p>As this is a new outcome, a possible indicator could be the number of references to Codex in the international policy instruments. Examples include UNGA Resolution on AMR, KSA Ministerial declaration on AMR, FAO and/or WHO resolutions on AMR, quadripartite reports, etc.</p>
<p>*Indicator 4.3.1 Degree that Codex texts are used by Members.</p>	<p>Harmonization through the increased use of Codex texts in establishing national food control systems and regulations is measured through the Codex annual survey and was already used for the Codex Strategic Plan 2020-2025.</p>