

# CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION



Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations



World Health  
Organization

Viale delle Terme di Caracalla, 00153 Rome, Italy - Tel: (+39) 06 57051 - E-mail: [codex@fao.org](mailto:codex@fao.org) - [www.codexalimentarius.org](http://www.codexalimentarius.org)

Agenda Item 7

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## JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME

### CODEX COMMITTEE ON GENERAL PRINCIPLES

#### Thirty-second Session

Virtual, 8, 9, 11, 12, 15 and 17 February 2021

#### Comments of OIE

#### **Agenda item 7 - Discussion paper on monitoring the use of Codex standards**

In May 2018, the World Assembly of OIE Delegates adopted Resolution No. 36<sup>1</sup> recommending the establishment of an Observatory on the implementation of OIE standards. Through the Observatory, the OIE will be better able to identify and analyse the difficulties faced by Members in implementing OIE standards and provide better support to them.

To explore the potential solutions for the design of the Observatory, the OIE entered into a specific collaboration with the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) in July 2018. Given its expertise in international regulatory cooperation<sup>2</sup>, the OECD carried out a study providing an analysis of key features of OIE standards, as well as a review of the existing sources of information in relation to their implementation. The OECD final report was published in February 2020 and is available at: <http://oe.cd/study-oie>

Based on the recommendations of OECD report, the key features of the OIE Observatory, namely the objectives, the key outputs and the launch of a pilot phase were endorsed by the OIE Council in September 2019.

The OIE Observatory is a continuous and systematic mechanism of observation and analysis of Member Countries' practices in implementing OIE standards. The OIE Observatory has two objectives:

- to identify Members' capacity building needs and identify successful practices.
- to strengthen the quality and relevance of OIE standards.

The OIE Observatory will deliver two types of analytical reports with aggregated data:

- *Implementation review reports*: issued on an annual basis, will provide a high-level summary regarding the implementation of OIE standards.
- *Thematic analysis reports*: published on a pluriannual basis, will provide a more comprehensive and focused analysis on priority topics.

Given that the Observatory scope is to monitor all OIE standards, a gradual approach has been adopted starting with the implementation of a pilot phase launched in 2020. During this pilot phase, small scale preliminary studies called "prototypes" are being developed. The prototypes focus on a subset of OIE standards and Members with the aim of learning more about how we can explore data accessible to the OIE to understand the processes of implementation developed by Members and investigate the various challenges Members have in implementing OIE standards.

For more information, refer to the OIE website at: <https://www.oie.int/en/standard-setting/overview/oie-observatory/>

<sup>1</sup> [https://www.oie.int/fileadmin/Home/eng/International\\_Standard\\_Setting/docs/pdf/Observatory/A-Reso\\_36.pdf](https://www.oie.int/fileadmin/Home/eng/International_Standard_Setting/docs/pdf/Observatory/A-Reso_36.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.oecd.org/gov/regulatory-policy/irc.htm>