

# codex alimentarius commission



FOOD AND AGRICULTURE  
ORGANIZATION  
OF THE UNITED NATIONS

WORLD  
HEALTH  
ORGANIZATION



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Agenda Item 2 (a)

## JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME

### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION

#### *Fifty-seventh Session*

*WHO Headquarters, Geneva, 6-9 December 2005*

### STRATEGIC PLANNING OF THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION

#### BACKGROUND

1. The 28<sup>th</sup> Session of the Commission noted the recommendation of the 55<sup>th</sup> Session of the Executive Committee, as follows:

- A new Strategic Plan would comprise three parts; the first part (Part 1) broadly stating Commission-wide objectives, the second part (Part 2) listing achievable outputs covering the areas for priority action by subsidiary bodies and the third part (Part 3) setting out the working timetables by subsidiary bodies with the indication of a timeframe for each of the activities being undertaken, planned frequency of meetings of the subsidiary body as well as relevance to the outputs defined in Part 2.
- The third part of the Plan should be regularly updated with appropriate input from the subsidiary bodies and be organized in such way to facilitate the standards management function of the Executive Committee; and
- The draft Plan to be prepared by the Executive Committee be submitted, after review by Codex Committees and Coordinating Committees as appropriate, to the Commission for final adoption by 2007.

2. The Commission endorsed the proposed structure of and the timeline for the preparation of and the timeline for the preparation of the Strategic Plan 2008-2013. It was also agreed that a working group comprising the Chairperson and Vice-Chairpersons of the Commission would meet in September 2005 in order to prepare a preliminary draft Strategic Plan 2008-2013 to be presented to the 57<sup>th</sup> Session of the Executive Committee, taking into accounts the comments received from members and observers.<sup>1</sup>

#### PREPARATION OF DRAFT STRATEGIC PLAN 2008-2013

3. The Circular letter CL2005/9-EXEC was sent in February 2005 to solicit inputs from members and observers with the deadline of 10 July 2005. Comments were received from five member countries, one member organization and three observers.

<sup>1</sup> ALINORM 05/28/41 paras112-117

4. A Working Group comprising of the Chairperson and three Vice-Chairpersons met on 7-10 September 2005 at FAO Headquarters and prepared a preliminary draft Strategic Plan as attached (see Annex).
5. When preparing the draft, the Working Group took into account comments received from members and observers, while referring to the current Strategic Framework 2003-2007 as the basis for Part 1 of the draft Strategic Plan.
6. The Working Group, in preparing Part 2 of the draft Strategic Plan, used elements of the draft Medium Term Plan 2003-2007 where relevant and developed a list of activities to be undertaken by the Commission and its subsidiary bodies under each of the five Goals described in Part 1.
7. Due to time constraints, the Working Group did not discuss Part 3 of the draft Strategic Plan in details. The Working Group therefore agreed that the Secretariat would prepare a draft format for this Part for further input and discussion by the 57<sup>th</sup> Session of the Executive Committee.
8. The following summary provides explanation and/or rationale for the drafting done by the Working Group:

#### Part 1

- While recognizing the basic structure of the current Strategic Framework can provide a basis for the development of Part 1 of the draft, the text of this Part was thoroughly reviewed to eliminate repetitions and was strengthened to facilitate the development of achievable outputs in Part 2;
- Having also recognized the fact that some of the contents of the current Strategic Framework are, strictly speaking, outside the mandate of Codex (e.g. activities implemented by FAO and WHO), the Working Group prepared this Part by focusing on the Codex mandate, while taking into consideration Codex review and other relevant texts related to the management of Codex work;
- This Part contains the following five Goals instead of six Objectives in the current Strategic Framework. The idea of promoting maximum application of Codex standards, mentioned in Objectives 6 of the current Strategic Framework, has largely been transferred to and reflected in Goal 1.

Goal 1: Promoting sound regulatory frameworks

Goal 2: Promoting widest and consistent application of scientific principles and risk analysis

Goal 3: Strengthening Codex work-management capabilities

Goal 4: Promoting Cooperation between Codex and other multilateral regulatory instruments and conventions

Goal 5: Promoting maximum membership and participation

#### Part 2

- This Part incorporates a list of programme areas and planned activities corresponding to the respective Goals. It also defines a time-line and main responsible bodies for the progress of the activities.
- Ongoing activities in Codex expected to be completed before 2008 are explicitly excluded from Part 2.

#### Part 3

- This Part provides a template serving, as a checklist of ongoing work, the purpose of managing current and future work undertaken by the subsidiary bodies of the Commission. Due to time constraints, the Working Group had no in-depth discussion on this Part.

9. The Executive Committee is **invited** to discuss the draft Strategic Plan as attached in the Annex and agree on the following steps to proceed with further elaboration of the draft Strategic Plan.

## ANNEX

**CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION  
DRAFT STRATEGIC PLAN 2008-2013****PART 1****STRATEGIC VISION STATEMENT**

*The Codex Alimentarius Commission envisages a world food supply afforded the highest attainable levels of consumer protection, by promoting sound regulatory frameworks for food safety and quality. To this end, the Commission will develop internationally agreed standards and related texts for use in domestic regulation and international trade in food that are based on scientific principles and fulfil the objectives of consumer health protection and fair practices in food trade.*

**INTRODUCTION**

1. This document sets out the strategic plan for the Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC), stating strategic goals of the Commission (Part 1) and incorporating a list of programme areas and planned activities with a clearly defined timetable (Part 2). The strategic vision and goals for the CAC underpin the high priority attached to food safety by its parent organizations, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the World Health Organization (WHO). *The Strategic Framework for FAO: 2000-2015* accords high priority to promoting policy and regulatory frameworks for food at the international and national levels. Several resolutions adopted by the World Health Assembly recognized the need to highlight health considerations in international food trade and acknowledged the importance of the CAC for ensuring the highest levels of consumer health protection. These resolutions and related documents<sup>2</sup> urged WHO to work towards integrating food safety as one of its essential public health functions with the goal of developing sustainable, integrated food safety systems for the reduction of health risks along the entire food chain. The fundamental mandate of the CAC is to develop international standards, guidelines and other recommendations for protecting consumers' health and ensuring fair practices in the food trade.
2. The CAC has always operated in an environment of change and technological advancement. The growth in world food trade, advances in modern communication and increasing mobility of populations are all contributing to elevating the profile and significance of food safety and regulation. There is growing international concern related to a perceived emergence of or increase in food-borne diseases. Consumers around the world are seeking ever-greater assurances about the safety and quality of foods they eat. In its endeavour to promote food safety and quality, the CAC needs to ensure more effective participation and involvement of all members in setting globally relevant standards and to consider opportunities for strengthening partnerships with all stakeholders, in particular consumers and their representative organizations, at the global and national levels. It is also likely that developing countries will account for an increasing proportion of global food and agricultural trade. These developments, while exciting, also present challenges for the CAC and its members. CAC, FAO and WHO are striving to respond to the new challenges and keep abreast of most recent development.<sup>3</sup>
3. The recognition and status that Codex standards, guidelines and other recommendations acquired under the World Trade Organization (WTO) Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures has presented challenges and brought responsibilities, including the need to ensure that Codex standards and related texts are based on scientific principles and meet the needs and mandate of the organization. The WTO Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade is also of great relevance, given the significance of the provisions pertaining to product description, labelling, packaging and quality descriptors for consumer information and fair practices in trade. Although quality provisions are

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<sup>2</sup> WHO Global Strategy for Food Safety (WHO, 2002)

<sup>3</sup> Joint FAO/WHO Evaluation of the Codex Alimentarius and Other FAO and WHO Food Standards Work

fundamentally driven by the market, the CAC has an important role in providing for essential composition and quality requirements that are not more trade-restrictive than necessary. The CAC needs to maintain its pre-eminent status as the internationally recognized body for food standard-setting and to call for the use of its standards to the widest extent possible by all members as a basis for domestic regulation and international trade. This will help members to be more aware of the importance of the international harmonization of food safety and quality standards, as well as the enhancement of food control systems for ensuring food safety and quality.

#### ***Decision-making based on scientific evidence***

4. The CAC, as a risk management body, does not undertake scientific evaluations *per se* but relies on the opinions of scientific expert bodies convened by FAO and WHO on specific issues. These expert bodies such as the Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Food Additives (JECFA), the Joint FAO/WHO Meetings on Pesticide Residues (JMPR) and the Joint FAO/WHO Expert Meetings on Microbiological Risk Assessment (JEMRA) and other *ad hoc* expert consultations are independent of the CAC and its subsidiary bodies and do not directly fall within the scope of the present Strategic Plan. The mandates, functions, composition and agendas of these bodies are established by FAO and WHO. The independence of the expert bodies is critical to the objectivity of their opinions, and meetings of these bodies should interact with the CAC in accordance with the Working Principle for Risk Analysis for Application in the Framework of the Codex Alimentarius. There is considerable synergy between the scientific bodies of FAO and WHO and the intergovernmental bodies of the CAC in order to take decisions based on scientific evidence.

### **STRATEGIC GOALS AND SHARED RESPONSIBILITIES**

5. To enable the overall achievement of the strategic vision, the CAC must take action jointly with its parent organizations and its members. The Commission urges FAO and WHO to mobilise sufficient resources to allow the CAC to fulfil its mandate. Their other key roles are to provide scientific advice requested by the CAC and to offer technical assistance to developing members so that they can effectively participate in the standard-setting process and build capacity for the development of sound food control systems. The Commission fully recognises the efforts of the members of the CAC, especially those which provide significant financial and other support to the work of the CAC as host governments of subsidiary bodies or as contributors to extra-budgetary programmes of FAO and WHO. In close cooperation with the partners above, the Commission will focus on the following goals to achieve its strategic vision.

#### **Goal 1: Promoting Sound Regulatory Frameworks**

6. An effective food control system is critical in enabling all countries to ensure the safety of their foods entering international trade and to ensure that imported foods conform to national requirements. International harmonization based on Codex standards, guidelines and recommendations is essential to promoting a global approach to consumer health protection, including systems for the reduction of food-borne risks, and minimizing the negative effects of technical regulations on international trade. For this purpose, the CAC will provide essential guidance for its members through the continued development of international standards and guidelines relating to food safety and hygiene, nutrition, labelling, and import/export inspection and certification. This will require sustained commitment and effort in the following key directions:
  - The CAC will develop international standards, guidelines, and recommendations based on scientific principles for the reduction of health risks along the entire food chain. In strengthening the strategic focus of the CAC in the development of risk-based, performance-based standards and related texts for broad application across a range of commodities, the CAC must give priority to establishing a coherent and integrated set of food standards covering the entire food chain. Such an approach can serve as a model for the members of the CAC to pursue food regulatory systems that provide consumers with safe food and facilitate fair practices in international trade in food;
  - Codex standards and related texts for food safety and quality, including labelling aspects, should be carefully prepared to reflect global variations. Codex standards for food quality should focus

on essential characteristics of products to ensure that they are not overly prescriptive and that the standards are not more trade restrictive than necessary; and

- The CAC, whilst acknowledging that food safety standards cannot be compromised, should, when elaborating and deciding upon Codex standards and related texts, take into consideration the special needs of developing countries including infrastructure, resources and technical and legal capabilities. Codex standards and related texts should not have the effect of creating unnecessary, unjustified or discriminatory obstacles to the exports of developing countries.

7. In many countries, effective food control is undermined by the existence of fragmented legislation, multiple jurisdictions and weaknesses in surveillance, monitoring and enforcement. Sound national food control and regulatory systems are essential to ensuring the health and safety of the domestic population as well as ensuring the safety and quality of foods entering international trade. The FAO and WHO have made significant advances in promoting sound regulatory frameworks at the national level. The Commission, while encouraging members to use Codex relevant standards, strongly encourages FAO and WHO to continue to promote national regulatory systems that are based on international principles and guidelines and address all components of the food chain. The development of sound food control and regulatory infrastructure including human resources is particularly important for developing countries as they seek to achieve higher levels of food safety and nutrition and will require high-level political and policy commitment.<sup>4</sup> Successful negotiation of bilateral mutual recognition and equivalence of food control systems also depends on the abilities of countries to assure each other of the integrity and international conformity of their regulatory systems.

## Goal 2: Promoting widest and consistent application of scientific principles and risk analysis

8. The scientific basis of decision-making by the CAC is spelled out in the Statements of Principle on the Role of Science in the Codex Decision-Making and the Extent to Which Other Factors are Taken into Account and in the Working Principles for Risk Analysis for Application in the Framework of the Codex Alimentarius<sup>5</sup>. The CAC will ensure their consistent application by relevant Codex subsidiary bodies, in order to maintain its focus on this Goal. Risk analysis as it applies to food safety across the food chain is an internationally accepted discipline and will require ongoing and sustained inputs from the CAC, its parent organisations and national governments to promote its understanding and application at the international and national levels.
9. In recent years the scope of scientific advice sought by the CAC from the parent organisations increased considerably and went beyond chemical and microbiological hazards. FAO and WHO responded to these requests through several FAO/WHO *ad hoc* consultations on topics such as foods derived from genetically modified organisms and antimicrobial resistance. The Commission requests FAO and WHO to continue to promote the understanding of risk analysis and to continue to explore new areas of work, such as nutritional risk assessment, so as to provide the scientific advice relevant to CAC activities for standard setting.
10. The timely availability of scientific advice is a prerequisite for the CAC to fulfil its mandate. The Commission will continue to encourage FAO and WHO to make sufficient resources available to ensure that the scientific advice to the CAC can be provided in a timely and sustainable way. To make more efficient and effective use of the FAO/WHO expert bodies and *ad hoc* consultations, particularly given the rapidly expanding scope of scientific advice requested from FAO and WHO, the CAC will continue to strengthen the interaction between the risk managers (relevant Codex subsidiary bodies) and the risk assessors (FAO/WHO expert bodies and *ad hoc* expert consultations). The Commission has agreed to recommend to FAO and WHO a set of criteria for the prioritisation of requests from the CAC for scientific advice and will review the usefulness of this approach. The CAC, in close cooperation with its parent organizations, will enhance its capacity to respond efficiently to emerging food borne risks by strengthening its work management capabilities (see Goal 3).

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<sup>4</sup> Report of the Conference on International Food Trade beyond 2000: Science based Decisions, Harmonization, Equivalence and Mutual Recognition, Melbourne, Australia, 11-15 October, 1999, Appendix 1

<sup>5</sup> Codex Alimentarius Procedural Manual

11. The CAC has the goal of elaborating standards that cover the needs of its entire membership to ensure these standards are applicable globally. A constraint to this goal is the persistent lack of relevant data from all major parts of the world. The CAC will continue to encourage countries from both the developed and developing worlds to submit relevant data to the CAC and the parent organizations. The Commission recommends that FAO and WHO build on the achievements already accomplished<sup>6</sup> and take meaningful steps to ensure that scientific advice is provided more quickly, with even higher quality, that more requests are addressed, and that the process is conducted with enhanced transparency. The Commission particularly encourages FAO and WHO to explore new approaches to enhance participation of experts and the use of data from developing countries in the elaboration of scientific advice. Where relevant data are not available from developing countries, the CAC encourages FAO and WHO to assist the developing countries in generating such data.

### Goal 3: Strengthening Codex work-management capabilities

12. Attention to food safety and global food trade has continued to increase among countries and among the international governmental and non-governmental organizations concerned with these matters. More expeditious and efficient work by the CAC is necessary to provide members and international organizations with the standards, guidelines, and recommendations that they need.
13. The CAC has already made several important advances towards achieving more efficient work-management procedures, such as strengthening the role of the Executive Committee as a strategic and standards-management body, holding annual Commission sessions, and instituting more effective use of information technology. But the CAC must take additional steps to keep pace with international developments by better managing its work so that it addresses high priority issues in a timely manner and that standards development work is completed within specified time frames.
14. The implementation of new Codex work-management procedures<sup>7</sup> must make the CAC more effective and efficient, while maintaining the valuable reputation that the CAC has earned as an open, fair, transparent, and rules-based body. Key features of continuing enhancements include:
- Enhancing the capabilities of the Executive Committee with respect to strategic oversight, direction, and cross coordination of the work programmes of all subsidiary bodies through recommendations to the Commission;
  - Ensuring that the Commission and its subsidiary bodies make decisions about work prioritisation using criteria that enable effective decision making, taking into consideration the need to initiate new work and to revise existing standards;
  - Ensuring that new work and standard-revision work is completed within defined time frames. Work progress is monitored by the Executive Committee, and in the event that work exceeds specified time frames, the Executive Committee recommends to the Commission that corrective actions be taken as necessary;
  - Exploring mechanisms for progressing the work of subsidiary bodies in between sessions, while maintaining transparency and inclusiveness;
  - Promoting consensus-based decision-making; and
  - Strengthening the Secretariat of the CAC to ensure effective operation and work management of the Commission and its subsidiary bodies and to maintain effective communication with the Codex Contact Points.

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<sup>6</sup> FAO/WHO Consultative Process for the Provision of Scientific Advice to Codex and Member Countries

<sup>7</sup> As suggested by both the Report of the Evaluation of the Codex Alimentarius and Other FAO and WHO Food Standards Work and the Report on the Review of Codex Committee Structure and Mandates of Codex Committees and Task Forces and as endorsed by the Commission

#### Goal 4: Promoting cooperation between Codex and other multilateral regulatory instruments and conventions

15. The CAC must work closely on matters of common interest with other international standard-setting and regulatory bodies, including those whose work has indirect but significant implications for food-standard issues. Monitoring by the CAC of activities of other organizations that are relevant to food standards, and coordination with them, where appropriate, is necessary to achieve complementarity, avoid duplication and prevent development of contradictory standards or guidelines. Such collaboration is also critical to the development of health-protection and food-trade measures that address the food chain from farm to table in a coherent and seamless manner.
16. The WTO recognizes the CAC as the pre-eminent international body for establishing food safety standards. The Commission must, therefore, play a leadership role in establishing international food standards for protecting the health of consumers and ensuring fair practices in food trade, while taking due account of international regulatory initiatives of international governmental and non-governmental organizations. The CAC also has a responsibility to provide its technical input and expertise towards the building of international consensus on food standards and regulatory policy matters. Establishment of formal agreements between the CAC and other international intergovernmental organizations should be considered, where appropriate, to ensure effective collaboration and coordination, and that such cooperation should be in line with the Guidelines on Cooperation between Codex and International Intergovernmental Organizations.

#### Goal 5: Promoting maximum membership and participation

17. Full participation by all Codex Members and other interested parties in the work of the CAC is now more important than ever. The participation of all members and relevant intergovernmental and international non-governmental organizations is critical to sound decision-making and ensuring that Codex standards and related texts take account of the full range of interests and viewpoints. Since the early 1990s there has been a significant increase in the membership of the CAC with developing countries now constituting a significant proportion of total membership. The Commission welcomes some initiatives undertaken so far to mitigate the financial and human resource constraints hitherto hampering the effective participation of developing countries and countries with economies in transition in the activities of the CAC. Such initiatives include the establishment of the Joint FAO/WHO Project and Trust Fund for Enhanced Participation in Codex, and the development of training manuals and other Codex related capacity building tools. Capacity building programmes under FAO and WHO also have a bearing on strengthening these countries' participation in Codex activities. The Trust Fund and other FAO and WHO programmes are efforts aimed at enabling the members to further gain experience in the Codex process. The Commission strongly urges beneficiary members to take these opportunities offered and create sustainability towards more effective participation, by making firm commitments to adequate allocation of national resources towards Codex work.
18. There is a continuing need for FAO and WHO to implement capacity building programmes in a coherent manner, especially in developing countries and countries with economies in transition, aimed at strengthening national administrative and consultative structures on Codex (e.g. Codex Contact Point, National Codex Committee) and enhancing technical expertise required for effective participation in international standards development. The CAC will play an advisory role in facilitating the efforts made by FAO and WHO so that those efforts address the needs of the CAC and its members.
19. In addition to actions to promote participation of member countries, the CAC will continue to enhance inclusiveness and transparency of the Codex process by furthering its efforts to encourage the participation of consumers and public interest groups in its processes at the international level and encourage governments to take action at the national level. The CAC will take advantage of any information technological developments for advancement of inclusiveness and transparency in the Codex process.

## PART 2 : PROGRAMME AREAS AND PLANNED ACTIVITIES

### Goal 1: Promoting Sound Regulatory Framework

<b>1.1 : Review and develop Codex standards and related texts for food safety</b>
<b>Description:</b> Review and develop Codex standards and related texts for food safety to ensure that they: emphasize a horizontal approach; employ a risk-based approach to food safety that addresses the entire food chain; and reflect global variations so as to avoid being more trade restrictive than necessary, taking into consideration the needs and special concerns of developing countries.
<b>Timeline :</b> Ongoing
<b>Responsible parties:</b> CCFH, CCFAC, CCPR, CCRVDF, relevant Task Forces and Commodity Committees
<b>1.2 : Review and develop Codex standards and related texts for food quality</b>
<b>Description:</b> Review and develop Codex standards and related texts for food quality to ensure that they are generic in nature and whilst maintaining inclusiveness, reflect global variations and focus on essential characteristics so as to avoid being overly prescriptive and not more trade restrictive than necessary, taking into consideration the needs and special concerns of developing countries.
<b>Timeline :</b> Ongoing
<b>Responsible parties:</b> Relevant Task Forces and all Commodity Committees
<b>1.3 : Review and develop Codex standards and related texts for food labelling and nutrition</b>
<b>Description:</b> Review and develop Codex standards and related texts for food labelling and nutrition to ensure that they: emphasize a horizontal approach and the need to maintain inclusiveness, and address food labelling and nutrition so as to avoid being overly prescriptive and not more trade restrictive than necessary, taking into consideration the needs and special concerns of developing countries.
<b>Timeline:</b> Ongoing
<b>Responsible parties:</b> CCFL, CCNFSU
<b>1.4 : Review and develop Codex standards and related texts for food inspection and certification, and methods of sampling and analysis</b>
<b>Description:</b> Review and develop Codex standards and related texts for food inspection and certification as well as methods of sampling, including guidance on equivalence, mutual recognition and traceability / product tracing, to ensure that they: emphasize a horizontal approach and the need to maintain inclusiveness, and reflect global variations so as to avoid being overly prescriptive and not more trade restrictive than necessary, taking into consideration the needs and special concerns of developing countries.
<b>Timeline:</b> Ongoing
<b>Responsible parties:</b> CCMAS, CCFICS
<b>1.5 : Develop guidance for safe and prudent antimicrobial usage and for containment of resistance in food production</b>
<b>Description:</b> Develop guidance within the remit of the Codex mandate for safe and prudent antimicrobial usage and for containment of resistance in food production which focuses on public health, is based on sound science and follows risk analysis principles, and takes into account the work of other international organisations.
<b>Timeline:</b> Completion by 2011
<b>Responsible parties:</b> Existing relevant Codex Committees or an <i>ad hoc</i> Intergovernmental Task Force ( Final decision by the 29 <sup>th</sup> session of the Commission)



<b>1.6 : Explore innovative risk management frameworks</b>
<b>Description:</b> Explore innovative risk management frameworks to address gaps in the existing Codex standards, guidelines, and recommendations. Develop guidance on residues of veterinary drugs without ADI/MRLs and their development process. Explore the usefulness of interim maximum residue limits for pesticides and share the results of new approaches among Codex Committees.
<b>Timeline:</b> Completion by 2009
<b>Responsible parties:</b> CCRVDF, CCPR

<b>1.7 : Monitor the application or use of Codex standards and related texts at the national level</b>
<b>Description:</b> Monitor the application or use of Codex standards and related texts at the national level and provide feedback from countries to FAO/WHO so that technical assistance programmes become more effective.
<b>Timeline:</b> Ongoing
<b>Responsible parties:</b> CAC, Coordinating Committees

<b>1.8 : Encourage FAO/WHO in capacity building programmes</b>
<b>Description:</b> Encourage FAO/WHO to continue to provide technical assistance to countries in need to promote application or use of Codex standards and related texts at the national level. Request FAO/WHO to report to the Commission on the implementation status of their capacity building activities.
<b>Timeline:</b> Ongoing
<b>Responsible parties:</b> CAC, CCEXEC, Coordinating Committees

<b>1.9 : Publish the Codex Alimentarius</b>
<b>Description:</b> Ensure availability of Codex standards, guidelines and recommendations to all interested parties through the Internet and other appropriate means.
<b>Timeline:</b> Ongoing
<b>Responsible parties:</b> Codex Secretariat, Codex Contact Points

## Goal 2: Promoting Widest and Consistent Application of Scientific Principles and Risk Analysis

<b>2.1 Review the consistency of risk analysis principles elaborated by the relevant Codex Committees</b>
<b>Description:</b> Review the risk analysis principles elaborated by the relevant Codex Committees for consistency with the Working Principles for Risk Analysis for Application in the Framework of the Codex Alimentarius. The review might result in the CAC advising Codex Committees to amend their risk analysis principles document relevant to their area of work.
<b>Timeline:</b> Completion by 2011.
<b>Responsible parties:</b> CCGP

<b>2.2 Review risk analysis principles developed by relevant Codex Committees</b>
<b>Description:</b> Review risk analysis principles developed by relevant Codex Committees in the light of the experience gained assuming that by 2008 all relevant Codex Committees have elaborated risk assessment policies pertaining to their area of work and that these policies have been adopted by the CAC.  As these risk assessment policies play a pivotal role in the interaction between risk managers and risk assessors, communication between these two parties should be further improved, where appropriate. The result of such a review may be revised documents on risk analysis principles for adoption by the Commission. The review should also take into account the outcome of the activity described under 2.1.
<b>Timeline:</b> Completion by 2013
<b>Responsible parties:</b> CAC, CCEXEC, CCFAC, CCPR, CCRVDF, CCFH, CCNFSDU

<b>2.3 Enhance communication between relevant Codex subsidiary bodies and the FAO/WHO scientific expert bodies</b>
<b>Description:</b> Codex subsidiary bodies as Risk Managers should establish risk assessment policies that should be used by Risk Assessor, ie, the relevant expert bodies. Enhancement of communication between the risk managers and risk assessors is necessary and should continue during the period of this Strategic Plan, in accordance with paragraph 13 of the Working Principle for Risk Analysis for Application in the Framework of the Codex Alimentarius
<b>Timeline: Completion by 2013</b>
<b>Responsible parties:</b> CCFAC, CCPR, CCRVDF, CCFH, CCNFSU
<b>2.4 Review the set of criteria recommended to FAO and WHO for prioritization of requests from Codex for scientific advice.</b>
<b>Description:</b> Review the usefulness of the criteria agreed upon by the 28 <sup>th</sup> Session of the CAC for use by FAO/WHO to prioritise requests from Codex for scientific advice.
<b>Timeline:</b> Completion by 2009.
<b>Responsible parties:</b> CCEXEC
<b>2.5 Encourage countries to channel their requests for scientific advice to FAO / WHO through the CAC</b>
<b>Description:</b> Encourage countries to channel their requests through the CAC in order to make the best use of the limited resources available at FAO and WHO for the provision of scientific advice.
<b>Timeline:</b> On going
<b>Responsible parties:</b> CAC, CCEXEC, all subsidiary bodies
<b>2.6 Elaborate guidelines for risk analysis for application by governments.</b>
<b>Description:</b> Complete the elaboration of a guideline for risk analysis to be used by governments.
<b>Timeline:</b> Completion by 2009
<b>Responsible parties:</b> CCGP

### Goal 3: Strengthening Codex Work-Management Capabilities

<b>3.1 Review the Criteria for the Establishment of Work Priorities and procedures of the critical review</b>
<b>Description:</b> Review and revise, if necessary, the Criteria for the Establishment of Work Priorities and the effectiveness of the critical review process.
<b>Timeline:</b> Completion of analysis by CCEXEC by 2009, if there is need for revision, completion of revision by CCGP by 2011
<b>Responsible parties:</b> CCEXEC, CCGP
<b>3.2 Ensure effective standards management</b>
<b>Description:</b> Annually review progress of all subsidiary-body activities (i.e., standards, codes of practice, codes of hygienic practice, guidelines) against specified timeframes for completion of each activity, and recommend corrective actions to the Commission for activities that appear likely to exceed or have exceeded specified timeframes.
<b>Timeline:</b> Ongoing
<b>Responsible parties:</b> CCEXEC

<b>3.3 Develop committee-specific decision making and priority setting criteria</b>
<b>Description:</b> Review or develop committee-specific decision-making and priority-setting criteria and use these criteria for management of work. Review criteria when necessary.
<b>Timeline:</b> Completion by 2008
<b>Responsible parties:</b> All General Subject Committees and some other subsidiary bodies as appropriate
<b>3.4 Analyse work-management approaches that facilitate advancement of texts in the Codex step process.</b>
<b>Description:</b> Analyse work-management approaches used by the committees that facilitate advancement of texts in the Codex step procedure in the light of the criteria referred to in 3.3 and their use by the committees.
<b>Timeline:</b> Completion of analysis by 2009
<b>Responsible parties:</b> Analysis work to be done possibly either by Codex Secretariat or by consultant for next step (3.5)
<b>3.5 Adopt approaches proven to facilitate advancement of texts in the Codex step procedure by subsidiary bodies not currently using such approaches.</b>
<b>Description:</b> Recommend adoption of approaches proven to facilitate advancement of texts in the Codex step procedure by subsidiary bodies not currently using such approaches, in the light of the analysis undertaken as per 3.4.
<b>Timeline:</b> Completion by 2011
<b>Responsible parties:</b> CCEXEC, CAC
<b>3.6 Implement priority-ranked comprehensive accounting of all requests for scientific advice</b>
<b>Description:</b> Request FAO and WHO to annually produce a priority-ranked comprehensive accounting (including budget information as it has impacts on Codex work) of all requests for scientific advice (i.e. continuing, ad hoc, requested by subsidiary bodies, or requested by members). The criteria that shall be used for priority ranking are those agreed to at the 55 <sup>th</sup> Session of the Executive Committee (ALINORM 05/28/3). FAO and WHO are also requested to include budget information relevant to provision of scientific advice.
<b>Timeline:</b> Ongoing
<b>Responsible parties:</b> CCEXEC
<b>3.7 Strengthening the capacity of the Codex Secretariat</b>
<b>Description:</b> Evaluate the effectiveness and resource needs of the Codex Secretariat in the operation and work management of the Commission and its subsidiary bodies, and in communicating with and serving the needs of Codex Contact Points.
<b>Timeline:</b> Completion by 2009
<b>Responsible parties:</b> Codex Secretariat, CCEXEC, CAC
<b>3.8 Streamline Codex Commodity work</b>
<b>Description:</b> Implement the recommendations of the Commission on how to streamline Codex Committee work through an improved structure of Codex subsidiary bodies.
<b>Timeline:</b> Completion by 2010
<b>Responsible parties:</b> CCEXEC, CAC

#### Goal 4: Promoting Cooperation between Codex and other Multilateral Regulatory Instruments and Conventions

##### **4.1 Monitor the activities of other international standard-setting bodies**

**Description:** Monitor the activities of other international standard-setting bodies to identify areas of potential complementarities, gaps, duplication, or conflict. A summary of such activities relevant to Codex shall be reported to the Executive Committee and to the Commission annually.

**Timeline:** Ongoing

**Responsible parties:** CAC, CCEXEC, Codex Secretariat

##### **4.2 Ensure Codex contributions to the work of other international bodies**

**Description:** Ensure that standards and related texts produced by other international bodies concerned with food safety, food quality, and food trade take due account of Codex standards, related texts and any relevant ongoing work. Where appropriate, propose inclusion of appropriate cross-reference to Codex standards and relevant texts.

**Timeline:** Ongoing

**Responsible parties:** Codex Secretariat

##### **4.3 Ensure contributions from other international bodies in Codex work**

**Description:** Invite international bodies concerned with food safety and food quality to participate in the standards development process of Codex

**Timeline:** Ongoing

**Responsible parties:** Observers, Codex Secretariat

##### **4.4 Consider establishment of formal agreements with other international intergovernmental organizations**

**Description:** While recognizing the needs to further improve interaction with both OIE and IPPC, and other SPS recognized standard setting bodies, where appropriate, explore possibilities for the establishment of formal agreements with other international intergovernmental organizations to ensure effective collaboration and coordination, and that such cooperation should be in line with the Guideline on Cooperation between Codex and International Intergovernmental Organizations.

**Timeline:** Ongoing

**Responsible parties:** Legal Counsels of FAO and WHO, Codex Secretariat

##### **4.5 Promote interdisciplinary coordination at the national level**

**Description:** Encourage Codex member countries to establish effective mechanisms within their own countries so that horizontal coordination and communication occurs among national delegates to various food-standards-related international organizations. Invite members to develop evaluation criteria to assess the success of the mechanisms that they have established and report progress in this activity through their respective Codex Regional Coordinating Committees to the CAC.

**Timeline:** Completion by 2009

**Responsible parties:** Codex Members, Coordinating Committees

## Goal 5: Promoting Maximum Membership and Participation

### **5.1 Support FAO/WHO Trust Fund for Enhanced Participation in Codex**

**Description:** Request FAO/WHO to encourage current donors to continue to provide funds to the Trust Fund and invite other donors to contribute to the Fund to ensure sustainability. Request FAO/WHO to analyse the impact of the Codex Trust Fund on the capacity of beneficiary countries and report its findings to the CCEXEC and the Commission. Provide recommendations to FAO / WHO with a view to improved operation of the Trust Fund and ensuring transparency of the operation.

**Timeline:** Ongoing

**Responsible parties:** CAC, CCEXEC

### **5.2 Promote effective use of written comments in the Codex process**

**Description:** Encourage members and observers to make maximum use of opportunities to submit written comments while respecting the deadlines for such submissions to allow all members and observers to study the positions of other members and observers in a timely manner. Examine how best to handle the late submission of comments from the view points of transparency and inclusiveness.

**Timeline:** Ongoing

**Responsible parties:** Codex Members, Observers, CCEXEC, Codex Secretariat

### **5.3 Evaluate effectiveness of Codex Committee sessions held in developing countries**

**Description:** Evaluate the effectiveness of holding Codex sessions in developing countries in terms of enhanced participation. Analyse the effectiveness of co-hosting arrangements, and continue to explore possibilities of convening Codex sessions outside the host countries.

**Timeline:** Completion by 2009

**Responsible parties:** Host countries, CCEXEC

### **5.4 Strengthen Codex Contact Points and National Codex Committees**

**Description:** Request FAO and WHO to provide technical assistance for the strengthening of national Codex structures; provide improved support by the Codex Secretariat to Codex Contact Points through the effective use of Internet facilities.

**Timeline:** Ongoing

**Responsible parties:** CAC, CCEXEC, Codex Secretariat

### **5.5 Enhance participation of non-governmental organizations at international and national levels**

**Description:** Encourage non-governmental organizations to participate in Codex work at national and international levels. Encourage members to establish sound structures and processes for consultation on Codex matters to ensure effective involvement and participation of all interested parties.

**Timeline:** Ongoing

**Responsible parties:** CAC, Codex Members, Observers, Coordinating Committees

### **5.6 Enhance information efforts about Codex work at international and national levels**

**Description:** Encourage new approaches to the presentation of Codex work at national and international levels. Encourage direct and easily understandable messages on Codex matters to interested parties including consumers and the political makers. Support efforts to target information about Codex work to relevant groups.

**Timeline:** Ongoing

**Responsible parties:** Codex Secretariat, WHO and FAO

### PART 3 : PROPOSED TEMPLATE

This Part serves, as a checklist of ongoing work, the purpose of managing current and future work undertaken by the subsidiary bodies of the Commission. This Part will regularly be presented for review by the Executive Committee and the respective subsidiary bodies.

<i>Codex Committee on xx</i> <sup>8</sup>		Timeframe <sup>9</sup>						Step <sup>10</sup>	Relevant Output Codes <sup>11</sup>	Provision of scientific advice	
Document title	Job ID <sup>12</sup>	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013				
Draft Guidelines for A	N03-2005	▨							6/7	1.2	Not required
Draft Standard for B	N04-2006	▨							5	1.3	Not required
Proposed Draft Guidelines for C	N05-2006	▨							3/4	1.2	FAO/WHO Expert Consultation planned in 2009
Proposed Draft Standard for D	N04-2008	▨							2	1.3	FAO/WHO Expert Consultation requested by 2011
<i>Number of concurrent jobs</i>		4	4	3	2	1	1				
<i>Number of sessions in the year</i>		1	1	0	1	0	1				

<sup>8</sup> Name of the subsidiary body

<sup>9</sup> The right edge of a horizontal bar indicates the year of the final adoption of the text by the Commission.

<sup>10</sup> Step in the Elaboration Procedure

<sup>11</sup> Reference made to Part 2 of the Strategic Plan

<sup>12</sup> Job IDs are assigned by the Commission upon approval as new work