

# 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)

## CHAIRPERSONS SUMMARY OF THE PHYSICAL MEETING OF THE STRATEGIC PLANNING SUB-COMMITTEE OF THE CODEX EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

19-20 December 2018, Rome, Italy

### BACKGROUND

1. The 75<sup>th</sup> Session of the Executive Committee of the Codex Alimentarius (CCEXEC75) considered the draft Strategic Plan 2020-2025 (CX/EXEC 18/75/6) with a particular focus on the items contained in Appendix 1 of CX/EXEC 18/75/6. While the discussions highlighted the need for further work on the strategic plan (SP) in several areas, recalling the importance of inclusivity, it was also agreed that a Circular Letter (CL) be issued in August 2018 to all members seeking their comments on the current version of the SP and that outstanding issues would be addressed at forthcoming meetings of the drafting group and CCEXEC.
2. CCEXEC76 agreed on its ambition to submit the draft SP for endorsement by CAC42 in accordance with the proposed timeline (Appendix II REP19/EXEC1) and noted a number of mechanisms by which consultation with countries could be promoted and supported. CCEXEC76 further established a subcommittee, open to all members of CCEXEC and chaired by Mr Steve Wearne, which would consider comments, generate revised drafts after each round of consultation with members and develop a complete draft of the Strategic Plan 2020-2025 for consideration by CCEXEC77 and endorsement by CAC42.
3. CL 2018/67/OCS-CAC was issued in August 2018, in six languages, with a deadline for comments of 30 November 2018. Comments were submitted by 46 Member countries, 1 Member Organization and 5 Observers. Compiled comments are available at this [link](#).
4. During the comment period, in line with the recollections of the Chairperson and Vice-Chairpersons during CCEXEC76 that Regional Coordinators (RCs) play a key role in promoting engagement in the discussions on the draft SP, extensive efforts were made to convene regional discussions on the SP with the support of the Codex Secretariat. A list of the events can be found in Appendix 1.
5. A meeting of the sub-committee of the CCEXEC was convened in FAO Headquarters, Rome, Italy on 19-20 December 2018. A list of participants is included in Appendix 2. The compiled comments were shared in advance with meeting participants.

### MEETING APPROACH

6. Given the extent and range of comments received, particularly on the Goals, Objectives, Activities, Expected Outcomes, Indicators and Rationale of the SP, it was proposed and agreed to focus the meeting on reviewing these key components. The sub-committee took a step back and agreed to review the SP in a holistic manner in order to capture the spirit of the range of comments received, rather than attempt a word-by-word revision. The sub-committee meeting was chaired by Mr Steve Wearne and discussions were facilitated by Mr David Massey.
7. The sub-committee agreed that, in order to aid transparency in the process of developing the draft strategic plan, an informal report of the meeting would be drafted by the Codex Secretariat and circulated to Codex members under a covering letter from the chair of the sub-committee.

### SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION

#### Feedback form Regional Coordinators

8. The RCs provided short summaries of the efforts made in their regions to engage countries in discussion and preparation of the draft SP, highlighting some of the issues arising from these discussions. These included the following:
  - a) The need for clarity and focus in the SP and vision statement;

- b) The importance of linking to and reflecting the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and considering wider drivers of unsafe food such as water related crises;
- c) Simplification of the goals and objectives, while also ensuring that the objectives are SMART (smart, measurable, accountable, relevant, time-bound), and unambiguous in all Codex languages;
- d) The importance of a clear linkage between the indicators and the goals and objectives;
- e) The importance of continuing to emphasize the role of science and consideration of its inclusion as a core value; Ensuring that Codex remains a forum for developing standards on which countries base their legislation and not vice versa;
- f) The ongoing challenges in some regions to participate in the standard setting process and to provide data to support the scientific basis of Codex standards;
- g) The need to identify clear priorities for countries to act upon in a timely manner; and
- h) The need for consideration of the monitoring and evaluation approach for the SP.

### **Vision Statement and Mission Statement**

9. Based on the comments provided in response to the CL and the feedback from the regional discussion, the sub-committee revisited the Vision Statement. Reflecting on the need for a simple outward looking message that would be easily understood by all audiences, the sub-committee agreed to revise the Vision Statement as follows:

*“Where the world comes together to create food-safety and -quality standards to protect everyone, everywhere.”*

10. The sub-committee also considered that it was important to convey in more detail what Codex actually does, capturing the key aspects of Codex standards such as their global recognition, how they are developed and what they are used for, and therefore agreed to also include a Mission Statement as follows:

*“Be the pre-eminent, global body that sets science-based food standards to protect consumer health and promote fair practices in food trade”*

### **Strategic Goals and Objectives**

11. The goals and objectives were reviewed to ensure that they were expressed in an active manner and that the meaning was clear and easily understood. Discussions on goals considered whether all goals should remain and whether the wording optimally reflected the intent of the members. The key discussions were as follows:
- a) There was extensive discussion on the inclusion of the word ‘critical’ in Goal 1 noting that this was often not easily understood. However, the sub-committee concluded that the goal needed to include an element that highlighted that Codex also addressed issues that were of increased importance or critical and therefore retained this word in the goal.
  - b) The sub-committee highlighted the importance of the new Goal 3 as a means of ultimately demonstrating the value of Codex work. The sub-committee strongly supported the need for this goal to include the word impact in relation to Codex standards but acknowledged that there were challenges to be overcome in achieving this goal and that the current SP period should focus on laying the groundwork towards achievement of this goal.
  - c) Noting the crosscutting nature of Goal 5 and the fact that it underpinned all Codex work, it was discussed whether to retain as a separate goal or incorporate into the other goals. For the purpose of clarity and transparency, and to facilitate measurement of progress, it was agreed to retain Goal 5 but to rephrase it to reflect the fact that Codex work management systems and practices support the delivery of the goals 1-4 of the SP.
  - d) The importance of goals 2 and 4 were reiterated. For all goals the sub-committee noted the benefit of editorial changes for clarity and impact.
12. Based on the comments received highlighting the need for both simplification and clarity, the sub-committee reviewed each of the objectives. The following key changes were made:
- a) The objectives under Goal 1 were simplified to firstly address the identification of needs and emerging issues and then to prioritize these issues.
  - b) Extensive discussion on the objectives under Goal 2 considered the importance of science in Codex standards setting but reflected on what was within the scope of the Codex SP. With this in mind, the objectives were revised and reordered, firstly to highlight the need for Codex to use the scientific advice it receives, secondly to address the need for global representation in the data and information

considered in the Codex standard setting processes and thirdly to promote support for the scientific advice programmes of FAO and WHO. The sub-committee reflected on statements made in the Commission and other fora on the importance of the parent organization to support the scientific advice programme and noted that the SP should not include anything that could conflict with that.

- c) In reviewing the objectives under Goal 3, the sub-committee considered the difficulty of measuring impact, and therefore agreed that for the period of this SP the focus needed to be on raising awareness of Codex standards as a prerequisite to their use, supporting initiatives related to use of Codex standards and developing a means by which the impact of Codex standards could be measured. As this was a new goal in the SP it was recognized that a stepwise approach was needed and that the objectives should reflect that.
- d) The objectives under Goal 4 were revised to highlight that this goal targeted all countries and not just developing countries. The particular needs of developing countries were also recognized, but the need for a more focused approach to identify and address barriers for participation was highlighted. Clarity was also provided into the meaning of developing country by agreeing to make reference to the description provided by UNSTATs.
- e) The objectives under Goal 5 were substantially reduced to focus on two key areas; the effectiveness and efficiency of the Codex secretariat and the processes and systems they manage and that of the committee and working group chairpersons, the RCs and host country secretariats who directly support the work of Codex. The other objectives were removed as it was considered that the spirit of these objectives was already captured in the revised objectives throughout the SP. Furthermore, reducing the objectives was considered to contribute to clarity and should facilitate the monitoring process.

#### **Indicators and Responsible parties**

13. The subcommittee identified responsible parties for each of the objectives and discussed indicators appropriate to each of the goals and objectives. The nature and focus of the indicators were identified by the sub-committee and then subsequently edited to ensure clarity and measurability.

#### **Other issues**

14. The sub-committee agreed that the SP itself would not include the activities and related elements, but rather that a workplan would be developed to support the implementation of the SP, which would be reviewed and revised periodically to ensure it remained on track to achieve the objectives of the SP for 2020-2025.
15. With regard to the introduction and drivers of change, it was agreed that this would be revised by the Chair of the sub-committee based on the comments received. It was also agreed that the goals and objectives should be accompanied by a narrative, which would capture the rationale for each goal and provide the reader with more information as to the intent of each of the goals.
16. Given the number of comments on core values, the sub-committee had a limited discussion on this, which highlighted that any changes to this section would require extensive discussion. The focus of discussions revolved around proposals to include science-based as a core value and to modify the existing core value of consensus-building to consensus. As there was no agreement on this issue, the sub-committee noted that this might need to be discussed more extensively in another forum.

#### **Next steps**

17. It was agreed that the Chairperson and the Codex secretariat would work on the preparation of a revised version of the draft SP incorporating the outcome of the discussions, which would be shared with the sub-committee for review before finalization and distribution in February 2019. It was noted that it was important to have it available in time to facilitate discussions in the margins of the CCGP meeting in March 2019. The RCs indicated that it would be very useful if the Chairperson of the subcommittee and the Codex secretariat could be available to provide support in facilitating discussions at that time.

## **Appendix 1 – Regional consultations on the Codex Strategic Plan**

Discussions and consultations on the draft Strategic plan took place during the following meetings:

- Codex Alimentarius Colloquium, 12 – 14 September, 2018, Accra, Ghana
- Regional Technical Workshop for National Codex Contact Points, Port Villa, Vanuatu. 29 - 31 October 2018
- Regional Technical Meeting for National Codex Contact Points and Delegations to the FAO/WHO Coordinating Committee for Asia, Beijing, China, 1 - 2 November 2018
- Regional Technical Workshop for National Codex Contact Points, Kazakhstan, 7 – 9 November 2018
- Regional discussion on the draft Codex Strategic Plan, 11 November 2018, Panama City, Panama

## Appendix 2 – List of participants

### CHAIRPERSON OF THE SUB-COMMITTEE

**Mr Steve Wearne**, Director of Policy and Science, UK Food Standards Agency, Clive House 70 Petty France, London, United Kingdom. Tel: +44 7795 353580; Email: [steve.wearne@food.gov.uk](mailto:steve.wearne@food.gov.uk)

### ALTERNATE CHAIRPERSON OF THE SUB-COMMITTEE

**Eng Mariam Eid**, Head of Agro-Industries Department, Ministry of Agriculture, Beirut, Lebanon. Tel: 009613567542; Email: [meid@agriculture.gov.lb](mailto:meid@agriculture.gov.lb)

### MEMBERS OF THE SUB-COMMITTEE

**Mr Sunil Bakshi**, Advisor (Codex / Regulations), Food Safety and Standards Authority of India, FDA Bhawan, Near Bal Bhawan, New Delhi, India. Tel: +91-11-23237439; Email: [sbakshi@fssai.gov.in](mailto:sbakshi@fssai.gov.in)

**Dr Guilherme Antonio Costa Junior**, Chair of the Codex Alimentarius Commission, Secretariat of Agribusiness International Relations (SRI), Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Food Supply (MAPA), Esplanada dos Ministerios Bl.D, Brasília, Brazil. Tel: +55 61 3218-3468; Email: [guilherme.costa@agricultura.gov.br](mailto:guilherme.costa@agricultura.gov.br)

**Prof Purwiyatno Hariyadi**, National Codex Committee of Indonesia, Southeast Asian Food & Agricultural Science & Technology (SEAFST) Center, Bogor Agricultural University, IPB Campus, Darmaga, Bogor 16680, Indonesia. Tel: (+62) 8111110351; Email: [phariyadi@apps.ipb.ac.id](mailto:phariyadi@apps.ipb.ac.id)

**Eng Hanan Fouad Hamid Ibrahim Hashem**, Head of Food Standards Department, Food Standards Dept Egyptian Organization for Standardization & Quality (EOS), 16, Tadreeb EL-Modarrebeen St., Ameriyah, Cairo, Egypt. Tel: +201228056795; Email: [hananfouad86@hotmail.com](mailto:hananfouad86@hotmail.com)

**Dr Paul Honigfort**, Supervisory Consumer Safety Officer, Office of Food Additive Safety, Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition, U.S. Food and Drug Administration 5001 Campus Drive HFS-275 College Park, Maryland, United States of America. Tel: +1 240-402-1206; Email: [Paul.Honigfort@fda.hhs.gov](mailto:Paul.Honigfort@fda.hhs.gov)

**Dr Nailya Karsybekova**, Head of the Department for Codex Issues, Ministry of Health, Committee for Public Health Protection, National Center for Expertise, Dostyk Ave., 18, Business centre “Moscow”, 8<sup>th</sup> Floor, Office 19, Astana, Kazakhstan. Tel.: +7(712)554925; Email: [nailya.karsybekova@gmail.com](mailto:nailya.karsybekova@gmail.com)

**Ms Ruhana Abdul Latif**, Principal Assistant Director, Food Safety and Quality Division, Ministry of Health Malaysia Level 4, Menara Prisma No 26, Jalan Persiaran Perdana, Precint 3, 62675 Putrajaya, Malaysia. Email: [ruhana\\_latif@moh.gov.my](mailto:ruhana_latif@moh.gov.my)

**Ms Mary Frances Lowe**, US Manager for Codex Alimentarius, US Codex Office, Department of Agriculture, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW Room 4861-S Bldg., Washington, United States of America. Tel: +1-202-205-7760; Email: [maryfrances.lowe@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:maryfrances.lowe@fsis.usda.gov)

**Dr Kimutai William Maritim**, Senior Assistant Director, Directorate of Veterinary Services, Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries and Irrigation, Private Bag Kabete, Nairobi, Kenya. Tel: +254722601653 Email: [kimutaimaritim@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:kimutaimaritim@yahoo.co.uk)

**Mrs Vigdis S. Veum Møllersen**, Senior Adviser, Norwegian Food Safety Authority, Head Office, Felles Postmottak P.O Box 383, Brumunddal, Norway. Tel: +47 22 77 91 04; Email: [visvm@mattilsynet.no](mailto:visvm@mattilsynet.no)

**Mr Mike O'Neill**, Head of Codex Policy & Programmes, Food Standards Agency, Clive House, 70 Petty France, London, United Kingdom. Tel: +44 (0) 20 72768664. Email: [Mike.Oneill@food.gov.uk](mailto:Mike.Oneill@food.gov.uk)

**Mr Raj Rajasekar**, Senior Programme Manager, Ministry for Primary Industries, 25 The Terrace, Wellington, New Zealand. Email: [raj.rajasekar@mpi.govt.nz](mailto:raj.rajasekar@mpi.govt.nz)

**Mr Niklas Schulze Icking**, Deputy Head of Division, Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture, Wilhelmstr.54, Berlin, Germany. Tel: +49 30 18529-3515; Email: [niklas.schulze-icking@bmel.bund.de](mailto:niklas.schulze-icking@bmel.bund.de)

**Mr Daniel González Sesmas**, Deputy Director General of Bureau of Standards, Ministry of Economy, Pachuca 189, Col. Condesa, Demarcación Territorial Cuauhtémoc, Ciudad de México. C.P. 06140, Mexico. Tel +521555729 9100 code 43220; E-mail: [daniel.gonzalezs@economia.gob.mx](mailto:daniel.gonzalezs@economia.gob.mx)

**Dr Mohammad Hossein Shojaee Aliabadi**, Senior Scientific Adviser, Institute of Standards & Industrial Research of IRAN, Director and Laboratory Manager Farogh Life Sciences Research Laboratory, No. 96, Parcham Street Tohid Square, Tehran, Iran (Islamic Republic of). Tel: +98 912 159 17 66; Email: [Faroghlab@gmail.com](mailto:Faroghlab@gmail.com)

**Ms Cathrine Stephenson**, Minister Counsellor – Agriculture, Embassy of Australia, Via Antonio Bosio, 5, 00161 Rome, Italy. Tel.: +39 06 85272376; Email: [Cathrine.Stephenson@dfat.gov.au](mailto:Cathrine.Stephenson@dfat.gov.au)

**Ms Yayoi Tsujiyama**, Acting Director for International Standards Office, Food Safety and Consumer Affairs Bureau, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, 1-2-1 Kasumigaseki, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo, Japan. Tel: +81-3-3502-8732  
Email: [yayoi\\_tsujiyama170@maff.go.jp](mailto:yayoi_tsujiyama170@maff.go.jp).

**Mr Diego Varela**, Coordinador Asuntos Internacionales, Agencia Chilena para la Inocuidad y Calidad Alimentaria, ACHIPIA, Ministerio de Agricultura, Nueva York 17, piso 4, Santiago, Chile. Tel: +56 2 27979900, Email: [diego.varela@achipia.gob.cl](mailto:diego.varela@achipia.gob.cl)

#### **FAO AND WHO**

**Mr Markus Lipp**, Senior Food Safety Officer, Agriculture and Consumer Protection Department, Food and Agriculture Organization of the U.N., Viale delle Terme di Caracalla, Rome, Italy. Email: [Markus.Lipp@fao.org](mailto:Markus.Lipp@fao.org)

**Mrs Satoko Murakami**, Technical Officer, Department of Food Safety and Zoonoses (FOS), World Health Organization (WHO), 20, Avenue Appia, 1211 Geneva 27, Switzerland. Tel: +41 22 7913234. Email: [murakamis@who.int](mailto:murakamis@who.int)

#### **CODEX SECRETARIAT**

**Mr Tom Heilandt**, Secretary Codex Alimentarius Commission

**Dr Sarah Cahill**, Senior Food Standard Officer Codex Alimentarius Secretariat

**Mrs Hilde Kruse**, Senior Food Standard Officer, Codex Alimentarius Secretariat

**Mr Patrick Sekitoleko**, Food Standards Officer, Codex Alimentarius Secretariat

**Ms Lingping Zhang**, Food Standards Officer, Codex Alimentarius Secretariat

**Ms Myoengsin Choi**, Food Standards Officer, Codex Alimentarius Secretariat

**Mr David Massey**, Special Advisor, Codex Alimentarius Secretariat

**Mr Roberto Sciotti**, Record & Information Management Officer & Webmaster, Codex Alimentarius Secretariat

**Ms Rain Yamamoto**, Food Standards Officer, Codex Alimentarius Secretariat

**Mr Giuseppe Di Chiera**, Programme Assistant Consultant, Codex Alimentarius Secretariat

**Mr Mirko Montuori**, Communication and Information Consultant, Codex Alimentarius Secretariat

**Ms Ilaria Tarquinio**, Administrative Assistant, Codex Alimentarius Secretariat

**Ms Jocelyne Farruggia**, Administrative Assistant, Codex Alimentarius Secretariat