

CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



World Health
Organization

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Agenda Item 9

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JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME

CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION

Forty-eighth Session

Rome, Italy

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CODEX BUDGETARY AND FINANCIAL MATTERS

(CX/CAC 25/48/14 Rev.1)

(Comments of Panama, HealthforAnimals)

Panama

English

Panama welcomes the presentation of FAO's detailed account-by-account work plan for 2026-2027, which reflects a commendable commitment to the Commission's financial and operational transparency. We support the total budget proposal of US\$9.375 billion, including the increased contribution from FAO's Regular Budget, and the allocation of resources that assigns the largest share (65.9%) to meeting support and standardization.

Panama considers the investment in publishing, databases, and online participation tools (17.9% and 8.7% of the budget, respectively) insufficient to meet the actual needs for modernizing the Codex. The regular work plan only allows for database maintenance (USD 438,000), which is inadequate.

Furthermore, the CCEXEC should continue to address the issue of promoting virtual meetings to mitigate current financial effects and achieve a balance, ensuring the continuation of Codex activities.

Panama urges the CAC to find ways to make more efficient use of resources by using new artificial intelligence technologies that can help in the work carried out by the CODEX.

Annex II of the budget report indicates that there are additional resource needs of approximately \$2 million; CAC 48 is invited to evaluate the projects that depend on these funds and try to find a way to carry them out.

Panama welcomes the extrabudgetary contributions, recognizing the support for specific projects such as the Pesticide Residues project. However, we emphasize that recurring needs (USD 2 million per biennium) and one-off investments (USD 1.8 million) should not depend on ad hoc funds. We urge Members to actively advocate for a sustainable and adequate budget allocation through FAO and WHO, ensuring that digital tools and the Secretariat's capacity are guaranteed. that the work carried out by CODEX in all committees has an impact on the protection of consumer health and the facilitation of fair international trade.

Spanish

Panamá agradece la presentación del plan de trabajo detallado por cuentas de la FAO para 2026-2027, lo que refleja un compromiso encomiable con la transparencia financiera y operativa de la Comisión. Apoyamos la propuesta presupuestaria total de 9.375 millones de USD, incluyendo el incremento de la contribución del Presupuesto Ordinario de la FAO, y la distribución de recursos que asigna la mayor parte (65.9%) al soporte de reuniones y la estandarización.

Panamá considera que la inversión en Publicación, bases de datos y herramientas de participación en línea (17.9% y 8.7% del presupuesto, respectivamente) es deficiente frente a las necesidades reales para modernizar el Codex. El plan de trabajo regular solo permite el mantenimiento de las bases de datos (438,000 USD), lo cual es insuficiente.

Además el CCEXEC debería seguir abordando el tema de promover reuniones virtuales para mitigar efectos financieros de momento y alcanzar un equilibrio, garantizando las actividades el Codex

Panamá insta a la CAC a buscar formas de hacer más eficiente el uso de los recursos recurriendo a nuevas tecnologías de inteligencia artificial que puedan ayudar en las labores que desarrolla el CODEX.

El Anexo II del informe presupuestario indica que existen necesidades adicionales de recursos por cerca de 2 millones de dólares, se invita a la CAC 48 a evaluar los proyectos que dependen de dichos fondos y tratar de buscar una vía para llevarlos a cabo.

Panamá aplaude las contribuciones extrapresupuestarias, reconociendo el apoyo a proyectos específicos como el de Residuos de Plaguicidas. Sin embargo, enfatizamos que las necesidades recurrentes (2 millones de USD por bienio) y las inversiones únicas (1.8 millones de USD) no deben depender de fondos ad hoc. Instamos a los Miembros a abogar activamente por una asignación presupuestaria sostenible y adecuada a través de la FAO y la OMS, asegurando que las herramientas digitales y la capacidad de la Secretaría estén garantizadas para que el trabajo que realiza el CODEX en los todos comités repercuta en la protección de la salud del consumidor y la facilitación del comercio internacional equitativo.

HealthforAnimals

Submitted by HealthforAnimals on behalf of the IAFN [Coalition for an Enhanced Codex](#)

Agenda item 9/ CAC/48 INF/2; and CAC48/INF2 Add.1s)

Efficient and Relevant Codex Standards CAC48

The International Agri-Food Network Coalition for an Enhanced Codex deeply values the indispensable role of the Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC) in establishing science-based international food standards. These standards are foundational to ensuring food safety, facilitating global trade, and ultimately contributing to global food security. As the agricultural sector faces unprecedented challenges in delivering food security, sustainable development, nutrition and consumer choice, the operational capacity and agility of Codex and its expert bodies are more critical than ever.

Codex is successful when it efficiently produces science-based standards for the trade in safe food. With approximately 2,000,000 tonnes of agricultural commodities transported across borders each day, farmers, traders, processors, governments and consumers all rely on timely assessment, adoption and use of Codex standards by members. Now more than ever, it is essential for Codex processes to run with maximum efficiency to remain relevant.

We urge members, the Food and Agriculture Organisation and the World Health Organisation to ensure that risk assessment processes are resourced, focused, efficient and scheduled to deliver the timely scientific advice required to fulfil the mission of Codex.

1. Optimize Scheduling and Procedural Efficiency

We urge the Commission to work with the Secretariat and members to streamline and optimize the scheduling and procedural efficiency of JMPR, Codex Committee on Pesticide Residues (CCPR), and CAC meetings to ensure the timely review and adoption of Maximum Residue Limits (MRLs).

Importance: Recent scheduling disruptions, such as the postponement of the next CCPR session and subsequent delays in MRL adoption by the CAC, create significant uncertainty in global trade. The MRL adoption process, which typically takes 19-23 months, would extend to over 30 months due to these inefficiencies. For example, scheduling CAC49 in July 2026 before CCPR57 in September 2026 introduces an additional 10-month delay in the adoption of pesticide MRLs.

This will lead to further fragmentation of national regulations, increased compliance costs, and will result in significant food waste due to misaligned standards. These delays create immediate trade barriers, impacting the entire agricultural value chain and causing substantial economic losses for farmers and exporters, especially in developing countries. Rapid realignment of the meeting schedule for these critical bodies is vital to ensure that science-based MRLs are established and adopted without undue delay, fostering a more stable and predictable global trading environment and supporting global food security.

2. Strengthen Human Resources for Expert Committees

We request a significant increase in capacity building resources for scientific experts and support staff for the Joint Meeting on Pesticide Residues (JMPR) and other scientific expert committees. We believe that much more needs to be done to support these bodies including appropriate resourcing to process the backlog of assessments and ensure a fit for purpose, efficient approach to risk assessment in the longer term.

Importance: The JMPR serves as the scientific cornerstone for establishing Maximum Residue Limits (MRLs) for pesticides. Currently, the JMPR is under-resourced, leading to substantial backlogs. Our analysis indicates that assessments for new uses and evaluations are oversubscribed by 50%, and re-evaluations are ten years behind schedule, with JMPR re-evaluating only 6-7 pesticides annually against a need for 15. This means that critical, science-based MRLs are not established in a timely manner, directly hindering agricultural innovation and creating unnecessary trade barriers. Many scientific experts also bear demanding national responsibilities, making dedicated support essential to ensure their invaluable contributions can be delivered efficiently and

without undue burden. Similar expert bodies, such as the Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Food Additives (JECFA), also face resource challenges that impact their efficiency.

3. Ensure Sustainable Financial Resources

We call for the allocation of adequate and sustainable financial support for the Codex Secretariat and risk assessment bodies, especially the JECFA and the JMPR. We welcome the proposal for the FAO to allocate an additional \$500,000 towards Codex while continuing to explore additional sources of funding, and urge members to support this at the upcoming FAO Council (1-5 December, 2025). In our view, this money should be primarily focused on risk assessment capacity.

Importance: Codex operates on a modest annual budget which limits its ability to maintain its extensive workload and respond to emerging challenges. The current biannual budget is insufficient to prevent the accumulation of assessment backlogs and ensure timely standard setting. Sustainable and predictable funding is crucial for maintaining the independence and scientific integrity of Codex. Robust financial stability will reinforce Codex's position as the universally recognized global reference body for food safety and trade, providing immense benefits to all member countries, especially those with limited national regulatory resources, by enabling them to participate in and adopt these essential standards.

The IAFN Coalition for an Enhanced Codex brings together agri-food sectors who are aligned in a common goal to support and strengthen Codex. Codex observers from across different sectors issue this joint CRD remaining steadfast in our commitment to supporting the vital work of the Codex Alimentarius Commission and its expert bodies. We believe that these actions will significantly enhance the ability of Codex to fulfill its mandate, adapt to future challenges, and continue to serve as a cornerstone of global food safety and trade. <https://agrifood.net/iafn/about/>