



JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME

CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION

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FAO/WHO SCIENTIFIC SUPPORT TO CODEX: REPORT ON BUDGETARY AND FINANCIAL MATTERS

(PREPARED BY FAO AND WHO)

FINANCIAL AND BUDGETARY MATTERS

1. The budget requirements presented here are based on the requests for scientific advice from several Codex subsidiary bodies. This section provides a summary of cost for the provision of scientific advice to Codex in 2024-2025 by FAO and WHO based on budgeted expenditures. The final information on 2024-2025 expenditure will become available in early 2026.

WHO budget

2. In the WHO, most of the funds for the activity and staff costs related to providing scientific advice in food safety and nutrition are provided through specified contributions from Member States and other donors. Part of the staff costs are covered through assessed and unspecified voluntary contributions. Within the WHO's Department of Nutrition and Food Safety, the Standard and Scientific Unit is responsible for providing scientific advice on food safety and nutrition to Codex.

3. For the biennium 2024-25, the costs for activities and staff focused on scientific advice in food safety and nutrition amounted to USD 6.5 million. In addition to the voluntary contributions, the activities of the WHO scientific advice program mainly depend on extra-budgetary resources provided by governmental institutions of WHO Member States, academia, and non-governmental organizations. During the biennium 2024-2025, this cost was covered with grants from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, European Union, Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture of Germany, Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare of Japan, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries of Japan, Nanyang Technological University of Singapore, Public Health Agency of Canada, Resolve to Save Lives, the United States Department of Agriculture, and the United States Food and Drug Administration. Other stakeholders are strongly encouraged to follow this example.

4. In 2025, there was a notable decline in donor contributions for scientific advice activities. This decline is partially due to the United States of America's decision to withdraw from the WHO, but also because other donors did not renew their commitments. The reduced contribution affected several meetings planned for 2025, resulting in their postponement or shortening. The collaboration between the WHO and the FAO was critical in reducing the negative impact on the scientific advice program.

FAO budget

5. In FAO, funds to support the activities and staff costs related to the provision of scientific advice to Codex are budgeted in FAO's regular Programme of Work and Budget and through extra-budgetary resources. Food Safety Scientific Advice to Codex is supported by a number of units within FAO including the Divisions of Agrifood Systems and Food Safety, Plant Production and Protection and Fisheries and Aquaculture. Scientific advice on nutrition, when requested, is provided by the Division of Food and Nutrition.

6. For the biennium 2024-25, USD 6.45 million are budgeted for activity and staff costs related to scientific advice to Codex, including USD 6.1 million in food safety (staff costs: USD 2 190 000 and activity costs: USD

3 908 000) and USD 0.35 million in nutrition (staff costs: USD 268 000 and activity costs: USD 82 000). This includes the USD 1 million increase in the PWB 2020-21¹ for scientific advice and standard setting

7. In the 2024-25 biennium, approximately 76 percent of the budget, amounting to USD 4.9 million, represent allocations from FAO's Regular Programme budget. The remaining 24 percent is funded from extra-budgetary contributions from Canada, the United States of America and Australia. Additional extra-budgetary resources are anticipated in the current biennium.

8. The recognition of key scientific advice meetings and consultations that support the standard setting work of Codex (such as JECFA, JEMRA, JMPR and JEMNU) as Corporate Technical Activities in FAO's Programme of Work and Budget has ensured budgetary security for non-staff activities in the current biennium and is gratefully acknowledged.

Conclusion

9. As indicated above, the way in which the provision of scientific advice is currently funded is different between WHO (heavily dependent on voluntary contributions) and FAO (mainly covered by assessed contributions).

10. Overall, the contribution of FAO and WHO to the provision of scientific advice equals to approximately USD 12.95 million per biennium. To ensure the ability of the joint scientific advice programme to be able to deliver at the current rate, it will be of paramount importance to ensure this level of stable and predictable funding continue to be made available to both organizations.

¹ [CL 163/3, paragraph 30](#) and [CL 164/3, paragraph 59](#)