



Agenda Item 10 (b)

CX/CAC 12/35/12

JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME
CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION
35th Session, FAO Headquarters,
Rome, Italy, 2-7 July 2012

STRATEGIC PLANNING OF THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION
DRAFT CODEX STRATEGIC PLAN 2014-2019

*Prepared by the Codex Executive Committee Member from North America
(United States of America)*

Background

1. At the 65th Session of the Codex Executive Committee, the Member from North America was requested to compile comments from the Executive Committee Members and prepare a revised 2014-2019 Draft Codex Strategic Plan for consideration at the 66th Session of the Executive Committee (REP11/EXEC; para. 81-122).
2. Several members were of the opinion that a strategic plan should be to the point and not longer than 2-3 pages, such that it could demonstrate to policy makers what Codex is trying to achieve and how it will address today's challenges in food safety, emerging risks, and fair trade practices.
3. The Draft Codex Strategic Plan was discussed at the 66th Session of the Executive Committee (REP12/EXEC; para. 19-65), which agreed on the introduction, strategic vision, core values, strategic goals and objectives. The Member from North America was tasked with incorporating the results of that discussion and circulating the new draft to members of the Executive Committee for comments.
4. Those comments were considered and a new Draft Codex Strategic Plan was prepared by the Executive Committee Member from North America, with assistance from the Members from Europe and the Southwest Pacific. Appendix 1 is the Draft Codex Strategic Plan for consideration by Codex members at the 35th Session of the CAC. Following final adoption of the Strategic Plan by the CAC, a detailed workplan will be prepared that includes milestones and measureable indicators to track progress toward accomplishment of the goals and objectives of the Strategic Plan.
5. Governments and international organizations wishing to submit comments on the Draft Strategic Plan should do so in writing, *preferably by e-mail*, to the Secretariat, Codex Alimentarius Commission, Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme, FAO, Viale delle Terme di Caracalla, 00153 Rome, Italy (e-mail: codex@fao.org, fax : +39 06 57054593) **before 31 May 2012**.

APPENDIX 1

DRAFT CODEX 2014-2019 STRATEGIC PLAN

Introduction

The Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC) was established by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the World Health Organization (WHO) in 1963. Today, it has more than 180 Members, and more than 200 inter-governmental and international non-governmental organizations are accredited as observers. The CAC's main work is the development of international food standards,* guidelines, and codes of practice to protect the health of consumers and ensure fair practices in the food trade. The CAC also promotes the coordination of all food standards work undertaken by international governmental and non-governmental organizations.

For food safety matters, the Commission establishes its standards using the principles of risk analysis and bases its work on the scientific advice provided by the FAO and WHO expert committees. Food standards, guidelines and recommendations established by the CAC are recognized as reference points for food under the relevant WTO agreements.

The 2014-2019 Strategic Plan:

- Presents the vision, goals, and objectives for the CAC and is supported by a more detailed work plan that includes activities, milestones, and measurable indicators to track progress toward accomplishment of the goals.
- Underpins the high priority placed on food safety and quality by FAO and WHO and ensures that the CAC will carry out the responsibilities given to it by FAO and WHO.
- Informs Members, inter-governmental and international non-governmental organizations, and other stakeholders of how the CAC intends to fulfill its mandate and to meet the needs and expectations of its Members during the period 2014-2019.

Strategic Vision Statement

To be the preeminent international food standards-setting body to protect the health of consumers and ensure fair practices in the food trade.

Codex Core Values

In fulfilling its strategic vision, Codex adheres to core values that include, but are not limited to:

- *collaboration*
- *inclusiveness*
- *consensus building*
- *transparency*

Strategic Goals

Strategic Goal 1: Establish international food standards that address current and emerging food issues.

Objective 1.1: Establish new and review existing food standards, based on priorities of the CAC.

- **Activities:**
 - 1.1.1 Apply consistent decision-making and priority-setting criteria across Committees to ensure that the standards and work areas of highest priority are progressed in a timely manner.
 - 1.1.2 Strengthen the critical review process to improve standards monitoring.

* The term "standards" is used to cover standards and all related texts.

- 1.1.3 Incorporate the concepts of public health, sound regulatory frameworks, and fair trade practices into Codex standards development.
- 1.1.4 Promote the use of Codex standards in international trade and as a basis for domestic regulations.

Objective 1.2: Proactively identify emerging issues and member country needs and, where appropriate, develop relevant food standards.

- Activities:

- 1.2.1 Develop a process for the early identification of the need for new standards, guidelines, and recommendations, particularly with respect to emerging food safety risks and new technologies.
- 1.2.2 Assess standard-setting procedures and mechanisms to ensure they take into account the latest scientific and technological developments.
- 1.2.3 Develop and revise international and regional standards as needed in response to needs identified by Members and in response to factors that affect food safety and fair practices in the foods trade; for example, emerging risks, food security, shifting population patterns, climate change, and consumers concerns.

Objective 1.3: Strengthen coordination and cooperation with other international standards-setting organizations seeking to avoid duplication of efforts and optimize opportunities.

- Activities:

- 1.3.1 Seek to enhance a culture of standards development with the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) and the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) that ensures all potential food safety risks and other consumer concerns are addressed from farm to fork, utilizing consistent methodologies and approaches in their development.
- 1.3.2 Promote collaboration in standards development with the OIE and IPPC on standards that affect Codex and those organizations.
- 1.3.3 Promote cooperative programs with non-governmental standards-setting organizations to identify needs for new Codex standards and to promote the use of existing Codex standards.

Strategic Goal 2: Ensure the application of risk analysis principles in the development of Codex standards.

Objective 2.1: Ensure consistent use of scientific advice and risk analysis principles.

- Activities:

- 2.1.1 Use the scientific advice of FAO/WHO independent expert bodies to the fullest extent possible in food safety standards development based on the *Working Principles of Risk Analysis for Application in the Framework of the Codex Alimentarius*.
- 2.1.2 Encourage substantive engagement of scientific and technical expertise of member countries and their representatives in the development of Codex standards.

Objective 2.2: Achieve sustainable access to scientific advice.

- Activities:

- 2.2.1 Encourage FAO and WHO to allocate sufficient resources for the FAO/WHO expert bodies, in particular JECFA, JEMRA, JMPR and JEMNU.
- 2.2.2 Encourage continued financial support from Members for the FAO/WHO expert bodies, in particular JECFA, JEMRA, JMPR and JEMNU.
- 2.2.3 Explore all funding for FAO/WHO expert bodies, recognizing the imperative to respect FAO/WHO research priorities in addition to the core funding provided by FAO and WHO.

Objective 2.3: Increase scientific input from developing countries.

- Activities:

- 2.3.1 Encourage scientific food safety data development capabilities in developing countries.
- 2.3.2 Encourage sustained and continuous participation of technical and scientific experts from developing countries in the work of Codex.
- 2.3.3 Encourage FAO and WHO to support programs aimed at collection and use of data from developing countries.

Strategic Goal 3: Facilitate the effective participation of all Codex Members.

Objective 3.1: Increase the effective participation of developing countries in Codex.

- Activities:

- 3.1.1 Encourage financial contributions from Members to the Codex Trust Fund.
- 3.1.2 Plan, with the involvement of interested Codex Members, the next steps for the Codex Trust Fund, which is due to end in 2015, or a successor initiative, to mitigate resource constraints for full Codex participation by Members.
- 3.1.3 Develop a formal mentorship initiative, building on lessons learned from existing informal programs.

Objective 3.2: Promote capacity building programs that assist countries in creating sustainable national Codex structures.

- Activities:

- 3.2.1 Encourage support for Codex activities by FAO and WHO and member governments through the creation of sustainable national Codex-related structures.
- 3.2.2 Promote capacity building programs that assist developing countries in prioritizing their participation in Codex committees and task forces.
- 3.2.3 Encourage the use of mentoring and cooperative programs.
- 3.2.4 Promote the use of FAO/WHO Regional Coordinating Committees as a forum to host educational and technical capacity building activities.
- 3.2.5 Expand co-hosting of Committee meetings and Work Groups to enhance skills of developing country Members.

Objective 3.3: Assist in addressing the needs of developing countries by leveraging the work of existing international food safety and food related economic development programs.

- Activities:

- 3.3.1 Establish strategic partnerships with organizations with relevant economic development programs to identify opportunities to support the respective mandates of each.

Strategic Goal 4: Implement effective and efficient work management systems and practices.

Objective 4.1: Ensure an effective, efficient, transparent, and flexible standard setting process for the timely adoption of standards.

- Activities:

- 4.1.1 Review Codex standards-setting processes and implement improvements to ensure efficient and effective operations and timely adoption of standards.
- 4.1.2 Explore development of flexible processes to address roadblocks in Codex standards-setting procedures.

- 4.1.3 Assess benefits and, where cost effective, implement new information technologies to improve member participation in committees and work groups, Codex communication, work flow, and management of activities.
- 4.1.4 Ensure timely distribution of compiled country comments to Members.
- 4.1.5 Increase the scheduling of Work Group meetings in conjunction with Committee meetings.

Objective 4.2: Enhance capacity to arrive at consensus in standards setting.

- Activities:

- 4.2.1 Improve the knowledge and skills of Codex delegates to ensure that the standards-setting process operates effectively and efficiently and is well managed.
- 4.2.2 Improve the skills of Committee and Working Group Chairs.