

CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



World Health
Organization

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Agenda Item 2, 3, 4, 6, 7 and 8

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ORIGINAL LANGUAGE ONLY

JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME FAO/WHO COORDINATING COMMITTEE FOR AFRICA

Twenty-fifth Session

Kampala, Uganda

27 - 31 January 2025

Comments by Cabo Verde

Agenda Item 2: Keynote address - Harmonization and implementation of Food Safety and Quality Standards in Africa: Opportunities for harnessing collaboration between Codex and ARSO- CX/AFRICA 25/25/2

Position:

- **Key Information that we believe would promote harmonization of food safety and quality standards/texts and regulations that could further contribute to protecting consumer health and facilitating fair practices in the food trade:**
 - Existence in our country of an entity that is responsible for preparing and disseminating of Standards, including Standards about food (The Institute of Quality Management and Intellectual Property - **IGQPI**);
 - Existence of other **regional initiatives** that aim for the same result (harmonization between countries and strengthening food safety), for example: Food Safety for Africa; Africa Food Safety Initiatives; African Food Regulatory Authorities Forum; Africa Food Safety Strategy, Africa Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) Strategy;
 - Existence of a **Codex Guideline for Developing Harmonized Food Safety legislation for the CCAFRICA** region;
 - **African regional standards** already approved within *Codex*;
 - STDF: STDF's partnership drives catalytic SPS improvements in developing countries. Through the global platform, knowledge work and funding to develop, implement and learn from innovative pilot projects, STDF stimulates and influences sustainable improvements in SPS capacity.
- **Proposal mechanisms that would promote harmonization of food safety and quality standards/texts and regulations that could further contribute to protecting consumer health and facilitating fair practices in the food trade:**
 - Expand ARSO's reach in terms of **Member Countries**, enabling greater achievement of Goal 3 of the ARSO Strategic Plan: Develop and implement a robust and integrated African standardization system;
 - Implement "**Smart Regulation mechanisms**" that allow the simultaneous use of standards and legislation to food safety control (e.g. immediate transformation of Regionals Standards into national legislation);
 - Propose ARSO as an **observer member** of *Codex*.

Agenda Item 3: Matters arising from the Codex Alimentarius Commission and Codex subsidiary bodies CX/AFRICA 25/25/3

Position on recommendation topic: "Agree on an approach to review the Regional Guidelines for the Design of Control Measures for Street Vended Foods (Africa) (CXG 22R-1997) to ensure consistency with CXC 1-1969 and the new guidelines for food hygiene control measures in traditional markets for foods and provide recommendations for next steps or consequential changes to CXG 22R-1997 to CCAFRICA:

- Cabo Verde agree with the review proposal endorsed by CAC47, to encouraged the relevant FAO/WHO Coordinating Committees to review their respective texts on street vended foods to ensure consistency with CXC 1-1969 and the Guidelines and consider the necessary follow-up action (e.g., revision), in line with the request of CCFH54.
- We believe that CXG 22R-1997 can be maintained, given that the objective is different from the guidelines for food hygiene control measures in traditional markets. The Guide on street vended foods is aimed at the subject of "street sales of ready-to-eat food prepared in isolated establishments or located in markets" and the guidelines for food hygiene control measures in traditional markets is specific for collective markets. However, we believe it is important to ensure that the CXG 22R-1997 texts are reviewed and harmonized where deemed necessary.

Item 4: Food safety and quality in the CCAFRICA region

CX/AFRICA 25/25/4

Position on recommendation topic: "CAFRICA25 is also encouraged, considering the above recommendations, to share information and updates on the following":

- (i) "improvements needed for the exchange of information between countries on different aspects of food safety that guide regional work and approaches to aid the identification of new and emerging issues in the region":

Position: Reinforce integration of innovative digital platforms between countries with impact on exchange of information;

- (i) "Suggest any relevant work in the region that should be pursued by the Member Countries, CCAFRICA, FAO and WHO":

Position: We recommend that the FAO/WHO Food Safety System Assessment Tool be applied by the different member countries.

Agenda Item 6: Codex Strategic Plan 2020-2025: Implementation by CCAFRICA

CX/AFRICA 25/25/6

Position on recommendation topic: "CAFRICA25 is requested to:

- (ii) consider proposed the priority goals, objectives and **identify specific activities** for the implementation of the Strategic Plan 2020-2025 in 2025 by CCAFRICA:

Position:

- Priority Goal 1:
 - Priority objective 1.1:
 - We agree with the proposal to develop a new survey to identify emerging food safety issues to be launched at 2025;
 - We propose holding an online meeting to present the survey, as well as to encourage the different countries to participate in filling it;
 - We propose preparing a report on the analysis of the survey results;
 - Priority objective 1.2:
 - Based on the results of the survey, identify areas that need reinforcement and attention, as well as maintain the strategy achieved in 2024, in which we emphasize:
 - Continue to strengthen the participation of countries in *Codex* activities;
 - Awareness-raising activities;
 - Participate in the different regional initiatives that aim to harmonize legislation as well as strengthen food safety control on the continent;
 - Training activities;
 - We propose the inclusion of activities that allow for local and regional assessment of the functioning of official food safety control activities.
 - Priority Goal 3:
 - Priority objective 3.1 and 3.2:
 - Continue the communication strategy achieved in 2024;
 - Develop communication materials that can be used and adapted by all member countries on the importance of *Codex*;
 - Develop specific national *Codex* websites;
 - Associate *Codex* with the celebration of the WFSD;

- Develop a Regional and Local Communication Plan for the sharing of Standards of great regional interest;
 - Strengthen the development and finalization of projects financed by the CTF;
 - develop and implement local stakeholder engagement programs on the importance of Codex;
 - Priority Goal 4:
 - Priority objective 4.1:
 - develop and implement local stakeholder engagement programs on the importance of *Codex*;
 - Priority objective 4.2:
 - strengthen the development and finalization of projects financed by the CTF;
 - promote at government level the need to define budgetary resources for participation in Codex activities;
- (iii) devise suitable mechanisms through which members best communicate progress in relation to the activities identified under the priority goals:

Position:

- We propose the development and implementation of an annual online meeting program to monitor and share information on the activities of the different African countries involved in the implementation of the Codex Strategic Plan.

Agenda Item 7: Codex Strategic Plan 2026-2031: Status and next steps

CX/AFRICA 25/25/8

Position on recommendation topic: “CCAFRICA25 is invited to:

- identify the **priority goals/outcomes** for the next 2 years (up to CCAFRICA 26), on which the region will focus its contributions to the implementation of the *Codex* Strategic Plan 2026-2031, taking into consideration the key needs of the region:

Position: We propose the selection of the following priority goals/outcomes:

- **Strategic Goal 1:** Respond to Members’ needs for protecting the health of consumers and ensuring fair practices in the food trade in an evolving global landscape by developing science-based standards and related texts
- **Strategic Goal 3:** Strengthen relationships with relevant international organizations, promoting a coordinated approach to address global challenges
- **Strategic Goal 4:** Maximize the impact of *Codex* by increasing the visibility and use of standards

Rational:

We believe that the Codex African member countries have accumulated experience in recent years that allows them to participate more actively in achieving the outcomes foreseen for the three Strategic Goals. On the other hand, many of the outcomes coincide with what is outlined for Africa in terms of strategy for improving food safety, advocated by several regional and non-national organizations, and promoted by several regional initiatives

Agenda 8: Use and impact of Codex standards in the region

CX/AFRICA 25/25/9

Position on recommendation topic: “CCAFRICA25 is invited to:

- Comment on the recommendations made and possible actions that could be undertaken to address them:

Position: We fully agree with the recommendations set out on the survey report, as indicated in the document CX/AFRICA 25/25/9.

Rational We believe that the recommendations are consistent with the Codex Strategic Plan for the 2020 - 2025 horizon as well as the New Strategic Plan. We believe that the following activities could be carried out to implement the Recommendations:

- Reinforce integration of innovative digital platforms between countries with impact on exchange of information;
- Continue to strengthen the participation of countries in *Codex* activities;
- Awareness-raising activities;

- Participate in the different regional initiatives that aim to harmonize legislation as well as strengthen food safety control on the continent;
- Training activities;
- Continue the communication strategy achieved in 2024;
- Develop specific communication materials that can be used and adapted by all member countries on the importance of *Codex*;
- Develop specific national Codex websites;
- Associate *Codex* with the celebration of the WFSD;
- Develop a Regional and Local Communication Plan for the sharing of Standards of great regional interest;
- Strengthen the development and finalization of projects financed by the CTF.