

CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



World Health
Organization

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Agenda Item 8

CAC48/CRD14
Original Language Only

JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME

CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION

Forty-eighth Session

Rome, Italy

10-14 November 2025

CODEX STRATEGIC PLAN 2026-2031 – MONITORING FRAMEWORK

(CX/CAC 25/48/13)

(Comments of Benin, China, El Salvador, India, Mexico, Panama, Thailand, Consumer Goods Forum)

Benin

Contexte: Le CCEXEC87 a recommandé l'adoption du Plan stratégique du Codex 2026-2031, qui a été approuvé par le CAC47. Le Secrétariat du Codex a été chargé d'élaborer un cadre de suivi qui sera examiné lors du CCEXEC88. Une version révisée de ce cadre, détaillant les méthodes de mesure, les valeurs de référence des indicateurs et les justifications, a été diffusée aux Membres et Observateurs par le biais du document CL2025/49-EXEC (10 octobre 2025) pour commentaires avant sa soumission au CAC48 pour approbation. Le cadre mis à jour, intégrant les commentaires du CCEXEC88, inclut les valeurs de référence du plan 2020-2025 (à partir de 2023) et suggère d'utiliser des données de séries chronologiques pour analyser les tendances. Il propose de suivre 24 indicateurs à l'aide de plus de 10 sources de données, telles que les documents des comités, les enquêtes et les systèmes en ligne, et des discussions sont en cours avec la FAO et l'OMS concernant certains indicateurs (par exemple, 1.2.1). Le Secrétariat prévoit également de tester de nouvelles technologies de collecte de données, sous réserve de disposer des ressources nécessaires, et le CCEXEC89 est invité à examiner la pertinence de tous les indicateurs proposés, tels que présentés à l'annexe I.

La CAC48 est invité à :

- (i) prendre note des travaux entrepris depuis le CAC47 sur le cadre de suivi proposé pour le Plan stratégique du Codex 2026-2031 ;
- (ii) examiner le cadre de suivi proposé par le CCEXEC89 pour le Plan stratégique du Codex 2026-2031 et envisager son adoption ; et
- (iii) convenir des prochaines étapes afin de garantir que le Plan stratégique du Codex 2026-2031, ainsi que son cadre de suivi et d'évaluation, soient publiés, diffusés et portés à l'attention de
- (iv) tous les comités du Codex, et demander aux comités de coordination de veiller à ce que leurs plans de travail régionaux reflètent les objectifs et les résultats du Plan stratégique du Codex 2026-2031.

Position: Tous les indicateurs présentés par le Secrétariat étaient bien préparés et les nouveaux indicateurs du plan stratégique reflètent fidèlement les travaux en cours du Codex.

China

China would like to thank the Codex Secretariat for preparing this document, and to appreciate the discussion on the Monitoring Framework, which will ensure that the indicators accurately reflect the progress and efficiency of Codex work.

China has 2 recommendations in improving the indicators.

For Strategic Goal 1.3, it is recommended to modify the indicator 1.3.1 to read "Numbers of Codex texts adopted by CAC."

Rational: In areas such as food contaminants, food additives, pesticide residues, and veterinary drug residues, Codex often revise certain limits while revoking outdated ones, or adjust them due to changes in food or substance classification. Simply counting the number of quantitative standards adopted or revoked does not accurately reflect how scientific advice is applied in Codex risk-based decisions.

For Strategic Goal 1.4, it is recommended to modify the indicator 1.4.1 to read “Sessions of Committee meetings taken for approved new work to result in revised or new Codex texts.”

Rational: Due to scheduling constraints, general subject committees, commodity committees and regional coordinating committees may not convene at regular intervals. Measuring progress by the number of sessions provides a more accurate assessment of the efficiency and continuity of Codex standard development.

El Salvador

Comentarios generales:

El Salvador agradece el trabajo realizado por la Secretaría del Codex.

El Salvador toma nota de la labor realizada por la Secretaría del Codex para presentar el marco de seguimiento propuesto para el Plan estratégico del Codex para 2026-2031.

Es importante que la Secretaría establezca una línea base o valor de referencia en la medida de lo posible para los indicadores que si tienen datos históricos, que permitan desde el conocimiento plantear la forma de medición de los indicadores propuestos que permitan contar al final de periodo una medición de la efectividad de los mismos

En párrafo 8 “la Secretaría del Codex propone poner a prueba, en la medida en que lo permitan los recursos, nuevas tecnologías para recopilar información de algunas de estas fuentes de datos y facilitar la comprensión sobre el uso de estos enfoques en la

primera ronda de presentación de informes de seguimiento.”; al respecto se apoya la iniciativa sugerida por la Secretaría del Codex ya que se considera que esta herramienta puede facilitar recabar datos para la medición de los indicadores propuestos.

Comentarios específicos:

El Salvador brinda sus comentarios en los diferentes indicadores

Propuesto elaborado por el Comité Ejecutivo en su 88.ªreunión, del Apéndice 1:

Indicador 1.3.1 Número de normas cuantitativas aprobadas o revocadas por la Comisión.

Comentarios: El Salvador consulta si este indicador únicamente se enfocaría en los niveles máximos y los límites máximos de residuos según la justificación mencionada para el logro 1.3, de ser el caso se sugiere que se establezca un indicador que se enfoque a medir los NM y LMR y establecer un segundo indicador que se establezca para medir de manera general las normas Codex fuera de ese rubro citado. Así también es de considerar cual sería la línea base de medición para analizar si se cumplió el logro.

Se recomienda en la redacción del indicador 1.3.1 agregar texto en negrita y cursiva:

Indicador 1.3.1: Numero de normas cuantitativas ***basadas en ciencia*** que se aprueban o revocan cada año.

Indicador 1.4.1 Tiempo transcurrido hasta la finalización de textos revisados o nuevos del Codex como resultado de los nuevos trabajos aprobados.

Comentarios: Se considera oportuno que este indicador brinde un panorama sobre las normas que fueron aprobadas en trámite acelerado (denotando así la gestión del trabajo que se realiza para minimizar el tiempo de aprobación de los estándares Codex).

Indicador 2.1.1 Porcentaje de normas publicadas en inglés en el plazo de un mes desde su aprobación por la Comisión.

Comentarios: Se apoya indicador 2.1.1.

Indicador 2.1.2 Porcentaje de normas publicadas en todos los idiomas de trabajo en el plazo de un año desde su aprobación por la Comisión.

Comentarios: Se apoya indicador 2.1.2.

Indicador 2.1.3 Proporción de documentos de trabajo, incluidos informes de los órganos conjuntos de expertos FAO/OMS, distribuidos al menos dos meses antes de la reunión, de conformidad con el *Manual de procedimiento del Codex*.

Comentarios: Se apoya indicador 2.1.3.

Indicador 2.2.1 Porcentaje de comités del Codex que aplican mecanismos de establecimiento de prioridades para evaluar las propuestas de trabajo.

Comentarios: Se apoya este indicador.

Indicador 2.3.1 Número de personas capacitadas por la Secretaría del Codex cada año.

Comentarios: Se apoya indicador 2.2.1.

Indicador 2.3.2 Número de personas que hicieron el curso de aprendizaje electrónico del Codex.

Comentarios: Se apoya indicador 2.3.2, se sugiere completar este indicador agregando al final "**por región del Codex**".

Es importante conocer el % de los países por región del Codex que la Secretaría del Codex presta apoyo y fortalece capacidades por año.

Indicador 2.3.3 Puntuación en cuanto a la satisfacción por la eficiencia de las reuniones, el papel de los presidentes y las secretarías de los países hospedantes y del Codex.

Comentarios: Se apoya indicador 2.3.3 se sugiere cambiar la redacción para mejor claridad del indicador: Puntuación en cuanto a la satisfacción por la eficiencia del papel de los presidentes y las secretarías de los países hospedantes en las reuniones del Codex"

Indicador 2.4.1 Número de miembros que participaron en grupos de trabajo por medios electrónicos durante el bienio.

Comentarios: Se apoya indicador 2.4.1.

Indicador 2.4.2 Número de diferentes miembros que presidieron o copresidieron grupos de trabajo por medios electrónicos durante el bienio.

Comentarios: Se apoya indicador 2.4.2.

Indicador 2.4.3 Número de miembros que participan en la Comisión del Codex Alimentarius y los comités y grupos de acción activos del Codex.

Comentarios: Se apoya indicador 2.4.3. agregar al final el período de tiempo para el caso en seguimiento a indicador 2.4.1 y 2.4.2 sería "durante el bienio"

Indicador 3.1.1 Número de organizaciones internacionales con las que la Secretaría del Codex colabora mediante reuniones bilaterales, talleres, etc. durante el bienio.

Comentarios: Se apoya indicador 3.1.1, se considera importante contar con una línea base para evidenciar lo que se espera en el logro 3.1.

Indicador 3.2.1 Número de organizaciones internacionales que han presentado su trabajo o realizado aportaciones a los comités del Codex (incluida la determinación de deficiencias en enfoques a los que podría contribuir el Codex).

Comentarios: Se apoya indicador 3.2.1.

Indicador 3.4.1 Número de observadores que respondieron a cartas circulares o grupos de trabajo por medios electrónicos durante el bienio.

Comentarios: Se apoya indicador 3.4.1-

Indicador 3.4.2 Número de observadores que participan en la Comisión del Codex y en comités y grupos de acción activos del Codex.

Comentarios: Se apoya indicador 3.4.2.

Indicador 3.4.3 Número de normas del Codex elaboradas en cooperación con otra entidad u organización internacional intergubernamental (de acuerdo con la definición de la sección 7.1 del Manual de procedimiento).

Comentarios: Se apoya indicador 3.4.3.

Indicador 4.1.1 Medida en que los miembros del Codex reconocen que los textos del Codex satisfacen las necesidades prioritarias en materia de inocuidad y calidad de los alimentos de los miembros.

Comentarios: Se apoya indicador 4.1.1.

Indicador 4.1.2 Presencia del Codex en línea.

Comentarios: Se considera que este indicador debe especificarse o desglosarse en base a la medición de visitas y consultas en sitio web del Codex. Respecto a redes sociales definir la interacción que se desea reportar visualizaciones, enlaces compartidos etc.

Indicador 4.3.1 Medida en que los miembros utilizan los textos del Codex.

Comentarios: Se apoya indicador 4.3.1.

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India

India proposes following suggestions in the strategic plan;

Indicator 1.4.1: In Means of verification

India Proposes following changes “CAC reports - Percentage of ~~non-numerical~~ **Qualitative new** and revised Codex texts adopted within 5 years.”

Rationale: Since the term non-numerical is ambiguous and has not been mentioned in any of the codex texts. We propose to replace the term “non-numerical” with “qualitative” in line with the term quantitative as mentioned in indicator 1.3.1

Indicator 2.2.1

India Proposes following changes in the indicator 2.2.1;

Proportion of Codex committees that apply prioritization mechanisms (**should take into consideration the inclusive approach of the mandate given to Codex Alimentarius and expected scientific advancement in near future**) to assess work proposals.

Rationale: Outcome 1.4 states that “Codex standards and related texts are developed, reviewed and adopted in a timely, transparent and inclusive manner. “However indicator 2.2.1 might be misinterpreted leading delay in development of work not prioritized by codex Committees which may be having importance for certain regions

Mexico

México está a favor de la aprobación del marco de seguimiento al Plan Estratégico del Codex para 2026-2031.

Panama

English

Panama acknowledges and welcomes the approval of the Codex Strategic Plan for 2026-2031 and commends the diligence of the Codex Executive Committee (CCEXEC) in developing the Monitoring Framework. However, while we support the proposed indicators for measuring safety, visibility, and efficiency, we express our concern about the oversimplification of the framework, which, in our view, fails to consider key elements that highlight trade facilitation and fair and equitable trade practices. There is a risk that, by oversimplifying, the plan will stray from the true objectives of Codex, which are to protect consumer health and ensure fairness in trade.

We are convinced that the observations made by the Latin American and Caribbean region (CCLAC) and other members regarding the need to explicitly measure actions aimed at eliminating unnecessary technical barriers to trade should be taken into account. Therefore, we urge the Secretariat to ensure that the monitoring of strategic objectives, including Objective 1 (Responding to members' needs), integrates metrics that highlight achievements in Trade Facilitation to avoid setting a negative precedent in the Strategic Plan. Panama approves the proposed Monitoring Framework but emphasizes that its implementation must be interpreted in a way that guarantees that the actions to be taken fully reflect the Commission's dual mandate.

Therefore, Panama approves the Monitoring Framework, but recommends that its implementation guarantee metrics that explicitly reflect the achievements in Trade Facilitation, thus fulfilling the Commission's dual mandate.

It is necessary for the Codex secretariat and regions to remain vigilant regarding the benefits of monitoring the strategic plan in order to establish improvements in future structures during this first two-year period of implementation.

Spanish

Panamá reconoce y celebra la aprobación del Plan Estratégico del Codex para 2026-2031 y valora positivamente la diligencia del Comité Ejecutivo (CCEXEC) en desarrollar el Marco de Seguimiento. No obstante, si bien apoyamos los indicadores propuestos para medir la inocuidad, la visibilidad y la eficiencia, expresamos nuestra preocupación por la simplificación excesiva del marco que, a nuestro juicio, no considera elementos clave que resalten la facilitación comercial y las prácticas justas y equitativas del comercio. Existe el riesgo de que, al simplificar demasiado, el plan se aleje de los verdaderos objetivos del Codex, que son: proteger la salud del consumidor y asegurar la equidad en el comercio.

Estamos convencidos de que se deben tomar en cuenta las observaciones que la región de América Latina y el Caribe (CCLAC) y otros miembros, los cuales han aportado en torno a la necesidad de medir de forma explícita las acciones que buscan eliminar los obstáculos técnicos innecesarios al comercio. Por lo tanto,

instamos a la Secretaría a asegurar que el seguimiento de los objetivos estratégicos, incluyendo el Objetivo 1 (Responder a las necesidades de los miembros), integre métricas que resalten los logros en la Facilitación del Comercio para evitar un precedente negativo en el Plan Estratégico. Panamá aprueba el Marco de Seguimiento propuesto, pero subraya que su implementación debe ser interpretada de manera que se garantice que las acciones a alcanzar reflejen integralmente el doble mandato de la Comisión.

Por tanto, Panamá aprueba el Marco de Seguimiento, pero recomienda que su implementación garantice métricas que reflejen explícitamente los logros en la Facilitación del Comercio, cumpliendo así con el doble mandato de la Comisión.

Es necesario que la secretaría y las regiones del Codex se mantengan vigilantes de las ventajas del seguimiento del plan estratégico para establecer mejoras en las futuras estructuras en este primer bienio de aplicación.

Thailand

(The following comments are only additional comments from the previous comments in reply to CL 2025/49-EXEC as stated in CX/EXEC 25/89/5 Add.1. Please also take our comments in CX/EXEC 25/89/5 Add.1 into consideration.)

Proposed Indicators and Means of verification

In principle, Thailand supports the establishment of a clear and measurable monitoring framework that enables progress to be effectively tracked against defined indicators. We do not object to the adoption of the monitoring framework for the Codex Strategic Plan 2026–2031, recognizing its value in facilitating the effective implementation of Codex work.

In this regard, Thailand has already submitted comments replied to CL 2025/49-EXEC and the comments are included in CX/EXEC 25/89/5 Add.1. However, Thailand would like to offer the additional comments and suggestions, apart from the comments in the CX/EXEC 25/89/5 Add.1 to the CCEXEC for consideration as follows:

Indicator 1.4.1 – Time taken for approved new work to result in revised or new Codex texts

Thailand notes that this indicator may not fully reflect Outcome 1.4, which refers to standards being developed in a “timely, transparent and inclusive manner.” We understand that transparency is difficult to measure quantitatively and may be better assessed through Member participation, such as the submission of comments or engagement in working groups.

Additionally, Thailand observes some inconsistency in the terminology used between Indicators 1.3.1 and 1.4.1, and suggests that the wording be reviewed and harmonized.

Indicator 2.1.1 – Percentage of standards published in English within one month following adoption by CAC

Thailand notes that, for commodity standards, it may be challenging to meet this timeline due to the requirement for prior endorsement by relevant committees such as Codex Committee on Food Additives (CCFA) or Codex Committee on Method of Analysis and Sampling (CCMAS). For example, the General Standard for Dried Fruits (CXS 360-2020) was adopted by the Codex Committee on Processed Fruits and Vegetables (CCPFV) and Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC) in 2020, but was only published on the Codex website in 2024 due to pending endorsement and alignment with the General Standard for Food Additives (GSFA) by the CCFA.

Thailand therefore requests clarification on which specific steps in the endorsement and publication process are included in calculating the publication timeline to ensure a clear and practical understanding for Members.

Indicator 4.1.2 – Codex’ online presence

Thailand suggests that the impact of the use of Codex standards could also be measured through information available on the WTO website, which includes references to Codex standards notified under the SPS Agreement, particularly in the area of food safety.

Consequently, Thailand can support the adoption of the monitoring framework proposed by CCEXEC at its 89th Session, for the Codex Strategic Plan 2026-2031, on the basis that it provides clear and measurable indicators that enable progress to be effectively tracked against defined objectives. In addition, the framework should serve as a useful tool for Codex work management, grounded in sound scientific information and guided by the principles of transparency, inclusiveness, active participation, and capacity building. Enhancing knowledge and skills through this approach would further strengthen the engagement of Members and Observers in the development and implementation of Codex standards.

Next steps

Thailand supports the recommendations proposed in CX/CAC 25/48/13 to ensure that all Codex committees take into account the Codex Strategic Plan 2026–2031 and its monitoring and evaluation framework, and to encourage their activities that promote the achievement of its strategic goals. Moreover, Thailand also supports the development of regional workplans for 2026–2031 by all FAO/WHO Coordinating Committees to ensure their alignment with the goals and outcomes of the *Codex Strategic Plan 2026–2031*. In this regard, we propose that the CAC encourage all Members and Observers to actively participate in the development of these workplans for implementation, including through discussions at the FAO/WHO Coordinating Committees and other relevant fora.

Consumer Goods Forum

THE GFSI G2B FORUM AS A FOCUS FOR COLLABORATION FOR GLOBAL FOOD SAFETY – LINKS TO CODEX STRATEGIC PLAN 2026-2031 OUTCOMES 3.1 AND 3.2 AND ASSOCIATED INDICATORS

Background

The Global Food Safety Initiative (GFSI) is an Industry Solution of the Consumer Goods Forum (CGF), a Codex observer organisation. It brings together food retailers and manufacturers from across the CGF membership and an extended food safety community to oversee third-party food safety standards for food business operators globally. GFSI is a focus for collaboration, across borders and barriers, to help ensure safe food for people everywhere. CGF(GFSI) notes the adoption at CAC47 of the Codex Strategic Plan 2026-2031, and welcomes and supports the monitoring framework proposed in CX/CAC 25/48/13. In particular, CGF(GFSI) notes and welcomes the renewed focus of the Codex Alimentarius Commission in the coming six years on “strengthening relationships with relevant international organisations, promoting a coordinated approach to address global challenges”. CGF(GFSI) recommit itself to working with the Codex Alimentarius Commission and its Members towards this goal. CGF(GFSI) would like to comment on the indicators related to two outcomes associated with this goal.

Outcome 3.1 and associated indicators

CAC47 adopted, as outcome 3.1, “the mutual understanding of the roles of CAC and relevant international organizations in relation to global challenges is improved and is supported by ongoing consultation between the parties.” This is a new outcome, and the proposed indicator focuses on engagement by the Codex Secretariat with intergovernmental organisations and other standard setting bodies. CGF(GFSI) suggests consideration be given to broadening this indicator such that it also captures outreach activities focused on building engagement and mutual understanding of Codex members that are convened by non-governmental organisations that are Codex observers. This could be formalised in the monitoring framework by adding an indicator and means of verification as follows:

- Indicator 3.1.2 (new): Number of outreach activities focused on building engagement and mutual understanding of Codex members that are convened by non-governmental organisations that are Codex observers during the biennium.
- Means of verification (new): A biennial information paper to the Codex Alimentarius Commission that collates brief reports from Codex observer organisations on their relevant outreach activities.

In this regard, CGF(GFSI) would like to inform Members of the Codex Alimentarius Commission to an outreach event it will convene in the margins of CAC48. The event will be held in the Sheikh Zayed Room at FAO Headquarters from 14.00 to 15.30 on Thursday 13 November 2025. The event will introduce the work of GFSI and explain how information from GFSI-benchmarked voluntary third-party assurance programmes may be used by national regulatory authorities in their implementation and operation of the Codex *Principles and Guidelines for the assessment and use of voluntary third-party assurance programmes* (CXG 93-2021). The event is open to all Codex Alimentarius Commission Members and pre-registration is not necessary. Members who attend are also cordially invited to a reception to be held in the Colosseum Lounge from 18.00 to 19.30 on Thursday 13 November.

Outcome 3.2 and associated indicators

CAC47 adopted, as outcome 3.2, “gaps in approaches to addressing global challenges that Codex could contribute to are identified through targeted engagement with relevant international organizations”. This is a new outcome, and the proposed indicator focuses on the formal presentation of relevant work or otherwise providing input to Codex committees. CGF(GFSI) suggests consideration be given to broadening this indicator such that it also captures side events and other meetings with Codex observer organisations held in the margins of Codex Commission and Committee meetings which relate to identifying or addressing gaps in approaches to addressing global challenges. This could be formalised in the monitoring framework by amending the proposed indicator and means of verification as follows:

- Indicator 3.2.1 (revised): Number of Codex observer organisations that have presented their work or provided inputs to the Codex Commission or Committees, or convened relevant side events or other meetings held in the margins of Codex Commission or Committee meetings (including identification of gaps in approaches that Codex could contribute to).
- Means of verification (revised): Codex Committee (general subject and commodity) reports, working documents, written submissions, and agendas of side events and related meetings.

In this regard, CGF(GFSI) would like to inform Members of the work of the Government-to-Business (G2B) Forum that it convenes at regular intervals. CGF(GFSI) has recently reinvigorated the forum as a platform for strengthening collaboration between the public and private sectors in food safety. It is intended to serve as an important venue for exchanging insights and experiences, contributing to regulatory innovation and aligning efforts to enhance food safety globally. Previous meetings have brought together national, regional, and intergovernmental food safety bodies and GFSI member organisations with a focus on collaboration, aiming to move beyond discussion to foster shared solutions and concrete outcomes. Recent discussions have included work relevant to outcome 3.2, including:

- data sharing and alignment of voluntary third-party assurance programmes with national or local regulations;
- digital transformation and the GFSI project to create an online registry of certificates from GFSI-benchmarked voluntary third-party assurance programmes project.

The next meeting of the G2B Forum will take place in the margins of CAC48. It will be held in the Sheikh Zayed Room at FAO Headquarters from 15.30 to 17.45 on Thursday 13 November 2025 and will be chaired by Steve Wearne, former chairperson of the Codex Alimentarius Commission. The agenda for this meeting of the forum includes: discussion and adoption of the purpose, principles and practice of the G2B Forum; a further update and discussion of the online repository of certificates; and discussion and agreement of a work plan for 2026.

CGF(GFSI) is seeking to expand the number and regional coverage of national regulatory bodies who are members of G2B Forum. If any Codex Members or regional economic integration organisations are interested in attending the G2B Forum and joining this action-focused coalition, please contact Liz Andoh-Kesson, Interim Director of GFSI (e.andohkesson@theconsumergoodsforum.com) or Steve Wearne (sjw@sjwconsultancy.com).