### CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION





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Agenda Item 2.5

CX/EXEC 22/83/5 November 2022

# JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION Eighty-third Session

#### **CCEXEC SUB-COMMITTEE ON THE FUTURE OF CODEX – INTERIM REPORT**

(Prepared by the chairperson of the sub-committee)

#### **BACKGROUND**

- 1. The 82<sup>nd</sup> Session of the Executive Committee of the Codex Alimentarius Commission (CCEXEC82) had a rich debate on the issues related to the future of Codex based on a Secretariat document<sup>1</sup> and the report of the Sub-committee on Codex and the Pandemic to CCEXEC81<sup>2</sup> and recognizing the importance of this work supported the establishment of a CCEXEC sub-committee with Terms of Reference (ToR) as contained in Annex 2.
- 2. This paper serves as the interim report to CCEXEC83.

#### **APPROACH**

3. Initial questions<sup>3</sup> were put to the sub-committee as guidance to provide input on the development of the zero draft on the future of Codex blueprint. A survey<sup>4</sup> was developed to seek inputs from the Chairpersons of Committees, Host Secretariats, Regional Coordinators and Working Group Chairs. This was supplemented with two informal virtual consultations.

#### **KEY ASPECTS OF THE WORK**

#### Key elements of change

- 4. The sub-committee first focused on the elements of change informing the need for a blueprint for the future of Codex identifying the following key elements:
  - · new foods and production systems;
  - global political, environmental, economic and health issues;
  - · changing sociocultural norms; and
  - · progressing digitalization.
- 5. There was a proposal not to include issues related to changing sociocultural norms since the general understanding of 'health' and 'fairness' in the context of Codex has not changed and any attempt to re-interpret these could disorient the current focus of the Codex mandate.
- 6. In this regard, it was noted that the purpose of Codex was set in its statutes, which can only be changed jointly by the FAO Conference and the World Health Assembly. Proposals for change of the statutes can be made by the Codex Alimentarius Commission needing a 2/3 majority. Any re-interpretation of the statutes while it can be discussed in the Commission would need a wide-ranging consensus and engagement with the parent organizations. Codex Members may also raise this through their direct engagement with FAO and WHO governing bodies.
- 7. There was also a proposal to include the integrative approach to research, and the development of policies, programmes and legislation as part of the elements influencing the need for the blueprint with specific reference to the One Health approach. The rationale was that there was a need to mobilize all stakeholders in a One Health approach to jointly tackle



<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> CX/EXEC 22/82/5

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> CX/EXEC 21/81/4

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Available here

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> Available here

health threats, including those related to food safety. However, this was not included considering that the One Health approach is applicable during implementation of food safety programs to which food standards are part of the tools available to guide stakeholders and when applied will achieve protection of consumers health (food safety) and facilitate fair practices in food trade. When appropriate Codex has already demonstrated its ability to consider and integrate a One Health approach as was the case in the recent work on antimicrobial resistance.

8. The implications of the elements of change to the Codex strategic plan and risk analysis process were also reviewed within the subcommittee. It was acknowledged that reviewing risk analysis principles and methodologies was not part of the work of the subcommittee.

#### Codex Committees and their terms of reference

- 9. The sub-committee discussed whether it was appropriate to consider the ToRs of Codex Committees, including Coordinating Committees, when looking at the Future of Codex. While consideration of this was not explicitly requested by CCEXEC, it was noted that, if the Sub-Committee on New Foods and Production Systems found that there was a need to consider TORs to effectively address new areas of work this was something that could be considered on a case-by-case basis and was up to the Commission to determine.
- 10. The sub-committee recognized the challenges for Regional Coordinators in undertaking their work particularly in relation to representing the views of their regions in CCEXEC and discussed how this could be better supported, noting the terms of reference of RCC. However, it was noted that this issue could not be addressed through further consideration of the TOR and may need to be discussed in another context.

#### Procedural issues

#### Virtual and hybrid meetings

- 11. The subcommittee noted that the continued interpretation of Rule XI (7) and (8) in a manner that includes all virtual settings with respect to sessions of Codex Subsidiary Bodies including CCEXEC has raised questions on whether this interpretation should continue to be applied without changing the Procedural Manual (PM) in the future.
- 12. Questions have also been raised on whether the same interpretation is applicable to hybrid meetings. It has been proposed that if hybrid modalities are applied to Codex meetings, rules or guidelines may need to be developed to ensure that the Codex core values are upheld.
- 13. Views were also expressed that the current rules allow the use of a hybrid-working mode. It has been suggested that the status quo could be maintained for the moment and a review of the procedures only considered once practical experience with these working modalities has been acquired.

#### Development of new work

- 14. Concern was expressed that the present process for developing new work was rather complex and not fully transparent noting in particular:
  - the absence of templates or standardized submission forms for new work proposals;
  - the need for more clarity on how to proceed when a new work proposal falls into the scope of more than one existing committee or a committee that is no longer active causing delays;
  - inconsistencies in the criteria for new work on commodity standards and general subjects; and
  - the different approaches on how committees establish work priorities.
- 15. It was therefore proposed that these issues should be referred to the Codex Committee on General Principles (CCGP) since they were procedural matters.

#### Electronic working groups

16. The subcommittee considered the need to broaden the EWG leadership in view of the workload associated with leading Electronic Working Groups (EWG) which falls disproportionately on a limited number of countries.

17. A practical handbook for EWG Chairs<sup>5</sup>, similar to the Chair's handbook was considered useful to encourage delegates to take up EWG leadership roles. A delegate's handbook was likewise considered an important tool for use by all participants in Codex meeting.

18. It was therefore proposed that a handbook and guidance for participants be developed and that CCGP could undertake work on working practices for virtual working groups.

#### Further Consultations on Meeting format, meeting scheduling, and working groups

- 19. Specific consultations on this area were undertaken through an online survey<sup>6</sup> with the members of CCEXEC (Chairperson, Vice-Chairpersons, Members elected on a geographic basis and Regional Coordinators), Chairpersons of Committees, Host Secretariats and Chairpersons of electronic working groups (EWGs). The survey had a total of 90 respondents.
- 20. Two informal virtual consultative sessions were held on 15 and 16 September 2022 to accommodate different time zones. These sessions allowed participants, to go beyond the thematic areas of the survey and brainstorm and share further ideas on the wider topic.
- 21. These consultations highlighted a broad range of views, which have been analyzed and provided the basis for proposing a Model for future Codex work as part of the zero draft on the blueprint for the future of Codex (Annex 1).

#### **CONCLUSIONS**

- 22. The sub-committee deliberations have been very constructive and helpful in further elaborating the specific areas identified for input to the Zero draft. Taking into account the responses received and previous work on this subject, the subcommittee focused on evolution of working practices within Codex covering the following areas:
  - (i) Meeting format (physical, virtual, mixed models), including potential cohosting of virtual meetings,
  - (ii) Meeting schedule,
  - (iii) Working Groups (EWGs) and other virtual informal working mechanisms.
- 23. This specifically reflects on how Codex will work in the future and less on the nature of that work responding to global priorities. There was reluctance to discuss any issues that are perceived to be outside the Codex mandate or the sub-committee mandate. The subcommittee therefore has an opportunity to broadly think outside the pure process if Codex is to stay relevant in another 60 years.
- 24. The subcommittee considered three procedural issues in paragraphs 11-18 which could be further considered by CCEXEC 83 and referred to CAC45 as per the TOR.

#### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 25. CCEXEC 83 is invited to:
  - i. Consider the draft blueprint for the future of Codex in Annex 1 and take note of the conclusions therein and advise on the way forward.
  - ii. Note the need to be more open and flexible to what the future of Codex subcommittee could think about in response to global priorities to ensure Codex is able to remain true to its vision of being a place where the world comes together to create food safety and quality standards to protect everyone everywhere.
  - iii. Take note of the conclusions in paragraph 24 related to procedural issues identified and advice on the way forward.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> Under development

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> Available <u>here</u>

ANNEX 1

#### **BLUEPRINT FOR THE FUTURE OF CODEX - ZERO DRAFT**

#### 1 Context/ drivers for change

Disruption to the usual working practices brought about by the Covid-19 pandemic, provided an opportunity to reconsider how Codex works.

It is an appropriate time for this as the world is changing at an ever-faster rate. This includes how food is produced, processed, traded, and consumed, and the increasing interconnectedness of food systems.

This section brings into context the elements of change that informed the need for the blueprint for the future of codex.

#### 1.1 New food sources and production systems

FAO and WHO have asked how Codex will approach issues related to new food sources and production systems.

The Commission mandated work to CCEXEC, which is now under review by a subcommittee of CCEXEC to inform future discussions at the Commission. There will inevitably be other cross-cutting and emerging issues that require us to think afresh about the way in which Codex work is structured and operationalized.

#### 1.2 Global political, environmental, economic and health issues

Pandemics, social unrest, environmental and economic issues are challenging the way Codex works. The COVID-19 period has taught us we need to adapt our working model to be flexible and adaptive to remain resilient and ready to take on the challenges in an effective way.

As was articulated in the missions of the 2021 UNFSS, "the need is urgent... [to] deliver progress on all 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), each of which relies on healthier, more sustainable and more equitable food systems... we all must work together to transform the way the world produces, consumes and thinks about food".

FAO and WHO has ongoing work to support the development of capacity and programs in member countries to address the recommendations from the UN Food Systems Summit.

CODEX should be at the center of follow-up work to support countries' implementation of SDG elements relevant to the Codex mandate.

#### 1.2.1 Conclusion

CCEXEC to note that there are also issues other than human health risk assessment, which are relevant to the establishment of food safety, and quality standards that can be raised on a case-by-case basis and discussed to determine whether they are other legitimate factors (OLFs) within the framework of Codex.

#### 1.3 Changing sociocultural norms

The changing global sociocultural norms and expectations, bring into focus our interpretation of the Codex mandate "to protect the health of consumers and ensure fair practices in the food trade".

#### 1.3.1 An evolving concept of "health"

Codex Members may want to focus on our interpretation of the term "health" and "fair practices" within the Codex statutes. The way in which we understand "health as being the absence of infection or disease" and "fairness" has changed and will continue to change over time.

WHO now defines Health as a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity. We can each readily think of practices which may have been called "fair" at some point in the past but which the international community will now call unfair. We need to understand who, or what, we now believe these practices should be fair

#### 1.3.2 Changing or re-interpreting the Codex mandate

The Codex mandate is included in its Statutes, which can only be changed jointly by the FAO Conference and the World Health Assembly. Proposals for change of the statutes can be made by the Codex Alimentarius Commission needing a 2/3 majority. Any re-interpretation of the statutes while it can be discussed in the Commission would need a wide-ranging consensus and engagement with the parent organizations. Codex Members may also raise this through their direct engagement with FAO and WHO governing bodies.

#### 1.3.3 Health, fairness, and sustainability

The Commission may wish to discuss the implications, meaning and relevance of "health" and "fairness" under the present-day situations. Especially in the context of sustainability, there are significant implications on fairness if one party produces sustainably and the other doesn't. This in turn has implications on health and fairness.

There is an opportunity for CCEXEC to consider the SPS declaration at the 12<sup>th</sup> Ministerial Conference of WTO<sup>7</sup> and in particular paragraph 8 where it is stated that "through the work programme, the Ministerial Conference envisions that the SPS Committee should explore how the implementation and application of the SPS Agreement can support... how to facilitate global food security and more sustainable food systems, including through sustainable growth and innovation in agricultural production and international trade, and through the use of international standards, guidelines, and recommendations developed by the Codex Alimentarius Commission, the World Organisation for Animal Health and the International Plant Protection Convention as the basis of harmonized SPS measures to protect human, animal or plant life or health."

#### 1.3.4 Conclusion

CCEXEC to consider recommending that a paper be prepared by the Codex Secretariat in coordination with the SPS Secretariat at WTO as appropriate, to give some prominence to this work in WTO and the current state of play and keep this work under review as it progresses.

#### 1.4. Progressing digitalization

#### 1.4.1 Role of Digitalization during the pandemic and beyond

The pandemic had a huge impact on the conduct of Codex work affecting scheduled meetings, which had to be postponed or cancelled altogether.

This situation albeit overwhelming presented an opportunity for Codex to undertake strategic reassessment of meeting structures and processes against the background of significant technological advances particularly regarding remote working and audio/video conferencing.

Consequently, 2021 saw the emergence of a truly virtual Codex with a record sixteen virtual sessions being held.

#### 1.4.2 Technology will continue to advance

The continued evolution in technology has allowed Codex to effectively progress work in the absence of physical meetings.

The continued evolution of technology will offer more tools for international bodies such as Codex to increase their efficiency and resilience.

#### 1.4.3 Conclusion

Digitalization provides possible tools to help address Strategic Goal 5, and CCEXEC could recommend that the Secretariat brings forwards proposals that support the development and maintenance of efficient and effective work management practices and systems as appropriate.

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> Available at:

#### 2 Implications for Codex

#### 2.1 Strategic plan

Changes may be needed to the elements of the Codex Strategic Plan, their relative priorities or how they are delivered. All such considerations will rightly reference the purpose of Codex as set out in its statutes "to protect the health of consumers and ensure fair practices in the food trade".

#### 2.1.1 Conclusion

The Strategic Plan is under review biennially as provided for in the Procedural Manual, and CCEXEC recommend that the outcome of the work of this subcommittee form an input into the process of developing the next Strategic Plan (2026-2031).

#### 2.2 Risk analysis

In terms of new scientific understanding, there is need to ensure that Codex work practices are efficient and effective in addressing the requirements of the *Working Principles for Risk Analysis for Application in the Framework of the Codex Alimentarius* and specifically that "Risk management should be a continuing process that takes into account all newly generated data in the evaluation and review of risk management decisions. Food standards and related texts should be reviewed when new information becomes available and updated as necessary to reflect new scientific knowledge and other information relevant to risk analysis."

Codex Members should also acknowledge that the normative methodology we use for risk analysis is itself subject to change and development in the light of "new scientific knowledge". One enduring challenge is the design and evolution of risk assessment methodology that better addresses multiple hazards in conjunction with each other and in turn informs risk management approaches, including possible new approaches.

#### 2.2.1 Conclusion

The blueprint for the future of Codex is not intended to reviewing risk analysis principles and methodologies since the Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committees already have guidelines and criteria that they periodically update when new techniques and science is available. The Risk Management process should take into account newly generated data in the evaluation and review of risk management decisions as required by the PM.

#### 3 Model for Codex work

**Note on the scope:** The general context and implications outlined above indicate some of the challenges and opportunities in the operating environment of Codex. This blueprint for the future of Codex may not consider all these issues and will initially focus on the evolution of working practices within Codex.

Any model for Codex work that may be adopted should encompass high level governance principles that ensure Codex core values of inclusiveness, collaboration, consensus building and transparency are respected.

When evaluating the extent to which the core values are achieved, CCEXEC/CAC could consider a criterion that takes into account: the application of statutes, rules and principles in the Procedural Manual; a framework that embeds flexibility in decision making; the scientific basis that underpins Codex standards; and adoption of new technologies in the digital space.

Based on consultations undertaken, three highly inter-related areas have emerged as suitable for elaboration with regard to a model for Codex work. These are meeting format (physical, virtual, mixed models), including potential co-hosting of virtual meetings, meeting schedule and Electronic Working Groups (EWGs) and other virtual informal working mechanisms.

## 3.1 Meeting format (physical, virtual, mixed models), including potential co-hosting of virtual meetings

#### 3.1.1 Impact of virtual meetings

Virtual meetings have gained prominence and value in progressing Codex work and providing an opportunity for more Members and observers and larger delegations to join meetings hence contributing greatly to the Codex core value of inclusivity.

Virtual meetings have impacted the foundation of the Codex consensus building process in Committee meetings, which used to build mainly on the physical dimension. Thus, these meetings while gaining participants lose one aspect when held virtually. This is opposite to EWGs that have gained an additional meeting mode (virtual).

#### 3.1.2 Modality of meetings

There is need for flexibility when considering the meeting format taking cognizance of the increasing support for return of in-person meetings while retaining options for remote participation. The opportunity to combine the benefits of both physical and virtual meetings may require different formats depending on the committee and/or agenda.

Several issues have been identified when considering the modality of Codex meetings, which include costs, management of both virtual and physical participants, time zone issues, technology and ensuring equity of participation.

Host countries, the Codex Secretariat, FAO and WHO have to take into account several factors when further considering the modality of Codex meetings. These include:

- Structured assessment and judgment of net costs, benefits and risks, taking into account the merits of respective meeting format and the wider membership views.
- Any UN declared global emergency situation; the extent of travel restrictions or changes/expected changes in travel restrictions; priority of the matters scheduled for the relevant Codex session; information from Codex Members concerning their inability to participate in physical meetings; and security concerns (global, regional or local as appropriate to the meeting of interest).
- The expectations of the respective meeting format taking into account duration of meeting, time zone, technical support etc. this would determine the criteria for hosting including co-hosting.

#### 3.1.3 Assessing the delivery of meetings

To enable the Codex secretariat to continuously improve on the meeting model, tools that could objectively assess whether the core values of Codex have been take into account need to be understood and defined.

Presently the most used tools are post session surveys, which have been considered appropriate. They could be enhanced to incorporate more questions, particularly as working modalities evolve (e.g. use of hybrid modalities).

Other information that could be useful for analysis include:

- Number of participants in the meeting,:
  - o number and size of delegations per country and observers;
  - o number of interventions by different countries or observers that took the floor;
  - o number of delegations who responded to CL, provided written comments through CRDs.
- Agenda items completed;
- New issues discussed;
- Time spent on report adoption;
- The level of satisfaction with meeting conduct and outcomes;

Much of this information is already collected as part of the monitoring of the implementation of the Codex Strategic Plan, hence the outputs of that monitoring process can be used to inform continuous improvement efforts.

#### 3.1.4 Conclusion

Considering the experiences during the pandemic, future meeting formats should provide flexible approaches balancing in-person and virtual participation and taking into account the core values. Virtual technology has contributed greatly to enhance participation in Codex meetings by member states. This opens opportunities for Codex to raise the profile of Codex within the competent authority; enable better succession planning; and enhance electronic working groups who could include virtual meetings in the EWG work plan.

Taking advantage of the virtual format to further train delegates to understand their role, how to intervene, what to take into account when developing positions and interventions, how to develop written positions and to take written positions of others into account, and how to work effectively in various formats (in person, hybrid, virtual) is a huge opportunity that can help knowledge and capacity building, as well as success of meetings in various formats.

CCEXEC could recommend to CAC that Codex Secretariat explores the feasibility of procuring a technical platform that could be used across all subsidiary bodies, reducing costs for host country secretariats and ensuring a consistent participant experience.

#### 3.2 Meeting Schedule

#### 3.2.1 Scheduling of meetings in advance

Scheduling of meetings is significant in providing predictability for planning by Host country secretariat of committees and participants. Appropriate scheduling of meetings enables proper development of work plans by host governments and EWG chairs/leads. All Committee work is planned around the CAC, and all EWG work is planned around the next Committee meeting. This provides an indication of timelines or "deadlines" which facilitates effective progress of Codex work.

#### 3.2.1.1 Conclusion

CCEXEC could recommend that the Secretariat constitute a team of all Host Country Secretariats with the task of setting meeting schedules for Codex Subsidiary body meetings for 1 -2 biennia.

#### 3.2.2 Need-based approach to meeting schedules

The necessity to develop an approach to needs-based scheduling of meetings that allows best use of time in the Codex calendar, while still allowing host countries to budget and plan effectively has been considered. "Need-based" is taken to mean that meetings are scheduled when there is a sufficient volume of business to be undertaken.

The criteria to be used when applying the needs-based approach to meeting schedules should be well defined recognizing the quantitative and qualitative factors that influence meeting dynamics. Some of the items that influence meeting dynamics include; volume of work; level of priority and complexity of the work; consensual or controversial work; and loss of predictability on the date of the next meeting and therefore affect planning.

The need-based approach to meeting scheduling may draw merit and benefit committees that are overloaded with work and would greatly benefit from extraordinary sessions planned accordingly to their needs. These extraordinary sessions could focus on a specific agenda item that could not be adequately covered during the ordinary session or that need to be progressed as a faster pace due to their high priority.

However, the needs-based approach risks causing loss of momentum when applied to committees with few work items because the passage of too much time between committee sessions can disrupt the work dynamics of the committee. This may prevent in the long term the emergence of new ideas and the launch of new works that could have been beneficial.

Consideration for scheduling Codex meetings when there is a sufficient volume of business could apply to those committees where there is limited work underway or proposals for new work. However, options of shortening the duration of Codex Committee meetings should be explored in conjunction with a meeting mode that is less burdensome for participants.

In relation to notice of Codex meetings, regardless of the meeting format, ideally there should be no difference for timing of advance notice of Codex meetings. A minimum of twelve months advance notice would be preferable to allow for Members to include such travel within their budgets. Current rules of the PM should be kept as they are regarding formal invitations to any Committee meeting, irrespective of its format.

#### Conclusion

CCEXEC could recommend that the Secretariat in consultation with Chairs of subsidiary bodies to consider as and when it is appropriate to apply the need-based approach to meeting

schedules, noting that this may not impact the regular schedule but rather provide an opportunity to advance specific issues of high priority.

#### 3.2.3 Report adoption

There are merits and demerits of adopting the report after conclusion of plenary versus undertaking the same virtually at a later point in time.

The former has been the practice for physical meetings ever since the founding of Codex. It presents a sense of completion and delegates can move on to other activities. However, it is also stressful to the Codex and host secretariats and translators impacting the quality of the report. It also limits the time for members to review the report and as it increases the number of travel days needed, participation can be limited.

The latter case has become dominant since the pandemic, the Codex Secretariat has more time to write the report, translators have more time to translate the report and members more time to review and comment on the draft before it is adopted. This presupposes that virtual sessions are well suited for report adoption as text changes are easy to follow on screen, and delegates can write their suggestions in the chat.

#### 3.2.4 Conclusion

CCEXEC could recommend that the Secretariat reviews and make recommendations based on experience of adopting reports virtually days after the conclusion of plenary.

#### 3.3 Working Groups and other pre-meeting working mechanisms

#### 3.3.1 The important role of working groups in Codex

Electronic working groups (EWGs) and other pre-meeting working mechanisms have gained prominence as significant drivers of standards development work of Codex. They were very instrumental in progressing work when Codex sessions could not be convened in the early days of the pandemic thus minimizing the impact of the crisis on standards development.

WGs established by committees have specific TORs aimed at delivering text suitable for adoption. Underpinning this expectation is the importance of clarity when scoping the work, outlining the format and defining the main issues that need to be addressed.

WGs have provided a conducive arena for consensus building where members actively debate the issues before squaring down on a potential text while forwarding outstanding issues identified for further discussion at the full committee. Consensus building through the WGs can be greatly facilitated by having a predictable schedule of the committee meetings; holding virtual working group (vWG) meetings in between committee sessions and physical working group meetings prior to committee meetings.

Regular in-person committee meetings may serve as good anchors for the WGs since it provides an opportunity for members to build new networks and renew previous ones therefore fostering engagement and enthusiasm for working virtually in the WGs. It has been observed that absence of in person meetings caused by the pandemic adversely affected participation in WG.

To further enhance efficiency of WGs, logistical/administrative support is required and facilitating the WGs to work in multiple languages. However, the biggest limitation is on who bears the cost for these services.

#### 3.3.2 Issues ideas for improvements

It emerges that the three most significant variables to consider when facilitating the WGs are the platform, time difference and language. Improving the functionality of the Forum and use of a platform, which is user friendly, would provide a good environment for the participants. Language is becoming less of an issue with captioning available, but there is no solution for multilingual WGs in the short term. In the long term, suggestions have been made to have a cost sharing arrangement between the host of the WG, host of the Committee and Codex secretariat in Rome.

There is a need to engage more Members in EWG leadership as currently the workload associated with leading EWGs falls disproportionately on a limited number of countries. This would be complemented by each committee agreeing to a recommended number of WGs to

be active at any one point in time with well-aligned work plans. A practical handbook for EWG Chairs, similar to the Chair's handbook could be useful towards encouraging delegates take up leadership roles. A delegate's handbook will be an important tool for use by all participants in Codex.

#### 3.3.3 Conclusion

CCEXEC could recommend that a handbook and guidance for participants to be developed and commissioning work for CCGP on working practices for virtual working groups.

**ANNEX 2** 

Terms of reference of the Sub-Committee (see also REP22/EXEC1, paras 99-102)

#### Scope:

To develop in collaboration with the Codex Secretariat a report including a proposed blueprint for the future of Codex for CCEXEC84, with an interim report on progress to CCEXEC83, taking into consideration the views of Members and Observers, FAO and WHO, Chairpersons of Codex Committees, Regional Coordinators (RCs), and Host Secretariats.

#### Timetable and deliverables:

The sub-committee will start work immediately after CCEXEC82. It will:

- Work closely with the Codex Secretariat to frame specific areas for input based on the consultations and information available to date.
- Develop a zero draft for circulation for comments among Chairpersons of Codex Committees, RCs, and Host Secretariats.
- Provide an interim report to CCEXEC83, noting that any procedural issues should be identified in the interim report so they may be referred to CAC45.
- Ensure involvement of Members and Observers based on the draft blueprint developed by CCEXEC83.
- Prepare a report with a draft blueprint on the Future of Codex for consideration by CCEXEC84.

Membership and ways of working:

The sub-committee will be chaired by Vice-Chairperson Allan Azegele, with the other two Vice-Chairpersons as co-chairpersons and open to all Members of the CCEXEC. The sub-committee will work electronically in English only.