



## JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME

### CODEx ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION

#### Forty-seventh Session

#### CICG, Geneva, Switzerland

#### 25 - 30 November 2024

### CODEx STRATEGIC PLAN 2026-2031

(Prepared by the Chairperson and Vice-Chairpersons of the Codex Alimentarius Commission and the Codex Secretariat)

#### I. Introduction

1. With the Codex Strategic Plan 2020-2025 being in its final stage of implementation, the development of the Codex Strategic Plan 2026-2031 started in 2023 CCEXEC84<sup>1</sup> led by the Chairperson of the Codex Alimentarius Commission. In proposing a structure and timetable for the development of the Codex Strategic Plan 2026-2031, the Chairperson underlined the goal of delivering a new strategic plan, monitoring framework, and implementation work plans before 1 January 2026 (the date the Strategic Plan 2026-2031 will come into effect). In agreeing the way forward CCEXEC84 recognized the value of immediate and ongoing engagement with the Codex membership using a range of modalities and with the support of the Coordinators.

2. Member and Observer input was first sought in 2023 through a circular letter<sup>2</sup> (CL) on overarching aspects of the next Codex Strategic Plan. These were considered by CCEXEC85<sup>3</sup> which agreed a draft of the first part of the Codex Strategic Plan 2026-2031 (Vision; Mission; Core values; a narrative on Drivers for change; the Role of Codex; and High-level description of Codex ways of working) for broader consultation. CCEXEC85 also agreed on questions on which to engage Members and Observers on development of the goals and outcomes for the Codex Strategic Plan 2026-2031.<sup>4</sup>

3. CAC46<sup>5</sup> expressed appreciation for the process to develop the Codex Strategic Plan 2026-2031 thus far and looked forward to the consultations foreseen on the formulation of goals and outcomes.

4. The purpose of this document is to provide information on the progress made on the development of the Codex Strategic Plan 2026-2031 since CAC46, including the formal and informal consultations with Members and Observers, and provide recommendations for progressing and completing the Codex Strategic Plan 2026-2031.

#### II. Consultation with Codex Members and Observers

5. A CL was issued in January 2024 (CL 2024/10-EXEC) to Members and Observers to gather their comments on Part I of the Strategic Plan 2026-2031<sup>6</sup>, and to seek replies to the replies to following questions to initiate the discussion around goals and outcomes of the Codex Strategic Plan 2026-2031:

- a. What could Codex do to have the greatest impact on the protection of consumer health and promotion of fair practices in the food trade in the period to 2031?
- b. Consistent with its purpose, how can Codex respond to the food safety, nutrition and food quality implications of, and support efforts to address, the drivers for change that have been identified in the related draft section of the Strategic Plan 2026-2031?"

6. In parallel, the Chairperson and Vice-Chairpersons of CAC convened informal consultations with the Regions through the Coordinators and separately with interested Observers. These informal consultations,

<sup>1</sup> CX/EXEC 23/84/5; REP23/EXEC1, paragraph 116

<sup>2</sup> CL 2023/65/OCS-EXEC

<sup>3</sup> CX/EXEC 23/85/4

<sup>4</sup> REP23/EXEC2, paragraph 54

<sup>5</sup> REP23/CAC, paragraph 9

<sup>6</sup> REP23/EXEC2 Appendix II

which were convened between 28 February and 5 April 2024, encouraged interaction, discussion and reflection, as well as providing support to Members and Observers in responding to CL 2024/10-EXEC.

7. Comments in response to CL 2024/10-EXEC were received from 35 Members and 14 Observers. The comments are contained in CX/EXEC 24/86/4 Appendix II and a report from the Chairperson and Vice-Chairpersons of CAC on the informal consultations is contained in Appendix I of CX/EXEC 24/86/4.

### III. CCEXEC86 deliberations

8. CCEXEC86<sup>7</sup> (2024) considered the results of the informal consultations<sup>8</sup> as well as the replies to CL 2024/10-EXEC<sup>9</sup>, and discussed Part I of the draft Codex Strategic Plan 2026-2031.

9. Members had a frank exchange on potential changes to Part I the Codex Strategic Plan 2026-2031 which reflected a diversity of views. Noting the range of views, the role of part I in setting the framework for the strategic goals, and the need for this framework to also be informed by the strategic direction of Codex, CCEXEC86 agreed to suspend discussion on Part I and to focus on the discussion of the strategic goals and outcomes i.e. Part II of the Codex Strategic Plan 2026-2031.

10. CCEXEC86 Members expressed different views regarding the general elements that should be included in Part II: strategic goals and outcomes of the Codex Strategic Plan 2026-2031 and converged over the following areas:

- responsiveness to Members' needs and excellence of Codex work;
- collaboration with other international organizations;
- awareness and recognition of Codex standards; and
- enhancing Codex work management systems.

11. Following an extensive discussion of these areas, CCEXEC86 agreed on three strategic goals and one functional goal, thereby proposing a more streamlined approach compared to the current strategic plan, and which still reflected the needs of Codex.

12. CCEXEC86 agreed on the key areas of expected outcomes under each goal and further developed these by correspondence in the two months following CCEXEC86.<sup>10</sup> The result of this exercise is presented in Annex I.

13. CL 2024/82-CAC was issued in October 2024 requesting comments from Codex Members and Observers on the draft strategic goals and outcomes as presented in Annex I.

### IV. Next steps

14. In addition to development of the Strategic Plan 2026-2031 being an item on the agenda of CCEXEC87, it will also be the subject of a full day workshop for members of CCEXEC and their advisers, immediately prior to CCEXEC87. Informed by the workshop, CCEXEC87 will consider responses to the most recent Circular Letter and will further review all parts of the draft Codex Strategic Plan 2026-2031, with the aim of agreeing a complete final draft of the Codex Strategic Plan 2026-2031 which will then be submitted for the consideration of CAC47.

### V. RECOMMENDATIONS

15. CAC47 is invited to:
- i. note the work undertaken to date on the development of the Codex Strategic Plan 2026-2031, including the opportunities to provide input both formally and informally;
  - ii. review the recommendations from CCEXEC87 and consider whether the draft Codex Strategic Plan 2026-2031 can be adopted or needs further work; and
  - iii. agree on next steps so as to ensure that the Codex Strategic Plan 2026-2031, its monitoring and evaluation framework, and implementation planning are all completed within 2025.

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<sup>7</sup> CX/EXEC 23/86/4

<sup>8</sup> CX/EXEC 24/86/4, Appendix I

<sup>9</sup> CX/EXEC 24/86/4, Appendix II

<sup>10</sup> REP24/EXEC1, paragraph 77

## ANNEX I

**DRAFT STRATEGIC GOALS AND OUTCOME STATEMENTS FOR THE CODEX STRATEGIC PLAN 2026-2031, AS PROPOSED BY CCEXEC****Chapeau**

The Codex Alimentarius Commission commits itself to work towards achievement of the following Strategic and Functional Goals within the Codex purpose<sup>1</sup>:

**Strategic Goals****Respond to Members' needs for protecting the health of consumers and ensuring fair practices in the food trade in an evolving global environment by developing science-based standards**

- Foresight and horizon-scanning activities are used to support the identification of Members' needs and emerging issues in an evolving global environment.
- Scientific advice that addresses the needs identified by CAC and subsidiary bodies is provided by FAO and WHO and the joint FAO/WHO scientific expert advisory bodies, informed by globally representative data and appropriate international expertise.
- Scientific advice is used by CAC and subsidiary bodies in line with Codex risk analysis principles.
- Codex standards and related texts are developed, reviewed and adopted in a timely manner.

**Strengthen relationships with relevant international organizations, promoting an integrated approach to address global challenges**

- 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.
- Gaps in approaches to addressing global challenges are identified through targeted engagement with relevant international organizations.
- The contribution of CAC to the transition towards sustainable and resilient food systems, is identified, and the development of relevant Codex texts undertaken accordingly.
- The use of Codex texts in the context of integrative approaches such as One Health is promoted.

**Maximize the impact of Codex by increasing the visibility and use of standards**

- The profile and recognition of Codex as the international food standards setting body for protecting consumer health and ensuring fair practices in food trade is enhanced.
- Contributions from relevant international organizations are encouraged throughout the development of Codex standards.
- Harmonization through the increased use of Codex texts in establishing national food control systems, standards and regulations is advocated for.
- Codex Members and Observers are enabled to participate actively and sustainably throughout the standard-setting process.

**Functional goal****Enhance work management systems and practices that support the efficient and effective achievement of all strategic plan goals**

- Effective and efficient Codex work management practices are refined and enhanced, exploiting digital and other new technologies to enable this.
- Proposals to CAC for development of new Codex texts are prioritized in relation to their impact on protecting consumer health and ensuring fair practices in food trade.
- Chairpersons and delegates are supported in their respective roles and their capabilities are developed.

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<sup>1</sup> Article 1, Statutes of the Codex Alimentarius Commission, Codex Procedural Manual