



Food and Agriculture
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CODEX STRATEGIC PLAN 2026-2031: PROPOSED MONITORING FRAMEWORK

(Prepared by the Codex Secretariat)

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The Eighty-seventh Session of the Executive Committee of the Codex Alimentarius Commission (CCEXEC87) discussed and recommended for adoption, and the Forty-seventh Session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC47) adopted the Codex Strategic Plan 2026-2031, noting that the Codex Secretariat would present a monitoring framework at CCEXEC88 for review, and that comments on the revised version of the monitoring framework would then be sought from Members and Observers through a circular letter (CL) with the aim of submitting a final version to CAC48 for approval.¹

2. CAC47 underlined the need for the Codex Secretariat to develop a clear monitoring framework to measure progress against the strategic goals and outcomes, with SMART key performance indicators (KPIs).² SMART KPIs are defined by five key characteristics: they are Specific, meaning they clearly define what is being measured; Measurable, ensuring that progress can be quantified or assessed objectively; Achievable, set within realistic and attainable parameters given available resources; Relevant, aligned closely with strategic goals and outcomes, and meaningful to decision-makers; and Time-bound, linked to a defined timeframe for achieving results. These characteristics help ensure KPIs are practical, focused, and useful for tracking performance and guiding strategic actions.

3. This document contains in Appendix I a proposed monitoring framework for the Codex Strategic Plan 2026-2031. The monitoring framework was discussed with the Codex Chairperson and Vice-Chairpersons (CVCs) and preliminary feedback was considered in the version proposed.

II. PROPOSED MONITORING FRAMEWORK

4. In preparing the monitoring framework, the following considerations were made:

- Strategic goals are typically broad, long-term aspirations that are qualitative and visionary in nature. In this, they lack the specificity required for precise measurement. In contrast, outcomes are more concrete and measurable, making them suitable for tracking progress and contribution to the strategic goals. For this reason, indicators were set at the outcome level.
- Several options were considered to measure progress against the different outcomes. The most efficient way to track progress was sought, trying to strike a balance between data availability, methodology to be used for the measurement, and resources available.
- SMART KPIs are proposed for the majority of the outcomes, acknowledging that for a few, new outcomes, identifying an indicator may require additional discussions between the Codex Secretariat and Members, and proposing a narrative as an alternative way of reporting progress.
- Indicators for the previous Codex Strategic Plan 2020-2025 were considered when the measurement was still deemed valid to track progress against the outcome, to ensure continuity and take advantage of the historical data already available to be used as a baseline.

¹ REP24/CAC, paragraph 216; and REP24/EXEC2, paragraph 108.

² REP24/CAC, paragraph 214.

- A rationale for each indicator was included in the monitoring framework to explain how the Codex Secretariat interpreted measuring progress against the specific outcome.

III. RECOMMENDATIONS

5. CCEXEC88 is invited to review and provide comments on the proposed monitoring framework for the Codex Strategic Plan 2026-2031, and confirm the next steps.

Appendix I

Strategic goal	Outcome	Rationale	Proposed indicator (Indicators carried over from the current M & E Framework are marked with *)	Means of verification
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	1.1 Foresight and horizon-scanning activities are used to support the identification of issues likely to impact food safety, quality and trade.	This outcome can be achieved by promoting foresight and horizon-scanning activities across subsidiary bodies and monitor them by looking at emerging issues discussions in Codex committees and related events. These may be identified through an agenda item, a webinar, the issuance of a circular letter or a side event. What is important is that there is a mechanism or recurring activities to identify emerging issues in place in Codex committees.	Indicator 1.1.1 Number of Codex committees with mechanisms/activities in place to identify emerging issues.	Codex committees reports and related webpages
	1.2 Scientific advice that addresses the needs identified by CAC and subsidiary bodies is primarily provided by FAO and WHO and their joint scientific advisory bodies, informed by globally representative data and appropriate international expertise and methodology.	This outcome is about the provision of scientific advice to Codex. Codex committees have the mandate to request scientific advice. A dimension that could be considered for monitoring purposes is the number of requests to joint expert committees from Codex committees for which the scientific advice was provided within the set timeframes. This is already tracked through the priority lists in four Codex committees (CCFA, CCRVDF, CCCF and CCPR). Therefore the proposal for an indicator is to track scientific advice for these four committees and report against them for this outcome. It is recognized that other committees have work planning and prioritization mechanisms, however these are not easily measurable and the modality used differs between committees. Therefore, a sub-section of committees is proposed for monitoring purposes but if deemed necessary, this indicator could be supplemented through a narrative report for the remaining Codex committees.	Indicator 1.2.1 Proportion of scientific advice from the Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committees Meetings to CCFA, CCRVDF, CCCF and CCPR, delivered against the established respective priority lists, and within the set timeframes.	CCFA, CCRVDF, CCCF and CCPR reports

	1.3 Scientific advice is used by CAC and subsidiary bodies in line with Codex risk analysis principles.	This outcome is about the establishment of science based standards. A quantitative dimension that is currently being measured for the Codex magazine (scorecards) is the total number of quantitative standards being adopted every year. As quantitative standards (ie MLs and MRLs) are directly based on scientific advice, it is proposed to use these as an indicator for this outcome.	Indicator 1.3.1 Number of quantitative standards adopted by CAC.	CAC report/Scorecard
	1.4 Codex standards and related texts are developed, reviewed and adopted in a timely, transparent and inclusive manner.	These two indicators were established under the Codex Strategic Plan 2020-2025. The first one monitors emerging issues raised in general subject committees since the 2018-19 biennium and assesses the time taken to lead to new work proposals. The second one assesses the time taken to result in new or revised Codex text. They both remain relevant and can be used to monitor this outcome.	*Indicator 1.4.1 Time taken from the identification of new issues to the submission of proposals for new work to the Executive Committee.	Codex committees reports
			*Indicator 1.4.2 Time taken for prioritized emerging issues to result in revised or new Codex texts.	Codex committees reports
2: Enhance Codex work management systems and practices that support the effective and efficient development of standards and related texts	2.1 Work management systems and practices are refined and enhanced, leveraging digital and other new technologies.	This outcome is about ensuring that systems and practices are in place to enable timely development and availability of Codex standards and documents that support development of standards. Therefore dimensions such as the timely distribution of documents (already used for the Codex Strategic Plan 2020-2025) and the publication rate of standards are proposed as a means of monitoring this outcome.	Indicator 2.1.1 Percentage of standards published within one month following adoption by CAC.	Online repository of Codex documents
			*Indicator 2.1.2 Proportion of meeting documents distributed in a timely manner consistent with the <i>Codex Procedural Manual</i> or timeframes established by committees.	Online repository of Codex documents (analysis biennium by biennium)
		Another important tool that supports Members are the Codex online databases. Therefore their regular update is considered an important dimension to measure contribution to this outcome.	Indicator 2.1.3 Time taken from the publication of the Codex committee report to the update of the related online database on the Codex website.	Online Codex databases

	2.2 Mechanisms to prioritize proposals to develop new or revise existing standards and related texts are in place.	This output can be reported on only through a narrative report outlining the application of the mechanism by Codex committees.	n/a	Codex committees reports
	2.3 Chairpersons, coordinators, host secretariats, Codex Contact Points (CCPs) and delegates are supported in their respective roles and their capabilities are developed and enhanced.	This output is about enhancing capacities of chairs, coordinators, hosts, CCPs and delegates. This can happen in many different ways multilaterally or bilaterally and tracking that would be challenging. Hence, for ease of monitoring the number of people trained by the Codex Secretariat is proposed. This indicator could be expanded somewhat to capture the number of people trained by Regional Coordinators (RCCs), however it would need the RCCs to keep track of this number and report it regularly to the Codex Secretariat.	Indicator 2.3.1 Number of people trained by the Codex Secretariat every year.	Webinars, OCS trainings, EWG trainings, etc.
		Satisfaction ratings could also be an indicator of the capacities of Chairs, host and Codex secretariats. This information is already collected via post meeting surveys and the indicator was already used for the Codex Strategic Plan 2020-2025 and it can be carried over.	*Indicator 2.3.2 Satisfaction ratings on meeting efficiency, role of chairs and host and Codex secretariats.	Post Codex committees meeting satisfaction surveys
	2.4 Codex Members are enabled to participate actively and sustainably throughout the standard-setting process.	Four indicators to monitor whether Codex Members are enabled to participate actively and sustainably throughout the standards-setting process were used for the Codex Strategic Plan 2020-2025. It is proposed that these indicators are carried over. An additional indicator on the capacities of national Codex structures could also be beneficial to understand how to further enable Members are to participate in Codex, however such an indicator would require detailed inputs from Members through for example their regular implementation of the FAO/WHO Diagnostic Tool for assessing the status	*Indicator 2.4.1 Number of Members who participated in EWGs during the biennium.	Forum - participation is defined as registration to at least one electronic working group (EWG) during the biennium
			*Indicator 2.4.2 Number of Members that replied to CLs in the biennium.	Online Commenting System (OCS) - a Member will be counted if

		of national Codex programmes ³ specific assessment. This has not been proposed but is for consideration of Members.		they replied to at least two CLs during the biennium
			*Indicator 2.4.3 Number of Members registering to CAC and the active general subjects committees.	Online Registration system (ORS)
			*Indicator 2.4.4 Extent that the following barriers are impeding the use of Codex texts: Lack of resources; lack of local implementation capacity; irrelevance of Codex texts for the national context/reality; lack of basic national food safety laws; duration of Codex text development; lack of local implementation capacity; duration of national implementation process; language issues; challenges to catch up with changes in Codex texts; lack of awareness of Codex provisions by national stakeholders.	Annual survey on the use and impact of Codex texts
3: Strengthen relationships with relevant international organizations, promoting a coordinated approach to address global challenges	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 it is proposed that this dimension could be reflected in the level of engagement between Codex (committees and Codex Secretariat) with relevant international organizations. Hence the proposed indicator is based on the meetings of the Codex Secretariat with international organizations, back-to-office reports (BTOs), and opportunities provided at Codex committees for international organizations to inform about their work as it relates to Codex.	Indicator 3.1.1 Number of international organizations met by the Codex Secretariat during the biennium and number of international organizations that have presented their work to Codex committees (under the agenda item on work of relevant international organizations).	Codex Secretariat meetings records, BTOs, agenda or side events of Codex committees

³ Available at <https://openknowledge.fao.org/server/api/core/bitstreams/99270c72-b784-42ff-a234-273928c2d142/content>

	3.2 Gaps in approaches to addressing global challenges that Codex could contribute to are identified through targeted engagement with relevant international organizations.	As this is a new outcome, the Codex Secretariat proposes to report against it through a narrative report with a view of developing a quantitative indicator in the future. Guidance from Members on how they envisage achievement of this outcome could inform the development of an appropriate indicator.	n/a	tbd
	3.3 The contribution of CAC to the transition towards sustainable and resilient food systems, is identified and considered.	As this is a new outcome, the Codex Secretariat proposes to report against it through a narrative report with a view of developing a quantitative indicator in the future. Guidance from Members on how they envisage achievement of this outcome could inform the development of an appropriate indicator.	n/a	tbd
	3.4 Contributions from relevant international organizations throughout the development of Codex texts are encouraged.	Contributions from relevant international organizations can be measured through the number of international organizations participating to CAC and its subsidiary bodies and their contribution to Codex work.	Indicator 3.4.1 Number of Observers that replied to CLs in the biennium.	ORS - an Observer will be counted if they replied to at least two CLs during the biennium
			Indicator 3.4.2 Number of Observers participating to CAC.	CAC report
4: Maximize the impact of Codex by increasing the visibility and use of standards	4.1 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.	The profile and recognition of Codex as the international food standards setting body for protecting consumer health and ensuring fair practices is measured through the Codex annual survey and was already used in past SP.	*Indicator 4.1.1 Extent that Codex Members recognize Codex texts as meeting Members' priority food safety and quality needs.	Annual survey on the use and impact of Codex texts

	4.2 The use of Codex texts in the context of integrative approaches such as One Health is promoted.	As this is a new outcome, the Codex Secretariat proposes to report against it through a narrative report with a view of developing a quantitative indicator in the future. Examples of aspects that could be noted include reference of Codex in the UNGA Resolution on AMR, KSA Ministerial declaration on AMR, FAO and/or WHO resolutions on AMR, quadripartite reports, etc.).	n/a	tbd
	4.3 Harmonization through the increased use of Codex texts in establishing national food control systems and regulations is advocated for.	Harmonization through the increased use of Codex texts in establishing national food control systems and regulations is measured through the Codex annual survey and was already used for the Codex Strategic Plan 2020-2025.	*Indicator 4.3.1 Degree that Codex texts are used by Members: i) to support the harmonization national food control systems; ii) help increase stakeholder awareness of food safety and quality issues and evidence-based interventions and recommendations; iii) to inform and to update food safety and quality training and educational programs and related tools; and iv) help improve member state commodity trade.	Annual survey on the use and impact of Codex texts