

CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



World Health
Organization

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Agenda item 2

CX/GP 25/34/2
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JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME

CODEX COMMITTEE ON GENERAL PRINCIPLES

Thirty-fourth Session

Lille, France

2-6 June 2025

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION AND ITS SUBSIDIARY BODIES

A. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION (CAC46 AND CAC47) AND ITS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (CCEXEC85, CCEXEC86, CCEXEC83 AND CCEXEC87)

Matters for information

Adoption of amendments to the *Codex Procedural Manual*¹

1. CAC46 (2023) approved:
 - i. the move of the first part of Section 6: Membership, entitled "Membership of the Codex Alimentarius Commission" from the *Codex Procedural Manual* to the Codex website with a link to the list being provided in the *Codex Procedural Manual*;
 - ii. the editorial changes to Section 2: Elaboration of Codex standards and related texts, Section 3: Guidelines for subsidiary bodies, and Section 7: Relations with other organizations of the *Codex Procedural Manual* as listed in Annex I of CX/CAC 23/46/2; and
 - iii. the amendment to formalize the submission of labelling provisions for non-retail containers to the Codex Committee on Food Labelling (CCFL) for endorsement.
2. CAC46 highlighted the importance of ensuring linguistic consistency in future editions of the *Codex Procedural Manual*.

Model for future Codex work²

3. CCEXEC86 (2024):
 - i. noted that as the format of meetings continues to evolve, the document CX/EXEC 24/86/3 (Model for future Codex work) should be retained as a reference document, and periodic updates on the evolution of working mechanisms and identification of any challenges that may require further consideration by CCEXEC, CAC or CCGP should be provided through a working document prepared by the Codex Secretariat;
 - ii. noted the importance of working groups in progressing the work of Codex between sessions, and recommended that the Codex Secretariat provide clarity on the use of virtual tools therein including a clear distinction between virtual working group meetings and webinars, which should then be consistently applied;
 - iii. encouraged more Members to take leadership roles in committee working groups to ensure their sustainability and inclusiveness, while recognizing the challenges these Members may face and, and further encouraged the Codex secretariat and experienced working group chairs to proactively seek engagement of other Members and provide guidance and support; and

¹ REP23/CAC, paragraphs 22-23

² REP24/EXEC1, paragraph 61

- iv. reminded Codex committees of the importance of good work management practices and prioritization of work to avoid the establishment of too many electronic working groups (EWGs), and the related burden on all concerned and ensure that agenda items can be adequately discussed ensuring adequate discussion within the available plenary session time.

Guidelines for new work proposal³

4. CCEXEC87 (2024) welcomed the Codex Secretariat's plans to develop practical guidelines for Members on the development of new work proposals and proposed that:
 - i. the guidelines should encourage development of group commodity standards; the drafting of commodity standards to facilitate future enlargement of their scope by adding similar products; and a review of standards that may have been developed by other organizations for commodities for which there was established international trade; and
 - ii. the Codex Secretariat engages with Members through the forthcoming FAO/WHO Coordinating Committees to build awareness of the development of these guidelines, and also the *Codex electronic working groups handbook*,⁴ and seek input on issues that Members would wish to see included in these guidelines.
5. CAC47 welcomed the publication of the *Codex electronic working groups handbook*⁴ and encouraged its use.

Application of the Statements of Principle Concerning the Role of Science in the Codex Decision-Making Process and the extent to which other factors are taken into account (SoP)⁵

6. CAC46 confirmed that the scope of developing the draft guidance excluded revision of the SoP in the *Codex Procedural Manual*; agreed on the need to gain more experience on application of the draft guidance; and agreed to revisit the draft guidance in the light of experience gained.

Codex Strategic Plan⁶

7. CAC47 adopted the Codex Strategic Plan 2026-2031 as contained in Appendix IX of REP24/CAC and noted that the Codex Secretariat would present a monitoring framework at CCEXEC88 (July 2025) 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 with the aim of submitting a final version to CAC48 for approval.

Monitoring the use and impact of Codex texts⁷

8. The Codex Secretariat at CAC47 recalled the work ongoing on building a mechanism to monitor the use and impact of Codex texts, including an annual survey, case studies and collaboration with WTO and thanked Members for their participation in the 2024 Codex survey.
9. The reports *Use and impact of Codex texts: Report of the Codex survey 2023*,⁸ and the *Use and implementation of Codex, IPPC and WOH standards: How do the three sisters monitor the impact of their work*⁹ have been published.

New food sources and production systems¹⁰

10. CAC46 noted that the current working mechanisms were adequate to address any new work on new food sources and production systems that Members might propose; and noted the range of issues expressed by Members and Observers and encouraged Members to submit discussion papers or new work proposals, either to active Codex committees or to the CCEXEC through the Codex Secretariat.

Matters for action

Review of the consistency and superseded content of the *Codex Procedural Manual*

11. CAC46 approved:¹¹
 - i. the review of the procedures in Section 3 of the *Codex Procedural Manual*, guidelines for subsidiary bodies, to be undertaken by host country secretariats; and

³ REP24/EXEC2, paragraph 82; REP24/CAC, paragraph 22(ii).

⁴ REP24/CAC, paragraph 22(ii); <https://openknowledge.fao.org/items/aee7614e-d630-4665-a98c-74adcc4d3040>

⁵ REP23/CAC, paragraph 194.

⁶ REP24/CAC, paragraph 216.

⁷ REP24/CAC, paragraph 209.

⁸ <https://openknowledge.fao.org/items/4cb22bb5-3495-42d7-92ed-eb21a144b92a>

⁹ <https://openknowledge.fao.org/items/d93faf09-2ecd-4ee5-89e7-d39412baaf7c>

¹⁰ REP23/CAC, paragraph 206.

¹¹ REP23/CAC, paragraph 115.

- ii. the issuance of a circular letter¹² soliciting proposals from Members on inconsistencies in language, and superseded content of the *Codex Procedural Manual*, apart from Section 3.
12. CAC47 requested that the Codex Secretariat to:¹³
- i. explore potential additional mechanisms to assure linguistic consistency in the 30th edition of the *Codex Procedural Manual*, scheduled to be issued in 2025;
 - ii. undertake follow-up as appropriate on the comments received regarding additional language inconsistencies, translation errors and superseded contents of the *Codex Procedural Manual*; and
 - iii. prepare a document based on the comments in response to CL 2024/27-GP on the possible superseded content for consideration by CCGP34 for its review and recommendations to CAC.

Application from an international non-governmental organization (INGO) for observer status in Codex¹⁴

13. CAC46 noted the confirmation of the existing procedures by the FAO and WHO legal offices, that a representative from an INGO could only represent its own organization in Codex Committees, including electronic working groups (EWGs), physical working groups (PWGs) and when sending comments via the Codex Online Commenting System (OCS) and other means.
14. CCEXEC86 noted the proposal reflected in paragraph 5 and Annex II of CX/EXEC 24/86/6 and recommended that CAC47 invite the CCGP to consider it at its next session, with input from the legal offices of FAO and WHO, as necessary.
15. CAC47 requested CCGP34 to consider the proposed amendment to part of Section 7 of the *Codex Procedural Manual* "Principles concerning the participation of international non-governmental organizations in the work of the Codex Alimentarius Commission".

Application of the provisions in the *Codex Procedural Manual* relating to committees working by correspondence¹⁵

16. Following the recommendation of CCEXEC87, CAC47 requested CCGP34 to review the application of the provisions in the *Codex Procedural Manual* relating to committees working by correspondence, informed by experiences to date; and to make recommendations for consideration by CCEXEC89 and CAC48.

New work proposals¹⁶

17. Following the recommendation of CCEXEC87, CAC47 requested CCGP34 to review how existing provisions of the *Codex Procedural Manual* might be used to promote more resource-efficient practices in the review of new work proposals, in particular those for which there might not be a relevant existing or active committee that might undertake their technical review; and make recommendations for consideration by CCEXEC89 and CAC48.

B. MATTERS ARISING FROM OTHER SUBSIDIARY BODIES

Matters for information

FAO/WHO Regional Coordinating Committee for Latin America and Caribbean (CCLAC)¹⁷

18. CCLAC23 (2024) highlighted and reiterated the need for accurate translation and timely publication of all Codex working documents into the different languages so that they were available in advance, in compliance with the time frame stipulated in the *Codex Procedural Manual*.
19. The Codex Secretariat noted that translation of "fair/equitable trade" in Spanish would be addressed in the 29th edition of the *Codex Procedural Manual* that would be published before CAC47.

RECOMMENDATIONS

20. CCGP34 is invited to note the matters for information.
21. CCGP34 is invited to discuss the matters for action referred to in paragraphs 11.i, 12.iii, 15, 17 and 16 under Agenda items 4.1, 4.2, 6, 7 and 8, respectively.

¹² CL 2024/27-GP.

¹³ REP24/CAC, paragraph 27.

¹⁴ REP23/CAC paragraph 116; REP24/EXEC1, paragraph 96(i and ii); REP24/CAC, paragraph 22(iv).

¹⁵ REP24/EXEC2, paragraph 76(ii); REP24/CAC, paragraph 22(iv).

¹⁶ REP24/EXEC2, paragraph 83(i and ii); REP24/CAC, paragraph 22(iv).

¹⁷ REP24/LAC, paragraph 40, Appendix II.