CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

World Health Organization

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Agenda item 1 **EXEC88/CRD01**

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JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION

Eighty-eighth Session

FAO headquarters, Rome, Italy

14 – 18 July 2025

UPDATE ON BUDGETARY AND FINANCIAL MATTERS

(Prepared by the Coordinator for Europe with the support of the Coordinators for Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean, and the Near East)

Background and Introduction

1. In support of recommendations proposed by CCEXEC87, CAC47 (November 2024)

   i. *noted the final Codex budgetary report for the 2022-2023 biennium, the budget proposal for the 2024-2025 biennium, and the additional budget requirements;*

   ii. *acknowledged the extra-budgetary contributions from Japan, Republic of Korea and Singapore to Codex;*

   iii. *noted the need for a continued commitment to financial transparency and better prioritization and redistribution of resources to support the delivery of the Codex work programme;*

   iv. *noted the need for additional and sustainable funding for Codex to address identified key areas of critical work;*

   v. *urged Members to advocate for additional funding at FAO Council and WHO Governing Bodies to address the non-recurring unfunded requirements through a special allocation of USD 2.1 million, and the recurrent funding requirements through a permanent increase of the Codex Secretariat budget of USD 2 million;*

   vi. *recommended to the Directors-General of FAO and WHO to jointly explore opportunities for more equitable funding for Codex, consistent with the joint nature of the Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme;*

   vii. *requested the Codex Secretariat to explore the extent to which interpretation and translation services might be provided more economically, using innovative tools and approaches; and*

   viii. *requested the Codex Secretariat to provide on an annual basis, at the CCEXEC session immediately preceding CAC, a cost-breakdown by activity.*[1]

2. For the running biennium 2024-2025, the Codex Secretariat reported that expenditures of the budgeted USD 8.9 million were progressing as planned and that all activities in the work plan were on track to be completed by the end of 2025.[2]

[1] REP24/CAC para.202.
[2] CX/CAC 24/47/19 Rev.1

3. No proposal was submitted at CAC47 regarding the Codex budget for the biennium 2026-2027, which is typically presented under Rule XIII of the Statutes of the Codex Alimentarius Commission.

4. Regarding scientific support to Codex, FAO and WHO reported a combined budget of approximately USD 12.1 million USD for 2024-2025 (USD 5.7 million from FAO and USD 6.3 million from WHO). It was noted that FAO's scientific support to Codex was largely based on assessed contributions (USD 4.9 million or 86%), while WHO relies more heavily on voluntary contributions.[3]

Recent developments

5. FAO and WHO have both proposed regular budgets for the biennium 2026-2027.

6. WHO does not make any references to the resources reserved for the Codex Alimentarius Commission or scientific support to Codex in its proposed Programme Budget 2026-2027[4]. However, based on available documentation for the World Health Assembly (May 2025), a significant reduction in the overall budget, including for food safety and related areas, can be anticipated.[5]

7. FAO's Programme of Work and Budget 2026-2027 (PWB) indicates that for the Codex Alimentarius Commission resources from the regular budget are protected from any reduction and are foreseen to remain at the current funding level (USD 7.1 million). Moreover, FAO foresees an increase of 0.5 million USD in regular budget support to the *Joint FAO/WHO food safety scientific advice programme* (USD 3.1. million from USD 2.6 million).[6]

8. The 77th FAO Council (April 2025) supported that Management would prepare a detailed overview and assessment of Codex funding in consultation with WHO, including risks and opportunities, for consideration at the next Session of the Joint Meeting of the Programme Committee and the Finance Committee (3-7 November 2025).[7] The 44th FAO Conference (28 June- 4 July 2025) is expected to endorse the recommendation of the FAO Council and agree the proposed PWB.

Discussion

9. Codex operates under a dual structure supported by both FAO and WHO, which requires close coordination and stable funding from both organizations to ensure consistency in programme delivery, especially in scientific advice and core secretariat functions. While ongoing discussions indicate that FAO will maintain its contribution to the Codex budget and increase support to scientific advice, WHO's recent budgetary reductions have an impact on scientific advice and may further constrain CAC's ability to deliver its mandate effectively[8].

10. While the Codex Secretariat has taken commendable steps in identifying key areas under the current Strategic Plan that currently lack resources, further transparency is needed to understand how budgetary decisions translate into operational capacity and whether they align with Member needs. The absence of a formal budget proposal for 2026–2027 from the Codex Secretariat at CAC47 also underlines the urgency of clarifying funding sources and levels for the upcoming biennium.

11. As Members committed to safeguarding Codex's global function and integrity, we consider it imperative to ensure early engagement in budget planning processes at both FAO and WHO and to strengthen mechanisms for Member State oversight and input.

Recommendation

12. In line with the recommendation of CAC47 to remain committed to financial transparency and better prioritization and redistribution of resources to support the delivery of the Codex work programme, we recommend adding an update on budgetary and financial matters, on an exceptional basis, to the agenda of CCEXEC88 for discussion and strategic guidance.

13. To support the discussion, we suggest that the Codex Secretariat provide an update on budgetary and financial developments that may impact the delivery of the 2024–2025 work plan and the planning of core activities for 2026–2027; and that FAO and WHO provide an update on financial allocations to Codex and related scientific advice for 2024–2025, and their anticipated commitments for the biennium 2026–2027.

[3] CAC47/Inf2
[4] EB156/27
[5] Document A78/6
[6] FAO Medium Term Plan 2026-29 and Programme of Work and Budget 2026-27 (C 2025/3)
[7] CL 177/REP, 9a and CL 177/8, 7g
[8] See CX/FA 25/55/3, para. 24