

CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
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World Health
Organization

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SUMMARY REPORT OF 3RD MEETING OF THE CODEX TRUST FUND ADVISORY GROUP

The third meeting of the FAO/WHO Codex Trust Fund Advisory Group (AG)¹ was held at the Headquarters of WHO on 13 July 2017. The agenda for the third meeting is attached in Annex 1. The list of participants at the third meeting is attached in Annex 2.

In Session 1, updates were given to AG members on activities of the Codex Trust Fund between October 2016 and June 2017. Activities related to helping countries prepare robust applications, supporting the countries selected in the first round to move from applications to implementation, communications on the new Codex Trust Fund and, learning from the first year of operations were highlighted. Activities had also taken place around developing the new Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) framework and fundraising which were highlighted under the relevant agenda items.

Session 2 focused on the funding situation of the Codex Trust Fund and decisions made by the Steering Committee on operational planning for the period 2017-2018. Advisory Group members were informed that, in light of the funding situation at the beginning of 2017, the Steering Committee had made budgetary and operational planning decisions to: 1) reduce costs; 2) delay the recruitment of technical staff for the CTF Secretariat; 3) maintain the opening of a second application round in 2017. Since decisions on the outcomes of the new application round will not be completed until early 2018, expenditures for the second round of country projects will not be incurred until the second or third quarter of 2018 which allows time for additional funding flows to come into the Trust Fund. In light of this, AG members were informed that a budget of the US\$ 840,620 had been approved for 2017. This allows the Codex Trust Fund to continue to function and to support countries while waiting for the funding situation to improve.

Advisory Group members were presented with a draft liquidity forecast to 2021 presented in graphic form (see Annex 3). This allowed members to see clearly the different elements constituting the funding of the Codex Trust Fund: 1) commitments (based on signed agreements or tranches of multi-year funding) from all donors excluding the new funding from the Netherlands; 2) yearly commitments from the Netherlands under the new contribution agreement; 3) contributions that must be found each year to meet the conditions of the Netherlands contribution agreement; 4) additional contributions that must be found each year to meet the original target of raising \$3,350,000 per year as per the founding project document. It was also highlighted that, ideally, and under the current framework, the Codex Trust Fund can best run with contributions of \$100,000 or above per donor per annum to reduce transaction costs.

After careful consideration, the Steering Committee had decided to go ahead with opening a new application round in 2017 as it was felt that this was both possible in the current funding situation, and necessary to meet

¹ The Advisory Group was established as part of the governance structure of the new Codex Trust Fund (CTF2). The Advisory Group operates at a strategic level to ensure that the views of key stakeholders can be taken into consideration in the operations of CTF2 and has the following terms of reference:

- 1) Provide strategic advice on focus and implementation of CTF2;
- 2) Provide advice on the procedures and working methods of CTF2;
- 3) Share information on other relevant activities and evolving needs of Codex.

The Advisory Group consists of the Chairperson and Vice-Chairpersons of the Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC), delegates representing Regional Coordinators at a CCEXEC session, and one representative from up to three CTF donor countries chosen by lottery. The Chairperson of the CAC acts as ex-officio Chairperson of the Advisory Group.

the expectations of potential recipient countries as well as donor countries. However, it was acknowledged that, under the current liquidity forecast, it would not be possible to support an additional 12 countries in the new round as originally planned in the founding project document. The Steering Committee had budgeted for support to an additional eight applications. The second round of applications will be officially announced at the opening ceremony of the 40th session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission. The application period will remain open until 15 October to allow sufficient time for countries to prepare and submit an application.

Building on previous dialogue in the AG, FAO and WHO invited all comments and input on other funding options, possible initiatives at regional level etc. One member highlighted that the CTF2 model is different from CTF1 which was very broad and many benefited. But CTF2 invests in individuals and the investment was lost when the individuals changed. CTF2 costs more but it goes deeper into the structures of individual countries and there is a better chance that the investment will be more sustainable over time.

Other inputs from AG members included:

- Importance of making Codex visible to assist in making the case for contributing to CTF;
- Present the advantages of the multilateral nature, other advantages and special value of CTF as important arguments to increase the amounts of money flowing to CTF;
- Importance of balancing the message to countries about the need to have robust applications with the ability of CTF to fund projects;
- Looking at ways to provide support to and supplement implementation efforts in countries through in-kind contributions such as twinning/mentoring/partnering as well as continuing to provide essential financial support. The suggestion was made to see if it would be possible to collectively organize this kind of implementation support so that common needs among project countries might be dealt with at the same time and, in this way, realize economies of scale in implementation support;
- Looking at ways in which countries can help each other e.g. within group applications where opportunities exist for countries to be a mentor of other countries. This allows countries to learn from others while they grow;
- Seeing how CTF could be a marketplace of experience and know-how and identifying innovative ways of organizing this e.g. using social media, other internet platforms etc.;
- Looking at potential interest in and availability of funding from non-state actors whilst being conscious of issues around conflict of interest;
- Examining how regional coordinators and others might assist in reaching out to and helping fundraise with non-state actors in their regions;
- Exploring the possibility of using other fundraising mechanisms such as accepting individual donations by internet or "cloud" funding; .

WHO highlighted three possible reasons for current lack of funding: 1) the time lag for donors in doing the paperwork and mobilizing funds for the new CTF, even where the name of the Fund has remained the same from CTF1; 2) insufficient communication and advocacy ensuring that the potential donors understand and telling a convincing story about why they should support CTF2; 3) competition for resources with other actors who are delivering similar products bilaterally rather than putting their trust into the multilateral framework of the Codex Trust Fund.

FAO underscored that the implementation of ongoing CTF country projects is in itself the biggest advertisement of CTF and delivering is part of the solution to making the Codex Trust Fund attractive to donors. It is also true that many countries are investing in Codex capacity-building, but not giving funds to CTF. It is important to understand why people do not think that CTF2 multiplies impact and why CTF2 is not seen as the avenue of choice for investing in Codex capacity development. It is also important to identify how CTF can create synergies with other initiatives.

Getting the answers to these and other questions was one of the drivers that lead the Steering Committee to agree to contract a consultancy firm specializing in helping organizations in fundraising which will be working over the next 8 weeks and providing their report in mid-September. On the subject of in-kind contributions, FAO indicated that the in-kind partner(s) would need to sit down with the project team at the very beginning when the project is being designed, rather than retro-fit the in-kind needs after a project has started.

In Session 3, FAO/WHO presented the draft logframe that had been developed for use as the basis for an M&E framework. The CTF Secretariat had begun work on the logframe in the first quarter of 2016 and the logframe now being considered had been revised to include valuable learning from the first year of operation and the first round of applications. Advisory Group members were reminded of the results framework as it

appears in the founding project document (Annex 4) and high level comments were invited on the draft logframe (Annex 5). A set of key questions to guide the input of Advisory Group members was as follows:

- Are we going in the right direction with the programme?
- Are these indicators capturing the important aspects we should be looking at?
- Do they constitute measures of success?
- What do stakeholders want to see in terms of measurable/reportable measures of success?

One comment made at the meeting was that it would help in terms of what we measure to concentrate on the deliverables we achieve in concrete terms. This will assist the results framework in telling the story in a convincing way.

Advisory Group members were invited to consider the logframe more carefully and provide their feedback and input in writing to the Codex Trust Fund Secretariat.

Session 4 was an agenda item carried over to this meeting from the last meeting, and on which AG members had been invited to seek inputs from their region. It was suggested that a mapping of what is being done in Codex capacity-building, by whom and how they are doing it should be done to obtain a big picture. An e-mail will be sent out by the CTF Secretariat to AG members, namely to Regional Coordinators, to seek information for such mapping. The mapping finding could then be used by CTF to get in touch with different initiatives to offer support and/or link up to increase synergies. The result is seen as being greater effectiveness and efficiency for all parties. The results could be discussed at the next meeting of the Advisory Group.

The next meeting of the Advisory Group will take place in conjunction with the 74th Session of CCEXEC in Rome in September 2017. Likely dates are 27 or 28 September. The date will be confirmed to members of the Advisory Group and an invitation and agenda will be sent out.