

CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



World Health
Organization

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Agenda Item 11

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CODEX STRATEGIC PLAN 2026-2031 (CX/CAC 24/47/21)

(Comments of Bangladesh, Benin, El Salvador, Thailand, United Republic of Tanzania, Saudi Arabia, East African Community (EAC))

Bangladesh

Document: CX/CAC 24/47/21

Bangladesh appreciates the progress achieved by CCEXEC and members of the commission to reach the current version of the Strategic Plan. Bangladesh also noted the updated proposed wording resulting from the CCEXEC workshop held in November 2024. Bangladesh supported the 4 agreed-upon strategic goals and the associated activities.

Bangladesh recommends the development of a clear logical framework to support the tracking of progress in the implementation of this plan, along with the relevant outputs and indicators

Benin

Contexte :

Les travaux sur le Plan stratégique du Codex (2026-2031) ont débuté lors de la 84e session du Comité exécutif du Codex (2023). Les points de vue des Membres et des observateurs ont été sollicités sur les aspects généraux du Plan stratégique par le biais d'une lettre circulaire (CL 2023/65-EXEC). Les points de vue ont été examinés par la 85e session du Comité exécutif du Codex, puis la première partie du Plan stratégique a été rédigée, à savoir la Vision, la Mission, les Valeurs fondamentales, un exposé des facteurs de changement, le rôle du Codex et une description de haut niveau des mécanismes de travail du Codex. La 85e session du Comité exécutif du Codex a également convenu des questions sur lesquelles les Membres et les observateurs devraient s'engager dans l'élaboration des objectifs et des résultats du Plan stratégique du Codex 2026-2031 et la 46e session du Comité exécutif du Codex a exprimé sa satisfaction quant aux progrès réalisés dans l'élaboration du prochain Plan stratégique 2026- 2031.

Depuis la CAC46, des progrès supplémentaires ont été enregistrés dans l'élaboration du Plan stratégique du Codex 2026-2031, notamment :

a) Consultation des membres et observateurs du Codex par lettre circulaire (CL 2024/10-EXEC) en janvier 2024 pour recueillir des commentaires sur la partie I du Plan stratégique 2026-2031 et pour solliciter un retour d'information qui permettrait d'engager des discussions sur les objectifs et les résultats ;

b) Les délibérations du CCEXEC86 (2024) ont examiné les résultats des consultations informelles ainsi que les réponses à la CL 2024/10-EXEC9 et ont discuté de la partie I du projet de Plan stratégique du Codex. Notant la diversité des points de vue, le rôle de la partie I dans l'établissement du cadre des objectifs stratégiques et la nécessité pour ce cadre d'être également informé par l'orientation stratégique du Codex, le CCEXEC86 a convenu de suspendre la discussion sur la partie I et de se concentrer sur la discussion des objectifs et des résultats stratégiques, c'est-à-dire la partie II du Plan stratégique du Codex 2026-2031. Des points de vue divergents ont également été enregistrés parmi les membres du CCEXEC86 concernant les éléments généraux qui devraient être inclus dans la partie II du Plan stratégique du Codex 2026-2031. Cependant, une convergence a été obtenue sur les domaines suivants :

- (i) Réactivité aux besoins des Membres et excellence des travaux du Codex ;
- (ii) Collaboration avec d'autres organisations internationales ;
- (iii) Connaissance et reconnaissance des normes du Codex ; et

(iv) Amélioration des systèmes de gestion des travaux du Codex.

Par la suite, le CCEXEC86 a convenu de trois objectifs stratégiques et d'un objectif fonctionnel, proposant ainsi une approche plus rationalisée par rapport au Plan stratégique du Codex (2020-2025). Le CCEXEC86 a convenu des domaines clés des résultats attendus pour chaque objectif et les a développés plus avant par correspondance dans les deux mois qui ont suivi le CCEXEC86.

c) La CL 2024/82-CAC a été publiée en octobre 2024, demandant aux membres et aux observateurs du Codex de formuler des commentaires sur le projet d'objectifs stratégiques et de résultats du Plan stratégique du Codex 2026-2031.

Le Plan stratégique du Codex 2026-2031 sera examiné lors d'un atelier d'une journée avec les membres du CCEXEC et leurs conseillers le 17/11/2024, juste avant le CCEXEC87. Informé par l'atelier, le CCEXEC87 examinera les réponses à la CL 2024/82-CAC et examinera plus en détail toutes les parties du projet de SP Codex 2026-2031, dans le but de convenir d'un projet final complet qui sera ensuite soumis à l'examen du CAC47.

Le CAC47 est invité à :

i) prendre note des travaux entrepris à ce jour sur l'élaboration du Plan stratégique du Codex 2026-2031, y compris les possibilités d'apporter des contributions de manière formelle et informelle ;

ii) examiner les recommandations du CCEXEC87 et déterminer si le projet de Plan stratégique du Codex 2026-2031 peut être adopté ou nécessite des travaux supplémentaires ; et

iii) convenir des prochaines étapes afin de garantir que le Plan stratégique du Codex 2026-2031, son cadre de suivi et d'évaluation et la planification de la mise en œuvre soient tous achevés d'ici 2025.

Position :

La République du Bénin a prévu participer activement aux discussions sur le Plan stratégique du Codex 2026-2031 à la CAC47.

El Salvador

Se toma nota de la labor realizada hasta la fecha en la elaboración del Plan estratégico del Codex para 2026-2031, y los aportes al mismo.

Se apoya los objetivos propuestos en Plan estratégicos del Codex para 2026-2031, se entiende que esté documento ha sido trabajado en CCEXEC en la 87 reunión por lo que se estaría apoyando mejoras a la redacción que puedan suscitarse tomando de base los textos que se mencionan en el documento del tema 11.

Thailand

In principle, Thailand supports the Strategic and Functional Goals for the Codex Strategic Plan 2026-2031. We have the following comments:

Footnote 2 in the Chapeau

- We would like to propose deleting footnote2 in the Chapeau and replacing it with five purposes of Codex stated in the Article 1 of Codex Procedural Manual.

Strategic Goals

- We agree with the core mandates of protecting the health of consumers and ensuring fair practices in the food trade in an evolving global environment. We think that Codex should clarify the scopes of evolving global environment and promoting an integrated approach to ensure that the focus is on the above-mentioned mandates. In our view, at present, Codex can address specific issue within its scope of work, such as recycled food packaging, sustainability labelling and claims, future food, new food production which are related to both environmental issues and food safety concerns.

- We support strengthening cooperation between Codex and other relevant international organizations to avoid duplication of standards developed in the same area and to ensure that Codex Standards and related texts still focus on the above-mentioned mandates. In addition, we are of the view that Codex can promote an integrated approach to address global challenges through establishing food safety standards.

- We noticed that the words "CAC" and "Codex" are used interchangeably in this document. Therefore, we propose considering the appropriate use of both words by taking into account overall or specific work process to ensure a unified understanding.

- We strongly support the effort to increase the visibility and use of Codex standards. We believe that this strategic goal is very crucial to reveal the importance of Codex's roles and its standards. Nevertheless, the

text under this goal is not clear enough to ensure that Codex can achieve the goal. Thus, it should be revised for clarity. For example, more specific and tangible details are needed in bullet 3, which mentions harmonization. Additionally, there should be clear activities to evaluate how well members are adopting or adapting Codex standards. It should be noted that the use of Codex standards is diverse. These may include the use of Codex standard as national regulation or standard, use as reference in practical applications, use for certification, or promotion.

Functional Goal

- We are of the view that Codex should regularly enhance its work management system. With this Functional Goal, we recommend considering pragmatic work mechanisms to support the overall Strategic Goals, especially to increase the visibility and use of Codex standards. We believe that the concrete mechanisms will help strengthen Codex work systems.

United Republic of Tanzania

Tanzania Position

Tanzania supports adoption of the Codex Strategic Plan following consideration of the comments and inputs from members.

Saudi Arabia

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia commends the Codex Alimentarius Commission for its commitment to safeguarding global food safety and consumer protection and welcomes the opportunity to contribute to the development of the Codex Strategic Plan 2026–2031, ensuring it addresses emerging challenges and strengthens international collaboration.

In reviewing the proposed strategic goals, we believe that the inclusion of well-defined Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) is crucial for measuring progress and ensuring accountability. KPIs should not only track the implementation of science-based standards but also measure the impact on public health, capacity building, adaptability to emerging trends, and public awareness. Additionally, we suggest establishing mechanisms to monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of these goals regularly. Periodic evaluations, along with reports presented during CAC meetings, would enhance transparency, allow for real-time adjustments, and help regions align their internal strategies with the broader Codex objectives .

Following this, Saudi Arabia will offer detailed comments and propose specific KPIs for each of the strategic goals, presented individually below:

1. Saudi Arabia fully supports the first strategic goal of "Responding 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." However, we believe that to ensure the effectiveness and accountability of this goal, it is essential to introduce measurable Key Performance Indicators (KPIs). Therefore, we suggest the inclusion of the following KPI:
 - Number of new or updated Codex standards directly addressing emerging food safety risks, KPI Equation (measured annually):

$$\text{Percentage of Standards Addressing Emerging Risks} = \left(\frac{\text{Number of new or updated Codex standards addressing emerging food safety risks}}{\text{Total number of Codex standards developed or updated during the period}} \right) \times 100$$
2. Saudi Arabia fully supports the second strategic goal of "Strengthening relationships with relevant international organizations, promoting an integrated approach to address global challenges." However, we believe that to ensure the effectiveness and accountability of this goal, it is crucial to introduce measurable Key Performance Indicators (KPIs). Therefore, we suggest the inclusion of the following KPIs:
 - Number of collaborative initiatives with international organizations, KPI Equation (measured annually):

$$\text{Percentage of Collaborative Initiatives} = \left(\frac{\text{Number of new collaborative initiatives}}{\text{Total number of relevant international organizations}} \right) \times 100$$
 - Percentage of Codex standards developed or revised with input from international organizations, KPI Equation (measured annually):

$$\text{Percentage of Standards with International Input} = \left(\frac{\text{Number of standards developed or revised with input from international organizations}}{\text{Total number of Codex standards developed or revised}} \right) \times 100$$

3. Saudi Arabia fully supports the third strategic goal of "Maximizing the impact of Codex by increasing the visibility and use of standards." However, we believe that to ensure the effectiveness and accountability of this goal, it is essential to introduce measurable Key Performance Indicators (KPIs). Therefore, we suggest the inclusion of the following KPIs:

- The Codex annual "Survey on the Use and Impact of Codex texts" could serve as a valuable KPI tool to track the effectiveness, adoption, and global impact of Codex standards, providing measurable insights into their usage and relevance across Member States.
- Number of capacity-building initiatives supporting the implementation of Codex standards. This KPI tracks the number of training programs, workshops, or technical assistance initiatives aimed at helping countries implement Codex standards. A higher number indicates a stronger effort to increase the use of standards globally.
- Percentage of Codex standards referenced in international trade agreements, KPI Equation (measured annually):

Percentage of Codex Standards Referenced in Trade Agreements = (Number of Codex standards referenced in trade agreements / Total number of Codex standards) × 100

4. Saudi Arabia fully supports the refined functional goal: " Enhance work management systems and practices that support the efficient and effective achievement of all strategic plan goals, ensuring global representation and participation." We recommend introducing measurable KPIs to track continuous improvement of management practices in support of Codex's strategic goals. Therefore, we suggest the inclusion of the following KPIs:

- Average time taken to develop or revise a Codex standard, KPI Equation (measured annually):
Average Time Duration = $[\sum (\text{Completion Date} - \text{Start Date})] / n$
Completion Date = date when the standard is finalized
Start Date = date when work on the standard began
n = total number of standards being measured
- Percentage of Member States participating in Codex meetings, KPI Equation (measured annually):

Percentage of Member State Participation = (Number of participating Member States / Total number of Codex Member States) × 100

The Kingdom reaffirms its commitment to supporting the implementation of the Codex Strategic Plan 2026–2031, aligning efforts to promote food safety, sustainability, and innovation for the benefit of all member states and future generations.

East African Community (EAC)

EAC supports adoption of the Codex Strategic Plan following consideration of the comments and inputs from members.