

CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



World Health
Organization

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Agenda Item 4

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ORIGINAL LANGUAGE ONLY

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

Eighty-seventh Session
Geneva, Switzerland, CIG
18 – 22 November 2024

CODEX STRATEGIC PLAN 2026-2031 – WORKSHOP RESULTS

A workshop was held in Geneva on Sunday 17 November 2024, open to all Members of the Executive Committee of the Codex Alimentarius Commission (CCEXEC), and the advisors of the Members elected on a geographical basis and chaired by the Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC) Chairperson, to discuss progress on the development of the Codex Strategic Plan 2026-2031.

Discussions were informed by responses received to a Circular Letter (CL) 2024/82-CAC which had proposed strategic goals and outcome statements for inclusion in the Codex Strategic Plan 2026-2031. CCEXEC Members agreed on the ambition to provide CAC47 with a complete Strategic Plan. They further proposed and discussed revisions that might be made to the strategic goals and outcomes. The workshop viewed completion of the review and revision, as appropriate, of the goals and outcomes as very important and agreed to continue these discussions in a further informal discussion chaired by CAC Vice-Chairperson Allan Azegele during the lunch break of CCEXEC87 on 18 and 19 November 2024. The consolidated output from this process of review and revision is presented in Annex I, including the changes agreed by CCEXEC. For ease of reference, a clean version is also included.

The discussions at the workshop also provided an opportunity for Members of CCEXEC and their advisors to exchange general perspectives on the drafting of the Codex Strategic Plan 2026-2031 and to have initial orientation discussions relating to the recommendations that CCEXEC87 might make to CAC47 in relation to that Strategic Plan.

DRAFT STRATEGIC GOALS AND OUTCOME STATEMENTS FOR THE CODEX STRATEGIC PLAN 2026-2031, AS PROPOSED BY CCEXEC – WITH REVISIONS

Chapeau

The Codex Alimentarius Commission commits itself to work towards achievement of the following Strategic and Functional Goals within the Codex purpose¹:

Strategic Goals

Strategic Goal 1: Respond to Members' needs for protecting the health of consumers and ensuring fair practices in the food trade in an evolving global environment landscape by developing science-based standards and related texts

- Foresight and horizon-scanning activities are used to support the identification of Members' needs and emerging issues likely to impact food safety, quality and trade in an evolving global environment.
- Scientific advice that addresses the needs identified by CAC and subsidiary bodies is primarily provided by FAO and WHO and their joint FAO/WHO scientific expert advisory bodies, informed by globally representative data and appropriate international expertise and methodology.
- Scientific advice is used by CAC and subsidiary bodies in line with Codex risk analysis principles.
- Codex standards and related texts are developed, reviewed and adopted in a timely, transparent and inclusive manner.

Strategic Goal 3: Strengthen relationships with relevant international organizations, promoting an integrated-coordinated approach to address global challenges

- 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.
- Gaps in approaches to addressing global challenges that Codex could contribute to are identified through targeted engagement with relevant international organizations.
- The contribution of CAC to the transition towards sustainable and resilient food systems, is identified and considered, and the development of relevant Codex texts undertaken accordingly.
- Contributions from relevant international organizations are encouraged throughout the development of Codex standardstexts; are encouraged.
- The use of Codex texts in the context of integrative approaches such as One Health is promoted.

Strategic Goal 4: Maximize the impact of Codex by increasing the visibility and use of standards

- 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 use of Codex- texts in the context of integrative approaches such as One Health is promoted.
- Contributions from relevant international organizations are encouraged throughout the development of Codex standards.
- Harmonization through the increased use of Codex -texts in establishing national food control systems, standards and regulations is advocated for.
- Codex Members and Observers are enabled to participate actively and sustainably throughout the standard-setting process.

Functional goal

Strategic Goal 2: Enhance Codex work management systems and practices that support the efficient and effective and efficient achievement of all strategic plan goals development of standards and related texts

- Effective and efficient Codex work management systems and practices are refined and enhanced, exploiting leveraging digital and other new technologies to enable this.

¹ Article 1, Statutes of the Codex Alimentarius Commission, Codex Procedural Manual

- Mechanisms to prioritize proposals to develop new or revise existing standards and related texts CAC for development of new Codex texts are in place, prioritized in relation to their impact on protecting consumer health and ensuring fair practices in food trade.
- Chairpersons, coordinators, host secretariats, Codex Contact Points and delegates are supported in their respective roles and their capabilities are developed and enhanced.
- Codex Members and Observers are enabled to participate actively and sustainably throughout the standard-setting process

DRAFT STRATEGIC GOALS AND OUTCOME STATEMENTS FOR THE CODEX STRATEGIC PLAN 2026-2031, AS PROPOSED BY CCEXEC – CLEAN

Chapeau

The Codex Alimentarius Commission commits itself to work towards achievement of the following Strategic and Functional Goals within the Codex purpose²:

Strategic Goal 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

- Foresight and horizon-scanning activities are used to support the identification of issues likely to impact food safety, quality and trade.
- 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.
- Scientific advice is used by CAC and subsidiary bodies in line with Codex risk analysis principles.
- Codex standards and related texts are developed, reviewed and adopted in a timely, transparent and inclusive manner.

Strategic Goal 2: Enhance Codex work management systems and practices that support the effective and efficient development of standards and related texts

- Work management systems and practices are refined and enhanced, leveraging digital and other new technologies.
- Mechanisms to prioritize proposals to develop new or revise existing standards and related texts are in place.
- Chairpersons, coordinators, host secretariats, Codex Contact Points and delegates are supported in their respective roles and their capabilities are developed and enhanced.
- Codex Members are enabled to participate actively and sustainably throughout the standard-setting process.

Strategic Goal 3: Strengthen relationships with relevant international organizations, promoting a coordinated approach to address global challenges

- 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.
- Gaps in approaches to addressing global challenges that Codex could contribute to are identified through targeted engagement with relevant international organizations.
- The contribution of CAC to the transition towards sustainable and resilient food systems, is identified and considered.
- Contributions from relevant international organizations throughout the development of Codex texts are encouraged.

Strategic Goal 4: Maximize the impact of Codex by increasing the visibility and use of standards

- 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.

² Article 1, Statutes of the Codex Alimentarius Commission, Codex Procedural Manual

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- The use of Codex texts in the context of integrative approaches such as One Health is promoted.
 - Harmonization through the increased use of Codex texts in establishing national food control systems and regulations is advocated for.