

CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



World Health
Organization

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CL 2024/82 CAC
October 2024

TO: Codex Contact Points
Contact Points of international organizations having observer status with Codex

FROM: Secretariat, Codex Alimentarius Commission,
Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme

SUBJECT: **Request for comments on a proposal on the draft goals and outcome statements for the Codex Strategic Plan 2026-2031**

DEADLINE: **4 November 2024**

BACKGROUND

1. The functions of the Executive Committee of the Codex Alimentarius Commission (CCEXEC), specified in the Procedural Manual, include making proposals to the Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC) on strategic planning. Accordingly, CCEXEC agreed at CCEXEC84 in July 2023 to start work on the Codex Strategic Plan for 2026-2031 and to engage Members and Observers throughout the process. In November 2024, CAC46¹ appreciated the process to develop the Codex Strategic Plan 2026-2031 thus far and looked forward to the consultations foreseen on goals and outcomes' formulation.

2. The views of Members and Observers on elements of the draft Codex Strategic Plan 2026-2031 have been thought through two Circular Letters to date; CL 2023/65-EXEC (August 2023) which focussed on overarching aspects related to the development of the draft Strategic Plan 2026-2031 and CL 2024/10-EXEC (January 2024) which sought input on the first part of the Strategic Plan (vision; mission; core values; drivers for change; the role of Codex; and ways of working). This process of engagement has been supplemented by informal regional consultation meetings facilitated by the Regional Coordinators and by the CAC Chairperson and Vice-Chairpersons. Further details on the strategic plan development process to date are available in CX/CAC 24/47/21.

3. This is the third Circular Letter seeking the views of Members and Observers on the draft Strategic Plan 2026-2031. Comments received will be published as an addendum to CX/CAC 24/47/21 for CAC47 and will be considered by CCEXEC87 during its discussions on the Codex Strategic Plan 2026-2031 and the preparation of its proposal and recommendations for consideration by CAC47.

REQUEST FOR COMMENTS

1. Codex Members and Observers are invited to provide comments on the draft strategic goals and outcome statements presented on CX/CAC 24/47/21 as well as Annex I for ease of reference.

2. In providing comments Members and Observers are invited to note that CCEXEC86 agreed to propose three strategic goals and one functional goal, thereby having a more streamlined approach compared to the current strategic plan, but which still, in their view, reflected the needs of Codex

GUIDANCE ON THE PROVISION OF COMMENTS

3. Comments should be submitted through the Codex Contact Points of Codex Members and Observers using the OCS.

4. Contact Points of Codex Members and Observers may login to the OCS and access the document open for comments by selecting "Enter" in the "My reviews" page, available after login to the system.

5. Contact Points of Codex Members and Observer organizations are requested to provide general comments at the document level. Additional guidance on the OCS comment categories and types can be found in the OCS [Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQs\)](#).

¹ REP23/CAC, paragraph 9

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6. Other OCS resources, including the user manual and short guide, can be found at the following link: <http://www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/resources/circular-letters/en/>.
 7. For questions on the OCS, please contact Codex-OCS@fao.org.

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

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

Strategic Goals**Respond 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**

- Foresight and horizon-scanning activities are used to support the identification of Members' needs and emerging issues in an evolving global environment.
- Scientific advice that addresses the needs identified by CAC and subsidiary bodies is provided by FAO and WHO and the joint FAO/WHO scientific expert advisory bodies, informed by globally representative data and appropriate international expertise.
- 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 manner.

Strengthen relationships with relevant international organizations, promoting an integrated 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 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 the development of relevant Codex texts undertaken accordingly.
- The use of Codex texts in the context of integrative approaches such as One Health is promoted.

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.
- 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**Enhance work management systems and practices that support the efficient and effective achievement of all strategic plan goals**

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

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- Effective and efficient Codex work management practices are refined and enhanced, exploiting digital and other new technologies to enable this.
 - Proposals to CAC for development of new Codex texts are prioritized in relation to their impact on protecting consumer health and ensuring fair practices in food trade.
 - Chairpersons and delegates are supported in their respective roles and their capabilities are developed.