

CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



World Health
Organization

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Dear Members and Observers of the Codex Alimentarius Commission,

Our minds are now turning to the development of the Codex Strategic Plan for 2026-2031. We have agreed with the Codex Secretariat that we should aim to put a final draft plan to CAC47, scheduled for November 2024, for adoption. This would allow the next cycle of Regional Coordinating Committee meetings to develop regional workplans for the implementation of the new Strategic Plan and for these to be in place before the Strategic Plan comes into play at the start of 2026.

Time is therefore short. We will work with the Codex Secretariat on a timetable for the development of the Codex Strategic Plan for 2026-2031. In doing so, we will build on the approach used to develop the current Codex Strategic Plan, which CAC welcomed as a model for ensuring transparency and inclusiveness.

We also want this to be a process that is open, not only to Codex Members and Observers, but also to other stakeholders across the multilateral system for trade, food and agriculture and across the food system more broadly. We are therefore writing, as Chairperson and Vice-Chairpersons of CAC, to a small handful of senior stakeholders outside of the Codex family asking them to share their thoughts on:

- How should the multilateral system for trade and standards respond to the challenge from the 2021 UN Food Systems Summit to “transform the way the world produces, consumes and thinks about food”?
- What role might Codex play, as the multilateral standard setting body for food safety and fair practices in trade?
- If you were to create afresh the multilateral system for standards to protect human, animal and plant health, what would be the key organising principles?
- If Codex were to commit to delivering one thing in the period to 2031, what should that one thing be?
- Much has changed in 60 years since Codex was established, so we wonder, is it time we rethink Codex?

We hope that this will provide valuable external perspectives to share with you, that we might reflect on as we discuss our strategic priorities into the next decade.

Yours sincerely,

Steve Wearne
Chairperson
Codex Alimentarius
Commission

Allan Azegele
Vice-Chairperson
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Raj Rajasekar
Vice-Chairperson
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