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FOOD AND AGRICULTURE
ORGANIZATION
OF THE UNITED NATIONS

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WORLD
HEALTH
ORGANIZATION



Codex Alimentarius Commission Strategic Plan 2008–2013



World Health
Organization



Food and Agriculture
Organization of
the United Nations

Codex Alimentarius Commission

Strategic Plan 2008–2013

WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

Rome, 2007

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Codex Alimentarius Commission

Strategic Plan 2008–2013

The **Codex Alimentarius Commission** is an intergovernmental body with over 170 members, within the framework of the Joint Food Standards Programme established by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the World Health Organization (WHO), with the purpose of protecting the health of consumers and ensuring fair practices in the food trade.

The **Codex Alimentarius** (Latin, meaning Food Law or Code) is the result of the Commission's work: a collection of internationally adopted food standards, guidelines, codes of practice and other recommendations.

This document sets out the **Strategic Plan 2008–2013 for the Codex Alimentarius Commission**, stating strategic goals of the Commission (Part 1) and incorporating a list of programme areas and planned activities with a clearly defined timetable (Part 2). The strategic vision and goals for the Commission underpin the high priority attached to food safety by its parent organizations FAO and WHO.

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THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION

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STRATEGIC PLAN 2008–2013

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Further information on these texts, or any other aspect of the Codex Alimentarius Commission, may be obtained from:

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2008–2013**

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CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION

STRATEGIC PLAN 2008–2013

PART 1

STRATEGIC VISION AND GOALS

STRATEGIC VISION STATEMENT

The Codex Alimentarius Commission envisages a world afforded the highest attainable levels of consumer protection including food safety and quality. To this end, the Commission will develop internationally agreed standards and related texts for use in domestic regulation and international trade in food that are based on scientific principles and fulfil the objectives of consumer health protection and fair practices in food trade.

INTRODUCTION

1. This document sets out the strategic plan for the Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC), stating strategic goals of the Commission (Part 1) and incorporating a list of programme areas and planned activities with a clearly defined timetable (Part 2).

The strategic vision and goals for the CAC underpin the high priority attached to food safety by its parent organizations, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the World Health Organization (WHO).

The Strategic Framework for FAO: 2000–2015 accords high priority to promoting policy and regulatory frameworks for food at the international and national levels.

Several resolutions adopted by the World Health Assembly recognized the need to highlight health considerations in international food trade and acknowledged the importance of the CAC for ensuring the highest levels of consumer health protection. These resolutions and related documents¹ urged WHO to work towards integrating food safety as one of its essential public health functions with the goal of developing sustainable, integrated food safety systems for the reduction of health risks along the entire food chain.

It is understood that Codex, when elaborating standards, guidelines and recommendations, gives full consideration to those resolutions and decisions from WHO and FAO that are relevant within the framework of the Codex mandate.

The fundamental mandate of the CAC is to develop international standards, guidelines and other recommendations for protecting the health of consumers and ensuring fair practices in the food trade.

2. The CAC has always operated in an environment of change and technological advancement. The growth in world food trade, advances in modern communication

¹ WHO *Global Strategy for Food Safety* (WHO, 2002).

and increasing mobility of populations are all contributing to elevating the profile and significance of food safety and regulation.

There is growing international concern related to a perceived emergence of or increase in food-borne diseases. Consumers around the world are seeking ever-greater assurances about the safety and quality of foods they eat.

In its endeavour to promote food safety and quality, the CAC needs to ensure more effective participation and involvement of all members in setting globally relevant standards and to consider opportunities for strengthening partnerships with all stakeholders, in particular consumers and their representative organizations, at the global and national levels.

It is also likely that developing countries will account for an increasing proportion of global food and agricultural trade. CAC, FAO and WHO are striving to respond to the new challenges and keep abreast of most recent developments.²

3. The recognition and status that Codex standards, guidelines and other recommendations acquired under the World Trade Organization (WTO) Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures has presented challenges and brought responsibilities, including the need to ensure that Codex standards and related texts are based on scientific principles and meet the needs and mandate of the organization. The WTO Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade is also of great relevance, given the significance of the provisions pertaining to product description, labelling, packaging and quality descriptors for consumer information and fair practices in trade. The CAC has an important role in providing for essential composition and quality requirements that are not more trade-restrictive than necessary.

The CAC needs to maintain its pre-eminent status as the internationally recognized body for food standard-setting and to call for the use of its standards to the widest extent possible by all members as a basis for domestic regulation and international trade. This will help members to be more aware of the importance of the international harmonization of food safety and quality standards, as well as the enhancement of food control systems for ensuring food safety and quality.

DECISION-MAKING BASED ON SCIENTIFIC EVIDENCE

4. The CAC, as a risk management body, does not undertake scientific evaluations per se but relies on the opinions of scientific expert bodies convened by FAO and WHO on specific issues.

These expert bodies such as the Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Food Additives (JECFA), the Joint FAO/WHO Meetings on Pesticide Residues (JMPR) and the Joint FAO/WHO Expert Meetings on Microbiological Risk Assessment (JEMRA) and other ad hoc expert consultations are functionally separate from the CAC and its subsidiary bodies and do not directly fall within the scope of the present Strategic Plan.

The mandates, functions, composition and agendas of these bodies are established by FAO and WHO. The independence of the expert bodies is critical to the objectivity of their opinions, and meetings of these bodies should interact with the CAC in accordance

² Joint FAO/WHO Evaluation of the Codex Alimentarius and Other FAO and WHO Food Standards Work.

with the *Working Principles for Risk Analysis for Application in the Framework of the Codex Alimentarius*.

There is considerable synergy between the scientific bodies of FAO and WHO and the intergovernmental bodies of the CAC in order to take decisions based on scientific evidence.

STRATEGIC GOALS AND SHARED RESPONSIBILITIES

5. To enable the overall achievement of the strategic vision, the CAC must take action jointly with its parent organizations and its members. The Commission urges FAO and WHO to mobilize sufficient resources to allow the CAC to fulfil its mandate.

Their other key roles are to provide scientific advice requested by the CAC and to offer technical assistance to developing members so that they can effectively participate in the standard-setting process and build capacity for the development of sound food control systems.

The Commission fully recognizes the efforts of the members of the CAC, especially those which provide significant financial and other support to the work of the CAC as host governments of subsidiary bodies or as contributors to extra-budgetary programmes of FAO and WHO.

In close cooperation with the partners above, the Commission will focus on the following goals to achieve its strategic vision.

GOAL 1: PROMOTING SOUND REGULATORY FRAMEWORKS

6. An effective food control system is critical in enabling all countries to ensure the safety of their foods entering international trade and to ensure that imported foods conform to national requirements. International harmonization based on Codex standards, guidelines and recommendations is essential to promoting a global approach to consumer health protection, including systems for the reduction of food-borne risks, and minimizing the negative effects of technical regulations on international trade.

For this purpose, the CAC will provide essential guidance for its members through the continued development of international standards and guidelines relating to food safety and hygiene, nutrition, labelling, and import/export inspection and certification and quality of food stuff. This will require sustained commitment and effort in the following key directions:

- The CAC will develop international standards, guidelines, and recommendations based on scientific principles for the reduction of health risks along the entire food chain, including feed when appropriate. In strengthening the strategic focus of the CAC in the development of standards and related texts based on risk and performance for broad application across a range of commodities, the CAC must give priority to establishing a coherent and integrated set of food standards covering the entire food chain. Such an approach can serve as a model for the members of the CAC to pursue food regulatory systems that provide consumers with safe food and ensure fair practices in the food trade;

- Codex standards and related texts for food safety and quality, including labelling aspects, should be carefully prepared to reflect global variations. Codex standards for food quality should focus on essential characteristics of products to ensure that they are not overly prescriptive and that the standards are not more trade restrictive than necessary; and
- The CAC, when elaborating and deciding upon Codex standards and related texts, should take into consideration the technical and economic implications for all members as well as the special needs of developing countries including infrastructure, resources and technical and legal capabilities, Codex standards and related texts should not have the effect of creating unnecessary, unjustified or discriminatory obstacles to the exports of developing countries.

7. In many countries, effective food control is undermined by the existence of fragmented legislation, multiple jurisdictions and weaknesses in surveillance, monitoring and enforcement. Sound national food control and regulatory systems are essential to ensuring the health and safety of the domestic population as well as ensuring the safety and quality of foods entering international trade. The FAO and WHO have made significant advances in promoting sound regulatory frameworks at the national level. The Commission, while encouraging members to use relevant Codex standards, strongly encourages FAO and WHO to continue to promote national regulatory systems that are based on international principles and guidelines and address all components of the food chain. The development of sound food control and regulatory infrastructure including human resources is particularly important for developing countries as they seek to achieve higher levels of food safety and nutrition and will require high-level political and policy commitment.³ Successful negotiation of bilateral mutual recognition and equivalence of food control systems also depends on the abilities of countries to assure each other of the integrity and international conformity of their regulatory systems.

GOAL 2: PROMOTING WIDEST AND CONSISTENT APPLICATION OF SCIENTIFIC PRINCIPLES AND RISK ANALYSIS

8. The scientific basis of decision-making by the CAC is spelled out in the *Statements of Principle on the Role of Science in the Codex Decision-Making Process and the Extent to Which Other Factors are Taken into Account* and in the *Working Principles for Risk Analysis for Application in the Framework of the Codex Alimentarius*⁴. The CAC will ensure their consistent application by relevant Codex subsidiary bodies, in order to maintain its focus on this Goal. Risk analysis as it applies to food safety across the food chain is an internationally accepted discipline and will require ongoing and sustained inputs from the CAC, its parent organizations and national governments to promote its understanding and application at the international and national levels.

³ Report of the Conference on International Food Trade Beyond 2000: Science-based Decisions, Harmonization, Equivalence and Mutual Recognition, Melbourne, Australia, 11–15 October, 1999, Appendix 1.

⁴ Codex Alimentarius Procedural Manual.

9. In recent years the scope of scientific advice sought by the CAC from the parent organizations increased considerably and went beyond chemical and microbiological hazards. FAO and WHO responded to these requests through several FAO/WHO *ad hoc* consultations on topics such as foods derived from genetically modified organisms and antimicrobial resistance. The Commission requests FAO and WHO to continue to promote the understanding of risk analysis and to continue to explore new areas of work, such as nutritional risk assessment, so as to provide the scientific advice relevant to CAC activities for standard setting.
10. The timely availability of scientific advice is a prerequisite for the CAC to fulfil its mandate. The Commission will continue to encourage FAO and WHO to make sufficient resources available to ensure that the scientific advice to the CAC can be provided in a timely and sustainable way. To make more efficient and effective use of the FAO/WHO expert bodies and ad hoc consultations, particularly given the rapidly expanding scope of scientific advice requested from FAO and WHO, the CAC will continue to strengthen the interaction between the risk managers (relevant Codex subsidiary bodies) and the risk assessors (FAO/WHO expert bodies and ad hoc expert consultations). The Commission has agreed to recommend to FAO and WHO a set of criteria for the prioritization of requests from the CAC for scientific advice and will review the usefulness of this approach. The CAC, in close cooperation with its parent organizations, will enhance its capacity to respond efficiently to emerging food borne risks by strengthening its work-management capabilities (see Goal 3).
11. The CAC has the goal of elaborating standards that cover the needs of its entire membership to ensure these standards are applicable globally. A constraint to this goal is the persistent lack of relevant data from all major parts of the world. The CAC will continue to encourage countries from both the developed and developing worlds to submit relevant data to the CAC and the parent organizations. The Commission recommends that FAO and WHO build on the achievements already accomplished⁵ and take meaningful steps to ensure that scientific advice is provided more quickly, with even higher quality, that more requests are addressed, and that the process is conducted with enhanced transparency. The Commission particularly encourages FAO and WHO to explore new approaches to enhance participation of experts and the use of data from developing countries in the elaboration of scientific advice. Where relevant data are not available from developing countries, the CAC encourages FAO and WHO to assist the developing countries in generating such data.

GOAL 3: STRENGTHENING CODEX WORK-MANAGEMENT CAPABILITIES

12. Attention to food safety and global food trade has continued to increase among countries and among the international governmental and non-governmental organizations concerned with these matters. More expeditious and efficient work by the CAC is necessary to provide members and international organizations with the standards, guidelines, and recommendations that they need.

⁵ FAO/WHO Consultative Process for the Provision of Scientific Advice to Codex and Member Countries.

13. The CAC has already made several important advances towards achieving more efficient work-management procedures, such as strengthening the role of the Executive Committee as a strategic and standards-management body, holding annual Commission sessions, and instituting more effective use of information technology. But the CAC must take additional steps to keep pace with international developments by better managing its work so that it addresses high priority issues in a timely manner and that standards development work is completed within specified time frames.
14. The implementation of new Codex work-management procedures⁶ must make the CAC more effective and efficient, while maintaining the valuable reputation that the CAC has earned as an open, fair, transparent, and rules-based body. Key features of continuing enhancements include⁷:
- Enhancing the capabilities of the Executive Committee with respect to strategic oversight, direction, and cross coordination of the work programmes of all subsidiary bodies through recommendations to the Commission;
 - Ensuring that the Commission and its subsidiary bodies make decisions about work prioritization using criteria that enable effective decision-making, taking into consideration the need to initiate new work and to revise existing standards;
 - Ensuring that new work and standard-revision work is completed within defined time frames. Work progress is monitored by the Executive Committee, and in the event that work exceeds specified time frames, the Executive Committee recommends to the Commission that corrective actions be taken as necessary;
 - Exploring mechanisms for progressing the work of subsidiary bodies in between sessions, while maintaining transparency and inclusiveness;
 - Promoting consensus-based decision-making; and
 - Strengthening the Secretariat of the CAC to ensure effective operation and work management of the Commission and its subsidiary bodies and to maintain effective communication with the Codex Contact Points.

GOAL 4: PROMOTING COOPERATION BETWEEN CODEX AND RELEVANT INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

15. The CAC must work closely on matters of common interest with other relevant international organizations, including those whose work has indirect but significant implications for food-standard issues. Monitoring by the CAC of activities of other organizations that are relevant to food standards, and coordination with them, where appropriate and consistent with Codex procedures, is necessary to achieve complementarity, avoid duplication and prevent development of contradictory standards or guidelines. Such collaboration is also critical to the development of health-protection and food-trade measures that address the food chain from farm to table in a coherent and seamless manner.

⁶ As suggested by both the Report of the Evaluation of the Codex Alimentarius and Other FAO and WHO Food Standards Work and the Report on the Review of Codex Committee Structure and Mandates of Codex Committees and Task Forces and as endorsed by the Commission.

⁷ Key features are not listed in priority order.

16. The WTO recognizes the CAC as the pre-eminent international body for establishing food safety standards. The Commission must, therefore, play a leadership role in establishing international food standards for protecting the health of consumers and ensuring fair practices in food trade, while taking due account of international regulatory initiatives of international governmental and non-governmental organizations. The CAC also has a responsibility to provide its technical input and expertise towards the building of international consensus on food standards and regulatory policy matters. Establishment or promotion of cooperation, between the CAC and other relevant international intergovernmental organizations, in particular, OIE and IPPC, should be considered, where appropriate, to ensure effective collaboration and coordination, and that such cooperation should be in line with the Guidelines on Cooperation between the Codex Alimentarius Commission and International Intergovernmental Organizations in the Elaboration of Standards and Related Texts.

GOAL 5: PROMOTING MAXIMUM AND EFFECTIVE PARTICIPATION OF MEMBERS

17. Full participation by all Codex Members and other interested parties in the work of the CAC is now more important than ever. The participation of all members and relevant intergovernmental and international non-governmental organizations is critical to sound decision-making and ensuring that Codex standards and related texts take account of the full range of interests and viewpoints. Since the early 1990s there has been a significant increase in the membership of the CAC with developing countries now constituting a significant proportion of total membership. The Commission welcomes some initiatives undertaken so far to mitigate the financial and human resource constraints hitherto hampering the effective participation of developing countries and countries with economies in transition in the activities of the CAC. Such initiatives include the establishment of the Joint FAO/WHO Project and Trust Fund for Enhanced Participation in Codex, and the development of training manuals and other Codex related capacity building tools. Capacity building programmes under FAO and WHO also have a bearing on strengthening these countries' participation in Codex activities. The Trust Fund and other FAO and WHO programmes are efforts aimed at enabling the members to further gain experience in the Codex process. The Commission strongly urges beneficiary members to take these opportunities offered and create sustainability towards more effective participation, by making firm commitments to adequate allocation of national resources towards Codex work.
18. There is a continuing need for FAO and WHO to implement capacity building programmes in a coherent manner, especially in developing countries and countries with economies in transition, aimed at strengthening national administrative and consultative structures on Codex (e.g. Codex Contact Point, National Codex Committee) and enhancing technical expertise required for effective participation in international standards development. The CAC will play an advisory role in facilitating the efforts made by FAO and WHO so that those efforts address the needs of the CAC and its members.
19. In addition to actions to promote participation of member countries, the CAC will continue to enhance inclusiveness and transparency of the Codex process by furthering its efforts

to encourage the participation of consumers and public interest groups in its processes at the international level and encourage governments to take action at the national level. The CAC will take advantage of any information technological developments for advancement of inclusiveness and transparency in the Codex process.

PART 2

PROGRAMME AREAS AND PLANNED ACTIVITIES 2008–2013

GOAL 1

PROMOTING SOUND REGULATORY FRAMEWORKS

1.1 Review and develop Codex standards and related texts for food safety

Description:

Review and develop Codex standards and related texts for food safety, taking into account scientific and technological developments, to ensure that they: emphasize a horizontal approach; employ an approach to food safety that is based on risk and that addresses the entire food chain; and reflect global variations so as to avoid being more trade restrictive than necessary, while respecting the basic objectives of the CAC, taking into consideration the technical and economic implications for all members as well as the special needs of developing countries including infrastructure, resources and technical and legal capabilities.

Timeline:

Continuing

Responsible parties:

CCFH, CCFA, CCCF, CCPR, CCRVDF, CCNFSDU, relevant Task Forces and Commodity Committees

1.2 Review and develop Codex standards and related texts for food quality

Description:

Review and develop Codex standards and related texts for food quality, taking into account scientific and technological developments, to ensure that they are generic in nature and whilst maintaining inclusiveness, reflect global variations and focus on essential characteristics so as to avoid being overly prescriptive and not more trade restrictive than necessary, while respecting the basic objectives of the CAC, taking into consideration the technical and economic implications for all members as well as the special needs of developing countries including infrastructure, resources and technical and legal capabilities.

Timeline:

Continuing

Responsible parties:

Relevant Task Forces, Commodity Committees and FAO/WHO Coordinating Committees

1.3 Review and develop Codex standards and related texts for food labelling and nutrition

Description:

Review and develop Codex standards and related texts for food labelling and nutrition, taking into account scientific and technological developments and the WHO Global Strategy on Diet, Physical Activity and Health, to ensure that they: emphasize

a horizontal approach and the need to maintain inclusiveness, and address food labelling and nutrition so as to avoid being overly prescriptive and not more trade restrictive than necessary, while respecting the basic objectives of the CAC, taking into consideration the technical and economic implications for all members as well as the special needs of developing countries including infrastructure, resources and technical and legal capabilities.

Timeline:

Continuing

Responsible parties:

CCFL, CCNFSDU

1.4 Review and develop Codex standards and related texts for food inspection and certification, and methods of sampling and analysis

Description:

Review and develop Codex standards and related texts for food inspection and certification as well as methods of sampling, including guidance on equivalence, mutual recognition and traceability / product tracing, taking into account scientific and technological developments, to ensure that they: emphasize a horizontal approach and the need to maintain inclusiveness, and reflect global variations so as to avoid being overly prescriptive and not more trade restrictive than necessary, while respecting the basic objectives of the CAC, taking into consideration the technical and economic implications for all members as well as the special needs of developing countries including infrastructure, resources and technical and legal capabilities.

Timeline:

Continuing

Responsible parties:

CCMAS, CCFICS

1.5 Develop guidance for safe and prudent non-human antimicrobial usage for containment of resistance

Description:

Develop guidance within the remit of the Codex mandate for safe and prudent antimicrobial usage for containment of resistance in food production which focuses on public health, is based on sound science and follows risk analysis principles, and takes into account the work of other international organizations.

Timeline:

Completion by 2011

Responsible parties:

Existing relevant Codex Committees, *ad hoc* Intergovernmental Task Force on Antimicrobial Resistance

1.6 Explore innovative risk management frameworks

Description:

Explore innovative risk management frameworks in establishing MRLs of veterinary drugs and pesticides and share the results of new approaches among Codex Committees.

Timeline:

Completion by 2009

Responsible parties:

CCRVDF, CCPR

1.7 Encourage FAO/WHO to expand capacity building programmes**Description:**

Encourage FAO/WHO to strengthen their programmes to enhance food control infrastructures and to provide technical assistance including assistance on generating data to countries in need to promote application or use of Codex standards and related texts at the national and regional level. Request FAO/WHO to report to the Commission on the implementation status of their capacity building activities.

Timeline:

Continuing

Responsible parties:

CAC, CCEXEC and FAO/WHO Coordinating Committees

1.8 Publish and disseminate the Codex Alimentarius**Description:**

Ensure timely publication and availability of Codex standards, guidelines and recommendations to all interested parties through the Internet and other appropriate means.

Timeline:

Continuing

Responsible parties:

Codex Secretariat, Codex Contact Points

GOAL 2

PROMOTING WIDEST AND CONSISTENT APPLICATION OF SCIENTIFIC PRINCIPLES AND RISK ANALYSIS**2.1 Review the consistency of risk analysis principles elaborated by the relevant Codex Committees****Description:**

Review the risk analysis principles elaborated by the relevant Codex Committees for consistency with the *Working Principles for Risk Analysis for Application in the Framework of the Codex Alimentarius*. The review might result in the CAC advising Codex Committees to amend their risk analysis principles document relevant to their area of work.

Timeline:

Completion by 2011

Responsible parties:

CCGP

2.2 Review risk analysis principles developed by relevant Codex Committees

Description:

Review risk analysis principles developed by relevant Codex Committees in the light of the experience gained when all relevant Codex Committees have elaborated risk assessment policies pertaining to their area of work, these policies having been adopted by the CAC.

As these risk assessment policies play a pivotal role in the interaction between risk managers and risk assessors, communication between these two parties should be further improved, where appropriate. The result of such a review may be revised documents on risk analysis principles for adoption by the Commission. The review should also take into account the outcome of the activities described under 2.1 and 2.3.

Timeline:

Completion by 2013

Responsible parties:

CAC, CCEXEC, CCFA, CCCF, CCPR, CCRVDF, CCFH, CCNFSDU

2.3 Enhance communication among relevant Codex subsidiary bodies and the FAO/WHO scientific expert bodies

Description:

Enhance communication between the risk managers and risk assessors in accordance with paragraph 38 of the *Working Principles for Risk Analysis for Application in the Framework of the Codex Alimentarius*.

Timeline:

Ongoing

Responsible parties:

CCFA, CCCF, CCPR, CCRVDF, CCFH, CCNFSDU

2.4 Review the set of criteria recommended to FAO and WHO for prioritization of requests from Codex for scientific advice

Description:

Review the usefulness of the criteria agreed upon by the 28th Session of the CAC for use by FAO/WHO to prioritize requests from Codex for scientific advice.

Timeline:

Completion by 2009

Responsible parties:

CCEXEC

2.5 Encourage countries to channel their requests for scientific advice to FAO / WHO through the CAC

Description:

Encourage countries to channel their requests through the CAC in order to make the best use of the limited resources available at FAO and WHO for the provision of scientific advice. Encourage FAO and WHO to inform the CCEXEC and the CAC of all requests on provision of scientific advice on food safety received from member countries.

Timeline:

Continuing

Responsible parties:

CAC, CCEXEC, all subsidiary bodies

-
- 2.6 **Encourage FAO/WHO to provide training and capacity building on risk analysis for food safety**
Description:
 Assistance with capacity building activities aimed at effective implementation of the principles.
Timeline:
 Continuing
Responsible parties:
 CAC, CCEXEC, FAO/WHO Coordinating Committees and Codex Members

GOAL 3

STRENGTHENING CODEX WORK-MANAGEMENT CAPABILITIES

- 3.1 **Review the Criteria for the Establishment of Work Priorities and procedures of the critical review carried out by the CCEXEC**
Description:
 Review and revise, if necessary, the Criteria for the Establishment of Work Priorities and the effectiveness of the critical review process.
Timeline:
 Completion of analysis by CCEXEC by 2009; if there is need for revision, completion of revision by CCGP by 2011
Responsible parties:
 CCEXEC, CCGP
-
- 3.2 **Ensure effective standards management**
Description:
 Annually review progress of all subsidiary-body activities (i.e., standards, codes of practice, codes of hygienic practice, guidelines) against specified time frames for completion of each activity, and recommend corrective actions to the Commission for activities that appear likely to exceed or have exceeded specified time frames.
Timeline:
 Continuing
Responsible parties:
 CCEXEC
-
- 3.3 **Develop committee-specific decision-making and priority-setting criteria**
Description:
 Develop committee-specific decision-making and priority-setting criteria and use these criteria for management of work. Implement and review criteria where necessary.

Timeline:

Completion of decision-making and priority-setting criteria by 2008. Review of criteria, beginning in 2008.

Responsible parties:

All General Subject Committees and some other subsidiary bodies as appropriate

3.4 Analyse work-management approaches that facilitate advancement of texts in the Codex step process

Description:

Analyse work-management approaches used by committees that facilitate advancement of texts in the Codex step procedure in the light of the criteria referred to in 3.3 and their use by these committees.

Timeline:

Completion of analysis by 2009

Responsible parties:

Analysis work to be done possibly either by Codex Secretariat or by consultant for next step (3.5)

3.5 Adopt approaches proven to facilitate advancement of texts in the Codex step procedure by subsidiary bodies not currently using such approaches

Description:

Recommend adoption of approaches proven to facilitate advancement of texts in the Codex step procedure by subsidiary bodies not currently using such approaches, in the light of the analysis undertaken as per 3.4.

Timeline:

Completion by 2011

Responsible parties:

CCEXEC and CAC

3.6 Implement priority-ranked comprehensive accounting of all requests for scientific advice

Description:

Request FAO and WHO annually to produce a priority-ranked comprehensive accounting (including budget information as it has impacts on Codex work) of all requests for scientific advice (i.e. continuing, ad hoc, requested by subsidiary bodies, or requested by members). The criteria that shall be used for priority ranking are those agreed to at the 55th Session of the Executive Committee (ALINORM 05/28/3). FAO and WHO are also requested to include budget information relevant to provision of scientific advice.

Timeline:

Continuing

Responsible parties:

CCEXEC, CAC, FAO and WHO

3.7 Evaluate the capacity of the Codex Secretariat to perform its function effectively**Description:**

Evaluate the effectiveness and resource needs of the Codex Secretariat in the operation and work management of the Commission and its subsidiary bodies, and in communicating with and serving the needs of Codex Contact Points.

Timeline:

Completion by 2009

Responsible parties:

Codex Secretariat, CCEXEC, CAC

3.8 Streamline Codex commodity work**Description:**

Implement the decisions of the Commission on how to streamline Codex work on commodities through an improved structure of Codex subsidiary bodies.

Timeline:

Completion by 2010

Responsible parties:

CCEXEC, CAC

GOAL 4

PROMOTING COOPERATION BETWEEN CODEX AND OTHER RELEVANT INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS**4.1 Track the activities of other international standard-setting bodies****Description:**

Track the activities of other international standard-setting bodies to identify areas of potential complementarities, gaps, duplication, or conflict. A summary of such activities relevant to Codex shall be reported to the Executive Committee and to the Commission annually.

Timeline:

Continuing

Responsible parties:

CAC, CCEXEC, Codex Secretariat, subsidiary bodies

4.2 Encourage Codex contributions to the work of other international bodies**Description:**

Encourage other relevant international bodies, when elaborating food standards and related texts, to take due account of Codex standards, related texts and any relevant ongoing work. Where appropriate, propose inclusion of appropriate cross-reference to Codex standards and relevant texts.

Timeline:

Continuing

Responsible parties:

Codex Secretariat

4.3 Encourage contributions from other international bodies in Codex work

Description:

Invite international bodies concerned with food safety and food quality to participate in the standards development process of Codex.

Timeline:

Ongoing

Responsible parties:

Observers, Codex Secretariat

4.4 Consider cooperation with other relevant international intergovernmental organizations

Description:

While recognizing the needs to further improve interaction with OIE and IPPC, where appropriate, explore possibilities for cooperation to ensure effective collaboration and coordination, and that such cooperation should be in line with the Guidelines on Cooperation between Codex and International Intergovernmental Organizations.

Timeline:

Continuing

Responsible parties:

Legal Counsels of FAO and WHO, Codex Secretariat

4.5 Promote interdisciplinary coordination at the national and regional level

Description:

Encourage Codex member countries to establish effective mechanisms within their own countries so that horizontal coordination and communication occurs among national delegates to various food-standards-related international organizations. Invite members to develop evaluation criteria to assess the success of the mechanisms that they have established and report progress in this activity through their respective Codex Regional Coordinating Committees to the CAC.

Timeline:

Completion by 2009

Responsible parties:

Codex Members, FAO/WHO Coordinating Committees

GOAL 5

PROMOTING MAXIMUM AND EFFECTIVE PARTICIPATION OF MEMBERS

5.1 Promote enhanced participation of developing countries in Codex

Description:

Request FAO/WHO to encourage current donors to continue to provide funds to the FAO/WHO Trust Fund and invite other donors to contribute to the Fund to ensure sustainability. Request FAO/WHO to analyse the impact of the Codex Trust Fund on the capacity of beneficiary countries and report its findings to the CCEXEC and the Commission. Provide recommendations to FAO/WHO with a view to improved operation of the Trust Fund based on the outcome of the Trust Fund mid-term evaluation.

Timeline:

Continuing

Responsible parties:

CAC, CCEXEC

5.2 Promote effective use of written comments in the Codex process**Description:**

Encourage members and observers to make maximum use of opportunities to submit written comments in response to Circular Letters (CLs) while respecting the deadlines for such submissions to allow all members and observers to study the positions of other members and observers in a timely manner.

Codex Secretariat and Chairs of the Committees will examine how best to ensure that written comments of members that are not present at the meetings are taken into consideration, and how to handle the late submission of comments in response to CLs, from the view points of transparency and inclusiveness.

Timeline:

Continuing

Responsible parties:

Codex Members, Observers, CCEXEC, Codex Secretariat

5.3 Evaluate effectiveness of Codex Committee sessions held in developing countries**Description:**

Evaluate the effectiveness of holding Codex sessions in developing countries in terms of enhanced participation. Analyse the effectiveness of co-hosting arrangements, and continue to explore possibilities of convening Codex sessions outside the host countries.

Timeline:

Completion by 2009

Responsible parties:

Host countries, CCEXEC

5.4 Strengthen Codex Contact Points and National Codex Committees**Description:**

Request FAO and WHO to provide technical assistance for the strengthening of national Codex structures; provide improved support by the Codex Secretariat to Codex Contact Points through the effective use of Internet facilities.

Timeline:

Continuing

Responsible parties:

CAC, CCEXEC, Codex Secretariat

5.5 Enhance participation of non-governmental organizations at international, regional and national levels**Description:**

Encourage non-governmental organizations to participate in Codex work at national, regional and international levels. Encourage members to establish sound structures

and processes for consultation on Codex matters to ensure effective involvement and participation of all interested parties.

Timeline:

Continuing

Responsible parties:

CAC, Codex Members, subsidiary bodies

5.6 **Enhance communication about Codex work at international and national levels**

Description:

Develop new communication approaches to promote the work of Codex at national and international levels. Develop direct and easily understandable messages on Codex to interested parties including consumers and especially emphasizing high level policy makers.

Timeline:

Continuing

Responsible parties:

Codex Secretariat, WHO and FAO, Codex Contact Points, subsidiary bodies

PART 3

IMPLEMENTATION OF STRATEGIC PLAN

This Part contains two tables:

- Table 1: Implementation of Strategic Plan
(This table is a checklist of the Strategic Plan activities to monitor the progress and achievement of the activities listed in Part 2. This table will be regularly updated for review by the Executive Committee.)
- Table 2: Critical review of proposals for new work and monitoring progress of standards development
(This table is a checklist of ongoing work, to manage current and future work undertaken by the subsidiary bodies of the Commission. This Part will regularly be presented for critical review by the Executive Committee to monitor the progress of the ongoing work of standards setting mentioned in 1.1, 1.2, 1.3 and 1.4 of Part 2.)

**TABLE 1
Implementation of Strategic Plan**

Activities	Responsible parties	Time frame	Output/Measurable indicators	Status	Notes (Committees, Secretariat)	Advice by EXEC	Decision by CAC
GOAL 1: PROMOTING SOUND REGULATORY FRAMEWORKS							
1.1 Review and develop Codex standards and related texts for food safety	CCFH, CGFA, CCCF, CCPR, CCRVDF, CCNFSDU, relevant Task Forces and Commodity Committees	Cont.	Standards and related texts adopted at respective steps	See Table 2			
1.2 Review and develop Codex standards and related texts for food quality	Relevant Task Forces, Commodity Committees and FAO/WHO Coordinating Committees	Cont.	Standards and related texts adopted at respective steps	See Table 2			
1.3 Review and develop Codex standards and related texts for food labelling and nutrition	CCFL, CCNFSDU	Cont.	Standards and related texts adopted at respective steps	See Table 2			
1.4 Review and develop Codex standards and related texts for food inspection and certification, and methods of sampling and analysis	CCMAS, CCFICS	Cont.	Standards and related texts adopted at respective steps	See Table 2			
1.5 Develop guidance for safe and prudent non-human antimicrobial usage for containment of resistance	Existing relevant Codex Committees, <i>ad hoc</i> Intergovernmental Task Force on Antimicrobial Resistance	2011	Guidance for safe and prudent non-human antimicrobial usage for containment of resistance	See Table 2			
1.6 Explore innovative risk management frameworks	CCRVDF, CCPR	2009	Reports by CCRVDF and CCPR respectively to CCEXEC and CAC				
1.7 Encourage FAO/WHO to expand capacity building programmes	CAC, CCEXEC and FAO/WHO Coordinating Committees	Cont.	Report from FAO/WHO to CAC, CCEXEC and Coordinating Committees				
1.8 Publish and disseminate the Codex Alimentarius	Codex Secretariat, Codex Contact Points	Cont.	Publication and dissemination of Codex Alimentarius				

Activities	Responsible parties	Time frame	Output/Measurable indicators	Status	Notes (Committees, Secretariat)	Advice by EXEC	Decision by CAC
GOAL 2: PROMOTING WIDEST AND CONSISTENT APPLICATION OF SCIENTIFIC PRINCIPLES AND RISK ANALYSIS							
2.1 Review the consistency of risk analysis principles elaborated by the relevant Codex Committees	CCGP	2011	Report by CCGP of completed review to CAC	See Table 2			
2.2 Review risk analysis principles developed by relevant Codex Committees	CAC, CCEXEC, CCF, CCFH, CCFVDF, CCFH, CCNFSDU	2013	Report by relevant Committees of completed review, taking into account the review of the activities in 2.1 and 2.3	See Table 2			
2.3 Enhance communication among relevant Codex subsidiary bodies and the FAO/WHO scientific expert bodies	CCFA, CCF, CCFH, CCFVDF, CCFH, CCNFSDU	Ongoing	Incorporated into report as required in 2.2				
2.4 Review the set of criteria recommended to FAO and WHO for prioritization of requests from Codex for scientific advice.	CCEXEC	2009	Report of review with recommendation to better match of priorities and resources by CCEXEC to CAC				
2.5 Encourage countries to channel their requests for scientific advice to FAO / WHO through the CAC	CAC, CCEXEC, all subsidiary bodies	Cont.	Reports by FAO and WHO of requests for scientific advice received directly from countries vs. requests received through CAC				
2.6 Encourage FAO/WHO to provide training and capacity building on risk analysis for food safety	CAC, CCEXEC, FAO/WHO Coordinating Committees and Codex Members	Cont.	Report from FAO/WHO to CAC, CCEXEC and Coordinating Committees	See Table 2			
GOAL 3: STRENGTHENING CODEX WORK-MANAGEMENT CAPABILITIES							
3.1 Review the Criteria for the Establishment of Work Priorities and procedures of the critical review carried out by the CCEXEC	CCEXEC, CCGP	2009 2011	Report by CCEXEC on analysis of the critical review process If there is need for revision, revise the Criteria for the Establishment of Work Priorities by CCGP				

Activities	Responsible parties	Time frame	Output/Measurable indicators	Status	Notes (Committees, Secretariat)	Advice by EXEC	Decision by CAC
3.2 Ensure effective standards management	CCEXEC	Cont.	Report on compliance of standards development against timelines (associated with critical review process)	See Table 2			
3.3 Develop committee-specific decision-making and priority-setting criteria	All General Subject Committees and some other subsidiary bodies as appropriate	2008 Cont.	Committee-specific decision-making and priority-setting criteria Confirmed review of criteria beginning in 2008				
3.4 Analyse work-management approaches that facilitate advancement of texts in the Codex step process	Either by Codex Secretariat or by consultant for next step (3.5)	2009	Report to the CCEXEC and CAC on analysis of work-management approaches				
3.5 Adopt approaches proven to facilitate advancement of texts in the Codex step procedure by subsidiary bodies not currently using such approaches	CCEXEC and CAC	2011	Adoption by CAC on work-management approaches				
3.6 Implement priority-ranked comprehensive accounting of all requests for scientific advice	CCEXEC, CAC, FAO and WHO	Cont.	Comprehensive report by FAO/WHO to CAC on accounting of all requests for scientific advice				
3.7 Evaluate the capacity of the Codex Secretariat to perform its function effectively	Codex Secretariat, CCEXEC, CAC	2009	Report by Secretariat to CAC on the staff and other key resources				
3.8 Streamline Codex Commodity work	CCEXEC, CAC	2010	Accomplished implementation of the decisions of the Commission on how to streamline Codex work on commodities through an improved structure of Codex subsidiary bodies				
GOAL 4: PROMOTING COOPERATION BETWEEN CODEX AND OTHER RELEVANT INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS							
4.1 Track the activities of other international standard-setting bodies	CAC, CCEXEC, Codex Secretariat, subsidiary bodies	Cont.	Report to the CCEXEC and CAC indicating potential complementarities, gaps, duplication, or conflict with the work of other international organizations				

Activities	Responsible parties	Time frame	Output/Measurable indicators	Status	Notes (Committees, Secretariat)	Advice by EXEC	Decision by CAC
4.2 Encourage Codex contributions to the work of other international bodies	Codex Secretariat	Cont.	Number of standards elaborated by other international organizations with a cross reference to Codex standards and relevant texts				
4.3 Encourage contributions from other international bodies in Codex work	Observers, Codex Secretariat	Cont.	Number of Codex standards elaborated with identifiable input from other international organizations				
4.4 Consider cooperation with other relevant international intergovernmental organizations	Legal Counsels of FAO and WHO, Codex Secretariat	Cont.	Devise the means by which Codex can strengthen cooperation with OIE and IPPC				
4.5 Promote interdisciplinary coordination at the national and regional level	Codex Members, FAO/WHO Coordinating Committees	2009	Reports from members to Regional Coordinating Committees on mechanisms and evaluation criteria				
GOAL 5: PROMOTING MAXIMUM AND EFFECTIVE PARTICIPATION OF MEMBERS							
5.1 Promote enhanced participation of developing countries in Codex	CAC, CCEXEC	Cont.	Reports from FAO / WHO presenting analysis of measures of enhanced participation achieved through the Codex Trust Fund				
5.2 Promote effective use of written comments in the Codex process	Codex Members, Observers, CCEXEC, Codex Secretariat	Cont.	Reports by host countries on patterns of submission of written comments in response to CLs, and adherence by chairs to the guidelines for the conduct of the meetings				
5.3 Evaluate effectiveness of Codex Committee sessions held in developing countries	Host countries, CCEXEC	2009	Reports from host and co-hosting countries documenting co-hosting experience				
5.4 Strengthen Codex Contact Points and National Codex Committees	CAC, CCEXEC, Codex Secretariat	Cont.	Reports from FAO/WHO on countries whose National structure and codex Contact Points have been supported				

Activities	Responsible parties	Time frame	Output/Measurable indicators	Status	Notes (Committees, Secretariat)	Advice by EXEC	Decision by CAC
5.5 Enhance participation of non-governmental organizations at international, regional and national levels	CAC, Codex Members, subsidiary bodies	Cont.	Reports from member countries under relevant agenda items of the Regional Committees, on participations of non-governmental organizations at National level				
5.6 Enhance communication about Codex work at international and national levels	Codex Secretariat, WHO and FAO, Codex Contact Points, subsidiary bodies	Cont.	Reports by Secretariat to CAC on increased use of audio / webcasting, enhancement of webpages, increase use of electronic distribution of codex materials, etc.				

TABLE 2
Critical review of proposals for new work and monitoring progress of standards development

Committee/TF on xx ⁸ Document title	Time frame		Status ⁹	Output Codes ¹⁰	Scientific advice	Notes	Comments by Committee-Chair	Advice by EXEC
	Job ID ¹¹	Target Year ¹²						
Draft Guidelines for A	N03-2005	2009	6/7	1.2	Not required			
Draft Standard for B	N04-2006	2011	5	1.3	Not required			
Proposed Draft Guidelines for C	N05-2006	2011	3/4	1.2	FAO/WHO Expert Consultation planned in 2009			
Proposed Draft Standard for D	N04-2008	2013	2	1.3	FAO/WHO Expert Consultation requested by 2011			
General comments by the Chairperson / host countries of the Committee:								

⁸ Name of the subsidiary body.

⁹ Step in the Elaboration Procedure.

¹⁰ Reference made to Part 2 of the Strategic Plan.

¹¹ Job IDs are assigned by the Commission upon approval as new work.

¹² Year by which the draft text is to be adopted at Step 8, as agreed by the Commission on the basis of the Project Document.

