



JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION

Sixty-fifth Session

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PREPARATION OF THE CODEX STRATEGIC PLAN 2014-2019

(Prepared by the Chairperson and Vice-Chairpersons)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).

~~IN The Strategic Framework for FAO: 2000–2015 accords high priority to promoting policy and regulatory frameworks for food at the international and national levels. 2010-2019 ONE OF THE FAO STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES IS IMPROVED QUALITY AND SAFETY OF FOOD AT ALL STAGES OF THE FOOD CHAIN. A MAJOR AIM OF THIS OBJECTIVE IS TO HELP DEVELOPING INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS TO IMPROVE GLOBAL AND NATIONAL FOOD SAFETY SYSTEMS. SYSTEMS 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 documents 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.~~

WHO ADOPTED IN MAY 2010 THE RESOLUTION “ADVANCING FOOD SAFETY INITIATIVES” IN WHICH IT CONFIRMED THAT THE WHO IS COMMITTED TO ITS GLOBAL STRATEGY FOR FOOD SAFETY WITH THE AIM OF REDUCING THE HEALTH AND SOCIAL BURDEN OF FOOD BORNE DISEASES. IT FURTHER HIGHLIGHTED THAT THE CAC HAS MANAGED TO INCREASE PARTICIPATION FROM DEVELOPING COUNTRIES SIGNIFICANTLY AND THAT CODEX REPRESENTS A UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY FOR ALL COUNTRIES TO JOIN THE INTERNATIONAL

¹ All newly proposed text is included in ALL CAPITAL LETTERS. Text proposed for deletion is still listed, though is presented as strikethrough to that text.

COMMUNITY IN ESTABLISHING AND IMPLEMENTING FOOD STANDARDS TO IMPROVE GLOBAL FOOD SAFETY.

It is understood that Codex, when elaborating standards, guidelines, CODES OF PRACTICE and OTHER 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, CODES OF PRACTICE, guidelines and other recommendations for protecting the health of consumers, ensuring fair practices in the food trade, AND TO COORDINATE ALL FOOD STANDARD WORK UNDERTAKEN BY INTERNATIONAL GOVERNMENTAL AND NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS.

2. The CAC has always operated in an environment of change and technological advancement. The growth in world food trade, advances in modern communication, 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 foodborne diseases AND POSSIBLE FOOD SAFETY CONSEQUENCES OF CLIMATE CHANGE. 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~~ EXPECTED 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.

3. The recognition and status that Codex standards, CODES OF PRACTICE, guidelines and other recommendations acquired under the World Trade Organization (WTO) Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS) 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 (TBT) 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), Joint FAO/WHO Meetings on Pesticide Residues (JMPR), 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 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, AND AS PROVIDERS OF CAPACITY BUILDING PROJECTS FOR DEVELOPING COUNTRIES.

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, CODES OF PRACTICE, guidelines and OTHER recommendations is essential to promoting a global approach to consumer health protection, including systems for the reduction of foodborne 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 foodstuffs. This will require sustained commitment and effort in the following key directions:

- The CAC will develop international standards, CODES OF PRACTICE, guidelines, and OTHER recommendations based on scientific principles AND OTHER ELEMENTS AS STATED IN THE PROCEDURAL MANUAL for the reduction of health risks AND AVOIDANCE OF MISLEADING CONSUMERS 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;
- THE COMMISSION RECOMMENDS CODEX COMMITTEES REVIEW THEIR TEXTS TO ENSURE THAT THEY TAKE INTO ACCOUNT CURRENT SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENTS AS APPROPRIATE;
- 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. 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 THE WIDEST AND MOST CONSISTENT APPLICATION OF SCIENTIFIC PRINCIPLES AND RISK ANALYSIS PRINCIPLES

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,” “WORKING PRINCIPLES FOR RISK ANALYSIS FOR APPLICATION BY GOVERNMENTS,” AND “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.

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 have responded to these requests through several FAO/WHO ad hoc consultations on topics such as foods derived from genetically modified organisms, ~~and~~ antimicrobial resistance AND OTHER TECHNOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENTS. 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 fulfill its mandate. ~~THE COMMISSION HAS ALREADY AGREED TO RECOMMEND TO FAO AND WHO A SET OF CRITERIA FOR THE PRIORITIZATION OF REQUESTS FROM THE CAC FOR SCIENTIFIC ADVICE.~~ 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 ALSO 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 CONTINUE TO take meaningful steps to ensure that APPROPRIATE scientific advice is provided EFFICIENTLY, ~~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 government and non-governmental organizations concerned with these matters REQUIRING TIMELY AVAILABILITY OF INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS AND GUIDELINES. THIS CALLS FOR A MORE ~~More expeditious and~~ efficient work by the CAC ~~is necessary to provide~~ SO THAT THIS PROCESS IS FACILITATED. ~~mMembers and international organizations with the standards, guidelines and recommendations that they need.~~

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 standards development work is completed within specified time frames.

14. The ONGOING REFINEMENT ~~implementation of new~~ Codex work-management procedures must make the CAC more effective and efficient AND STRIVE TO DEVELOP MECHANISMS FOR FASTER AGREEMENT ON CODEX TEXTS, while maintaining the valuable reputation that the CAC has earned as an open, fair, transparent, and rules-based body. Key features of continuing enhancements include⁶:

- Enhancing capabilities of the Executive Committee with respect to strategic oversight, direction, and cross coordination of the work programs 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;
- DEVISING MORE FLEXIBLE MECHANISMS FOR DEVELOPMENT OF CODEX TEXTS FOR ENHANCED EFFICIENCY IN THE STANDARD SETTING PROCESS;
- INTRODUCING PROCEDURES TO HELP THE COMMISSION AVOID SITUATIONS IN WHICH CODEX TEXTS ARE HELD AT STEP 8 FOR INDEFINITE PERIODS;
- 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 to be taken as necessary;
- Exploring mechanisms for progressing the work of subsidiary bodies in between sessions, while maintaining transparency and inclusiveness;
- Promoting EFFICIENT 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; AND
- ENCOURAGING THE CODEX CONTACT POINTS TO PROVIDE COMMENTS ON A TIMELY BASIS SO THAT THE CODEX SECRETARIAT IS ABLE TO FORWARD DOCUMENTS TO THE SUBSIDIARY BODIES AND MEMBERS IN A TIMELY MANNER.

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, INCLUDING MAJOR PRIVATE STANDARD SETTING BODIES 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.

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 establish international food standards for protecting the health of consumers and ensuring fair practices in food trade, while taking due account of international regulatory initiatives in 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, AS WELL AS PRIVATE STANDARD SETTING BODIES should be considered, where appropriate, to ensure effective collaboration and coordination, AVOID DUPLICATION OR DEVELOPMENT OF MULTIPLE STANDARDS. ~~and that such cooperation should be in line with the Guidelines on Cooperation between the Codex Alimentarius Commission and International Intergovernmental Organization in the Elaboration of Standards and Related Texts.~~ THE COMMISSION WOULD ALSO MAKE EFFORTS TO ENCOURAGE PRIVATE STANDARD SETTING BODIES TO PARTICIPATE IN THE CODEX PROCESS.

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 CONTINUES TO BE 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. FULL PARTICIPATION IS IMPORTANT TO ENSURE ~~and ensuring that~~ Codex standards and related texts take FULL account of ALL STAKEHOLDERS' ~~the full range of~~ interests and viewpoints.

OVER THE PAST 15 YEARS, ~~Since the early 1990s~~ CODEX MEMBERSHIP HAS INCREASED SIGNIFICANTLY AND THE DEMOGRAPHICS OF THE MEMBERSHIP HAS CHANGED IN IMPORTANT WAYS. ~~there has been a significant increase in the membership of the CAC with~~ Developing countries now constitute ~~ing~~ MORE THAN HALF OF THE ~~a significant proportion of~~ total membership. THE DIVERSITY OF THE CODEX MEMBERSHIP TRULY REFLECTS THE WORLD, AND the Commission IS RICHER FOR THIS DIVERSITY. SEVERAL BENEFICIAL ~~welcomes some~~ initiatives HAVE – OVER THE PERIOD OF THE PREVIOUS 2008-2013 STRATEGIC PLAN -- ~~undertaken so far~~ HELPED to mitigate the financial and human resource constraints ~~hitherto~~ THAT hampering the effective CODEX participation of developing countries and countries with economies in transition ~~in the activities of the CAC.~~ THESE ~~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. WHILE the Commission CONTINUES strongly TO urges beneficiary members to take MAXIMUM ADVANTAGE OF these opportunities ~~offered~~ and TO create SUSTAINABLE CODEX STRUCTURES WITH SUSTAINABLE NATIONAL FUNDING, THE COMMISSION OBSERVES THAT DEVELOPING TRULY SUSTAINABLE AND SUBSTANTIVE CODEX PARTICIPATION REMAINS A CHALLENGE FOR MANY TRUST FUND BENEFICIARY MEMBERS ~~sustainability towards more effective participation, by making firm commitments to adequate allocation of national resources towards Codex work.~~

18. There is, THEREFORE, 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.

NEW 19. LAUNCHED IN 2003 BY WHO AND FAO, THE TRUST FUND WAS PLANNED TO HAVE A 12-YEAR LIFESPAN, WHICH MEANS THAT IT WILL TERMINATE IN 2015, DURING THE PERIOD OF THIS STRATEGIC PLAN. THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF THE TRUST FUND HAVE BEEN FUNDAMENTALLY TRANSFORMATIVE AND BENEFICIAL TO CODEX. THE COMMISSION STRONGLY URGES FAO AND WHO TO CONSIDER IMMEDIATELY WHAT WILL COME AFTER

THE END OF THE PRESENT TRUST FUND, TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THE VIEWS OF BENEFICIARY MEMBERS AND DONOR MEMBERS, AND FURTHER TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THE RESULTS OF THE MID-TERM EVALUATION OF THE TRUST FUND.

NEW 20 49. 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.

NEW 21. The CAC will take advantage of any information technological developments for advancement of inclusiveness and transparency in the Codex process. MANY ADVANCES IN INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY HAVE OCCURRED OVER THE SPAN OF THE 2008-2013 STRATEGIC PLAN, AND SOME OF THOSE ADVANCES ENABLED CODEX COMMITTEES AND WORKING GROUPS TO HOLD "VIRTUAL MEETINGS," IN SOME CASES QUITE SUCCESSFULLY.

NEW 22. OTHER TECHNOLOGIES, FOR EXAMPLE, TECHNOLOGIES THAT COULD ENABLE MUCH QUICKER AND SIMULTANEOUS AVAILABILITY OF DOCUMENTS IN ALL OFFICIAL CODEX LANGUAGES, ARE AMONG THE TECHNOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENTS THAT CAN GREATLY ADVANCE INCLUSIVENESS AND TRANSPARENCY IN THE CODEX PROCESS. THIS WAS AN EXPLICIT GOAL IN THE 2008-2013 STRATEGIC PLAN, AND WHILE INITIAL ATTEMPTS WERE MADE DURING THE 2008-2013 PERIOD TO PILOT TEST A FEW SUCH TECHNOLOGIES, FURTHER INVESTMENTS TOWARDS GAINING EXPERIENCE WITH MACHINE-ASSISTED TRANSLATION, FOR EXAMPLE, SHOULD BE ENCOURAGED.

NEW 23. TO INCREASE PARTICIPATION AND SKILLS-BUILDING IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, THE CAC ENCOURAGES MENTORING AND TWINNING RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN COUNTRIES THAT HOST COMMITTEES WITH DEVELOPING COUNTRIES WITH LESS OR LIMITED EXPERIENCE.

NEW 24. THE CAC ENCOURAGES COMMITTEES TO HOLD MORE PHYSICAL WORKING GROUPS IMMEDIATELY PRECEDING REGULAR COMMITTEE SESSIONS. SUCH WORKING GROUP SESSIONS WILL ENABLE THE MAXIMUM PARTICIPATION OF ALL MEMBERS.

NEW 25. TO CONTINUE THE COMMISSION'S LONG-STANDING EFFORTS TO IMPROVE ITS CONSENSUS-BASED DECISION-MAKING ABILITIES, THE COMMISSION ENCOURAGES FAO AND WHO TO USE THE "CODEX MANUAL ON NEGOTIATION FOR DELEGATES AND MEDIATION FOR CHAIRS" IN TRAINING SESSIONS FOR DELEGATES, FOR CHAIRS OF GENERAL-SUBJECT, COMMODITY, AND REGIONAL COORDINATING COMMITTEES, AND FOR CODEX CONTACT POINTS.

PART 2: PROGRAMME AREAS AND PLANNED ACTIVITIES ~~2008-2013~~ 2013-2018

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 CURRENT 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.

DRAWING FROM THE TEXT THAT DESCRIBES THE SUBSTANCE OF ACTIVITY 1.1, CODEX COMMITTEES SHOULD EXAMINE WHETHER THERE ARE POSSIBLE IMPACTS OF GLOBAL CLIMATE DISRUPTIONS THAT COULD HAVE AN IMPACT ON THE STANDARDS THAT THEY HAVE DEVELOPED IN THE PAST, ARE CURRENTLY DEVELOPING, AND FOR THOSE THAT ARE CONTEMPLATED FOR FUTURE WORK. [CHANGING WEATHER PATTERNS HAVE BEEN SHOWN TO AFFECT INSECT POPULATIONS, CHANGING, FOR EXAMPLE, PEST PREVALENCE OR TIMES OF EMERGENCE. ANOTHER EXAMPLE CAN BE FOUND IN CHANGING PATTERNS OF PRECIPITATION, WHICH COULD AFFECT THE INCIDENCE OF MOLDS ON GRAINS THAT CAN PRODUCE AFLATOXIN AND VOMITOXIN, AMONG OTHERS.] COMMITTEES SHOULD REVIEW THEIR TERMS OF REFERENCE TO ENSURE THAT THEY ENABLE THE COMMITTEES

TO UNDERTAKE WORK ON NEW AND EMERGING PROBLEMS, AND TO MAKE SUCH NEW WORK A HIGH PRIORITY.

Timeline: Reviews in relevant committees should be completed and reported to CCEXEC and the CAC by 2016.

Responsible parties: CCFH, CCFA, CCCF, CCPR, CCRVDF, CCNFSU, 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 in to 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, CCNFSU

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 within the remit of the Codex mandate for safe and product 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 NEW 1.5 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

NEW 1.6 ENCOURAGE FAO/WHO TO EXPAND WHO'S FOODBORNE DISEASE BURDEN EPIDEMIOLOGY REFERENCE GROUP (FERG). ENCOURAGE DEVELOPMENT OF DATA THROUGH FERG THAT CAN BE CONTRIBUTED BY CODEX MEMBER COUNTRIES TO RISK ASSESSMENTS DONE BY JECFA, JMPR, AND JEMRA TO SUPPORT CODEX STANDARD-SETTING ACTIVITIES. FAO AND WHO SHOULD REPORT TO CCEXEC AND CAC ON THE NUMBERS OF MEMBER COUNTRIES WHO HAVE BEEN ABLE TO CONTRIBUTE NEW DATA TO JECFA, JMPR, AND JEMRA RISK ASSESSMENTS.

Timeline: Annual reporting to begin 2014.

Responsible parties: WHO, FAO, JECFA, JMPR, AND JEMRA SECRETARIATS, CCEXEC, CAC

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 THE WIDEST AND MOST CONSISTENT APPLICATION OF SCIENTIFIC PRINCIPLES AND RISK ANALYSIS PRINCIPLES

~~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

[NOTE TO CCEXEC: CCEXEC MUST DECIDE IF AND HOW THIS ACTIVITY SHOULD BE INCLUDED, AS IT IS CURRENTLY SCHEDULED TO CONCLUDE DURING THE CURRENT STRATEGIC PLAN TIMELINE.]

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~~

NEW 2.4: ENCOURAGE COUNTRIES TO COLLABORATE WITH WHO'S FOODBORNE DISEASE BURDEN EPIDEMIOLOGY REFERENCE GROUP (FERG) IN WAYS THAT GENERATE DATA FOR USE IN JECFA, JEMRA, OR JMPR RISK ASSESSMENTS.

TIMELINE: STRIVE FOR TWO SUCH PROJECTS BY 2015.

RESPONSIBLE PARTIES: ALL GENERAL SUBJECT COMMITTEES, WHO

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 CADC 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

[NOTE TO CCEXEC: CCEXEC MUST DECIDE IF AND HOW THIS ACTIVITY SHOULD BE INCLUDED, AS IT IS CURRENTLY SCHEDULED TO CONCLUDE DURING THE CURRENT STRATEGIC PLAN TIMELINE.]

3.2: Ensure effective AND EFFICIENT 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 BY FOLLOWING A PRACTICE THAT ALLOWS FOR TIMELY CONSIDERATION OF NEW ISSUES

Description: Develop committee-specific decision-making and priority-setting criteria and use these criteria for management of work. ENSURE THAT THESE CRITERIA CREATE A PROCESS THAT ENABLES TIMELY CONSIDERATION OF NEW WORK BY CODEX COMMITTEES IN ACCORDANCE WITH THEIR TERMS OF REFERENCE.

Timeline: REVIEW OF EXISTING PRACTICES BY 2013; IMPLEMENT PRACTICE IN ALL COMMITTEES BY 2014.

Responsible parties: All General Subject Committees and some other subsidiary bodies as appropriate.

[NOTE TO CCEXEC: CCEXEC MUST DECIDE IF AND HOW THIS ACTIVITY SHOULD BE INCLUDED, AS IT IS CURRENTLY SCHEDULED TO CONCLUDE DURING THE CURRENT STRATEGIC PLAN TIMELINE.]

~~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)~~

3.45: URGE COMMITTEES TO ADOPT AND IMPLEMENT THE GOOD PRACTICES IDENTIFIED AS A RESULT OF “STRATEGIC PLAN 2008-2013” ACTIVITY 3.5, AS SUMMARIZED IN ALINORM 10/33/3A. ~~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.~~ THE CCEXEC 2010 REPORT INCLUDES THE COMMITTEE-BY-COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE ADOPTION OF GOOD PRACTICES TO FACILITATE ADVANCEMENT OF TEXTS IN THE CODEX STEP PROCEDURE. COMMITTEES ARE ENCOURAGED TO REVIEW THESE RECOMMENDATIONS AND ADOPT THEM AS STANDARD PRACTICE.

Timeline: ~~Completion by 2011~~ ADOPTION BY 2014; CODEX-WIDE IMPLEMENTATION BY 2016

Responsible parties: ~~CCEXEC and CAC~~ ALL CODEX GENERAL SUBJECT COMMITTEES

3.5A: ENCOURAGE USE OF PRE-SESSION WORKING GROUPS AT COMMITTEE MEETINGS TO EXPEDITE AGREEMENT ON STANDARDS

DESCRIPTION: PRE-SESSION WORKING GROUP MEETINGS DIRECTLY BEFORE COMMITTEE PLENARIES SHOULD BE HELD IN AN EFFORT TO FACILITATE AGREEMENT ON CODEX STANDARDS AND EXPEDITE THE PROCESS.

TIMELINE: HOLD PRE-SESSION WORKING GROUP MEETINGS FOR AT LEAST TWO COMMITTEES CURRENTLY NOT USING THIS PRACTICE BY 2015

RESPONSIBLE PARTIES: ALL CODEX COMMITTEES

3.5B: REVIEW CONDITIONS FOR HOLDING STANDARDS AT STEP 8

DESCRIPTION: A CCGP WORKING GROUP IS CURRENTLY CONSIDERING FACTORS THAT CONTRIBUTE TO STANDARDS BEING HELD AT STEP 8 FOR EXTENDED TIME PERIODS, AS WELL AS POSSIBLE NEW PROCEDURES THAT CAN RESOLVE THIS ISSUE AND PROMOTE CONSENSUS.

TIMELINE: REVIEW OF CONTRIBUTING FACTORS BY 2011; WORKING GROUP RECOMMENDATIONS TO CCGP BY 2012

RESPONSIBLE PARTIES: CCGP

[NOTE TO CCEXEC: CCEXEC MUST DECIDE IF AND HOW THIS ACTIVITY SHOULD BE INCLUDED, AS IT IS CURRENTLY SCHEDULED TO CONCLUDE DURING THE CURRENT STRATEGIC PLAN TIMELINE.]

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 CCEXEC AND the Codex Secretariat to perform its THEIR functions effectively~~

~~Description: Evaluate the effectiveness and resource needs of CCEXEC AND 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 2009-2013~~

~~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

3.9: INCREASE USE OF MACHINE-ASSISTED TRANSLATION OF CODEX DOCUMENTS

DESCRIPTION: ENCOURAGE USE OF MACHINE-ASSISTED TRANSLATION OF CODEX DOCUMENTS BY EXTENDING PILOT TESTS OF THE TECHNOLOGY TO AT LEAST TWO COMMITTEES PER YEAR.

TIMELINE: APPLY PILOT TESTS TO AT LEAST TWO COMMITTEE MEETINGS IN 2015; REPORT RESULTS IN TERMS OF TIME AND COST FACTORS TO CCEXEC AND TO CAC.

RESPONSIBLE PARTIES: CAC, CCEXEC, CODEX SECRETARIAT, AND ALL CODEX COMMITTEES

3.10: INCREASE USE OF INTERNET-BASED VIRTUAL MEETINGS

DESCRIPTION: EVALUATE THE COSTS AND BENEFITS OF WEB-BASED VIRTUAL MEETING SOFTWARE BY MAKING IT AVAILABLE TO COMMITTEES THROUGH THE CODEX SECRETARIAT, WITH SUPPORT FROM A TRAINED SECRETARIAT EXPERT, OR THROUGH CONTRACTED SERVICE PROVIDERS THAT COULD MANAGE THESE MEETINGS.

TIMELINE: FEASIBILITY STUDY AND REPORT COMPLETED BY SECRETARIAT IN 2015

RESPONSIBLE PARTIES: CODEX SECRETARIAT

3.11: MEASURE AND IMPROVE EFFICIENCY OF CURRENT PROCESS FOR COMMENT SUBMISSION

DESCRIPTION: TO UNDERSTAND THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE CURRENT COMMENT PROCESS, CODEX COMMITTEES WILL COLLECT INFORMATION ON THE TOTAL NUMBER OF COMMENT SUBMISSIONS RECEIVED BEFORE AND AFTER DEADLINES. THE DATA WILL BE REVIEWED AND RECOMMENDATIONS WILL BE MADE TO CCEXEC AND THE CAC ON CHANGES THAT COULD IMPROVE THE EFFICIENCY AND EFFICACY OF COMMENT SUBMISSION.

TIMELINE: ACCUMULATE STATISTICS THROUGHOUT 2013 AND 2014; PRESENT DATA REVIEW TO CCEXEC AND CAC WITH RECOMMENDATIONS DESIGNED TO IMPROVE EFFICIENCY AND EFFICACY OF COMMENT SUBMISSION IN 2014.

RESPONSIBLE PARTIES: DATA COLLECTION BY ALL CODEX COMMITTEES AND TASK FORCES; REVIEW AND RECOMMENDATIONS BY CCEXEC, CAC

[NOTE TO CCEXEC: CCEXEC MUST DECIDE IF AND HOW THIS ACTIVITY SHOULD BE INCLUDED, AS IT IS CURRENTLY SCHEDULED TO CONCLUDE DURING THE CURRENT STRATEGIC PLAN TIMELINE.]

GOAL 4: PROMOTING COOPERATION BETWEEN CODEX AND OTHER RELEVANT INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

4.1 IDENTIFY AND 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

[NOTE TO CCEXEC: CCEXEC MUST DECIDE IF AND HOW THIS ACTIVITY SHOULD BE INCLUDED, AS IT IS CURRENTLY SCHEDULED TO CONCLUDE DURING THE CURRENT STRATEGIC PLAN TIMELINE.]

4.6 ENCOURAGE PARTICIPATION OF INTERNATIONAL PRIVATE STANDARD SETTING BODIES AS OBSERVERS TO THE CAC

DESCRIPTION: THE COMMISSION WOULD ALSO MAKE EFFORTS TO ENCOURAGE PRIVATE STANDARD SETTING BODIES TO PARTICIPATE IN THE CODEX PROCESS.

TIMELINE: ONGOING

RESPONSIBLE PARTIES: CODEX OBSERVERS, CODEX SECRETARIAT

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 the 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

[NOTE TO CCEXEC: CCEXEC MUST DECIDE IF AND HOW THIS ACTIVITY SHOULD BE INCLUDED, AS IT IS CURRENTLY SCHEDULED TO CONCLUDE DURING THE CURRENT STRATEGIC PLAN TIMELINE.]

5.4A

DESCRIPTION: TO INCREASE PARTICIPATION AND SKILLS-BUILDING IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, THE CAC SHOULD ENCOURAGE MENTORING AND TWINNING RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN COUNTRIES THAT HOST COMMITTEES WITH DEVELOPING COUNTRIES WITH LESS OR LIMITED EXPERIENCE.

TIMELINE: ONGOING; AT LEAST TWO MENTORING/TWINNING ACTIVITIES CONDUCTED BY 2016, WITH AT LEAST TWO MORE BY 2018

RESPONSIBLE PARTIES: HOST COUNTRIES

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, AND EMBRACE CODEX E-LEARNING AND TRAINING BY ALL DELEGATIONS.

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

5.7 ENHANCE NEGOTIATION SKILLS OF DELEGATES AND MEDIATION SKILLS FOR CHAIRS

DESCRIPTION: THE COMMISSION ENCOURAGES FAO AND WHO TO USE THE "CODEX MANUAL ON NEGOTIATION FOR DELEGATES AND MEDIATION FOR CHAIRS" IN TRAINING SESSIONS FOR DELEGATES, FOR CHAIRS OF GENERAL-SUBJECT, COMMODITY, AND REGIONAL COORDINATING COMMITTEES, AND FOR CODEX CONTACT POINTS.

TIMELINE: ONGOING; AT LEAST TWO SKILLS-BUILDING WORKSHOPS HELD BY 2016, WITH AT LEAST TWO MORE HELD BY 2018.

5.8 ENCOURAGE FAO AND WHO TO CONTINUE PROVIDING CAPACITY BUILDING PROGRAMMES TO DEVELOPING COUNTRIES AND COUNTRIES IN TRANSITION

DESCRIPTION: THE WORK OF CODEX SHOULD TRANSLATE TO STRENGTHENING OF THE NATIONAL FOOD CONTROL SYSTEMS. FAO AND WHO SHOULD CONTINUE IN ASSISTING MEMBER STATES IN ACHIEVING THIS CODEX OVERALL OBJECTIVES THROUGH PROVISION OF TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO BUILD THE FOOD SAFETY INFRASTRUCTURE.

TIMELINE:

CONTINUING

RESPONSIBLE PARTIES:

FAO, WHO, MEMBER STATES