

codex alimentarius commission



FOOD AND AGRICULTURE
ORGANIZATION
OF THE UNITED NATIONS

WORLD
HEALTH
ORGANIZATION



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Agenda Item 10

JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME

CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION

Twenty-eighth Session

FAO Headquarters, Rome, 4 – 9 July 2005

STRATEGIC PLANNING OF THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION

BACKGROUND

1. The 27th Session of the Commission had agreed to initiate the preparation for a new Strategic Plan 2008 -2013 and had recommended that:

- the Executive Committee, at its 55th Session, discuss the structure and format the Plan as well as ways to further proceed with the development of the Plan;
- the Strategic Plan state strategic objectives and priorities of the Commission and incorporate a list of programme areas/planned activities with a clearly defined timetable for each of the activities;
- after requesting the view of Regional Coordinating Committees, the draft Plan be submitted to the Commission for adoption by 2007; and
- the Strategic Plan, once adopted, be renewed every two years on a rolling basis.¹

2. The 55th Session of the Executive Committee, on the basis of a working document², considered a new Strategic Plan that would comprise three parts: the first part (Part 1) broadly stating Commission-wide objectives, the second part (Part 2) listing achievable outputs covering the areas for priority action by subsidiary bodies, and the third part (Part 3) setting out the working timetables by subsidiary body with the indication of a timeframe for each of the activities being undertaken, planned frequency of meetings of the subsidiary body as well as relevance to the outputs defined in Part 2.

3. The Executive Committee noted the importance of general direction provided at the Commission level, while acknowledging that priorities agreed on at the Committee level should duly be taken account of, especially in Part 2 of the Strategic Plan. It was also pointed out that the Plan, once developed, should guide the work of subsidiary bodies in a useful and practical manner.

4. The Executive Committee further agreed that the third part of the Plan should be regularly updated with appropriate input from the subsidiary bodies and be organised in such a way to facilitate the standards

¹ ALINORM 04/27/41 para.123

² CX/EXEC 05/55/2 Part I

management function of the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee noted that it would be useful if the same part also contained information on the provision of scientific advice associated with specific draft standards or related texts under development.

5. The Committee confirmed that the current Strategic Framework as well as elements of the draft Medium-Term Plan 2003-2007 would provide a useful basis to the preparation of the Strategic Plan 2008-2013.

6. The Executive Committee generally supported the process and timetable proposed in the working document. The Committee agreed that a working group, comprising the Chairperson and three Vice Chairpersons to be elected by the 28th Session of the Commission, should prepare a preliminary draft of the Strategic Plan, with assistance from the Codex Secretariat, for consideration at the 57th Session of the Executive Committee.

7. The Executive Committee also agreed that in order to ensure early inputs from Codex Members and Observers in the development of the Strategic Plan, a Circular Letter be issued by April 2005 to request comments on areas in which the current Strategic Framework was considered insufficient or needed to be improved or strengthened. The comments received would be used by the working group when elaborating the preliminary draft. The Committee noted that the parent organizations of the Commission could also contribute useful elements to the preparation of the preliminary draft.

8. The Executive Committee further agreed that the comments from the governments as well as Codex Committees should be sought, as appropriate, in the subsequent stages of the development of the Strategic Plan, before the draft Plan be submitted to the Commission for final adoption by 2007.³

9. In accordance with the recommendation by the Executive Committee, a Circular Letter (CL 2005/9 –EXEC) was issued in February 2005 to invite comments from member governments and observer organizations by 10 July 2005. It is proposed that a working group comprising the Chairperson and three Vice Chairpersons of the Commission will meet in Rome in September 2005 in order to prepare a preliminary draft of the Strategic Plan to be presented to the forthcoming session of the Executive Committee (December 2005).

10. The Commission is invited to **note** the progress being made and **endorse** the course of action recommended by the 55th Session of the Executive Committee for the preparation of the Strategic Plan 2008-2013.

³ ALINORM 05/28/3 paras 8-14