

CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION



Food and Agriculture
Organization of
the United Nations



World Health
Organization

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Agenda Item 11(b)

CX/CAC 13/36/12 Add.2
(Original Language Only)

JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME

CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION

36th Session, FAO Headquarters

Rome, Italy, 1-5 July 2013

DRAFT STRATEGIC PLAN OF THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION 2014-2019

Comments submitted by 21 June 2013 of:

Norway, Papua New Guinea, FAO and WHO and IFAH

NORWAY

General comments

It is our general point of view that risk-analysis is the basis for Codex work. However we would also like to underpin that there are also other considerations which are of importance for the development of Codex standards; these are issues such as developing necessary technical regulations (COP) and avoiding misleading of the consumer. It is therefore our opinion that many committees have other factors to take into consideration, and cannot find all solutions in the risk analysis.

We note that consumer concerns are mentioned along with other factors such as shifting populations and climate change. However it is not only consumer *concerns* which are of importance, there are other aspects of importance for consumers in relation to the Codex:

- The acknowledgement of importance of the consumers role in the food chain, differs globally, as they have different expectations in regard food control systems
- The consumers expect more from the regulators than merely keeping them from getting sick; regulators to endorse GMP, not more food additives than necessary, not disregarding animal health and welfare.

Specific comments

INTRODUCTION

The introduction gives a description of the reality, what is happening around us and in this regard possible challenges for Codex since it was established. It is neither a description of Codex procedures, nor a place to cross-reference the procedural manual. We would therefore like to delete the footnote in the second paragraph to avoid misunderstanding.

DRIVERS FOR CHANGE

The same footnote is also attached to consumer concerns in the chapter on “Drivers for change”. We cannot find any reasons for having this footnote here. It is our opinion that it is misleading and an obvious mistake attaching this footnote to consumer concerns in this chapter. The sentence it is attached to is simply a description of changes in the world. Therefore it is not appropriate to have the footnote here, and it should be deleted.

STRATEGIC GOALS AND DRAFT WORK PLAN

Throughout the activity plan we find that CCEXEC is taking on board a lot of responsibility, and this committee is taking tasks which could have been taken care of by the CCGP. With regard to the core values of Codex (collaboration, inclusiveness, consensus building and transparency), we would like to draw the attention of CAC to the importance of keeping these values in the process and procedures of Codex.

In line with this we would like to suggest that CCGP is given the following tasks:

- **Strengthen the critical review process to improve standards monitoring (1.1.2)** We agree that CCEXEC discuss and suggest amendments to the critical review process, however we would suggest that the responsibility is given to CCGP to give recommendations and endorsement (point 4 under 1.1.2 in the activity plan).
- **Develop a systematic approach to promote identification of emerging issues related to food safety, nutrition, and fair practices in the food trade (1.2.1)** Point 1 Committees implement systematic approaches for identification of emerging issues. These systematic procedures should be considered by CCGP and endorsed. As far as possible these procedures should have a holistic approach.
- **Promote collaboration in standards development in Codex with the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) and the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) on standards that cover the farm to fork continuum and affect Codex and those organizations (1.3.1) and other organizations (1.3.2).** The responsible party should be CCGP.
- **Encourage engagement of scientific and technical expertise of member countries and their representatives in the development of Codex standards (2.1.2).** We agree with the concept; however CAC and subsidiary bodies are risk managers and including scientific experts in delegations will consequently lead to extra economic burden on delegations. We would rather like to put emphasis on the involvement of scientific experts in the delegations preparations and in electronic working groups. Also the coordination between different delegations to different Codex committees are equally important.
- **To the extent possible, promote the use of the official languages of the Commission in committees and working groups (3.1.5).** As host country, we would like to draw the attention to the fact that this will increase our translation expenses to the double (expanding to three more languages; Chinese, Arabic and Russian).

PAPUA NEW GUINEA

Papua New Guinea supports that this Draft Strategic Plan of the Codex Alimentarius Commission is the on-going bench mark for the work of FAO/WHO Food Standard Programme to move further and to guide the member countries to take part meaningfully in the work of food safety inclusively. In this regard PNG sees the following comments be considered for inclusion into the draft strategic plan for CAC.

The Position of Papua New Guinea

Point 1. Under Codex Core Values

Papua New Guinea believes that ACCOUNTABILITY should be included as one of the Core Values. This is because when CAC in making an endorsement in the process of documenting various strategies to Horizontal and Vertical Committees may require accountability including the Core Value such as CAC budgets, Codex Trust Fund activities and in terms of considering general expenditures of FAO & WHO.

Point 2. Objective 2.2 It should read as; “Achieve and access to sustainable scientific advice” for the purpose of clarity of text.

Point 3. Objective 2.3 Papua New Guinea believes that new sub-activity should be included. “To encourage developing countries to collect and store data related to food safety and nutrition in their own countries”. This element seems to be a missing link in most developing countries such as in Papua New Guinea and the Pacific Island Countries.

Point 4. Under Objective 3.2 include text “developing” and 3.2.1 include text “in developing countries” (to be consistent with the objective).

FAO and WHO

General Comments from FAO/WHO

1. It is proposed to separate “measurable indicators” and “outputs” to facilitate distinction between that which is an output and that which is an indicator and thus needs to be measured. This is proposed as a means of providing greater clarity with regard to the contents of this last column and also to make it easier to identify those items which need to be measured in terms of indicators. Below the text has been divided

between the two columns, one each to “measurable indicators” and “outputs”. Any proposed changes to the text are marked with ~~strikeout~~ and underline.

2. It is also recommend that consideration be given to link the indicators be linked to the achievement of objectives rather than outputs. Currently there is a mixture and in some cases the link to the objective already exists. This serves to reduce the number of indicators that need to be monitored and gives greater value to the indicators.

3. While it is noted that proposal is that the Responsible party is intended to reflect the primary responsible party we would propose that there needs to be text included in the Strategic plan to note that input from others will be required and to facilitate planning other parties should be alerted to this. For example data relating to some of the indicators is likely to be required form FAO and WHO and if this is not stated in the plan it should be explicitly mentioned in the report of the CCEXEC and the CAC for example.

DRAFT WORK PLAN:

Note: The “Responsible Party” section identifies the lead party that is responsible for overseeing the implementation of the activity identified in the work plan. It is recognized that several other parties will play a significant role in the implementation of the activity. Codex should leverage the use of existing reports and data collection activities to monitor progress through the “Measurable Indicators”.

								FAO/WHO Comments
Strategic Goal	Objective	Activity	Responsible Party	Time-Line	Expected Outcome	Outputs	Measurable Indicators	As noted in general comments the final column has been separated into two columns
<u>Strategic Goal 1:</u> Establish international food standards that address current and emerging food issues.	<u>Objective 1.1:</u> Establish new and review existing Codex standards, based on priorities of the CAC.	1.1.1 Consistently apply decision-making and priority-setting criteria across Committees to ensure that the standards and work areas of highest priority are progressed in a timely manner.	All Committees	On-going	New or updated standards are developed in a timely manner.	Priority setting criteria are reviewed, revised as required and applied.	1. # of standards revised and # of new standards developed based on these criteria.	No changes to text ...No 1 moved to output column. No 2 remains in the indicator column.
		1.1.2 Strengthen the critical review process to improve standards monitoring.	CCEXEC	Jan 2014- July 2015	More effective work management oversight exercised by the CCEXEC.	1. Current critical review procedures reviewed by Dec. 2014. 2. Proposed changes, if required, to the critical review process identified. 3. Secretariat report submitted to the CCEXEC on outcomes of the review by April 2015. 4. Recommendation	Measurable indicators/output All items moved to outputs column. No changes to the text have been made as yet but the points could be grouped together, also to be consistent with other outputs, e.g. under 1.1.1., as one output as follows “ <u>Revised and endorsed critical review procedures</u> ” Measurable indicators/output: No text in indicator column but as mentioned in the general comments would propose that one indicator is adequate for objective 1.1. The more efficient the work management the more standards and so these are already captured	

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Strategic Goal	Objective	Activity	Responsible Party	Time-Line	Expected Outcome	Outputs	Measurable Indicators	As noted in general comments the final column has been separated into two columns
						ns endorsed by CCEXEC.		in the indicator related currently to 1.1.1
	<p><u>Objective 1.2:</u> Proactively identify emerging issues⁴ and member country needs and, where appropriate, develop relevant food standards.</p>	<p>1.2.1 Develop a systematic approach to promote identification and consideration of emerging issues related to food safety, nutrition, and fair practices in the food trade, building on existing activities underway at national, regional and international levels.</p>	All Committees	2016	Timely Codex response to emerging issues and to the needs of member governments.	<p>1. Committees implement a systematic process developed approaches for the incorporation of new and identification of emerging issues into the Codex work programme.</p> <p>2. Process is applied by all Codex committees</p>	Regular reports on systematic approach and emerging issues made to the CCEXEC through the Codex Secretariat.	<p>Activity: Modifications are proposed to the text of the Activity to provide greater clarity as to what is being proposed here.</p> <p>Measurable indicators/output Item 1 is moved to output column and modified (see text in red) to indicate that this is a two step process: 1. Development of the system and 2. Application of the system by committees</p>
		<p>1.2.2 Develop and revise international and regional standards as needed, in response to needs identified by Members and in response to factors that affect food safety, nutrition and fair practices in the food trade.</p>	All Committees	On-going	Improved ability of Codex to develop standards relevant to the needs of its Members.	1. Input from committees identifying and prioritizing needs of members.	2. Report to CCEXEC from committees on how standards developed address the needs of the members as part of critical review process.	<p>Measurable indicators/output Point 1 moved to output column</p> <p>Propose that indicators from 1.2.1 and 1.2.2 could be combined to one indicator (taking the approach of one indicator per objective) . for example</p> <p>“Regular reports on systematic approach and emerging issues and member country needs and how standards developed address the needs of the members made to the CCEXEC through the Codex</p>

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Strategic Goal	Objective	Activity	Responsible Party	Time-Line	Expected Outcome	Outputs	Measurable Indicators	As noted in general comments the final column has been separated into two columns
								Secretariat.”
		1.2.3 Develop a pilot approach to measure the relevance of Codex standards to members.	CCEXEC	2016	Indicators to measure the relevance of Codex standards to members developed.	1. A pilot approach implemented.		<p>Measurable indicators/output</p> <p>Item 1 moved to output column</p> <p>General comment: Objective 1.2 refers to emerging issues, and activities 1.2.1 and 1.2.2 reflect this. Therefore it is not clear why 1.2.3 is very generic and refers to relevance of Codex standards in general. If it is intended to be more generic then it would fit better under Objective 1.1.</p>
	Objective 1.3: Strengthen coordination and cooperation with other international standards-setting organizations seeking to avoid duplication of efforts and optimize opportunities.	1.3.1 Promote collaboration in standards development in Codex with the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) and the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) on standards that cover the farm to fork continuum and affect Codex and those organizations.	CCEXEC	On-going	Optimized collaboration with OIE and IPPC	1. Current collaboration between Codex, OIE and IPPC reviewed and where relevant, procedures are updated.		<p>Measurable indicators/output</p> <p>For this objective there are two outputs and no indicators. Consideration could be given as to whether one indicator should be established for this objective e.g.”<u>Extent of participation of other standard setting bodies in CAC</u>” Or Something like. “<u>An increase in the extent of cross referencing between Codex standards and other international standards</u>”</p>
		1.3.2 Promote	CCEXEC	On-	Optimized coordination and	1. Current collaboration		

								FAO/WHO Comments
Strategic Goal	Objective	Activity	Responsible Party	Time-Line	Expected Outcome	Outputs	Measurable Indicators	As noted in general comments the final column has been separated into two columns
		cooperative programs with other international governmental and non-governmental standard-setting organizations to support development of relevant Codex standards and to enhance awareness, understanding and use of Codex standards.		going	cooperation with international intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, including private standard settings bodies.	between international intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations reviewed and where relevant, procedures updated.		
<p><u>Strategic Goal 2:</u></p> <p>Ensure the application of risk analysis principles in the development of Codex standards.</p>	<p><u>Objective 2.1:</u></p> <p>Ensure consistent use of risk analysis principles and scientific advice.</p>	<p>2.1.1</p> <p>Use the scientific advice of the joint FAO/WHO expert bodies to the fullest extent possible in food safety and nutrition standards development based on the <i>Working Principles of Risk Analysis for Application in the Framework of the Codex Alimentarius</i>.</p>	All relevant Committees	On-going	Scientific advice consistently taken into account by all relevant committees during the standard setting process.		<p>1. # of times the need for scientific advice is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - identified, - requested and, - utilized in a timely manner. 	<p>Responsible party: suggest to indicate relevant committees as not all committees request scientific advice</p> <p>General comment: There were no clear outputs identified for objective 2.1. although the current indicators are very easily changed to outputs. To facilitate monitoring it is suggested to reduce the number of indicators. One indicator for the activity could be considered.</p> <p>Also: scientific advice is part of risk analysis, but we understand that there was considerable discussion on this point and therefore scientific advice was kept</p>

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Strategic Goal	Objective	Activity	Responsible Party	Time-Line	Expected Outcome	Outputs	Measurable Indicators	As noted in general comments the final column has been separated into two columns
								separate.
		2.1.2 Encourage engagement of scientific and technical expertise of member countries and their representatives in the development of Codex standards.	All Committees <u>Member countries or Codex Member Governments</u>	On-going	Increase in scientific and technical experts at the national level contributing to the development of Codex standards.		1. # of scientists and technical experts as part of member country delegations. 2. # of scientists and technical experts providing appropriate input to country positions.	Responsible party: This is the task of countries rather than committees. This is similar to Activity 2.3.3 and in that case member governments are the responsible party so these should be consistent. Measurable indicators/output Propose to delete the first indicator as this is not a global indication of engagement of scientific and technical expertise since it will be dependent of the resources of a country to send such expertise to a meeting. Engagement could still occur without such experts having to be part of a meeting delegation.
		2.1.3 Ensure that all relevant factors are fully considered in exploring risk management options in the context of Codex standard development.	All Committees	On-going	Enhanced identification, and documentation of all relevant factors considered by committees during the development of Codex standards.		1. # of committee documents identifying all relevant factors guiding risk management recommendations. 2. # of committee documents clearly reflecting how those relevant factors were considered in the context of	Indicators: The two indicators could be combined.

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Strategic Goal	Objective	Activity	Responsible Party	Time-Line	Expected Outcome	Outputs	Measurable Indicators	As noted in general comments the final column has been separated into two columns
							standards development.	
		2.1.4 Communicate the risk management recommendations to all interested parties.	All Committees <u>Codex Secretariat,</u> <u>Codex Member countries</u>	On-going	Risk management recommendations are effectively communicated and disseminated to all interested parties.	1. # of web Publication/ communications relaying Codex standards <u>published on the Codex website.</u> 2. # of Media releases disseminating Codex standards issued.		Responsible party: As Committees only exist for a short duration each year we believe this responsibility must lie with the secretariat and Codex members. Otherwise it very much limits the opportunities for communication Indicators/output: what is currently listed as indicators are outputs, and therefor moved to outputs column
	<u>Objective 2.2:</u> Achieve sustainable access to scientific advice.	2.2.1 Encourage FAO and WHO governing bodies to identify the provision of scientific advice as a high priority and allocate sufficient resources for the FAO/WHO expert advice, in particular from FAO/WHO expert bodies such as JECFA, JEMRA, JMPR and JEMNU	Codex Member Governments	On-going	FAO and WHO expert advice to Codex is supported in a more sustainable manner.	Adequate financial resources allocated to the provision of scientific advice by FAO/WHO.	1. Increase in # of member countries making interventions at the FAO and WHO governing bodies in support of sustainable funding for scientific advice.	Measurable indicators/output: The second item in the last column is an output and moved to that column

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Strategic Goal	Objective	Activity	Responsible Party	Time-Line	Expected Outcome	Outputs	Measurable Indicators	As noted in general comments the final column has been separated into two columns
		2.2.2 Encourage continued financial support from Members for the FAO/WHO expert advice, in particular from FAO/WHO expert bodies such as JECFA, JEMRA, JMPR and JEMNU.	CAC <u>with input from FAO and WHO</u>	On-going	Flexible and reactive operational framework for the provision of scientific advice for Codex.	Report on the member countries financial contribution to the provision of scientific advice by FAO/WHO		Measurable indicators/output: The item in the last column is an output (i.e. a report) Responsible Party: this is an area where FAO and WHO also have to play a strong role
		2.2.3 Explore other appropriate funding sources for FAO/WHO scientific advice.	CCEXEC	June 2014	Enhanced and more sustainable funding sources for FAO/WHO scientific advice.	Report from the CCEXEC sub-committee identifying potential options for financial support by June 2014.		Measurable indicators/output: The item in the last column is an output (i.e. a report)
	<u>Objective 2.3:</u> Increase scientific input from developing countries.	2.3.1 Encourage developing countries to submit data in response to calls from FAO/WHO expert bodies, through enhanced <u>capacity for and collaboration on (networking)</u> food safety and	Codex Member Governments	On-going	Codex standards are increasingly more representative of a global environment.		Increase in # of developing countries responding to calls for data.	Activity: Some additional wording has been proposed to capture the intent of 2.3.4 in this activity as it is closely related and we do not believe should be considered as a separate activity. Measurable indicator: Receipt from developing countries will often relate to the issues on which scientific advice are sought, as data does not always come from countries but often industry.

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Strategic Goal	Objective	Activity	Responsible Party	Time-Line	Expected Outcome	Outputs	Measurable Indicators	As noted in general comments the final column has been separated into two columns
		nutrition data generation capabilities.						Output: Some wording is proposed under 2.3.2 which is also relevant here
		2.3.2 Encourage FAO and WHO to support programs aimed at enhancing the capacity of developing countries to generate, collect and submit data.	Codex Member Governments	On-going	Risk assessments and scientific advice take into account the increased <u>amount of suitable</u> data provided by developing countries.	<u>Increase in the amount of data available from developing countries to support risk assessment and scientific advice</u>	# of new or on-going initiatives aimed to support data collection in developing countries.	Outputs and Expected outcomes: due to concerns about how the outcome might be interpreted (i.e. RA and SciAdv don't currently take into account suitable data from developing countries), an output was added to reflect what seems to be the intent (this is also relevant for 2.3.1) and a modification was made to the outcome
		2.3.3 Encourage sustained and continuous participation of technical and scientific experts from developing countries in the work of Codex.	Codex Member Governments	On-going	Developing countries playing an increasingly effective role in Codex standard setting process.	Increase in # of subject matter and food safety risk analysis experts from developing countries contributing to Codex standard setting process.	Increase in # of developing countries providing scientific and technical experts to Codex committees.	Activity: This is very similar to Activity 2.1.2 except with an added emphasis on developing countries. We would propose that 2.1.2 is adequate and this activity is not needed. This objective should focus on those aspects which are relevant to developing countries only. Particular reference could be made to developing countries in 2.1.2 if this is considered particularly critical for them. Measurable indicators/outcome: The first item is identified as an output. It is suggested to delete the second item as again this suggests that someone needs to travel to a Codex meeting which is not necessarily an indication of whether or not there has been

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								engagement with technical and scientific expertise
		2.3.4 Encourage the establishment of networks of members to enhance collaboration in the generation of data that can be submitted for review by expert committees.	Codex Member Governments	On-going	Enhanced generation and submission of data from developing countries as a result of participation in networks.		1. # of networks developed. 2. # of countries joining a network. 3. # of times input received from developing country by expert committees, as a result from participation in a network.	General: While we understand and appreciate the intent of this activity we do not believe the establishment of networks in itself will contribute to enhanced generation and submission of data. The use of networks and collaboration can contribute capacities to generate data and this aspect of enhanced capacity is captured in 2.3.1. this is one of the mechanisms that could be used but should not be a separate activity in itself. Wording has been proposed in activity 2.3.1 to capture the essence of this
Strategic Goal 3: Facilitate the effective participation of all Codex Members.	Objective 3.1: Increase the effective participation of developing countries in Codex.	3.1.1 Encourage member countries to develop sustainable national institutional arrangements to promote effective contribution to the Codex standard setting processes.	CAC	On-going	Increased and strengthened sustainable national Codex structures.	1. Baseline # inventory of member governments with permanent national Codex structures developed.	2. Annual reports on the # of members with permanent national Codex structures reporting an increase in such structures compared to the baseline.	Measurable indicators/outputs: Item 1 is clearly an output rather than an indicator ..suggest that this could be called an inventory. Item 2: Suggest slight modification to reference the baseline General comment: when identifying the baseline it is necessary to define what is meant with ‘permanent’ (or ‘institutionalized’) Codex structures, i.e. define a set of criteria.
		3.1.2 Encourage the use of partnership	CAC	On-going	Increased number of co-hosting arrangements for	Baseline inventory of current co-hosting	1. # of developing countries identifying their	Measurable indicators/outputs: Item 1 is clearly an output

								FAO/WHO Comments
Strategic Goal	Objective	Activity	Responsible Party	Time-Line	Expected Outcome	Outputs	Measurable Indicators	As noted in general comments the final column has been separated into two columns
		initiatives to increase effectiveness of participation of developing countries, such as co-hosting of committees and working groups, including the development of guidance documents, building on lessons learned.			committees and working groups.	arrangements developed. # of Guidance documents <u>on co-hosting and other appropriate partnership arrangements</u> developed.	willingness to co-host Codex meetings 2. # of co-hosted meetings from 2014 to 2019. 3. # of initiatives implemented using the guidance document developed.	Item 2 is very subjective and does not necessarily reflect a commitment or there may not be an opportunity to follow up hence it is suggested to delete this one. Item 4 is somewhat unclear as to what guidance would be developed. Suggest this is more specific and used as an output Item 5 is also unclear and would suggest that Item 3 is adequate as a measure so suggest to delete
		3.1.3 Encourage financial contributions from <u>Codex Members</u> to the Codex Trust Fund <u>and/or successor initiative.</u>	CAC	On-going	Codex Trust Fund (and its successor) have sufficient resources for sustainable assistance to <u>eligible</u> countries.	<u>1. Countries contribute to the Codex Trust Fund or successor initiative.</u>	2. Increase in # of countries contributing to Codex Trust Fund <u>and/or successor initiative</u> 3. Increase in # of countries benefiting from Codex Trust Fund.	Measurable indicators/outputs: Propose to delete item 2 as within the current CTF the matched funding approach means that number of countries which are supported actually decrease over time.
		3.1.4 <u>Support, together with Plan, with the involvement of Codex Members, the planning and development of a successor initiative for the Codex</u>	<u>CCEXEC & CAC</u>	Dec. 2015	and functioning.	<u>1. FAO/WHO put forward options to CCEXEC & CAC for successor initiative.</u> <u>2. An option for a successor</u>	1. <u>A successor to the Codex Trust Fund is established by December 2015.</u> Transition management team established.	Activity: The main responsibility for the a successor CTF does not lie with the CCEXEC so have proposed wording to the activity to better reflect the role of the CCEXEC & CAC in this regard. Measurable indicators/outputs. These are mainly outside the remit

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Strategic Goal	Objective	Activity	Responsible Party	Time-Line	Expected Outcome	Outputs	Measurable Indicators	As noted in general comments the final column has been separated into two columns
		Trust Fund.				<u>initiative is agreed by the CAC and recommended to FAO/WHO.</u>	1. Option selected and implemented.	of codex so some of what was in current indicators have been captured in outputs and suggested wording for a new indicator given. Responsible party: The CAC and its membership play a critical role here.
		3.1.5 To the extent possible, promote the use of the official languages of the Commission in committees and working groups.	All Committees	On-going	Active participation of members in committees and working groups.	1. Report on number of members in committees and working groups using the languages of the Commission.		Measurable indicators/outputs. The item is considered to be an output rather than an indicator
	<u>Objective 3.2:</u> Promote capacity development programs that assist countries in creating sustainable national Codex structures.	3.2.1 Encourage FAO and WHO to implement capacity development programs that support the creation of sustainable national Codex-related structures.	CAC	On-going	Enhanced level of capacity development initiatives undertaken by FAO and WHO to support the creation of sustainable national Codex structures.	1. <u>Report</u> of capacity development programs conducted by FAO/WHO to strengthen national Codex structures.	2. # of countries with functioning national Codex structures	General: This is very similar to #3.1.1 except the focus is FAO and WHO. It is also a narrow interpretation of the work which FAO and WHO do to enhance effective participation in Codex Measurable indicators/outputs Item 1 is an output. Item 2 is problematic as an indicator for this activity as it is not solely dependent on FAO and WHO activities
		3.2.2 Encourage developing	CAC	On-going	Increased participation by developing		1. # of developing countries that have identified and are	General Comment: it is not clear how 'priority Committees' will be monitored, i.e. what are the criteria

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Strategic Goal	Objective	Activity	Responsible Party	Time-Line	Expected Outcome	Outputs	Measurable Indicators	As noted in general comments the final column has been separated into two columns
		countries to identify and prioritize Codex committees and task forces of significance to them.			countries in Codex committees of most relevance to them.		actively participating in their priority committees.	for prioritization, i.e. how can relevance to the Member country be measured by Codex.
		3.2.3 Where practical, use Codex meetings as a forum to effectively conduct educational and technical capacity building activities.	All Committees	On-going	Enhancement of the opportunities to conduct concurrent activities to maximize use of the resources of Codex and member governments.	<u>Relevant and focussed activities</u> hosted in the margins of Codex meetings <u>when appropriate</u>	<u>High evaluation rating (>85%???) of quality and relevance of</u> activities hosted on the margins of Codex meetings	Measurable indicators/outputs: It is important that such activities are relevant and that the focus is on quality rather than quantity. In this context the indicator should not refer to number of activities but rather the quality of activities. The item is modified to reflect this as an output and a new indicator with a focus on quality is proposed
<u>Strategic Goal 4:</u> Implement effective and efficient work management systems and practices.	<u>Objective 4.1:</u> Strive for an effective efficient, transparent, and consensus based standard setting process	4.1.1 Periodically review the work processes and procedures used by the CAC and its subsidiary bodies to ensure impediments to standard-setting work are identified and addressed, if necessary.	All Committees	On-going	Effective and efficient Codex standard-setting bodies.	1. Reports of reviews of work processes and procedures identifying: - # of impediments to standard-setting work identified -# of processes and procedures updated to address the identified impediments, if necessary.		Measurable indicators/ outputs: Suggest that this be considered an output rather than an indicator
		4.1.2 Assess benefits	Codex	2015	Improved functioning of	1. Potential cost-effective	3..# of options	Measurable indicators/ outputs: Propose Items 1 an 2 converted to

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Strategic Goal	Objective	Activity	Responsible Party	Time-Line	Expected Outcome	Outputs	Measurable Indicators	As noted in general comments the final column has been separated into two columns
		and, where cost effective, implement new technologies to improve, Codex communication, work flow, and management of activities.	Secretariat		Codex committees as a result of faster communication, and transparent work processes.	technologies identified <u>and</u> . 2. # of feasible options recommended.	implemented.	an output and only one item (3) retained as an indicator
		4.1.3 Assess benefits and, where cost effective, implement new technologies to improve member participation in committees and working groups.	Codex Secretariat	2018	Member governments more effectively able to participate in committees and working groups as a result of the implementation of new technologies.	# of New potential technologies identified and analyzed to determine their applicability to improving participation of members in Codex standard-setting process. # of New technologies piloted (e.g. new Codex document sharing system).	1. Report on # or trend of meetings and work processes allowing electronic participation	Measurable indicators/ outputs: Propose items 1 and 2 are converted to outputs and just one indicator retained.
		4.1.4 Enhance timely distribution of all Codex working documents in the working languages of the Committee/Comm	All Committees	Dec. 2015	Codex documents distributed in a more timely manner consistent with timelines in the Procedural Manual.	1. Baseline Ratio (%) established for documents distributed at least 2 months prior to versus less than 2 months prior to a scheduled	3. An increase in the ratio (%) of documents circulated 2 months or more prior to meetings.	Measurable indicators/ outputs: Item 1 and 2 identified as outputs and item 3 as an indicator

								FAO/WHO Comments
Strategic Goal	Objective	Activity	Responsible Party	Time-Line	Expected Outcome	Outputs	Measurable Indicators	As noted in general comments the final column has been separated into two columns
		ission.				meeting. 2. Factors that potentially delay the circulation of documents identified and addressed.		
		4.1.5 Increase the scheduling of Work Group meetings in conjunction with Committee meetings.	All Committees	On-going	Improved efficiency in use of resources by Codex committees and member governments.		1. # of physical working group meetings in conjunction with committee meetings, where appropriate.	
	<u>Objective 4.2:</u> Enhance capacity to arrive at consensus in standards setting process.	4.2.1 Improve the understanding of Codex members and delegates of the importance of and approach to consensus building of Codex work.	All committees	2016	Member countries and delegates awareness of the importance of consensus in the Codex standard setting process improved.	1. Training material on guidance to achieve consensus developed and made available in the languages of the Commission to delegates. 2. Regular dissemination of existing material to members through Codex Contact Points. 3. Delegate training programs held in association		Measurable indicators/outputs: All items appear to be outputs

								FAO/WHO Comments
Strategic Goal	Objective	Activity	Responsible Party	Time-Line	Expected Outcome	Outputs	Measurable Indicators	As noted in general comments the final column has been separated into two columns
						with Codex meetings. 4. Impediments to consensus being achieved in Codex identified and analyzed and additional guidance developed to address such impediments, if necessary.		
		4.2.2 Through networking, training and workshops, seek to improve the skill set of chairs of working groups and committees to achieve consensus.	Chair of the Commission <u>Codex Secretariat</u>	2016	Consensus achieved at working groups and committees.	1. Training available to all Chairs and work group (physical and electronic) chairs on how to lead and facilitate committee meetings. 2. Best practices to achieve consensus at committees and working groups shared amongst chairs.		Responsible party: As the commission meets only once per year it would seem more appropriate that the Codex Secretariat is the driver here Measurable indicators/outputs: In this case both items appear to be outputs

IFAH (International Federation for Animal Health)

General comments

IFAH is of the view that the purpose of Codex, which is centered on protecting the health of the consumers and ensuring fair practices in the food trade, should remain the basis of the strategic plan for the coming years.

Specific comments

Introduction

With increased globalization, the Commission must also be capable of responding in a timely manner to emerging food safety issues ~~and other factors~~ that may impact on food safety and fair practices in the food trade ~~such as the effects of shifting populations, climate change and relevant consumer concerns~~.

Rationale: The text would mean the same without the proposed examples, which are heterogeneous in nature (climate change may be the cause of food safety issues, as opposed to consumer concerns which are a consequence of food safety issues). The introduction of “other factors” can be interpreted in many ways and therefore we also propose deletion.

Drivers for change

Changes through increased food demand and trade in the global feed and food supply chain system, resource optimization efforts, food security ~~concerns~~ needs and innovation in food science and technology ~~and consumer concerns~~ represent some of the drivers of change that introduce new food safety and nutrition related challenges and opportunities.

Rationale: As highlighted above, consumers concerns are not a driver of new food safety challenges but a consequence and do not belong to this sentence. We believe a reference to increased food demand and trade is more relevant in the context.

Strategic goals 1.3.1.

Promote ~~collaboration~~ **coordination** in standards development in Codex with the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) and the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) on standards that cover the farm to fork continuum and affect Codex and those organizations

Rationale: We believe that text in line with the Procedural Manual Article 1 is more appropriate, pending work undertaken under the auspices of the CCGP.

Strategic goals 2.1.3.

Ensure that all relevant factors **as stated in the second paragraph of “Statements of Principle Concerning the Role of Science in the Codex Decision Making Process and the Extent to which other Factors are Taken into Account”**, are fully considered in exploring risk management options in the context of Codex standard development.

Rationale: We refer to our general comment – we believe the current purpose of Codex is its key added value, and the suggested added text guides the focus of the parties to Codex and to the role of science in Codex decisions – the one principle all parties can agree on as the main driver of food safety.