

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION  
CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION**

**European Union comments on**

**CL 2024/82-CAC**

**Request for comments on a proposal on the draft goals and outcome statements for the  
Codex Strategic Plan 2026-2031**

*Member States Competence  
Member States Vote*

The Member States of the European Union (MSEU) appreciate the opportunity to provide the following comments and suggestions of modifications.

As a general comment, the MSEU welcome the proposal of CCEXEC86 to streamline the structure of the Codex Strategic Plan around three strategic goals and one functional goal.

**DRAFT STRATEGIC GOALS AND OUTCOME STATEMENTS FOR THE CODEX  
STRATEGIC PLAN 2026-2031, AS PROPOSED BY CCEXEC**

**Chapeau**

The Codex Alimentarius Commission commits itself to work towards achievement of the following Strategic and Functional Goals within the Codex purpose<sup>1</sup>:

**MSEU comments and rationale for suggested modifications**

The MSEU note that the Statutes of the Codex Alimentarius Commission, included its purpose, as well as the procedures that are relevant for the functional goal are established in the Procedural Manual. The purpose of the Strategic Plan is to provide short- to medium-term Strategic objectives that are complementing the Procedural Manual. It may thus not be needed to indicate in the Strategic Plan that Codex will work in accordance with the Procedural Manual.

**Strategic Goals**

**Respond to Members' needs for protecting the health of consumers and ensuring fair practices in the food trade in an evolving global environment by developing science-based standards**

- Foresight and horizon-scanning activities are used to support the identification of Members' needs and emerging issues in an evolving global environment.
- Scientific advice that addresses the needs identified by CAC and subsidiary bodies is **provided by FAO and WHO and the joint FAO/WHO scientific expert advisory bodies, based on up-to-date methodology and** informed by globally representative data and appropriate international expertise.
- Scientific advice is used by CAC and subsidiary bodies in line with Codex risk analysis principles.
- Codex standards and related texts are developed, reviewed and adopted in a timely manner.

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<sup>1</sup> Article 1, Statutes of the Codex Alimentarius Commission, Codex Procedural Manual

#### MSEU comments and rationale for suggested modifications

The MSEU welcome this strategic goal that reflects Article 1, paragraphs 1.a and 1.e of the Statutes. In addition to the importance of globally representative data, the MSEU suggest to highlight the need to rely on up-to-date methodology. There is no need to refer to how the scientific advice is organised in Codex since it is established in the Procedural Manual.

#### **Strengthen relationships with relevant international organizations, promoting an integrated approach to address global challenges**

- The mutual understanding of the roles of CAC and relevant international organizations in relation to global challenges is improved and is supported by ongoing consultation between the parties.
- Gaps in approaches to addressing global challenges are identified through targeted engagement with relevant international organizations.
- The contribution of CAC to the transition towards sustainable and resilient food systems, is identified, and the development of relevant Codex texts undertaken accordingly.
- The use of Codex texts in the context of **integrative approaches such as** One Health is promoted.

#### MSEU comments and rationale for suggested modifications

The MSEU welcome this strategic goal that reflects Article 1, paragraphs 1.b, 1.c and 1.d of the Statutes. The MSEU highlight that increasing the coordination with other international organizations is critical to contribute to the transition to sustainable food systems and the One Health approach.

#### **Maximize the impact of Codex by increasing the visibility and use of standards**

- The profile and recognition of Codex as the international food standards setting body for protecting consumer health and ensuring fair practices in food trade is enhanced.
- Contributions from relevant international organizations are encouraged throughout the development of Codex standards.
- Harmonization through the increased use of Codex texts in establishing national food control systems, standards and regulations **in the context of national pathways for sustainable food systems** is advocated for.
- Codex Members and Observers are enabled to participate actively and sustainably throughout the standard-setting process.

#### MSEU comments and rationale for suggested modifications

The MSEU welcome this strategic goal. The UN Food Systems Summit 2021 mobilized efforts at international, regional and national level towards the transformation of food systems. The MSEU propose to highlight the importance of the implementation of Codex texts in the context of national pathways for food system transformation.

#### **Functional goal**

#### **Enhance work management systems and practices that support the efficient and effective achievement of all strategic plan goals**

- Effective and efficient Codex work management practices are refined and enhanced,

exploiting digital and other new technologies to enable this.

- Proposals to CAC for development of new Codex texts are prioritized in relation to their impact on protecting consumer health and ensuring fair practices in food trade, as well as their contribution to the sustainability of food systems and the application of the One Health approach.
- Chairpersons and delegates are supported in their respective roles and their capabilities are developed.

MSEU comments and rationale for suggested modifications

The MSEU welcome the inclusion of a functional goal that aligns the organization of Codex work with the identified strategic objectives. In order to enhance this alignment, the MSEU propose to take into account the contribution to the sustainability of food systems and the application of the One Health approach for the prioritization of Codex work.