

**Draft Codex Strategic Plan 2020-2025**  
**(CL 2018/67/OCS-CAC)**

Member States Competence  
Member States Vote

The Member States of the European Union (MSEU) would like to congratulate the CCEXEC subgroup for its excellent work and thank it for the opportunity to provide comments on Circular Letter 2018/67/OCS-CAC.

**General Comments:**

The MSEU appreciate the fact that the timetable is being respected, so that the draft Strategic Plan 2020-2025 can seamlessly follow the current Strategic Plan 2014-2019.

We welcome the clear link which the draft Strategic Plan establishes between Codex activities and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), in particular by clearly setting out how Codex can contribute to reaching the targets related to SDGs 2, 3, 12 and 17. This also clearly illustrates the important role which Codex can play in terms of supporting its members in making progress towards achieving the SDGs.

With regard to the introductory part of the draft Strategic Plan, the MSEU appreciate the explicit reference to the Codex Trust Fund 2 (CTF2) as a key element in facilitating the full engagement of developing countries in Codex work, including the important work on combatting antimicrobial resistance. We also welcome the fact that it reiterates the critical importance of the Codex core values in guiding Codex work in all its dimensions. In this context, we wish to underline that the concept of “consensus” (rather than the various tools to build consensus) is key to the proper functioning of Codex and to ensuring that Codex standards are globally applied. It is thus the importance of working through consensus as such that should be reflected in the draft Strategic Plan. In addition, we would like to stress the importance of taking into account risk analysis principles in line with the Statements of Principles of the Codex Procedural Manual, including the science-based initial step of risk assessment as well as the risk management step where other legitimate factors have to be taken into consideration.

The MSEU appreciate the flow chart on the strategic vision and the strategic goals and see scope for improving it, in particular by further developing the relationship between the strategic goals and the strategic vision statement (concrete suggestions to that effect are set out in the specific comments below).

For the provision of scientific advice by FAO/WHO scientific bodies appropriate funding is needed. The MSEU reiterate the importance of the core budgets of FAO and WHO as the main funding source in this context. Additional funding from FAO and WHO members, as it is currently the case, may help supporting scientific advice to Codex; however the FAO/WHO reports on the matter show that it is a rather unpredictable and unsustainable way of supporting activities that are essential for Codex work. Any additional funding sources for the joint scientific advice programme could only be considered if those are fully transparent and fully guarantee the independence of that programme.

The MSEU would like to draw the attention to the encouragement of CCEXEC to carefully consider the measurability of indicators when developing the Strategic Plan “2020-2025”. It should be avoided that the monitoring of activities poses difficulties due to unclear or unmeasurable indicators.

The MSEU would also like to highlight the importance of the revitalization of the Regional Coordination Committees, in order to enhance the involvement of the various Codex Regions in Codex work. Adequate activities and indicators need to be defined in the Strategic Plan.

The MSEU further consider that there is scope for simplifying the language of the draft Strategic Plan 2020 – 2025 and enhancing its focus in order to allow all Codex Members to have a clear understanding of the objectives and goals to be achieved.

Finally, the MSEU consider that, in the further elaboration of the Strategic Plan, the lessons learned from the implementation of the current Strategic Plan should be duly taken into account.

**Specific comments:**

Our specific comments and text proposals are set out below.

CODEX STRATEGIC PLAN 2020 – 2025: DRAFT	MSEU Comments / Rationale
<p><b>1 INTRODUCTION</b></p> <p>1.1 The Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC) was established by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the World Health Organization (WHO) in 1963. Today, it has 189 Members, and 225 inter-governmental and international non-governmental organizations are accredited as observers.</p>	
<p>1.2 The Commission's main work is the development of international food standards, guidelines, and codes of practice to protect the health of consumers and ensure fair practices in the food trade. The Commission also promotes the coordination of all food standards work undertaken by international governmental and non-governmental organizations.</p>	
<p>1.3 For food safety and nutrition matters, the Commission, as a risk manager, establishes its standards using the principles of risk analysis and bases its work on the scientific advice provided by the joint FAO/WHO expert bodies and consultations, for which there needs to be sufficient and sustainable funding. Codex standards also address issues related to food quality and labeling to ensure fair practices in the food trade. 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.<sup>1</sup></p>	
<p>1.4 International food standards, guidelines and recommendations established by the Commission are explicitly recognized as a reference for food safety in the World Trade Organization's agreement on Sanitary and Phytosanitary measures (WTO SPS) and have also served as references for the Technical Barriers to Trade agreement (WTO TBT).</p>	

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<sup>1</sup> The consideration of other factors in the Codex standard setting process is governed by the *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*.

<p>1.5 The purpose of this Strategic Plan is to advance the mandate of the Codex Alimentarius Commission during the period 2020-2025. This document does not supersede, extend, or contradict the interpretation of the Codex mandate, standards or provisions of the Procedural Manual adopted or approved by the Commission.</p>	
<p>1.6 The 2020-2025 Strategic Plan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Presents the vision, goals, and objectives for the Commission and is supported by a more detailed work plan that includes activities, milestones, and measurable indicators to track progress toward accomplishment of the goals. (see Table XY)</li> <li>- Underpins the high priority that continues to be placed on food safety and quality by FAO and WHO and guides the Commission in carrying out its responsibilities.</li> <li>- Informs Members, inter-governmental and international non-governmental organizations, and other stakeholders of how the Commission intends to fulfil its mandate and to meet the needs and expectations of its Members during the period 2020-2025.</li> </ul>	<p>1.6 first indent</p> <p>Reference is made to the “more detailed work plan” but it is not readily recognisable that this essentially means the activities in the Table at the back of the Plan. It is important to make this link by making a cross reference to the Table, and for the responsibilities for taking forward the activities (actors), and monitoring to be made clear.</p> <p>We also suggest that this is a point for the RCCs to focus on when they meet during 2019 to consider implementation of the plan.</p>
<p>1.7 In setting out its strategic goals, this plan incorporates a new focus on promoting the value and use of Codex standards by governments and as a reference for trade.</p>	<p>1.7</p> <p>It would be useful to justify the incorporation of the new focus. This could be done on basis of an evaluation of the current Strategic Plan.</p>
<p><b>2 DRIVERS OF CHANGE</b></p>	
<p>2.1 The dynamics of the standard-setting activities undertaken by the Commission have changed dramatically since it was established. Since its establishment, not only has the Codex membership increased significantly,</p>	

<p>but Codex has also seen a more active contribution from all Members, more specifically the developing countries<sup>2</sup> which are contributing more actively to the international food standard-setting process. The FAO/WHO Codex Trust Fund (CTF2) is a key initiative in this regard, as it supports countries to build strong, solid and sustainable national capacity to engage in Codex with the ultimate vision of all countries engaging fully and effectively in Codex benefitting fully from Codex standards by 2027.</p>	
<p>2.2 The focus and needs of Codex member countries are also evolving, for example in response to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) adopted by world leaders in September 2015<sup>3</sup>. Codex has an important role to play in supporting member countries in their implementation efforts with respect to SDGs that are directly related to food safety and fair practices in the food trade. In particular, adoption of Codex standards can support the achievement of:</p>	

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<sup>2</sup> [insert definition of “developing country”]

<sup>3</sup> See <http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/development-agenda/>

<b>SDG</b>	<b>SUPPORTING TARGET</b>	<b>CONTRIBUTION OF CODEX</b>
SDG 2 – ending hunger, achieving food security and improved nutrition, and promoting sustainable agriculture	Ensuring sustainable food production systems and implementing resilient agricultural practices	Promoting access to knowledge of good agricultural practices and new methods and technologies.
	Ensuring access by all people to safe, nutritious and sufficient food.	
SDG 3 – ensuring healthy lives and promoting well-being for all, at all ages	Combatting communicable diseases	Codex standards help reduce risk of death and illness from unsafe food, including through reducing exposure to hazardous levels of chemicals and contamination that can lead to deaths and illnesses.
	Reducing by one third premature mortality from non-communicable diseases through prevention and treatment	
	Substantially reducing the number of deaths and illnesses from hazardous chemicals	
	Strengthening the capacity of all countries, in particular developing countries, for early warning, risk reduction and management of national and global health risks.	Developing countries are contributing more actively to the international food standard-setting process. CTF2 supports countries to build strong, solid and sustainable national capacity to engage in Codex and reap the benefits of Codex standards.
SDG 12 – ensuring sustainable consumption and production patterns	Halving per capita global food waste at retail and consumer levels and reducing food losses along production and supply chains, including post-harvest losses	Codex standards support the safe and effective preservation of food and its appropriate durability marketing.
SDG 17 – revitalizing the global partnership for sustainable development	Promoting a universal, rules-based, open, non-discriminatory and equitable multilateral trading system	Codex standards aim not only to protect the health of consumers, but also to ensure fair practices in the food trade, which in turn supports economic growth. The standards are considered by the WTO as the international reference for food safety.

<b>CODEX STRATEGIC PLAN 2020 – 2025: DRAFT</b>	<b>MSEU Comment / Rationale</b>
<p>2.3 The environment in which Codex operates has also evolved. Food and food ingredients continue to be increasingly amongst the most traded commodities internationally<sup>4</sup>. Changes in the global feed and food supply chain system, resource optimization efforts, food security and safety concerns, and innovations in food science and technology, climate change and consumer concerns, represent some of the drivers of change that introduce new food safety and nutrition related challenges. The Commission must adapt to this evolving environment and be capable of responding proactively, flexibly and in a timely manner to emerging food safety, quality and related issues with the aim of protecting consumer health and promoting fair practices in the food trade whilst also contributing to relevant SDGs. The responsiveness of the CAC is exemplified by the work undertaken from 2016 to revise its code of practice on combatting antimicrobial resistance and produce new guidelines on integrated surveillance and also work undertaken to increase standards for minor crops, in light of the importance of these crops to international trade, particularly for developing countries.</p>	<p>Para. 2.3, 2. sentence We think it would be helpful to include a reference (as a footnote) to data source to support the statement that food is "... increasingly amongst the most traded commodities".</p> <p>Para 2.3, 4. sentence We suggest revisions to this sentence to make it consistent with the vision statement, and adding a link to SDGs.</p>
<p><b>3 STRATEGIC VISION STATEMENT</b></p> <p>To be the preeminent international food standards setting body that establishes globally recognized international food standards that are used world-wide to protect consumer health and promote fair practices in the food trade for everyone, everywhere.</p>	<p>The new Vision Statement is quite long and could be streamlined. In addition, the MSEU would appreciate a clarification as to the purpose of the changes compared to the current Vision Statement, including its new focus, so that this can be further considered and discussed.</p> <p>The flow chart on the strategic vision and the strategic goals could be improved. In fact, the interaction of the strategic goals <i>vis-à-vis</i> each other and the strategic vision is not clear. It could be clarified that strategic goals 1, 2 and 3 support the strategic vision while goals 4 and 5 are not really goals but appear more like tools for achieving</p>

<sup>4</sup> Reference to data source to support the statement

	goals 1, 2 and 3.
<p><b>4 CODEX CORE VALUES</b></p> <p>4.1 The Codex Alimentarius Commission re-commits itself to the following core values, which will guide its work to fulfil its strategic vision</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Collaboration</li> <li>- Inclusiveness</li> <li>- Consensus<sup>5</sup></li> </ul> <p>Transparency</p>	<p>4.1 - third indent</p> <p>Under the Codex core values, “consensus building” is not a core value but a tool to achieve a core value of consensus: “Consensus building” should thus be replaced with “Consensus”.</p>
<p>4.2 In conducting its work, the Commission takes into account, where appropriate, the relevant policies, strategies and guidelines of FAO and WHO, and other international organisations (e.g. OIE), consistent with fulfilling its unique mandate to protect the health of consumers and promote fair practices in the food trade through the development of international food safety and quality standards</p>	<p>4.2</p> <p>We suggest including a reference that other international work can be taken account of when conducting Codex work.</p> <p>In addition, we suggest changing “ensure” to “promote fair practices in the food trade” for consistency with wording of the vision statement.</p>

<sup>5</sup> Consensus should be based on “Measures to facilitate Consensus” included in the Procedural Manual.



## Specific Comments and drafting proposals

Strategic Goal	Objective	Activities	Expected Outcomes	Indicators	Rationale	EU Rationale
<b>GOAL 1:</b> <b><i>Codex standards address members' current, emerging and critical issues</i></b>	1.1 Members' needs and emerging issues are identified to inform prioritization of work.	1.1.1. Develop a systematic approach that identifies emerging global trends and issues related to food safety and quality, nutrition, and fair practices in food trade.  1.1.2 Horizon scanning mechanisms are implemented by all Codex Committees.	1. Timely Codex response to emerging issues and to the needs of members.  2. Improved ability of Codex to develop standards relevant to the needs of its members.	1. Proposals for new work considered by Codex Committees are informed by horizon scanning.  2. Regular reports on emerging issues identified by Codex Committees made to the CCEXEC through the Codex Secretariat.	In the period 2020-25 we should implement effective approaches to horizon scanning across all Codex Committees and ensure that this then informs consistent decision-making and priority setting across Codex such that work areas of highest priority – in terms of members' current and future needs – are progressed.	New Activity 1.1.1:  This links back and reinforces para. 2.3 to introduce, within this section, specific activity that horizon scans “changes in the global feed and food supply chain system, etc.”.
	1.2 Decisions on which Codex standards, guidelines and related texts are developed are made consistently and are informed by members' needs	1.2.1 Priority setting criteria are reviewed and revised.  1.2.2 A procedure concerning the critical review process and its review is defined in the procedural manual.  1.2.3 Current critical review process is reviewed, recommendations are considered and an action plan is agreed by CAC.	1. New standards are developed in line with the priorities of CAC, the needs of its members and in response to factors that affect food safety and quality, nutrition and fair practices in food trade.  2. More effective work management oversight exercised by the CCEXEC.	1. Priority setting criteria are applied consistently across Codex Committees.  2. An action plan to further strengthen the critical review process is agreed and implemented.		The MSEU regard the prioritization of Codex work as a crucial element in tackling emerging and critical issues. It could be conflictual if the same Codex body is in charge of both revising the process and applying it. This needs to be defined taking the Codex Procedural Manual into account and making use of relevant Codex bodies (e.g. CCGP  1.2.2 The wording is consistent with the one in 5.3.1 Outcome 1

Strategic Goal	Objective	Activities	Expected Outcomes	Indicators	Rationale	EU Rationale
						To reference the wider global current, emerging and critical issues. This is similar to wording of Objective 1.2, activity 1.2.2 of the existing Strategic Plan
<p><b>GOAL 2:</b> <i><b>Codex standards are based on risk analysis principles, including the science based initial step of risk assessment.</b></i></p>	<p>2.1 FAO/WHO joint scientific advice has sufficient and sustainable resources and funding</p>	<p>2.1.1 FAO and WHO should be encouraged to allocate and/or increase funds from their core budgets for scientific advice.</p> <p>2.1.2 Encourage Codex Members to make scientific experts available for FAO/WHO scientific bodies.</p>	<p>1. Sustainable funding sources are available to fund a flexible and reactive approach for provision of scientific advice to Codex by FAO/WHO.</p> <p>2. Members provide support and advocacy in line with their capacity to do so, which may include: encouraging and empowering their national experts to participate in expert meetings; and efforts in the governing committees of FAO and WHO to ensure suitable funding.</p>	<p>1. Amount and sustainability of financial resource allocated by FAO and WHO governing bodies to their joint scientific advice programme.</p> <p>2. Collection and collation by a working group of CCEXEC of reports from Members about their support and advocacy for the FAO/WHO joint scientific advice programme.</p> <p>3. Amount and sustainability of funding for FAO/WHO joint scientific advice from new sources.</p>	<p>The work of CAC needs a strong scientific base. We should not underestimate the challenges of this strategic goal. While, at first glance, it might seem simply to reflect the operational principles of CAC as laid out in the Procedural Manual, securing timely and high-quality scientific advice that is sufficiently and sustainably resourced will be no less a challenge for the coming strategic plan period. It is important therefore to identify the steps that each actor could take to ensure, support and advocate for the delivery of scientific advice to Codex.</p>	<p>Goal 2 All elements of the risk analysis should be taken into account equally.</p> <p>Objective 2.1 In addition to funding, it is important to ensure that FAO/WHO scientific bodies have qualified scientific experts available from Codex Members. Therefore a new activity should be added under this objective.</p> <p>Activities 2.1.2+3 For the provision of scientific advice by FAO/WHO scientific bodies appropriate funding is needed. The MSEU reiterate the importance of the core budgets of FAO and WHO as the main funding source in this context. Any additional funding sources for the joint scientific advice program could only be considered if those are fully transparent and fully</p>

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						guarantee the independence of that program. In addition, the MSEU consider that an indicator tracking any backlog should be introduced to the respective objective.
	2.2 To enable and support developing countries to increase their capacities for participation in the scientific advice programs through improved data generation, data sharing and increased human capacities to serve as experts.	2.2.1 Encourage developing countries to submit data in response to calls from FAO/WHO joint expert committees, through enhanced food safety and nutrition data generation capabilities. 2.2.2 National Codex Contact Points ensure that calls for data are widely distributed and input actively solicited at national level. 2.2.3 Advocate for the development of programs aimed at enhancing the capacity of developing countries to generate, collect and submit data, with a particular focus on collaborative data	1. Risk assessments, scientific advice to Codex, and the standards on which they are based, take into account globally representative data.	1. Collected and collated information from National Codex Contact Points, CTF2, and other relevant sources on action taken by and in support of Codex members that contribute to achievement of this objective. <sup>7</sup>	There are significant variations from region to region, and within regions, in food production and consumption practices, the geochemical composition of soils, and a range of other factors that impact on consumer exposure to harmful or beneficial constituents of food. For scientific advice to be comprehensive, globally representative data is needed. This will require, among other things, capacity building in developing countries.	Indicator 1 Seems more like an activity than an indicator.

<sup>7</sup> This might include, for example: the volumes of data submitted by developing countries; the numbers of developing countries providing data and/or experts; and the number and range of initiatives to support data generation in developing countries and data networks that include developing countries.

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		<p>generation projects, sharing work and cost between participant countries.</p> <p>2.2.4 Encourage the establishment of and participation of developing countries in networks of Members to enhance collaboration in the generation of data that can be submitted for review by expert committees.</p>				
		<p>2.2.5 Encourage sustained and continuous participation of technical and scientific experts from developing countries in the work of Codex. FAO/WHO scientific programme secretariats communicate efficiently about the need for developing countries scientific experts to participate in scientific expertise for Codex.</p> <p>2.2.6 National Codex Contact Points ensure that calls for experts are widely distributed and input actively solicited at national level.</p>	<p>1. Developing countries and their national experts play a larger and increasingly effective role in the Codex standard setting process.</p>		<p>To support the sustainability of the FAO/WHO joint scientific advice program, we should ensure the availability of as wide and diverse as possible a range of scientific experts.</p>	<p>Activity 2.2.5 could focus specifically on raising awareness regarding the importance of the scientific expertise performed by FAO/WHO expert committee.</p>

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	2.3 Scientific advice is used consistently in line with Codex risk analysis principles.	2.3.1 Effective problem formulation so that the mandate given by risk managers to risk assessors is as clear as possible. 2.3.2 Documentation on how the risk assessment outcome was used in the development of the Codex text. 2.3.3 Ensure all relevant factors <sup>8</sup> are fully considered in exploring risk management options in the context of Codex standard development.	1. Scientific advice from the FAO/WHO joint expert committees is used consistently and to the fullest extent possible in food safety and nutrition standards development based on the Working Principles of Risk Analysis for Application in the Framework of the Codex Alimentarius. 2. All Relevant factors <sup>8</sup> are documented and justified in terms of criteria established in the Procedural Manual.	1. Terms of reference and priorities for scientific advice that are agreed by Codex Committees are clear. 2. Reports from Codex Committees clearly document how, having received scientific advice, the advice was then used and the other factors that were considered in the development of the relevant Codex text.	Risk communication is an integral part of risk analysis. It is aided by transparency and clarity in the processes of risk assessment and management.	Expected Outcome 2 The re-wording is necessary due to the Statement of Principle.
		2.3.4 Communicate the risk management recommendations to all interested parties.	1. Risk management recommendations are communicated and disseminated effectively to all interested parties.	1. The Codex Communications Workplan has, as one of its priorities, the wide dissemination of risk management recommendations. The Codex Communications Workplan includes relevant indicators.		
<b>GOAL 3:</b>	3.1 Codex standards	3.1.1 Engage with	1. Increased use of	1. Existing data	The primary audience for	Activity 3.1.4

<sup>8</sup> The consideration of other factors in the Codex standard setting process is governed by the *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*.

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<b>Codex standards are globally used</b>	drive harmonization of global food regulations for the protection of consumer health and ensuring fair practices in the food trade.	<p>FAO/WHO on their communication initiatives for members<sup>9</sup>, to raise the profile and awareness of Codex standards and their role in promoting food safety and fair trade at the national level.</p> <p>3.1.2 Identify and exploit other opportunities to raising the profile and awareness of Codex standards.</p> <p>3.1.3 Encourage the recognition of Codex standards, guidelines and related texts as relevant basis for legislation and other regulatory interventions to protect consumer health and ensure fair practices in the food trade at the national level.</p> <p>3.1.4 Provide a follow-up of the implementation of Codex Standards on the national and international level.</p>	Codex standards, guidelines and related texts at the national level.	<p>sources<sup>10</sup> are interrogated to identify proportion of known national standards which are aligned with Codex standards.</p> <p>2. National Codex Committees (or their equivalents) report on capacity building to encourage and facilitate practical use of Codex standards, guidelines and texts.</p>	Codex standards, guidelines and related texts is member countries, whose needs the standards are designed to address.	This action could encompass both national and international levels, with a view to facilitate the global monitoring of Goal 3.
	3.2 Codex standards	3.2.1 Identify and	1. Increased use of	1. Number, reach	Even in the absence of	Objective 3.2

<sup>9</sup> For example, FAO and WHO food safety, quality and security capacity building and technical assistance projects, e-learning and Codex Trust Fund 2.

<sup>10</sup> For example, existing MRL database for pesticides and veterinary drug residues

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	<p>are used more widely<sup>11</sup> to improve the protection of consumer health and promoting fair practices in the food trade.</p> <p>3.3 The legitimacy of Codex standards is ensured by consensus-based standard setting.</p>	exploit opportunities to raising the profile and awareness of Codex work and its role in promoting food safety and fair trade at the global level. <sup>12</sup>	Codex standards, guidelines and related texts by a range of actors at the global level.	<p>and impact of national and international third party assurance schemes which reference Codex standards.</p> <p>2. Number, reach and impact of capacity building and technical assistance projects led by other international governmental and non-governmental organisations which invite input from Codex.</p> <p>3. The reach and impact of speaking engagements accepted by the bureau of Chair and Vice-Chairs and the Secretariat to raising the profile and awareness of Codex and its role in promoting food safety and fair trade at the global level.</p>	adoption of Codex standards into national legislation, the use of Codex standards by the food trade and other actors as non-legislative benchmark standards can contribute to consumer protection and ensuring fair practices in the food trade. However, the appropriate way to use and/or implement Codex standards depends on a range of factors.	<p>To be consistent with the vision statement change “ensuring” to “promoting”</p> <p>New Objective 3.3</p> <p>Standards adopted by consensus facilitate the use at the national level.</p>
<b>GOAL 4:</b> <b><i>All Codex Members participate effectively in Codex</i></b>	4.1 The effective participation of all Codex Members, including developing countries, in the work	4.1.1 Provide Codex Members with practical guidance that contributes to sustainable	1. Increased participation of all Codex Members including developing countries in the work	<p>1. Number of developing countries hosting or co-hosting Committees.</p> <p>2. Number of</p>	Building the sustainable participation of delegates will never be easy. The administrations of all Codex members need to	<p>Objective 4.1</p> <p>This wording is consistent with the wording used in Expected Outcomes 1.</p>

<sup>11</sup> For example, by entities in the food trade to govern commercial interactions.

<sup>12</sup> For example, at international events on food safety and quality, in meetings of international governmental and non-governmental organizations, and through other appropriate international governmental and non-governmental initiatives.

Strategic Goal	Objective	Activities	Expected Outcomes	Indicators	Rationale	EU Rationale
<i>work.</i>	of Codex is enhanced in a sustainable manner	<p>participation.</p> <p>4.1.2 Encourage co-hosting of Codex Committees and working groups by developing countries also in an innovative way.</p> <p>4.1.3 Promote the use of the official CAC languages in Codex Committees and working groups.</p> <p>4.1.4 Organize open meetings for Codex Committee delegates before sessions to support discussion of issues and procedures between experienced and new delegates.</p> <p>4.1.5 While taking into account Codex working principles and procedures, enhance and facilitate the use of new technologies<sup>13</sup>, including the Codex platform, in the Codex standard setting process to facilitate real-time participation by a wider range of member countries.</p> <p>4.1.6 Where practical, use meetings on the</p>	<p>of Codex Committees and working groups.</p> <p>2. Improved information sharing and peer-to-peer exchanges between member countries.</p>	<p>developing countries chairing or co-chairing working groups.</p> <p>3. Number of developing countries participating in Codex Committees and working groups.</p> <p>4. Number and impact of capacity building activities, best practice sharing activities, and open meetings for exchange between experienced and new delegates conducted in the margins of Codex Committee sessions.</p> <p>5. The extent and impact of the use of new technologies by Codex Committees and working groups and, in particular, the impact on participation by developing countries. This includes the number of meetings held with webinar type technology available for remote participation.</p>	<p>set their own priorities in order to make best use of available resources.</p> <p>Developing countries in particular might be supported by other members, for example through meetings, training, or twinning. The time at the margins of Codex meetings could also be used for capacity building and peer-to-peer meetings among member countries.</p> <p>The development of sustainable national Codex systems in developing countries should support further participation in Codex Committees and working groups, and also lead to opportunities for co-hosting of Codex Committees and chairing or co-chairing of working groups.</p>	<p>Expected Outcome 1</p> <p>As SG4 relates to all Codex Members, the outcome should be revised accordingly.</p> <p>Activity 4.1.5</p> <p>This underlines that improved use of new technologies and tools must be implemented in accordance with Codex procedures (consensus-building, worldwide participation, etc.)</p>

<sup>13</sup> For example: video links; webinars.



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		margins of Codex sessions to conduct capacity building activities and/or sharing of best practices. <sup>14</sup>				
	4.2 To create sustainable national Codex systems.	<p>4.2.1 Assist members to assess their national systems to identify strengths, weaknesses and gaps.</p> <p>4.2.2 Encourage FAO and WHO to implement capacity development programs that support the creation of sustainable national Codex-related systems.</p> <p>4.2.3 Encourage Members to provide financial and in-kind support to capacity building programmes in developing countries.</p> <p>4.2.4 Encourage the activity of CTF2 which facilitates the engagement of developing countries in the Codex food standards-setting processes</p>	<p>1. Members have taken evidence-based<sup>15</sup> actions to build the capacity of their national Codex systems.</p> <p>3. CTF2 has sufficient resources for assistance to eligible countries over the life-time of the programme, and is effective in providing that assistance.</p>	<p>1. Number of member countries using FAO/WHO Diagnostic Tool for Assessing Status of National Codex Programmes.</p> <p>2. Establishment of new National Codex Committees (or equivalent) in member countries.</p> <p>3. Review of the annual report of CTF2.</p> <p>4. Increase in the number of countries making financial or in-kind contributions to Codex Trust Fund 2.</p> <p>5. Number of eligible countries that have received assistance from CTF2.</p> <p>6. Member countries that have received support from CTF2 can demonstrate sustainable positive</p>	<p>The diagnostic tool allows member countries to evidence an assessment of their national Codex system. Such a system is key to effective participation in Codex activities.</p> <p>CTF2 has an important role to play in increasing capacity in developing countries, but will only ever reach a limited number of members.</p> <p>Other sources of funding are required for capacity development programs to be effective, and should be structured so that Codex work becomes self-sustaining at the national level.</p>	<p>Objective 4.2 The implementation of capacity development programs is not an objective per se but an activity. Activity 4.2.7 This approach would also contribute to SG3.</p>

<sup>14</sup> For example, in use of templates, standard operating procedures, consultative approaches at national level.

<sup>15</sup> [http://www.who.int/foodsafety/publications/codex/DiagnosticTool\\_EN.pdf?ua=1](http://www.who.int/foodsafety/publications/codex/DiagnosticTool_EN.pdf?ua=1)

Strategic Goal	Objective	Activities	Expected Outcomes	Indicators	Rationale	EU Rationale
		<p>4.2.5 Encourage Members to provide financial and in-kind support to CTF2.</p> <p>4.2.6 Evaluate CTF2 at the close of the programme.</p> <p>4.2.7 Assess the global impact of the development of national Codex systems in developing countries.</p> <p>4.2.8 Encourage FAO and WHO, Standards and Trade Development Facility and others to use adopted or developing Codex standards in pilots and/or capacity building projects</p>		<p>impact on national Codex systems and/or participation in Codex Committees and Working Groups.</p> <p>7. Positive report from the evaluation of CTF2.</p>		
	4.3 Continue the revitalization process of Regional Coordinating Committees.	[Activities, outcomes, indicators and rationale for this objective are yet to be drafted, and will refer to the existing goals for revitalisation and the outcome of discussions at CCEXEC70 and CAC38]				
<b>GOAL 5:</b> <i><b>Codex work management systems and practices are effective and efficient.</b></i>	5.1 To further improve the efficiency of processes for the development of Codex standards, guidelines and related texts.	<p>5.1.1 Implement continuous review and update of Codex work processes and procedures as well as subsidiary bodies.</p> <p>5.1.2 Timely distribution of documents available</p>	<p>1. Codex work processes and procedures support the effective and efficient operation of Codex standard setting bodies.</p> <p>2. Codex documents are distributed in a</p>	<p>1. Delivery of a program of reviews of Codex work management by the Secretariat.</p> <p>2. Proportion of Codex documents whose distribution is consistent with the</p>	<p>The review of Codex work management will contribute to improvement of work management processes.</p> <p>In terms of supporting the most effective participation of member countries, some of the key</p>	<p>Activity 5.1.4</p> <p>This links to indicator 3 of Objective 5.3</p>

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		<p>in all working languages<sup>16</sup> sufficiently in advance of meetings.</p> <p>5.1.3 Improve outputs: produce Codex documents that are easier to read and more precise.</p> <p>5.1.4 Assess benefits of scheduling EWGs and PWGs in conjunction with Committee meetings to facilitate effectiveness and efficiency.</p> <p>5.1.5 Define additional procedures for the improvement of efficiency and effectiveness if CAC considers continuous review insufficient.</p>	<p>timely manner, consistent with the Procedural Manual.</p> <p>3. Outputs are to the point and precise, with historical and supporting information in appendices.</p>	<p>Procedural Manual.</p> <p>3. [x]% of standards are adopted using the accelerated procedure; [y]% of standards are adopted within 5 years of the approval of new work.</p>	<p>challenges remain: the timely distribution of documents in advance of meetings; their availability in the agreed working languages of the relevant body; and the clarity and precision of outputs to ensure understanding by intended audiences and to promote reuse.</p> <p>While we need to ensure the timely production of Codex texts, we should also recognize that we need to strike a balance as sometimes time will be needed to build consensus, which remains a core principle of Codex.</p>	
	<p>5.2 To further enhance the capacity of Chairs of Committees and working groups and the host country secretariats to support the work of Codex.</p>	<p>5.2.1 Networking, training workshops and tools to improve and maintain the skill set of Chairs.</p>	<p>1. The roles and responsibilities of Chairs and Co-chairs are clearly defined and universally understood.</p> <p>2. Chairs are more skilled at guiding the Committee/ working group toward consensus.</p> <p>3. Host country</p>	<p>1. Availability of tools and guidance and positive feedback from Chairs of subsidiary bodies and their host countries.</p> <p>2. Number of participants in networking, training and workshop events and their positive</p>	<p>Codex depends heavily on the capacity and skills of the chairs of subsidiary bodies, and on the resources contributed by their host countries, for the effective development of Codex texts.</p>	

<sup>16</sup> There are six working languages in the Codex Alimentarius Commission and, generally, three working languages for subsidiary bodies. Working groups can determine their own working languages.

Strategic Goal	Objective	Activities	Expected Outcomes	Indicators	Rationale	EU Rationale
	5.3 The critical review process is conducted by CCEXEC in a better informed and more efficient manner.	5.3.1 To produce procedural guidance, with due regard to the Procedural Manual, that will clarify the process by which new work proposals have been advanced as well as their content and that will clarify also the role of the CCEXEC to carry out the critical review effectively and efficiently. <del>The process of the critical review is further detailed in the Procedural Manual in respect of both the process by which new work proposals have been advanced and their content. It is clarified.</del>	secretariats are more effective in the support of Codex work  1. The role and responsibilities of CCEXEC is well defined and universally understood. 2. Critical review is conducted thoroughly by CCEXEC members, in adherence to work priority criteria.	feedback.  1. CCEXEC recommendations to CAC follow the criteria set up in the Procedural Manual and are taken into account. 2. Number of participants in training events and their positive feedback. 3. Prioritization of proposals to establish new EWGs.	While the critical review of ongoing work has improved, the approval of new work that later turns out to be difficult to discontinue, is a cause for concern.	Objective 5.3 There is a degree of overlap, but objectives 1.2 and 5.3 have different focus and emphasis in terms of the SGs they relate to. This objective is retained to provide clarity that future better informed, efficient critical review by CCEXEC is an integral part of SG5.  This objective concerns CCEXEC therefore the role and responsibilities of other Codex governing bodies are not in the focus. Activities 5.3.2 + 5.3.3 would better fit under Objective 5.4
	5.4 Work management practices are used that maximize collaboration, inclusiveness, transparency and consensus building.	5.4.1 Use of consensus building tools by Chairs. 5.4.2 Organize workshops on the principles, mechanisms and importance of consensus in Codex which are timely and	1. More robust consensus in support of Codex standards. 2. Members' awareness of importance of consensus in the Codex standard. 3. Every effort shall	1. The capacity for arriving at consensus in the Codex standard setting process is enhanced. 2. Proportion of anticipated Physical and Electronic Working Group reports that are	In theory the proliferation of EWGs increases transparency. In practice, following the full range of Codex work becomes increasingly difficult for countries with significant resource constraints.	New Activities 5.4.5 + 5.4.6 Codex Members should set their priorities and participate only in those eWGs dealing with topics that are important for the Member concerned.

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		<p>accessible.</p> <p>5.4.3 Physical and electronic Working Group reports are prepared and circulated to members in a timely manner following a uniform template.</p> <p>5.4.4 Chairs of Electronic Working Groups (EWGs) use the Online Commenting System (OCS), where comments are transparent to all, or circulation of member comments to all participants.</p> <p>5.4.5 Train new coordinators, members and new contact points on their roles and responsibilities.</p> <p>5.4.6 Carefully <del>consider</del> monitor the number of Electronic Working Groups (EWGs) in order to ensure effectiveness and efficiency,</p>	<p>be made to reach consensus.</p> <p>4. Increased transparency in the functioning and presentation of opinions of physical and electronic Working Groups .</p> <p>5. Wider participation in the work of EWGs.</p>	<p>distributed, and their timeliness.</p> <p>3. The number of EWGs using the OCS and EWGs where all comments are circulated.</p>	<p>Collaboration, inclusiveness, transparency and consensus building remain the core values of Codex, and should be reflected in work management practices.</p>	<p>Activity 5.4.5 (former 5.3.2)</p> <p>Clarification is needed what is meant by “new” in this activity.</p> <p>Activity 5.4.6 (former 5.3.2)</p> <p>Drafting groups are not defined in the Codex context.</p> <p>The purpose of this activity is unclear, however it seems to relate to a resourcing issue and has to do with monitoring the number of eWGs to ensure high effectiveness and efficiency. Therefore we suggest linking it to work management practices.</p> <p>Expected Outcomes 3</p> <p>Every effort shall be made to reach consensus.</p>
	<p>5.5 Co-operation with other relevant international organizations is enhanced, while respecting Codex principles and</p>	<p>5.5.1 Promote collaboration in standards developments in Codex with the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE)</p>	<p>2. Advancing synergies with the food standards developed by other relevant international organizations.</p> <p>2. Manage any</p>	<p>1. Increased communication between Codex, OIE and IPPC.</p> <p>2. Number of standards that are harmonized between</p>	<p>Increased communication between Codex and other relevant international organizations will promote appropriate cooperation. It is important that such interactions respect Codex</p>	

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	values.	<p>and the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) on standards that affect Codex and those organizations.</p> <p>5.5.2 Promote cooperation with other relevant international organizations to enhance awareness and understanding of Codex standards, and support for the development of relevant Codex standards.</p>	<p>potential gaps, duplications and inconsistencies in standards across organizations.</p> <p>3. Enhance awareness and understanding by other organizations of Codex standards.</p> <p>4. Enhance awareness and understanding by Members of the relation between Codex and other relevant international organizations.</p>	<p>Codex and other relevant organizations.</p> <p>3. Number of issues related to consumer protection and fair practices in the food trade that are referred to Codex by other organizations and vice versa.</p>	<p>values, for example in terms of inclusiveness and transparency in the development of any Codex text.</p>	