CODEX COMMITTEE ON GENERAL PRINCIPLES
(32nd Session)

Virtual meeting, 8 - 17 February 2021

European Union Comments on

Agenda item 8
Discussion Paper on monitoring Codex results in the context of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)
CX/GP 21/32/8

Member States Competence
Member States Vote

The Member States of the European Union (MSEU) would like to thank France for the discussion paper on monitoring Codex results in the context of the SDGs, which provides a very good basis for our discussions on this agenda item.

The Codex Strategic Plan 2020-2025 clearly acknowledges the need to monitor and assess the impact of Codex standards and also fully recognises that Codex standards can help countries in achieving progress towards those SDGs that are closely linked to Codex's mandate, i.e. SDGs 2, 3, 12 and 17. The MSEU therefore welcome the objective of identifying the most effective means of tracking Codex's performance in relation to the SDGs.

The useful indicator framework included in the Strategic Plan provides a good starting point. We welcome Recommendation 3 in the discussion paper, namely that Codex's track record with regard to the objectives and goals set out in its Strategic Plan could be used by the parent organisations and possibly other UN agencies to collate data on the SDG indicators for which they are responsible.

We also welcome Recommendations 1 and 2 in the discussion paper, aimed at communicating effectively to decision-makers how Codex standards and texts can help meet the SDGs, including through the development of an online tool similar to that used by the International Organisation for Standardisation (ISO).

We agree that the Codex Secretariat also has a self-evident and important role to play and welcome in particular Recommendation 4 to that effect. We see particular merit in the proposal that the Codex Secretariat could develop one or two detailed case studies related to selected Codex standards, which could help to identify implementation challenges, drawing lessons and - ultimately - enhancing the performance of Codex in general. In this regard, we also welcome the recently published common FAO and WHO study on the way in which Codex work can help countries achieve the SDGs.

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