

# FOOD SAFETY AND QUALITY STANDARD SETTING BY THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION: SIXTY YEARS LEVELLING THE PLAYING FIELD OF CONSUMER PROTECTION GLOBALLY

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**Chairperson, Codex Alimentarius Commission**



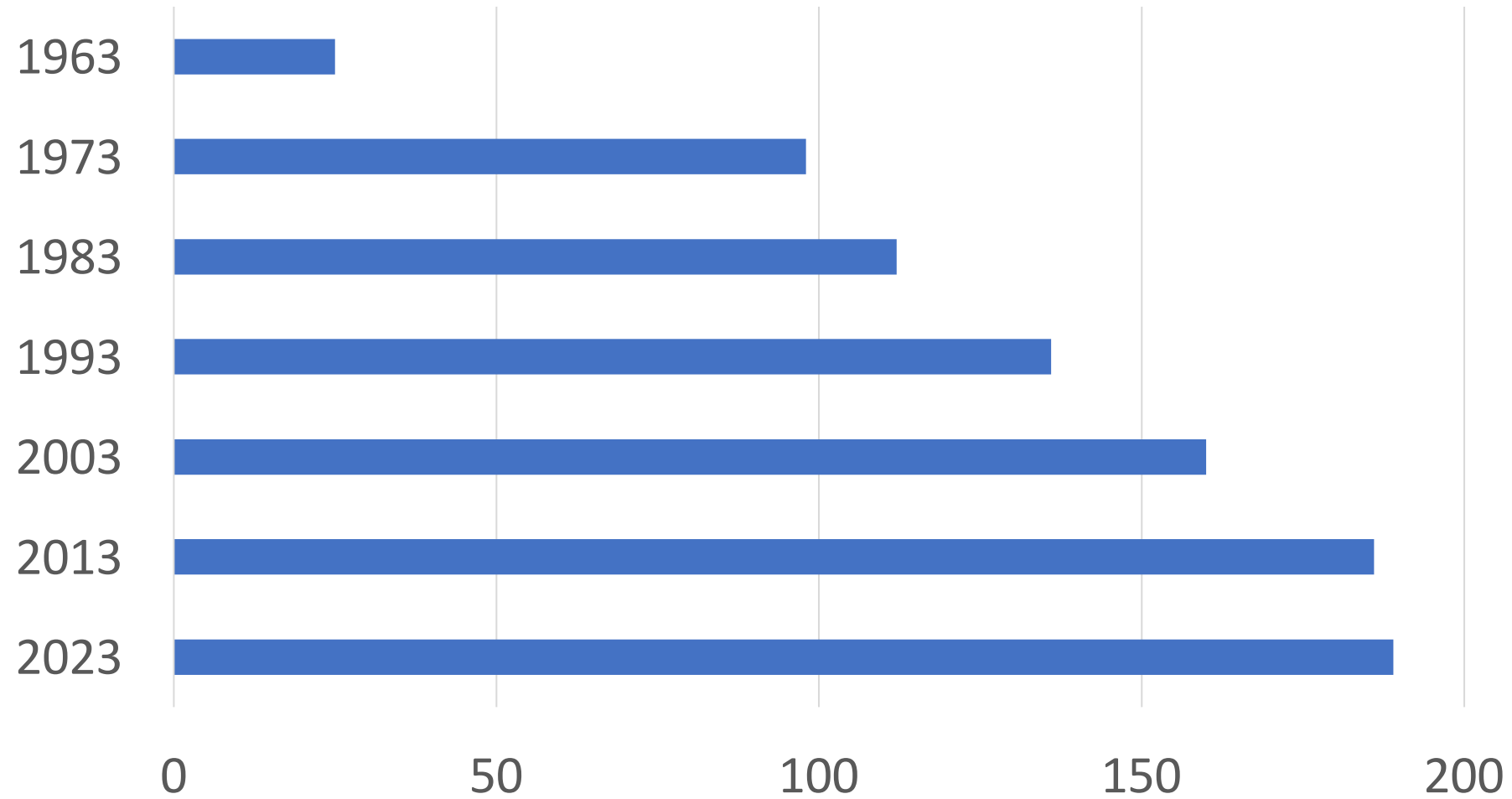
# Codex Strategic Plan 2020-2025

## VISION

“Where the world comes together to create food safety and quality standards to protect everyone everywhere.”



## Number of Codex Member countries



Member	Region	Member since
 Algeria	Near East	1970
 Bahrain	Near East	1981
 Egypt	Near East	1972
 Iran (Islamic Republic of)	Near East	1966
 Iraq	Near East	1969
 Jordan	Near East	1966
 Kuwait	Near East	1964
 Lebanon	Near East	1970
 Oman	Near East	1972
 Qatar	Near East	1971
 Saudi Arabia	Near East	1968
 State of Libya	Near East	1972
 Sudan	Near East	1968
 Syrian Arab Republic	Near East	1968
 Tunisia	Near East	1965
 United Arab Emirates	Near East	1972
 Yemen	Near East	1988



# The Codex Alimentarius



# THE CODEX SCORECARD



**81**

**GUIDELINES**



**230**

**STANDARDS**

OF WHICH  
12 GENERAL  
STANDARDS  
219 COMMODITY  
STANDARDS



**55**

**CODES  
OF PRACTICE**



**113**

**MAXIMUM  
LEVELS (MLS) FOR  
CONTAMINANTS  
IN FOOD**

COVERING  
18 CONTAMINANTS



**632**

**MAXIMUM  
RESIDUE LIMITS  
(MRLS)  
FOR RESIDUES  
OF VETERINARY  
DRUGS  
IN FOODS**

COVERING  
85 VETERINARY DRUGS  
RISK MANAGEMENT  
RECOMMENDATIONS  
(RMRs) FOR  
13 VETERINARY DRUGS



**5 906**

**MAXIMUM  
RESIDUE LIMITS  
(MRLS)**

AND 63 EXTRANEOUS  
MAXIMUM RESIDUE  
LIMITS (EMRLS)  
FOR PESTICIDE  
RESIDUES  
COVERING  
238 PESTICIDES



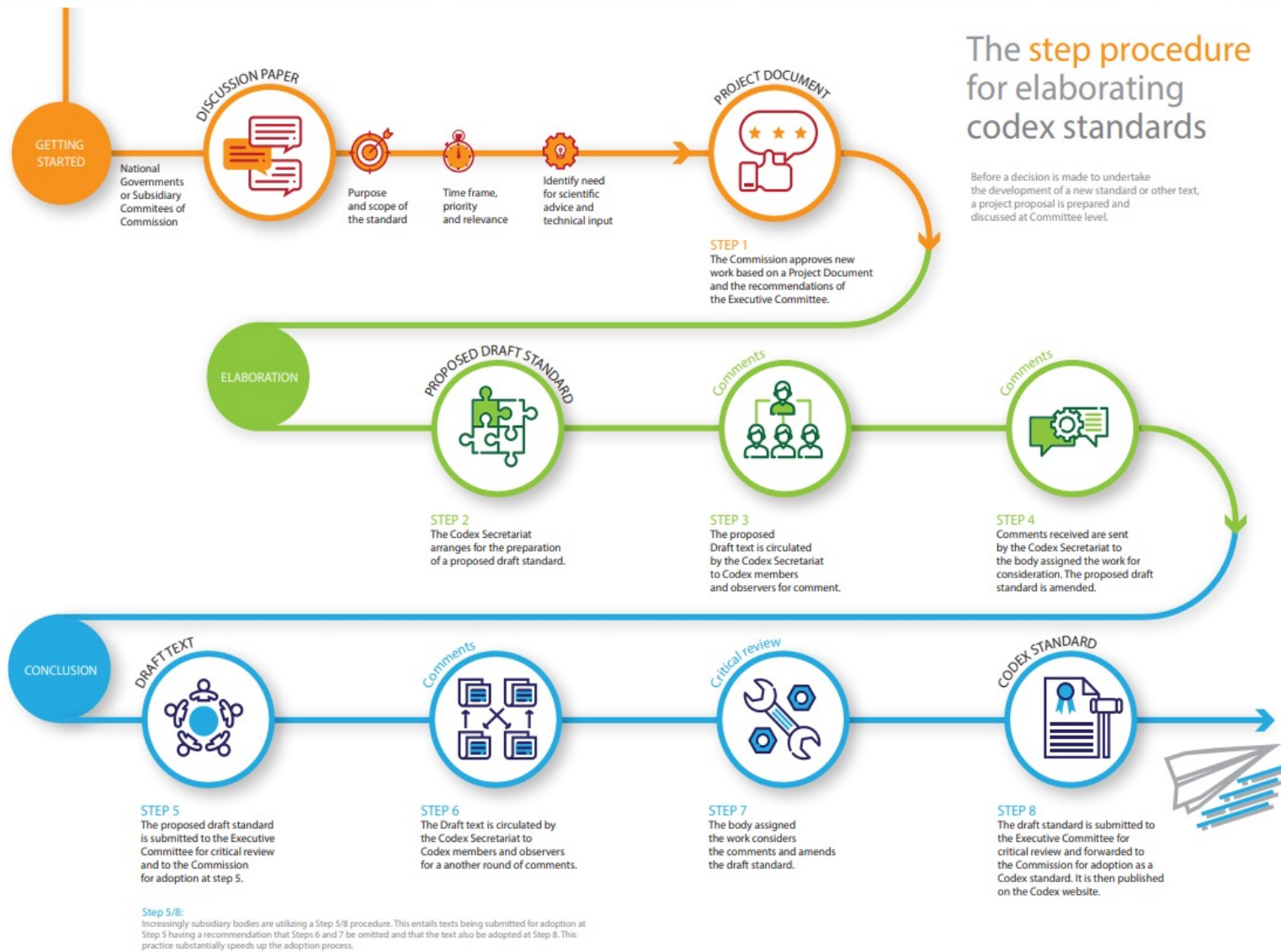
**4 468**

**MAXIMUM  
LEVELS (MLS)**

COVERING  
296  
FOOD ADDITIVES  
OR GROUPS  
OF FOOD ADDITIVES

*Note: for the purposes of this scorecard, groups of food additives are counted only once*







## Justiciability of Codex standards, guidelines and codes of practice

- Are **not** a **substitute** for, or alternative to **national legislation**
- Are **voluntary in nature**
- Need to be **translated** into national legislation or regulations in order to be enforceable
- Codex Alimentarius recognised by WTO as the relevant standard-setting organization for food safety.







Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations



World Health  
Organization



SUSTAINABLE  
DEVELOPMENT  
GOALS

7 June 2023

World Food Safety Day

**Food standards  
save lives**



#WorldFoodSafetyDay

[www.fao.org/world-food-safety-day](http://www.fao.org/world-food-safety-day)  
[www.who.int/world-food-safety-day](http://www.who.int/world-food-safety-day)



**CODEX6**  
CODEX ALIMENTARIUS 1963-2023



**CODEX**

CODEX ALIMENTARIUS  
1963-2023







## Codex60 / Launch of standard for labelling of non-retail containers of foods

📅 17/05/2023



## Some personal perspectives on:

- food systems
- the case for transformation
- the challenge of policy coherence
- standard setting as a tool to drive coherence
- the role of Codex







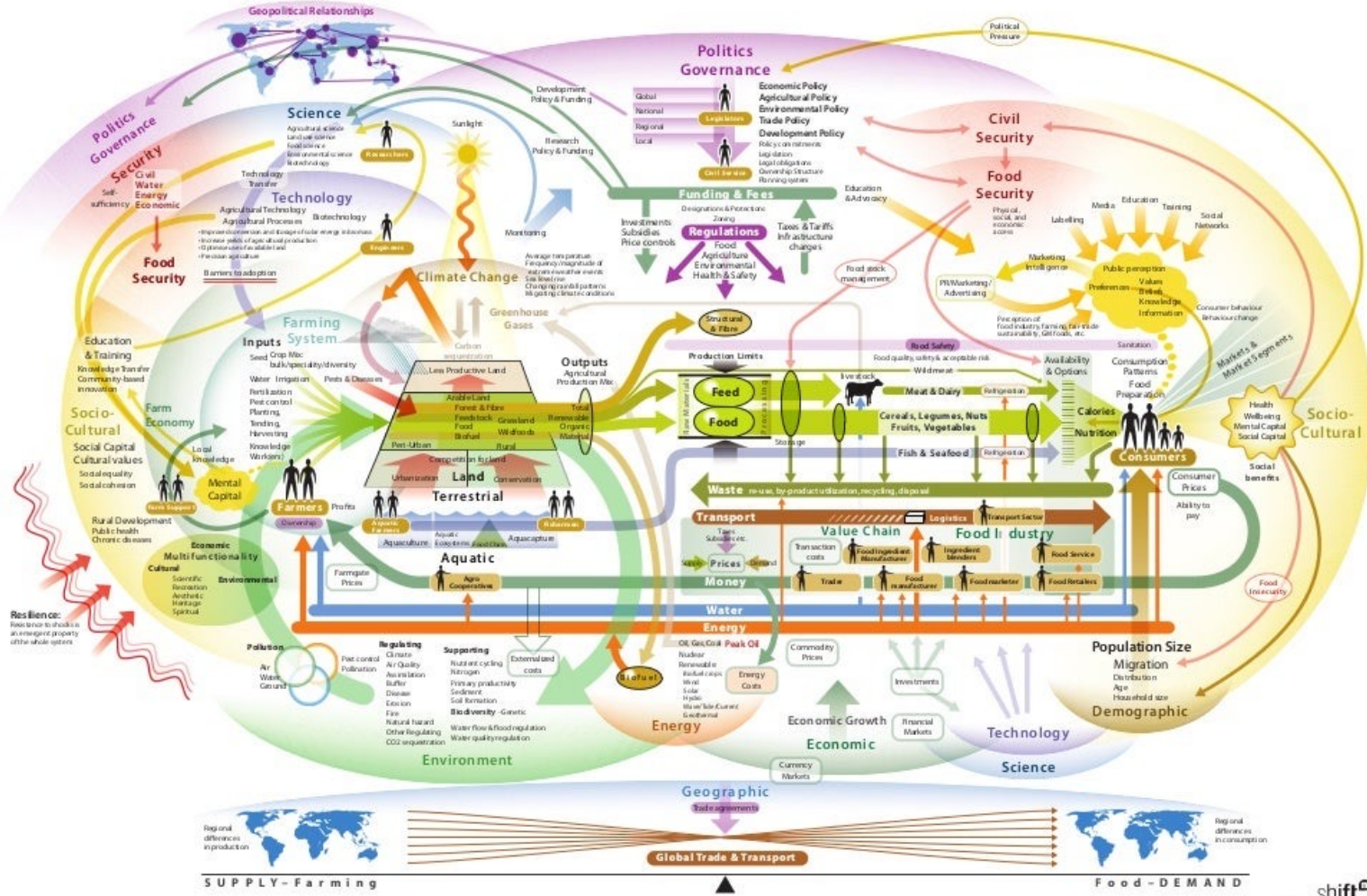
**“Food systems** encompass the entire range of actors and their interlinked value-adding activities involved in the production, aggregation, processing, distribution, consumption and disposal of food products that originate from agriculture, forestry or fisheries, and parts of the broader economic, societal and natural environments in which they are embedded.”

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations  
(2018)





# Global Food System Map



© 2014-2015 shift<sup>o</sup> clarity in complexity





“Over the last 18 months, you’ve been part of a remarkable global engagement. As the pandemic physically pushed us apart, the preparations for this Summit brought us together. Through national dialogues, governments gathered together businesses, communities and civil society to chart pathways for the future of food systems across 148 countries. Over 100,000 people came together to discuss and debate solutions.”

UN Secretary-General, 23 September 2021

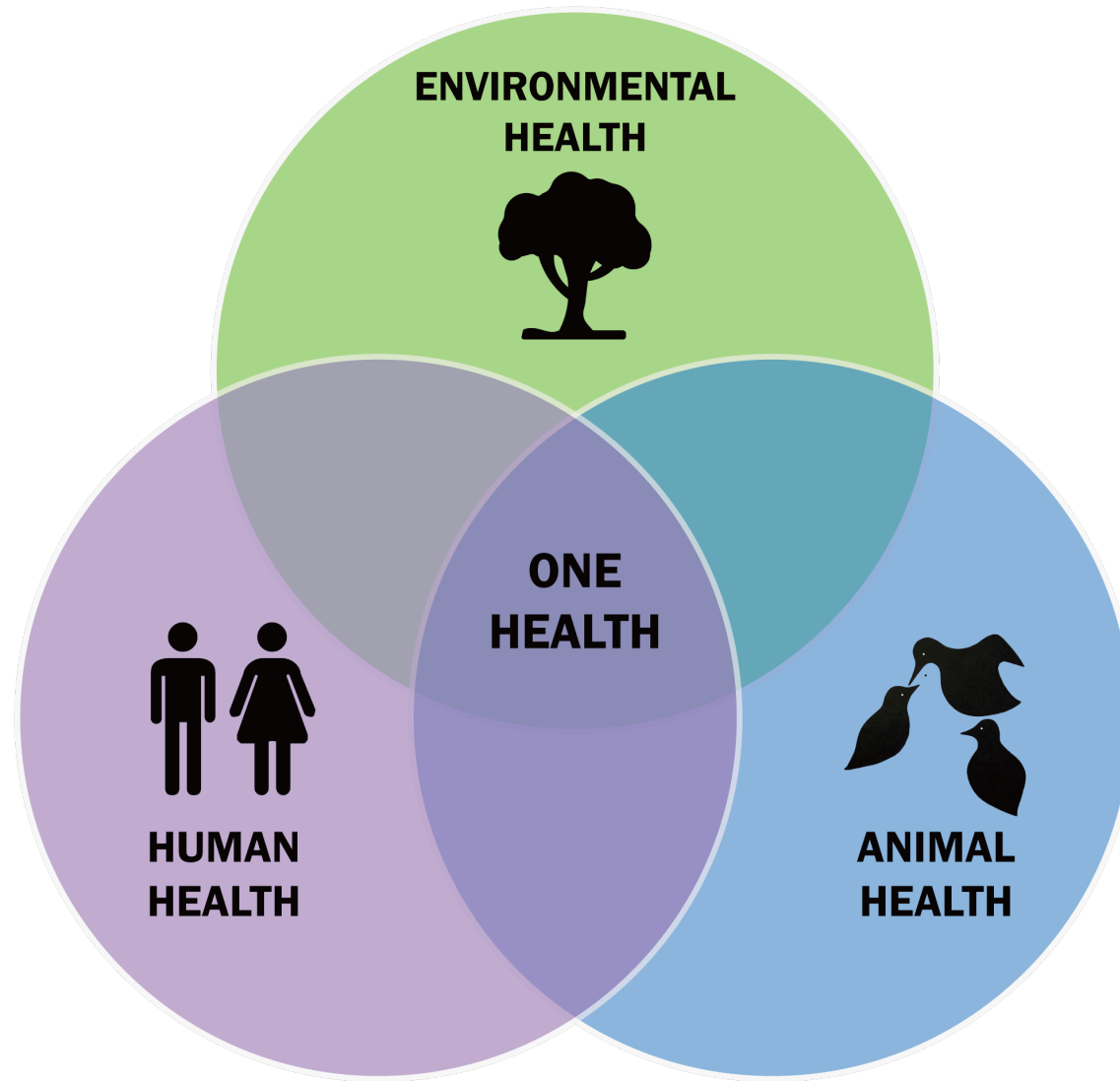


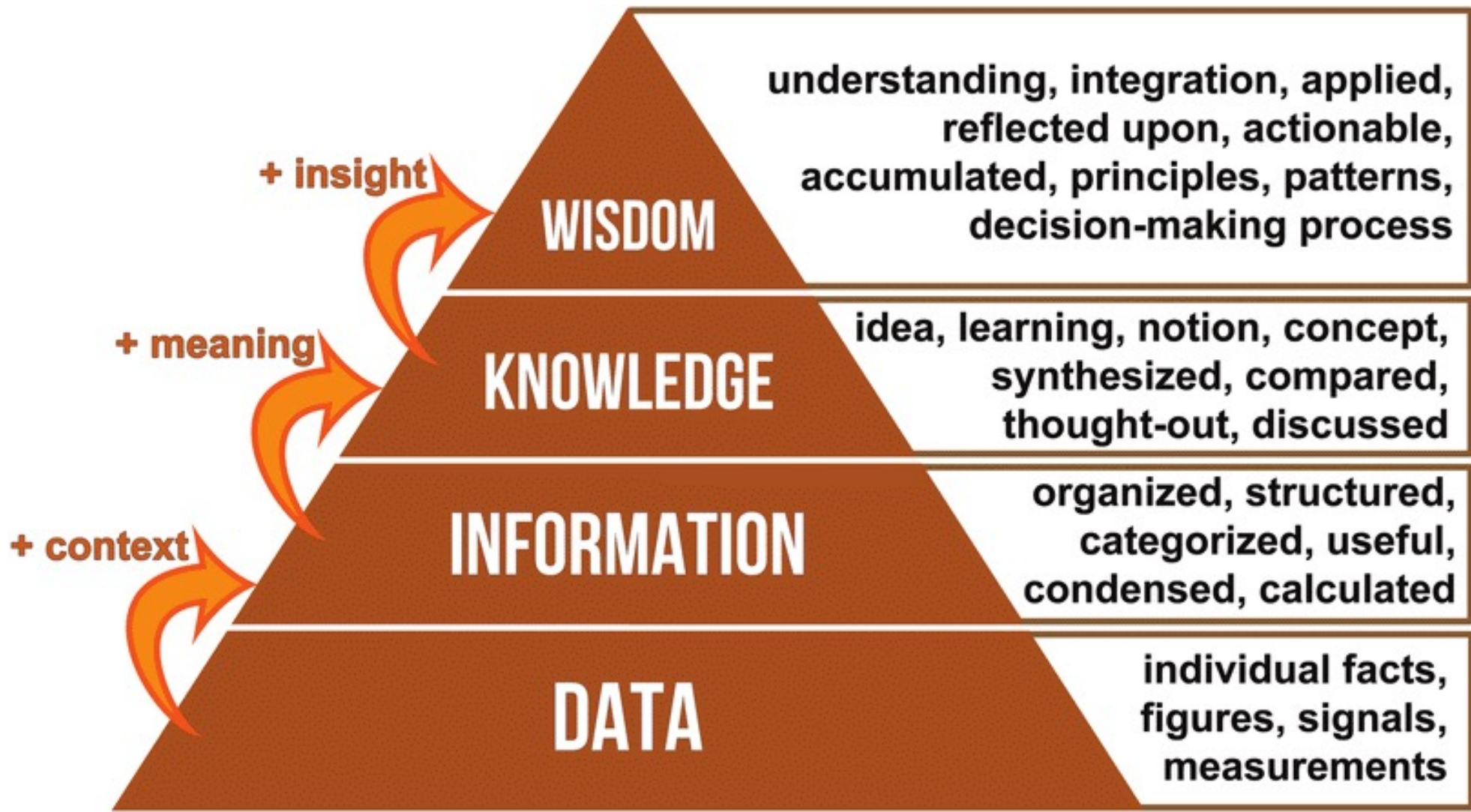
“The Summit will awaken the world to the fact that we all must work together to transform the way the world produces, consumes and **thinks** about food.”



UNITED NATIONS  
FOOD SYSTEMS  
SUMMIT 2021








4<sup>th</sup> Global Conference of the One Planet network's  
Sustainable Food Systems Programme (SFS Programme)

# THE TRANSFORMATION WE NEED

**Towards the 1<sup>st</sup> Stocktaking Moment:**  
Emerging from global crises by shaping sustainable,  
resilient, healthy, and inclusive food systems



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Innovation  
Produce more and better

World trade  
Better allocation of resources  
Make a difference

Rules:  
Clear, predictable, equitable



“We commit to strengthen cross-sectoral collaboration in the **transformation of food systems** in line with the One Health approach. In this regard, we highlight the **critical role of science-based international standard-setting organisations**, such as the Codex Alimentarius Commission, the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) and the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH). We also strongly support the work of the Quadripartite (FAO, WHO, WOAH and UNEP).”

Final communique of Global Forum for Food and Agriculture (2023)



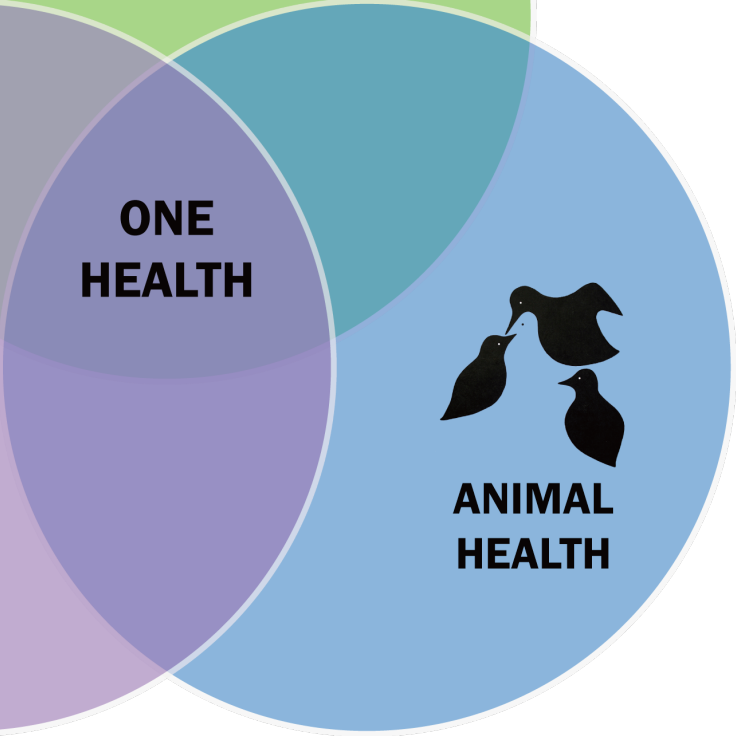
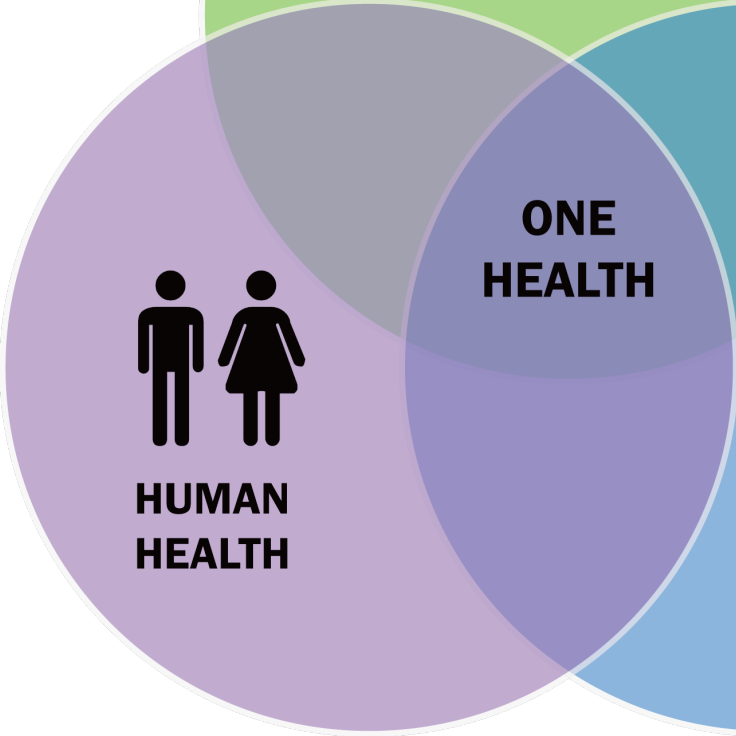


International Plant Protection Convention - plant health standards



UN Environment Programme – sets and advocates for a global environmental agenda

Codex Alimentarius Commission – food safety and quality standards



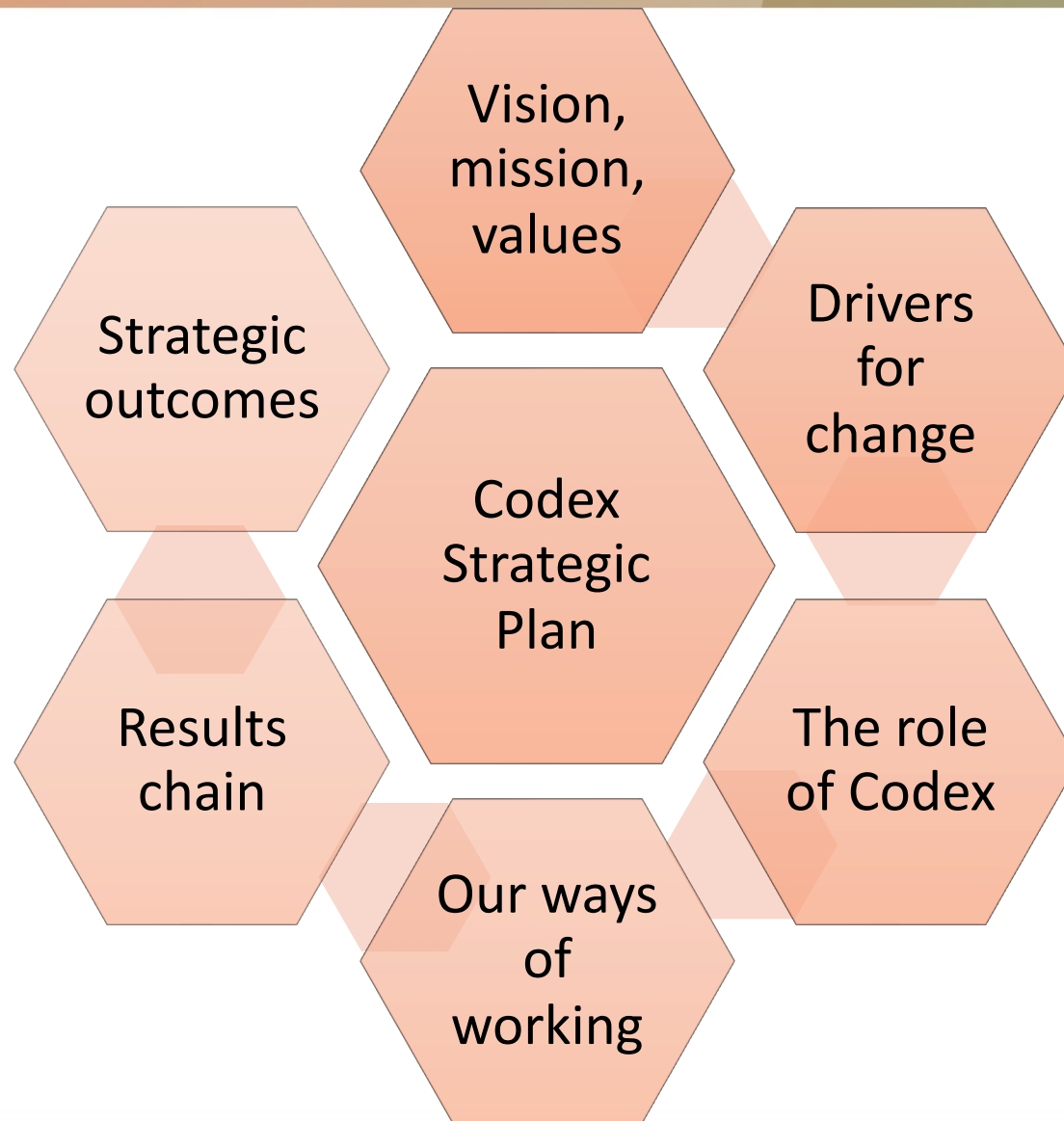
World Office for Animal Health – animal health and welfare standards

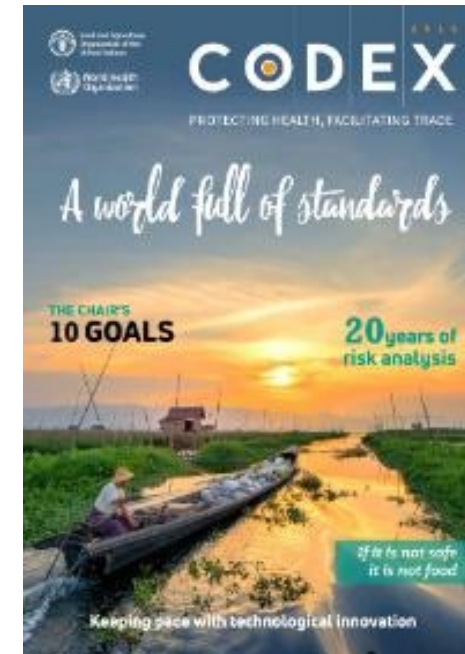
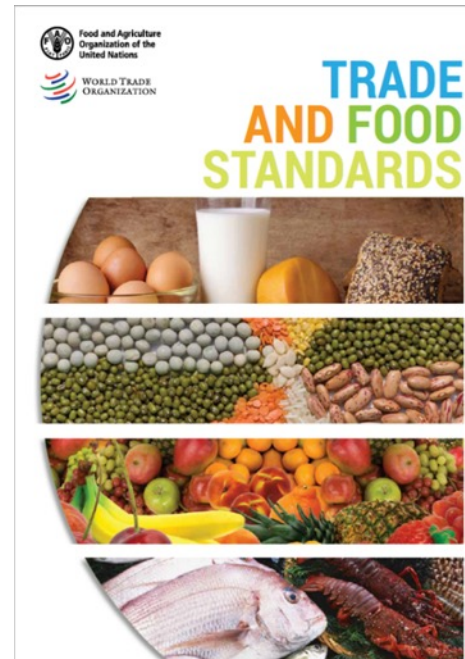


“Through the work programme... the SPS Committee should explore how the implementation and application of the SPS Agreement can support... ***[facilitation of] global food security and more sustainable food systems,*** including through sustainable growth and innovation in agricultural production and international trade, and ***through the use of international standards,*** guidelines, and recommendations developed by the Codex Alimentarius Commission, the World Organisation for Animal Health and the International Plant Protection Convention as the basis of harmonized SPS measures to protect human, animal or plant life or health.”

Sanitary and Phytosanitary Declaration for the 12<sup>th</sup> Ministerial Conference:  
Responding to Modern SPS Challenges, World Trade Organisation, June 2022







[www.codexalimentarius.org](http://www.codexalimentarius.org)

