



ANALYSIS OF AGENDA ITEMS AND PREPARATION FOR THE 84th SESSION OF THE CODEX EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Geneva, Switzerland, 10-14 July 2023

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Objectives

This document offers a review and a preparation to analysis of the agenda items planned for discussion at the 84th session of the Codex Executive Committee (CCEXEC84), scheduled to take place in Geneva, Switzerland from 10 – 14 July 2023.

The document is intended for possible use by the Codex communities of practice promoted by [GForSS](#) and [PARERA](#), as part of their contribution to enhancing awareness and supporting effective participation in international food standard setting meetings (Codex meetings) by representatives from members and observers.

The analysis provided in this document offers a factual review of agenda items, their background and a discussion of some considerations. This analysis is indicative in nature and does not represent an official position of the organizations mentioned above ([PARERA](#) and [GForSS](#)), their membership or their management.

This analysis is prepared as **part of the Codex Outreach Program** implemented by [PARERA](#) and [GForSS](#), in partnership with Landolakes Venture 3, the Codex Programs of Australia and New Zealand, and funded by the US Codex Office, US Department of Agriculture.

Items of Interest

The highlights of this session include:

- ❖ **Critical Review:** This item aims to assist the CAC in the **management of standards development** through its review of the work of Codex Committees and recommendations. – **Agenda item 2**,
- ❖ Blueprint on the **Future of Codex** – Final report from CCEXEC – **Agenda Item 3**
- ❖ Codex Strategic Plan 2026-2031– Agenda item 4.1

Possible Additional Item for consideration: Raising the issue of duplicative safety assessments / risk assessments attributed to WHO and their repercussions on the credibility and the level of understanding of the outputs of risk assessments – Issue related to IARC and JECFA assessments.

Agenda Item 2: Critical Review

Documents: [CX/EXEC 23/84/2](#); [CX/EXEC 23/84/2 Add.1](#); [CX/EXEC 23/84/2 Add.2](#); [CX/EXEC 23/84/2 Add.3](#)

Status in Codex Step Process: N/A

Background

- ❖ This is a standing item of CCEXEC discussions, where, based on the procedural manual CCEXEC is invited to review the progress made by committees, taking into account the recommendations of the Secretariat and the comments of the Chair,

Documents Provided:

CX/EXEC 23/84/2	Critical Review - Part I: CCASIA22; CCLAC22; CCFH53; CCNASWP16; CCRVDF26; CCNFSDU43
CX/EXEC 23/84/2 Add.1	Critical Review - Part II: CCFA53
CX/EXEC 23/84/2 Add.2	Critical Review - Part III: CCCF16; CCFICS16; CCFL47
CX/EXEC 23/84/2 Add.3	Critical Review - Part IV: Draft MRLs for Zilpaterol Hydrochloride in Cattle Liver, Kidney and muscle – UPDATE

Some Items of Importance:

- 1- It was noted that CCEXEC advice was sought from CCASIA on the following matter:

CCASIA22, expressed the interest of several of its members to **develop regional standards** for processed products that are becoming popular, and is seeking advice from CCEXEC on:

- how to address interest for new work proposals, which aims at developing standards for processed (and often ready-to-eat) products mainly produced in the region and **traded globally** and for which no appropriate commodity committee may exist or is active;
- whether there is indeed a good rationale to develop standards for such processed products individually or take a more horizontal or group approach in light of the rapid developments in food processing technologies.

A similar concern is being experienced by CCNEA, based on input from members (e.g., Harissa products, Maamoul and others are becoming traded internationally) and there may be interest to move the standards developed regionally to global standards, for which there is no active Committee.

- 2- CCFA – relied on a footnote in relation with the additives being considered through referencing from OIV – The footnote agreed to is the result of a compromise position.

Some members may express the position, that while this approach was as compromise to help the standard move forward, referencing standards from other organizations, such as OIV, with different processes / procedures for standard setting may raise concerns.

The footnote proposed should be considered for what it is i.e., an exception to enable consensus – should not be considered as a blanket approach for future Codex practices –

CCFA confirmed that this was an exceptional situation and unlikely to be repeated.

- 3- CCFICS discussion: Guidelines on Food Fraud – there is a Text being proposed – bracketed text – “geographical indications” – The question raised is either IP or part of the mandate of Codex – and CCEXEC may weigh in on the discussions

This could be brought by other CCEXEC members -

Agenda Item 3.1: Blueprint on the Future of Codex – Final report from CCEXEC subcommittee**Documents: CX/EXEC 23/84/3****Status in Codex Step Process: N/A***Background*

- ❖ CCEXEC82 agreed to establish a sub-committee whose Terms of Reference are to develop in collaboration with the Codex Secretariat a report including a proposed blueprint for the future of Codex for CCEXEC84, with an interim report on progress to CCEXEC83, taking into consideration the views of Members and Observers, FAO and WHO, Chairpersons of Codex Committees, RCs, and Host Secretariats.
- ❖ The earlier version of the report shared with CCEXEC83 did not allow much time for engagement and meaningful input.
- ❖ A new draft was circulated on June 28th, with explanatory notes and how some considerations may have progressed.
- ❖ An issue arose, related to a unilateral approach pursued by the member for Europe, to send items to CCGP for consideration, seeking possible procedural matters. This position is not consistent with the need to finalize the review of the report and reaching consensus on next interventions / action as may be relevant.

*Considerations and Current State***CCEXEC 84 is invited to:**

- i. **Consider the proposed blueprint for the future of Codex in Annex 1 and take note of the conclusions and recommendations therein and advise on the way forward.**
- ii. **Take note of the challenges (para 12) related to engaging with members and observers and advise on the way forward.**

Some issues that are worth noting are related to :

- Future formats of meetings, and the interest to maintain both webcasts and physical participation,
- The need to support countries to offer the hybrid format of meetings in a more consistent and cost-effective manner
- *Way forward? – the report could support further consultations on the development of the next Codex Strategic Plan*
- *The proposal for CCGP to develop guidelines on the way Physical WG operate in comparison to EWG – Issue of CCEXEC tasking CCGP - this is not procedurally allowed –*
- *Possible suggestion to have a Circular letter to better consult on the current version – with the broader Codex membership prior to considering a way forward,*

Conclusion

Upon having consensus recommendation – would recommend a broader consultation with the membership prior to CCEXEC85 and CAC46 – there is time to carry out this.

Agenda Item 3.2 : Overview of informal discussions and recommendations on the Future of Codex in the context of Codex@60 celebrations – Secretariat report

Documents: CX/EXEC 23/84/3 Add.1

Background

- ❖ This item is meant to report on a series of events attended by Codex bureau members and members of the Codex secretariat and on the discussions that occurred on the margins of the celebrations of Codex @60, in particular as it pertains to the future of the organisation and its model of work / operations

Considerations by members

It is not clear the objective of the document –
It is more as an FYI -item –
Attention should be made if some comments provided by individuals – are used as key messages – and become the source of direction for the new strategic plan -

Agenda Item 4.2: Codex Strategic Plan 2026-2031 – Timetable and process; Establishing a framework

Documents: [CX/EXEC 23/84/5](#)

Status in Codex Step Process: N/A

Background

- ❖ A new strategic plan for Codex is to be prepared for the period covering 2026-2031
- ❖ This agenda item will allow the Chair and Vice Chairs to share the proposed structure and content of the Strategic Plan under consideration.

Considerations by members

The structure proposed appears to be sound – however the timelines for the development seem to be unachievable –
The process proposed does not seem as inclusive in the drafting of the new plan –

Some items are being drafted by the Secretariat / Chair and Vice chairs – Need to have a stronger contribution / oversight by CCEXEC on this process – It is within the scope of work of CCEXEC to contribute to the development of the Strategic Plan of the organization,

Aiming for a draft for CAC46 would NOT allow the level of engagement of CCEXEC – there is no imperative to move so quickly -

Strategic direction needs also to focus on the Core work of Codex and how to enhance it – aiming for more effectiveness of the organisation within its mandate

The plan should be supportive of the ambitions of the organisation e.g., seeking more funding for example,

Some language included mentions that the Plan would prioritize activities / initiatives – against the status of Codex as a member driven organisation where priorities are derived from Committees and their membership