



# Overview of the outputs of the CCEXEC88

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# Executive Committee of Codex

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- The Executive Committee of Codex comprises the Chair, three vice Chairs, six regional coordinators and seven elected representatives from the various geographical groups of Codex.
- Between sessions, the Executive Committee acts as the Executive organ of the Commission.
- In particular, the Executive Committee can make proposals to the Commission regarding general orientation, strategic planning, and programming of the work of the Commission.
- The Executive Committee assists in the management of the Commission's programme of standards development by conducting a "**critical review**" of proposals to undertake work and monitoring the progress of standards development.

# Executive Committee of Codex

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## Composition

The composition of the Executive Committee is given in the first part of Rule V.1:

“The Executive Committee shall consist of the Chairperson and the Vice-Chairpersons of the Commission, and the Coordinators appointed on the basis of Rule IV together with seven further Members elected by the Commission at regular sessions from among the Members of the Commission, one each coming from the following geographic locations: Africa, Asia, Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean, Near East, North America, South-West Pacific. Not more than one delegate from any one country shall be a member of the Executive Committee. ...”

## Roles of members

The roles of the members of the Executive Committee are as follows:

**Chairperson and Vice-Chairpersons:** The Chairperson and Vice-Chairpersons of the Commission shall be respectively the Chairperson and Vice-Chairpersons of the Executive Committee. (Rule V.5)

**Members elected on a geographical basis:** Members elected on a geographic basis are expected to act within the Executive Committee in the interest of the Commission as a whole. (Rule V.1)

**Regional Coordinators:** To assist the Executive Committee and the Commission, as required, by advising them of the views of countries and recognized regional intergovernmental and non-government organizations in their respective regions on matters under discussion or of interest. (Rule IV.3(c))

The Eighteenth Session (1989) of the Commission decided that the representatives of the members elected on a geographic basis may be accompanied by not more than two advisors from the same geographic location.

The 88th session of the Executive Committee of the Codex Alimentarius Commission (CCEXEC88)  
@FAO Headquarters 14-18 July 2025



Photo source: Codex website  
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# Agenda Items for CCEXEC88

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**item 2:** Critical Review: CCAFRICA, CCNASWP, CCFFV, CCFA, CCCPL, CCMAS, New work proposals, and outcomes of CCGP34

**item 3:** Codex Strategic Plan 2026-2031: Proposed monitoring framework

**item 4:** Codex work management - challenges to and possible solutions to improve timely translation of working documents for Codex committees

**item 5:** Applications from international non-governmental organizations for Observer status in Codex

**item 6:** Other business

- ✓ the proposed agenda for CCEXEC89;
- ✓ the status and availability of the report of the 2024 Joint FAO/WHO Meeting on Pesticide Residues(JMPR);
- ✓ updates on budgetary and financial matters (CRD01 and CRD04); and
- ✓ updates on the proposal for the development of new work on camel milk (CRD03).

→These outcomes will help guide CAC48 held in November 2025.

# Critical Review

## -when, where, who, what, why and how?

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### 1. Procedural background for the Critical Review

1.1 According to the *Procedures for the elaboration of Codex standards and related texts, Part 2, Critical review*, in the Codex Procedural Manual, “An ongoing critical review shall ensure that proposals for new work and draft standards submitted to the Commission for adoption continue to meet the strategic priorities of the Commission and can be developed within a reasonable period of time, taking into account the requirements and availability of scientific expert advice”. Furthermore, “The Commission decides, taking into account the outcome of the ongoing critical review conducted by the Executive Committee, that a standard should be elaborated and also which subsidiary body or other body should undertake the work”.

1.2 In line with this, CCEXEC is invited to critically review the work of the committees, taking into account the recommendations of the Secretariat and the comments of the Chairpersons to: **review standards and related texts submitted to the Commission for adoption; monitor the progress of standards development; and review proposals for new work or revision of standards.**

# Critical Review

## -when, where, who, what, why and how?

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### 2. Examining proposed standards before submission to the Commission for adoption

2.1 The critical review process shall ensure that draft standards submitted to the Commission for adoption have been fully considered at committee level. The Executive Committee examines proposed standards from Codex committees before they are submitted to the Commission for adoption:

- for consistency with the mandate of Codex, the decisions of the Commission, and existing Codex texts;
- to ensure that the requirements of the endorsement procedure have been fulfilled, where appropriate;
- for format and presentation; and
- for linguistic consistency.



# Critical Review

## -when, where, who, what, why and how?

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### 3. Monitoring progress of standards development

3.1 The Executive Committee reviews the status of development of draft standards against the timeframe agreed by the Commission and shall report its findings to the Commission. CCEXEC may propose an extension of the timeframe; cancellation of work; or propose that the work be undertaken by a committee other than the one to which it was originally entrusted, including via the establishment of a limited number of subsidiary bodies, if appropriate.

#### 3.2 Criteria to facilitate the conduct of monitoring progress of standards development

3.2.1 When progress on a standard is delayed due to the need for scientific advice, the Executive Committee could encourage FAO and WHO to schedule an expert consultation to provide such advice in a timely manner, and recommend suspension of work until such time as scientific advice became available;

3.2.2 When scientific advice has been provided and a standard has been under consideration for more than five years, the Executive Committee should urge the committee concerned to take action within a specified timeframe;

3.2.3 When an item has been considered for several sessions without any progress and there is no prospect of reaching consensus, the Executive Committee could propose suspension of work at a particular step in the elaboration procedure for a specified period of time or discontinuation of work, or corrective action to be taken to achieve progress, fully taking into consideration the information provided by the subsidiary body concerned.

#### 3.3 Discussion papers

Discussion papers contribute to the workload of a committee and are important discussion tools for committees before requesting new work. A list of discussion papers is included for information purposes only, in order to present a complete view of the workload of each committee, but will not be discussed as such.

Source: [CX/EXEC 24/86/2](#)



# Critical Review

## -when, where, who, what, why and how?

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### 4. Proposals to undertake new work or to revise a standard

4.1 Prior to approval for development, each proposal for new work or revision of a standard shall be accompanied by a project document, prepared by the Committee or Member proposing new work or revision of a standard. The decision to undertake new work or to revise standards shall be taken by the Commission taking into account a critical review conducted by CCEXEC.

4.2 The critical review includes:

- Examination of proposals for development/revisions of standards, taking into account the “Criteria for the establishment of work priorities”, the strategic plan of the Commission, and the required supporting work of independent risk assessment;
- Identifying the standard setting needs of developing countries;
- Advice on the need for coordination of work between relevant Codex subsidiary bodies;
- Advice on establishment and dissolution of committees and task forces, including *ad hoc* cross-committee task forces (in areas where work falls within several committees); and
- Preliminary assessment of the need for expert scientific advice and the availability of such advice from FAO, WHO or other relevant expert bodies, and the prioritization of that advice.

4.3 The decision to undertake new work or revision of individual maximum residue limits for pesticides or veterinary drugs, or the maintenance of the General Standard on Food Additives (including methods of analysis and sampling), the General Standard on Contaminants and Toxins in Food and Feed (including methods of analysis and sampling), the Food Categorization System and the International Numbering System, shall follow the procedures established by the committees concerned and endorsed by the Commission.

Source: [CX/EXEC 24/86/2](#)

# Critical Review

## -when, where, who, what, why and how?

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CCEXEC critically reviews the work of each committee, work item by item, with:

1. General information on the committee and session
2. Overall comments (Secretariat/Chairperson)
3. Status of work items (Overview)
4. Specific comments on individual work items (Secretariat/Chairperson)

## item 2: Critical Review (Part I, II, III and IV)

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- ✓ **CCAFRICA:** All FAO/WHO coordinating committees include an agenda item on “Matters of interest to the region from other organizations,” strengthening regional cooperation.
- ✓ **CCFFV:** Fresh dates standard adopted; curry leaves postponed
- ✓ **CCFA:** New food additive specifications adopted, outdated revoked
- ✓ **CCCPL:** Ongoing work on millet; efficient conduct noted
- ✓ **CCMAS:** New methods adopted, cautious approach on Type IV methods
- ✓ **New work proposals:** Approved proposals: turmeric, broccoli, galip nut, breadfruit flour  
Emphasis on horizontal approach, avoid duplication  
Transparency and coordination with relevant committees
- ✓ **CCGP:** Discussion on quorum reporting in committees  
Participation of Observers and double representation  
Monitoring revised procedures in Procedural Manual

# item 3: Codex Strategic Plan 2026-2031: Proposed monitoring framework

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- CAC47 (2024) adopted **the Codex Strategic Plan 2026-2031**, noting that the Codex Secretariat would present a monitoring framework at CCEXEC88 for review, and that comments on the revised version of the monitoring framework would then be sought from Members and Observers through a circular letter (CL) with the aim of submitting a final version to CAC48 (2025) for approval.
- CCEXEC88 reviewed the proposed monitoring framework drafted by the Codex Secretariat considering
  - Indicators are set at the outcome level, as strategic goals are too broad to measure directly.
  - Measurement methods were chosen based on efficiency, data availability, and resources.
  - SMART KPIs are used where possible; for some new outcomes, narrative reporting may be used.
  - Relevant indicators from the Strategic Plan 2020–2025 were retained for continuity and use of baseline data.
  - Each indicator includes a rationale explaining how it tracks progress.
- Discussion and next step:
  - ✓ Indicators: foresight use, timeliness of scientific advice
  - ✓ Participation, leadership in EWGs, e-learning course completion
  - ✓ Circular letter to gather comments before CCEXEC89

# Codex Strategic Plan 2026-2031

## STRATEGIC GOALS AND OUTCOMES

The Codex Alimentarius Commission commits itself to work towards achievement of the following Strategic Goals and Outcomes within the Codex purpose:

**Strategic Goal 1: Respond to Members’ needs for protecting the health of consumers and ensuring fair practices in the food trade in an evolving global landscape by developing science-based standards and related texts**

- 1.1 Foresight and horizon-scanning activities are used to support the identification of issues likely to impact food safety, quality and trade.
- 1.2 Scientific advice that addresses the needs identified by CAC and subsidiary bodies is primarily provided by FAO and WHO and their joint scientific advisory bodies, informed by globally representative data and appropriate international expertise and methodology.
- 1.3 Scientific advice is used by CAC and subsidiary bodies in line with Codex risk analysis principles.
- 1.4 Codex standards and related texts are developed, reviewed and adopted in a timely, transparent and inclusive manner.

**Strategic Goal 2: Enhance Codex work management systems and practices that support the effective and efficient development of standards and related texts**

- 2.1 Work management systems and practices are refined and enhanced, leveraging digital and other new technologies.
- 2.2 Mechanisms to prioritize proposals to develop new or revise existing standards and related texts are in place.
- 2.3 Chairpersons, coordinators, host secretariats, Codex Contact Points and delegates are supported in their respective roles and their capabilities are developed and enhanced.
- 2.4 Codex Members are enabled to participate actively and sustainably throughout the standard-setting process

**Strategic Goal 3: Strengthen relationships with relevant international organizations, promoting a coordinated approach to address global challenges**

- 3.1 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.
- 3.2 Gaps in approaches to addressing global challenges that Codex could contribute to are identified through targeted engagement with relevant international organizations.
- 3.3 The contribution of CAC to the transition towards sustainable and resilient food systems, is identified and considered.
- 3.4 Contributions from relevant international organizations throughout the development of Codex texts are encouraged.

**Strategic Goal 4: Maximize the impact of Codex by increasing the visibility and use of standards**

- 4.1 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.
- 4.2 The use of Codex texts in the context of integrative approaches such as One Health is promoted.
- 4.3 Harmonization through the increased use of Codex texts in establishing national food control systems and regulations is advocated for.

## item 4: Codex work management - challenges to and possible solutions to improve timely translation of working documents for Codex committees

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- CCEXEC87 (2024) agreed to discuss at CCEXEC88 work management challenges related to the timeliness and translation of working documents.
- Discussion and next step:
  - ✓ Challenges in timely translation of documents
  - ✓ Agreed actions: shorter reports (e.g. max. 4,000 words), deadlines respected (i.e. at least 2 months)
  - ✓ Explore AI-assisted translation while keeping inclusivity

## item 5: Applications from international non-governmental organizations for Observer status in Codex

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- **Two applications** for Observer Status were submitted by the International Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) neither having status with FAO nor official relations with WHO.
  - ✓ Cellular Agriculture Europe – observer status granted
  - ✓ Coalition for Americas' Health, INC – observer status with conditions



## item 6: Other business

# Update on Budgetary and Financial Matters (CRD1)

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- **Background:** CAC47 (2024) highlighted the need for financial transparency, sustainable funding, and redistribution of resources. Members urged for an extra 2.1 million USD one-time allocation and USD 2 million permanent increase to the Codex Secretariat budget.
- **Current 2024–2025 Status:** 8.9 million USD budget is on track. All planned activities are expected to complete by end of 2025. FAO/WHO scientific advice combined budget is ~12.1 USD million (FAO relies on assessed contributions, WHO on voluntary).
- **Outlook for 2026–2027:** No formal Codex budget proposal has not yet been submitted. FAO plans to retain Codex funding at 7.1 million USD and increase 0.5 million USD to scientific advice support. A significant reduction in WHO's budget affecting food safety and scientific advice can be anticipated.
- **Key Concerns:** WHO's recent budgetary reductions have an impact on scientific advice and may further constrain CAC's ability to deliver its mandate effectively. A formal budget proposal for 2026-2027 from the Codex Secretariat is needed for clearer planning, early engagement, and better Member oversight in budget processes.
- **Discussion and next step:** WHO announced restructuring with budget cuts, but reaffirmed commitment to Codex. Members urged continued advocacy for sustainable funding. CCEXEC88 requested that the Codex Secretariat include updated information on priorities for additional resources and other relevant information requested by Members where possible.

## item 6: Other business

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- Late JMPR 2024 report – urged timely publication
- Camel milk proposal by UAE – to be reviewed at CCEXEC89

Thank you for your attention!