



Annex 7.

Codex Alimentarius Commission inputs to High-level Political forum 2019

“Empowering people and ensuring inclusiveness and equality”

Goal 4. Quality education; **Goal 8.** Decent work and economic growth; **Goal 10.** Reduced inequalities; **Goal 13.** Climate action; **Goal 16.** Peace, justice and strong institutions; **Goal 17.** Partnerships for the Goals.

The Codex Alimentarius Commission is an intergovernmental body that develops and adopts international food standards to protect consumer health and promote fair practices in food trade. Codex is run in partnership with the World Health Organization as part of the Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme; the Secretariat is hosted by FAO. The Codex Alimentarius Commission contributes directly to SDGs 2, 3, 12, and 17.

I. Progress and challenges

Sustainable Development Goal 17 –

Partnership for the provision of scientific advice

Access to science through international cooperation is key to promoting the effective participation of all countries in the specialized activities of the United Nations such as Codex Alimentarius, the central part of the Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards programme, at both regional and international level.

- FAO governing bodies have had extensive discussions on options for increased and sustainable funding for its programme of food safety scientific advice provided by expert meetings such as The Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Food Additives (JECFA). FAO/WHO scientific advice programmes have provided the scientific basis for the international food safety standards set by Codex for over 55 years. These discussions continue next week at the 126th session of the FAO Programme Committee. Member countries of FAO and the Codex Alimentarius continue to highlight and promote the importance of FAO/WHO partnership on the provision of scientific advice.

Partnership for capacity development

Coordinated and targeted capacity building programmes ensure national bodies can plan effectively for targeted participation in international standard setting in accordance with national needs.



- The Codex Trust Fund supports countries to build strong, solid and sustainable national capacity to engage in international food safety standards setting (Codex Alimentarius) which can be an integral part of national plans to implement SDGs (specifically SDGs 2 and 3). In 2018 a call for a third round of applications was issued and these are currently being assessed (<http://www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/news-and-events/news-details/en/c/1149386/>).

Observer in Codex

The Codex Alimentarius is somewhat unique in its openness to participation other intergovernmental organizations as well as non governmental organizations as observers to its work. This increases the transparency of the work and makes expert is form the food industry, consumers and other stakeholders accessible to the work of the Commission. Currently there are 225 Observers to Codex but this number continues to grow with new applications being considered on an annual basis. This partnership also contributes to the harmonization of international standards.

II. Successful experiences and lessons learned on HLPF theme

- In December 2018 the UNGA adopted a resolution that designates 7th June as World Food Safety Day. This establishment of this day has arisen as a result of collaboration among the membership of the Codex Alimentarius, FAO and WHO who worked together for almost two years, to highlight that food safety plays a key role in food security, consumer health, sustainable livelihoods and market access, and everyone needs to be empowered with the information necessary to play their role in ensuring food safety. World Food Safety Day will first be marked on 7th June 2019. It will highlight that 'everyone has a role to play in ensuing food safety', and promote activities at national level to empower all players with the knowledge to play their role in ensuring food is safe.
- The Codex Alimentarius is a member driven organization, but can only optimally achieve its goals through broad participation. Efforts have been made to increase means of participation through virtual means. A series of training workshops on enhancing participation in Codex work through virtual means have been implemented in 2018 with 125 Codex contact points receiving training and follow-up support. This has resulted in some countries participating by virtual means for the first time (<http://www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/news-and-events/news-details/en/c/1157529/>). This is complimented by the work implemented by FAO and WHO through the Codex Trust Fund which provides support over several years to build their capacity to participate in Codex and empower them to be actively engaged in Global Standard setting. Fourteen countries are currently receiving support from the Codex Trust Fund.