

The theme of the 2025 HLPF is “Advancing sustainable, inclusive, science-and evidence-based solutions for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals for leaving no one behind”.

Inputs to the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) in 2025

Inputs from functional commissions of ECOSOC, other intergovernmental bodies and forums to the 2025 HLPF

Online submission via Forms: [Inputs to the 2025 HLPF form](#)

Entries to all questions required

1. Entity / Intergovernmental body or forum

The Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC) is an intergovernmental body that develops and adopts international food safety and quality standards in line with its statutory purpose to protect consumer health and promote fair practices in the food trade. Codex is a joint FAO/World Health Organization programme. Codex food safety and quality standards are based on science and risk assessment, and are World Trade Organization (WTO) benchmark standards for the safety of food traded internationally,. The Secretariat is hosted by FAO. The work of CAC directly supports countries efforts towards achieving SDGs 1, 2, 3, 8, 12, and 17, while contributing in a more indirect way to other SDGs, such as SDGs 13 and 14. Codex work is guided by its core values of consensus-building, transparency, collaboration and inclusivity.

2. Contact person

Codex Secretary, Sarah Cahill

3. Contact details (Email and Phone number)

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[All sections 2000 characters max]

4. Your assessment of the impacts of the multiple and interconnected crises on the implementation of SDGs 3, 5, 8, 14 and 17

Safe food is fundamental to SDG3. Crises including climate change and conflict negatively impact standards implementation and food safety. Shifting climate patterns are causing the evolution or expansion of known food safety hazards to previously unaffected areas, reducing effectiveness of standards or challenging authorities in newly affected areas. Conflict disrupts standards implementation and enforcement and food availability and increases the risk of consuming unsafe food. It negatively impacts capacity to engage in standards setting so the tools to ensure safe food may become inaccessible or irrelevant. The “silent pandemic” of AMR, also a foodborne threat is worsened by a lack of awareness on its development and spread

Life below water is an increasingly important food source including new foods e.g. microalgae, but not without food safety risks. Changing climate leads to shifting patterns of pathogens and toxins. New

hazards eg microplastics are also emerging. Ensuring aquatic food safety in a changing environment will be necessary to reap the benefits of these emerging foods.

Multilateral engagement and collaboration are key to a harmonized, rules-based system of trade underpinned by Codex standards. Changes in national priorities, conflict and resource challenges puts at risk the global partnership identified in SDG17. Fortunately, there is still positive engagement in Codex standards setting. But reduced funding for projects that support engagement in Codex of LMICs negatively impacts inclusivity and work that supports the livelihoods of billions around the world.

Conflict is a key disruptor of trade, but Codex texts can have a defusing impact- being based on science and agreed by 189 Members- and are an important consideration in discussions on specific trade concerns in the SPS and TBT committees. But there is no room for complacency, and we must continuously highlight the fundamental role Codex standards play in facilitating fair food trade practices.

5. Three key areas where sustainable, inclusive, science- and evidence-based solutions for achieving the SDGs and leaving no one behind are being effectively delivered, especially related to the cluster of SDGs under review in 2025, also bearing in mind the three dimensions of sustainable development and the interlinkages across the Goals and targets.

- a) The FAO/WHO partnership leads Codex and the scientific advice programme that ensures credibility of Codex texts. The Codex membership works to core values, deferring to unbiased international scientific expertise and informed by experience of observer organizations from many sectors. In 2024, CAC approved the Codex Strategic Plan 2026–2031, which sees this ethos reinforced with goals to “Respond to Members’ needs” and “Strengthen relationships with relevant international organizations, promoting a coordinated approach to address global challenges.”
- b) Efforts within Codex to elaborate texts benefitting marginalized demographics reveal a resolve to leave no one behind and ensure access to markets, for improved economies and decent work and livelihoods. Small producers and LMIC economies benefit from innovative work on residues of veterinary drugs in food, where collective data gathering and extrapolation approaches permit the development of science-based maximum residue limits (MRLs) for some out-of-patent compounds in regular use in LMICs, which means producers and authorities can determine and demonstrate the safety of their products, making them marketable. Similarly, the 2024 addition to the *Standard for Named Vegetable Oils*, of oils with currently limited market penetration, such as sacha inchi oil, benefits small producers of these sustainably produced oils, also a novel source of oil rich in unsaturated fatty acids. So, Codex supports decent livelihoods for all, in value chains that promote wellbeing and environmental responsibility.
- c) CAC in 2024 adopted *Guidelines for food hygiene control measures in traditional markets for food*, to safeguard the safety of food bought by the 70% of Africans and Asians that buy their food in such markets. Their application will benefit both vendors and buyers many – if not, the majority – of whom are women. Given their multiple social roles and challenges it is likely women who can most benefit from these guidelines.

6. Three examples of measures to accelerate progress towards SDGs through well-coordinated actions in key transitions to bring progress to scale (food security, energy access and affordability, digital connectivity, education, jobs and social protection, climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution), building on interlinkages between SDGs to ensure cohesive progress.

a) Going beyond standard setting to supporting implementation is key to ensure standards support national efforts to achieve the SDGs. An example of this is the FAO-implemented and Republic of Korea-funded Action to support implementation of Codex AMR texts (ACT) project to support 6 countries to raise awareness on foodborne AMR, improve integrated monitoring and surveillance, enhance governance, and implement good practices based on Codex's 3 milestone AMR texts. This FAO/Codex/donor/beneficiary partnership is facilitating collaboration of all actors along the food chain. It shows how use of Codex texts benefits society in slowing the spread of a global threat to health, livelihoods, market access, and national economies. This project provides a proof of concept for others to follow.

b) The WTO SPS Agreement directly references the standards set by three bodies: Codex, the IPPC and WOHAI provide the rules-based, harmonized framework for trade in food, animals and plants on which economies and livelihoods depend, across the globe. Information on who is or is not participating in standards-setting processes and implementation, informs actions to ensure greater inclusivity and impact. Codex, IPPC and WOHAI are collaborating to share approaches and findings on monitoring use and impact of standards and to enhance understanding of how standards can help address specific trade concerns brought to the SPS and TBT committees. Data so far highlight the extent to which LMICs depend on international standards to support their national efforts and market access. Increased knowledge will inform efforts to support inclusivity and uptake of standards for improved health-related, social or economic impacts. This partnership can amplify data collation and analysis.

c) Accessibility is critical to support use. The Codex Secretariat is updating its technology to enhance accessibility of Codex texts and improving language coverage for greater use and increased impact.

7. Follow-up actions and measures being undertaken by your intergovernmental body or forum to support implementation of the 2023 SDG Summit Political Declaration and the outcomes of the 2024 Summit of the Future, to advance the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

a Codex supports countries to ensure “access to sufficient, safe and nutritious foods all year round, the promotion of sustainable and resilient agriculture and food systems, as well as safe, nutritious and healthy diets.” CAC 2024 reinforced the importance of scientific advice to inform its standards and promoted efforts to ensure a range of representative data for risk and safety assessments. CAC retains a strong focus on food safety standards addressing persistent, new and emerging hazards and issues (in 2024, CAC agreed new work on cadmium, aflatoxin, viruses, trans fatty acids) and nutrition, (in 2024, CAC adopted new texts on nutrient reference values (NRVs) for infants aged 6–36 mths)

b Recognizing the rapid advances in technology and to ensure no-one is left behind, efforts have increased to provide principles and guidance on use of technology in food control and food safety (eg in 2024 CAC adopted Guidelines on the use of technology to provide food information in food labelling and on pre-packaged foods offered by e-commerce and agreed new work on principles for digitization of national food control systems)

c Recognizing the need to ensure the safety and market accessibility of products from sustainable systems CAC in 2024 adopted standards for sachi inchi oil and a natural blue food colour (jagua blue), produced by small farmers, indigenous communities and in compliance with the Convention on Biological Diversity's Nagoya Protocol

d Codex is a key component of the “universal, rules-based, non-discriminatory, open, fair, inclusive, equitable and transparent multilateral trading system” that governs food trade. Its ongoing focus on consensus-based standards setting, underpinned by science and the aim to enhance Codex work

management systems and practices supporting the effective and efficient development of standards (Codex Strategic Plan 2026-2031) highlights its ongoing commitment to support a multilateral trading system for the benefit of all Members

8. Recommendations and key messages to be considered for inclusion in the Ministerial Declaration of the 2025 HLPF.

- a) The universal trading system we are working towards, and the battle against global health challenges such as AMR, can only be achieved when all countries can play an equal role in the development and implementation of standards and those standards are informed by globally representative data and information. Securing investment to collect data that reflects the context in many LMICs is critical to ensure standards can help them address the specific challenges they are facing. Support from donor nations to further work to help LMICs participate more effectively in Codex (namely, the Codex Trust Fund) is needed to ensure the necessary inclusivity. Continued promotion and recognition of multilateral fora as an effective and efficient means to collectively discuss and address evolving and emerging issues.