



# **Role of the Codex Alimentarius and Food Safety at the 2021 Food Systems Summit**

**Chair of the FAO / WHO Coordinating Committee  
for Europe**

**Codex Alimentarius Commission  
Doctor of Medical Sciences, Professor  
Karsybekova Nailya**



*UN Secretary General António Guterres*

“It is unacceptable that hunger is on the rise at a time when the world wastes more than **one billion tonnes of food** every year. It is time to change how we produce and consume, including to reduce greenhouse emissions. **Transforming food systems** is crucial for **delivering all the sustainable development goals** (SDGs).”

# UN Food Systems Summit

In 2021, as part of the Decade of Action to Achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030, at the initiative of UN Secretary-General António Guterres, the UN Food Systems Summit (hereinafter referred to as the FSS) will be convened.

The FSS will start a new bold action to make progress across all 17 SDGs, each underpinned in some way by healthier, more sustainable and equitable food systems

# UN Food Systems Summit

## Expected results:

1. Ensuring universal access to safe and nutritious food
2. Shifting to sustainable (and healthy) consumption patterns
3. Supporting nature-positive production on a sufficient scale
4. Ensuring equitable access to livelihoods
5. Building resilience to vulnerabilities, shocks and stresses

# The Codex Alimentarius Commission is an intergovernmental body for the development of food standards, under a joint FAO / WHO Program.



## FAO Head Office, Rome, Italy

**May 2021:**

**189 members: 188 member countries and one member organization: the European Union - 239 Codex Observer Organizations - 59-IIGO, 164 NGOs, 16 UN**

**Chairs and Vice-Chairs** are chosen from all regions - from countries of Asia, Africa, the Middle East, Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean, North America, and the Pacific Southwest.



## WHO Head Office, Geneva, Switzerland

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# Codex Alimentarius Commission



## TARGETS

1. Protecting the health of consumers and ensuring the integrity of the food trade;
2. Facilitate coordination of all work on food standards carried out by international governmental and non-governmental organizations;
3. Determination of priorities and initiation of work on the preparation of standards, as well as the management of this work through the relevant organizations and with their help;
4. Finalization of standards developed in accordance with the requirements, their introduction into the Codex Alimentarius as regional or global standards together with international standards, already finalized and approved by other bodies, if practicable;
5. Amendment of published standards according to the current situation.



# 80th Session of the Executive Committee of the Codex Alimentarius Commission, 13-21 January 2021



**Jamie Morrison, FAO (second from left, top row) and Francesco Branca, WHO (second from right, top row) at the 80<sup>th</sup> Session of Codex Executive Board, January 14, 2021.**

“I think there is a good opportunity to link the work of Codex to this mindset,” said **Morrison, Director of FAO's Food Systems Program**, noting the critical importance of the legal and regulatory framework within which these actions are carried out. “We cannot have solutions ... without thinking about the relationship to the regulatory framework.”

**Francesco Branca, WHO Director of Nutrition and Food Safety**, said: “The role of WHO will, of course, be to highlight the health issues, ”from unhealthy diets, the burden of foodborne disease or the health of food workers – and food security, which is still affecting over 800 million people. We will also examine the impact of food systems on the environment “through the excessive use, beyond Codex standards, of pesticides or also the use of antibiotics that might lead to (antimicrobial) resistance.”

# 80th Session of the Executive Committee of the Codex Alimentarius Commission, 13-21 January 2021

## Conclusion

REP21/EXEC1

63 Executive Committee:

- vi. encouraged Codex members to engage in country-level dialogues on the preparation of the **FSS** and further encouraged FAO and WHO to engage the Codex Secretariat and the Chair and Vice-Chairs as appropriate in discussions in preparation for this Summit;
- vii. highlighted the importance of engaging all Codex stakeholders in communicating the **FSS** and suggested that opportunities be seized to highlight the relevance of Codex standards to sustainable food systems, including through the **2021 WFFS**;
- viii. noted the importance of linking the implementation of the **Codex Strategic Plan 2020–2025 with the FSS**.





ЦЕЛИ в ОБЛАСТИ УСТОЙЧИВОГО РАЗВИТИЯ



**SDGs are included  
in the Strategic Plan of the  
Codex Alimentarius Commission  
2020-2025**



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## SDG 2: Zero Hunger, achieve Food Security and Nutrition, and promote Sustainable Agriculture

*Objective 2.1: Ensure sustainable food production systems and sustainable agricultural practices.*

*Objective 2.2: Ensure all people have access to safe, nutritious and sufficient food*

### Codex Contribution -

Promoting access to knowledge of good agricultural practices and new methods and technologies

Codex standards help reduce the risk of death and disease from hazardous food, including by reducing hazardous chemicals and contaminants in food





## SDG 3: Ensure healthy lives and promote the well-being of people of all ages

**Objective 3.1:** Fight infectious diseases

**Objective 3.2:** Reduce by one third premature mortality from no communicable diseases through prevention and treatment

**Objective 3.3:** Substantially reduce the number of deaths and illnesses from exposure to hazardous chemicals

**Objective 3.4:** Strengthen the capacity of all countries, in particular developing countries, to provide early warning, mitigation and management of national and global health risks

### Codex Contribution -

Codex standards help reduce the risk of death and disease from hazardous food, including by reducing hazardous chemicals and contaminants in food

Developing countries are more actively involved in the development of international food standards. CTF-2 helps countries build strong, reliable and sustainable capacity to participate in Codex work and benefit from the application of Codex standards





ЦЕЛИ в области УСТОЙЧИВОГО РАЗВИТИЯ



## SDG 12: Ensure the transition to responsible consumption and production patterns

**Objective 12.1:** Halve per capita global food waste at retail and consumer levels and reduce food loss in value chains, including post-harvest losses

### Codex Contribution -

Codex standards promote safe and effective preservation of food and adequate shelf life to reduce food waste

## SDG 17: Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development

**Objective 17.1:** Promote a universal, rules-based, open, non-discriminatory and fair multilateral trading system

### Codex Contribution -

Codex standards aim not only to protect consumer health, but also to ensure fair trade in food, which in turn contributes to economic growth. These standards are regarded by the WTO as the international benchmark for food safety.

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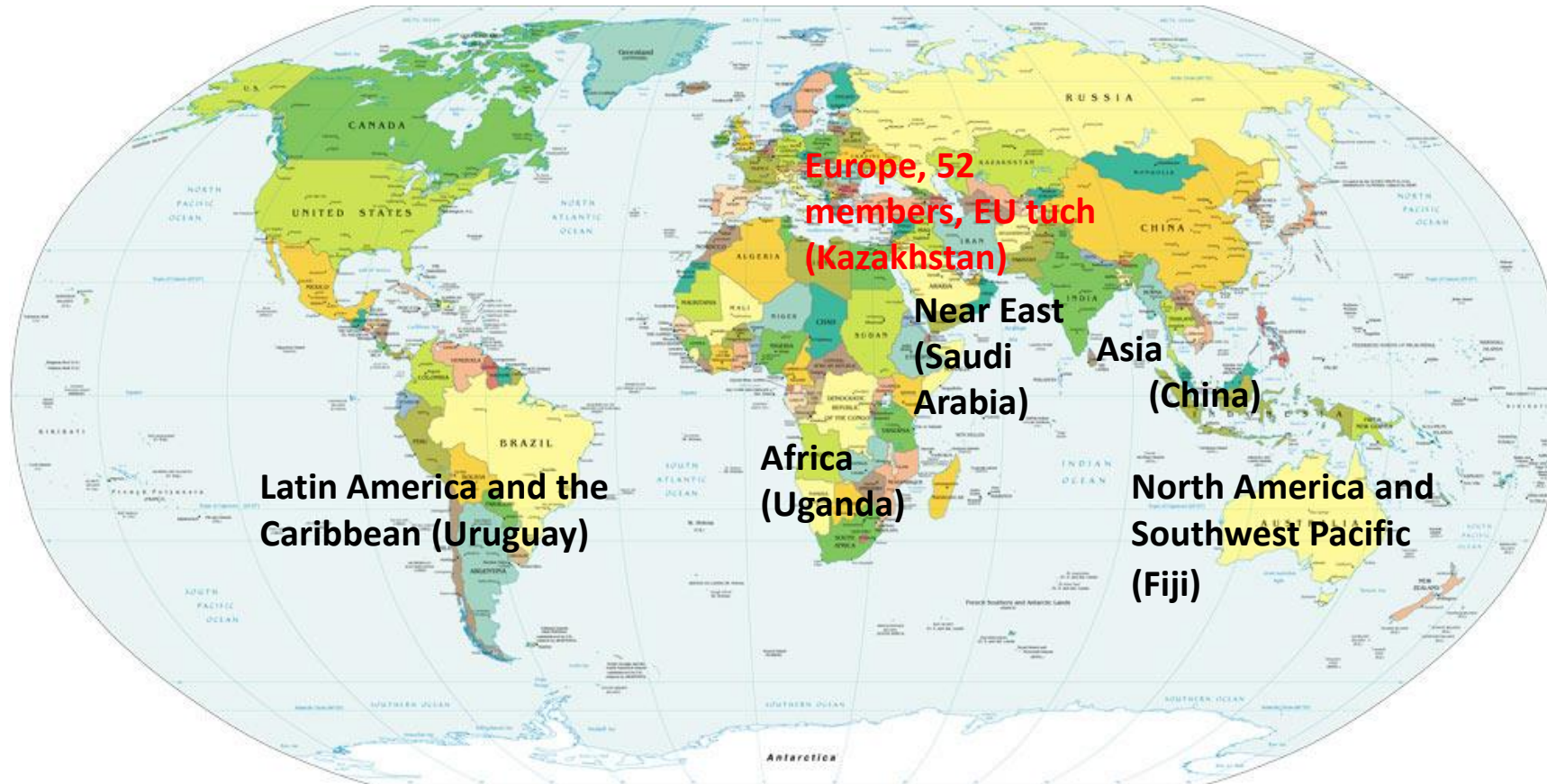
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# Six FAO / WHO Regional Coordinating Committees



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# Strategic Plan of the FAO / WHO Coordinating Committee for Europe of the Codex Alimentarius Commission 2020-2025

Priority target	Priority tasks	Events for the period 2020-2021	Justification of the proposed activities
<b>1. Timely solve current, emerging and critical problems</b>	1.1 Identify needs and emerging problems.	1.1.1 Gathering information on current, emerging and critical issues in the country using and improving existing mechanisms.	To understand the needs and emerging issues of each member country
	1.2 Priority of needs and emerging problems.	1.2.1 Use current prioritization information available from Codex committees	Existing procedures for assessing and prioritizing emerging issues can be used (and strengthened by RCs as appropriate) to assess and prioritize the needs of the region.
<b>2. Develop standards based on science and Codex risk principles</b>	2.2 Promote the presentation and use of globally representative data in the development and revision of Codex standards	2.2.1 Select from FAO and WHO scientific expert bodies a request for data on a topic for a coordinated approach pilot project in the European Region	This will maximize the provision and use of data by the region on the selected topic. It will also identify challenges and barriers to data provision that may exist across the region.
	2.3 Promote adequate and sustainable funding for expert bodies that provide scientific advice	2.3.1 Contribute to the development of a draft 2020 World Health Assembly resolution on food safety, as proposed in a letter from Member States and other countries to the Director General of WHO 2.3.2 Communicate between countries and with missions located in Geneva to ensure the endorsement of the PB resolution at the 2020 World Health Assembly.	Include in the resolution of the World Health Assembly a mechanism for ensuring sufficient and sustainable funding of science from WHO.

# Three levels of Dialogues in support of the Food Systems Summit

## Member State Dialogues

Organized by national authorities and with the participation of food system stakeholder group leaders. These dialogues will enable participants to explore options for local and national food systems in the future and to formulate a national strategy for the transition to sustainable food systems by 2030.

## Global Dialogues

Within the high-level international events, a series of dialogues will be organized at the initiative of the Summit Secretariat. They will provide an opportunity to examine the relationship between food systems and global work to address nutrition, climate, biodiversity, oceans, finance, desertification and other areas.

## Independent dialogues

These dialogues can be organized by any person or organization, they are conducted using tools designed to provide a multi-stakeholder format for such dialogues.

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# International Union of Non-Governmental Organizations

## "Eurasian Peoples' Assembly"

Independent Dialogue "Different Routes – Similar Goals" in support of  
the Food Systems Summit 2021, May 18, 2021



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**THANK YOU FOR ATTENTION!**

