

CODEX CAPSULE 8

Review of the Codex Structure

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This Session will serve yet as another review of the Entire Codex Structure:

We have discussed that Codex develops its standards, guidelines and recommendations through the use of subsidiary bodies.

And that

Codex has established 4 types of subsidiary bodies, each hosted by a member country, established to carry out its work.

1. **General Subject Committees** (also referred to as horizontal), which establish standards and guidelines applicable to all foods;
2. **Commodity Committees** (also known as vertical), which prepare standards for specific commodities;
3. **FAO/WHO Coordinating Committees**, through which regions or groups of countries coordinate food standards activities in the region, including the development of regional standards;
4. **Ad hoc Intergovernmental Task Forces**, which are time-limited and prepare standards and guidelines on specific issues.

The Commission (CAC) is the **decision-making body** of the Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Program.

The Executive Committee of the Commission (CCEXEC) acts as the **executive organ** of the Commission.

It is the body responsible for managing the standards development process, developing the draft strategic plan, reviewing applications for observer status and making other recommendations about the general direction of the Commission's work.

The executive officers include:

- A **chairperson**; and **three vice-chairpersons** elected among the delegates of the Members of the Commission.
- The Commission elects executive officers for a period commencing at the end of the session in which they were elected until the end of the following regular session.

The Codex Secretariat assists the CAC in the **implementation of the Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme**, reporting to the Director-Generals of FAO and WHO.

We have:

- 10 General Subject Committees,
- Several Commodity Committees, active as required – but many of which are adjourned Sine Die,
- where required, Adhoc Intergovernmental Taskforces would be set.
- AND of course the 6 FAO/WHO Regional Committees,

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- This is the overall Structure of the Codex Commitete

After the 46th Session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission, held in November 2023 – which witnessed the commemoration of the 60th Anniversary of Codex and at the time of the production of this program,

Uganda was re-elected to be the Coordinator for Africa,

China was re-elected to be the Coordinator for Asia,

Germany was elected the Coordinator for Europe,

Fiji was reelected to be the Coordinator for North America and the South West Pacific and

Saudi Arabia was re-elected to be the coordinator for the Near East Region