



COUNCIL

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Concept note in relation to the types of FAO products and the means for their development

Executive summary

The Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters (CCLM) and the Programme Committee (PC) bring to the attention of the Council its findings on:

The Concept Note in relation to the types of FAO products and the means for their development, which illustrates the development process followed with respect to non-exhaustive types of recent FAO products. The Note has categorized the FAO products according to:

- a) their substantive contents and defining characteristics;
- b) the actors consulted in the review process and those ultimately responsible for their development, and where appropriate, approval; and
- c) the legal basis and criteria set out in the Basic Texts.

Suggested action by the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters, the Programme Committee and the Council

The Council is invited to take note of the findings of the CCLM and the Programme Committee.

Queries on the substantive content of this document may be addressed to:

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I. Introduction

1. At its 168th Session in December 2021, the Council “took note of the CCLM recommendation against the elaboration of a formal standardization procedure for FAO policies, voluntary guidelines, strategies, and action plans, noting the complexity of a standardization exercise, given the broad range and volume of products that the Organization develops”.¹ The Council “invited the Secretariat to prepare a concept note for Members’ analysis in relation to the types of FAO products and the means for their development, and looked forward to further discussion at the next Sessions of the Programme Committee and the CCLM, within their respective mandates”.²

2. This matter is referred to the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters (CCLM) and the Programme Committee respectively under Rules XXXIV (8) and XXVI (7) (d) of the General Rules of the Organization (GRO), pursuant to which they may “consider the legal and constitutional aspect of any other matters submitted to it by the Council or the Director-General” and “any other matter submitted to it by the Council or the Director-General”.

II. The types of FAO products and instruments, and the means for their development

3. As reflected in CCLM document 113/2, the Basic Texts do not identify every type of FAO product, nor how they may be developed and, where appropriate, approved. In the absence of these explicit provisions, the process for the development of FAO products has been guided by the functions and mandates in the Basic Texts assigned respectively to the Governing Bodies, Statutory Bodies, and the Director-General.³

4. Further to the request of the Council, a detailed review of past practice was undertaken. This note offers illustrative, non-exhaustive guidance on past practice. It does not seek to define how the Basic Texts should be interpreted or applied. The review confirmed that, while the Basic Texts have been followed, varied procedures have been applied in the past for the elaboration and approval of products that may have been similar in nature.

5. The table in **Annex I** draws on the detailed review, and compares recent FAO products and categorizes: (i) their substantive contents and defining characteristics; (ii) the actors consulted in the review process and those ultimately responsible for their development, and where appropriate, approval; and (iii) the legal basis and criteria set out in the Basic Texts. The text below seeks to summarize the conclusions drawn from the table set out in Annex I. It is recommended, nevertheless, that the inherent flexibility found in the Basic Texts should be retained given the wide variety of products developed, and which could be developed in future, by the Organization as a knowledge-based specialized agency of the United Nations.

A. *Overarching governance and regulatory frameworks, including treaties and instruments establishing Statutory Bodies with global coverage*

6. Global or cross-cutting policies and strategies and international regulatory frameworks, including treaties and instruments establishing Statutory Bodies with global coverage, must be submitted to the Conference for approval or endorsement.⁴ These products are normally first reviewed by the relevant Technical Committee(s) and are submitted to the appropriate Council Committee(s) and Council where they have programmatic, financial, or legal implications for the Organization. For

¹ CL 168/REP, paragraph 30 (a).

² *Ibid.*

³ CCLM 113/2, Section IV, paragraphs 25-32.

⁴ Constitution, Article XIV (1) and Resolution No. 7/2009 of the Thirty-sixth Session of the Conference, paragraph 2, which emphasizes the Conference’s role with respect to global policy issues and international regulatory frameworks.

example, treaties and instruments establishing Statutory Bodies have a legal component and are thus reviewed by the CCLM, following consultations by the relevant Technical Committee.⁵

7. The level of approval or endorsement required from the Conference depends on the specific type of FAO product concerned. For instance, the Basic Texts prescribe that the text of international treaties must be approved by the Conference,⁶ through Resolution, and those regulatory recommendations made to Members with a view to implementation by national action are adopted by Conference Resolution.⁷ Similarly, the practice has been to approve constituent instruments establishing Statutory Bodies with global coverage, including amendments to them, through Conference Resolution.

8. By contrast, normative guidelines developed by the Technical Committees concerning policy and regulatory matters are reported to the Conference for its endorsement or approval.⁸ Generally, normative instruments that have been reviewed by the relevant Council Committee(s) and Council are submitted to the Conference for endorsement only,⁹ while others that are submitted directly by the Technical Committee(s) are adopted by the Conference.¹⁰

9. The Conference may also take governance decisions that specifically delegate matters to the Council,¹¹ as the executive organ acting on its behalf between Sessions of the Conference.¹² These decisions normally relate to the implementation of global or cross-cutting policies and strategies between Sessions of the Conference, and, in such instances, the Council is assisted by the relevant Technical Committee(s) and Council Committee(s), as appropriate.¹³

B. Regional treaties and instruments establishing Statutory Bodies with regional coverage, strategies related to programmatic or budgetary matters

10. The Basis Texts provide that treaties specific to a determined geographical area are approved by the Council,¹⁴ through Resolution, following prior review by the relevant Technical Committee(s) and Council Committee(s), as appropriate. Regional treaties and amendments to them are reviewed by the CCLM in view of their legal implications, following review by relevant Technical Committees.¹⁵ Once approved by the Council, they are reported to the Conference.¹⁶ Moreover, any constituent instrument of regional bodies, as well as amendments to such instruments, are approved through Council Resolution, after review by the CCLM¹⁷ and other Council and Technical Committees, as appropriate.

11. In addition, in view of the Council's major role in defining strategies and priorities and establishing the budget of the Organization,¹⁸ the Conference may specifically delegate to the Council the final approval of strategies, policies or action plans calling for action by Members and other stakeholders having programmatic and budgetary implications for FAO.¹⁹ Normally, such instruments are first reviewed by the relevant Technical Committee(s), followed by the Programme Committee and/or Finance Committee.

⁵ GRO, Rule XXXIV, paragraph 7 (b) and (e).

⁶ Constitution, Article XIV (1); and GRO, Rule XXI (1) (c) (i).

⁷ Constitution, Article IV (3); and GRO, Rule II (2) (c) (i).

⁸ GRO, Rule II (c) (xii).

⁹ See for example the Voluntary Code of Conduct for Food Loss and Waste Reduction (FLW).

¹⁰ See for example the Voluntary Guidelines for Catch Documentation Schemes (VGCDS).

¹¹ GRO, Rule XXIV (1) (c).

¹² GRO, Rule XXIV.

¹³ See for example, the FAO Strategy on Biodiversity Mainstreaming across Agricultural Sectors.

¹⁴ Constitution, Article XIV (2) and GRO, Rules XXIV (4) and XXI (1) (c) (i).

¹⁵ GRO, Rule XXXIV, paragraph 7 (b).

¹⁶ GRO, Rule XXI (2).

¹⁷ GRO, Rule XXXIV, paragraph 7 (e).

¹⁸ Volume II, Section D of the Basic Texts, Implementation of the IPA regarding the Council; Resolution 8/2009 of the Thirty-sixth Session of the Conference.

¹⁹ Constitution, Article V (3).

12. Overall, the Council's review and, where appropriate, approval of products depend on their specific purpose. As mentioned above, the Council may approve FAO products to specifically implement governance decisions taken by the Conference, approve strategies to facilitate the implementation of the Organization's core functions,²⁰ such as the FAO Strategy for Private Sector Engagement, or establish global policy frameworks to guide the Organization's programmatic work concerning the world food and agriculture situation and related matters, particularly those of an urgent nature and which call for action.²¹

C. Voluntary guidelines, principles and strategies developed by the Committee on World Food Security (CFS)

13. In view of its particular status as a *sui generis* intergovernmental Committee established under the FAO Constitution,²² the CFS is mandated to assist the Conference²³ and to develop and endorse international strategies and voluntary guidelines on food security and nutrition and other public goods.²⁴

14. Products developed by the CFS are normally reported to the Conference and the United Nations General Assembly through the Economic and Social Council.²⁵ For example, the recent Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition (VGFSyN) were endorsed by the CFS and at its 42nd Session, the Conference subsequently endorsed the Reports of the 46th and 47th Sessions of the CFS, and in particular, welcomed the approval of the VGFSyN and encouraged the use of CFS agreed policy instruments by all stakeholders.²⁶

D. Recommendations and international standards, guidelines and codes of practice by Statutory Bodies

15. The type of product developed by Statutory Bodies and the ultimate actor responsible for the endorsement, or approval, of such products depend on the legal framework of each body, as reflected in their terms of reference or statutes.

16. Statutory Bodies established under Article VI of the FAO Constitution normally have advisory functions and thus develop non-binding products and instruments – such as recommendations, studies, or reports – that address specific subject-matters within the context of their respective mandates and functions, as determined by the Conference or the Council. For example, Article VI Bodies with a regional mandate submit their products for discussion to the concerned Regional Conference and relevant Technical Committee(s). The final endorsement of these recommendations or other products depends on the terms of reference and rules of procedure of the body concerned, bearing in mind that recommendations having policy, programme and financial implications, are generally submitted to the Conference or Council, as appropriate.

17. By contrast, the constituent instruments of Article VI Bodies with a global mandate may vest them with competence to adopt international or regional standards, guidelines and codes of practice within their areas of competence. These products are adopted by the relevant Article VI Body as non-binding voluntary instruments, until adopted by national legislation.²⁷ However, any recommendations made by these Article VI Bodies must nevertheless be referred to the Conference or

²⁰ FAO Strategic Framework 2022-31, paragraph 43.

²¹ GRO, Rule XXIV (1) (b).

²² The composition and terms of reference of the CFS are governed by rules adopted by the Conference (GRO, Rule XXXIII (8) refers).

²³ Constitution, Article III (9).

²⁴ GRO, Rule XXXIII (9) (b); see also CCLM 113/2, paragraph 18.

²⁵ CFS Rules of Procedure, Rule X (1) (CFS:2011/9 Rev.1); GRO, Rules XXXIII (16) and XXXIII (17).

²⁶ C 2021/REP, paragraph 55.

²⁷ For example, Codex Standards are adopted by the Codex Alimentarius Commission pursuant to Rule XII of the Rules of Procedure and the Procedures for the Elaboration of Codex Standards and Related Texts.

Council, as appropriate, and their reports should be circulated to Members, through the Director-General.²⁸

18. On the other hand, as per their respective treaty texts, Article XIV Bodies are vested with functional autonomy within the Organization's legal framework and may thus develop and adopt products, such as international standards, guidelines and recommendations. In accordance with the applicable treaty and rules of procedure of the respective Article XIV Body, these products may become binding on Members once enshrined in their legislation²⁹ or given effect by contracting parties to the treaty concerned.³⁰ That said, the relevant constituent instruments of Article XIV Bodies normally provide that recommendations having programme or financial implications for FAO must be transmitted to the Director-General for the attention of the Conference, or Council, as appropriate.³¹

E. Internal administrative products, management tools, annual reports and flagship publications

19. Under the authority of the Director-General to direct the work of the Organization, subject to the general supervision of the Conference and Council,³² the Secretariat has the competence to develop a wide variety of FAO products.

20. For example, the Secretariat may develop products that offer technical guidance to Members and other stakeholders supporting the implementation of products adopted by the Governing Bodies. Similarly, within the Director-General's responsibility to carry out the decisions of the Conference and Council, and to guide the internal administration of the Organization, the Secretariat may develop strategies, policies and action plans regulating FAO's implementation of the Members' priorities as endorsed in other products. The above-mentioned products are not submitted to the Governing Bodies for endorsement; however they may be the subject of briefings for the Governing Bodies and/or Members, or submitted to the Governing Bodies as information on FAO's activities to deliver Members' priorities and Governing Bodies decisions.

21. Further, the Secretariat develops the Annual Report on the State of Food and Agriculture and the flagship technical publications of the Organization within the authority of the specific functions prescribed to the Director-General under the GRO.³³ The Director-General transmits the Annual Report to the Conference to support the deliberations of its regular sessions³⁴ and is responsible for publishing and communicating the flagship technical publications to the Members and Associate Members.

22. In addition, the Director-General is the ultimate actor responsible for the issuance of rules, policies and administrative issuances governing terms of employment, activities and conduct of employees.³⁵ Normally, such products follow an internal consultation process in accordance with the relevant rules and procedures, including with recognized staff representative bodies, as appropriate. It is relevant to note, however, that the Director-General has the authority to promulgate Staff Regulations only with the approval of the Council,³⁶ and thus, any amendments to the Staff Regulations require the final endorsement of the Council, following a review by the CCLM in view of the legal component.

III. Summary of findings

²⁸ For example, Article 5 of the Statutes of the Codex Alimentarius Commission.

²⁹ For example, the International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures of the International Plant Protection Convention.

³⁰ For example, the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM) or Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC).

³¹ For example, Article XV of the GFCM Rules of Procedure or Rule VIII of the Rules of Procedure of the Commission of the Phytosanitary Measures.

³² Constitution, Article VII (4); and GRO, Rule XXXVIII (1).

³³ GRO, Rules II (2) (c) (i), XXXVIII (2) (c) and (i), and XXXVIII (1).

³⁴ GRO, Rules II (2) (c) (i) and XXXVIII (2) (i).

³⁵ GRO, Rule XXXVIII (2) (a).

³⁶ GRO, Rule XL (4).

23. As mentioned above, the table annexed to this note is not exhaustive in view of the broad range and volume of FAO products, and instead identifies processes for the various types of products that could serve as guidance to Members. However, it is recommended that such guidance be treated as informal and non-restrictive as this may not be able to address every type of product to be developed by the Organization in due course.

24. Consequently, the methodology utilized in this concept note is not an exclusive interpretation of how the Basic Texts should be applied, but rather an effort to offer guidance on how FAO products may be categorized with due regard to the existing practices of the Organization. Nevertheless, the Basic Texts should, in all instances, serve as the primary reference point for the development of all FAO products.

25. Indeed, a detailed review of the longstanding practice of the Organization has reflected that, while adhering to the Basic Texts, differing processes may have been applied to similar products. This emphasizes the importance of focusing on the substantive contents and characteristics of FAO products – not their title or use of FAO nomenclature – and reaffirms the Committee’s findings concerning the complexity of a standardization process applicable to the development of all FAO products.

IV. Suggested action by the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters, the Programme Committee and the Council

26. The Committees and the Council are invited to review this document, to make observations and provide guidance, as deemed appropriate.

Concept Note in relation to the types of FAO products and the means for their development

All references to Rules are to the General Rules of the Organization (GRO), unless otherwise specified.

Type of product	Examples	Consultation and/or review	Final endorsement/approval
Global Treaties (including amendments to them)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Agreement on Port State Measures to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing (PSMA) – Revised International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) 	CCLM pursuant to Rule XXXIV, paragraph 7 (b), following consultations with relevant Technical Committees. ³⁷ Council review prior to submission to Conference. ³⁸	Conference approval, pursuant to Article XIV (I) of the Constitution and Rule XXI (1) (c) (i). ³⁹
Regional Treaties (including amendments to them)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Agreement on the Central Asian and Caucasus Fisheries and Aquaculture Commission (CACFish) – Agreement for the Establishment of a Commission for Controlling the Desert Locust in the Western Region 	CCLM pursuant to Rule XXXIV, paragraph 7 (b), following consultations with Technical Committees. ⁴⁰	Council approval, pursuant to Article XIV (2) of FAO Constitution and Rules XXIV (4) (b) and XXI (1) (c) (i). ⁴¹ Council reports to the Conference pursuant to Rule XXI (2).
Constituent instruments (terms of reference) of Article VI Bodies having global scope (including amendments to them)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (e.g. International Undertaking on Plant Genetic Resources) – Amendments to the Statutes of the Codex Alimentarius Commission 	CCLM pursuant to Rule XXXIV paragraph 7 (e); Council review prior to submission to Conference for approval. ⁴²	Conference approval, by Resolution. ⁴³

³⁷ PSMA: CCLM 88/8; IPPC: CCLM 67/2.

³⁸ PSMA: CL 137/REP; IPPC: CL 113/REP.

³⁹ PSMA: Resolution 12/2009 (C 2009/REP); IPPC: Resolution 12/97 (C 97/REP).

⁴⁰ CACFish: CCLM 88/9; Desert Locust in Western Region: CCLM 71/4.

⁴¹ CACFish: Resolution 1/137 (CL 137/REP); Desert Locust in Western Region: Resolution 1/119 (CL 119/REP).

⁴² International Undertaking on Plant Genetic Resources: CCLM 72/5; CL 121/REP; Amendments to Statutes of Codex: CCLM 79/2; CL 129/REP.

⁴³ International Undertaking on Plant Genetic Resources: C 2001/REP, Appendix E; Amendments to Statutes of Codex: C 2005/REP, Appendix F.

Type of product	Examples	Consultation and/or review	Final endorsement/approval
Constituent instruments (terms of reference) of Article VI Bodies having regional scope (including amendments to them)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Statutes of the South West Indian Ocean Fisheries Commission (SWIOFC) – Amended Statutes of the Commission for Inland Fisheries and Aquaculture of Latin America and the Caribbean (COPESCAALC) 	CCLM endorsement pursuant to Rule XXXIV, paragraph 7 (e). ⁴⁴	Council approval, by Resolution. ⁴⁵
Regulatory recommendations (e.g. codes of conduct and non-binding/voluntary instruments) calling for national action by Members and other stakeholders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Updated International Code of Conduct on Pesticide Management (IcoCPM) – Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries 	<p>Technical Committees, followed by consideration in the Council Committees and Council review and endorsement, when recommendations have financial or programmatic implications for FAO.</p> <p>e.g. IcoCPM – reviewed by COAG and proposed Resolution endorsed by Council for adoption at the Conference.⁴⁶</p>	Conference adoption, by Resolution, pursuant to its functions under Article IV (3) of the Constitution and Rule II (2) (c) (i) to make recommendations to Members with a view to implementation by national action. ⁴⁷

⁴⁴ COPESCAALC: CCLM 106/3; SWIOFC: CCLM 77/3.

⁴⁵ COPESCAALC: Resolution 1/40 (CL 159/REP); SWIOFC: Resolution 1/127 (CL 127/REP).

⁴⁶ CL 145/REP.

⁴⁷ IcoCPM: Resolution 3/2013 (C 2013/REP); Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries: Resolution 4/95 (C 95/REP).

Type of product	Examples	Consultation and/or review	Final endorsement/approval
Other regulatory recommendations (e.g. voluntary codes of conduct and guidelines) falling under the Conference's authority to review policy and regulatory matters of Technical Committees	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Voluntary Code of Conduct for Food Loss and Waste Reduction (FLW) – Voluntary Guidelines for Catch Documentation Schemes (VGCDS) 	<p>Technical Committees, followed by review of Council or Conference, as appropriate.</p> <p>e.g. FLW – developed under guidance of COAG, following the request of the Council to submit a revised Code for endorsement at the Conference.⁴⁸</p> <p>e.g. VGCDS – developed under guidance of COFI and submitted directly to Conference for adoption.⁴⁹</p>	<p>Conference endorsement or approval, as appropriate, pursuant to Rule II (2) (c) (xii) to review policy and regulatory matters of Technical Committees.</p> <p>e.g. FLW – Conference endorsement, as requested and reviewed by Council.⁵⁰</p> <p>e.g. VGDS - Conference adoption.⁵¹</p>
Strategies calling for action by Members and other stakeholders without budgetary or financial implications for FAO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – FAO Strategy on Biodiversity Mainstreaming across Agricultural Sectors 	<p>Programme Committee (PC), following discussions at the Regional Conferences, and relevant Technical Committees (COFO, COFI, COAG).</p> <p>PC recommended the Council to request the Conference to mandate the Council to endorse the Strategy before 2020.⁵²</p>	<p>Conference adoption, but the Conference mandated the Council to adopt the Strategy under Rule XXIV (1) (c) of the GRO.⁵³</p>

⁴⁸ CL 165/REP.

⁴⁹ FIAP/R1167.

⁵⁰ C 2021/REP.

⁵¹ C 2017/REP, Appendix C.

⁵² CL 161/3.

⁵³ CL 163/REP.

Type of product	Examples	Consultation and/or review	Final endorsement/approval
Strategies, policies or action plans calling for action by Members and other stakeholders having programmatic and budgetary implications for FAO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – 2021-2025 Action Plan on Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) – Rural Youth Action Plan – 2021-23 Action Plan for the Implementation of the FAO Strategy on Mainstreaming Biodiversity across Agricultural Sectors – Reviewed Action Plan Results Framework for FAO Strategy on Climate Change. 	Relevant Technical Committees, followed by review by PC. Considered by the Council in its review of the PC Report. ⁵⁴	<p>Conference, but may be specifically delegated to Council by the Conference (Article V (3) of the Constitution).</p> <p>e.g. Action Plans on AMR and Strategy – approved by Council.⁵⁵ e.g. RY Action Plan – Council welcomed its progress.⁵⁶ e.g. Council welcomed Reviewed Action Plan for Strategy on Climate Change.⁵⁷</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – FAO’s Strategy for Private Sector Engagement 	Programme Committee, Finance Committee and CCLM. ⁵⁸	Approved by the Council ⁵⁹ to facilitate the implementation of the Organization’s Core Function, as set out in the Strategic Framework 2022-31, paragraph 43 (5).
Guidelines developed by the Committee on World Food Security (CFS)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests (VGGT) – Principles for Responsible Investment in Agriculture and Food Systems (CFS-RAI) – Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition (VGFSyN) 	Developed by the CFS under Rule XXXIII (9) (b).	Endorsed by CSF ⁶⁰ and reported to the FAO Governing Bodies (Council and Conference) ⁶¹ and United Nations General Assembly through the Economic Social Council pursuant to the CFS Rules of Procedure (CFS: Rule X (1) of 2011/9 Rev.1) and Rules XXXIII (16) and XXXIII (17) of the GRO.

⁵⁴ CL 166/9 for Actions Plans on AMR and Strategy on Mainstreaming Biodiversity; CL 168/8 for Rural Youth Action Plan; PC 122/2 for Action Plan on Climate Change Strategy.

⁵⁵ CL 166/REP.

⁵⁶ CL 168/REP.

⁵⁷ CL 158/REP.

⁵⁸ CCLM 111/2; CL 165/REP.

⁵⁹ CL 165/REP.

⁶⁰ CFS 38/Report; CFS 41/Report; CFS 47/Report.

⁶¹ C 2013/20 (CL 144/9); C 2015/20; C2021/20.

Type of product	Examples	Consultation and/or review	Final endorsement/approval
			e.g. For VGFSyN, Conference endorsed the Reports of the 46th and 47th Sessions of the CFS, and in particular, welcomed the approval of the VGFSyN and encouraged the use of CFS agreed policy instruments by all stakeholders. ⁶²
International standards, guidelines, and codes of practice developed in Article VI Bodies	<p>– Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (CGRFA)</p> <p>e.g. Genebank standards for plant genetic resources for food and agriculture.⁶³</p>	Endorsed by the relevant Article VI Body, as non-binding instruments, to which Members commit to take action.	<p>In accordance with the terms of reference and rules of procedure of the body concerned.</p> <p>e.g. CGRFA reports to the Director-General and its recommendations are referred to the Conference, through the Council, pursuant to Rule XI of the CGRFA Rules of Procedure.</p>
	<p>– Codex Alimentarius Commission</p> <p>e.g. General Standard for the Labelling of Prepackaged Foods;⁶⁴ General principles for food hygiene;⁶⁵ Guidelines on Formulated Complementary Foods for Older Infants and Young Children.⁶⁶</p>	<p>Adopted by the relevant Article VI Body as non-binding documents, until adopted by national legislation.</p> <p>e.g. Codex Standards are adopted by the Codex Alimentarius Commission pursuant to Rule XII of the Rules of Procedure and the Procedures for the Elaboration</p>	<p>In accordance with the terms of reference and rules of procedure of the body concerned.</p> <p>e.g. Reports of the Codex Alimentarius Commission transmitted to the FAO and WHO Directors-Generals for circulation to Members and recommendations are referred to the FAO/WHO Governing Bodies, pursuant to Rule X of Codex Rules of Procedure.</p>

⁶² C 2021/REP, paragraph 55.

⁶³ Endorsed in 2013 (CGRFA-14/13/Report).

⁶⁴ Adopted 1985.

⁶⁵ Adopted 1969.

⁶⁶ Adopted 1991.

Type of product	Examples	Consultation and/or review	Final endorsement/approval
		of Codex Standards and Related Texts.	
Recommendations developed by Article VI Bodies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – African Forestry and Wildlife Commission (AFWC) <p>e.g. Assessment and analysis of drivers of deforestation and developing strategies to address them.⁶⁷</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – European Inland Fisheries and Aquaculture Advisory Commission (EIFAAC) <p>e.g. EIFAAC Code of Practice for Recreational Fisheries.⁶⁸</p>	<p>Recommendations submitted to the relevant Regional Conference(s) and Technical Committee(s) for consideration.</p> <p>e.g. AFWC recommendations are generally discussed at the Regional Conference for Africa for subsequent submission to COFO; EIFACC recommendations are generally discussed at the European Regional Conference for subsequent submission to COFI.</p>	<p>In accordance with the terms of reference and rules of procedure of the body concerned.</p> <p>Reports are generally transmitted to the Director-General and recommendations having policy, programme and financial implications are submitted to the Conference or Council. (Rule VIII of AFWC Rules of Procedure; Rule VIII of EIFAAC Rules of Procedure).</p>
International standards and guidelines developed by treaty bodies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) <p>e.g. International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures (ISPMs), such as Requirements for the establishment of pest free areas.⁶⁹</p>	Adopted by the relevant treaty body, in accordance with the applicable treaty and rules of procedure.	In accordance with the applicable treaty and rules of procedure (which may provide for binding effect on all Contracting Parties).

⁶⁷ ARC/20/INF/10, paragraph 11.

⁶⁸ FIEL/R871; ERC/08/2, paragraph 18.

⁶⁹ Adopted in 1995.

Type of product	Examples	Consultation and/or review	Final endorsement/approval
		e.g. Commission on Phytosanitary Measures (CPM) adopts standards pursuant to the IPPC Standard Setting Procedure. Standards are non-binding until adopted by national legislation.	e.g. Reports of CPM are transmitted to the Director-General for circulation to IPPC members and upon request, to other FAO Members (Rule VIII of CPM Rules of Procedure).
Recommendations of treaty bodies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM) e.g. Recommendation on the regional marking of fishing gear. ⁷⁰	Adopted by the relevant treaty body, in accordance with the applicable treaty and rules of procedure. e.g. Recommendations, resolutions and decisions are adopted by GFCM.	In accordance with the treaty concerned (which may provide for binding effect on all Contracting Parties). e.g. Recommendations, resolutions and decisions adopted by GFCM that have programme or financial implications for FAO are brought by the Director-General to the attention of the Conference through the Council for action (Article XV of the GFCM Rules of Procedure).
Annual Reports	Review of the state of food and agriculture	Submitted to the Conference for information by the Director-General pursuant to Rules II (c) (i) and XXXVIII (2) (i).	Director-General
Flagship publications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World (SOFI) – State of World Fisheries and Aquaculture (SOFIA) – State of the World's Forests (SOFO) – State of Food and Agriculture (SOFA) – State of Agricultural Commodity Markets (SOCO) 	Published and communicated by the Director-General to Member Nations and Associate Members pursuant to Rule XXXVIII (2) (c). e.g. SOFI is reviewed from a technical perspective by senior	Director-General

⁷⁰ GFCM/42/2018/11.

Type of product	Examples	Consultation and/or review	Final endorsement/approval
		management and technical experts from FAO and the other four partners (WFP/IFAD/UNICEF/WHO), prior to being cleared by the respective heads of the organizations.	
Technical guidance (e.g. non-binding guidance for Members and other stakeholders supporting the implementation of products adopted by the Governing Bodies)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – FAO Technical Guidelines for Responsible Fisheries⁷¹ – Guidelines on data disaggregation for SDG Indicators using survey data⁷² 	<p>Developed and published by the Secretariat based on FAO's scientific/technical credibility, usually in support of a global policy instrument approved by the Members.</p> <p>These may be the subject of Management organized expert/technical consultations and will include an appropriate form of peer review; they may also be submitted to the relevant Technical Committee for information.</p>	<p>Director-General</p> <p>The Governing Bodies may be informed of the development of this kind of guidance, as information on FAO's activities to deliver Members' priorities, enabling the Governing Bodies to exercise their oversight functions.</p>
Strategies and policies guiding FAO's implementation of the Members' priorities as endorsed in other products	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Policy on Gender Equality 2020-2030/Gender Action Plan⁷³ – Corporate strategic policy framework for multilingualism⁷⁴ – Annual Report on Corporate Policy, Processes and Measures on the Prevention of Harassment, Sexual Harassment and 	Documents prepared under the overall responsibility of the Director-General as relating to the internal administration of the Organization, within the broader programme of work of	<p>Director-General</p> <p>These products may be the subject of briefings for the Governing Bodies and/or Members, as information on FAO's activities to deliver Members' priorities, enabling the Governing</p>

⁷¹ "FAO Technical Guidelines for Responsible Fisheries".

⁷² "Guidelines on data disaggregation for SDG Indicators using survey data".

⁷³ PC 129/INF/5.

⁷⁴ CL 168/REP, paragraph 41.

Type of product	Examples	Consultation and/or review	Final endorsement/approval
	Sexual Exploitation and Abuse Policy on Prevention of Sexual Harassment ⁷⁵	<p>the Organization, as approved by the Conference.</p> <p>Members are informed of FAO's strategies and policies through discussions at relevant Governing Bodies sessions as these documents refer to the implementation of Members' priorities.</p> <p>E.g. the Gender Action Plan submitted to the PC, and Council, for discussion in view of their alignment with FAO's Strategic Framework 2022-2031.⁷⁶</p>	Bodies to exercise their oversight functions.
Staff Regulations	<p>– Staff Regulations (including amendments to them)</p> <p>e.g. proposed amendments to FAO internal appeal procedure (Staff Regulations 301.11.1 to 301.11.3).</p>	<p>Reviewed by CCLM prior to submission to Council for endorsement.</p> <p>e.g. CCLM made recommendations regarding FAO's internal appeal procedure and requested Council's endorsement.⁷⁷</p>	<p>Council</p> <p>The Director-General has the authority to promulgate Staff Regulations with the approval of the Council, and will report to the Finance Committee and Council on promulgation (Rule XL (4)).</p>
Other rules, policies and administrative issuances governing terms of employment, activities and conduct of employees	<p>– Staff Rules, Administrative Manual (including amendments to them)</p> <p>– FAO Whistleblower Protection Policy</p>	Documents prepared by relevant units and reviewed by core leadership, under the overall responsibility of the	Director-General

⁷⁵ CL 168/INF/6.⁷⁶ CL 168/8; CL 168/REP.⁷⁷ CCLM 113/7; CL 168/10.

Type of product	Examples	Consultation and/or review	Final endorsement/approval
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="577 236 1104 331">– Human Resources Guidelines for Offices during the Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic 	<p data-bbox="1149 236 1518 300">Director-General (Rule XXXVIII (2) (a) refers).</p> <p data-bbox="1149 339 1485 435">Consultations in accordance with the relevant rules and procedures.</p> <p data-bbox="1149 443 1485 635">Consultations/negotiations with recognized staff representative bodies as provided in the Staff Regulations and Recognition Agreements.</p>	