The Codex Alimentarius Commission was created in 1961/1963 by FAO and WHO to develop international food standards, guidelines and recommendations to protect the health of consumers and to ensure fair practices in the food trade.

Codex standards are used by policy-makers and regulators of countries in building a sound national food control system to provide safe food and to protect the health of consumers at national level. Codex standards, guidelines and other texts are not mandatory in nature and there are no obligations for governments to accept and or apply these texts.

However, the significance of Codex standards has been heightened since the establishment of the World Trade Organization (WTO) which, through its Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary measures (SPS Agreement), identifies Codex texts as the benchmark measures for food safety.

The Codex Alimentarius Commission has been working on the subject of antimicrobial resistance mainly through the activities of the Committee on Residues of Veterinary Drugs in Foods (CCRVDF) and the ad hoc Intergovernmental Task Force on Antimicrobial Resistance (TFAMR). Main texts developed by Codex include: the Code of Practice to Minimize and Contain Antimicrobial Resistance (CAC/RCP 61-2005) and Guidelines for Risk Analysis of Foodborne Antimicrobial Resistance (CAC/GL 77-2011).