

## **Do Too Many Cooks Spoil the Broth? The Effect of Increasing Participation on the Codex Food**

### **Standard-Making Process**

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The rise of new actors in the international arena has come as a welcome change to many concerned about a democratic deficit in international relations. However, while the normative worth of greater and more diverse participation is undisputable, to what extent there may be a trade-off with more effective and efficient governance is a comparatively more open question. Does having more voices at the table make governance and policy output more inclusive and more representative or does it lead to a higher likelihood for distributional conflict and stalemate?

We explore these questions through an analysis of the standard-making process of the Codex Alimentarius, the world's de facto international food standard setting organization. We do so by investigating how the increase in both the number and the types of actors (e.g. actors from the governmental, private, non-governmental, and international organization realms) affects both the number of food safety standards and the length of the standard-making process. Because standards are developed in different subcommittees (e.g. by food type), we are further able to explore these questions across different actor constellations. Meanwhile, Codex's switch from a non-binding to binding standard setting organization with its inclusion in the WTO's SPS Agreement further allows us to investigate whether changes in institutional power affects these dynamics. We do so using an originally created dataset which includes information on the number and types of delegations as well as the standards, guidelines, and codes of practice proposed, adopted, amended and revised by the Codex between 1963 and 2019.