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ALINORM 69/3
June 1968

JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAM
CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION

Sixth Session, Geneva

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Report of the Twelfth Session, 5-7 June 1968, FAO, Rome

Introduction

1. The Executive Committee held its Twelfth Session at FAO Headquarters in Rome from 5-7 June 1968. The Committee was presided over by the Chairman of the Codex Alimentarius Commission, Mr. J.H.V. Davies, and in the presence of the three Vice-Chairmen, Mr. I.H. Smith (Australia), Mr. E. Mortensen (Denmark) and Professor Dr. O. Högl (Switzerland). The following representatives from the geographic locations mentioned were in attendance: for Africa, Mr. K.K. Eyeson from Ghana; for Asia, Mr. A. Arimatsu from Japan; for Europe, Mr. J. Serwatowski from Poland; for Latin America, Dr. A. Di Fulvio from Argentina; for North America, Mr. G.R. Grange from the U.S.A.; for South-West Pacific, Mr. N.R. Woods from New Zealand. The Executive Committee was informed that the Coordinator for Europe, Dr. R. Wildner (Austria) could not attend owing to illness.

Adoption of the Agenda

2. The Committee adopted the provisional agenda.

Working Procedure for the Codex Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling

3. The Executive Committee had before it a paper on the above subject, prepared by the Chairman of the Codex Alimentarius Commission, Mr. J.H.V. Davies - EXEC/68/2.

4. The Committee agreed that there was no need to propose amendments to the terms of reference of the Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling (see paragraph 39 of the Report of the Fourth Session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission). As regards methods which were generally applicable to a number of foods, the Committee agreed that the Codex Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling would be responsible for carrying out the appropriate steps of the Procedure. As regards methods specific to the commodity concerned referred to the Methods of Analysis Committee for endorsement, such methods would form part of the commodity

standard and it would be for the Commodity Committee to carry out the steps of the Procedure. The Committee agreed that paragraph 13(c) of the Guidelines should be amended to allow reference of methods of analysis to the Codex Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling to be made at the most suitable time during Steps 3, 4 and 5, i.e. when government comments were available. The Codex Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling should not circulate such methods to governments for comment but should return them to the originating committee with its amendments, where appropriate, and endorsement. The same procedure would apply to methods of analysis prepared by the Codex Committee on Food Additives in respect of food additives in food.

5. The Executive Committee considered that sub-paragraphs (a) to (c), (k), (l) and (m) of paragraph 55 of the Report of the Second Session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission had been superseded and recommended that they should be regarded as no longer having effect. Sub-paragraphs (d) to (i) of paragraph 55, on the other hand, were still applicable and the Executive Committee agreed that they should be transformed by the Secretariat into a draft paragraph for insertion in the Guidelines to be considered by the Commission at its next session. The sub-paragraphs concerned are as follows:

- "(d) Methods selected should have been the object of extensive tests in several laboratories and the results given statistical treatment. Preference should be given to those already published or ready for publication by the originating body.
- (e) Methods should be such as to be capable of use in laboratories equipped with usual modern apparatus.
- (f) More than one method of analysis may be selected for the same test.
- (g) Where applicable, methods of analysis should conform to the 'Guide on the form for methods of chemical analysis' set out in ISO Recommendation R. 78-1958.
- (h) The Expert Committee should organize its work in such a manner as to keep under constant review all methods of analysis published in the Code.
- (i) The Expert Committee should maintain the closest possible relations with all interested organizations working on methods of analysis. "

6. The Executive Committee considered the question of which body would be the most appropriate for dealing with microbiological methods of analysis and sampling and decided to recommend to the Commission that responsibility in this field should be solely and exclusively that of the Codex Committee on Food Hygiene.

Methods of Analysis of Food Additives as such

7. The Executive Committee noted that the specifications which had been submitted to governments at Step 3 of the Procedure contained methods of analysis. The Committee considered that, in view of the fact that these methods of analysis formed an integral part of the

specifications, it might not be necessary to refer such methods of analysis to the Codex Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling, and it might be better if they were considered with the specifications by the Codex Committee on Food Additives. This might involve the need to consult the Joint Expert Committee on Food Additives which prepared the specifications. The Executive Committee recommended that the opinion of the Codex Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling should be obtained on the acceptability of this procedure and that their views be placed before the Commission at its next session.

Methods of Analysis for Pesticide Residues in Food

8. The Committee noted that the Joint FAO Working Party on Pesticide Residues and the WHO Expert Committee on Pesticide Residues were recommending well established methods of analysis of pesticide residues in foods. In order to avoid duplication of effort and taking into account that the Codex Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling had already an enormous task to fulfil, the Committee agreed that it might be better if these methods were not referred to the Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling for endorsement but that they should be further elaborated as international referee methods through the Procedure for the Elaboration of Codex Standards by the Codex Committee on Pesticide Residues. The Executive Committee recommended that the opinion of the Codex Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling should be obtained on the acceptability of this procedure and that their views be placed before the Commission at its next session.

Consideration of Proposed Canadian Amendment to the Rules of Procedure Governing the Elaboration of Regional Standards and the Need for Clarifying and Amending the Rules on the Question of Regions and Groups of Countries

9. At the Fifth Session of the Commission, the delegation of Canada had proposed the following amendment to Rule VI.3 of the Rules of Procedure:

"At the request of a majority of countries constituting a given region or a group of countries specifically enumerated by the Commission that a standard be elaborated, the standard concerned shall be elaborated as a standard primarily intended for that region or group of countries from a geographic location described under Rule III.1, a regional standard for a food or foods produced exclusively and consumed mainly within that geographic location shall be elaborated. When a vote is taken on the elaboration, amendment or adoption of a draft standard primarily intended for a region or group of countries regional standard, only Members belonging to that region or group of countries may take part in the voting the geographic location for which the standard is intended shall be eligible to vote. The adoption of the standard may, however, take place only after submission of the draft text to all Members of the Commission for comments. The provisions of this paragraph shall not prejudice the elaboration or adoption of a corresponding standard with a different territorial scope."

The words proposed to be added are underlined and those proposed to be deleted are in [square brackets].

10. The Commission had decided to submit this proposal to governments for comments and had also asked the Executive Committee to consider it.

11. With reference to the use of the word exclusively in the phrase 'a food or foods produced exclusively and consumed mainly within that geographic location', the Executive Committee agreed that it was extremely doubtful whether any food could be said to be produced exclusively and consumed mainly within a given region. Consequently the use of the word exclusively raised the question whether any food could be the subject of a regional standard. Considering that the use of the term exclusively might, in fact, have the effect of not permitting any food to be the subject of a regional standard, the Executive Committee agreed, regardless of the merit of the proposal, that it could nullify the effect of Article 1(d) of the Statutes. The Executive Committee agreed to draw to the notice of Canada the doubts it had as to whether the amendment, if it included the word exclusively, would be in order.

12. The Executive Committee considered that the phrase produced exclusively and consumed mainly within that geographic location raised the question of who would determine that a food was so produced and consumed, that is to say, was it a matter of objective fact that would be clearly recognized by any reasonable man or was it a matter of judgement. The Executive Committee agreed that there should be some specific basis for making such a determination and considered that, for example, this could be accomplished by adding the words in the opinion of the Commission in the following way: "food or foods which are, in the opinion of the Commission, produced exclusively and consumed mainly ...".

13. The Executive Committee agreed that the last sentence of the Canadian proposal as presented, that is "The provisions of this paragraph shall not prejudice the elaboration or adoption of a corresponding standard with a different territorial scope" would be redundant, since if the food concerned was produced exclusively in a particular region, no other regional standard for the food would be possible, and it would clearly be imprudent to develop a world-wide standard except on the basis of a standard developed by the countries of a region where it was exclusively produced and mainly consumed.

14. The Executive Committee also noted that the Canadian proposal envisaged the deletion of "groups of countries". The Executive Committee noted that there was a case for the elaboration of standards for groups of countries cutting across regions, particularly in the case of countries with similar food habits, although located in different geographic regions. Consequently, the Executive Committee considered that a reference to groups of countries was required in the Rule.

15. The Executive Committee noted that the expression "region or group of countries specifically enumerated by the Commission" or the expression "region or group of countries" occurred, apart from Rule VI.3,

in Rules II 4(a), (b) and (c), IV 6, IX 1(b)(1) and (2) and IX 3, 6(b) and 7 and X 1. It had been pointed out in the Commission that the meaning of the word "region" was not made clear anywhere in the Rules. The Executive Committee agreed that a clarifying amendment should be made in the first Rule in which either of these expressions is used, Rule II 4(a), and decided to recommend to the Commission the following:

"The Commission may appoint a coordinator from among the delegates of the Members of the Commission for any region of the geographic locations enumerated in Rule III.1 (hereinafter referred to as 'regions') or for any group of countries specifically enumerated by the Commission (hereinafter referred to as 'groups of countries').."

This amendment would require as a consequential amendment the deletion of the words 'specifically enumerated by the Commission' from Rule VI.3 as these would now be unnecessary.

16. In view of recent postal difficulties which had interfered considerably with the receipt of comments and the despatch and receipt of documents generally, the Executive Committee agreed that the Secretariat should send a reminder to governments concerning comments on the Canadian proposal, which should indicate which countries had sent in comments. The Chairman should write to the Canadian Government, on behalf of the Executive Committee, enclosing a copy of the relevant parts of the Executive Committee's Report and also the document EXEC/68/3 which dealt with the Canadian proposal and had been before the Committee. The letter should also indicate that if Canada wished to amend its proposal in any way, it would be desirable to have the amendment sent to the Secretariat as soon as possible for distribution to the Members of the Commission at least two months before the Sixth Session of the Commission. The Secretariat should also prepare a summary of the comments received and make them available to the Members of the Commission as soon as possible.

Procedure for Turning Regional Standards into World-Wide Standards

17. Arising from a decision of the Codex Alimentarius Commission at its Fifth Session, the Executive Committee considered the above subject in the light of a paper on the subject which had been prepared by the Chairman of the Commission (EXEC/68/4). The Executive Committee noted the three existing methods for turning a regional standard into a world-wide standard.

18. The Executive Committee agreed that as far as any regional standard that might be prepared in the future or one that had not yet reached Step 5 was concerned, the present procedure was adequate to deal with the possible need to turn such a standard into a world-wide standard. Consequently, the Executive Committee was of the opinion that there was no need to modify the present procedure in respect of regional standards in general.

19. The Executive Committee noted that the only regional standard which had passed Step 4 was the Honey Standard, and agreed that procedurally this standard should be dealt with on an ad hoc basis.

20. It was further noted that under the Rules of Procedure, there was no means by which the Commission at its Sixth Session could consider a world-wide Standard for Honey at Step 8. If the Commission wished to consider this matter, the Executive Committee agreed that it would be necessary for the Commission, under Rule XII.2, to suspend Rule X in respect of the Honey Standard. The suspension of Rule X would mean that the Procedure for the Elaboration of Standards would not apply to the Honey Standard, which would then be dealt with as the Commission thought fit. The Executive Committee did not wish itself to recommend the suspension of Rule X for this purpose, but drew to the attention of Member Countries which might wish to propose such a suspension that under Rule XIII.2, certain Rules, including Rule X, may be suspended by the Commission by a two-thirds majority of the votes cast, provided that 24 hours' notice of the proposal for suspension had been given.

21. The Executive Committee noted that under the present Rules, it was possible for a majority of countries of a region to embark on a regional standard even though a large majority of the Commission was in favour of a world-wide standard and, even if a world-wide standard was already in course of preparation. While the Executive Committee agreed that it was reasonable that the amendment and adoption of a regional standard should be a matter for decision by the countries of the region concerned, it considered that the question of whether a regional standard ought to be elaborated in the first instance should be a matter for decision by the Commission. The Executive Committee recommended that, in order that the Commission should be fully master of its own work program and expenditure, Rule VI.3 should be amended, and decided to recommend to the Commission the following:

"At the request of a majority of the countries constituting a given region or a group of countries specifically enumerated by the Commission that a standard be elaborated, the standard concerned shall, if the Commission so determines, be elaborated as a standard primarily intended for that region or group of countries. When a vote is taken on the elaboration, amendment or adoption of a draft standard, primarily intended for a region or group of countries, only Members belonging to that region or group of countries may take part in the voting

Procedures for the Consideration of Standards by the Commission at Step 8

22. The Commission at its Fifth Session requested the Executive Committee to consider how best the Commission might conduct the business of its regular sessions on standards at Step 8. A paper had been prepared by the Chairman of the Commission, Mr. J.H.V. Davies (EXEC/68/5), setting out the nature of the problem and the possible procedure for consideration by the Executive Committee.

23. The Executive Committee agreed that a need existed for a procedure to be adopted by the Commission for the consideration of amendments proposed to standards at Step 8. The Executive Committee noted that difficulties could arise at Step 8 since this step provided the last opportunity to amend a standard that had been considered for a number of years by a

committee of experts. Delegations to the Commission could not include experts on all subjects and it was therefore very difficult for them to take a position on an amendment which was proposed from the floor without notice. On the other hand, roughly twice as many countries attended the Commission as attended the Committees and their rights must be preserved.

24. The Committee agreed that a procedure was required for the consideration of standards at Step 8; such procedure would not, of course, affect the right of the Commission to reject a standard in its entirety or to reject entire sections of it. The aims of any such procedure should be:

- (a) to ensure that the work of the Codex Committee concerned was not made less valuable by the passage of an insufficiently considered amendment in the Commission;
- (b) at the same time to provide scope for significant amendments to be raised and considered in the Commission;
- (c) to prevent, as far as practicable, lengthy discussion in the Commission on points that had been thoroughly argued in the Codex Committee concerned;
- (d) to ensure, as far as practicable, that delegations were given sufficient warning of amendments so that they might brief themselves adequately.

25. The Executive Committee agreed that, in order to try to achieve these aims, it was highly desirable that all amendments should be submitted in writing, but recognized that amendments proposed in the Commission without prior notice could not be excluded. The Committee therefore recommended the following procedure:

- (a) Governments wishing to propose amendments to Codex standards at Step 8 should submit them in writing to the Secretariat of the Commission in sufficient time so that such amendments can be in the hands of governments not less than one month before the session of the Commission. When distributing Codex standards to governments prior to the session of the Commission, the Secretariat should indicate the deadline for the receipt of proposed amendments. In proposing amendments, governments should state whether they had been previously submitted to Codex Committees giving details concerning the submission of the amendment, and stating the reason for not proposing the amendment earlier, as the case might be.
- (b) When amendments are proposed during a session of the Commission at Step 8 without prior notice, the Chairman of the Commission, after consultation with the Chairman of the appropriate Committee (or delegate of the chairing country), or with other appropriate persons in the case of subsidiary bodies which do not have a country chairman, should rule whether such amendments were substantive. An amendment ruled as substantive which was agreed to by the Commission would need to be referred to the appropriate Committee for its comments and in the meantime the standard would be held at Step 8 of the Procedure.

26. The Executive Committee emphasized its view that Codex Committees were the proper bodies to consider amendments to proposed standards and that governments should not rely upon recommendations made at the Commission sessions as a general method of amending standards.

27. The Executive Committee recommended that the above procedures be adopted by the Commission and decided that, pending approval by the Commission, the procedures be put into operation forthwith by the Secretariat in order to facilitate the business of the Sixth Session of the Commission.

Coordinator for Europe

28. The Executive Committee noted that the term of office of the present Coordinator for Europe, Dr. R. Wildner (Austria) would expire shortly after the Sixth Session of the Coordinating Committee for Europe (4-8 November 1968). The Executive Committee decided that, in the interests of continuity, until the Codex Alimentarius Commission would be able at its Sixth Session early in 1969 to make an appointment of a Coordinator, Dr. Wildner should be requested to continue to serve as Coordinator during the interim period until an appointment had been made by the Codex Alimentarius Commission. The Executive Committee further considered that, in order to avoid difficulties of this nature arising in future, it would be desirable to place the terms of appointment for Coordinators on a similar basis to those of the officers of the Commission and members of the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee decided to recommend to the Commission the following amendment to Rule II.4(b):

Delete the second sentence and substitute:

"Coordinators shall hold office from the end of the session of the Commission at which they were elected until not later than the end of the third succeeding regular session, the precise term being determined by the Commission in each instance. After having served two consecutive terms, Coordinators shall be ineligible to hold such office for the next succeeding term."

Amendment to paragraph 13(a) of the Guidelines for Codex Committees

29. The Executive Committee noted that a consequential amendment needed to be made to paragraph 13(a) of the Guidelines for Codex Committees to bring this section of the Guidelines into conformity with decisions taken by the Codex Alimentarius Commission at its Fifth Session in respect of the Format for Codex Commodity Standards. The Executive Committee decided to recommend to the Commission the following amended paragraph 13(a):

"Food Labelling

(a) Codex Commodity Committees should prepare a section on labelling in each draft commodity standard and this section should contain all the labelling provisions of the standard. Provisions should be included either specifically or by reference to the appropriate paragraphs of the General Standard for the Labelling of Prepackaged Foods. All Codex commodity standards should be

referred to the Codex Committee on Food Labelling at Step 3 of the Procedure for the Elaboration of Codex Standards, though such reference should not be allowed to delay the progress of the standard to the subsequent steps of the Procedure. All labelling provisions will require to be endorsed by the Codex Committee on Food Labelling. When commodity standards are sent to governments for comment at Step 3, they should contain a statement that the labelling provisions are subject to endorsement by the Codex Committee on Food Labelling."

Estimate of Cost of Documentation of Codex Program

30. The Executive Committee was advised that arrangements had been put in hand to prepare estimates of the total additional cost, including the cost of extra staffing to provide for central translation, printing and distribution of (a) all working documents for Codex Committees, and (b) reports of Codex Committees, for examination by the Commission at its Sixth Session. The preliminary results of this enquiry seem to indicate that it might be possible for the central unit, with some strengthening of staff and financial provision, to accept responsibility for item (b). However, item (a) would involve considerations other than purely staffing and financial ones, such as the actual availability of persons qualified to undertake the translation work and the existing capacity of the central translation, printing and distribution services of the Organization. As realistic an estimate as possible would be drawn up and the Commission's attention would be drawn to all other relevant aspects of the issue. These matters would be placed before the next session of the Executive Committee immediately preceding the Sixth Session of the Commission.

Review of Standards for Processed Fruits and Vegetables Adopted by the Commission at Step and Subsequently Redrafted in the Codex Format by the Secretariat

31. In accordance with the decision of the Commission at its Fifth Session, the Secretariat had made first redrafts in the Codex Format of the Standards for Canned Tomatoes, Canned Green Beans and Canned Wax Beans, Canned Peaches, Canned Applesauce, Canned Grapefruit and Canned Sweet Corn, which had been adopted by the Commission at Step 8. The Executive Committee examined these redrafts taking into account the decisions on the adaptation of the Codex Format to the standards for processed fruits and vegetables made by the Codex Committee on Processed Fruits and Vegetables at its Fifth Session held in Washington DC, from 13 to 17 May 1968. The Executive Committee made various changes in the redrafts, the great majority of which were of a minor editorial nature. Other changes were made as follows, for the reasons indicated:

(i) Section on "Hygiene" in the standards

- (a) In the application of the end-product specifications of the Code of Hygienic Practice for Canned Fruit and Vegetable Products, the Executive Committee noted that the provision in the above end-product specification stating

that, if the product had an equilibrium pH above 4.5, it should have received a processing treatment sufficient to destroy all spores of Clostridium botulinum, unless growth of surviving spores would be permanently prevented by product characteristics other than pH, would not be applicable to canned tomatoes, canned peaches, canned applesauce or canned grapefruit, because these products normally have a pH below 4.5. As regards canned green beans and canned wax beans, and canned sweet corn, the Executive Committee agreed that as these products have a pH above 4.5, the following provision adopted by the Codex Committee on Processed Fruits and Vegetables at its Fifth Session in respect of certain commodities should appear in these two standards.

"The product shall have received a processing treatment sufficient to destroy all spores of Clostridium botulinum"

- (b) In view of the fact that the Codex Committee on Processed Fruits and Vegetables had, in the light of information received from the WHO Expert Committee on Food Hygiene (Food Microbiology) agreed that the following text should appear in the hygiene section of the standards it had dealt with at its Fifth Session, the Executive Committee agreed that this text should also appear in all the standards for processed fruits and vegetables adopted by the Commission at Step 8:

"The product shall not contain any pathogenic micro-organisms or any toxic substances originating from micro-organisms"

(ii) Canned Tomatoes

The Executive Committee agreed to delete the paragraph on Test for Calcium Salts, because it had not yet been endorsed by the Codex Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling, and because in the opinion of the Executive Committee the test for calcium salts could be regarded as being of general application to a number of foods. The Executive Committee noted that methods of analysis for calcium were being elaborated by the Codex Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling.

(iii) Canned Green Beans and Canned Wax Beans

The Executive Committee agreed that the paragraph 'Tough String Tests' should be moved to the description section of the standard, and noted that the procedure for carrying out the test had been elaborated by the Codex Committee on Processed Fruits and Vegetables and would be transmitted to the Codex Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling.

(iv) Canned Sweet Corn

The Executive Committee noted that in this standard a test procedure for drained weights had been inadvertently omitted. It was agreed that the following should be inserted in the standard:

"Test Procedure

Drained Weights - whole kernel style only

In accordance with the applicable Drained Weight Method for Processed Fruit and Vegetable Products of the 'Methods of Analysis of the Association of Official Analytical Chemists' (latest edition)"

Colouring Agents in the Standards for Canned Green Beans and Canned Wax Beans, and Canned Applesauce

32. The Executive Committee had before it the following extract from the Report of the Fifth Session of the Codex Committee on Processed Fruits and Vegetables:

"The Committee noted that the Codex Alimentarius Commission at its Fifth Session had deleted the colouring substances which were listed in the Standards for Canned Green Beans and Canned Wax Beans, and Canned Applesauce, on the understanding that the colouring substances in question had not been endorsed by the Codex Committee on Food Additives, as reflected in paragraph 19 of the Report of the Fourth Session of the Codex Committee on Food Additives. However, the Committee noted that in the appendix to the Report (Appendix IV) the colouring substances as set forth in the two standards mentioned had, in fact, been temporarily endorsed. The Committee expressed the strong view that the Executive Committee, at its next session, should examine this matter with a view to reinstating these colouring substances in these two standards before their circulation to governments for acceptance."

33. The Executive Committee took the view that the Report of the Codex Committee on Food Additives was the authentic record of its deliberations and recalled the statement of the Chairman of the Codex Committee on Food Additives during the course of the Fifth Session of the Commission that the colours concerned had not been endorsed. The Commission had come to a clear decision to remove them from the standards pending endorsement and the Executive Committee did not consider that it had the right to reverse this decision.

Modified Starch in the Standards for Canned Green Beans and Canned Wax Beans and Canned Sweet Corn

34. The Executive Committee noted the request expressed by the U.S. delegation at the Fifth Session of the Codex Committee on Processed Fruits and Vegetables that the above two standards should not be sent out to governments for acceptance until such time as they contained provisions for modified starch. The Executive Committee noted that

in the case of the Standard for Canned Sweet Corn, modified starch was being used by most manufacturers of this product, whereas it was used to a lesser degree in canned green beans and canned wax beans, and that therefore its absence in the Standard for Canned Beans would not be sufficient reason for not sending out the Standard for Canned Beans to governments at this stage.

Action on the Standards

35. The Executive Committee agreed that the Standards for Canned Tomatoes, Canned Green Beans and Canned Wax Beans, Canned Peaches, Canned Applesauce and Canned Grapefruit, with the changes adopted, were in the correct format for sending out to governments for acceptance. In the case of the Standard for Canned Sweet Corn, the Executive Committee decided to instruct the Secretariat not to send out this standard to governments for acceptance and requested the Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Food Additives to give the earliest possible consideration to the subject of modified starch in order to enable the Standard for Canned Sweet Corn to be sent out to governments for acceptance as soon as possible.

Review of Standards for Sugars Adopted by the Commission at Step 8 and Subsequently Redrafted in the Codex Format by the Secretariat

36. The Commission, at its last session, adopted the Draft Provisional Standards for Glucose Syrup, Dried Glucose Syrup, Dextrose Monohydrate, Dextrose Anhydrous and Lactose as provisional standards and decided that they should be sent to governments at Step 9 of the Procedure for acceptance, and instructed the Secretariat to recast the standards in the Codex Format. The Executive Committee examined the standards, EXEC/68/Prov.Stans. (CX 5/10.3), April 1968, made a small number of minor editorial changes and agreed that they were in the correct format for sending out to governments for acceptance.

Draft Provisional Standard for Honey

37. The Commission, at its last session, instructed the Secretariat to redraft the European regional Standard for Honey in the Codex Format, to send the redrafted text to governments for comments and to submit the text and the comments to the Executive Committee which would decide whether it needed to be referred back to the Coordinating Committee for Europe.

38. The Executive Committee had before it the Draft Provisional Standard for Honey (EXEC/68.2/2, CX 3/2, March 1968) and a letter (CL 1968/10) which had been sent to governments. After having been informed of the principal comments received from governments, the Executive Committee noted that there was still a divergence of opinion affecting some of the main provisions of the Honey Standard. In view of this, the Executive Committee decided that the standard should be referred back to the Coordinating Committee, which should re-examine it in the light of comments received and of other changes proposed by the Secretariat as a result of recasting the standard in the

Codex Format, before it was considered again by the Commission at its Sixth Session. The Executive Committee further noted that the Codex Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling would have to examine the section on methods of analysis and sampling in view of the fact that this section had also been redrafted in the adopted layout. There also appeared to be certain changes and additions which could be regarded as being more than editorial which would need to be examined by the Committee. The Secretariat was requested to prepare a working paper of government comments for the next session of the Coordinating Committee.

39. The Executive Committee noted that the 1968 meetings of the Coordinating Committee for Europe and the Codex Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling would be held from 4-8 November and from 11-15 November, respectively. The Executive Committee therefore requested the Secretariat to circulate the government comments on the methods of analysis section of the Standard for Honey to the Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling without waiting for the meeting of the Coordinating Committee for Europe. The Executive Committee expressed the hope that the Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling could be advised of actions taken at the meeting of the Coordinating Committee for Europe and could endorse those within its purview so that the completed Standard for Honey could be considered by the Commission at its Sixth Session.

Draft Provisional Standard for Margarine

40. The Commission, at its last session, instructed the Secretariat to redraft the standard in the Codex Format, to send the redrafted text to governments for comments and to submit the text and comments to the Executive Committee which would decide whether to refer the standard back to the Codex Committee on Fats and Oils or to recommend that the Commission re-examine it at Step 8 at its next session.

41. The Executive Committee had before it the Draft Provisional Standard for Margarine (CX 5/15.3, March 1968) and a letter (CL 1968/21) which had been sent to governments. After having been informed of the principal comments received from governments, the Executive Committee decided that the standard be referred back to the Codex Committee on Fats and Oils, which should re-examine it in the light of comments received, before it was considered again by the Commission at its Sixth Session. The Secretariat was requested to prepare a working paper of government comments for the next session of the Codex Committee.

Sixth Session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission

42. The Executive Committee examined a draft provisional agenda for the Sixth Session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission drawn up by the Secretariat and the Chairman of the Commission. It was agreed that Step 8 standards should be considered before Step 5 standards and that both the Step 8 and Step 5 standards should be considered before the reports of the Chairmen of Codex Committees.

43. It was agreed that the items to be discussed would probably require a 10 or 11 day session. It was also agreed that the Executive

Committee should hold its next session on the Monday of the first week of the Commission session and that the aim would be to run the Commission session from Tuesday in the first week through Friday in the succeeding week. As regards the timetable of items to be discussed, it was agreed that this should be settled by the Secretariat in consultation with the Chairman of the Commission and that the provisional timetable should be sent out as early as possible prior to the session. The Executive Committee stressed the desirability of sending out all working documents for the session as and when they become available from the subsidiary bodies.

44. The Executive Committee took note of the various possibilities which were open to it as regards the date of the next session of the Commission which will be held in Geneva. Having regard in particular to the need for ensuring that governments were in possession of the Report of the Codex Committee on General Principles and the Reports of other Codex Committees which were scheduled late in 1968, in order to enable them to be considered fully before the next session of the Commission, the Executive Committee agreed that the most suitable date would be the first two weeks of March 1969, subject to confirmation by WHO.

Guidelines for Work Priorities and the Establishment of Subsidiary Bodies of the Codex Alimentarius Commission

45. The Executive Committee had before it a paper on the above subject which had been prepared by the Secretariat. The Executive Committee agreed that the question of guidelines for work priorities should be looked at in the following way:

- (a) new work to be undertaken by existing subsidiary bodies, and,
- (b) new work which would require the setting up of further subsidiary bodies.

It was agreed that before new work was undertaken under either (a) or (b) above, the criteria set out in the Appendix should be applied, in justification of embarking upon the new work. The Executive Committee agreed that it was not the intention that Codex Commodity Committees would have to be in possession of written information in response to the criteria set out in the Appendix before embarking upon new standards coming within their terms of reference, but that by reference to the criteria set out in the Appendix, Codex Commodity Committees would be able to satisfy themselves that the commodities concerned merited being made the subject of Codex standards. However, countries wishing to have new work undertaken which did not fall within the terms of reference of Codex Committees should, as far as possible, supply the information required in the Appendix. The Executive Committee also agreed that all future Codex Committee Reports should contain a section at the end showing clearly in summary form:

- (a) standards considered at the session or awaiting consideration at Steps 2, 4 and 7;
- (b) standards at Step 5 in abeyance awaiting government comments; and,

(c) new standards proposed for consideration and time program.

The Secretariat was requested to prepare a corresponding change in the Reports section of the Guidelines for Codex Committees, for consideration by the Commission at its Sixth Session. The Secretariat was also instructed to draw up a paper for presentation to the Executive Committee and the Commission which would enable the state of work within the entire Program to be seen readily in summary form.

Matters Arising from the Reports of the Codex Committees on Food Additives and Foods for Special Dietary Uses

46. The guidance of the Executive Committee was sought on a number of questions raised by the above Committees.

List of Food Additives

47. The Executive Committee agreed that lists of food additives should go through the Steps of the Procedure and be sent to governments for acceptance as positive lists.

General Principles for the Use of Food Additives

48. The Committee agreed that when these general principles were finalized by the Codex Committee on Food Additives they should be sent to the Commission for approval.

Guidelines for the Elaboration of Codex Standards for Foods for Special Dietary Uses

49. The Committee had before it Appendix II of the Report of the Second Session of the above Committee (ALINORM 68/26) containing the guidelines. It was noted that the guidelines contained introductory statements and a definition of foods for special dietary uses as well as sections on 'labelling and claims' and 'distribution'.

50. The Committee noted that the Codex Committee on Foods for Special Dietary Uses had submitted the guidelines to the Commission which should consider them at its next session. Regarding the sections on 'labelling and claims' and 'distribution', the Codex Committee on Foods for Special Dietary Uses might use them as guides for drawing up the labelling requirements in standards for individual special dietary foods or might elaborate a general standard for the labelling of such foods.

Working Paper Prepared by the WHO Secretariat on Procedural Matters Relating to the Food Standards Program

51. The Executive Committee considered the above paper (EXEC/68/14). It was agreed that the proposals in the paper relating to the procedure for the acceptance of Codex standards and the withdrawal of acceptance should be taken into account in the drafting of a Secretariat paper to be put before the next session of the Codex Committee on General Principles, since these matters were on the agenda for the

next session of that Committee. It was also considered that the proposals in the paper relating to matters other than those on the agenda for the next session of the Codex Committee on General Principles should possibly be taken up at a later date in the light of the decisions taken by the Commission with regard to acceptance procedures generally. The Executive Committee agreed that it did not appear necessary at this stage to propose any changes in the procedure for the revision of Codex standards until such time as any shortcomings in this procedure became apparent. The Executive Committee further agreed that the background paper on withdrawal of acceptance should also attempt to cover the legal position of acceptance when a majority in the Commission had passed amendments to an already accepted standard, since before accepting standards governments would wish to be in possession of information on this matter.

52. The Executive Committee considered the business for the next session of the Codex Committee on General Principles and suggested that the items to be discussed be taken in the following order:

- (a) The meaning of acceptance - particularly the subject of acceptance with minor deviations.
- (b) The type of acceptance which would be required for general standards, e.g. the General Standard on Food Labelling.
- (c) Procedure for ensuring uniform interpretation of acceptances.
- (d) Quasi-legal implications of what would happen to existing acceptances when an amendment to an accepted standard has been adopted by the Commission.
- (e) Problems associated with withdrawal of acceptances.
- (f) Examination of the French proposals for the amendment of the General Principles of the Codex Alimentarius.
- (g) The idea of a general standard.

53. The Executive Committee noted that the existing arrangements envisaged the holding of the next session of the Codex Committee on General Principles in Paris from 9-13 December 1968. It expressed the view that an earlier date would have been preferable, but that in any event the next meeting of the Codex Committee on General Principles should be held not later than the first half of December 1968.

Bi-monthly List of Published Codex Alimentarius Documents

54. The Executive Committee agreed that it would be useful if the Secretariat would publish a bi-monthly list of documents issued by the Codex Secretariat.

Justification Criteria for the Establishment of Codex Standards and the undertaking of new work of a general nature.

A. Criteria applicable to commodities

1. Volume of production in individual countries and volume and pattern of trade between countries.
2. Consumer protection from the point of view of health and fraudulent practices.
3. Diversification of national legislations and apparent resultant impediments to international trade.
4. Amenability of the commodity to standardization.
5. Number of commodities which would need separate standards indicating whether raw, semi-processed or processed.
6. Work already undertaken by other international organizations in this field.
7. The type of subsidiary body envisaged to undertake the work.

B. Criteria applicable to general subjects

1. Consumer protection from the point of view of health and fraudulent practices.
2. Diversification of national legislations and apparent resultant impediments to international trade.
3. Scope of work and establishment of priorities between the various sections of the work.
4. Work already undertaken by other international organizations in this field.
5. Type of subsidiary body envisaged to undertake the work.