SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

THE COMMISSION:

- expressed its satisfaction with the Programme’s budget for 2000/01, while noting the financial constraints of the parent Organizations and expressed its appreciation of the generous voluntary support provided by the Host Governments for Codex Committees (paras. 15-16);
- adopted Resolution 99/1 regarding the funding of the scientific advisory bodies, JECFA and JMPR and ad hoc consultations and the strengthening of the independence and the scientific integrity of these bodies (paras. 17-19);
- expressed its appreciation to FAO and WHO for the technical assistance provided to developing countries in relation to Codex matters and food control generally, and strongly supported the continuation of such assistance, while recognizing the need to evaluate the impact of these programmes on a regular basis (paras. 20-24);
- adopted the Medium-Term Plan 1998-2002 and agreed that the preparation of the subsequent Medium-Term Plan should be initiated rapidly (paras. 25 34 and Appendix II);
- adopted the following a series of recommendations in relation to consumers’ involvement in Codex work (paras. 43);
- requested the Codex Committee on General Principles develop proposals that would allow for a limited number of representatives of the International Non-Governmental Organizations in Observer Status with the Codex Alimentarius Commission to be invited as observers to Sessions of the Executive Committee (paras. 44-46)
- adopted a series of recommendations in relation to the application of risk analysis principles in Codex work, and endorsed others (paras. 56-58);
  - Rule II.4 – Officers governing the appointment of Regional Coordinators
  - Rule III.1 – Executive Committee to provide for the addition of a new Regional Representative (Near East)
  - Rule X.2 – Elaboration of Standards to stress the need for consensus when adopting standards and related texts;
- adopted a series of amendments and new texts for inclusion in the Procedural Manual (paras. 67-73 and Appendix IV), specifically –
  - Criteria for the Establishment of Work Priorities and Criteria for the Establishment of Subsidiary Bodies of the Codex Alimentarius Commission
  - Relations Between Commodity Committees and General Committees: Draft Amendment to the Food Hygiene Provisions
  - Terms of Reference of the Codex Committee on Milk and Milk Products
  - Definitions of Risk Analysis Terms Related to Food Safety (Risk Communication - Risk Management)
Principles Concerning the Participation of International Non-Governmental Organizations in the Work of the Codex Alimentarius Commission

Core Functions of Codex Contact Points

- decided to hold the Maximum Residue Limits for Bovine Somatotropins at Step 8 in accordance with the provisions contained in the introductory paragraphs of the Uniform Procedure for the Elaboration of Codex Standards and Related Texts (paras. 75-80);

- adopted 31 new or revised Codex standards, guidelines and related texts including Guidelines on the Production, Processing, Labelling and Marketing of Organically-Produced Foods; amended 5 existing standards; approved conditions for the use in foods of 46 food additives; adopted 358 specifications for the identity and purity of food additives; adopted 374 individual maximum residue limits for agricultural and veterinary chemicals; withdrew 27 standards and 252 maximum residue limits as being either obsolete or superseded by newer recommendations (paras. 75-200 and Appendix IV);

- agreed to undertake new work in the following areas (paras. 201-211):
  - Foods derived from biotechnology
  - Animal feeding (extension of existing draft code)
  - Fruit juices (revision of existing standards);

- made a clear statement to the effect that the direct use of hydrogen peroxide for the preservation of raw milk, in a manner that was inconsistent with the Codex Guidelines for the Use of the Lactoperoxidase System, was unacceptable (paras. 214-216);

- abolished the following subsidiary bodies in accordance with FAO Conference Resolution 97/13 (paras. 219-220)
  - Joint Codex/ECE Group of Experts on the Standardization of Quick Frozen Foods
  - Joint Codex/ECE Group of Experts on the Standardization of Fruit Juices
  - Codex Committee on Processed Meat and Poultry Products

- established the following new subsidiary bodies (paras. 221-230)
  - FAO/WHO Regional Coordinating Committee for the Near East
  - Ad hoc Intergovernmental Codex Task Force on Foods derived from Biotechnology (Host Government - Japan, duration 4 years)
  - Ad hoc Intergovernmental Codex Task Force on Animal Feeding (Host Government - Denmark, duration 4 years)
  - Ad hoc Intergovernmental Codex Task Force on Fruit Juices (Host Government - Brazil, duration 4 years)

- agreed that, subject to availability of resources, beginning with the biennium 2000/2001, future Sessions of the Codex Alimentarius Commission, the Executive Committee and Regional Coordinating Committees as appropriate, would be held in Arabic, Chinese, English, French and Spanish. (paras. 232-234).
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INTRODUCTION

1. The Codex Alimentarius Commission held its Twenty-third Session at FAO Headquarters, Rome, from 28 June to 3 July 1999. Professor Dr. Pakdee Pothisiri (Thailand), Chairperson of the Commission presided. The Session was attended by 608 delegates and representatives from 103 Member countries, 1 Observer country and representatives from 63 international governmental and non-governmental organizations including UN agencies. A full list of participants is given in Appendix I to this report.

2. The Session was opened on behalf of the Directors-General of FAO and WHO by Mr. Hartwig de Haen, Assistant Director-General, Economic and Social Department, FAO, and Mrs. P. Singh, Executive Director, Sustainable Development and Healthy Environments, WHO respectively.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA (AGENDA ITEM 1)\(^1\)

3. The Commission adopted the Provisional Agenda as its Agenda for the Session. It agreed to discuss the following matters under the relevant Agenda Items:

- Establishment of a Database on Importing Country Legislation, under Agenda Item 10 “Consideration of proposals to elaborate new standards and/or related texts”;
- Sampling for Aflatoxins in Foods, under Agenda Item 9 “Consideration of draft standards and related texts”;
- Draft Codex Standard for Honey, under Agenda Item 9;
- Elaboration of a General Standard for Foods Derived from Biotechnology, under Agenda Item 10 “Consideration of proposals to elaborate new standards and/or related texts”;
- Language Policies of the FAO/WHO Codex Alimentarius Commission, under Agenda Items 3 Report by the Chairperson on the 45\(^{th}\) and 46\(^{th}\) Sessions of the Executive Committee and 13 Other Business; and
- Discussion on Dioxins, under Agenda Item 13 “Other Business”.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS OF THE COMMISSION AND APPOINTMENT OF REGIONAL COORDINATORS (AGENDA ITEM 2)\(^2\)

ELECTION OF OFFICERS OF THE COMMISSION

4. The Commission elected the following persons to hold office from the end of its present Session to the end of its Twenty-fourth Session:

   Chairperson: Mr. Thomas Billy (USA)
   Vice-Chairpersons: - Mr. Gonzalo Ríos (Chile)
                      - Prof. Stuart Slorach (Sweden)
                      - Mr. David Nhari (Zimbabwe)
5. The following Members of the Executive Committee were elected on a regional basis: Tanzania (Africa), Philippines (Asia), France (Europe), Brazil (Latin America and the Caribbean), Saudi Arabia (Near East - see also paras. 63-64), Canada (North America) and Australia (South-West Pacific).

**APPOINTMENT OF REGIONAL COORDINATORS**

6. The Delegations of Saudi Arabia and Sudan, on behalf of the Codex Member countries from the FAO Near East Region\(^3\), indicated the willingness of these countries to set up a new Codex Coordinating Committee for the Near East. Therefore, in the light of the amendments to Rule III.1 of the Rules of Procedure and the desire of the Members of the region of the Near East to appoint a Regional Coordinator in accordance with Rule II.4(a), the Commission agreed to appoint a Regional Coordinator for the Near East. On the basis of the recommendation of the majority of the members of this Region and the nominations put forward by the Regional Coordinating Committees, the Commission appointed the following persons as Regional Coordinators:

- **Africa:** Dr. Eve Kasirye-Alemu (Uganda)
- **Asia:** Ms. Kanya Sinsakul (Thailand)
- **Europe:** Mr. Felipe Mittelbrun García (Spain)
- **Latin America and the Caribbean:** Mr. Luis Emilio Feliz Roa (Dominican Republic)
- **Near East:** Prof. Ali A. El-Naggar (Egypt)
- **North America and South-West Pacific:** Mr. Geoff Gorrie (Australia)

7. The Delegation of Morocco expressed its willingness to host the next Session of the Codex Coordinating Committee for Africa. The Commission noted that this issue should be discussed among Member countries of the Region at the next session of the Committee.

**REPORT BY THE CHAIRPERSON ON THE FORTY-FIFTH AND FORTY-SIXTH SESSIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (AGENDA ITEM 3)**

8. The reports of the 45\(^{th}\) and 46\(^{th}\) Sessions of the Executive Committee were provided in accordance with Rule III.5 of the Commission’s Rules of Procedure. The Commission noted that most of the Executive Committee’s recommendations had been dealt with by the relevant Codex Committees or were included for discussion under the present Agenda.

9. The Commission noted that the 45\(^{th}\) Session of the Executive Committee had requested the Codex Secretariat to provide a description and an estimate of the support and activities undertaken by FAO and WHO in developing countries on food control in general and that this had been provided for in its Session for discussion under Agenda Item 4 (ALINORM 99/5 – Addendum). It was pointed out that FAO and WHO had convened a Joint Expert Consultation on Risk Assessment of Microbiological Hazards in Foods in March 1999 and that the report of this Consultation would be available within a month.

10. The Commission was informed of the unanimous decision of the 116\(^{th}\) Session of FAO Council regarding Languages and Document Policies of the Codex Alimentarius Commission. In regard to the extension of language services to include Arabic and Chinese, the Commission expressed its support for the proposal of the 46\(^{th}\) Session of the Executive Committee that efforts should be made for the provision of the limited services\(^4\) for Arabic and Chinese by the time of the next (24\(^{th}\)) Session of the Commission in 2001, resources permitting. It recognized that the provision of additional language services would take a longer time but almost complete services could be envisaged by 2005, resources permitting. It concurred with the

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\(^3\) Algeria, Bahrain, Egypt, Islamic Republic of Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Syria, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates.

\(^4\) Limited services means interpretation and main working documents in all languages at sessions of the Codex Alimentarius Commission, Executive Committee and Regional Committees as appropriate; translation of the Commission’s final report, Procedural Manual, and information documents.
view that any shift or re-allocation of resources to provide for these services should not be detrimental to the work of the Commission.

11. The Delegation of Saudi Arabia, speaking on behalf of the Near East countries, proposed the establishment of a new Regional Coordinating Committee within the framework of Codex at its current Session based on consensus among the potential members of such a region. Many delegations supported the idea of establishing a new Regional Coordinating Committee for the Near East, while several delegations were of the opinion that more time was needed to evaluate all of the implications of such a new body and that a document should be prepared for discussion at its next Session. The Delegation of Saudi Arabia also proposed an amendment to Rule III.1 of the Commission’s Rule of Procedure to provide for the election of a seventh Regional Representative, representing the Near East. (See also Agenda Items 8 and 12.)

12. In response to the recommendation of the 46th Session of the Executive Committee to establish an ad hoc Intergovernmental Task Force on Foods Derived from Biotechnology, the Delegation of Japan expressed its concurrence with the recommendation and its willingness to host such a Task Force if established by the Commission. The Delegation stressed the importance of establishing such a Task Force as it would provide an open forum for governments to discuss “safety and nutritional aspects” of foods derived from biotechnology in a step-by-step manner within the specific mandate and timeframe given by the 46th Session of the Executive Committee. The Commission agreed to discuss this matter under Agenda Item 12.


13. The Commission noted the Secretariat report on the status of the operating budget for the current biennium and expressed its support for the proposed budget for the biennium 2000/01. It was noted that the presentation of information used for the 2000/01 biennium was different from the preceding biennium and would facilitate comparisons in the future.

14. In reply to a question, the Secretariat indicated that the difference in the documentation costs for 1998/99 and 2000/2001 originated in the increase in the rates of documentation services, especially translation, and the underestimated expenditure reported for the 1998/99 biennium. The Commission also noted that the “FAO only” section included the activities carried out by the FAO Regional Offices with funding from the Programme. The Representative of WHO indicated that corresponding expenditure of WHO to support the Programme was not included in the report, but would be made available in the future.

15. Several delegations stressed the importance for the Programme of the contribution made by host countries, which had increased in the current biennium, especially for the translation and distribution of documents. The Commission expressed its appreciation of the generous voluntary support provided by the Host Governments for Codex Committees.

16. Some delegations called on Member countries to maintain their support to FAO and WHO. The Delegations of the United States and Australia, in supporting the increased level of the Codex budget provided by FAO, expressed the view that equivalent savings should be made in other programme areas of FAO in order to achieve zero nominal growth. The Delegation of France expressed the view that these budget difficulties were due to the stagnation of the FAO and WHO budgets over several years. The Commission expressed its satisfaction with the Programme’s budget for 2000/01 and the continuous support of FAO and WHO for the Programme, while noting the financial constraints of the parent Organizations.

17. The Commission noted the discussions held at the Executive Committee regarding the funding of the scientific advisory bodies, JECFA and JMPR and ad hoc consultations and expressed its concern that inadequate resources would seriously impair the work of the Programme. The Commission expressed the view that the independence and the scientific integrity of these bodies should continue to be strengthened and noted that FAO and WHO were considering issues related to the transparency of the selection process for experts; resolution or avoidance of conflicts of interest; expression of minority opinions by experts; and enlarging the basis of expert advice in the scientific bodies. The Commission considered the resolution

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5 ALINORM 99/5, CAC/LIM 17
6 ALINORM 99/4, paras. 5-6
proposed by the Executive Committee (CAC/LIM 17) in order to draw the attention of the parent Organizations to the importance of these issues and agreed to make the following amendments.

18. The Commission agreed with the proposal of the Delegation of the United Kingdom and the Observer from Consumers International to include a reference to the transparency of the opinion given by the expert bodies, in addition to their independence and scientific integrity. The Commission had an exchange of views on the concept of “risk-based” scientific advice and recognized that the advice provided by JECFA and JMPR was risk-based but that scientific advice was required in other areas such as nutrition, where the main objective was not to address risk, and the general reference to “scientific advice” was therefore retained.

19. The Commission adopted Resolution 99/1 as follows:

**The Codex Alimentarius Commission:**

Recognizing the importance of Codex work in providing recommendations to Member countries at the international level on food safety and quality and the need to ensure the scientific basis of Codex standards and related texts;

Recognizing the importance of Codex standards and related texts for food safety and quality in the protection of consumers’ health and for ensuring fair practices in the food trade;

Having regard to the status of Codex standards and related texts as a reference in international trade in the framework of the WTO SPS and TBT Agreements;

Recognizing the essential support provided to the Joint FAO/WHO Food Standard Programme by the ongoing Joint FAO/WHO Expert bodies (JECFA and JMPR) and the expert or technical consultations convened on an *ad hoc* basis to address specific food safety and quality issues and in particular the importance of the advice of these Expert bodies for the protection of consumers’ health and public health in general;

Recognizing the importance of the transparency, independence and scientific integrity of the opinions of these bodies;

- Expresses its concern at possible real reductions in the budget allocated to the operation of the FAO/WHO expert bodies and consultations;

- Draws the attention of its parent organizations, FAO and WHO to the need for continued financial support for the FAO/WHO expert bodies in order to provide regularly updated scientific advice to the Codex Alimentarius Commission and its subsidiary bodies;

- Welcomes the continuing efforts by the Directors-General of FAO and WHO to maintain and strengthen the transparency, independence and scientific excellence of this advice.

**SUPPORT TO DEVELOPING COUNTRY MEMBERS**

20. The Commission recalled that the 45th Session of the Executive Committee had requested the Secretariat to provide an estimate of the support provided by FAO and WHO to developing countries and welcomed the report prepared by the Secretariat. In addition to the information included in the document, the Representative of WHO/PAHO/INPPAZ presented an update of the major activities carried out in the Americas Region with emphasis on the Latin American and Caribbean countries in the following areas: integrated food protection programmes; strengthening of analytical capacity through a regional laboratory network, surveillance of foodborne diseases; training in GMP and HACCP; consumer information and participation; street-vended foods, and pointed out the importance of cooperation with FAO/WHO/PAHO in carrying out many of these activities.

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7 ALINORM 99/5-Addendum
21. Many countries expressed their appreciation to FAO and WHO for the assistance provided in the following areas: strengthening of the National Codex Committees and Codex activities at the national or regional level; risk analysis; application of the HACCP system; updating of food legislation and improvement of food control systems. They stressed the need for continued support from FAO and WHO as well as donor countries to strengthen the infrastructure and technical capacities in these areas, and for improving their participation in Codex work.

22. Some countries pointed out that an evaluation of these technical cooperation activities should be carried out and that there should be a mechanism for assessing the practical results of the assistance and training provided to member countries. The Representative of FAO informed the Commission that the FAO Technical Cooperation Programmes (TCP) on food control had been subjected to an independent systematic evaluation and that the results of this evaluation were contained in the *Programme Evaluation Report* to be presented to the forthcoming FAO Conference. The Representative of WHO indicated that in the area of public health, the reduction of the incidence of foodborne disease was an essential indicator to assess programmes concerning food safety. The Commission also noted that the Regional Coordinating Committees considered on a regular basis the outcome of the technical assistance programmes in the area of food legislation and food control at the national and regional levels, and had an important role in assessing the needs of member countries in each Region. The Commission noted that several countries had become members of the Commission following the workshops held in those countries and supported further development of Codex-related activities to promote and facilitate the involvement of developing country members in Codex work.

23. Some delegations, referring to the *Special Report: Fisheries* included in the document, expressed their appreciation to FAO for the programmes carried out in this area, especially concerning HACCP training, and stressed the need for continued training and assistance in view of the importance of this sector for developing countries. The Commission recalled that requests for support in this sector should be directed to the FAO Fisheries Department and that in general, requests for technical assistance from FAO and WHO should be presented by governments through the usual procedures for such requests.

24. The Commission expressed its appreciation to FAO and WHO for the information contained in the document and for the technical assistance provided to developing countries and strongly supported the continuation of such assistance, while recognizing the need to evaluate the impact of these programmes on a regular basis.


25. The Commission considered the Draft Medium-Term Plan, which had been revised by the 45th Session of the Executive Committee in the light of the comments received from governments, at the request of the 22nd Session of the Commission.

26. The Commission noted that the criteria for the establishment of *ad hoc* Task Forces had been submitted for adoption by the current Session and therefore agreed to delete the reference to this work in the Medium-Term Plan (see also para. 67).

27. The Delegation of India, supported by that of China and other delegations, stressed that small and medium-scale enterprises provided the major part of the food supply in developing countries, and that their specific needs should be taken into account, especially when considering risk analysis. The Commission recognized that this should be achieved through technical assistance and should not result in lowering the standards of health protection established at the international level. The Commission recognized the increased need for FAO and WHO support and technical assistance to developing countries in areas such as risk analysis, HACCP and Codex related activities and supported the continuation of such cooperation programmes.

28. The Delegation of India urged a graduated approach for the development and adoption of standards by committees. In the context of the world’s food security needs, the Indian Delegation proposed that Codex

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8 FAO document C 99/4

9 ALINORM 99/6, CL 1997/14-EXEC, ALINORM 99/3, paras 16-20
should put emphasis on community food production programmes with greater participation of women. Horticultural interventions for raising nutrition standards also needed emphasis.

29. Under Production and Processing Systems, the Commission reasserted that high priority should be given to the consideration of foods derived from biotechnology and agreed to discuss further how to proceed in this area under Agenda Item 12. Recognizing that the Medium-Term Plan focused on general objectives and without prejudging the form that these considerations might take, the Commission agreed to refer to “standards, guidelines or other recommendations as appropriate”. The Commission also agreed that this matter should be considered “on the basis of scientific evidence and risk analysis and having regard, where appropriate, to legitimate factors other than science relevant for the health protection of consumers and the promotion of fair trade practices in food trade”, as proposed by the Delegation of the Netherlands.

30. The Commission recognized the importance of proceeding with work in the area of Equivalence and Mutual Recognition and Quality Assurance of Food Control Systems, as proposed by the Delegation of Peru and other delegations in order to facilitate import and export control.

31. Under Nutrition and Consumer Information, the Commission agreed with the proposal of the Delegation of Norway to refer to “relevant” labelling requirements and to include a reference to “consumer information” in the section on labelling, as it was noted that although some requirements were established on a scientific basis, especially as regards nutrition, the actual decision to require labelling reflected the need for adequate consumer information. The Delegation of China proposed that labelling requirements should focus on issues related to food safety and nutrition and that other labelling issues should be decided by Member countries. The Delegation of the United States, supported by others, stated that “legitimate factors relevant for the health protection of consumers and for the promotion of fair practices in food trade” included “consumer information”.

32. The Delegation of Algeria, supported by other delegations and observers, expressed the view that the participation of national NGOs in the work of Codex and related matters was important, especially in developing countries, and should be supported. The Commission recognized that this question should be addressed at the national level and agreed that member countries should be encouraged to provide support to NGOs while protecting their independence.

33. As regards the areas of Publication and Administration, the Commission expressed its appreciation to the Secretariat for the use of electronic means of communication, especially the availability of Codex documents on the Internet and on the Codex-L list, as this facilitated work and improved transparency. The Secretariat indicated that the traditional distribution of documents would be maintained especially for those countries with limited access to email or the Internet, and would be reduced only with the agreement of the countries concerned.

34. The Commission adopted the Medium-Term Plan 1998-2002 with the amendments indicated above, as presented in Appendix II to this report. The Commission agreed with the proposal of the Delegation of Republic of Korea that the preparation of the subsequent Medium-Term Plan should be initiated rapidly and noted that a Circular Letter to this effect would be sent to governments, with a view to considering this matter in the next Session of the Executive Committee.

CONSUMERS’ INVOLVEMENT IN THE WORK OF THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION10 (AGENDA ITEM 6)

INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

35. The Commission recalled that the involvement of consumer and other International Non-Governmental Organizations (INGOs) in the work of Codex had been discussed at the 20th and 21st Sessions of the Codex Alimentarius Commission. It welcomed the cooperation between the Secretariat and Consumers International in preparing the working paper and the inputs from FAO and WHO.

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10 ALINORM 99/8; CAC/LIM 6 (Comments of Consumers International in response to ALINORM 99/8); CAC/LIM 11 (Comments of the International Association of Consumer Food Organizations).
GENERAL OBSERVATIONS

36. The Observer from Consumers International expressed appreciation for the level of cooperation with the Commission and noted that the clear progress made in enhancing consumers’ participation in the Codex work. However, the Observer noted that more work needed to be done to improve the situation in coordination particularly at the national level and in sharing experiences in training, as indicated in the survey of members of Consumers International as reported in CAC/LIM 6. The Observer noted that significant training initiatives on National Codex Committees and Codex Contact Points and risk analysis were taking place and asked, where possible, for Members to consider including consumer groups and representatives in these programmes in the future. The Observer stated that Consumers International had initiated a new regional training programme in addition to its ongoing training on Codex and was eager to cooperate further with the Commission at national and international levels in order to ensure participation of consumer organizations in this high profile area.

37. The Observer from the International Association of Consumer Food Organizations also welcomed the paper presented to the Commission and indicated that the presence of the Association may be considered as one example of the increased openness of the Commission to the participation of consumer organizations in its work.

38. The Commission expressed full support for efforts to enhance the participation of consumer organizations’ in the development of food standards and also in relation to Codex at the national level. It agreed that it was highly desirable for consumers and their organizations to participate in training activities designed to establish or strengthen Codex Contact Points or National Codex Committees.

39. The Commission noted the outcome of the FAO/PAHO/CI Regional Workshop on the Integration of Consumer Interests in Food Control and Food Production (Quito, 1996) – outlined in Appendix B of the working paper. Nevertheless, the Commission recognized that several of the recommendations of this Workshop could be interpreted as calling for the participation of consumers in official food control activities. Several delegations stated that whereas consumers, their organizations and other interested parties could be involved in the development of standards, official food control activities to determine compliance with standards and regulations were the responsibility of government authorities and the legal system. The Commission noted that it had already accepted that, “while respecting legitimate concerns to protect confidentiality, the principles and operations of food inspection and certification should be open to scrutiny by consumers and their organizations and other interested parties”.12

40. Several delegations reported that consumer participation at the different stages of development of food legislation, standard setting and decision making processes was authorized by legislation. However, some delegations expressed the need to arrive at a better understanding of what constituted a legitimate “consumers’ organization”, stating that such an understanding was needed if organizations were to be involved in the food standards development and Codex processes at the national level. The Observer from Consumers International noted that CI had prepared and published guidance on this matter.

41. The Commission noted that in some developing countries consumer organizations were not well established, the educational level of consumers was low, scientific or technical expertise was unavailable, and resource constraints and communication problems did not allow consumers to participate effectively in the process. The need for training was especially highlighted.

42. Several delegations expressed concern that some consumer organizations tended to reflect only the views, interests and culture of consumers in industrialised countries and that a wider basis of opinions, especially from consumers in developing countries, would be useful and welcome. The Observer from Consumers International noted that this organization had a world-wide membership and regional offices located in developing countries to encourage the development of the widest possible consensus on issues of concern to consumers.

11 See ALINORM 99/5-Addendum.
RECOMMENDATIONS

43. The Commission considered the recommendations addressed to it in the paper. The Commission:

- Agreed to consider the development of a “checklist” of measurable objectives to assess consumer participation in Codex work at the national and international levels and asked the Committee on General Principles to review the proposal contained in the document;
- Noted the recommendations of the Quito Workshop without endorsing them (see para. 39, above);
- Recommended that consideration be given by FAO and WHO, in co-operation with consumer organizations, to the development of guidelines or models for enhancing consumer participation in Codex and food standards work at the national and international levels;
- Noted that there was little support for the Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme and related FAO and WHO programmes to identify funds to support expanded participation of consumer organizations in Codex, stating that any resources available to Codex should be directed first to developing Member countries of the Commission;
- Recommended that FAO, WHO and national governments work with national and international consumer organizations to improve the dissemination of Codex information to consumers;
- Recommended that FAO, WHO and national governments invite consumer organizations to participate in national, sub-regional or regional workshops and seminars relevant to Codex matters; and
- Proposed that Regional Coordinating Committees continue to take the opportunity to provide a forum for the exchange of experiences on the ways and means of developing consumer input into National Codex Committees and Contact Points.

44. The Commission noted the recommendation that the Codex Committee on General Principles develop proposals that would allow for a limited number of representatives of the INGOs in Observer Status with the Codex Alimentarius Commission to be invited as observers to Sessions of the Executive Committee. Several delegations indicated that the Executive Committee was an executive organ of the Commission and that according to the Rules of Procedure of the Commission, its composition was strictly limited. It was stated that it would be unfair to Member countries of the Commission to extend “observer status” to INGOs at Sessions of the Executive Committee when Members themselves were not invited to attend as observers. Other delegations favoured the proposals, but noted that there were a number of issues that had to be considered carefully, including the assurance of a fair representation of all of the INGOs contributing to the Codex process; the rights of such organizations as observers; how such organizations would be selected; and how to ensure that the Executive Committee would continue to function as an effective and efficient body under the Commission.

45. It was noted that three broad classes of INGOs had been identified in the working document, namely consumers and other public interest groups; the food industry, trade and marketing organizations; and professional and scientific international non-governmental organizations. It was noted that all of these groups had made valuable contributions to the Codex process and therefore consideration could be given to enhancing the transparency and credibility of Codex decisions by also involving these groups in the work of the Executive Committee. Without prejudice to any decision that might be taken at a later stage, the Commission agreed to ask the Committee on General Principles to develop proposals for its consideration on this matter.

46. Some delegations expressed the opinion that the composition of the Executive Committee as set out in Rule III.1 of the Rules of Procedure required reconsideration, as the basic Rule had been in place since the First Session of the Commission in 1963. The Delegation of Japan pointed out that clarification was needed regarding the participation, as observers, of Member countries. Proposals included the enlargement of the Executive Committee with the possibility of electing several Members from the different Regions as was the case with FAO Council and other bodies. The Secretariat was requested to consult the Legal Counsels and Offices of the Directors-General of FAO and WHO on these matters, taking into account the status of the
Executive Committee as described in the Commission’s Statutes, and to report to the Committee on General Principles.

PRINCIPLES OF RISK ANALYSIS (AGENDA ITEM 7)\textsuperscript{13}

47. The Representative of WHO introduced the document, which presented a progress report on the work undertaken so far to implement the Action Plan approved by the 22\textsuperscript{nd} Session of the Commission. The Commission expressed its appreciation to FAO and WHO for the organization of expert consultations and noted that most of the recommendations included in the document had been developed by these expert consultations. The Commission noted that the recommendations in Annex 2 and 3 of the discussion paper had formed the basis of the recommendations considered and revised by the Executive Committee. The Commission considered the recommendations in the working paper as amended by the Executive Committee.

48. The Commission recalled that the proposal for possible attendance of observers at the Executive Committee had been considered under Agenda Item 6 - Consumer’s Involvement and the Commission agreed to delete this proposal from the recommendations for adoption on risk analysis (see also para. 44-45).

49. The Commission had an extensive exchange of views on the recommendation calling on governments to incorporate risk analysis in their legislation. Some delegations opposed this proposal since risk analysis was a relatively new discipline and enough time should be allowed for developing countries to integrate these principles in their legislation in view of difficulties, such as lack of resources and trained personnel. Other delegations, while recognizing the need to allow for flexibility, supported the general recommendation included in the document, especially in view of the provisions of the WTO SPS Agreement concerning risk assessment. The Commission agreed that governments should be encouraged to integrate risk analysis in their legislation, and noted that the difficulties of developing countries were addressed in other recommendations.

50. Several delegations expressed the view that many useful training programmes had been developed, especially as regards the application of HACCP, but that the differences between such programmes might create confusion, and they stressed the importance of harmonizing the training programmes on risk analysis. The Commission agreed to amend the relevant recommendation accordingly. The Representative of FAO indicated that a Training Manual on HACCP had been published and was currently used as the basis for FAO training in several regions, and that a training manual on risk analysis was under development in cooperation with WHO and ILSI.

51. As regards the report on FAO and WHO training initiatives, technical assistance and support, many delegations expressed their appreciation for the technical training and assistance provided by the parent organizations and stressed the need for continued assistance with specific focus on the risk analysis needs of developing countries. The Commission agreed to include additional recommendations to this effect.

52. The Commission agreed with the proposal of the Delegation of the Netherlands to emphasize the need for increased interaction and communication between expert bodies, such as JECFA and JMPR, and Codex Committees along the principles of risk analysis and a recommendation to this effect was introduced. The Observer from Consumers International stated that it was necessary to provide risk assessment clear and unequivocal policy to JECFA and JMPR.

53. The Observer from the Global Crop Protection Federation noted the recommendation from the FAO/WHO Expert Consultation on the Application of Risk Communication to ‘identify and involve experts with a wider range of scientific perspectives in the work of international advisory bodies (such as JECFA and JMPR) and expert consultations.’ The Observer expressed concern about considering the presence of observers during the meetings of the JMPR, due to the proprietary nature of the data being discussed.

54. The Delegation of India, referring to its comments made during the Committee on General Principles, and reproduced in the document, stressed the importance of taking into account the situation

\textsuperscript{13} ALINORM 99/9, ALINORM 99/4, paras. 9-16, CAC/LIM 2 (Comments of Consumers International), CAC/LIM 9 (comments of India)
prevailing in developing countries since primary production was largely through small and medium-scale enterprises, and to include data from those countries in the risk assessment process. The Delegation also proposed that the economic consequences and feasibility of risk management options should be considered in the risk management process. This position was supported by several delegations and the Commission, recognizing the need to take into account the specific situation of developing countries, introduced new recommendations to address these concerns.

55. The Delegations of Denmark and Sweden, supported by other delegations, proposed to reiterate the request of the 22nd Session of the Commission for the establishment of an FAO/WHO expert committee on microbiological hazards, as risk assessment and scientific advice were an essential basis for the work of the Committee on Food Hygiene. The Commission agreed to add a recommendation to this effect.

56. The Commission then adopted the following recommendations to be applied in the framework of Codex:

   a) Programmes that contribute to risk analysis should have high priority;

   b) Relevant Codex Committees should continue to develop and to apply risk analysis principles and methodologies appropriate to their specific mandates within the framework of the Action Plan and report their progress to the Commission on a regular basis;

   c) Proposals for new or amended definitions for use within the framework of risk analysis, as appropriate, should be considered by the Codex Committee on General Principles;

   d) To overcome confusion about the usage of the terms “risk analysis” and “hazard analysis”, the Commission should reiterate its definitions for these concepts and explain how they apply in practice;

   e) The Commission should continue and expand its efforts to increase the participation of those national governments and NGOs that are members or observers but that are not presently active participants in Codex matters;

   f) Relevant Codex committees should appoint a co-author from a developing country for position papers, where the main author(s) is from a developed country;

   g) Relevant Codex committees should consider developing quality criteria for data used for risk assessment. To the extent possible such criteria should be consistent with one another, taking into account the technical differences in the disciplines covered;

   h) Relevant Codex committees should consider the acute aspects of dietary exposure to chemicals in food;

   i) Recognizing that primary production in developing countries is largely through small and medium enterprises, risk assessment should be based on global data, including that from developing countries. This data should particularly include epidemiological surveillance data and exposure studies;

   j) Risk management should take into account the economic consequences and the feasibility of risk management options in developing countries. Risk Management should also recognize the need for flexibility in the establishment of standards, guidelines and other recommendations, consistent with the protection of consumers’ health.

57. The Commission also endorsed the following recommendations addressed to governments:

   a) Member governments should participate actively in Codex work. Governments should also consider, to the extent possible, the views of all interested parties when formulating the national position on a Codex matter. Further, governments are encouraged to communicate and explain the basis of the decisions of Codex to those same interested parties and to the public at large;
b) Governments should adopt organizational structures and procedures that assure transparency and that allow National Codex Committees to consider consumer and private sector opinions. Cooperation should be developed with the consumer and private sectors in risk communication - especially in developing simple messages concerning food quality and safety;

c) Governments are encouraged to incorporate principles of risk analysis when establishing or updating national legislation on food safety matters;

58. The Commission endorsed the following recommendations addressed to FAO and WHO:

a) FAO and WHO should develop harmonized training or other programmes designed to increase the understanding of the risk analysis process and the role of risk communication, both for member countries and for international organizations active in Codex work;

b) FAO and WHO should continue to assist, on a priority basis, developing countries by providing training at regional, sub-regional or national levels in introducing and applying different aspects of risk analysis, HACCP and good manufacturing, agricultural and hygienic practices and development of ways to apply risk-based good practices in small businesses;

c) FAO and WHO should take greater steps to strengthen their work in assisting developing countries to undertake dietary/nutrition studies, monitoring programmes and intake/exposure assessment;

d) FAO and WHO should strengthen transparency in scientific risk assessment. This includes transparency in the choice of experts and the advice being given including how uncertainties are addressed;

e) FAO and WHO, as parent organizations, should emphasize the need for increased interaction and communication between expert bodies, such as JECFA and JMPR, and the Codex Committees, such as CCFAC, CCRVDF and CCPR, and should request the expert advisory bodies and the subsidiary committees to cooperate along the principles of risk analysis;

f) The Commission reiterated its request to FAO and WHO to convene an international expert advisory body similar to JECFA and JMPR on the microbiological aspects of food safety to address particularly microbiological risk assessment.

CONSIDERATION OF AMENDMENTS TO THE PROCEDURAL MANUAL OF THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION (AGENDA ITEM 8)\(^4\)

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE RULES OF PROCEDURE

59. The Commission determined that the quorum specified in Rule IV.6 for the amendment of the Rules of Procedure had been constituted.

60. The Commission agreed to amend Rule II - Officers and Rule IX.7 and IX. 10 on the appointment of Regional Coordinators as proposed by the Committee on General Principles.

61. The Commission considered the proposal to amend Rule X - Elaboration of Standards to stress that every effort should be made to reach consensus. The Delegation of India, supported by China, Malaysia and other delegations expressed the view that, when decisions could not be reached by consensus and voting was required, a two-third majority should be introduced, in view of the importance of Codex texts as a reference in international trade. The Chairperson recalled that the question of majority was not under discussion at the present session and that only the proposal concerning the importance on consensus had been submitted to the Commission. The Commission noted that this question was currently under consideration in the Committee on General Principles, where no conclusion had been reached so far, and agreed that the Committee should proceed with its work on this issue as a matter of priority.

\(^4\) ALINORM 99/10 Part I and II ; CAC/LIM 16
62. The Commission noted the proposal from the Delegation of Australia to refer to “all reasonable efforts” rather than every effort to take into account the practical aspects of the decision process. The Commission however recalled that the amendment had been discussed thoroughly in the Committee on General Principles and adopted the amendment to Rule X as proposed.

63. The Commission also considered the proposed amendment to Rule III.1 which provided for an additional member of the Executive Committee, representing the Near East Region, and which had been submitted at the current session in accordance with Rule XIII (see para. 6). Following questions from some delegations on the membership of the Region, the Commission noted that questions relating to the establishment of the new Coordinating Committee would be considered under Agenda Item 12 - Designation of Host Governments.

64. The Commission adopted the proposed amendment to Rule III.1 concerning the membership of the Near East in the Executive Committee. The Delegations of Saudi Arabia and Egypt expressed their appreciation to the Commission, as the establishment of the new Region and Regional Committee would offer an opportunity for the countries of the Near East to develop their involvement in the work of Codex.

65. The Commission was informed that the amended Rules would be submitted to the Directors-General of FAO and WHO for approval as required by Rule XII.1 of the Rules of Procedure. The FAO Legal Counsel informed the Commission that, following the adoption of the amendment to Rule III.1, it was possible to proceed with the election of the Representative for the Near East Region, with the understanding that the result of the election would be confirmed when the amended Rule entered into force.

66. The Commission noted the proposal of the Delegation of Republic of Korea to increase the membership of the Executive Committee and recalled that all relevant aspects pertaining to the composition and role of that Committee would be considered by the Committee on General Principles, as agreed earlier.

CRITERIA FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF WORK PRIORITIES AND CRITERIA FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF SUBSIDIARY BODIES OF THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION

67. The Commission adopted the amendments separating the criteria for work priorities from the criteria for establishing subsidiary bodies, which include provisions for the establishment of ad hoc Intergovernmental Task Forces operating for a limited period of time under closely defined terms of reference, but functioning in the same manner as established Codex Committees.

RELATIONS BETWEEN COMMODITY COMMITTEES AND GENERAL COMMITTEES: DRAFT AMENDMENT TO THE FOOD HYGIENE PROVISIONS

68. The Commission adopted the amendment concerning the food hygiene provisions to be used in the commodity standards as proposed.

TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE CODEX COMMITTEE ON MILK AND MILK PRODUCTS

69. The Commission adopted the Terms of Reference as proposed.

DEFINITIONS FOR THE PURPOSE OF CODEX: DEFINITIONS OF RISK ANALYSIS TERMS RELATED TO FOOD SAFETY (RISK COMMUNICATION - RISK MANAGEMENT)

70. The Commission agreed to amend the definition of Risk Communication as suggested by the Delegation of Canada, deleting the reference to “hazard” in order to avoid any confusion between risk and hazard. The Commission adopted the revised definitions of Risk Communication and Risk Management as proposed.

DRAFT PRINCIPLES CONCERNING THE PARTICIPATION OF INTERNATIONAL NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS IN THE WORK OF THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION

71. The Commission adopted the Draft Principles as proposed.

CORE FUNCTIONS OF CODEX CONTACT POINTS

72. The Commission adopted the Proposed Core Functions, and noted that the structure and operation of Codex Contact Points was the responsibility of governments, as reflected in the introductory paragraph.
73. The amendments and additions to the Rules and other amendments to the Procedural Manual are presented in Appendix III and IV to this report, respectively.

CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT STANDARDS AND RELATED TEXTS (AGENDA ITEM 9)

GENERAL CONSIDERATIONS

74. The Commission considered a number of draft standards and related texts that had been developed by its subsidiary bodies. It considered standards and related texts submitted at Step 8 of the Uniform Procedure for the Elaboration of Codex Standards and Related Texts and texts submitted at Step 5 where, in certain cases, the subsidiary body had recommended the omission of Steps 6 and 7. It also considered texts submitted at Step 5 of the Accelerated Procedure. The results of the Commission’s consideration of these standards and related texts are presented in tabular form in Appendix VII of the present report. The following paragraphs of this report provide additional information concerning the discussions that took place on certain items or contain additional decisions taken by Commission in regard to the adoption of certain texts.

MATTERS PENDING FROM THE TWENTY-SECOND SESSION OF THE COMMISSION

Consideration of Draft Maximum Residue Limits for Bovine Somatotropins (BST)\(^1\)

75. The Commission recalled that it had decided at its 22\(^{nd}\) Session to suspend the consideration of the adoption of the MRLs for Bovine Somatotropins (BST) pending the re-evaluation of scientific data by JECFA and the Committee on Residues of Veterinary Drugs in Foods and the examination of the application of the “other legitimate factors” in relation to BST by the Committee on General Principles. The Chairperson of the Committee on Residues of Veterinary Drugs in Foods reported that the Fiftieth Meeting of JECFA had re-evaluated BST and that the previous MRLs “not specified” for BST were confirmed when the substance was used in accordance with good veterinary practice. The Committee on Residues of Veterinary Drugs in Foods, however, had been unable to reach a consensus on the adoption of the MRLs and the Chairperson had advanced them to Step 8 in order to submit them to the Commission for consideration. The Chairperson of the Committee on General Principles noted that the application of “other legitimate factors” in the case of BST had been considered twice by the Committee, and also that this Committee had been unable to reach a consensus on the issues at hand.

76. The Delegation of the United States stated that in its opinion, the scientific evaluation should be the only determining factor for the adoption of the MRLs, and that on the basis of these evaluations the MRLs should be adopted. Nevertheless, the Delegation noted the lack of consensus on this issue and proposed that the MRLs be held at Step 8 with a view to resuming their consideration in the future at such a time as it appeared that it might be possible to arrive at a consensus.

77. The Delegation of Germany, speaking on behalf of the Members of the European Union present at the Session, referred to the written comments submitted to the Commission (ALINORM 99/21, Part I, Addendum 3 and re-stated that the adoption of the MRLs would not be appropriate. The Delegation supported the proposal to retain the MRLs at Step 8.

78. No other views being presented by Members, the Commission therefore decided to hold the MRLs at Step 8 in accordance with the provisions contained in the introductory paragraphs of the Uniform Procedure for the Elaboration of Codex Standards and Related Texts.

79. The Representative of COMISA expressed the disappointment of that Organization at the Commission’s decision, and expressed the hope that a consensus on these matters would emerge at a future session.

\(^1\) ALINORM 99/37, paras. 68-69; ALINORM 99/21 - Part I, Addendum 2; ALINORM 99/31, paras. 65-70 and Appendix II; ALINORM 99/33, paras. 59-64; ALINORM 99/33A, paras. 77-85. See also comments in ALINORM 99/21 - Part I, Addendum 3 (France, Germany/EC, South Africa, United States of America, Consumers International).
The Commission noted the views of the Delegation of Indonesia that as long as the question of defining the scope of the expression “other legitimate factors” remained unresolved, these factors could act as disguised restrictions to trade.

**Draft Standards and Related Texts at Step 8 or Steps 5/8 of Normal Procedure, or at Step 5 of Accelerated Procedure**

**Milk and Milk Products**

**Draft General Standard for the Use of Dairy Terms**

The Commission noted that in the course of the revision of the Code of Principles Concerning Milk and Milk Products, the Codex Committee on Milk and Milk Products had redrafted the Draft Revised Code in the format of a Codex Standard following the recommendations of the Commission made at its 22nd Session.

82. The text had been thoroughly discussed by the Committee as well as the Codex Committee on Food Labelling. The latter Committee had endorsed the labelling provisions of the Draft General Standard with the amendments to the following sections:

- Sections 4.2, 4.3, 4.4 and 4.5 (for clarification of section titles and objectives of these sections);
- Section 4.2.3 (for mandatory declaration of protein standardization); and
- Section 4.6.3 (for addition of a footnote for clarification).

83. The Delegation of Malaysia strongly expressed its reservation to the adoption of the standard and proposed to amend Section 4.6.2 concerning the use of dairy terms for other foods, in order to allow the marketing and trade of recombined products, such as filled milk, in which the milk components had been substituted wholly or partially with non-milk components as well as deletion of Section 4.6.4. The Delegation stated that these products had a long history of use in developing countries and were necessary to allow technological innovation, to address specific consumer problems, such as allergies, and to provide greater choice to consumers thus offering greater market opportunities for milk components. This proposal was supported by a number of delegations from Southeast Asia and Egypt. The Delegation of the Philippines also stated that the prohibition of the use of dairy terms for these products might lead to restrictions in international trade. These Delegations also suggested that the draft be returned to the Committee on Milk and Milk Products for further deliberation.

84. The Chairperson of the Committee on Milk and Milk Products stated that such changes would significantly alter the nature of the standard and the Commission was informed that Section 4.6.2 of the Draft General Standard as currently drafted allowed the use of dairy terms for traditional products, such as coconut milk.

85. The Commission adopted the Draft General Standard as amended by the Codex Committee on Food Labelling to replace the existing Code of Principles Concerning Milk and Milk Products. It agreed to request the Committee on Milk and Milk Products to consider, as a matter of urgency, the necessity to elaborate a standard for recombined products such as filled milk and derived products where the milk components had been substituted wholly or partially by non-milk components. Since these type of products appeared to be wide-spread in Asia, it also requested the Coordinating Committee for Asia to consider this issue in parallel to the Committee on Milk and Milk Products.

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16 ALINORM 99/11, Appendix II; ALINORM 99/21, Part I; ALINORM 99/21, Part I-Add.3 (comments from Malaysia, Norway, Spain & United Kingdom); ALINORM 99/21, Part I Addendum 4 (Status of Endorsement); LIM 10 (comments from Thailand); LIM 16 (comments from China).

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Draft Revised Standard for Butter

86. In relation to the maximum level for lead, the Commission noted that this level had been endorsed by the Codex Committee on Food Additives and Contaminants and that the Committee had been considering general maximum levels of lead in foods. It was agreed that when these general maximum levels were finally agreed by the Committee on Food Additives and Contaminants, it might be necessary for the Committee on Milk and Milk Products to revisit the maximum lead level in butter.

87. The Commission agreed to amend Section 7.2 Declaration of Milkfat Content as proposed by the Codex Committee on Food Labelling. This decision is applicable to all other Draft Standards for milk products except for that for milkfat products. It also agreed to delete the term “or volume” from the same Section as it was not possible to express milkfat content as percentage by volume for non-liquid products. This decision is also applicable to other Draft Standards covering non-liquid milk products. The Commission adopted the Draft Revised Standard with the above amendments to replace the existing Standard for Butter and Whey Butter.

Draft Revised Standard for Milkfat Products

88. The Commission adopted the Draft Revised Standard to replace the existing Standard for Butteroil and Anhydrous Butteroil and Anhydrous Milkfat. It was pointed out that the use of local names for ghee was allowed by the General Standard for the Labelling of Prepackaged Foods.

Draft Revised Standard for Evaporated Milks

Draft Revised Standard for Sweetened Condensed Milks

89. The Commission adopted the Draft Revised Standards with the amendment in Section 7.2 Declaration of Milkfat Content (see para. 87) to replace the respective existing Standards.

Draft Revised Standard for Milk Powders and Cream Powders

90. The Commission adopted the Draft Revised Standard to replace the existing Standard for Whole Milk Powder, Partly Skimmed Milk Powder and Skimmed Milk Powder and the Standard for Cream Powder, Half Cream Powder and High Fat Milk Powder with the following amendments:

- Replacement of the term “Cream Powders” with “Cream Powder” in the Title, Scope and Description;

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18 ALINORM 99/11, Appendix IV; ALINORM 99/21, Part I; ALINORM 99/21, Part I-Add.3 (comments from Czech Republic, Egypt, Poland & Spain); ALINORM 99/21, Part I Addendum 4 (Status of Endorsement); LIM 10 (comments from Thailand); LIM 11 (comments from International Association of Consumer Food Organizations); LIM 12 (comments from China).

19 ALINORM 99/11, Appendix V; ALINORM 99/21, Part I; ALINORM 99/21, Part I-Add.3 (comments from Egypt & Spain); ALINORM 99/21, Part I Addendum 4 (Status of Endorsement); LIM 10 (comments from Thailand); LIM 11 (comments from International Association of Consumer Food Organizations); LIM 12 (comments from China).

20 ALINORM 99/11, Appendix VI; ALINORM 99/21, Part I; ALINORM 99/21, Part I-Add.3 (comments from Czech Republic, Egypt & Poland); ALINORM 99/21, Part I Addendum 4 (Status of Endorsement); LIM 10 (comments from Thailand); LIM 11 (comments from International Association of Consumer Food Organizations).

21 ALINORM 99/11, Appendix VII; ALINORM 99/21, Part I; ALINORM 99/21, Part I-Add.3 (comments from Czech Republic, Egypt & Poland); ALINORM 99/21, Part I Addendum 4 (Status of Endorsement); LIM 10 (comments from Thailand); LIM 11 (comments from International Association of Consumer Food Organizations).

22 ALINORM 99/11, Appendix VIII; ALINORM 99/21, Part I; ALINORM 99/21, Part I-Add.3 (comments from Czech Republic, Egypt & Poland); ALINORM 99/21, Part I Addendum 4 (Status of Endorsement); LIM 10 (comments from Thailand); LIM 11 (comments from International Association of Consumer Food Organizations).
• Deletion of polydimethylsiloxane and potassium aluminium silicate from the list of permitted food additives as they had not been endorsed by the Committee on Food Additives and Contaminants; and
• Amendments to Section 7.2 Declaration of Milkfat Content (see para. 87).

**Draft Revised Standard for Cheese**

91. The Delegation of Japan, while not opposing the adoption of the Draft Revised Standard, proposed that the Commission request the Committee on Milk and Milk Products to consider the inclusion of a minimum level of protein in the Standard to provide for better guidance on product classification/identification, and to ensure that the coagulation was the key factor in the production of cheese. Many delegations supported this proposal. The Delegation of Australia expressed the view that the inclusion of a minimum protein level as a definitional criterion was unnecessary.

92. The Delegation of Norway, also not opposed to the adoption of the Draft Standard, proposed to reconsider Section 3.1 Raw Materials because the change made at the 3rd Session of the Committee as a consequential amendment was, in effect, a substantial one and would require further consideration.

93. Some delegations expressed concerns about chlorophylls and titanium dioxide permitted for use in cheese when they were used as decolorants. The Commission noted that these uses had been endorsed by the Committee on Food Additives and Contaminants. The Delegation of Switzerland pointed out that the use of pimaricin in sliced, cut, shredded or grated cheese was still a matter pending and required further discussion by the Committee on Milk and Milk Products.

94. The Committee adopted the Draft Revised Standard with the following amendments to replace the existing Standard for Cheese:

• Insertion of the term “Codex” before term “Standard” in the preamble part of Section 4 for clarification;
• Deletion of four food additives not endorsed by the Codex Committee on Food Additives and Contaminants; and
• Amendment to Section 7.2 Declaration of Milkfat Content (see para. 87)

95. The Commission requested the Committee on Milk and Milk Product to consider: (1) inclusion of a minimum level for protein; and (2) raw materials. It also requested that Committee to give priority in the revision of individual cheese Standards.

**Draft Revised Standard for Whey Cheese**

96. The Commission adopted the Draft Standard with amendment in Section 7.2 Declaration of Milkfat Content (see para. 87) to replace the existing Standard for Whey Cheese.

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23 ALINORM 99/11, Appendix IX; ALINORM 99/21, Part I; ALINORM 99/21, Part I-Add.3 (comments from Czech Republic, Egypt, Japan, Norway, Poland & Spain); ALINORM 99/21, Part I Addendum 4 (Status of Endorsement); LIM 5 (comments from Australia; corrigendum); LIM 9 (comment from International Dairy Federation); LIM 10 (comments from Bangladesh, Japan and Thailand); LIM 11 (comments from International Association of Consumer Food Organizations); LIM 12 (comments from India).

24 ALINORM 99/11, Appendix X; ALINORM 99/21, Part I; ALINORM 99/21, Part I-Add.3 (comments from Czech Republic, Egypt, Poland & Spain); ALINORM 99/21, Part I Addendum 4 (Status of Endorsement); LIM 9 (comment from International Dairy Federation); LIM 10 (comments from Thailand); LIM 11 (comments from International Association of Consumer Food Organizations).
Draft Group Standard for Cheeses in Brine

97. The Delegation of Cyprus proposed to delete the second paragraph in Section 4 Food Additives. It was recognized that this paragraph had been included to allow for the development of new possibilities to draw up new individual standards for varieties of cheeses in brine. As there had been no such Standard yet, the Commission agreed to delete the paragraph with the understanding that if the Committee on Milk and Milk Products developed an individual Standard(s) to cover varieties of cheeses in brine it would consider the need for additional food additives for these varieties and reinstatement of this paragraph in this Standard.

98. The Commission adopted the Draft Standard with the following amendments in addition to the above:

- Insertion of the term “Codex” before the term “standards for individual varieties” in the Scope; and
- Amendment to Section 7.2 Declaration of Milkfat Content (para. 87).

99. The Commission requested that for the final publication of these Standards, the Spanish and French versions should be corrected taking into consideration editorial comments provided by Spain and Argentina, and France, respectively.

FOOD ADDITIVES AND CONTAMINANTS

Draft Maximum Level and Sampling Plans for Total Aflatoxins in Peanuts Intended for Further Processing

100. The Observer of the European Community and other delegations suggested an alternative sampling plan to more thoroughly address sample selection, sample preparation and analytical methods for the detection of aflatoxins. These delegations suggested that the proposed sampling plan should either be held in abeyance or adopted on an interim basis so that the Codex Committee on Food Additives and Contaminants could consider alternative sampling proposals in collaboration with the Codex Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling.

101. Other delegations supported the adoption of the draft level and sampling plan as proposed because the Committee had discussed the issue over many years, and the importance of linking the maximum level with the applied sampling plan was consistently recognized. It was noted that the maximum level and sampling plans were developed on the basis of expert advice arising from an FAO Consultation and an extensive risk assessment was recently conducted by the 49th Session of the Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Food Additives. It was also stated that further processing significantly reduced the level of contamination and that in any case, a further reduction in the draft maximum level or significant modification in the sampling plan could create severe negative impacts on trade with no significant increase in health protection for consumers.

102. The Commission adopted the maximum level of 15 µg/kg for total aflatoxins in peanuts intended for further processing. The Commission also adopted the draft sampling plan on an interim basis, with the understanding that the issue would be further considered by the Committee and the Codex Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling on the basis of proposals to be developed by an electronic working group prior to their next Sessions.

25 ALINORM 99/11, Appendix XI; ALINORM 99/21, Part I; ALINORM 99/21, Part I-Add.3 (comments from Czech Republic, Norway, & Spain); ALINORM 99/21, Part I Addendum 4 (Status of Endorsement); LIM 9 (comment from International Dairy Federation); LIM 10 (comments from Thailand); LIM 11 (comments from International Association of Consumer Food Organizations).

26 ALINORM 99/12, Appendix X and comments from South Africa, Uruguay and the European Community (ALINORM 99/21, Part 1 – Add. 3).

27 FAO Consultation on Sampling Plans for Aflatoxin Analysis in Peanuts and Corn (FAO Food and Nutrition Paper 55, 1993).

Draft Maximum Level for Aflatoxin M₁ in Milk

103. Many delegations expressed opposition to the adoption of the draft level of 0.05 µg/kg for various reasons. These delegations noted that the availability, application and costs associated with methods of analysis for the determination of aflatoxins at the lower level were significant. They noted that adoption of the lower level would result in severe disruptions to trade in feeding stuffs and that liquid milk for direct consumption was not widely traded internationally. The Commission noted that the risk assessment conducted by the 49th JECFA had shown that the potential carcinogenicity of Aflatoxin M₁ was approximately ten times less than that of Aflatoxin B₁.

104. Many other delegations supported the level of 0.05 µg/kg as proposed. These delegations noted that the lower level was needed to protect high intake milk-drinkers and vulnerable populations such as infants and young children, and that the level was set as low as reasonably achievable. They pointed out that this low level could be easily detected analytically.

105. As the Commission could not reach a consensus, it agreed to return the Draft Maximum Level for Aflatoxin M₁ in Milk to Step 6 for additional comments and further consideration by the Codex Committee on Food Additives and Contaminants. This decision was taken with the understanding that information should be provided on the public health and the potential economic implications of a higher level or a lower level as proposed, and the levels of aflatoxin contamination found in milk.

Draft Amendments to the Food Additive Provisions in the Codex Standard for Food Grade Salt

106. The Commission agreed with the endorsements of the Codex Committee on Food Additives and Contaminants, including the removal of specific provisions for the use of Salts of Myristic, Palmitic or Stearic Acids (aluminium, magnesium) from the Standard. The Commission confirmed that the maximum level for tricalcium orthophosphate should be 20 g/kg. The Delegation of Italy pointed out that a number of editorial amendments to the text were required as indicated in CAC/LIM 9.

Codex General Standard for Food Additives: Draft Provisions for Additives Permitted for Use Under Specified Conditions in Certain Food Categories or Individual Food Items (Table One)

107. The Commission agreed to the adoption of the Committee’s recommendation to add a footnote to Section 1.1 (Permitted Food Additives) of the Preamble to the General Standard for Food Additives to clarify that the Standard was being developed gradually. In view of the Committee’s previous agreement to collaborate with the Office International de la Vigne et du Vin (OIV), especially on the matter of harmonization of provisions for additives, the Commission removed those provisions for the use of alpha-amylase, dimethyl dicarbonate, polydimethylsiloxane and polyvinylpyrrolidone in wines.

108. The Commission noted that the Committee had previously agreed that numerical levels would be retained in preference to levels for additives based on good manufacturing practice for additives with numerical Acceptable Daily Intakes. In view of this decision, the Commission decided that the draft maximum use levels of “good manufacturing practice” for additives with a numerical Acceptable Daily Intake should include a note indicating that the elaboration of specific use levels was subject to future consideration.

29 ALINORM 99/12, Appendix X and comments from the United Kingdom and Uruguay (ALINORM 99/21, Part I – Add. 3).
31 Codex Standard for Food Grade Salt (CODEX STAN 150-1985).
32 ALINORM 99/12, Appendix VII.
33 ALINORM 99/12A, Appendix II and comments from Brazil (ALINORM 99/21, Part I – Add. 3).
34 ALINORM 99/12A, Appendix V and CL 1999/4-FAC.
35 ALINORM 99/12, para. 37; ALINORM 99/24A, para. 51; CAC/LIM 10.
36 ALINORM 99/12, para. 28.
109. The Commission confirmed that, prior to its publication, the General Standard should take into account the endorsed food additives provisions contained in Codex Commodity Standards.

110. The Commission adopted the draft provisions for the additives proposed with the deletions mentioned in para. 107, above, and agreed that these provisions should be updated on a regular basis.

Codex General Standard for Food Additives: Additives Permitted for Use in Food in General, Unless Otherwise Specified, in Accordance with Good Manufacturing Practice (Table 3) and Food Categories or Individual Food Items Excluded from the General Conditions of Table 3 (Annex to Table 3)

111. The Commission agreed to the suggestion of the Observer of the European Community, supported by other delegations, to include specific food categories for Concentrates (liquid and solid) for fruit juices (14.1.2.3), Canned or bottled (pasteurized) fruit nectar (14.1.3.1) and Concentrates (liquid and solid) for fruit nectar (14.1.3.3) to the Annex to Table 3.

112. The Delegation of the United States noted that the Preamble to the General Standard made clear that food categories were not necessarily synonymous with Codex Standards, nor were they intended for labelling purposes. As the delegation felt that this issue could best be resolved directly by the Committee, the United States reserved its position concerning the Commission’s decision.

COMMITTEE ON FOOD HYGIENE

Draft Code of Hygienic Practice for Refrigerated Packaged Food with Extended Shelf-Life


Draft Principles and Guidelines for the Conduct of Microbiological Risk Assessment


Draft Amendment to the Recommended International Code of Practice: General Principles of Food Hygiene (Cleaning Procedures and Methods)

115. The Commission adopted the Draft Amendment at Step 5 of the Accelerated Procedure.

FISH AND FISHERY PRODUCTS

Draft Guidelines for the Sensory Evaluation of Fish and Shellfish in Laboratories

116. The Commission noted the comments from the Delegations of Peru and Egypt on the nature of histamine and the factors affecting its levels in fish. The Commission adopted the Draft Guidelines at Step 8, with the understanding that editorial comments would be taken into account when publishing the final text.

Draft Amendment to the Standard for Canned Sardines and Sardine-Type Products

117. The Chairman of the Committee on Fish and Fishery Products recalled that the 21st Session of the Commission had requested that the Accelerated Procedure should be generally used for the inclusion of additional fish species to the Standards, with a view to facilitating trade, and especially the exports from developing countries. The procedure specific to the Committee, whereby three independent laboratories examine samples provided by interested countries, was applied to *Clupea bentincki* (proposed by Chile) and as the results indicated that this species could be added to the list of sardine-type product covered by the Standard, the Committee had reached consensus on this amendment.

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37 ALINORM 99/12A, Appendix III and comments from Brazil (ALINORM 99/21, Part I – Add. 3) and the European Community (LIM 9).
38 ALINORM 99/13, Appendix III
39 ALINORM 99/13A, Appendix II
40 ALINORM 99/13A, Appendix III.
41 ALINORM 99/18, ALINORM 99/21 Part 1-Add.3 (comments of Canada, France, Norway), CAC/LIM 5 (Morocco)
118. The Delegation of Morocco expressed its opposition to the adoption of the amendment and pointed out that as a major exporter of sardines (Sardina pilchardis), especially to the European market, the competition from sardine-type products seriously affected its economic interests. The Delegation recalled that it had not been involved in the procedure carried out by the Committee and was unable to provide and evaluate such samples, and proposed that the Committee should consider this matter further before reaching a decision. This position was supported by several delegations.

119. The Delegations of Chile and Peru supported the adoption of the amendments proposed by the Committee and referred to the scientific data provided by their technical institutes concerning the characteristics of Clupea bentincki.

120. The Commission recognized that there was no consensus on the inclusion of the new species and agreed to return the Proposed Draft Amendment to Step 3 of the Procedure for further consideration by the Committee on Fish and Fishery Products.

**Regional Coordinating Committee for Asia**

Draft Asian Regional Guidelines for Codex Contact Points and National Codex Committees

121. The Commission was informed that the Coordinating Committee for Asia at its 11th Session had decided to advance the Draft Guidelines to Step 8 for adoption as Asian Regional Guidelines to serve as reference examples and had proposed core functions of Codex Contact Points for further development by the Committee for General Principles (see also para. 72). It was also informed that due to different governmental systems, the Guidelines may not be applicable in other regions.

122. The Delegations of the Republic of Korea was opposed to the adoption of the Draft Guidelines on the basis that the structure described in the Guidelines was too rigid and that the Core Functions of Codex Contact Points as adopted by the Commission provided better and more general guidance. The Commission decided to incorporate the Preamble from the Core Functions of Codex Contact Points into the Draft Guidelines to cover these concerns.

123. The Commission adopted the Draft Asian Regional Guidelines at Step 8 and agreed to distribute them to the Member countries in the Asian Region for information when establishing Codex Contact Points and/or National Codex Committees.

**Food Labelling**

Draft Guidelines for the Production, Processing, Labelling and Marketing of Organically Produced Foods

124. The Commission noted the proposals from the Delegations of Malaysia and Chile to include additional products in the list of Permitted Substances for the Production of Organic Foods and recalled that the lists were not all inclusive nor exclusive but rather provided advice to governments on internationally agreed inputs, and that Criteria for the Development of Lists of Substances by Countries were included in Section 5.1, proposed for adoption as part of the Draft Guidelines.

125. The Observer from the International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements (IFOAM) recalled its participation in the development of the Guidelines and informed the Committee that the IFOAM standards also covered animal production and aquaculture. The Observer from Rural Advancemen Foundation International stressed the importance of organic production and expressed its appreciation to the Committee on Food Labelling for its considerable work on difficult issues and its constructive approach due

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42 ALINORM 99/11, Appendix II; ALINORM 99/21, Part I, Table 1.
43 Annex 4 of ALINORM 99/10, Part II.
to the participation of all stakeholders in the decision process. The Observer expressed the view that the Guidelines would need to be reviewed regularly, especially to achieve greater involvement of developing and Eastern European countries.

126. The Commission adopted the Draft Guidelines at Step 8, including Section 5.1 Criteria for the Development of Lists of Substances by Countries. It noted that the Committee would review from time-to-time, proposals to include or delete substances in or from the Permitted List. It also noted that provisions for livestock and livestock products were still under development by the Committee.

**Draft Amendment to the Standard for Quick Frozen Fish Sticks (Fish Fingers), Fish Portions and Fish Fillets, Breaded and in Batter (Declaration Of Fish Core)**

127. The Commission recalled that the Committee on Fish and Fishery Products had asked the advice of the Committee on Food Labelling concerning the requirement to declare the proportion of fish core, and that the Committee had proposed to introduce a requirement for such a declaration in order to provide clear information to the consumer on the quality of the product.

128. The Delegation of Canada expressed its objection to the adoption of the draft amendment at this time, recalling that since the initial proposal had been made, additional issues had been put forward in the Committee on Fish and Fishery Products, especially the definition of fish core and fish content and the methodology for the determination of fish flesh. This position was supported by some countries. The Delegation of France supported the adoption of the amendment as it would provide information on the proportion of fish as compared with batter, and therefore allow the consumer to make an informed choice.

129. There was no consensus on this issue and the Commission agreed to return the Draft Amendment to Step 6 for further consideration by the Committee on Food Labelling to determine the need for labelling requirements and by the Committee on Fish and Fishery Products as regards the technical aspects such as the definition of fish core/fish content and the methodology.

**Draft Recommendations for the Labelling of Foods that can Cause Hypersensitivity (Draft Amendment to the General Standard for the Labelling of Prepackaged Foods)**

130. The Chairperson of the Committee recalled that work on these recommendations had been initiated to address an important public health issue and expressed its appreciation to FAO and WHO for the consideration given to hypersensitivity in the framework of JECFA, which had considered the criteria for the inclusion of foods and food ingredients in the list at its 53rd Meeting. The Commission noted that these two amendments were presented separately but should be read in conjunction as an amendment to Section 4 of the General Standard.

131. The WHO Joint Secretary of JECFA informed the Commission that the 53rd Meeting of JECFA had considered the criteria for the addition or exclusion of foods from the list and that there was not enough scientific information to reach a conclusion at this stage on the potential allergenicity of highly refined peanut and soybean oils. However, JECFA did not detect any health problems associated with these oils.

132. The Delegation of Argentina, supported by Brazil and other delegations, expressed its objection to the inclusion of highly refined peanut and soybean oils as the allergenic protein fraction was not present in those oils after processing and there was no scientific evidence that they caused allergic reactions. Other delegations and observers pointed out that the categories of foods in the list were too broad and proposed to exclude specific processed products which did not cause hypersensitivity (especially refined oils, starch hydrolysates and milk fat).

133. The Observer from the International Dairy Federation pointed out that there was a special situation in regard to lactose, since lactose could trigger intolerance reactions above a certain level, but it was not an allergenic substance. The Observer requested that this should also be considered.

134. The Delegations of Canada and Norway, supported by other delegations, stressed the importance of this amendment to ensure adequate information to consumers affected with hypersensitivity, while
recognizing the dynamic nature of the list which would be reviewed in the light of the scientific advice provided by JECFA. The Commission noted the proposal from the Delegation of Australia to add sesame seeds to the list.

135. The Commission agreed to include an amendment proposed by the Secretariat, to the effect that the foods and ingredients concerned “shall always be declared”, without specifying “declared as such”, as this would make it clear that these ingredients should be declared by their names but without any reference to allergenicity.

136. The Delegation of France proposed to include a footnote to specify that the foods which corresponded to the criteria for exclusion defined by JECFA could be excluded from the list; after an exchange of views and taking into account additional wording proposed by the Delegation of Canada and the Observer from Association of European Coeliac Societies, the Commission agreed to append the following footnote to the list:

   “Future additions to and/or deletions from the list will be considered by the Committee on Food Labelling taking into account advice received from JECFA”

137. The Commission encouraged governments and other interested parties to submit to JECFA data related to the inclusion or exclusion of items on this list and asked that JECFA give high priority to the consideration of such submissions. It requested JECFA to proceed on a priority basis with the evaluation of the potential of allergic reactions from highly refined peanut and soybean oil so that the Committee on Food Labelling could consider this at the earliest opportunity.

138. As regards the amendment to the General Standard on Composite Ingredients (25% Rule), several delegation expressed their support to the reduction of the percentage to 5% as it would represent a significant improvement for affected consumers, especially for allergens not included in the list of ingredients that should always be declared, although it would not solve all problems. The Delegation of Italy expressed its objection to the amendment since it had no scientific justification and would not actually benefit consumers. Some delegations expressed the view that no percentage should be specified and the Commission noted that this question would be further considered in the Committee on Food Labelling.

139. The Delegation of Singapore pointed out that allergenic food ingredients at levels below 5% still constituted a serious health hazard to hypersensitive individuals and suggested that Section 4.2.1.3 of the General Standard for the Labelling of Prepackaged Foods be amended to require the labelling of all food ingredients known to cause allergic reactions. The Delegation of Norway noted that the proposal to include a reference to the list in the first part of Section 4.2.1.3 had been omitted as a result of these two amendments being discussed as separate issues.

140. The Commission adopted the Draft Amendments to the General Standard at Step 8 as follows: the Draft Recommendations (List of Food and Ingredients) with the addition of the footnote, and the Draft Amendment on Composite Ingredients (25% Rule amended to 5%) as proposed by the Committee on Food Labelling.

PESTICIDE RESIDUES

Draft Maximum Residue Limits at Step 8\(^45\) and Proposed Draft Maximum Residue Limits at Step 5/8\(^46\)

141. The Commission noted that the Codex Committee on Pesticide Residues had been using chronic dietary exposure estimation in its decision making on MRLs since 1989 following the methodology contained in the Guidelines for Predicting Dietary Intake of Pesticide Residues\(^47\), which were revised in

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\(^{45}\) ALINORM 99/24, Appendix II; ALINORM 99/24A, Appendix II; ALINORM 99/21, Part I, Table 1; ALINORM 99/21, Part I Addendum 1, Table 1; LIM 9 (comments from Consumers International); LIM 13 (comments from European Community).

\(^{46}\) ALINORM 99/24, Appendix IV; ALINORM 99/24A, Appendix IV; ALINORM 99/21, Part I, Table 2; ALINORM 99/21, Part I Addendum 1, Table 2; LIM 9 (comments from Consumers International); LIM 13 (comments the European Community).

It also noted that there had been close and effective cooperation and interaction between the Committee and JMPR.

**Organophosphorus Pesticides**

The Observer from the European Community, in commenting on the Draft MRLs for acephate, methamidophos, methidathion and phorate, expressed the view that until acute dietary intake assessments demonstrated that risks were acceptable, these MRLs should not be adopted. Several delegations requested that acute reference doses be established by JMPR for all organophosphates as well as for carbamates.

The Observer from Consumers International referring to vulnerable populations, such as infants and children, and issues related to common mechanisms of toxicity, stated that until such time as a methodology for short-term exposure assessment was developed, MRLs for organophosphates should not be adopted, and expressed particular concern regarding chlorpyrifos in citrus and methidathion in grapes and pears.

The Commission was informed that the Committee on Pesticide Residues had already been aware of the concerns about potential acute risks of these compounds and about potential adverse effects on infants and children, and taken notice of national and regional initiatives in these areas. The Committee had agreed in 1998 that since there was no internationally agreed methodology for acute dietary exposure assessment, its decisions should be based on chronic dietary exposure assessment. It would consider methodologies for assessing acute risk at its next Session.

The Commission noted that JMPR was elaborating guidelines for establishing acute reference doses and had recommended acute reference doses for certain pesticides. JMPR would also consider acute risk assessment methodologies this year.

**Dithiocarbamates**

The Delegation of Singapore was opposed to the adoption of the Draft MRLs for dithiocarbamates as, in its view, the Draft MRLs were too widely varied and did not properly reflect public health concerns. The Commission noted that Codex MRLs for pesticides were based on trial data following good agricultural practices authorized by national governments but not initially on public concerns; however, proposed MRLs were evaluated for potential exposure and compared against the Acceptable Daily Intake to ensure that they were suitable for the protection of the health of consumers.

The Observer from the European Community expressed the view that these MRLs should not be adopted since there was no appropriate method of analysis for ziram to enable effective monitoring and establishment of separate MRLs for two groups of compounds, that were of different toxicological characteristics but currently included in the combined list of dithiocarbamates. The Commission was informed that dithiocarbamates had been fully reviewed by JMPR in a step-wise manner since 1992, and the consensus had been reached on these MRLs at the Session of the Codex Committee on Pesticide Residues in 1999 after three years of extensive discussions. The Committee and JMPR would continue to review dithiocarbamates as new data became available including specific methods of analysis.

**Thiabendazole**

The Observer from the European Community expressed the view that until the residue definition for animal products were reconsidered, the MRL for poultry meat should not be adopted.

**Diquat**

The Observer from the European Community was of the opinion that as the residue data and their review had not been satisfactorily reported in the JMPR publications and as intake concerns in particular on cereals had not properly been addressed, the MRLs for diquat should not be adopted.

The Commission adopted the MRLs at Step 8, omitting Steps 6 and 7 where necessary, and noting reservations of Singapore on the MRLs for dithiocarbamates.

Draft Revised Recommended Methods of Sampling for Pesticide Residues for Determination of Compliance with MRLs

151. The Commission adopted the Draft Revised Recommended Methods of Sampling at Step 8 to replace the existing Methods of Sampling.

Committee on Nutrition and Foods for Special Dietary Uses

Guidelines for the Use of Nutrient Claims: Draft Table of Conditions for Nutrient Contents (part B)

152. Several delegations expressed reservations on the expression of nutrient content as a percentage of the Nutrient Reference Value (NRV) and in relation to the use of “serving sizes”. It was also pointed out that there had been no evident consensus on the expressions “source” or “high source” of nutrients at the level of the Committee. The Commission noted, however, that Nutrient Reference Values were defined in the adopted Guidelines on Nutrition Labelling (CAC/GL 2-1985, Rev.1-1993).

153. The Commission agreed to return Part B of the Draft Table of Conditions for Nutrient Contents of the Guidelines for the Use of Nutrient Claims to Step 6 for further comments and consideration by the Committee.

Regional Coordinating Committee for Africa

Draft Revised Guidelines for the Design of Control Measures for Street-Vended Foods in Africa

154. The Commission adopted the Draft Revised Guidelines at Step 8 as proposed.

Residues of Veterinary Drugs in Foods

Draft Maximum Residue Limits at Step 8, and Proposed Draft Maximum Residue Limits at Step 5/8

155. The Commission noted that in response to the request of the Codex Committee on Residues of Veterinary Drugs in Foods made at its 11th Session, a meeting between experts of the JECFA and JMPR had been convened in February 1999 to resolve differences in residue definitions, commodity definitions and related matters, including cypermethrin/α-cypermethrin MRLs, to ensure harmonization and consistency between the JECFA and JMPR when considering chemicals that were used both as veterinary drugs and pesticides. Based on the outcome of that meeting, the Chair of the Codex Committee on Residues of Veterinary Drugs in Foods proposed not to consider the Draft MRLs at Step 8 for cypermethrin and α-cypermethrin at this Session. The Commission also noted the need for a uniform approach to the treatment of chemicals that were isomers or mixtures of isomers.

156. The Commission adopted the Draft MRLs at Step 8 except those for cypermethrin and α-cypermethrin, and the Proposed Draft MRLs at both Steps 5 and 8 with omission of Steps 6 and 7. The Commission agreed not to consider the MRLs for cypermethrin and α-cypermethrin pending their review by JECFA in February 2000. It noted that the full MRLs for moxidectin in deer tissues replaced their respective temporary MRLs adopted at the 22nd Session of the Commission.

157. The Commission requested the JECFA and JMPR to give further consideration on discrepancies between their recommendations on MRLs, residue definitions, and related matters as these problems were rather of a generic nature.

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49 ALINORM 99/24A, Appendix III; ALINORM 99/21, Part I, Table 1; LIM 16 (comments from China).
50 ALINORM 99/26, Appendix II; ALINORM 99/21 Part 1-Add.3 (Comments of Japan, Republic of Korea, Spain).
51 ALINORM 99/28, Appendix II; ALINORM 99/21 Part 1-Add.3 (comments of Egypt).
52 ALINORM 99/31, Appendices II & III; ALINORM 99/21, Part I, Tables 1 & 2; ALINORM 99/21, Part 1-Add.3 (comments from South Africa and Spain); LIM 5 (comments from Australia); LIM 13 (comments from European Community).
53 Except the MRLs for bovine somatotropins (see paras. 75-80).
**FRESH FRUITS AND VEGETABLES**

**Draft Standard for Guavas**

**Draft Standard for Chayotes**

**Draft Standard for Longans**

158. The Commission adopted the Draft Codex Standards at Step 8 as proposed.

**Draft Standard for Limes**

**Draft Standard for Pummelos (Citrus grandis)**

**Draft Standard for Grapefruits (Citrus paradisi)**

159. The Commission adopted the Draft Codex Standards for Limes, Pummelos (Citrus grandis) and Grapefruits at Step 8, with the understanding that the sections into square brackets (Section 2.1.2 – Minimum Juice Content and Section 3 – Provisions concerning Sizing for Limes and Section 3 – Provisions concerning Sizing for Pummelos (Citrus grandis) and Grapefruits (Citrus paradisi)) would be returned to Step 6 for further consideration and finalization at the next Committee’s Session. With regard to the Draft Codex Standard for Pummelos, the Commission had an exchange of views on the divergences related to the common name of this produce in different regions of the world and that an acceptable compromise for all countries concerned should be reached in order to allow them to market this produce while preventing confusion in international trade. The Delegation of Spain noted that the Codex Standard for Canned Grapefruits (CODEX STAN 15-1981), ISO Standard 1990-1:1982 Fruits - Nomenclature, First List, Trilingual Edition and the UN/ECE Standard FFV-14 Citrus Fruit all provided guidance in the scientific nomenclature of these products. In view of this, the Commission agreed to make reference to the scientific name of the fruit Citrus grandis in the title of the Standard.

**Draft Standard for Pineapples**

160. The Delegation of Malaysia, supported by a number of delegations, proposed to reduce the current level of total soluble solids from 12° Brix to 10°, as this corresponded to certain varieties marketed in international trade as well as satisfying consumer’s preferences. However, several delegations stressed that a value of 12° Brix was a minimum to ensure the maturity of the fruit. The Delegation of the Philippines proposed that a footnote be inserted to indicate that 10° Brix was acceptable for certain varieties. The Commission agreed to retain the value of 12° Brix and therefore, it adopted the Draft Codex Standard for Pineapples at Step 8 as proposed, on the understanding that the Brix level would be further discussed at the next Session of the Committee.

**Proposed Draft Standard for Mexican Limes**

**Proposed Draft Standard for Ginger**

161. The Commission agreed to adopt the Proposed Draft Codex Standards for Mexican Limes and Ginger at Step 8, with the omission of Steps 6 and 7.

**Proposed Draft Standards for Tiquisque (White and Lilac), Yellow Pitahayas and Papaya**

162. The Commission decided not to omit Steps 6 and 7 in the case of the Proposed Draft Codex Standards for Tiquisque (White and Lilac), Yellow Pitahayas and Papaya and adopted these texts at Step 5 only, advancing them to Step 6. It was noted that these produce were relatively new in countries of temperate zones and time was needed to consider all the aspects of the Standards and therefore, it was preferable to follow all the steps of the Procedure and to consider them further at the next Session of the Committee.

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54 ALINORM 99/21-Part I, ALINORM 99/21 Part I-Corrigendum, ALINORM 99/21 Part I-Add.4, ALINORM 99/21-Add.3 (Comments from Cameroon, Germany, Guinea and Spain), CAC/LIM 5 (Comments from Spain), CAC/LIM 10 (Comments from Thailand and Malaysia)

55 Secretariat note: The Codex, ISO and UN/ECE Standards define Grapefruits (Pomelos in Spanish) as Citrus paradisi Macfarlane.

56 Letter from the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire
Committee since there was no particular urgency to finalize them. The Delegation of Mexico pointed out that the Proposed Draft Standard for Papaya was a revision of an existing text.

**FATS AND OILS**

**Draft Standard for Named Vegetable Oils**

163. The Delegation of the Philippines expressed the view that certain values in Table 3 of the Draft Standard (Levels of Desmethylsterols) should be revised, as recent data obtained in the Philippines showed lower levels of cholesterol. The delegation also referred to the point raised by the Delegation of Malaysia during the last session of the Committee concerning the inconsistencies in the expression of desmethylsterols as compared with tocopherols and tocotrienols. The Chairman of the Committee on Fats and Oils indicated that these questions could be discussed further in the Committee as part of the regular updating of the Standard. The Commission adopted the Draft Standard at Step 8.

**Draft Standard for Named Animal Fats**

**Draft Revised Standard for Fats and Oils not covered by Individual Standards**

164. The Committee adopted the Draft Standards as proposed by the Committee on Fats and Oils.

**Draft Revised Code of Practice for the Storage and Transport of Edible Fats and Oils in Bulk**


166. The Chairman of the Committee on Fats and Oils expressed his appreciation to the Committee for its considerable work and constructive approach, which had allowed the Committee to achieve consensus in the updating of the Standards and the Code of Practice.

**SUGARS**

**Draft Revised Standard for Sugars**

167. The Commission noted that the Draft Revised Standard had been elaborated through correspondence. Since the maximum levels for arsenic and lead had not been endorsed by the Codex Committee on Food Additives and Contaminants on the basis that this Committee had not finalized its work on developing general maximum levels for these elements, the Chair of the Committee on Sugars proposed to delete the values of maximum levels for arsenic and lead pending the completion of this work. He also proposed to add the term “on a dry basis” in the description of lactose for clarification. These proposals were agreed to by the Commission.

168. The Delegation of Mauritius, while supporting the adoption of the Draft Standard, proposed amendments to the descriptions of raw cane sugar and soft sugars to increase clarity of these descriptions. A number of countries supported these proposals. However, since these amendments were substantial and would require further and thorough consideration, the Commission agreed to circulate them to Member countries for comments.

169. Other issues raised include: inclusion of new methods for arsenic, colour, sulphur dioxide and inverted sugars; reduction of the maximum levels of sulphur dioxide in white sugar, powdered sugar, dextrose anhydrous, dextrose monohydrate, powdered dextrose and fructose from 15 mg/kg to 10 mg/kg; lack of a method of analysis for determining polarization of powdered sugar to which starch had been added;

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57 ALINORM 99/17, ALINORM 99/21 Part I-Add.3 (comments of UNEGA), CAC/LIM 5 (Spain), CAC/LIM 15 (Philippines)

58 ALINORM 99/17, para. 60

59 ALINORM 99/25; ALINORM 99/21, Part I, Table 1; ALINORM 99/21, Part I-Add.3 (comments from France, India, Mauritius, New Zealand, South Africa, Spain, Association des amidonneries de cereales de l’UE, Comité européen des fabricants de sucre, International Dairy Federation, International Federation of Glucose Industries, and World Sugar Research Organization); ALINORM 99/21, Part I Addendum 4 (Status of Endorsement); LIM 5 (comments from Brazil, Ireland, Jamaica); LIM 10 (comments from European Community).
and discrepancies in Table 1. Those countries proposing new methods for inclusion in this Standard were invited to send them directly to the Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling for consideration for endorsement.

170. Noting that the existing Standards for sugars were rather obsolete and did not address those concerns expressed at this Session, the Commission adopted the Draft Revised Standard with the following amendments:

- Insertion of the term “on a dry basis” after the term “99.0%” in the description of lactose;
- Deletion of the values for maximum levels for arsenic and lead;
- Insertion of the term “or to powdered sugar (icing sugar) to which starch has been added” at the end of footnote “a” in Table 1.

This Standard would replace the existing Standards for White Sugar, Powdered Sugar (Icing Sugar), Soft Sugars, Dextrose Anhydrous, Dextrose Monohydrate, Powdered Dextrose (Icing Dextrose), Glucose Syrup, Dried Glucose Syrup, Lactose, and Fructose. It was noted that maximum levels for arsenic and lead would be considered by the Committee on Food Additives and Contaminants as a matter of priority.

171. The Commission agreed that the proposed amendments of Mauritius and other relevant comments be circulated for comments and consideration for amendments to the adopted Standard.

**FOOD IMPORT AND EXPORT INSPECTION AND CERTIFICATION SYSTEMS**

**Draft Guidelines for the Development of Equivalence Agreements regarding Food Import and Export Inspection and Certification Systems**

172. The Commission noted that the 21st Session of the Commission (1995) had approved the elaboration of the Guidelines and that there had been a consensus at the 7th Session of the Codex Committee on Food Import and Export Inspection and Certification Systems to advance the Guidelines to Step 8.

173. The Commission noted problems in the Spanish version of the text raised by the Delegations of Chile and Spain and the Delegations of China, Indonesia and the Republic of Korea expressed their concern that lack of infrastructure in developing countries should be taken into account in developing equivalence agreements.

174. The Observer from International Association of Consumer Food Organizations (IACFO) was of the opinion that the text regarding “an opportunity to comment at an appropriate time” as described in paragraph 37 of the draft text could be misinterpreted to prevent the public from having sufficient time to comment.

175. The Commission adopted the draft Guidelines at Step 8.

**PROPOSED DRAFT STANDARDS AND RELATED TEXTS AT STEP 5**

176. The Commission considered a number of Proposed Draft Standards and related texts that had been developed by its subsidiary bodies at Step 5 of the Uniform Procedure for the Elaboration of Codex Standards and Related Texts. The results of the Commission’s consideration of these Proposed Draft Standards and related texts are presented in tabular form in Appendix VII – Part II of the present report. The following paragraphs of this report provide additional information concerning the discussions that took place on certain items or contain additional decisions taken by the Commission in regard to the adoption of certain texts at Step 5.

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60 ALINORM 99/30A, Appendix II and Comments from Malaysia, USA, Chile, (ALINORM 99/12, Part I – Add.3) IACFO (CAC/LIM 11)
**PESTICIDE RESIDUES**

**Proposed Draft Maximum Residue Limits for Pesticides**\(^{61}\)

177. The Delegation of France stated that the Proposed Extraneous Maximum Residue Limit for DDT in meat was not acceptable. The Observer from European Community supported this view and also requested that an acute risk assessment for chlormequat be performed and that the residue definition for thiobendazole be revised.


**NUTRITION AND FOODS FOR SPECIAL DIETARY USES**

**Proposed Draft Revised Standard for Processed Cereal-Based Foods for Infants and Young Children**\(^{62}\)

179. The Delegations of Bolivia, Ghana, India, Indonesia, and Tanzania supported by many other delegations, expressed their concern at the introduction of “starchy roots and stems” in the composition of cereal-based foods for infants and young children and also about the age of introduction of these foods as “four to six months”. They desired deletion of “starchy roots and stems” and wanted the age of introduction to be “about six months” so that the interests of infants and young children in the developing world could be protected. The Delegation of Ghana stated that the inclusion of the words “about six months” would support the efforts of developing countries to promote exclusive breast-feeding. The Indian Delegation drew attention to the World Health Assembly Resolution of 1994 and the recent WHO publication “Complementary Feeding of Young Children in Developing Countries: a review of current scientific knowledge” (WHO/NUT/98.1) where the age was recommended to be “about six months”.

180. The Representatives from WHO stated that the issue of appropriate duration of exclusive breast feeding and the introduction of complementary feeding was of critical importance for the health and nutritional well-being of infants and children. There had been some misunderstanding about the WHO recommendation in this regard. The current WHO recommendation was that complementary feeding should start at between four and six months of age for most infants. The WHO Representatives stated therefore, that the references to the age range of four to six months in the proposed Draft Revised Standard for Processed Cereal-based Foods for Infants and Young Children (ALINORM 99/26, Appendix IV) were consistent with the current WHO recommendation. The statement of WHO on the recommended age for the introduction of complementary feeding is attached to this report in Appendix V.

181. The Commission decided to return the Proposed Draft Revised Standard to Step 3 for further discussion in the Committee.

182. The following Delegations expressed their opposition to returning the text to Step 3: Australia, Austria, Belgium, Finland, France, Germany, Italy, Spain, Switzerland, United Kingdom and United States.

**RESIDUES OF VETERINARY DRUGS IN FOODS**

**Proposed Draft Maximum Residue Limits for Veterinary Drugs**\(^{63}\)

183. The Commission noted that the Committee on Pesticide Residues had supported the Maximum Residue Limit for cyfluthrin in milk as recommended by the Committee on Residues of Veterinary Drugs in order to promote harmonization.

184. The Commission adopted the Proposed Draft Maximum Residue Limits as proposed at Step 5.

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\(^{61}\) ALINORM 99/24, Appendix V  
\(^{62}\) ALINORM 99/26, Appendix IV  
\(^{63}\) ALINORM 99/31, Appendix V
FOOD ADDITIVES AND CONTAMINANTS

Proposed Draft Maximum Level for Tin\textsuperscript{64}

185. The Commission noted that there had been diverse opinions at the Committee on Food Additives and Contaminants and that JECFA had been requested to re-evaluate the acute toxicity of tin. Noting that Codex Standards should be based on available scientific evidence, the Commission decided to hold the Proposed Draft Maximum Level for Tin at Step 5 pending JECFA recommendations.

186. The Delegation of India was of the opinion that there was inconsistency in the decisions on the Proposed Draft Maximum Level for Tin where the draft was held at Step 5 pending the JECFA re-evaluation, and the adoption of a limit for lead in the Standard for Butter (see para. 86) where the JECFA re-evaluation of lead was also pending.

FOOD LABELLING

Proposed Draft Amendment to the General Standard for the Labelling of Prepackaged Foods : Class Names\textsuperscript{65}

187. The Delegation of Spain suggested to utilize a single category for all dairy products in the labelling of prepackaged foods considering current commercial practices and to provide easier understanding for consumers.

188. The Commission adopted the Proposed Draft Amendment at Step 5.

Proposed Draft Amendment to the Guidelines on Nutrition Labelling\textsuperscript{66}

189. Several delegations expressed the view that there had been significant difference of opinion at the Committee level and it would be difficult to implement the Guidelines in their jurisdiction especially with regard to mandatory labelling requirements.

190. The Observer from International Association of Consumer Food Organizations (IACFO) was of the view that nutritional labelling should be mandatory and the decision of the application of such a guideline should be determined by the national authorities, considering regional differences in eating habits and dietary patterns.

191. The Commission agreed to return the Proposed Draft Amendment back to Step 3 for further consideration.

FRESH FRUITS AND VEGETABLES

Proposed Draft Codex Standard for Oranges including Guide for Use in Scoring Freezing Injuries\textsuperscript{67}

192. The Delegation of Spain expressed its concern that two type of oranges were in the market based on different marketing systems rather than different climates, as the conditions in some areas of the Mediterranean and other zones were similar to those in the tropics, with no significant variations of the temperature. It was stated that green oranges were not marketed for direct human consumption and any change in the current requirements would cause serious trade problems in different regions. This view was supported by Greece, but the Commission noted that there was production and trade of mature green oranges in other regions.

193. The Commission noted that the matter had been discussed at the Codex Committee on Fresh Fruits and Vegetables and decided to adopt the Proposed Draft Codex Standard at Step 5 with the square brackets on the provisions concerning colour and sizing.

\textsuperscript{64} ALINORM 99/12A, para. 138
\textsuperscript{65} ALINORM 99/22A, Appendix V
\textsuperscript{66} ALINORM 99/22A, Appendix VI
\textsuperscript{67} ALINORM 99/35A, Appendix X
Revocation of existing Standards

Revocation of Individual Cheese Standards

194. The Commission, following the recommendation of the Committee on Milk and Milk Products, revoked the following individual cheese standards:

- Individual Cheese Standard for Cheshire (C-8)
- Individual Cheese Standard for Limburger (C-12)
- Individual Cheese Standard for Svecia (C-14)
- Individual Cheese Standard for Butterkäse (C-17)
- Individual Cheese Standard for Harzer Käse (C-20)
- Individual Cheese Standard for Herrgårdsost (C-21)
- Individual Cheese Standard for Hushållsost (C-22)
- Individual Cheese Standard for Maribo (C-24)
- Individual Cheese Standard for Fynbo (C-25)
- Individual Cheese Standard for Romadur (C-27)
- Individual Cheese Standard for Amsterdam (C-28)
- Individual Cheese Standard for Leidse (C-29)
- Individual Cheese Standard for Friese (C-30)
- Individual Cheese Standard for Edelpilzkäse (C-32)

Revocation of Certain Obsolete Maximum Residue Limits for Pesticides

195. The Commission revoked certain obsolete MRLs as proposed by the Committee on Pesticide Residues following its regular review of MRLs.

Revocation of Maximum Residue Limits for Veterinary Drugs in Foods

196. The Commission revoked the Codex Maximum Residue Limits (MRLs) for benzylpenicillin, noting that they would be replaced by the MRLs for benzylpenicillin/procaine benzylpenicillin, and confirmed the decision of the Executive Committee at its 45th Session to revoke the MRLs for oxytetracycline in fat of cattle, sheep, pig, chicken and turkey.

Consideration of Endorsements to Adopted Standards

Codex Standard for Natural Mineral Waters: Limits for Health Related Substances

197. The Commission recalled that the levels for health-related substances in the Standard for Natural Mineral Waters had been sent for endorsement to the Committee on Food Additives and Contaminants after the adoption of the Standard and that the Committee had decided at its 31st Session that these levels should be aligned with the levels in the WHO Guidelines for Drinking Water Quality.

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68 ALINORM 99/21, Table 4
69 ALINORM 99/11, para. 81
70 ALINORM 99/24, Appendix VI, ALINORM 99/24A, Appendix VI
71 ALINORM 97/31, para. 28, ALINORM 99/31, para. 32
72 ALINORM 99/12A, paras. 89-92 and Appendix VI, CAC/LIM 5 (comments of Groupement d'Intérêt des Sources d'Eaux Minérales - UNESEM/GISEM), CAC/LIM 9 (Germany), CAC/LIM 11 (International Association of Food Consumers Associations - IACFO)
198. The Observer from the European Community expressed the view that the levels for arsenic, barium, manganese and selenium included in the current Standard should be returned to the Committee on Natural Mineral Waters, which should have the opportunity to consider the matter further and provide all relevant scientific data to the Committee on Food Additives and Contaminants in order to justify the specific levels for mineral waters. This position was supported by several delegations.

199. The Delegation of the United States, supported by the Delegations of Canada and Malaysia, supported the alignment of the levels with the WHO Guidelines in order to ensure the protection of consumers’ health, and stressed that consumers would expect mineral waters to provide at least the level of protection of tap water, especially for substances which pose serious hazards to health such as arsenic. These delegations proposed that in the meantime the WHO levels of contaminants should apply.

200. The Commission recognized that there was no consensus on the endorsement of levels for arsenic, barium, manganese and selenium and agreed that they should be returned for further consideration to the Committee on Natural Mineral Waters as a matter of priority, following which they would be submitted to the Committee on Food Additives and Contaminants for endorsement. Except those for arsenic, barium, manganese and selenium, the Commission adopted the limits for health related substances. The Commission noted that WHO was currently preparing a monograph on arsenic and encouraged governments to submit relevant scientific data on these substances. The Commission noted that the published Standard for Natural Mineral Waters would specify that the levels for the above-mentioned elements had not been endorsed by the Committee on Food Additives and Contaminants.

CONSIDERATION OF PROPOSALS TO ELABORATE NEW STANDARDS AND RELATED TEXTS (AGENDA ITEM 10)

ELABORATION OF NEW STANDARDS

Establishment of a data base on importing country legislation

201. The Delegation of India asked the Commission about the feasibility of the work currently undertaken by the Committee on Food Import and Export Inspection and Certification Systems on the establishment of a data base on importing country legislation. The opinion of Legal Council was that the proposed activity did not fall within the mandate of the Commission as expressed in its Statutes and, consequently, was excluded from the Terms of Reference of the said Committee. It was noted that such an activity would fall within the mandates of the parent organizations or WTO.

Standard on Quantitative Ingredient Declaration

202. The Commission noted the recommendation of the International Association of Consumer Food Organizations (IACFO) that the Committee on Food Labelling undertake to revise section 5.1 of the Codex General Standard for the Labelling of Prepackaged Food, concerning Quantitative Ingredient Declaration. The Commission agreed that the recommendation be examined by the Committee.

Proposed Draft Guidelines for the Judgement of Equivalence of Sanitary Measures Associated with Food Inspection and Certification Systems

203. The Commission noted the observation made by the Delegation of Germany and other countries that it was still premature to bring the work on these Guidelines under the formal Codex Step Procedures and agreed that the Committee on Food Import and Export Inspection and Certification Systems should continue to study this item as a discussion paper. As concepts in this area fell within the mandates of other Committees, the discussion paper would need to be circulated to these Committees for their comments.

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74 Proposals were summarised in Table 1 of ALINORM 99/21, Part II
75 ALINORM 99/30A, paras 94-99
76 CAC/LIM 11, pages 5-7
77 ALINORM 99/30A, para. 81
The Delagation of Australia, supported by that of New Zealand, was of the view that having regard to the work priorities of the Commission, work on developing the Guidelines should be started in the Step Procedure and stated that the Step Procedure allowed for adequate consultation.

**Proposed Draft Guidelines for the Utilisation and Promotion of Quality Assurance Systems**

The Commission noted the general support for the elaboration of the Guidelines and agreed for a substantive working paper to be presented to the Committee on Food Import and Export Inspection and Certification Systems for further examination, noting the comments of several delegations concerning the inadequacy of the paper that was presented at the Committee’s last session and concerns regarding the implications of its implementation. The Delegation of Chile expressed concern that such Guidelines could present technical barriers to trade.

**Codex Standards for Apples, Table Grapes and Tomatoes**

The Commission, approving the new work for the Committee on Fresh Fruits and Vegetables to elaborate Codex Standards for Apples, Table Grapes and Tomatoes, encouraged the Committee, to perform this task in close collaboration with the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) which had elaborated their own Standards on these products. While avoiding any unnecessary duplication of work, the collaboration would also benefit UNECE by giving international recognition to its Standards.

In regard to the work on apples, the Delegation of Switzerland proposed that the Committee should await the revision of the UNECE Standard for Apples to avoid confusion and prevent duplication of work. The Commission felt it appropriate to initiate this work in cooperation with the UNECE during the revision of the UNECE standard.

**Codex Standard for Dried Figs**

The Committee noted that the work on the Codex Standard for Dried Figs would be handled by the Committee on Processed Fruits and Vegetables.

**Codex Standard for Instant Noodles**

The Delegation of Japan, supported by that of Indonesia, asked about the possibility of reopening the Codex Committee on Cereals, Pulses and Legumes that had been adjourned sine die, to develop a Codex Standard for Instant Noodles. The Commission agreed that the FAO/WHO Coordinating Committee for Asia should first examine the feasibility of such a Standard and elaborate a formal proposal to the Commission.

The list of approved new work is contained in Appendix VIII of this report.

**Standard for Honey**

The Delegation of the United Kingdom, Host Government of the Codex Committee on Sugars stated that a meeting would be convened either at the end of 1999 or at the beginning of 2000, to discuss the completion of the Draft Revised Standard for Honey.

**DISCONTINUATION OF NEW WORK ITEMS**

The Commission decided to discontinue the new work items listed below:

- Broader Issues on the Application of Microbiological Risk Evaluation in International Food and Feed Trade;
- Application of Quality Tolerance at Import;

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78 ALINORM 99/30A, para. 93
79 ALINORM 99/35A, para. 186
80 ALINORM 99/28, para. 77
81 Proposals were summarised in Table 2 of ALINORM 99/21, Part II
82 ALINORM 99/13A, para. 95
• Use of Objective Indices of Maturity in Commercial Transaction of Fresh Fruits and Vegetables.\(^{84}\)

213. The Commission noted the observation of the Delegation of Norway that although the work item of Broader Issues on the Application of Microbiological Risk Evaluation in International Food and Feed Trade would be discontinued, the individual work involved therein would be continued in other work items.

**MATTERS ARISING FROM REPORTS OF CODEX COMMITTEES (AGENDA ITEM 11)**

**CODEX COMMITTEE ON MILK AND MILK PRODUCTS**

**Use of Hydrogen Peroxide for the Preservation of Raw Milk**

214. The Commission noted that the direct addition of hydrogen peroxide for preserving raw milk was included in List C of CAC/FAL 5-1979, which contains those substances the use thereof should be restricted to certain specified uses, and this had caused confusion in the international trade of milk. It further noted that the Commission had adopted at the 19\(^{th}\) Session in 1991 the Guidelines for the Preservation of Raw Milk by Use of the Lactoperoxidase System\(^{87}\) which includes a substance that generates hydrogen peroxide at a much lower level than in the case of direct addition. At the time of the adoption at the 19\(^{th}\) Session, the Commission had emphasized that the lactoperoxidase system should not be used for products intended for international trade and should only be used when refrigeration was not available.\(^{88}\)

215. The Commission agreed that the direct use of hydrogen peroxide was inconsistent with the above Guidelines and was no longer acceptable.

216. The Commission confirmed (a) that the most preferred method of the preservation of raw milk was refrigeration; (b) its approval of the use of the enzymatic activators of the lactoperoxidase system in accordance with the Guidelines for the Preservation of Raw Milk by Use of the Lactoperoxidase System and based on the advice of the Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Food Additives, where refrigeration was not possible; and (c) that the lactoperoxidase system should not be used for products intended for international trade.

**CODEX COMMITTEE ON FOOD IMPORT AND EXPORT INSPECTION AND CERTIFICATION SYSTEMS**

**Judgement of Equivalence**

217. The Commission agreed with the recommendation of the Executive Committee that the Committee should proceed to develop guidance on the judgement of equivalence of systems for inspections and certification in relation to technical regulations other than sanitary measures in parallel with food safety issues.

**OTHER MATTERS**

218. The Commission could not discuss other matters arising from Codex Committees due to time constraints. However, it agreed to endorse the recommendations and decisions of the Executive Committee made at its 46\(^{th}\) Session on these matters as contained in ALINORM 99/4.

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\(^{83}\) ALINORM 99/35, para. 79  
\(^{84}\) ALINORM 99/35, para. 82  
\(^{85}\) ALINORM 99/21, Part III; ALINORM 99/21, Part III Addendum 1; and ALINORM 99/4, paras 17-27.  
\(^{86}\) ALINORM 99/11, para. 96.  
\(^{87}\) CAC/GL 13-1991 (ALINORM 91/13, Appendix X).  
\(^{88}\) ALINORM 91/40, paras 232-234.  
\(^{89}\) ALINORM 99/30A, paras 69-84.
DESIGNATION OF HOST GOVERNMENTS FOR CODEX COMMITTEES AND AD HOC INTERGOVERNMENTAL TASK FORCES (AGENDA ITEM 12)90

REVIEW OF SUBSIDIARY BODIES

219. The Commission confirmed the abolition of the Joint UNECE/Codex Groups of Experts on the Standardization of Fruit Juices and on the Standardization of Quick Frozen Foods. It decided that revision of the Codex Standards for quick frozen fruits and vegetables be transferred to the responsibility of the Committee on Processed Fruits and Vegetables. It also decided that any revision of the Recommended International Code of Practice for the Processing and Handling of Quick Frozen Foods that might be required should be undertaken by the Committee on Food Hygiene.

220. The Commission agreed to the abolition of the Committee on Meat and Poultry Products as suggested by the Host Government, Denmark. It noted that the Committee on Vegetable Proteins (Canada) had been requested to undertake a revision of the Codex Standard for Wheat Gluten, upon completion of which the Committee would be abolished. Other Codex Committees adjourned sine die were retained for the time being.

ESTABLISHMENT OF NEW SUBSIDIARY BODIES

Ad Hoc Intergovernmental Codex Task Force on Fruit Juices

221. In accordance with its authority contained in Rule IX.1(b)(i), the Commission agreed to establish an ad hoc Intergovernmental Codex Task Force on Fruit Juices with the Terms of References set out in Appendix VI to this report. It agreed to designate the Government of Brazil to be responsible for appointing the Chairperson of the Task Force in compliance with Rule IX.10 of its Rules of Procedure. It was noted that the establishment of such Task Forces would lead to a more flexible structure to handle specific issues for a time-limited period under closely defined terms of reference, but functioning in the same manner as established Codex Committees.

FAO/WHO Regional Coordinating Committee for the Near East

222. The Commission recalled its earlier decision concerning the membership of the Codex Near East Region in the Executive Committee and considered the modalities for the establishment of a Regional Coordinating Committee and the appointment of a Coordinator for that Region (see paras. 6 and 60, above).

223. The Delegation of Nigeria expressed concern that some countries might have the possibility to exercise their voting rights in two different regions, which might not be consistent with equal treatment of all member countries, and proposed that the status of members and observers should be clarified before the new Coordinating Committee become operational.

224. The FAO Legal Counsel indicated that FAO Member countries could participate as members in more than one regional group, but that they had to chose to which region they belonged as members for the purposes of participation in FAO Council; they could not stand for election in two groups and the same principle should apply to the Codex Coordinating Committees. The Legal Counsel proposed that the Commission adopt the proposed Terms of Reference with the understanding that Member countries could not be eligible for Representatives or appointed as Coordinator in two Regions at the same time. The Commission noted that participation in different regional groups was a general question which could be considered by the Committee on General Principles at a later date.

225. The Commission agreed to establish, under Rule IX.1 (b)(ii) a Regional Coordinating Committee for the Near East under the Terms of Reference presented in Appendix VI, for inclusion in the Procedural Manual.

Ad Hoc Intergovernmental Codex Task Force on Foods Derived from Biotechnology

226. The Delegation of Japan introduced draft Terms of Reference for the Ad Hoc Intergovernmental Codex Task Force on Foods Derived from Biotechnology elaborated by a drafting group that had met during the Commission Session.

227. The Commission agreed to establish the Task Force to develop standards, guidelines or other recommendations on foods derived from biotechnology. It agreed also to designate the Government of Japan to be responsible for appointing the Chairperson of the Task Force in conformity with Rule IX.10 of the Commission’s Rules of Procedure. The Delegation of Japan informed the Commission that the first meeting of the Task Force would be convened during the first half of the year 2000, its precise date and venue being decided following consultations with the Codex Secretariat. It was recalled that the Task Force would be open for all members and observers of the Commission.

228. Under the discussions on the Terms of Reference, some delegations mentioned that the objectives should be broadly defined while others were of the opinion they should be restricted to safety and nutrition aspects in order to meet the timeframe set down for the Task Force. The Commission decided to adopt the Terms of Reference as drafted by the drafting group on an interim basis with the understanding that the Task Force might review them at its first meeting if required. The Terms of Reference are given in Appendix VI.

229. The Representative of WHO informed the Commission that a Joint FAO/WHO Expert Consultation would be convened prior to the first session of the Task Force to support the work of the Task Force.

Ad Hoc Intergovernmental Codex Task Force on Good Animal Feeding

230. The Commission noted the recommendation of the 46th Session of the Executive Committee concerning the urgent need for the Commission to develop international guidelines or recommendations which addressed all the issues relating to animal feeding and that the new mechanism of an ad hoc Intergovernmental Codex Task Force would be an appropriate means of achieving this goal. Several delegations supported the establishment of such a Task Force in view of the great importance attached to consumers’ health and practices in international trade. In consequence, the Commission agreed to establish an ad hoc Intergovernmental Codex Task Force on Good Animal Feeding under Rule IX.1(b)(i) of its Procedure. The Secretariat presented draft Terms of Reference prepared by the Delegation of Denmark as set out in Appendix VI of the present Report. The Commission agreed to designate the Government of Denmark to be responsible for appointing the Chairperson of the Task Force in compliance with Rule IX.10 of its Rules of Procedure.

Confirmation of Chairmanship of Codex Committees

231. In accordance with the Rule IX.10 of the Rules of Procedures, the Commission confirmed the chairmanship of the Codex Committees hosted by Member governments as listed in Appendix IX.

Other Business (Agenda Item 13)

Language Policies of the Codex Alimentarius Commission

232. The Commission noted the earlier discussions held on this matter (see paras. 10). It also took note of the provisions of Rule XII of its Rules of Procedure. On this basis, it agreed as a first step that, subject to availability of resources, beginning with the biennium 2000/2001, future Sessions of the Codex Alimentarius Commission, the Executive Committee and Regional Coordinating Committees as appropriate, would be held in Arabic, Chinese, English, French and Spanish. Working papers and reports for these Sessions, the Procedural Manual, information documents, and final Codex texts would also be made available in all five languages.

233. The Commission noted the view of the FAO Council that the availability of resources should not act as a restraint on the implementation of equal treatment of all languages in FAO and its statutory bodies, which included the Codex Alimentarius Commission.
234. The Delegations of Spain and Chile referring to the Spanish language, and the Delegation of Senegal referring to the French language, drew attention to current difficulties in providing timely distribution of Codex documents in these languages and to the quality of translation of some of these documents and called upon the Secretariat to give urgent attention to addressing these problems.

DIOXINS

235. The Delegation of Belgium provided the Commission with information concerning the incident that had resulted in wide-spread concern among consumers and disruption in international trade, due to the contamination of poultry, cattle and pigs and derived products with dioxin and dioxin-like PCBs. It was noted that the contamination was due to a single incident and that measures had been taken to withdraw contaminated produce from the market and prohibit the marketing or export of foods from affected farms.

236. The Delegations of the Republic of Korea and The Philippines stated that the incident had drawn attention to the lack of adequate Codex guidance on an acceptable limit for the presence of dioxin in foods and called on the Codex Committee on Food Additives and Contaminants to give urgent and priority consideration to this work. The Chairperson of the Committee on Food Additives and Contaminants noted that work on dioxins had been re-commenced in 1999, and requested Members to provide the Committee with data that would allow the establishment of an appropriate guideline or maximum level.

237. The Commission noted that the incident also drew attention to the lack of suitable Codex guidance on the nature of measures to be applied at import and export under such circumstances. It noted the Codex Guidelines for the Exchange of Information in Food Control Emergency Situations (CAC/GL 19-1995). The Secretariat suggested that the Committee on Food Import and Export Inspection and Certification Systems might consider what guidance could be developed to assist Member countries in the event of similar future unforeseen emergencies.

238. The Representative of WHO noted that risk communication was of particular importance during times of crisis and drew attention to the need for all countries to be prepared for such situations. He noted that Strategies for Risk Communication during a food safety crisis were provided in the Report of a Joint FAO/WHO Expert Consultation in “Application of Risk Communication to Food Standards and Safety Matters”.

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92 See FAO Food and Nutrition Paper no. 70.
LIST OF PARTICIPANTS
LISTE DES PARTICIPANTS
LISTA DE PARTICIPANTES

CHAIRPERSON/PRESIDENT/PRESIDENTE
Prof Pakdee Pothisiri
Deputy Permanent Secretary
Office of Permanent Secretary
Ministry of Public Health
Tiwanond Road
Nonthaburi 11000
Thailand
Phone: +662 590 1012
Fax: +662 590 1137
Email: ppakdee@health.moph.go.th

Heads of Delegation are listed first, followed by alternates and advisors listed in alphabetical order.

Les chefs de délégation figurent en tête et les suppléants et conseillers sont énumérés en ordre alphabétique.

Figuran en primar lugar los Jefes de las delegaciones, los Suplentes y Asesores aparecen par orden alfabético.

MEMBER COUNTRIES
PAYS MEMBRES
PAISES MEMBROS

ALGERIA
ALGÉRIE
ARGELIA

Mrs Doufene Nadia
Ingénieur
Direction de la qualité
Ministère du Commerce
Palais du Gouvernement
Alger (16000)
Phone: +213 2.71.57.97

Mr Hasnaoui Abdallah
Directeur de la qualité et de la sécurité des produits
Direction de la qualité
Ministère du Commerce
Palais du Gouvernement
Alger (16000)
Phone: +213 2.71.57.97

Mr Abad Salah
Inspecteur
Inspection Centrale
Ministère du Commerce
Palais du Gouvernement
Alger (16000)
Phone: +213 2 715690

Mr Akli Madjid
Sous-directeur de la consommation et de l’analyse quantitative
Inspection Centrale
Ministère du Commerce
Palais du Gouvernement
Alger (16000)
Phone: +213 2 210982

Mme Ghalem Ouahiba
Sous-directeur de la normalisation
Direction des Productions Agricoles
Ministère de l’agriculture et de la pêche
12, Blvd. Colonel Amirouche
Alger
Phone: +213.2.746407
Mrs. Yahia-Cherif Hariba  
Représentant Permanent Adjoint  
Ambassade d’Algérie  
Via Barbara Oriani, 26  
00197 Rome, Italy  
Phone: 39 06 8068-7620  
Fax: 39 06 8083-436

ANGOLA

Mr Kiala Kia Mateva  
Head of delegation  
Conseiller  
Représentant permanent adjoint  
Ambassade d’Angola  
Via Filippo Bernadini N° 21  
00165 Rome, Italy  
Phone: 39 06 3936-6941  
Fax: 39 06 634-960

ARGENTINA

Mr Hilda Gabardini  
Encargado de Negocios  
Representante Permanente Alterno de la República Argentina ante la FAO  
Via del Banco di Santo Spirito 42, IV Piso  
00186 Rome – Italy  
Phone: 39 06 6867-913  
Fax: 39 06 6864-789

Dr Alfredo Jorge Nader  
Director de Promoción de la Calidad Alimentaria  
Secretaría de Agricultura, Ganadería, Pesca y Alimentación  
Paseo Colón 922 Of. 223  
Buenos Aires, Argentina  
Phone: 0054 11 4349-2186  
Fax: 0054 11 4349-2041  
Email: anader@sagyp.mecon.ar

Dr Andres Pinard  
ANMAT  
Ministerio de la Salud  
25 de Mayo 363  
Buenos Aires  
Phone/Fax: 54.11.4340-0886  
Email: apinard@anmat.gov.ar

AUSTRALIA

Dr Melanie O’Flynn  
Director  
Residues and Standards Branch  
National Office of Food Safety  
Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry – Australia  
GPO Box 858  
Canberra ACT 2601, Australia  
Phone: 61 2 6272-4549  
Fax: 61 2 6272-4023  
Email: melanie.oflynn@affa.gov.au

Mr Peter Liehne  
General Manager Standards  
Australia New Zealand Food Authority (ANZFA)  
P.O. Box 7186  
Canberra MC 2600, Australia  
Phone: +61 2 6271 2246  
Fax: +61 2 6271 2278  
Email: peter.liehne@anzfa.gov.au

Mr Paul Ross  
Alternate Permanent Representative to FAO  
Australian Embassy  
Via Alessandria, 215  
00198 Rome, Italy  
Phone: 39 06.85272376  
Fax: 39 06.85272230  
Email: paul.ross@dfat.gov.au

Mr Carlos Camaño  
Ingeniero Agrónomo  
Agricultura SENASA  
Paseo Colón 367  
Buenos Aires  
Phone/Fax: 0054 11 4345-4110  
Email: camano@mail.agro.uba.ar

Mr Ariel Fernández  
Secretario  
Representante Permanente Alterno de la República Argentina ante la FAO  
Via del Banco di Santo Spirito 42, IV Piso  
00186 Rome – Italy  
Phone: 39 06 6867-913  
Fax: 39 06 6864-789
AUSTRIA
AUTRICHE
Dr Arnulf Sattler
DIV VI B1
Federal Chancellery
Radetzkystraße 2
A-1030 Vienna
Phone: +43 1 71172 4805
Fax: +43 1 71172 4681

Dr Hedwig Wögerbauer
Head of Division III/3
Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry
Stubenring 12
A-1010 Vienna
Phone: +43 1 71100 2812
Fax: +43 1 71100 2959

Mrs Nathalie Feistritzer
Permanent Representative
Perm. Rep. of Austria to FAO
Via G.B. Pergolesi 3
00198 Rome, Italy
Phone: 39 06 8440-141
Fax: 39 068543-286
Email: stvrom@tr.bmlf.gv.at

BANGLADESH
Bangladesh
Mr Mohammad Mejbahuddin
Economic Counsellor
Ministry of Finance
Embassy of Bangladesh
Via Antonio Bertoloni 14
00197 Rome, Italy
Phone: 39 06 8083-595
Fax: 39 06 8084-853

BELGIUM
BELGIQUE
BELGICA
Mr Charles Crémer
Chef de Service
Inspection générale des denrées alimentaires
Ministère de la santé publique
C.A.E. – Esplanade, 11
Boulevard Pachéco, 19 boîte 5
1010 Bruxelles
Phone: +32 2 2104843
Fax: +32 2 2104816
Email: Charles.Cremer@health.fgov.be

Dr Guido Kayaert
European Regulatory Affairs
Nestlé Coordination Center
Birminghamstraat 221
1070 Bruxelles
Phone: +32 2 5295330
Fax: +32 2 5295620
Email: guido.kayaert@be01.nestlè.com

Mr Théo Biebaut
Premier Conseiller
Relations Economiques
Ministère des Affaires économiques
Rue Gen. Leman, 60
1040 Bruxelles
Phone: +32 2 2065882
Fax: +32 2 2309565

Dr Johan Hallaert
Secrétaire d’Ambassade
Représentation permanente de la Belgique auprès de la FAO
Via Omero 8
00197 Rome, Italy
Phone: 39 06 3242-601
Fax: 39 06 3203-992

BOLIVIA
BOLIVIE
Ing Luis Chavez Rios
Representante del Comité Nacional del Codex Alimentarius
Av. Camacho 1488 esquina Bueno
La Paz
Phone: +591 2 317262/Ddom: 250357
Fax: +591 2 317262
Email: ibnorca@ceibo.entelnet.bo
Mr Cleber Ferreira dos Santos  
General Director of Food  
National Agency of Health Vigilance  
Esplanada Dos Ministérios, Bl. “G”  
Brasilia-DF 70.000-900  
**Phone:** 55.61. 315-2166  
**Email:** diali@saude.gov.br

Ms Dilma Scala Gelli  
WG – Food Hygiene Coordinator – CCAB  
Health Vigilance National Agency  
Expert of Inst. Adolfo Lutz  
Av. Nlr. Arnaldo, 355  
01246-902 S.P. S.P.  
**Phone:** (+55.11) 3061-0111-Ext. 2110  
**Fax:** (+55.11) 853-3505  
**Email:** dilgelli@ial.sp.gov.br

Mr Adauto Lima Rodrigues  
Chief of the Sanitary Division of the Agricultural Protection Secretariat  
Ministry of Agriculture and Supply  
**Phone:** (55.61) 2269771  
**Fax:** (55.61) 2243995  
**Email:** alima@agricultura.gov.br

**BULGARIA**

Mr Krassimir Kostov  
Permanent Representative of the Republic of Bulgaria to FAO  
Via Pietro P. Rubens 21  
0197 Rome, Italy  
**Phone:** +39.06.322.46.40  
**Fax:** +39.06.322.61.22

**BURKINA FASO**

H.E. Ms Béatrice Damiba  
Ambassador  
Permanent Representative to FAO  
Embassy of Burkina Faso  
Via Alessandria, 26  
00198 Rome, Italy  
**Phone:** 39 06 4424-9725  
**Fax:** 39 06 4425-0042

Mr Naneema Ambroise  
Nutritionniste  
Centre national pour la nutrition  
Ministère de la santé  
03 BP 7068  
Ouagadougou  
**Phone:** (226) 324553/308748

Mr André Anatole Yameogo  
Alternative Representative to FAO  
Embassy of Burkina Faso  
Via Alessandria, 26  
00198 Rome, Italy  
**Phone:** 39 06 4424-9725  
**Fax:** 39 06 4425-0042

**CANADA**

Dr Anne A. MacKenzie  
Head of Delegation  
Science Evaluation  
Associate Vice-President  
Canadian Food Inspection Agency  
59 Camelot Drive  
Nepean, Ontario K1A 0Y9  
**Phone:** +1 613 2252342 (Ext 4188)  
**Fax:** +1 613 2286638  
**Email:** amackenzie@em.agr.ca

Dr George Paterson  
Director General  
Food Directorate  
Health Protection Branch  
Health Canada  
Ottawa, Ontario  
K1A OL2 (0701A5)  
**Phone:** +1 613 9571821  
**Fax:** +1 613 9571784  
**Email:** george_paterson@hc-sc.gc.ca
Mr Ron B. Burke  
Director  
Bureau of Food Regulatory, International and Interagency Affairs  
Food Directorate, Health Protection Branch  
Codex Contact Point for Canada  
Health Canada  
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0L2 (0702C)  
Phone: +1 613 9571748  
Fax: +1 613 9413537  
Email: ronald_burke@hc-sc.gc.ca

Ms Santina Scalzo  
Manager, Codex Program Services  
Bureau of Food Regulatory, International and Interagency Affairs  
Food Directorate, Health Protection Branch  
Health Canada  
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0L2 (0702C)  
Phone: +1 613 9571749  
Fax: +1 613 9413537  
Email: santina_scalzo@hc-sc.gc.ca

Mr G.F. Reasbeck  
Director  
Consumer Protection and Food Policy Coordination Division  
Canadian Food Inspection Agency  
59 Camelot Drive  
Nepean, Ontario K1A 0Y9  
Phone: +1 613 2252342  
Fax: +1 613 2286611  
Email: greasbeck@em.agr.ca

Mr Peter Pauker  
Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade  
Technical Barriers and Regulations Division (EAS)  
125 Sussex Drive  
Tower C, 3rd Floor  
Room 155  
Ottawa On K1A 0G2  
Phone: +1 613 9920523  
Fax: +1 613 9430346  
Email: peter.pauker@dfait-maeci.gc.ca

Senator, The Honourable Eugene Whelan  
Senate of Canada  
Parliament Buildings, Room 263, EB  
Wellington Street  
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A4  
Email: taylor@sen.parl.gc.ca

Dr Dale Armstrong  
Member, Policy Secretariat  
Alberta Agriculture, Food & Rural Development  
301, 7000-113 Street  
Edmonton, Alberta T6H 5T6  
Canada  
Phone: +1 780 4227807  
Fax: +1 780 4226540  
Email: dale.armstrong@agric.gov.ab.ca

Mr Pierre Nadeau  
Vice President  
National Dairy Council of Canada  
221 Laurier Avenue East  
Ottawa, Ontario KIN 6P1  
Phone: +1 613.238 4116  
Fax: +1 613.238 6247  
Email: pnmadeau@ndcc.ca

Dr Réjean Bouchard  
Assistant Director  
Policy and Dairy Production  
Dairy Farmers of Canada  
75 Albert Street, Suite 101  
Ottawa, Ontario K1P 5E7  
Phone: +1 613 2369997  
Fax: +1 613 2360905  
Email: rejeanb@dfc-plc.ca

Ms Elisabeth Sterken  
Director  
INFACT Canada  
6 Trinity Square  
Toronto, Ontario M5G 1B1  
Phone: +1 416 595-9819  
Fax: +1 416 591-9355  
Email: infact@ftn.net

**CHILE**  
**CHILI**

Dr Roberto Belmar  
Jefe de Delegación  
Presidente del Comité Nacional del Codex  
Ministerio de Salud  
Estado 360 of 801  
Santiago  
Phone: 562 664-1141  
Fax: 562 664-4208
Ing Gonzalo Ríos  
Jefe del Departamento de Asuntos Internacionales del Servicio Agrícola y Ganadero  
Ministerio de Agricultura  
Avenida Bulnes 140  
Santiago  
**Phone:** +56 2 6723635  
**Fax:** +56 2 6717419  
**Email:** grios@sag.minagri.gob.cl

H.E. Mr Victor Manuel Rebollo Gonzalez  
Emisor de la FAO  
Representante Permanente de Chile ante la FAO  
Via Po 23  
00198 Rome – Italy  
**Phone:** 39 06 8417-450  
**Fax:** 39 06 8535-0427  
**Email:** misfao@itn.it

Mr Jaime Contreras  
Consejero  
Rep. del Comité Nacional del Codex  
Jefe Departamento Agencias Especializadas  
Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores  
Santiago, Chile  
**Email:** jcornjejo@netline.cl

Mrs Antonieta Urrutia  
Encargada del Codex en el Servicio Agrícola y Ganadero  
Ministerio de Agricultura  
Santiago  
**Email:** rrii@sag.minagri.gob.cl

Mr Humberto Molina Reyes  
Segundo Secretario  
Representante del Chile ante la FAO  
Via Po 23  
00198 Rome – Italy  
**Phone:** 39 06 8417-450  
**Fax:** 39 06 8535-0427  
**Email:** misfao@itn.it

Mrs Macarena Vidal  
Asesora Grupo Agropecuario  
Dirección Asuntos Económicos  
Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores  
Teatinos 20 / 3er Piso  
Santiago, Chile  
**Phone:** 562.5659317  
**Email:** mvidal@dizecon.cl

---

**CHINA**

**CHINE**

Dr Xuegui Kan  
Senior Public Health Official  
Department of Health Legislation & Inspection  
Ministry of Health  
No. 44, Hou hai Beiyan  
Beijing, 100725  
**Phone:** +86 10 64013358  
**Fax:** +86 10 64014341  
**Email:** xgk2@chsi.moh.gov.cn

Ms Zhao Xinhong  
Assistant of Coordinator  
China Codex Contact Point  
Dept. of Market and Economic Information  
Ministry of Agriculture  
No. 11, Nong Zhan Guan Nan Li  
Beijing 100026, China  
**Phone:** +86 10 6419-3156  
**Fax:** +86 10 6419-2468  
**Email:** zhxh111@263.net

Mr Yang Zheng  
Director  
Quality Control and Inspection for Food  
Ministry of Agriculture  
N° 28, Dongjiao Sanyuan Road  
Jinan, Shandong Province  
China

Ms Danyu Zhao  
Assistant Researcher  
Institute of Food Safety Control and Inspection  
Ministry of Health  
No.7, Pan Jia Yuan Nan Li  
Beijing, 100021  
**Phone:** +86 10 67711813  
**Fax:** +86 10 67711813

Ms Liao Xiaogian  
Section Chief  
Department of Standardization  
China State Bureau of Quality and Technical Supervision  
N° 4 Zhi Chun Road  
Beijing, 100088  
**Phone:** 86 10 6203-4044  
**Fax:** 86 10 6203-4044 or 3737  
**Email:** LiaoXQ@csbts.mail.cn  
LiaoXQ@csbts.gov.cn
Ms Yu Wenjun D.V.M.
Official
Dept. for Supervision on Health
State Administration for Entry-Exit Inspection and Quarantine of P.R. China
No. A 10 Chaowaidajie
Beijing, 100020
Phone: 86 10 6599-4531
Fax: 86 10 6599-4577
Email: yuwj@ciq.gov.cn

Mr Zhou Zhuye
Director
Dept. of Policy and Law
State Petrochemical Industry
Bureau Asian Game Village
Beijing, 100723, China

Ms Li Yanyun
Assistant Vice Director
Dept. of Technical Standards
Policies and Laws Bureau
State Administration of Chemical Industries; China
An Hui Li, Chaoyang District
Beijing, 100723
Phone: 86 10 6493-0948
Fax: 86 10 6493-0948

Mr Liu Gang
Official
Division for WTO Affairs
Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Cooperation
2, Dongchangan Street
Beijing, 100731
Phone: 86 10 6519-7207
Email: liugang@moftec.gov.cn

Mr Shengyao Tang
Perm. Rep. of China to FAO
Via della Caffarella, 9
00179 Rome, Italy
Phone: 39 06 5137-345
Fax: 39 06 5137-344
Email: china.fao@agora.stm.it

COLOMBIA
COLOMBIE
Mr Bernardo G. Zuluaga Botero
Representante Adjunto
Rep. Perm. de Colombia ante la FAO
Embajada de Colombia
Via G. Pisanelli 4, int. 5
00196 Rome, Italy
Phone: 39 06 320-2531/361-2204
Fax: 39 06 361-2204
Email: delecol@ats.it

COSTA RICA
Lic. Sigurd Vargas
Jefe de delegación
Asesor Legal
Ministerio de Agricultura y Ganadería
P.O. Box 1098-1250
San José, Costa Rica
Phone: +506 284-74-60
Fax: +506 260-83-81
Email: protagro@sol.qacsa.co.cr

H.E. Mrs Victoria Guardia de Hernandez
Embajador
Relaciones Exteriores
Via Bartolomeo Eustachio 22
00161 Rome, Italy
Phone: 39 06 4425-1046 – 4424-0954
Fax: 39 06 4425-1048
Email: embcosta@mix.it

Ms Yolanda Gago
Alternate
Permanent Representative to FAO
Via Bartolomeo Eustachio 22
00161 Rome, Italy
Phone: 39 06 4425-1046 – 4424-0954
Fax: 39 06 4425-1048
Email: embcosta@mix.it

CÔTE D’IVOIRE
Mr S.E.M. Sia Bi Sei
Representant Permanent Adjoint
Ambassade de Côte-d’Ivoire
Via L. Spallanzani, 4-6
00161 Rome, Italy
Phone: 39 06 4402-673 – 4423-1129
Fax: 39 06 4402-619
CROATIA

Dr Jaksa Topic
Director-General
State Office for Standardization and Metrology
Ulica grada Vukovara 78
HR-10000 Zagreb, Croatia
Phone: +385 1 6112028
Fax: +385 1 6109324

Prof Dr Ivan Petrovic
Head, Health Ecology Service
Croatian National Institute of Public Health
Rockefellerova, 7
HR-10000 Zagreb, Croatia
Phone: 385.1.4683007
Fax: 385.1.4683007

Mr Branimik Cecuk
First Secretary
Croatian Embassy
Via Luigi Bodio 74-76
00191 Rome, Italy
Phone: 39 06 3630-3600
Fax: 39 06 3630-3405

CUBA

Mr Lionel Enríquez Rodriguez
Jefe de delegación
Presidente
Oficina Nacional de Normalización
Calle E No. 261 entre 11 y 13
La Habana 10400
Phone: +53 7 300879
Fax: +53 7 338048
Email: ncnorma@ceniai.inf.cu

Ms Doris Hernández Torres
Directora de Aseguramiento de la Calidad
Ministerio de la Industria Pesquera
Edificio No. 1
Sta Avenida y 248
Barlovento, Sta Fé, Playa
La Habana
Phone: +53 7 297294
Fax: +53 7 249168
Email: doris@fishnavy.inf.cu

Mr Gabriel Lahens Espinosa
Funcionario
Ministerio del Comercio Exterior
Infanta 16, Esquina 23
La Habana 10400
Phone: +53 7 795186
Fax: +53 7 793824

Mr José Antonio Saavedra González
Consejero
Misión Permanente de Cuba ante la FAO
Via Licinia 13a
00153 Rome, Italy
Phone: 39 06 5781123
Fax: 39 06 5780614

Mr Alberto Marrero Terrero
Director de Relaciones Internacionales
Oficina Nacional de Normalización
Calle E, No. 261, entre 11 y 13
Vedado, La Habana 10400
Phone: +53 7 300022
Fax: +53 7 338048
Email: ncnorma@ceniai.inf.cu

Mrs Teresita Crespo Salas
Subdirectora del Centro Nacional de Inspección de la Calidad del Ministerio de la Industria Alimenticia
Avenida Rancho Boyeros Km 3½
La Habana
Phone: +53 7-577143
Fax: +53 7-577166
Email: cnica@ceniai.inf.cu

Mr José A. Carrera Vara
Asesor de Protección de los Alimentos del Ministerio de la Salud Pública
Calle 23 y N
Edificio Soto
La Habana 10400
Phone: +53 7.553384
Fax: +53 7.662312
Email: carreraj@hesp.sld.cu

CYPRUS

Dr Ioannis Karis
Director of CYS
Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Tourism
39, Dem. Severis Ave.
P.O. Box 22418
1521 Nicosia, Cyprus
Phone: 357 2 867190
Fax: 357 2 375120

Email: doris@fishnavy.inf.cu
Mrs. Phrosso Hadjiiluca  
Standards Officer  
Cyprus Standards  
Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Tourism  
39. Dem Severis Ave.  
P.O. Box 22418  
1521 Nicosia, Cyprus  
Phone: +357 2 867100  
Fax: +357 2 375120

Mr Andreas Marangos  
Director, Cyprus Milk Industry Organization  
Ministry of Commerce, Industry & Tourism  
39. Dem Severis Ave.  
P.O. Box 22418  
1521 Nicosia, Cyprus  
Phone: +357 2 665697  
Fax: +357 2 667313

Mrs Katia Georgiades  
Administrative Officer  
Cyprus Milk Industry Organization  
Ministry of Commerce, Industry & Tourism  
P.O. Box 22418  
1521 Nicosia, Cyprus  
Phone: +357 2 665697  
Fax: +357 2 667313

Mr Jiri Novák  
Permanent Representative of the Czech Republic  
Embassy of the Czech Republic  
Via dei Gracchi 322  
00192 Rome, Italy  
Phone: 39 06 3244-459/62/63/64  
Fax: 39 06 3244-466

DENMARK

Mr Ole Kopp Christensen  
Head of Delegation  
Director  
Danish Veterinary and Food Administration  
Rolighedsvej 25  
DK-1958 Frederiksberg C  
Phone: +45 33956002  
Fax: +45 35358544  
Email: kc@vfd.dk

Ms Linda Jensen  
Food Scientist, Head of Legislation Service  
Federation of Pig Producers and Slaughter Houses  
Axeltorv 3  
DK-1609 København V  
Phone: +45 33116050  
Fax: +45 33936650  
Email: lmj@ds-data.dk

Ms Jytte Kjaergaard  
Consultant  
Danish Veterinary and Food Administration  
Rolighedsvej 25  
DK-1958 Frederiksberg C  
Phone: +45 33956120  
Fax: +45 35352976  
Email: koe@vfd.dk

Mr Jørgen Hald Christensen  
Head of Department  
Danish Dairy Board  
Frederiks Alle 22  
DK-8000 Aarhus C  
Phone: +45 87312000  
Fax: +45 87312001  
Email: jhc@mejeri.dk
Mr Tage Bak  
Head of Secretariat  
Danish Secretariat of Food, Drink and Service Workers  
C.F. Richs Vej 103  
DK-2000 Frederiksberg C  
Phone: +45 38861885  
Fax: +45 38883865  
Email: tabak@fds-iuf.dk

Ms Annette Toft  
Head of Department Research and Food  
The Agricultural Council of Denmark  
Axeltorv 3  
DK-1609 Copenhagen V  
Phone: +45 33145672  
Fax: +45 33149574  
Email: at@landbrug.dk

DOMINICA  
DOMINIQUE
H.E. Mrs Hannelore Benjamin  
Ambassador  
Embassy of the Commonwealth of Dominica  
Via Laurentina 767  
00143 Rome, Italy  
Phone: 39 06 5010-643  
Fax: 39 06 5010-643

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC  
RÉPUBLIQUE DOMINICAINE  
REPÚBLICA DOMINICANA
Lic. Luis Emilio Feliz Roa  
Director General de Salud Ambiental  
Coordinador del Comité Nacional del Codex  
Alimentarius, Coordinador Regional del Codex para América Latina y el Caribe  
Av. San Cristóbal Esq. Tiradentes, S.D.  
Phone: 544-2083  
Fax: 544-2083  
Email: lic_roa@hotmail.com

Mr Juan Borg Gil  
Ministro Consejero  
Embajada de la República Dominicana  
Via Domenico Chelini 10  
00197 Rome, Italy  
Phone: 39 06 8074-665  
Fax: 39 06 8074-791

ECUADOR  
ÉQUATEUR
Ministro Marco Samaniego Salazar  
Embajada del Ecuador  
Via Guido d’Arezzo, 14  
00198 Rome, Italy  
Phone: 39.06.8541-784  
Fax: 39.06.8535-4434  
Email: mecuador@flashnet.it

EGYPT  
ÉGYPTE  
ÉGITO
Chem. Magdy Ahmed Barakat  
Head of Delegation  
Director General  
Standards Department  
Egyptian Organization of Standardization and Quality Control (EOS)  
2 Latin America Street  
Garden City, Cairo  
Fax: +20.2.355.78.41

H.E. Nehad Ibrahim Abdel-Latif  
Ambassador  
Permanent Representative of Egypt to FAO  
Embassy of the Arab Republic of Egypt  
Via Salaria 267 (Villa Savoia)  
00199 Rome, Italy  
Phone: 39 06 8440191  
Fax: 39 06 8554424

Prof. Mohamed Fahmi Saddik  
Food Hygiene Department  
Institute of Nutrition  
16 Kasr El-Aini Street  
Cairo, Egypt  
Phone: 20 2 3646413  
Fax: 20 2 3647470

Dr Zeinab Abdel Haliem  
Director  
Food Control  
Ministry of Health and Population  
Ragles El Shab St.  
Cairo, Egypt  
Phones: +20 2 5941077/3548152

Dr Magda Ali Rakha  
Director of Central Laboratories and  
Undersecretary of State Laboratory Services  
Ministry of Health and Population  
CHL 19 El Sheikh Rihan Street  
Cairo  
Phone: +20 2 3548544  
Fax: +20 2 3558127
Dr Mohamed Amin Abdalla  
Faculty of Agriculture  
Ein Shams University  
P.O. Box 68  
Hadayek Shubra – Cairo  
Egypt

Eng Khadiga Mahmoud Khalil  
General Manager  
Quality Control  
Alexandria for Oil & Soap Co.  
16 Canal El-Mahmoudia  
Alexandria, Egypt  
Fax: 20.34922.220

Prof Salah El-Din Hussain Abou-Raya  
Faculty of Agriculture  
Cairo University  
34 Taiba St.  
Mohandseen  
Giza, Cairo  
Phone: +20 2 3493795

Mr Mohamed Khalifa  
Agricultural Counselor  
Embassy of the Arab Republic of Egypt  
Via Salaria 267 (Villa Savoia)  
00199 Rome, Italy  
Phone: 39 06 8440191  
Fax: 39 06 8554424

EL SALVADOR  

Sra. Maria Eulalia Jimenez  
Encargado de Negocios A.i.  
Ministro Consejero  
Embajada de El Salvador  
Via G. Castellini, 13  
00197 Rome, Italy  
Phone: 39 06 807-6605  
Fax: 39 06 807-9726

ERITREA  

Mr Yohannes Tensue  
Alternate Representative to FAO  
Embassy of Eritrea  
Via Boncompagni 16  
00187 Rome, Italy  
Phone: 39 06 4274-1293  
Fax: 39 06 4208-6806/4274-1514

ESTONIA  

Mr Toivo Novandi  
Head of Veterinary and Food Department  
Ministry of Agriculture  
39/41 Lai str.  
15056 Tallinn, Estonia  
Phone: 372 6 256142  
Fax: 372 6 256210

Her Excellency Mrs Elena Askerstam (Observer)  
Ambassador and Perm. Rep. to FAO  
Ministry of Agriculture  
Via dei Corazzieri, 94  
00143 Rome, Italy  
Phone: 39 06 5914-754  
Fax: 39 06 5914-754

Mr Ahto Hunt  
Chief Consultant  
The Association of Estonian Food Industry  
29 Gonsiori str.  
10147 Tallinn, Estonia  
Phone: 372 2 433819  
Fax: 372 6 312718

Mrs Helve Remmel  
Managing Director  
The Association of Estonian Food Industry  
29 Gonsiori str.  
10147 Tallinn, Estonia  
Phone: 372 2 422 246  
Fax: 372 6 312 718

ETHIOPIA  

Dr Mulat Abegaz  
Codex National Contact Point  
Dep. of Testing and Research Lab.  
Quality and Standards Authority of Ethiopia (QSAE)  
P.O. Box 2310  
Addis Ababa  
Phone: (251.1) 189283  
Fax: (251.1) 613177 (78)  
Email: qsae@telecom.net.et
FINLAND
FINLANDE
FINLANDIA

Mr Kalevi Salminen
Head of Delegation
National Food Administration
P.O. Box 5
FI-00531 Helsinki

Phone: +358 9 77267600
Fax: +358 9 77267666
Email: kalevi.salminen@elintarvikevirasto.fi

Ms Anna-Liisa Koskinen
Commercial Counsellor
Ministry of Trade and Industry
P.O. Box 230
FI-00171 Helsinki

Phone: +358 9 1603716
Fax: +358 9 1602648

Ms Anne Haikonen
Government Secretary
Ministry of Trade and Industry
P.O. Box 230
FI-00171 Helsinki

Phone: +358 9 1603654
Fax: +358 9 1602648

Mr Matti Aho
Deputy Director General
Veterinary and Food Department
Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry
P.O. Box 232
FI-00171 Helsinki

Phone: +358 9 1603380
Fax: +358 9 1603338
Email: matti.aho@mmm.fi

Mrs Marjatta Rahkio
Senior Health Official
Ministry of Social Affairs and Health
Department for Promotion of Welfare and Health
P.O. Box 267
FIN-00171 Helsinki

Phone: +358 9 1604121
Fax: +358 9 1604120

FRANCE
FRANCIA

Mr Hubert Ferry-Wylczek
Sous-directeur
Direction générale de l'alimentation
Ministère de l'agriculture et de la pêche
251 rue de Vaugirard
75732 Paris Cedex 15

Phone: +33 1 49555872
Fax: +33 1 49555948
Email: ferry-wilczek@agriculture.gouv.fr

Mme Roseline Lecourt
Chargé de Mission
Direction générale de la concurrence, de la consommation et de la répression des fraudes
Ministère de l'économie, des finances et de l'industrie
59 Bld Vincent Auriol
75703 Paris Cedex 13

Phone: +33 1 44973470
Fax: +33 1 44973037
Email: lecourt.roseline@dgccrf.finances.gouv.fr

Prof Pierre Louisot
Docteur en médecine-Docteur en sciences
Président du Comité Codex sur les Principes généraux
Faculté de Médecine Lyon-Sud
Département de Biochimie
INSERM U 189-CNRS
B.P. 12
69921 Oullins, France

Phone: 33 4 78 86 31 55
Fax: 33 4 78 50 71 52
Mme Isabelle Chmitelin  
Direction des relations économiques extérieures  
DREE-IVB  
Ministère de l’économie, des finances  
et de l’industrie  
1398, rue de Bercy  
75572 Paris Cedex 12  
**Phone:** +33 1 53188264  
**Fax:** +33 1 53189608  
**Email:** Isabelle.Chmitelin@dree.org

Mme Dominique Burel  
Chef de service réglementation  
CNIEL  
34, Rue de Saint-Pétersbourg  
75008 Paris Cedex 08  
**Phone:** +33 1 49707115  
**Fax:** +33 1 42806345  
**Email:** dburel-alf@cniel.com

Mr Thierry Geslain  
Chef du service scientifique et technique  
ANIA  
155, Bld Haussmann  
75008 Paris  
**Phone:** +33 1 53838600  
**Fax:** +33 1 45619664  
**Email:** tgeslain@ania.net

Mme Jolanta Leone  
Responsable réglementation  
BLEDINA Sa  
383 rue Philippe Héron  
BP 432  
69654 Villefranche-sur-Saône Cedex  
**Phone:** +33 4 74626374  
**Fax:** +33 4 74626488  
**Email:** jleone@bledina.danone.com

Mme Annie Loch  
Affaires Réglementaires  
Groupe Danone  
7, rue de Téhéran  
Paris Cedex 08, France  
**Phone:** +33 1 4435-2432  
**Fax:** +33 1 4435-2445  
**Email:** aloch@groupe.danone.com

Mr Jean-François Roche  
Direction générale de l’alimentation  
Ministère de l'agriculture et de la pêche  
251, rue de Vaugirard  
75732 Paris Cedex 15  
**Phone:** +33 1 49555881  
**Fax:** +33 1 49555948  
**Email:** jean-francois.roche@agriculture.gouv.fr

Mme Catherine Geslain-Laneelle  
Sous-directeur  
Direction de la production et des échanges  
Ministère de l'agriculture et de la pêche  
3 rue Barbet de Jouy  
75007 Paris  
**Phone:** +33.1.49555408  
**Fax:** +33.1.49555942  
**Email:** catherine.geslain-laneelle@agriculture.gouv.fr

Mr Jean-Michel Poirson  
Co-secrétaire du Comité national  
du Codex Alimentarius  
Secrétariat général du Comité interministériel  
européen pour les questions de coopération  
économique  
Carré Austerlitz  
2, bd Diderot  
75572 Paris Cedex 12  
**Phone:** +33 1 44871578  
**Fax:** +33 1 44871604  
**Email:** sgci-codex-fr@sgci.finances.gouv.fr

Mme Barbara Röstel  
Agence nationale du médicament vétérinaire  
Agence française de sécurité sanitaire des  
aliments  
ANMV-AFSSA  
B.P. 203  
35133 Fougères  
**Phone:** +33 2 999-47887  
**Fax:** +33 2 999-47899  
**Email:** b.rostel@anmv.afssa.fr

Mr Daniel Berthery  
Conseiller scientifique  
Représentation Permanente de la France auprès de  
l'OAA  
Corso del Rinascimento 52  
00186 Rome, Italy  
**Phone:** 39 06 6865-305  
**Fax:** 39 06 6892-692

Mr Jean-Claude Gillis  
ATLA  
34, rue de Saint Petersbourg  
75382 Paris Cédex 08  
**Phone:** +31 1 49707268  
**Fax:** +31 1 42806362
Mr Vincent Ducasse
Directeur de la réglementation et du
développement scientifique
Pole expertise eau
Groupe Danone
Square Beaujon
150 boulevard Haussmann
75008 Paris
Phone: +33 144352624
Fax: +33 144352427
Email: vducasse@groupe.danone.com

Mme Catherine Vigreux
Société Roquette
Responsable du Département des affaires
réglementaires
62136 Lestrem
Phone: +33 21633600
Fax: +33 21633850
Email: roquette.spi@wanadoo.fr

Mr Jean-Claude Lumaret
Société Roquette
Responsable de la division technico-légale
62136 Lestrem
Phone: +33 21633600
Fax: +33 21633850
Email: roquette.spi@wanadoo.fr

Ms Nadine Normand
Responsable du Programme de Normalisation
Agro-Alimentaire
AFNOR
Tour Europe
92049 Paris la Défense Cedex
Tel: 33.01.429158-24
Fax: 33.01.41915656
Email: nadine.normand@afnor.fr

GERMANY
ALLEMAGNE
ALEMANIA

Dr Wolf Hölzel
Head of delegation
Ministerialdirigent
Bundesministerium für Gesundheit
Am Propsthof 78a
D-53121 Bonn
Phone: +49 228 941-4100
Fax: +49 228 941-4941
Email: hoelzel@bmg.bund.de

Mr Rolf Grossklaus
Member
Direktor und Professor
Bundesinstitut für gesundheitlichen
Verbraucherschutz und Veterinärmedizin
Thielallee 88-92
D-14195 Berlin
Phone: +49 30 8412-3230
Fax: +49 30 8412-3715
Email: r.grossklaus@bgvv.de

Mr Hermann Brei
Member
Regierungsdirektor
Bundesministerium für Gesundheit
Am Propsthof 78a
D-53108 Bonn
Phone: +49 228 941-4141
Fax: +49 228 941-4947
Email: brei@bmg.bund.de

Mr Ortwin Schulte
Member
Oberregierungsrat
Bundesministerium für Gesundheit
Am Propsthof 78a
D-50108 Bonn
Phone: +49 228 941-1824
Fax: +49 228 941-4986
Email: schulte@bmg.bund.de

Dr Jutta Schaub
Member
Oberregierungsrätin
Bundesministerium für Ernährung
Landwirtschaft und Forsten
Rochusstrasse 1
D-53123 Bonn
Phone: +49 228 5293329
Fax: +49 228 5294404
Email: bn3329@bml.bund.de

Ms Dorothea Kellen
Member
Oberregierungsrätin
Bundesministerium für Ernährung,
Landwirtschaft und Forsten
Rochusstrasse 1
D-53123 Bonn
Phone: +49 228 529-3388
Fax: +49 228 529-4407
Email: bn3388@bml.bund.de
Mr Jörg-Helge Kroke  
Member  
Oberamtsrat  
Bundesministerium für Wirtschaft und Technologie  
Villemombler Strasse 76  
D-53123 Bonn  
Phone: +49 228 615-4221  
Fax: +49 228 615-2765

Mr Thomas Kuetzemeier  
Adviser  
Director  
Verband der Deutschen Milchwirtschaft e.V.  
Meckenheimer Allee 137  
D-53115 Bonn  
Phone: +49 228 982-430  
Fax: +49 228 982-4320  
Email: V.D.M.@t-online.de

Mr Hanspeter Schmidt  
Adviser  
Rechtsanwalt  
Arbeitsgemeinschaft Ökologischer Landbau e.V.  
Brandschneise 1  
D-64295 Darmstadt  
Phone: +49 6155.2081  
Fax: +49 6155.2083  
Email: AGOEL@t-online.de

Ms Gabriele Beutner  
Adviser  
Abr. Recht und Steuern  
Deutsche Unilever GmbH  
Dananterwall 15  
D-20355 Hamburg  
Phone: +49 40.34903535  
Fax: +49 40.354263  
Email: gabriele.beutner@unilever.com

Dr Arno Dopychai  
Adviser  
Verband Deutscher Mineralbrunnen e.V.  
Kennedyallee 28  
D-53229 Bonn  
Phone: +49 228 959900  
Fax: +49 228 373453  
Email: vdm.dopychai@t-online.de

Ms Susanne Langguth  
Adviser  
Direktorin ZAQ  
Südzucker AG Mannheim/Ochsenfurt  
Forschheimer Strasse 2  
D-90425 Nürnberg  
Phone: +49 911 9344461  
Fax: +49 911 9344560

Ms Angelika Mrohs  
Adviser  
Managing Director  
Bund für Lebensmittelrecht und Lebensmittelkunde e.V.  
Godesberger Allee 157  
D-53175 Bonn  
Phone: +49 228 819930  
Fax: +49 228 375069  
Email: amrohs@BLL-online.de

Dr Detlef J.G. Müller  
Adviser  
Principal Scientist  
Procter & Gamble European Service GmbH  
Industriestrasse 30-34  
D-65760 Eschborn  
Phone: +49 6196 894398  
Fax: +49 6196 896648  
Email: muller.d@pg.com

Dr Rolph Langlais  
Director, Scientific and Regulatory Affairs  
Coca-Cola GmbH  
Frankenstrasse 348  
D-45133 Essen, Germany  
Phone: +49 201 8211361  
Fax: +49 201 8211773  
Email: dlanglais@eur.ko.com

Mr Andreas Adelberger  
Executive Director  
Aktionsgruppe Babynahrung  
Untere Maschstr. 21  
D-37073 Goettingen, Germany  
Phone: +49 551 531034  
Fax: +49 551 531035  
Email: actionbabyfood@oln.comlink.apc.org
**Ghana**

Mr Mallam Seidu  
Head of delegation  
Alternate Permanent Representative  
Embassy of Ghana  
Via Ostriana, 4  
00199 Rome, Italy  
**Phone:** 39 06 8621-5691  
**Fax:** 39 06 8632-5762

Dr Charles Sagoe-Moses  
Ag. Regional Director of Health Services & Chairman-Ghana Infant Nutrition Action Network (GINAN)  
Greater Accra Region  
P.O. Box 6177  
Accra – North  
Accra, Ghana  
**Phone:** 00233 21 234-270  
**Fax:** 00233 21 233-340  
**Email:** gardcu@ighmail.com

**Greece**  
**Grèce**  
**Grecia**

Mr Dimitrios Gerakopoulos  
Head of delegation  
Codex Contact Point  
Ministry of Agriculture  
2 Acharnon St.  
101 76 Athens  
**Phone:** 01 5291-328  
**Fax:** 01 5238-337

Mr Dionysios A. Kyvetos  
Deputy Permanent Representative of Greece to FAO  
Embassy of Greece  
Via Saverio Mercadante 36  
00198 Rome, Italy  
**Phone:** 39 06 8549-630  
**Fax:** 39 06 8415-927  
**Email:** gremroma@box1.tin.it

Mrs Catherine Guini  
Alternate Permanent Representative of Greece to FAO  
Embassy of Greece  
Via Saverio Mercadante 36  
00198 Rome, Italy  
**Phone:** 39 06 8549-630  
**Fax:** 39 06 8415-927  
**Email:** gremroma@box1.tin.it

**Guatemala**

Mr Carlos Marroquin  
Head of Delegation  
Jefe Area de Inocuidad  
Ministerio de Agricultura, Ganadería y Alimentación  
7Av 12-90 Zona 13  
Guatemala  
**Phone:** 475-3058  
**Fax:** 475-3054  
**Email:** unr@infovia.com.gt

Mrs Rita Claverie de Sciolli  
Representante Adjunto  
Representación Permanente de Guatemala ante la FAO  
Via dei Colli della Farnesina 128  
00194 Rome, Italy  
**Phone:** 39 06 3630-7392/3630-3750  
**Fax:** 39 06 3291-639

**Guinea, Republic of**

**Guinée, République de**

**Guinea, República de**

H.E. Mr Souhaib Deek Bangoura  
Ambassadeur  
Représentation Permanente de la Rép. de Guinée auprès de la FAO  
Via Cassia, 1280  
00189 Rome, Italy  
**Phone:** 39 06 3036-6100  
**Fax:** 39 06 3036-6100

Mr Sékou Konate  
Directeur général adjoint  
de l’Institut national de normalisation et de métrologie  
Ministère du commerce et de l’industrie  
République de Guinée  
**Fax:** 224.41.39.90

**Haiti**

Mrs Suze Percy  
Représentant Permanent Adjoint  
Ambassade de la République d’Haïti  
Via Ottaviano, 32  
00192 Rome, Italy  
**Phone:** 39 06 3972-3362  
**Fax:** 39 06 3973-7764
Hungary
Hungria
Hungarie

Mr Endre Ràcz
Head of delegation
Ministry of Agriculture and Regional Development
1860 Budapest
55, Pf 1, Hungary
Phone: 36 1 3014383
Fax: 36 1 3014808

Mr István Garai
Executive President
National Association for Consumer Protection
1055-Budapest
Balaton u.27.I
Hungary
Phone: 36 1 3117030
Fax: 36 1 3117386

Mrs Erzsèb Schreiber
Technical Director
National Inspectorate of Consumer Protection
1088 Budapest
József krt. 2
Hungary
Phone: 354 569 7900
Fax: 354 569 7991
Email: thordur@hafro.is

Iceland
Islande
Islandia

Mr Thordur Asgeirsson
Head of Delegation
Director of Fisheries,
Directorate of Fisheries
Ingolfssstraeti 1
150 Reykjavik, Iceland
Phone: +91 11 3018842
Fax: +91 11 3018842
Email: jsd@mohfw.delhi.nic.in

Mrs Shashi Prabha Gupta
Technical Adviser (Food and Nutrition Board)
Department of Women and Child Development
Ministry of Human Resource Development
Government of India
New Delhi-110001
Phone: +91.11.3383823/Res: 6863063
Fax: +91.11.3381800/3381495
Email: tafnb.wed@sb.nic.in
shashi_p_gupta@hotmail.com

Dr N.N. Varshney
Specialist IV
National Dairy Development Board
Bangalore
(Karnataka)
Phone: +91 11.5711391
Fax: +91 11.805711168

Mr M.S. Marathe
Member
Managing Director
National Federation of Cooperative Sugar Factories Ltd.
82-83 Vaikunth Bldg.
3rd Floor
Nehru Place
New Delhi-110019
Phone: +91 11 6475169
Fax: +91 11 6465653

Mr Shanti Lal Jain
Director General, Industry Org. Indian Su
Indian Sugar Mills Association (ISMA)
Community Centre East of Kailash
39, Nehru Plaza
New Delhi 110065, India

Mr. M.K. Mandal
Agricultural Marketing Adviser
Ministry of Agriculture, Govt. of India
Nirman Bhavan, Room 527A
New Delhi-110021
Phone: +91 11.6188003
Fax: +91 11.618661
Email: ravindra@delhi.nddb.ernet.in

India
Inde

Mr Deepak Gupta
Head of delegation
Joint Secretary
Ministry of Health & FW
& Chairman of National Codex Committee
Nirman Bhavan
New Delhi 110001
Phone: +91 11 3018842
Fax: +91 11 3018842
Email: jsd@mohfw.delhi.nic.in

Mrs Shashi Prabha Gupta
Technical Adviser (Food and Nutrition Board)
Department of Women and Child Development
Ministry of Human Resource Development
Government of India
New Delhi-110001
Phone: +91.11.3383823/Res: 6863063
Fax: +91.11.3381800/3381495
Email: tafnb.wed@sb.nic.in
shashi_p_gupta@hotmail.com

Dr N.N. Varshney
Specialist IV
National Dairy Development Board
Bangalore
(Karnataka)
Phone: +91 11.5711391
Fax: +91 11.805711168

Mr M.S. Marathe
Member
Managing Director
National Federation of Cooperative Sugar Factories Ltd.
82-83 Vaikunth Bldg.
3rd Floor
Nehru Place
New Delhi-110019
Phone: +91 11 6475169
Fax: +91 11 6465653

Mr Shanti Lal Jain
Director General, Industry Org. Indian Su
Indian Sugar Mills Association (ISMA)
Community Centre East of Kailash
39, Nehru Plaza
New Delhi 110065, India

Dr Ravindra Kumar
Executive
National Dairy Development Board
Delhi-110029
India
Phone: +91 11.6188003
Fax: +91 11.618661
Email: ravindra@delhi.nddb.ernet.in

Mr. M.K. Mandal
Agricultural Marketing Adviser
Ministry of Agriculture, Govt. of India
Nirman Bhavan, Room 527A
New Delhi-110021
Phone: +91 11.6188003
Fax: +91 11.618661
Email: ravindra@delhi.nddb.ernet.in
Mr D.S. Negi  
Joint Secretary  
Animal Husbandry & Dairy Development  
Ministry of Agriculture  
Government of India  
Room No. 245  
1c Rishibhawan  
110001 New Delhi, India

Mr Shrivajirao G. Patil  
Chairman  
Indian Sugar & General Industry Export Import Corporation Ltd (ISGIEIC)  
21 Community Centre  
East of Kailash  
New Delhi 110065  
Phone: +91 11 6432461/2  
Fax: +91 11 6432060

Mr Indubhai Patel  
Hony Executive Vice-Chairman  
Indian Export General Import Corporation (ISGEC)  
21 East of Community Center  
New Delhi  
Phone: 91.11.6432461/6421892  
Fax: 91.11.6432060/6222140

Mr Sri Baloso P.B.K. Satyanarayana Rao  
Co-Chairman, Indian Sugar & General Industry Export Corp. Ltd & President  
Indian Sugar Mills Association  
Community Centre  
East of Kailash  
39, Nehru Place  
New Delhi 110065, India

Mr Kanthi K. Sharma  
Executive-Director, Ramgarh Chini Mills  
12th Floor; Hansalya  
15, Barakhamba Road  
New Delhi 110058  
Phone: +91 11 3310121  
Fax: +91 11 3313303

Mr Surendra S. Sirohi  
Chief Sugar Technologist  
National Federation of Cooperative Sugar Factories Ltd.  
82-83, Vaikunth  
3rd Floor  
Nehru Place  
New Delhi-110019  
Phone: +91 11 6412868  
Fax: +91 11 6465653

Mr Devdas Chhotray  
Joint Secretary  
Ministry of Food Processing Industries  
Panchsheel Bhavan  
August Kranti Marg  
New Delhi - 110049  
Phone: 91.11.6492476  
Fax: 91.11.6493298  
Email: devdas_chhotray@hotmail.com

Mr Shri R.P. Singhal  
Chief Director (Sugar)  
Ministry of Food & Consumer Affairs  
Department of Sugar & Edible Oils  
Directorate of Sugar  
Krishi Bhavan  
New Delhi – 110001, India

Dr M.R. Shivade  
Scientist  
Vasantdada Sugar Institute  
Pune, India

Mr D. Rajagopalan  
Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority  
Ministry of Commerce  
3rd Floor, Ansal Chambers No. II.6  
Bhikaji Cama Place  
New Delhi 110066  
Phone: 011.6164350 (direct)/6192141  
Fax: 011.619.5016  
Email: chairman@apeda.delhi.nic.in

Mr Shri J.J. Bhagat  
Mission Director  
Sugar Technology Mission  
Department of Science & Technology  
Government of India  
D-5 Dutab Hotel  
Technology Bhavan  
New Delhi – 110016  
Phone: 91.11.6964656  
Fax: 91.11.6863866

INDONESIA  
INDONÉSIE

Dr Ato Suprapto  
(Head of Delegation)  
Agency for Agribusiness  
Ministry of Agriculture  
Jl. Harsono RM No. 3  
Pasar Minggu  
Jakarta 12550  
Phone: +62 21 7815880  
Fax: +62 21 7815880  
Email: kapsa-agribisnis@deptan.go.id
Dr Wahyudi Sugiyanto (Alternate)
Agency for Agribusiness
Ministry of Agriculture
Jl. Harsono RM No. 3
Pasar Minggu
Jakarta 12550

- **Phone:** +62 21 7815880
- **Fax:** +62 21 7815880
- **Email:** kapsa-agribisnis@deptan.go.id

Prof. Dr. Tien R. Muhtadi
Expert for the Minister of Food
Ministry of Food and Horticulture
Bulog II Bldg.
Jl. Kuningan Timur
Jakarta, Indonesia

- **Phone:** +62 251 621031
- **Fax:** +62 251 621031

Mr Djumarman
Ministry of Industry and Trade
Jl. Gatot Subroto
Jakarta Selatan, Indonesia

- **Phone:** +62.21.525 5861
- **Fax:** +62.21.525 5861
- **Email:** ses-ikahh@dprin.go.id
djumarman@pusdata.dprin.go.id

Mr Moch Ma’roef
Ministry of Health
Jakarta, Indonesia

- **Phone:** +62.21.4241781
- **Fax:** +62.21.4253856

Mr Sumpeno Putro
Agriculture Counsellor
Indonesian Mission to E.C.
Boulevard de la woluwe, 38
B-1200 Brussels
Belgium

- **Phone:** +6221.5747043/44
- **Fax:** +6221.5747045
- **Email:** bsn-std@rad.net.id

Ms Erniningsih Haryadí
National Standardization Agency of Indonesia
Manggala Wanabakti, Blok IV, lt IV
Jl. Gatot Subroto
Jakarta Selatan, Indonesia

- **Phone:** +6221.5747043/44
- **Fax:** +6221.5747045
- **Email:** bsn-std@rad.net.id
Ms Wahyuningsih  
Food Associate  
Jakarta, Indonesia  
**Phone:** +6261.8710211  
**Fax:** +6261.8710404

Ms Elisabeth Jonosewojo  
Food Beverages Associate  
Jakarta, Indonesia  
**Phone:** +62.21.7661612  
**Fax:** +62.21.7510380

**IRELAND**  
**IRELANDE**  
**IRLANDA**

Mr Richard Howell  
Agricultural Inspector  
Department of Agriculture and Food  
6E Agriculture House  
Kildare St.  
Dublin 2  
**Phone:** +353 1 6072572  
**Fax:** +353 1 6616263  
**Email:** rhowell@indigo.ie

Ms Geraldine Kelly  
Assistant Principal Officer  
Food Unit  
Department of Health and Children  
Hawkins House  
Dublin 2  
**Phone:** +353 1 635 4404  
**Fax:** +353 1 6713164  
**Email:** geraldine.kelly@health.irigov.ie

Mr Alan Reilly  
Director - Operations, Food Safety  
Authority of Ireland  
Abbey Court  
Lower Abbey St.  
Dublin 1  
**Phone:** +353 1 8171300  
**Fax:** +353 1 8171301  
**Email:** areilly@gsai.it

**ISRAEL**  
**ITALIE**  
**ITALIA**

Mr Elazar Cohen  
Permanent Representative of Israel to FAO  
Via Michele Mercati 14  
0097 Rome – Italy  
**Phone:** 39 06 3619-8500  
**Fax:** 39 06 3619-8555

Mrs Brunella Lo Turco  
Segretario Generale  
Comitato Nazionale Codex  
Ministero delle Politiche Agricole  
Via XX Settembre, 20  
00187 Rome  
**Phone:** +39 06 46655016  
**Fax:** +39 06 4880273  
**Email:** bloturco@ats.it

Mr Hassan Yazdanpanah,  
Scientific Member of the Pharmacology and Toxicology Department, College of Pharmacy, Shahid Beheshti University of Medical Sciences, and Health Services, Teheran, I.R. Iran  
**Phone:** +9821.8774283  
**Fax:** +9821.8795008  
**Email:** pharmacy@kanoon.net

Mr Mostafa Jafari  
Alternate, Permanent Representative to FAO  
Perm. Rep. of Iran to FAO  
Via Aventina No. 8  
00153 Rome, Italy  
**Phone:** +39 06.5780-334  
**Fax:** +39 06.5747-636  
**Email:** om.ir.iranfao@flashnet.it

Mr Bader Allawi  
Head of delegation  
Permanent Representative  
Perm. Rep. of Iraq to FAO  
Via della Camilluccia 355  
00135 Rome, Italy  
**Phone:** 39 06 3014-452  
**Fax:** 39 06 3014-445
Mr Franz Hall  
Counsellor in the Permanent Mission of Jamaica  
36, rue de Lausanne  
1201 Geneva, Switzerland  
Phone: 41.22.908 0760  
Fax: 41.22.738 4420

Dr Keiji Tanaka  
Director  
Food Sanitation Division  
Environmental Health Bureau  
Ministry of Health and Welfare  
1-2-2 Kasumigaseki Chiyoda-ku  
Tokyo  
Phone: +81 3 3595-2326  
Fax: +81 3 3503-7965  
Email: kt-prm@mhw.go.jp

Dr Noriko Iseki  
Assistant Director  
(Biotech. Food Safety)  
Food Sanitation Division  
Environmental Health Bureau  
Ministry of Health and Welfare  
1-2-2 Kasumigaseki Chiyoda-ku  
Tokyo  
Phone: +81 3 3595-2326  
Fax: +81 3 3503-7965  
Email: ni-hyy@mhw.go.jp

Mr Toshihito Ikeda  
Deputy Director  
Food Chemistry Division  
Environmental Health Bureau  
Ministry of Health and Welfare  
1-2-2 Kasumigaseki Chiyoda-ku  
Tokyo  
Phone: +81 3 3595-2341  
Fax: +81 3 3501-4868  
Email: ti-jaa@mhw.go.jp

Dr Shoji Miyagawa  
Deputy Director  
Veterinary Sanitation Division  
Environmental Health Bureau  
Ministry of Health and Welfare  
1-2-2 Kasumigaseki Chiyoda-ku  
Tokyo  
Phone: +81 3 3595-2327  
Fax: +81 3 3503-7964

Dr Kazuaki Miyagishima  
Associate Professor  
Graduate School of Medicine  
Kyoto University  
Tokyo  
Phone: +81 75 753-4464  
Fax: +81 75 753-4466  
Email: miyagishima@pbh.med.kyoto-u.ac.jp

Mr Kazuharu Okuma  
National Association of Food Industry  
Tokyo  
Phone: +81.3.3716-2150  
Fax: +81.3.3716-2700

Mr Osamu Suganuma  
The Japanese National Committee of IDF  
Tokyo, Japan
Mr Yasuyuki Nagara  
Technical Adviser  
National Association of Food Industries  
6-18 Kamimeguro 3-chome  
Meguroku  
Tokyo  
  Phone: +81 3 37162004  
  Fax: +81 3 37162700  
  Email: jafic@mb.infoweb.or.jp

Mr Akira Kitamura  
JETRO  
London Center  
United Kingdom  
  Phone: 44 171 470-4766  
  Fax: 44 171 629-7802  
  Email: kitamuraaki@jetro.go.jp

Dr Toru Hayashi  
National Food Research Institute  
Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries  
Tsukuba, Japan  
  Phone: +81 298 38 7991  
  Fax: +81 298 38 8005

Mr Masato Ito  
Minister  
Permanent Representative of Japan to FAO  
Embassy of Japan  
Via Quintino Sella 60  
00187 Rome, Italy  
  Phone: 39 06 487991  
  Fax: 39 06 487-3316

Mr Takanori Ohashi  
Alternate Permanent Representative of Japan to FAO  
Embassy of Japan  
Via Quintino Sella 60  
00187 Rome, Italy  
  Phone: 39 06 487991  
  Fax: 39 06 487-3316

KENYA  
Mr Tom K. Olielo (Head of Delegation)  
Senior Principal Standards Officer  
Head of Agrochemical Branch  
Kenya Bureau of Standards  
KEBS Centre  
P.O. Box 54974  
Nairobi, Kenya  
  Phone: +254 2 502211-19  
  Fax: +254 2 503293  
  Email: kebs@users.africaonline.co.ke

H.E. Mr Bob F. Jalang’o  
Ambassador and Permanent Representative to FAO  
Kenya Embassy  
Via Archimede 164  
00197 Rome – Italy  
  Phone: 39 06 8082-714  
  Fax: 39 06 8082-707

Mr Paul K. Chepkwony  
Agriculture Attaché  
Kenya Embassy  
Via Archimede 164  
00197 Rome – Italy  
  Phone: 39 06 8082-714  
  Fax: 39 06 8082-707

Mr Joseph K. Boinnet  
Second Secretary  
Kenya Embassy  
Via Archimede 164  
00197 Rome – Italy  
  Phone: 39 06 8082-714  
  Fax: 39 06 8082-707

KOREA, REPUBLIC OF  
CORÉE, RÉPUBLIQUE DE  
COREA, REPÚBLICA DE

Mr Kyeong-Sang Rho  
Deputy Permanent Representative to FAO  
Embassy of the Republic of Korea in Rome  
Via Barnaba Oriani, 30  
00197 Rome, Italy  
  Phone: +39 06 808-8769  
  Fax: +39 06 8068-7794  
  Email: amb3.corea@agora.stm.it
Dr Sang-Jin Lee  
Assistant Director  
Bilateral Cooperation Division  
International Agriculture Bureau  
Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry  
#1 Jungang-dong, Kwacheon-city, Kyonggi-do  
Seoul  
Phone: +82 2 500 2656  
Fax: +82 2 503 0673  
Email: sjlee@maf.co.kr

Mr Jae-han Kwon  
Alternate Permanent Representative to FAO  
Embassy of the Republic of Korea in Rome  
Via Barnaba Oriani, 30  
00197 Rome, Italy  
Phone: +39 06 808-8769  
Fax: +39 06 8068-7794  
Email: amb3.corea@agora.stm.it

Miss Yoo-kyung Lee  
Researcher  
Food Standards Division  
Korea Food Research Institute  
San 46-1, Baekhyun-dong, Bundang-ku  
Songnam-Si  
Kyonggi-do 463-420  
Phone: +82 342 7809158  
Fax: +82 342 7809264  
Email: soln@kfri.re.kr

Dr Mee-ah Park  
Researcher of Food Sanitation Council  
Ministry of Health and Welfare  
5, Nokbun-Dong  
Eunpyung-Ku  
Seoul 122-704  
Phone: +82 2 380 1559  
Fax: +82 2 383 8321  
Email: codexkorea@kfda.go.kr

LESOTHO  
Mr T.M. Khalema  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
Embassy of Lesotho  
Via Serchio, 8  
00198 Rome, Italy  
Phone: 39 06 8542-496  
Fax: 39 06 8542-527  
Email: les.rome@flashnet.it

Mrs Maphutheho Ranooe  
1st Secreatry  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
Embassy of Lesotho  
Via Serchio, 8  
00198 Rome, Italy  
Phone: 39 06 8542-496  
Fax: 39 06 8542-527  
Email: les.rome@flashnet.it

LITHUANIA  
LITUANIE  
LITUANIA  
His Excellency  
Algirdas Zemaitis  
Ambassador  
Permanent Representation of the Republic of Lithuania to FAO  
Via al Quarto Miglio 111  
00178 Rome, Italy  
Phone: 39 06 7187-297  
Fax: 39 06 7182-225  
Email: lith.fao@flashnet.it

LUXEMBURG  
LUXEMBOURG  
LUXEMBURGO  
Mr Raymond Dutreux  
Conseiller de Légation  
Representant Permanent adjoint auprès de la FAO  
Ambassade du Luxembourg  
Via di Santa Croce in Gerusalemme, 90  
00185 Rome, Italy  
Phone: 39 06 7720-1177/8  
Fax: 39 06 7720-1055  
Email: jean@pronet.it
**MADAGASCAR**

Mr Monja  
Représentant Permanent Adjoint  
Ambassade de Madagascar à Rome  
Via Riccardo Zandonai, 84/A  
00194 Rome, Italy  
**Phone:** 39 06 3630-7797  
**Fax:** 39 06 3294-306

**MALAYSIA**

Dr Tee E Siong  
Head  
Division of Human Nutrition  
Institute for Medical Research  
Jalan Pahang  
50588 Kuala Lumpur  
**Phone:** 603-2986704  
**Fax:** 603-2943575  
**Email:** teees@imr.gov.my

Ms Nor Aini Sudin  
Head  
Technical Advisory Service  
Palm Oil Research Institute of Malaysia (PORIM)  
Ministry of Primary Industries  
P.O. Box 10620  
50720 Kuala Lumpur  
**Phone:** 603 8259-432  
**Fax:** 603 8259-446  
**Email:** noraini@porim.gov.my

Mr Ahmad Loman  
Principal Assistant Secretary  
Ministry of Primary Industries  
6-8th Floor, Menara Dayabumi  
Jalan Sultan Hishamuddin  
50654 Kuala Lumpur  
**Phone:** 603 2747-511  
**Fax:** 603 2745-014  
**Telex:** MA 30806 KPU  
**Email:** ahmadl@kpu.gov.my

Ms Mariam Abdul Latif  
Assistant Director  
Food Quality Control Division  
Ministry of Health Malaysia  
Jalan Dungun  
50490 Kuala Lumpur  
**Phone:** 603 2540-088  
**Fax:** 603 2537-804  
**Email:** mal@dph.gov.my

**MALAYSIE**

**MALASIA**

**MALTA**

H.E. Mr F. Montanaro Mifsud  
Ambassador  
Permanent Representation of Malta to FAO  
Lungo Tevere Marzio 12  
00186 Rome, Italy  
**Phone:** 39 06 6879-947  
**Fax:** 39 06 6892-687

**MAURITIUS**

**MAURICE**

**MAURICIO**

Mr L.K. Ma Poon  
Principal Research Development Officer,  
Ministry of Agriculture  
Food Technology and Natural Resources  
Port Louis  
**Phone:** (230) 208-7128  
**Fax:** (230) 212-4427  
**Email:** cjmm@intnet.mu

Mr J. Deville  
Deputy Director  
Mauritius Sugar Industry Research Institute  
Port Louis  
**Phone:** (230) 454-1061  
**Fax:** (230) 454-1971  
**Email:** jdeville@msiri.intnet.mu
MEXICO
MEXIQUE
MÉXICO
Lic. Carmen Quintanilla Madero
Directora General de Normas
Secretaría de Comercio y Fomento
Industrial (SECOFI)
México
Phone: (52) 57299475
Fax: (52) 57299484

Lic Marcial A. Morfin Maciel
Director de Asuntos Internacionales
Dirección General de Normas
SECOFI
México
Phone/Fax: (52) 57299480
Email: mmurfin@secofi.gob.mx

Ing Juvenal Castoréna Contreras
Subdirector de Normalización y Certificación
Dirección General de Agricultura
Secretaría de Agricultura, Ganadería y Desarrollo
Rural (SAGAR)
México
Phone: (52) 52039760/52033923

Cons. José Robles-Aguilar
Representante Permanente Adjunto de México
ante la FAO
Via Lazzaro Spallanzani, 16
00161 Rome, Italy
Phone: 39 06 440-4400/1/2
Fax: 39 06 440-3876

Lic. María de los Ángeles Arriola Aguirre
Representante Permanente Alterna de México
ante la FAO
Via Lazzaro Spallanzani, 16
00161 Rome, Italy
Phone: 39 06 440-4400/1/2
Fax: 39 06 440-3876

Sra Claudia González Eguía
Representación de la Secretaría de Medio Ambiente
Recursos Naturales y Pesca
(SEMARNAP) de México en Italia
c/o Delegación Permanente de México
ante la FAO
Via Lazzaro Spallanzani, 16
00161 Rome, Italy
Phone: 39 06 440-4400/1/2
Fax: 39 06 440-3876

Mvz Moisés García Díaz
Médico Sanitarista Responsable
Sigma Alimentos, Centro, S.A. Df. C.V.
Cámara Nacional de la Industria de la
Transformación (CANACINTRA)
México
Phone: 52 27 17 23
Fax: 57 14 40 41
Email: moisesgd@sigma-alimentos.com

MOROCCO
MAROC
MARRUECOS
Mr Majdi Mohammed
Chef de la Division de la Répression des Fraudes
Président de la délégation
Ministère de l’agriculture, du développement
rural et des pêches maritimes
B.P. 476 Agdal
Rabat, Royaume du Maroc
Phone: +212 7 298150
Fax: +212 7 297546

Mme Zakia Driouich
Chef de la division du contrôle des produits, de la
normalisation et de la promotion commerciale à la
direction des industries de la pêche maritime
Ministère des pêches maritimes
B.P. 476 Agdal
Rabat, Royaume du Maroc
Phone: +212 7 688271
Fax: +212 7 688294
Email: driouich@mp3m.gov.ma

Mr Ahmed Afaillal
Représentant permanent adjoint auprès de la FAO
Ambassade du Maroc
Via Lazzaro Spallanzani 8-10
00161 Rome, Italy
Phone: 39 06 4402-524
Fax: 39 06 4402-695

Mr Hassain Tagafait
Dr. Vétérinaire, Cadre technique
Ministère de l’Agriculture, du développement
rural et de la pêche maritime
EACCE
72, M° Smiha
Casablanca, Maroc
MOZAMBIQUE
Mr Ananias B. Sigauque
Alternate Rep. to FAO
Embassy of Mozambique
Via Filippo Corridoni, 14
00195 Rome, Italy
Phone: 39 06 3751-4852
Fax: 39 06 3751-4699

NETHERLANDS
PAYS-BAS
PAÍSES BAJOS
Mr Steven van Hoogstraten
Deputy Director General of International Affairs
Ministry of Justice
Schedeldoekshaven 100
P.O. Box 20301
2500 EH The Hague, Netherlands
Phone: +31 70 3707701
Fax: +31 70 3707999
Email: shoogstr@best.dep.minjus.nl

Mr Edwin Hecker
Chairman CCFAC
Account-manager
Ministry of Agriculture, Nature Management and Fisheries
Bezuidenhoutseweg 73
P.O. Box 20401
2500 EK The Hague, Netherlands
Phone: +31 70 3785686
Fax: +31 70 3786141
Email: E.F.F.Hecker@vvm.agro.nl

Mr Otto Knottnerus
Central Product Board for Arable Products
P.O. Box 29739
2502 LS The Hague, Netherlands
Phone: +31 70 370 83 43
Fax: +31 70 370 84 44
Email: o.c.knottnerus@hpa.agro.nl

Dr Wim van Eck
Ministry of Health, Welfare and Sport
P.O. Box 20350
2500 EJ The Hague, Netherlands
Phone: +31 70 340 69 66
Fax: +31 70 340 55 54
Email: wh.v.eck@minvws.nl

Dr Ludwig Bercht (Associate)
Legislative Director
Dutch Dairy Association
P.O. Box 165
2700 AD Zoetermeer, Netherlands
Phone: +31 79 343 03 04
Fax: +31 79 342 61 85
Email: bercht@nzo.nl

Ms Jennifer Hagenstein
Codex Contact Point Netherlands
Ministry of Agriculture, Nature Management and Fisheries
Bezuidenhoutseweg 73
P.O. Box 20401
2500 EK The Hague, Netherlands
Phone: +31 70 378 41 04
Fax: +31 70 378 61 41
Email: s.p.j.hagenstein@vvm.agro.nl

Mrs Trudy van Ommeren
Programme Coordinator
Wemos
P.O. Box 1693
1000 BR Amsterdam, Netherlands
Phone: +31 20 468 83 88
Fax: +31 20 468 60 08
Email: trudy.van.ommeren@wemos.nl

NEW ZEALAND
NOUVELLE-ZÉLANDE
NUEVA ZELANDIA
Mr Sundararaman Rajasekar
Manager WTO/SPS & Codex Coordinator and Contact Point for New Zealand
MAF Policy
Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry
ASB Bank House
101-103 The Terrace
P.O. Box 2526
Wellington
Phone: +64 4 4744216
Fax: +64 4 4730118
Email: raj@maf.govt.nz

Ms Fiona Duncan
Policy Analyst
MAF Policy
Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry
ASB Bank House
101-103 The Terrace
P.O. Box 2526
Wellington
Phone: +64 4 4744298
Fax: +64 4 4744163
Email: duncanf@maf.govt.nz
Mr Philip Fawcet  
National Manager  
International Standards (Dairy)  
MAF Regulatory Authority  
P.O. Box 2526  
Wellington  
**Phone:** +64 4 4989874  
**Fax:** +64 4 4744196  
**Email:** fawcetp@maf.govt.nz

Dr Steve Hathaway  
National Manager for Technical  
Development & Risk Analysis  
MAF Regulatory Authority (Meat and Seafood)  
P.O. Box 646  
Gisborne  
**Phone:** +64 6 8671144  
**Fax:** +64 6 8685207  
**Email:** hathaways@maf.govt.nz

Dr Peter O’Hara  
Chair Milk & Milk Products Committee  
Ministry of Agriculture & Forestry  
P.O. Box 2526  
Wellington

**NIGERIA**  
**NIGÉRIA**

Prof. Joseph Ahmadu Abalaka  
Director General (Leader)  
Standards Organization of Nigeria  
Phase 1, 9th Floor  
Federal Secretariat  
Ikoyi, Lagos  
**Phone:** +234 1 2696178  
**Fax:** +234 1 2696178

Mr R. Kayode Omotayo  
Director, Food & Drug Services  
Federal Ministry of Health  
Room 318, Block 4B  
Federal Secretariat  
Shehu Shagari Way  
Abuja, Nigeria  
**Phone:** 234.09.5237759  
**Fax:** 234.09.5238366

Mr J.T. Oshikanlu  
Head of Standards  
Standards Organisation of Nigeria  
Ikoyi - Lagos  
**Phone:** +234.1.2696176

Mrs Comfort B.Osaniyi  
Deputy-Director, Food & Cosmetics Services  
Federal Ministry of Health  
Food & Drug Services Dept.  
Federal Secretariat  
Shehu Shagari Way  
Abuja, Nigeria  
**Phone:** 234.09.5237759

Mr D.U. Agbanelo  
Head of Laboratory Services  
Standards Organisation of Nigeria  
Ikoyi – Lagos

Mrs Jane Nzeoma  
Assistant Chief Regulatory Officer  
National Agency for Food and Drug  
Administration and Control  
2nd Floor, Federal Secretariat  
Phase II, Ikoyi-Lagos  
**Phone:** 234.1.689046  
**Fax:** 234.1.2693104

Mr Onyeabo Emmanuel Onwukeme  
Alternate Permanent Representative  
Permanent Representation of Nigeria to FAO  
Embassy of Nigeria  
Via Orazio 14-16  
00193 Rome, Italy  
**Phone:** 39 06 6896-231  
**Fax:** 39 06 6832-528

**NORWAY**  
**NORVÈGE**  
**NORUEGA**

Mr John Race  
Head of Delegation  
Special Adviser International Affairs  
Norwegian Food Control Authority  
P.O. Box 8187 Dep  
N-0034 Oslo  
**Phone:** +47 22 246650  
**Fax:** +47 22 246699  
**Email:** john.race@snt.dep.telemax.no
Mr Gunnar Jordfald  
Director General  
Norwegian Food Control Authority  
PO Box 8187 Dep  
N-0034 Oslo  
Phone: +47 22 246650  
Fax: +47 22 246699  
Email: gunnar.jordfald@snt.dep.telemax.no

Mr Aksel-Reidar Eikemo  
Head of Department  
Directorate of Fisheries  
Department of Quality Control  
PO Box 185  
N-5002 Bergen  
Phone: +47 55 238000  
Fax: +47 55 238090

Mr Henrik Stenwig  
Assistant Director General  
Ministry of Agriculture  
PO Box 8007 Dep  
N-0030 Oslo  
Phone: +47 22 249401  
Fax: +47 22 249559  
Email: henrik.stenwig@ld.dep.no

Mrs Ragnhild Kjelkevik  
Special Adviser  
Norwegian Food Control Authority  
PO Box 8187-Dep  
N-0034 Oslo  
Phone: +47 22 246650  
Fax: +47 22 246699

Dr Anders Oterholm  
Norwegian Dairies' Association  
PO Box 9051 Grønland  
N-0133 Oslo  
Phone: +47 22 938800  
Fax: +47 22 172299

Mrs Tone Matheson  
Research Manager  
Ministry of Health and Social Affairs  
P.O. Box 8011 Dep  
N-0030 Oslo  
Email: tone-elisabeth.matheson@shd.dep.no

Mr A.B. Khan  
Agriculture Counsellor  
Embassy of Pakistan  
Via della Camilluccia, 682  
00135 Rome, Italy  
Phone: 39 06 3630-1775  
Fax: 39 06 3630-1936

H.E. Mr Ismael Bernal  
Embajador/Representante Permanente  
Representación Permanente de Panamá ante la FAO  
Viale Regina Margherita, 239 – Piso 4  
00198 Rome, Italy  
Phone: 39 06 4426-5429  
Fax: 39 06 4425-2332

Mr R.R. Inchausti-Valdez  
Consejero, Representante Permanente Alterno  
Embajada de Paraguay  
Via Salaria, 237b  
00198 Rome, Italy  
Phone: 39 06 8845-698  
Fax: 39 06 8558-739  
Email: irazuvic@com.py

Mr Victor M. Irazusta (Observer)  
Edif. Ayfra 5º P. – Pdte. Franco Y/Ayolas  
Asu., Paraguay  
Phone/Fax: 493845  
Email: irazuvic@com.py
PERU
PÉROU
PERÚ

H.E. Mrs Ana María Deustua Caravedo
Ambassador, Permanent Representative
Perm. Rep. of Peru to FAO
Via F. Siacci 4 – Int. 4
00197 Rome, Italy
  Phone: 39 06 8069-1510
  Fax: 39 06 8069-1777
  Email: emb.peru@agora.stm.it

Mrs Marcela Lopez de Ruiz
Alternative, Representative
Perm. Rep. of Peru to FAO
Via F. Siacci 4 – Int. 4
00197 Rome, Italy
  Phone: 39 06 8069-1510
  Fax: 39 06 8069-1777
  Email: emb.peru@agora.stm.it

Dr Carlos Pastor Talledo
Director Ejecutivo de Higiene Alimentaria
y Control de Zoonosis
Dirección General de Salud Ambiental
Ministerio de Salud
Las Amapolas No. 350
Lima 14, Peru
  Phone: +51 06 4428353
  Fax: +511 4428353-225/4406797
  Email: cpastor@digesa.sld.pe

Mrs Maria Estela Ayala
Directora de Investigación del Instituto
Tecnológico Pesquero
Carretera A Ventanilla Km. 5,200
Callao 1, Peru
  Fax: +51 1577-3130
  Email: postmast@itp.org.pe

Ing. Alicia De La Rosa Brachowicz
Servicio Nacional de Sanidad Agraria
Dirección General de Sanidad Vegetal
Ministerio de Agricultura
Pasaje Zela S/N Piso 10ª
Jésus Maria – Lima 11
Peru
  Phone/Fax: +511 433-8048
  Email: adellarosa@senasa.minag.gob.pe

Mr Miguel Barreto
Alternative, Representative
Perm. Rep. of Peru to FAO
Via F. Siacci 4 – Int. 4
00197 Rome, Italy
  Phone: 39 06 8069-1510
  Fax: 39 06 8069-1777
  Email: emb.peru@agora.stm.it

PHILIPPINES
FILIPINAS

Dr Maria Concepción C. Lizada
Acting Director
Bureau of Agriculture and Fisheries Products Standards
Department of Agriculture
Metro Manila

Mr Noel D. De Luna
Deputy Permanent Representative to FAO
Philippine Embassy
Viale delle Medaglie d’Oro, 112
00136 Rome, Italy
  Phone: 39 06 3974-6717
  Fax: 39 06 3988-9274
  Email: ph1@xplore.it

POLAND
POLOGNE
POLONIA

Mr Lucjan Szponar
Director
National Food and Nutrition Institute
61/63 Powsinska Street
02-903 Warsaw
  Phone: +8422171
  Fax: +8421103

Dr Jan Szymborski
Head of Veterinary Public Health Division
Ministry of Agriculture and Food Economy
30 Wspolna Street
00930 Warsaw
  Phone: +22.621.89.13
  Fax: +22.623.14.08

Mr Pawel Budynek
Director
Agricultural and Food Quality Inspection (CIS)
32/34 Zurawia str.
00-950 Warsaw
  Phone: +22 6216421or 6252028
  Fax: +22 6214858
  Email: Cis@wa.onet.pl
Mrs Anna Skrzynska  
Head of Department  
Agricultural and Food Quality Inspection (CIS)  
32/34 Zurawia str.  
00-950 Warsaw  
Phone: +22 6216421 or 6252028  
Fax: +22 6214858  
Email: Cis@wa.onet.pl

Mrs Elzbieta Markowicz  
Main Specialist  
Agricultural and Food Quality Inspection (CIS)  
32/34 Zurawia str.  
00-950 Warsaw  
Phone: +22 6216421 or 6252028  
Fax: +22 6214858  
Email: Cis@wa.onet.pl

PORTUGAL

Mr Carlos Alberto Milheirico de Andrade Fontes  
Assessor-Principal G.P.P.A.A.  
Ministry of Agriculture, Rural Development and Fisheries  
Lisboa, Portugal  
Phone: +351 1 387-6635  
Fax: +351 1 387-6635  
Email: gppaadi@mail.telepac.pt

Eng. Manuel Barreto Dias  
Ministerio da Agricultura  
Director do Laboratorio Central de Qualidade Alimentar da Direccao-Geral de Fiscalizacao e Controlo da Qualidade Alimentar  
Av. Conde Valbom, 98  
1050 Lisboa, Portugal  
Phone: +351 1 798-3700  
Fax: +351 1 798-3834  
Email: dgfcqa.dgfcqa@mail.telepac.pt

Dr Maria do Carmo Neves  
Ministerio da Agricultura  
Assessora-Principal da Direccao-Geral de Fiscalizacao e Controlo da Qualidade Alimentar  
Av. Conde Valbom, 98  
1050 Lisboa, Portugal  
Phone: +351 1 798-3823/4  
Fax: +351 1 798-3834  
Email: dgfcqa.dgfcqa@mail.telepac.pt

Eng. Ana Maria Amaral  
Técnica-Principal da Direccao-Geral de Fiscalizacao e Controlo da Qualidade Alimentar  
Lisboa, Portugal  
Phone: 351.1.319-2923  
Fax: 351.1.319-2919

ROUMANIE

ROMANIA

Mr Tudorel Baltá  
Director  
Min. of Agriculture and Food Ministry  
Bucharest, Romania  
Phone: +401 3135089  
Fax: +401.3112278

Mr Ioan Pavel  
Permanent Representative, ad.interim  
Ambassade de Roumanie  
Via Nicolò Tartaglia 36  
00197 Rome, Italy  
Phone: 39 06 8084-529  
Fax: 39 06 8084-995

Mrs Olimpia Voroverci  
Rumanian Standards Association (ASRO)  
21-25 Mendeleer  
70168 Bucharest  
Phone: +40 1 6155870 or 213296  
Fax: +40 1 210 0833

Mr Flaviu Pop  
Bioagrirom President  
Rumanian Association for Biological Agriculture  
Brason 2200  
Str. Ciobarnuhui 13  
Phone: +40 6.8150785  
Fax: +40 6.8418855
RUSSIAN FEDERATION
FÉDÉRATION DE RUSSE
FEDERACIÓN DE RUSIA
H.E. Mr Igor Shapovalov
Minister Plenipotentiary
Observer of the Russian Federation to FAO
Min. for Foreign Affairs
Embassy of the Russian Federation
Via Gaeta, 5
00100 Rome, Italy

Dr Igor Sinelnikov
Alternate Observer of the Russian Federation to FAO
Embassy of the Russian Federation
Via L. Magrini, 10 – B 33
00146 Rome, Italy
Phone/Fax: 39 06.5592-972

Ms Rusanova Svetlana N.
Chief, Department for Fisheries of the Russian Federation
12, Rozdestvensky Blvd
103031 Moscow
Phone: +268 21 89
Fax: +264 91 87

Ms Chupakhina Nina V.
Chief, Laboratory of Fish and Fishery Products Standards, VNIRO
17, V. Krasnoselskaya St.
107140 Moscow
Phone: +268 21 89
Fax: +264 91 87

SAUDI ARABIA, KINGDOM OF
ARABIE SAOU DITE, ROYAUME D’
ARABIA SAUDITA, REINO DE
Mr Ahmad Alaquil
Perm. Representative to FAO
Embassy of Saudi Arabia
Via della Piramide Cestia 63
00153 Rome, Italy
Phone: 39 06 5740-901
Fax: 39 06 5758-916

SENEGAL
SÉNÉGAL
H.E. Mr Mame Balla Sy
Ambassadeur
Représentant permanent du Sénégal auprès de la FAO
Via Giulia, 66
00186 Rome, Italy
Phone: 39 06 6872-353
Fax: 39 06 6865-212

Mr Moussa Bocar Ly
Ministre Conseiller
Représentant Permanent Adjoint
Ambassade de Sénégal
Via Giulia, 66
00186 Rome, Italy
Phone: 39 06 6872-353
Fax: 39 06 6865-212

SINGAPORE
SINGAPOUR
SINGAPUR
Ms Seah Huay Leng
Head, Food Control Department
Ministry of the Environment
The Environment Building
40 Scotts Rd. # 19-00
Singapore 228231
Phone: +65 7319819
Fax: +65 7319843 or 7319844
Email: Seah_Huay_Leng@env.gov.sg

Dr Chua Sin-Bin
Director
Veterinary Public Health and Food Supply
Primary Production Department
Ministry of National Development
5, Maxwell Road #03-00 Tower Block
MND Complex
Singapore 069110
Phone: +65 3257622
Fax: +65 2206068
Email: CHUA_Sin_Bin@PPD.GOV.SG

Dr Chew Siang-Thai
Head
Veterinary Public Health Laboratory
Primary Production Department
Ministry of National Development
51 Jalan Buroh
Singapore 619495
Phone: +65 2670826
Fax: +65 2650784
Email: CHEW_Siang_Thai@PPD.GOV.SG
**SLOVAKIA**
**SLOVAQUIE**
**ESLOVAQUIA**
Mr Milan Kovác  
Director  
Food Research Institute  
Priemyselná 4  
P.O. Box 25  
824 75 Bratislava  
**Phone:** +421 7 5557-4622  
**Fax:** +421 7 5557-1417  
**Email:** milan.kovac@vup.sk

Mrs Katarína Chudiková  
Head Department of Hygiene of Environment and Working Conditions  
Ministry of Health  
Limbova 2  
83007 Bratislava  
**Phone:** +421 7 547.77.938  
**Fax:** +421 7 547.77.465  
**Email:** katarina.chudikova@health.gov.sk

Mrs Truskova Iveta  
Head of Department of Food Hygiene and Nutrition  
State Institute for Health of Slovak Republic  
Trnavska cesta 52  
82645 Bratislava  
**Phone:** 421.7.44372287  
**Fax:** 421.7.44372641

**SLOVENIA**
**SLOVENÉIE**
**ESLOVENIA**
Mr Danilo Beloglavel  
Perm. Rep. of Slovenia to FAO  
Via della Traspontina, 15  
00193 Rome, Italy  
**Phone:** 39 06 5091-4379  
**Fax:** 39 06 5091-4379  
**Email:** dbeloglavec@getnet.it

**SOUTH AFRICA**
**AFRIQUE DU SUD**
**SUDÁFRICA**
Dr Theodore van de Venter  
Director  
Food Control  
Department of Health  
Private Bag X 828  
0001 Pretoria  
**Phone:** +27 12 3120185  
**Fax:** +27 12 3264374  
**Email:** ventert@hltrsa.pwv.gov.za

Dr Pieter van Twisk  
Nutrition Consultant  
P.O. Box 72860  
0040 Lynnwood Ridge  
**Phone:** +27 12 3483207  
**Fax:** +27 12 3483207  
**Email:** vantwisk@iafrica.com

Mrs L. Anelich  
Head  
Dept. of Food Technology  
Pretoria Technikon  
Private Bag X680  
0001 Pretoria  
**Phone:** +27.12.3186241  
**Fax:** +27.12.3186256  
**Email:** Lucia@Techpta.ac.za

Dr J.A. Thomas  
Agricultural Counsellor  
South African Embassy  
Via Tanaro, 14  
00198 Rome, Italy  
**Phone:** 39 06 8525-4249  
**Fax:** 39 06 8525-4258/24  
**Email:** agri.rome@flashnet.it

Mrs Prof. Thabisile Hlatshwayo-Moleah  
Medical University of Southern Africa  
Institute for Human Nutrition  
P.O. Box 167  
Medunsa 0204  
Pretoria, South Africa  
**Phone:** +27 12 521-5718  
**Email:** mhlatsho@medunsa.ac.za
Spain
Espagne
España
Dr Felipe Mittelbrunn
Jefe de Delegación
Consejero Técnico
Secretaría de la Comisión Interministerial para la Ordenación Alimentaria
Subdirección General de Higiene de los Alimentos
Ministerio de Sanidad y Consumo
Paseo del Prado 18-20
28071 Madrid
Phone: +34 91 596 1346
Fax: +34 91 596 4487
Email: fmittelbrunn@msc.es

Mr Ignacio Trueba
Representante Permanente de España ante la FAO y el PMA
Largo dei Lombardi, 21
00186 Rome, Italy
Phone: 39 06 6869-539
Fax: 39 06 6873-076
Email: repfaoes.agri@iol.it

Mr Javier Piernavieja Niembro
Representante Permanente Adjunto ante la FAO y el PMA
Largo dei Lombardi, 21
00186 Rome, Italy
Phone: 39 06 6869-539
Fax: 39 06 6873-076
Email: repfaoes.agri@iol.it

Sri Lanka
Mr Deeptha Kulatilleke
Counsellor and Alternate Perm. Rep. of Sri Lanka
Embassy of Sri Lanka
Via Adige, 2
00198 Rome, Italy
Phone: 39 06 8554-560/18
Fax: 39 06 8424-1670
Email: mc7785@mclink.it

Sudan
Soudan
Sudán
Professeur Suad Hassan Satti
Director
National Chemical Laboratories and Food Safety Coordinator
Federal Ministry of Health
P.O. Box 287
Khartoum, Sudan
Phone: +249 11 772991 or 779789

Prof Mohamed Said Mohamed Ali Harbi
Sudan Permanent Representative to FAO/IFAD/WFP
Sudan Embassy
Via Lazzaro Spallanzani 24
00161 Rome, Italy
Phone: 39 06 4403-071
Fax: 39 06 4452-358 or 4402-358

Swaziland
Swazilandia
Ms Khanyisile Mabuza
Food Technologist
Ministry of Agriculture Co-ops
Malkerns Research Station
Box 4
Malkerns, Swaziland

Mr Richard Mfana Mamba
Senior Health Inspector
Box 5
Mbabane, Swaziland

Ms Pauline Kisanga
Chief Nutritionist
Box 781
Mbabane, Swaziland
Phone: 268 40 45006
Fax: 268 40 40546
Email: pkisanga@realnet.co.sz

Sweden
Suede
Suecia
Mr Bertil Norbelie
Head of Delegation
Director General
National Food Administration
PO Box 622
S-75126 Uppsala
Phone: +46 18 175500
Fax: +46 18 105848
Email: beno@slv.se
Mrs Awilo Ochieng-Pernet  
Swiss Federal Office of Public Health  
3003 Berne, Switzerland  
**Phone:** +41 31 3229503  
**Fax:** +41 31 3229574

Mrs Claudia Locatelli  
Swiss Federal Office for Foreign Economic Affairs  
3003 Berne  
**Phone:** 41.31.324 0847  
**Email:** claudia.locatelli@seco.admin.ch

Mr Jörg von Manger-Koenig  
Head of Regulatory Affairs  
F. Hoffmann-La Roche Ltd., AG,  
Vitamins and Fine Chemicals Division  
CH-4070 Basel, Switzerland  
**Phone:** 41.61.688 83 00  
**Fax:** 41.61.688 1635  
**Email:** joerg.von_manger-koenig@roche.com

Mr Urs Klemm  
Swiss Federal Office of Public Health  
Haslerstrasse 27  
3003 Berne  
**Fax:** +41 31 3229574

Mr Rolf Gerber  
Ministre représentant permanent de la Suisse auprès de la FAO et du PAM  
Viale Aventino 89  
00153 Rome, Italy  
**Phone:** 39 06 5756-293  
**Fax:** 39 06 5756-321

Mrs Christina Blumer  
Swiss Federal Office of Agriculture  
Mattënhofstrasse 5  
3003 Berne  
**Phone:** +41 31 324-9661  
**Fax:** +41 31 322-9574  
**Email:** Christina.Blumer@bln.admin.ch

Mr Hervé Nordmann  
Monsanto  
1143 Apples  
**Phone:** 41.21.8003763  
**Fax:** 41.21.8004087  
**Email:** h.h.nordmann@monsanto.com

**SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC**  
**RÉPUBLIQUE ARABE SYRIENNE**  
**REPÚBLICA ARABE SIRIA**

Mr Kosay Moustafa  
3rd Secretary of the Syrian Embassy  
Syrian Embassy  
Piazza d’Aracoeli, 1  
00186 Rome, Italy  
**Phone:** 39 06 6797-791/2/3  
**Fax:** 39 06 6794-989

**TANZANIA, UNITED REPUBLIC OF**  
**TANZANIE, RÉPUBLIQUE-UNIE DE**  
**TANZANIA, REPÚBLICA UNIDA DE**

Dr Claude J.S. Mosha  
Head, Agriculture and Food Section  
Codex Contact Point Officer  
Tanzania Bureau of Standards  
P.O. Box 9524  
Dar es Salaam, Tanzania  
**Phone/Fax:** 255 51 450959  
**Email:** standards@twiga.com

Ms Perpetua Mary Hingi  
Embassy of Tanzania  
Via C. Beccaria, 88  
00196 Rome, Italy  
**Phone:** 39 06 3211-374  
**Fax:** 39 06 3216-611  
**Email:** tanzanrep@pcg.it

Mr Obadiah N. Msaki  
Principal Standards Officer  
Ministry of Industries and Trade  
Tanzania Bureau of Standards  
P.O. Box 9524  
Dar Es Salaam  
**Email:** materu@ud.co.tz

**THAILAND**  
**THAILANDE**  
**TAILANDIA**

Ms Kanya Sinsakul  
Head of Delegation  
Secretary-General  
Thai Industrial Standards Institute  
Ministry of Industry  
Rama VI Street  
Ratchathewi  
Bangkok 10400  
**Phone:** +66 2 202-3400  
**Fax:** +66 2 246-4085  
**Email:** kanya@tisi.go.th
Mrs Atchara Suyanan
Minister
Royal Thai Embassy
Permanent Representation of Thailand to FAO
Via A. Messedaglia 6 – int. 2
00191 Rome, Italy
Phone: 39 06 3339-347
Fax: 39 06 3322-2034
Email: thagri.rome@flashnet.it

Mr Chao Tiantong
Minister (Agriculture)
Permanent Representative of Thailand to FAO
Royal Thai Embassy
Via A. Messedaglia 6 – int. 2
00191 Rome, Italy
Phone: 39 06 3339-347
Fax: 39 06 3322-2034
Email: thagri.rome@flashnet.it

Mr Chumanrn Sirirugsa
Director
Office of Agricultural Standards and Inspections
Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives

Dr Chanin Charoenpong
Expert in Food Standard
Food and Drug Administration
Ministry of Public Health

Mr Prathan Prasertvithiakarn
Senior Pharmacist
Food and Drug Administration
Ministry of Public Health

Mr Padunkit Sanguqwatana
Senior Pharmacist
Food and Drug Administration
Ministry of Public Health

Ms Charuayporn Tantipipatpong
President
Thai Food Processors’ Association

Ms Pranee Srisomboon
Technical Manager
Thai Food Processors’ Association

Ms Metanee Sukontarug
Director
Office of the National Codex Alimentarius Committee
Thai Industrial Standards Institute
Ministry of Industry

Mr Pisit Rangsaritwutikul
Standards Officer 8
Thai Industrial Standards Institute
Ministry of Industry

Mr Kasem Prasutsanghchan
First Secretary and Alternate Permanent Representative of Thailand to FAO
Royal Thai Embassy
Via A. Messedaglia 6 – int. 2
00191 Rome, Italy
Phone: 39 06 3339-347
Fax: 39 06 3322-2034
Email: thagri.rome@flashnet.it

THE FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA
L’EX-RÉPUBLIQUE YUGOSLAVE DE MACÉDOINE
LA EX REPÚBLICA YUGOSLAVA DE MACEDONIA

Mrs Svetlana Ugrinovska
Counsellor of the Minister
Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Economy
Leninova 2
91000 Skopje
Phone: +389.91.113045/134477
Fax: +389.91.230429/130286

Mrs Sofija Kuzmanovska
Counsellor of the Minister
Bureau of Standardization and Metrology
Ministry of Economy
Samoilova 10
91000 Skopje
Phone: +389.91.131102
Fax: +389.91.110263
Email: sofijak@mpt.com.mk

TUNISIA
TUNISIE
TÚNEZ

Mr. Meftah Amara
Directeur Général de l’Agro-alimentaire
Ministère de l’Industrie
Cité Montplaisir
Tunis, Tunisie

Mr S. Cheniti
Directeur au Ministère de la Santé
Ministère de la Santé
Bab Saadoulun
1030 Tunis, Tunisia
Phone: 216.1576115
Fax: 216.1576010
Mr Ahmet Saylam  
Agricultural Counsellor  
Perm. Rep. of Turkey to FAO  
Via F. Denza 27, int. 16  
00197 Rome, Italy  
Phone: 39 06 8069-0562  
Fax: 39 06 8066-5610  
Email: faodt@itn.it

Dr Eve Kasirye-Alemu  
Head of Delegation  
Executive Director  
Uganda National Bureau of Standards  
P.O. Box 6329  
Kampala, Uganda  
Phone: +256 41 222367/9  
Fax: +256 41 286123  
Email: unbs@starcom.co.ug

Mr Samuel Balagadde  
Standards Officer  
Uganda National Bureau of Standards  
P.O. Box 6329  
Kampala, Uganda  
Phone: +256 41 222367/9  
Fax: +256 41 286123  
Email: unbs@starcom.co.ug

Dr Abdulla Salim Salem Ruwaida  
Public Health Consultant  
General Secretariat of Municipalities  
P.O. Box 5665  
Dubai  
Phone: 971 4 237785  
Fax: 971 4 236136

Mr Hassan Saeed Ben-Marei  
Head of Labs and Specifications  
Food & Environmental Control Centre  
P.O. Box 3111  
Abu-Dhabi - Municipality  
Abu Dhabi  
Phone: 971 2 741423  
Fax: 971 2 785961

Mr Khalid Moh.Sharif Al-Awadi  
Head of Food Control Section  
Dubai -Municipality  
Public Health Dept.  
P.O. Box 67  
Dubai  
Phone: 971 4 212842  
Fax: 971 4 231905

Dr D. Kennedy  
Food Labelling and Standards Division  
Branch C  
Joint Food Safety and Standards Group  
Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food  
Room 316, Ergon House c/o Nobel House  
17 Smith Square  
London SW1P 3JR  
Phone: +44 171 238 5574  
Fax: +44 171 238 5782

Mr Simon Renn  
Food Labelling and Standards Division  
Branch C  
Joint Food Safety and Standards Group  
Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food  
Room 325b, Ergon House c/o Nobel House  
17 Smith Square  
London SW1P 3JR  
Phone: +44 171 238 6480  
Fax: +44 171 238 6763
Dr F. Edward Scarbrough  
Head of Delegation  
U.S. Manager for Codex  
Office of the Under-Secretary for Food Safety  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
Rm 4861 South Building  
1400 Independence Avenue S.W.  
Washington, DC 20250  
**Phone:** +1 202 2057760  
**Fax:** +1 202 203157

Mr L. Robert Lake  
Alternate  
Director  
Office of Policy, Planning and Strategic Initiatives  
Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition (HFS-4)  
Food and Drug Administration  
200 C Street, SW  
Washington DC 20204  
**Phone:** +1 202 7207025  
**Fax:** +1 202 2050158

Mr Patrick Clerkin  
Associate U.S. Manager for Codex  
U.S. Codex Office  
Food Safety and Inspection Service  
US Department of Agriculture  
Room 4861 South Building  
1400 Independence Ave., SW  
Washington DC 20250  
**Phone:** +1 202 2057760  
**Fax:** +1 202 720.3157

Mr Thomas J. Billy  
Administrator  
Food Safety and Inspection Service  
US Department of Agriculture  
Room 331-E James Whitten Bldg.  
1400 Independence Ave., SW  
Washington, DC 20250  
**Phone:** +1 202 7207025  
**Fax:** +1 202 2050158

Ms Maritza Colón-Pullano  
Director  
International Regulatory Issues Staff  
Food and Drug Administration  
Room 14-90 Parklawn Building  
5600 Fishers Lane HFC-2  
Rockville, MD 20857  
**Phone:** +1 301 8274553  
**Fax:** +1 301 8271451  
**Email:** mpullano@ora.fda.gov

Dr H. Michael Wehr  
Special Assistant to the Director  
Office of International and Constituent Operations  
Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition (HFS-22)  
Food and Drug Administration  
200C Street, SW  
Washington DC 20204  
**Phone:** +1 202 205 2786  
**Fax:** +1 202 205 0165

Dr Stephen F. Sundlof  
Director  
Center for Veterinary Medicine  
Food and Drug Administration  
7500 Standish Place  
Rockville, MD 20855  
**Phone:** +1 301 5941740  
**Fax:** +1 301 5941830  
**Email:** ssundlof@bangate.fda.gov

Mr Lloyd Harbert  
Director  
Office of Food Safety and Technical Services  
Foreign Agricultural Service  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
Room 5547 South Building  
1400 Independence Ave., SW  
Washington DC 20250  
**Phone:** +1 202 690 0607  
**Fax:** +1 202 690 0677

Dr Marilyn Bruno  
Agricultural Trade Policy  
U.S. Department of State EB/TTP/ATP  
Washington DC 20520-3526  
**Phone:** +1 202 647 2062  
**Fax:** +1 202 647 1894  
**Email:** brunomj@state.gov
URUGUAY
Mr Galdós G. Ugarte
Codex Regional Coordinator for Latin America & the Caribbean
Director Unidad, Asuntos Internacionales
Ministerio de Ganadería, Agricultura y Pesca
Constituyente 1476
Montevideo, Uruguay
Phone: +598 2 402.63.58
Fax: +598 2 402.63.65

Embajador Felipe H. Paolillo
Embajada de la Rep. Oriental del Uruguay
Oficina del Rep. Perm. ante la FAO
Via Antonio Gramsci 9 – int. 14
00197 Rome, Italy
Phone: 39 06.321-8904 or 8017
Fax: 39 06 361-3249
Email: uruvati@mbox.vol.it

Mr Joaquín Píriz
Representante Alterno Ministro
Montevideo, Uruguay

Dra Laura Galarza
Representante Alterno Suplente
Montevideo, Uruguay

Dr Arturo Navarro
Director General del Ministerio de Industria, Energía y Minería
Montevideo
Phone: +598 2 9008533
Fax: +598 2 9000291

Dr Alfredo Toledo
Ministerio de Salud Pública
Montevideo
Phone: +598 2 487-80-10

Ing. Ana Berti
Directora
Ministerio de Ganadería, Agricultura y Pesca
Avda. Millán 4703
Montevideo
Phone: +598 2 308.30.68
Fax: +598 2 308.30.69
Email: ana.berti@hotmail.com

Esc. Beatriz Ramos
Directora del Area Defensa del Consumidor
Ministerio de Economía y Finanzas
25 de Mayo 737
Montevideo
Phone: +598 2 904106
Fax: +598 2 921043

VIET NAM
His Excellency Mr Minh Quôc Trân
(Head of delegation)
Ambassador
Permanent Representative to FAO
Embassy of Viet Nam
Via Clitunno, 34-36
00198 Rome, Italy
Phone: 39 06 8543-223
Fax: 39 06 8548-501

Mr Quoc Dat Nguyen
Senior Officer
Economist
Department of International Cooperation
Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development
Bach Thao
2, Ngrá Ha
Hanoi
Phone: +84 4 7332205
Fax: +84 4 8454319

Eng Tran Viet Nga
Expert on Food Management of Viet Nam Food Administration - Ministry of Health
138A Giangvo Str.
Hanoi
Phone: +84 4 8463739 or 8463702
Fax: +84 4 8463739

Dr Ha Thi Anh Dao
Deputy Director of Food Science and Safety Dept.
National Institute of Nutrition
MOH
48 Tang Bat Ho Str.
Hanoi
Phone: +84 4 9717090
Fax: +84 4 9717885

Mrs Nguyen Thixuan Huong
Viet Nam Embassy
Via Clitunno, 34-36
00198 Rome, Italy
Phone: 39 06 8543-223
Fax: 39 06 8548-501
ZIMBABWE

Mr David B. Nhari  
Government Analyst Laboratory  
P.O. Box CY 231 Causeway  
Harare  

Phone: +263.4.792026/7  
Fax: +263.4.708527

Mr B. Mugobogobo  
Counsellor  
Min. of Foreign Affairs  
Embassy of Zimbabwe  
Via Virgilio, 8  
00193 Rome, Italy  

Phone: +39 06 6830-8282  
Fax: +39 06 6830-8324

Miss Sophia Nyamudeza  
Counsellor  
Min. of Foreign Affairs  
Embassy of Zimbabwe  
Via Virgilio, 8  
00193 Rome, Italy  

Phone: +39 06 6830-8282  
Fax: +39 06 6830-8324

ALLIANCE DES PAYS PRODUCTEURS DE CACAO  
(COPAL)

Mr D. S. Kamga  
Secrétaire Général  
Alliance des Pays Producteurs de Cacao  
(COPAL)  
8/10 Broad Street, 11th Floor  
Western House  
P.O. Box 1718  
Lagos  
Nigeria  

Phone: +234 1 2635574  
Fax: +234 1 2635684

Mr Ake Silas Ake  
Ing. Agro-Economiste  
Alliance des Pays Producteurs de Cacao  
(COPAL)  
8/10 Broad Street, 11th Floor  
Western House  
P.O. Box 1718  
Lagos  
Nigeria  

Phone: +234 1 2635574  
Fax: +234 1 2635684

UKRAINE  
UKRAINA

Mr Mykola Prodanchuk  
Professor, Vice Head  
Secretary Ukrainian National Commission CA  
Ministry of Health, Ukraine  
Heroiv Oborony St. 6  
Kyiv, 252022, Ukraine

EUROPEAN COMMUNITY

Mr Jörn Keck  
Deputy Director General  
Head of Delegation  
200 Rue de la Loi  
B-1049 Bruxelles  
Belgique  

Phone: +32 2 299 30 18  
Fax: +32 2 296 70 11

Mr Patrick Deboyser  
Head of “Foodstuffs”  
European Commission  
200, rue de la Loi  
B-1049 Bruxelles  
Belgique  

Phone: +32 2 2951529  
Fax: +32 2 2951735  
Email: patrick.deboyser@dg3.cec.be

Mr Henri Belvèze  
Principal Administrator  
Directorate General: Consumer  
Policy and Consumer Health Protection  
200 Rue de la Loi  
B-1049 Bruxelles  
Belgique  

Phone: +32 2 2962812  
Fax: +32 2 2996297  
Email: henri.belveze@dg24.cec.be

INTERNATIONAL GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

AFRICAN REGIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR STANDARDIZATION (ARSO)

Dr A.O. Oyejola  
Secretary-General, ARSO  
P.O. Box 57363  
Nairobi, Kenya  

Phone: 254.2.224561  
Fax: 254.2.218792  
Email: aoyejola@nbnet.co.ke
Mr Leo Hagedoorn
Expert
European Commission
Directorate General III: Industry
Foodstuffs - Legislation; Scientific and Technical Aspects
200 rue de la Loi
B-1049 Bruxelles
Belgique
  Phone: +32 2 299 3149
  Fax: +32 2 295 1735
  Email: Leo-frans.Hagedoorn@dg3.cec.be

Miss Marie Thisse
Stagiaire
European Commission
Directorate General: Consumer Policy and Consumer Health Protection
232, Rue Belliard
B-1040 Bruxelles
Belgique
  Phone: +32 2 2962583
  Fax: +32 2 2996303

Mr M. Castellina
Administrateur Principal
Agriculture et protection de la santé des consommateurs
European Commission, DG TA
200 rue de la Loi
B-1049 Bruxelles
Belgique
  Phone: +32 2 2856197
  Fax: +32 2 285 7928
  Email: dgb@consilium.eu.int

Mrs Gabriella Erdini
Secretariat of the Council of Ministers
175, rue de la Loi
1048-Bruxelles, Belgium
  Email: dgb@consilium.eu.int

EUROPEAN FREE TRADE ASSOCIATION (EFTA)
Ms Berit Wilsher
Director
Goods Unit
EFTA
74 rue de Trèves
1040 Bruxelles
Belgique
  Phone: +32 2 2861738
  Fax: +32 2 2861750
  Email: berit.wilsher@secrbru.efta.be

INTERNATIONAL FUND FOR AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT (IFAD)
Mrs Paola Ortensi
Permanent Advisor
IFAD
Via Savoia 72
00198 Rome, Italy

INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE OF REFRIGERATION (IIR)
Mr Félix Depledt
IIR
177, boulevard Malesherbes
75017 Paris, France
  Phone: +33 1 42 27 32 35
  Fax: +33 1 47 63 17 98
  Email: iifiir@ibm.net

ORGANISATION AFRICAINE ET MALGACHE DU CAFÉ (O.A.M.CAF)
M. Philippe Moudié
Secrétaire général
Organisation Africaine et Malgache du Café (O.A.M.CAF)
27, Quai Anatole-France
75007 Paris, France
  Phone: +47053136 or 45516010
  Fax: + 45516202

Mr Paul Culley
Secretariat of the Council of Ministers
175 Rue de la Loi
1048 Brussels
Belgium
  Phone: +32 2 2856197
  Fax: +32 2 285 7928
  Email: dgb@consilium.eu.int

Mr Paul Reiderman
Secretariat of the Council of Ministers
175 rue de la Loi
1048 Brussels, Belgium
  Email: dgb@consilium.eu.int

Mrs Gilberte Van Den Abbeelee
Secretariat of the Council of Ministers
175 rue de la Loi
1048 Brussels, Belgium
  Email: dgb@consilium.eu.int
OFFICE INTERNATIONAL DES ÉPIDZOOTIES
(O.I.E.)

Dr Thierry Chillaud
Chef du service de l’information
et des échanges internationaux
12, rue de Prony
75017 Paris
France
Phone: +33 1 44151888
Fax: +33 1 42670987
Email: oie@oie.int

OFFICE INTERNATIONAL DE LA VIGNE ET DU VIN
(O.I.V.)

Mr Yann Juban
Unité Réglementation & Droit
OIV
18 rue d’Aguesseau
75008 Paris
France
Phone: +33 1 44948095
Fax: +33 1 42669063
Email: Yjuban@oiv.org

WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION (WTO)

Mr Erik Wijkström
Economic Affairs Officer
WTO
154 Rue de Lausanne
1211 Geneva, Switzerland
Phone: 41 22 739-5729
Fax: 41 22 739-5760
Email: erik.wijkstrom@wto.org

INTERNATIONAL NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

APIMONDIA

Mr Raymond Borneck
President
2 Rue du Creux
F 39380 Montbarrey
France
Phone: +33 3 84815007
Fax: +33 3 84815007
Email: apiborneck@compuserve.com

ASSOCIATION DES AMIDONNERIES DE CÉRÉALES
DE L’UE (A.A.C.)

Mr Damien Plan
Assistant Secretary General
43, Avenue des Arts
B-1040 Bruxelles
Belgique
Phone: +32.2.289.67.60
Fax: +32.2.513.55.92
Email: aac.brussels@skynet.be

ASSOCIATION INTERNATIONALE DE L’INDUSTRIE
DES BOUILLONS ET POTAGES DE LA CEE
(AIIBP)

Dr Hans-Joachim Mürau
Secretary General
Reuterstraße 151
D-53113 Bonn
Germany
Phone: +49 228 212017
Fax: +49 228 219460

Mr M. Feys
Amylum Belgium
Burchstraat 10
B-9300 Aalst, Belgium
Phone: +32.53.73.33.15
Fax: +32.53.73.30.28

Mr Ernst G. Rapp
Ernest-Claes-Laan 4
B-3080 Tervuren
Bruxelles
Phone: 322.7610948
Fax: 322.7610910

ASSOCIATION OF EUROPEAN COELIAC SOCIETIES
(AO ECS)

Mrs Hertha Deutsch
Director
Association of European Coeliac Societies
Anton Baumgartner Str. 44/C5/2302
A 1230 Vienna
Austria
Phone: +43 1 6671887
Fax: +43 1 66718874
ASSOCIATION OF THE EUROPEAN SELF-MEDICATION INDUSTRY (AESGP)

Mr Johan Lindberg
Legal Affairs Executive
AESGP
7, avenue de Tervuren
B-1040 Brussels
Belgium
Phone: +32 2 7355130
Fax: +32 2 7355222
Email: j.lindberg@aesgp.be

ASSOCIATION INTERNATIONALE POUR LE DÉVELOPPEMENT DES GOMMES NATURELLES (AIDGUM)

Mr Gontran Dondain
Président, AIDGUM
129, chemin de croisset
B.P. 415176723
76 Rouen, France
Phone: +33 2 32831818
Fax: +32 2 32831919

Professor Glyn Phillips
AIDGUM Scientific Adviser
129 chemin de croisset
B.P. 4151
76723 Rouen
France
Phone: +33 2 32831818
Fax: +32 2 32831919

ASEAN VEGETABLE OILS CLUB (AVOC)

Mr Derom Bangun
AVOC Chairman
c/o PORAM
801C/802A Block B
Kelana Business Center
97 Jalan SS 7/2, 47301
Kelana Jaya
Selangor, Malaysia

COMITÉ EUROPÉEN DES FABRIQUANTS DE SUCRE (CEFS)

Dr Nathalie Henin
182, avenue de Tervuren
1150 Bruxelles
Belgium
Email: nathalie.henin@cefs.org

COMITÉ DES FABRICANTS D’ACIDE GLUTAMIQUE DE LA COMMUNAUTÉ EUROPÉENNE (COFAG)

Mr Guion Philippe
Executive Secretary
COFAG
c/o Eurolysine
153, rue de Courcelles
75817 Paris Cédex 17, France
Phone: +33 1 44401229
Fax: +33 1 44401215
Email: philippe_guion@eli.ajinomoto.com

Mr Okiyama Atsusi
Scientific adviser
c/o Eurolysine
153, rue de Courcelles
75817 Paris Cédex 17
France
Phone: +33 1 44401229
Fax: +33 1 44401215

COMITÉ DE LIASON DES ORGANISATIONS DES INDUSTRIES CONDIMENTAIRES DE L’U.E. (AIFLV-CIMCEE-CIMSCEE)

Mr Dan Dils
Président de la Commission Technique CLIC
c/o Bestfoods Belgium N.V.
St. Pietersvliet, 7 - Bus 4
B-2000 - Antwerpen
Belgium
Phone: +32 2 7438730
Fax: +32 2 7368175

Mr Michel Coenen
Secrétaire Général
CIMSCEE
Avenue de Roodebeek, 30
1030 Bruxelles
Belgium

CONFÉDÉRATION INTERNATIONALE DU COMMERCE ET DE L’INDUSTRIE DES PAIRES FOURRAGES TOURBES ET DÉRIVÉS (CIPF)

Mr Jacques L. Gauthier
Conseiller Technique
Confédération internationale du commerce et des industries des légumes secs
258 Bourse de commerce
2 rue de Viarmes
F75040 Paris Cedex 01
France
Phone: +33 1 42368435
Fax: +33 1 42 36 44 93
CONFÉDÉRATION DES INDUSTRIES AGRO-ALIMENTAIRES DE L'UE (CIAA)

Dr Dominique Taeymans
Director
Scientific & Regulatory Affairs
CIAA
Avenue des Arts 43
B-1040 Bruxelles
Belgium

Phone: +32 2 5141111
Fax: +32 2 5112905
Email: d.taeymans@ciaa.be

Ms Eva Hurt
Manager, Regulatory Affairs
CIAA
Avenue des Arts 43
B-1040 Bruxelles
Belgium

Phone: +32 2 5141111
Fax: +32 2 5112905
Email: e.hurt@ciaa.be

CONFÉDÉRATION INTERNATIONALE DU COMMERCE ET DES INDUSTRIES DES LÉGUMES SEC(S) (CICILS/IPTIC)

Mr Jacques L. Gauthier
Conseiller Technique
Confédération internationale du commerce et des industries des légumes secs
258 Bourse de commerce
2 rue de Viarmes
F75040 Paris Cedex 01
France

Phone: +33 1 42368435
Fax: +33 1 42 36 44 93

CONFÉDÉRATION MONDIALE DE L'INDUSTRIE DE LA SANTÉ ANIMALE (COMISA)

Dr Christian Verschueren
Secretary-General
COMISA
Rue Defacqz 1
1000 Brussels
Belgium

Phone: +32 2 5410111
Fax: +32 2 5410119
Email: comisa@fedesa.be

Mr C.J. Gahwiler
President of Comisa
c/o Elanco Animal Health
A Division of Eli Lilly and Company
Four Parkwood
500 E. 96th Street, Suite 125
Indianapolis, IN 46240-3733
U.S.A.

Phone: +1 317 2762544
Fax: +1 317 27649434
Email: gahwiler_carl_j@lilly.com

Dr Raul Guerrero
Elanco Animal Health
A Division of Eli Lilly and Company
2001 West Main Street
Greenfield, Indiana 46140
U.S.A.

Phone: +1 317 2774434
Fax: +1 317 2774755
Email: GUERRERO_RAUL_J@lilly.com

CONFEDERATION OF INTERNATIONAL SOFT DRINKS ASSOCIATION (CISDA)

Mr Jorrit van der Meer
CISDA
Boulevard Saint Michel 79
B-1040 Brussels
Belgium

Phone: +32 2 5291716
Fax: +32 2 5291460

CONSUMERS INTERNATIONAL

Ms Diane McCrea
Consultant to Consumers' Association, UK
17 Vernon Road
London N8 0QD
United Kingdom

Phone: +44 181 889 4226
Fax: +44 181 352 0564
Email: diane@mccreal.demon.co.uk

Ms Lisa Lefferts
Consultant
Consumers Union
5280 Rockfish Valley Highway
Faber, VA 22938-4001
U.S.A.

Phone: +1 804 361 2420
Fax: +1 804 361 2421
Email: llefferts@earthlink.net
Dr Edward Groth  
Director  
Technical Policy and Public Service  
Consumers Union  
101 Truman Avenue, Yonkers  
New York, 10703 - 1057  
U.S.A.  
Phone: +1.914.378.2301  
Fax: +1.914.378.29.08  
Email: groted@consumer.org

Miss Carmen Taboas  
Consumers International  
24 Highbury Crescent  
London N5 1RX  
Phone: +44.171.226.6663  
Fax: +44.171.354.0607  
Email: ctaboas@consint.org

**COUNCIL FOR RESPONSIBLE NUTRITION (CRN)**

Mr Eddie Kimbrell  
(Kimbrell & Associates)  
13209 Moss Ranch Lane  
Fairfax, Va 22033, U.S.A.  
Phone: +1 703 6319187  
Fax: +1 703 6313866

Mr Richard Holwill  
(Anway Corporation)  
214 Massachusetts Ave., N.E.  
Washington D.C., 20002  
U.S.A.  
Phone: +1 202 5470300  
Fax: +1 202 5475008  
Email: rholwill@anway.com

Dr Warren M. Strauss  
Director, Global Regulatory Affairs  
Monsanto Company  
600, 13th Street NW - Suite 660  
Washington, DC 20005  
U.S.A.  
Phone: +1 202 3832845  
Fax: +1 202 7831924  
Email: warren.m.strauss@monsanto.com

**EUROPEAN FEDERATION OF ASSOCIATIONS OF HEALTH PRODUCT MANUFACTURERS (EHPM)**

Mr Pedro Vicente Azua  
50, Rue de l’Association  
1000 Brussels, Belgium  
Miss Dionne Heijnen  
50, Rue de l’Association  
1000 Brussels, Belgium

**EUROPEAN FOOD LAW ASSOCIATION (EFLA)**

Mr Dietrich Gorny  
President of EFLA  
c/o Anwaltsbüro Gorny  
Ziegelhüttenweg 43a  
D-60598 Frankfurt  
Germany  
Phone: +42.69.63.15.34.91  
Fax: +49.69.63.15.35.53  
Email: GORNYlaw@t-online.de

Dr Volker Viechtbauer  
c/o Red Bull GmbH  
Brunn 115  
A-5330 Fuschl am See  
Austria  
Phone: +43.662.6582/67  
Fax: +43.662.6582/68  
Email: volker.viechtbauer@red-bull.co.at

**EUROPEAN NETWORK OF CHILDBIRTH ASSOCIATIONS (ENCA)**

Ms Brigitte Benkert (IBCLC)  
Scientific Advisor – Member of ENCA-Germany  
Arbeitgebergemeinschaft Freier Stillgruppen  
Sandstrasse 25  
97199 Ochsenfurt, Germany  
Phone: +49 9 331 3394  
Fax: +49 331 20585  
Email: AFS.BENKERT@t-online.de

**FÉDÉRATION EUROPEÉENNE DES FABRICANTS D’ALIMENTS COMPOSÉS (FEFAC)**

Mr Alexander Döring  
Secrétaire Général, FEFAC  
Rue de la Loi 223, Boîte 3  
B-1040 Bruxelles  
Belgium  
Phone: +322 2850050  
Fax: +322 2305722

---

**EUROPEAN DAIRY ASSOCIATION (EDA)**

Mr Christophe Wolff  
Legislative Officer  
EDA  
14, rue Montoyer  
B-1000 Bruxelles, Belgium  
Phone: +32 2 5495040  
Fax: +32 2 5495049  
Email: eda@euromilk.org  
cwolff@euromilk.org
Mr Piero Giannessi  
Direttore  
Ministero dell’Agricultura e Foreste  
ASSALZOO  
Via Lovanio, 6  
Rome, Italy

GLOBAL CROP PROTECTION FEDERATION (GCPF)  
Dr Richard J. Nielsson  
Executive Director  
American Cyanamid Company  
P.O. Box 400  
Princeton, NJ 08543 - 0400  
U.S.A.  
Phone: +1.609.716.2354  
Fax: +1.607.275.5226  
Email: nielssonr@pt.cyanamid.com

GROUPE INTERNATIONAL ET UNION EUROPEENNE DES SOURCES D’EAUX MINERALES NATURELLES ET DES EAU DE SOURCE (GISEMES/UNESEM)  
Mme Françoise de Buttet  
Secrétaire Générale du GISEMES  
10 Rue de la Trémoille  
75008 Paris  
France  
Phone: +33 1 47203110  
Fax: +33 1 47202762  
Email: Francois.Debuttet@wanadoo.fr

Mrs Irene Zafra  
Secrétaire Générale de l’ANFABE  
c/Serrano 76, 5° D  
Madrid (28006)  
Spain

INSTITUTE OF FOOD TECHNOLOGISTS (IFT)  
Dr Bruce Lister  
Codex Committee Chair  
IFT  
Chicago, Illinois  
USA  
Phone: +516-223-9222  
Fax: +516-223-0224

Mr Bruce R. Stillings  
President  
FACS Inc.  
482 Blackstrap Road  
Falmouth, ME 04105  
Phone/Fax: +207-797-9458  
Email: stilling@aol.com

INTERNATIONAL ALLIANCE OF DIETARY/FOOD SUPPLEMENT ASSOCIATIONS (IADSA)  
Mr Simon Pettman  
IADSA Executive Director  
50 rue de l’Association  
B-1000 Brussels  
Belgium  
Mr Karl Riedel  
IADSA Chair Codex Task Force  
Rue de l’Association 50  
B-1000 Brussels  
Belgium  
Phone: 32.2.209.11.55  
Fax: 32.2.223.3064

INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF CONSUMER FOOD ORGANIZATIONS (IACFO)  
Mr Bruce Silverglade  
President, IACFO  
1875 Connecticut Ave.  
Suite 300  
Washington DC, USA  
Phone: 1.202.332-9110, ext. 337  
Fax: 1.202.265-4954  
Email: bsilverglade@compuserve.com

Mr Jun-ichi Kowaka  
Japan Offspring Fund  
2-5-2 2F Kojimachi Chiyoda  
Tokyo 102-0083  
Japan  
Phone: 81 3 5276 0256  
Fax: 81 3 5276 0259  
Email: RXM02651@nifty.ne.jp

Ms Natsuko Kumasawa  
International Project Officer  
Ministry Japan Offspring Fund  
2-5-2 2F Koji-machi  
Chiyoda-ku  
Tokyo 102-0083, Japan  
Phone: 81 3 5276 0256  
Fax: 81 3 5276 0259  
Email: nkumasaw@mail7.dddd.ne.jp

Mr Yoko Taniguchi  
Researcher  
Japan Offspring Fund  
2F 2-5-2 Kojimachi  
Chiyoda-ku  
Tokyo 102-0083  
Japan  
Phone: 81 3 5276 0256  
Fax: 81 3 5276 0259  
Email: RXM02651@nifty.ne.jp
**International Baby Food Action Network (IBFAN)**

Ms Nancy-Jo Peck  
Scientific Adviser  
P.O. Box 157  
1211 Geneva 19  
Switzerland  
**Phone:** +41 22 7989164  
**Fax:** +41 22 7984443  
**Email:** philipec@iprolink.ch

Dr Oscar Lanza V.  
P.O. Box 568  
La Paz  
Bolivia  
**Phone:** +5 91 2.22.29.87  
**Fax:** +5 91 2.22.29.87  
**Email:** aisbolol@ceibo.entelnet.bo

**International Co-operative Alliance (ICA)**

Mrs Toshiko Suzuki  
Quality Control  
Consumers Cooperative Tokyo  
4-1-3 Shakujii-machi Nerima-ku  
Tokyo  
Japan  
**Phone:** +81 3 39041352  
**Fax:** +81 3 53935619  
**Email:** tosiko-s@dd.catv.ne.jp

Mr Hiroshi Suzuki  
Technical Information Service  
Japanese Consumers’Co-operative Union  
Co-op Plaza 3-29-8, Shibuya  
Shibuya-ku, Tokyo, 150-8913  
Japan  
**Phone:** +81.3.5778-8109  
**Fax:** +81.3.5778-8008  
**Email:** hiroshi.suzuki@jccu.co-op.or.jp

**International Council of Grocery Manufacturers Associations (ICGMA)**

Miss Lisa Katic  
Director, Scientific and Nutrition Policy  
Grocery Manufacturers of America  
1010 Wisconsin Ave., NW, Suite 900  
Washington, D.C. 20007  
USA  
**Phone:** +202 3379400  
**Fax:** +202 3374508  
**Email:** ldk@gmabrands.com

Ms. Diani Santucci  
Vice President, Health, Safety & Quality Assurance Bestfoods  
700 Sylvan Avenue  
International Plaza  
Englewood Cliffs, NJ 07632-9976  
USA  
**Phone:** +201 8944667  
**Fax:** +201 8942192  
**Email:** diani.santucci@na.bestfoods.com

Mr Kenneth Hiller  
Associate Director  
Food & Beverage Professional & Regulatory Services  
The Procter & Gamble Company  
Winton Hill Technical Center  
6071 Center Hill Avenue  
Cincinnati, OH 45224-0000  
USA  
**Phone:** +513 6342495  
**Fax:** +513 6341813  
**Email:** hiller.lk@pg.com

Dr Anthony Hepton  
Vice President  
Quality Assurance  
Dole Food Company  
5795 Lindero Canyon Road  
Westlake Village  
California 91362  
**Phone:** +1.818.874.4685  
**Fax:** +1.818.874.4804  
**Email:** anthony_hepton@na.dole.com

Mr Claus Heggum  
President of IDF’s Commission D  
Danish Dairy Board  
Frederiks Allé 22  
DK-8000 Aarhus C  
Denmark  
**Phone:** +45 8731 2000  
**Fax:** +45 87312001  
**Email:** ch@mejeri.dk

Mr Edward Hopkin  
Secretary General  
IDF  
41 Square Vergote  
B-1030 Brussels  
Belgique  
**Phone:** +32 2 7339888  
**Fax:** +32 2 7330413  
**Email:** EHopkin@fil.idf.org
Mr Jörg Seifert
Technical Assistant to the Secretary General
International Dairy Federation
41 Square Vergote
B-1030 Brussels
Belgique
  Phone: +32 2 7339888
  Fax:  +32 2 7330413
  Email: JSeifert@fil.idf.org

INTERNATIONAL DIABETIC FEDERATION (IDF)

Mr John Byrne
Nutrition Advisor
No. 1 Allée du Hérisson
B-1070 Brussels
Belgium
  Phone: 32.02.523 6184
  Fax:  32.02.523 4477

Mrs Francine De Greef
Information Officer
No. 1 Allée du Hérisson
B-1070 Brussels
Belgium

INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF FRUIT JUICE PRODUCERS (IFU)

Mr Paul Zwiker
Président, IFU
P.O. Box 45
CH-9220 Bischofszell
Switzerland
  Phone: 41.71.420.0644
  Fax:  41.71.420.0643
  Email: zwiker@bluewin.ch

INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF GLUCOSE INDUSTRIES (IFG)

Mr Damien Plan
Assistant Secretary General
Avenue des Arts 43
B-1040 Bruxelles
Belgique
  Phone: +32.2.289.67.60
  Fax:  +32.2.513.55.92
  Email: aac.brussels@skynet.be

INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF MARGARINE ASSOCIATIONS (IFMA)

Mrs Inneke Herremann
Secretary General
IFMA - IMACE
168 Avenue de Tervuren
PO Box 12
1150 Brussels
Belgique
  Phone: +32 2 7723353
  Fax:  +32 2 7714753
  Email: ifma.imace@pophost.eunet.be

Mr Alain Léon
Technical Advisor IFMA - IMACE
Unilever N.V.
P.O. Box 114
NL - 3130AC Vlaardingen
  Phone: +31 10 460 58 92
  Fax:  +31 10 460 58 67
  Email: alain.Leon@unilever.com

INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF ORGANIC AGRICULTURE MOVEMENTS (IFOAM)

Mr Otto Schmid
Research Institute of Organic Agriculture
Ackerstrasse, Postfach
CH 5070 Frick, Switzerland
  Phone: +41.62.865.72.72
  Fax:  +41.62.865.72.73
  Email: otto.schmid@fibl.ch

Mrs Cristina Grandi
IFOAM presso AIAB
Viale Libia, 22
00199, Rome, Italy

INTERNATIONAL GLUTAMATE TECHNICAL COMMITTEE (IGTC)

Dr Hiroyuki Ishii
Scientific Representative
Ajinomoto European Headquarters
153 rue de Courcelles
75817 Paris, Cedex 17
France
  Phone: +33 1 47669863
  Fax:  +33 1 47669856

Dr. Ryuji Yamaguchi
Scientific Representative
Ajinomoto European Headquarters
153 rue de Courcelles
75817 Paris, Cedex 17
France
  Phone: +33 1 47669863
  Fax:  +33 1 47669856
INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR APPLIED SYSTEMS ANALYSIS (IIASA)

Mr David Victor  
Project co-Leader  
Implementation and Effectiveness of International Environmental Commitments  
IIASA  
A-2361 Laxenburg  
Austria  
Phone: +43 2236 807278  
Fax: +43 2236 71313  
Email: dgvictor@iiasa.ac.at

INTERNATIONAL LIFE SCIENCES INSTITUTE (ILSI)

Dr Sue Ferenc  
ILSI Risk Science Institute  
1126 Sixteenth Street, NW  
Washington DC 20036  
U.S.A.  
Phone: +202.659.3306  
Fax: +202.659.3617  
Email: sferenc@ilsi.org

Dr Maxime Buyckx  
The Coca-Cola Company  
One Coca-Cola Plaza, NAT-330  
Atlanta, GA 30313  
U.S.A.  
Phone: +404.676.7047  
Fax: +404.5152878  
Email: mbuyckx@na.ko.com

INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION OF THE FLAVOUR INDUSTRY (IOFI)

Dr F. Grundsohber  
Scientific Director  
IOFI  
8 rue Charles-Humbert  
CH-1205 Geneva  
Phone: +41.22.321.35.48  
Fax: +41.22.781.18.60

INTERNATIONAL PEANUT FORUM (IPF)

Mrs Julie G. Adams  
International Trade Issues Advisor  
American Peanut Council  
Grosvenor Gardens House  
35-37 Grosvenor Gardens  
London SW1W OBS  
United Kingdom  
Phone: +44 171 8280838  
Fax: +44 171 8280839  
Email: juliegadams@compuserve.com

INTERNATIONAL OFFICE OF COCOA, CHOCOLATE AND SUGAR CONFECTIONERY (IOCCC)

Mrs Patricia Rabot  
Scientific, Technical & Legislative Adviser  
IOCCC  
Rue Defacqz, 1  
B-1000 Brussels  
Belgium  
Phone: 322.539.18.00  
Fax: 322.539.15.75  
Email: ioccc@caobisco.be

INTERNATIONAL SOFT DRINKS COUNCIL (ISDC)

Mr Alain Beaumont  
Secretary General  
ISDC  
Blvd. St. Michel, 79  
1040 Brussels, Belgium

INTERNATIONAL SPECIAL DIETARY FOODS INDUSTRIES (ISDI)

Dr André Bronner  
Secretary-General  
ISDI  
194, rue de Rivoli  
F-75001 Paris  
France  
Phone: +33153458787  
Fax: +33153458780  
Email: andree.bronner@wanadoo.fr

Dr Peter Borasio  
ISDI  
194, rue de Rivoli  
F-75001 Paris  
France  
Phone: +33153458787  
Fax: +33153458780

Dr Marc de Skowronski  
President, IFM  
ISDI  
194, rue de Rivoli  
F-75001 Paris  
France  
Phone: +33153458787  
Fax: +33153458780

Ms Marie Odile Gailing  
ISDI  
194, rue de Rivoli  
F-75001 Paris  
France  
Phone: +33153458787  
Fax: +33153458780
INTERNATIONAL TOXICOLOGY INFORMATION CENTER (ITIC)
Mrs Cecelia P. Gaston
Adviser
Novigen Sciences, Inc.
1730 Rhode Island Avenue N.W., Suite 1100
Washington, D.C.20036
U.S.A.
Phone: +1.202.293.5374
Fax: +1.202.293.5377
Email: CeciliaG@novigensci.com

Ms Gloria Brooks-Ray
Principal Adviser, Codex Alimentarius
Novigen Sciences, Inc.
ITIC
P.O. Box No. 97
Mountain Lakes, NJ 07046
USA
Phone: +1.973.334.4652
Fax: +1.973.334.4652
Email: gbr@novigensci.com

INTERNATIONAL UNION OF FOOD SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (IUFoST)
Ing Eduardo R. Mendez
Vice President
P.O. Box 60483
Mexico
Email: ERMendez@datasys.com.mx

MARINALG INTERNATIONAL
Mr J.C.I. Attale
Président
MARINALG International
85, Bd Haussmann
75008 Paris
France
Phone: +33 1 42654158
Fax: +33 1 42650205

PESTICIDES ACTION NETWORK (PAN)
Mr Antonio Onorati
Centro Internazionale Crocevia
Via Ferraironi 88/G
00172 Rome
Italy
Phone: +39.06.241.3976
Fax: +39.06.242.4177
Email: crocevia@cambio.it

Mr Filippo Dibari
The Rome International Coalition for Food Security
Centro Internazionale Crocevia
Via Ferraironi 88/G
00172 Rome
Italy
Phone: +39.06.241.3976
Fax: +39.06.242.4177
Email: crocevia@cambio.it

RURAL ADVANCEMENT FOUNDATION INTERNATIONAL (RAFI)
Mr Michael Sligh
Director/SA
P.O. Box 4672
Chapel Hill, NC 27514
U.S.A.
Phone: +1.919.929.7099
Fax: +1.919.927.7795
Email: msligh@rafinsa.org

WORLD PROCESSING TOMATO COUNCIL (WPTC)
Mr Bernard Bièche
Secretary General
27, Av. de l’Arrousaire, B.P. 235
84010 Avignon Cedex
France
Phone: +33 4 90 86.16.95
Fax: +33 4 90 27 06 58
Email: tomato@interlog.fr

WORLD VETERINARY ASSOCIATION (WVA)
Dr A.T. Rantsios
81, Hlois Rd.
El (Gr) 151 25
Marousi, Hellas
Phone: +30 1 805-2767
Fax: +30 1 612-7215
Email: wva@ddd.dk
SECRETARIAT

SECRETARY, CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION

Mr G.D. Orriss
Chief
Food Quality and Standards Service
Food and Nutrition Division
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
Viale delle Terme di Caracalla
00100 Rome
Italy
Phone: +39 06 570.52042
Fax: +39 06 570.54593
Email: gregory.orriss@fao.org

SESSION SECRETARIES

Dr Alan W. Randell
Senior Officer
Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme
Food and Nutrition Division
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
Viale delle Terme di Caracalla
00100 Rome
Italy
Phone: +39 06 570.54390
Fax: +39 06 570.54593
Email: alan.randell@fao.org

Dr Gerald Moy
Acting Coordinator
Food Safety Programme
Department of Protection of the Human Environment
World Health Organization
20, Avenue Appia
CH 1211 Geneva 27
Switzerland
Phone: +41 22 791 3698
Fax: +41 22 791 4807
Email: moyg@who.ch

LEGAL COUNSEL

Mr Gerald Moore
Legal Counsel
Legal Office
FAO
Viale delle Terme di Caracalla
00100 Rome
Italy
Phone: +39 06 57051
Email: gerald.moore@fao.org

Mr Gian Luca Burci
Senior Legal Officer
Office of the Legal Counsel
World Health Organization
20 Avenue Appia
CH 1211 Geneva 27
Switzerland
Phone: +41 22 791 4754
Fax: +41 22 791 4158
Email: burcig@who.ch

JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME PERSONNEL

Ms Gracia Brisco López
Food Standards Officer
Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme
Food and Nutrition Division
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
Viale delle Terme di Caracalla
00100 Rome
Italy
Phone: +39 06 570.52700
Fax: +39 06 570.54593
Email: gracia.brisco@fao.org

Mr David H. Byron
Food Standards Officer
Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme
Food and Nutrition Division
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
Viale delle Terme di Caracalla
00100 Rome
Italy
Phone: +39 06 570.54419
Fax: +39 06 570.54593
Email: david.byron@fao.org

Ms Selma H. Doyran
Food Standards Officer
Joint FAO/WHO Food Standard Programme
Food and Nutrition Division
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
Viale delle Terme di Caracalla
00100 Rome
Italy
Phone: +39 06 570.55826
Fax: +39 06 570.54593
Email: selma.doyran@fao.org
Dr Jeronimas Maskeliunas  
Food Standards Officer  
Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme  
Food and Nutrition Division  
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations  
Via delle Terme di Caracalla  
00100 Rome  
Italy  
**Phone:** +39 06 570.53967  
**Fax:** +39 06 570.54593  
**Email:** jeronimas.maskeliunas@fao.org

Dr Mungi Sohn  
Associate Professional Officer  
Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme  
Food and Nutrition Division  
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations  
Via delle Terme di Caracalla  
00100 Rome  
Italy  
**Phone:** +39 06 570.55524  
**Fax:** +39 06 570.54593  
**Email:** mungi.sohn@fao.org

Mr Makoto Tabata  
Food Standards Officer  
Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme  
Food and Nutrition Division  
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations  
Via delle Terme di Caracalla  
00100 Rome  
Italy  
**Phone:** +39 06 570.54796  
**Fax:** +39 06 570.54593  
**Email:** makoto.tabata@fao.org

Dr Yukiko Yamada  
Food Standards Officer  
Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme  
Food and Nutrition Division  
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations  
Via delle Terme di Caracalla  
00100 Rome  
Italy  
**Phone:** +39 06 570.55443  
**Fax:** +39 06 570.54593  
**Email:** yukiko.yamada@fao.org

**FAO PERSONNEL**

Mr Hartwig de Haen  
Assistant Director-General  
Economic and Social Department  
FAO  
Via delle Terme di Caracalla  
00100 Rome  
Italy  
**Phone:** +39 06 570.53566  
**Fax:** +39 06 570.54110  
**Email:** Hartwig.deHaen@fao.org

Mr. John R. Lupien  
Director  
Food and Nutrition Division  
FAO  
Via delle Terme di Caracalla  
00100 Rome  
Italy  
**Phone:** +39 06 570.53330  
**Fax:** +39 06 570.54593  
**Email:** John.Lupien@fao.org

Dr Ezzedine Boutrif  
Senior Officer, Food Quality and Consumer Protection  
Food Quality and Standards Service  
FAO  
Via delle Terme di Caracalla  
00100 Rome  
Italy  
**Phone:** +39 06 570.56156  
**Fax:** +39 06 570.54593  
**Email:** ezzedine.boutrif@fao.org

Dra Maria Lourdes Costarrica Gonzalez  
Senior Officer, Food Quality Liaison  
Food Quality and Standards Service  
FAO  
Via delle Terme di Caracalla  
00100 Rome  
Italy  
**Phone:** +39 06 570.56060  
**Fax:** +39 06 570.54593  
**Email:** lourdes.costarrica@fao.org

Mr. John Weatherwax  
FAO Consultant  
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations  
Via delle Terme di Caracalla  
00100 Rome  
Italy  
**Phone:** +39 06 570.53523  
**Fax:** +39 06 570.54593  
**Email:** john.weatherwax@fao.org
Dr Richard Ellis  
FAO Consultant  
Acting FAO Joint Secretary for JECFA  
FAO  
Viale delle Terme di Caracalla  
00100 Rome  
Italy  

Phone: +39 06 570.53523  
Fax: +39 06 570.54593  
Email: richard.ellis@fao.org

Mr Michael A. Canon  
Food Standards Officer  
FAO Sub-Regional Office for Central and Eastern Europe (SEUR)  
Benczur utca 34  
1068 Budapest, Hungary  

Phone: +36 1 461-2021  
Fax: +36 1 751-7029  
Email: michael.canon@fao.org

Dr Cheikh N’Diaye  
Senior Food and Nutrition Officer (RAFE)  
FAO Regional Office for Africa  
P.O. Box 1628  
Accra, Ghana  

Phone: +233 21 244051/4  
Email: cheikh.ndiaye@fao.org

WHO Personnel

Mrs P. Khetrapal Singh  
Executive Director  
Sustainable Development and Healthy Environments  
WHO  
20 Avenue Appia  
CH-1211 Geneva 27  
Switzerland  

Phone: +41 22 791 2411  
Fax: +41 22 791 4725  
Email: singhp@who.int

Dr G. Clugston  
Director  
Department of Nutrition for Health and Development  
World Health Organization  
20 Avenue Appia  
CH-1211 Geneva 27  
Switzerland  

Phone: +41 22 791 3326  
Fax: +41 22 791 4156  
Email: clugstong@who.int

Dr Yasuyuki Sahara  
Food Safety Programme  
World Health Organization  
20 Avenue Appia  
CH-1211 Geneva 27  
Switzerland  

Phone: +41 22 791 4324  
Fax: +41 22 791 0746  
Email: saharay@who.ch

Dr John L. Herrman  
WHO Joint Secretary JECFA/JMPR  
International Programme on Chemical Safety  
World Health Organization  
20 Avenue Appia  
CH-1211 Geneva 27  
Switzerland  

Phone: +41.22.791-3569  
Fax: +41.22.791-4848  
Email: herrmanj@who.int

Dr Marco F.G. Jermini  
Food Safety Regional Adviser  
WHO Regional Office for Europe  
European Centre for Environment and Health (ECEH) Rome Division  
Via Francesco Crispi, 10  
I-00187 Rome, Italy  

Phone: +39 06 487 7525  
Fax: +39 06 487 7599  
Email: maj@who.it

Dr Sultana Khanum  
Regional Adviser, Nutrition  
World Health Organization  
Regional Office for South-East Asia  
World Health House  
Indraprastha Estate  
Mahatma Gandhi Road  
New Delhi 110002 - India  

Phone: 91.11.331 7804-23  
Fax: 91.11.331 8607  
Email: khanums@whosea.org

Dr Jaime Estupinan  
Director  
Pan American Institute for Food Protection and Zoonoses (INPPAZ)  
Pan American Health Organization/World Health Organization  
Talcahuano 1660  
(1640) Martinez  
Buenos Aires, Argentina  

Phone: +54 11 4836 1000  
Fax: +54 11 4836-0927  
Email: estupinaj@inppaz.org.ar  
Homepage: www.inppaz.org.ar
MEDIUM-TERM PLAN FOR 1998 TO 2002

GENERAL APPROACHES AND ISSUES

1. The general approach taken in the preparation of the Medium-Term Plan for the period realistically takes into account the financial situations facing the parent organizations and the UN system-wide desire for simplification and streamlining of existing structures. The emphasis on horizontal issues laid down by the Commission in recent years provides a satisfactory basis for this streamlining. Overall improvements in the procedures for decision-making and the acceptance of standards and related texts will be developed.

2. The world’s food security needs stretching into the mid-21st Century were the focus of the World Food Summit, Rome, November 1996. The International Conference on Nutrition, 1992, stressed the importance of improved food quality and safety as a means of improving nutrition. The efficient use of sustainable agricultural resources and improvements in agricultural production efficiencies and food processing and marketing practices by all available safe technologies must be assured. In the Medium-Term, therefore, high priority should be given to science-based standards, guidelines and other recommendations aimed at enhancing protection of consumers’ health and removing unjustified impediments to trade in food produced and marketed by such means. Nevertheless, buyers who wish to have access to foods produced or processed by alternative methods should have adequate information and assurances that such alternative conditions have indeed been applied. Labelling and certification procedures for such alternative products may need to be considered in parallel with the development of guidelines for new production and processing technologies for mainstream food products, where these are deemed necessary.

3. Among other general issues which are included, the integration of risk analysis principles into the Codex decision-making process should be completed in the period by introducing necessary changes to the Procedures for the Elaboration of Codex Standards and Related Texts, the General Principles of the Codex Alimentarius, and the Criteria for the Establishment of Work Priorities. Specific guidance on the application of risk analysis principles should be provided to Codex Committees on one hand and to Member Governments on the other: the former guidance to be included in the Procedural Manual, the latter in the Codex Alimentarius itself. The challenges facing developing countries in applying risk analysis principles will need to be taken into consideration. Guidance will be developed for the identification, management, application and interpretation of legitimate factors other than science relevant to the health protection of consumers and for the promotion of fair practices in the food trade. Risk communication principles will be incorporated into the risk analysis framework and probably in food labelling requirements.

4. Continued priority should be given to the Commission’s horizontal science-based work in the areas of food additives, contaminants, pesticide and veterinary drug residues, food hygiene, food labelling and nutrition. Consideration should be given to the development of standards in these areas for foods derived from biotechnology or traits introduced into foods by biotechnology, where this is scientifically justified. Trade-related issues between governments of food inspection and certification and determination of equivalence and appropriate methods of analysis and sampling will also remain priority areas.

5. In the period 1998 to 2002 it will be proposed that the Commission will continue to reduce its work on commodity-specific standards in favour of horizontal or general standards. The modernisation of existing commodity standards, begun in 1993, and the transfer of material from commodity standards to applicable general standards should be completed in this period. The medium-term period should also see clarification of the relationship between the Commission and the World Trade Organisation’s Committees on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS Committee) and on Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT Committee) especially insofar as notification of the use of standards or acceptance of standards is concerned.

6. The period should also see a significant increase in the use of electronic transmission of documents and storage of archival material. Cooperation with private-sector institutions and associations which is now an integral part of UN system-wide programming can also provide the Codex Alimentarius Commission with ways to facilitate the dissemination of Codex information and support the costs of archiving existing documentation.
7. Improvements in assuring transparency, the need to improved participation of non-governmental organizations as observers in the Codex decision-making process, and the need to take the views of these organizations into account when defining areas of work have been included in the Medium-Term Plan.

### MEDIUM-TERM PLAN 1998 - 2002

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<td>Integration of risk analysis principles into Codex procedures. Improved guidelines for participation of international non-government organizations. Improved procedures for decision-making and consideration of acceptance of standards. Consideration of special or more flexible conditions which may apply to developing countries in the acceptance and application of standards.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Application of policy principles for risk management</td>
<td>Guidelines on the application and interpretation in risk management of legitimate factors other than science relevant to the health protection of consumers and for the promotion of fair practices in the food trade. Completion of the General Standard for the Use of Food Additives; General Standard for Contaminants in Foods. Maintenance of up-dated MRLs for Pesticides and Veterinary Drugs Residues and extension to coverage of products of particular interest to developing countries. Application of risk analysis principles for control of specific microbiological foodborne hazards.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Food production and processing systems</td>
<td>Establishment of principles for the use of safe technologies in food production, processing and handling including those for specific food sectors. Consideration of standards, guidelines or other recommendations as appropriate for foods derived from biotechnology or traits introduced into foods by biotechnology on the basis of scientific evidence and risk analysis and having regard, where appropriate, to other legitimate factors relevant for the health protection of consumers and the promotion of fair practices in food trade. Continued development of guidelines for food quality and safety management systems. Consideration of application of standards and related texts by small and medium-scale enterprises, especially in developing countries.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Equivalence, mutual recognition and quality assurance of food control systems</td>
<td>Guidelines on equivalence and mutual recognition of testing procedures, inspection and certification systems. Recommendations on optimising control systems by official and voluntary quality assurance schemes.</td>
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<td>Nutrition and consumer information</td>
<td>Review of the basis for nutrition requirements and relevant food labelling requirements in light of scientific evidence, risk analysis and legitimate factors other than science relevant to the health protection of consumers and for the promotion of fair practices in the food trade and consumer information. Guidelines on claims and certification procedures for alternative production processes. Integration of food labelling and nutrition requirements.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Commodity standards</td>
<td>Finalization of revision/simplification of Codex Commodity Standards. Elaboration of specific Commodity Standards where justified.</td>
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<td>Codex decision-making.</td>
<td>Develop guidelines on the procedures for granting observer status to international non-governmental organizations in Codex Alimentarius. Procedures for the full availability to be made of results of Codex decisions to interested parties. Continuing effort to take into account the views of international non-governmental organizations while defining areas of work.</td>
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<td>Transfer of Codex archives to electronic form (external funding).</td>
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AMENDMENTS TO THE RULES OF PROCEDURE

RULE II - OFFICERS

Amend the following:

4.(a) The Commission may appoint a Coordinator from among the delegates of the Members of the Commission for any 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’), whenever it may find, on the basis of a proposal of a majority of the Members of the Commission which constitute the region or group, that work for the Codex Alimentarius in the countries concerned so requires.

4.(b) Appointment of Coordinators shall be made exclusively on the proposal of a majority of the Members of the Commission which constitute the region or group of countries concerned. 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, the Coordinators shall be ineligible to hold such office for the next succeeding term.

4.(d) Delete

Add new 4.(d) to read as follows:

4.(d) In order to carry out their functions, Coordinators shall participate in the Executive Committee as Observers.

4.(e) Delete

Rule IX.7 (consequential amendment)

...and in the case of bodies established under Rule IX.1(b)(ii), after consultation with the Coordinator for the region or group of countries concerned, if any, or with the Chairperson of the Coordinating Committee.

Rule IX.10 (consequential amendment)

The Members who shall be responsible for appointing Chairpersons of subsidiary bodies established under Rule IX.1(b)(i) and Rule IX.1(b)(ii) shall be designated at each session by the Commission...

RULE III.1 - EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

1. The Executive Committee shall consist of the Chairperson and Vice-Chairpersons of the Commission together with six seven further members, elected by the Commission at regular sessions from among the Members of the Commission, one each coming from the following geographic locations: Africa, Asia, Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean, Near East, North America, South-West Pacific; it being understood that not more than one delegate from any one country shall be a member of the Executive Committee. Members elected on a geographic basis shall hold office from the end of the session of the Commission at which they were elected until the end of the second succeeding regular session and shall be eligible for re-election, but after having served two consecutive terms shall be ineligible to hold such office for the next succeeding term.
Rule X – Elaboration and Adoption of Standards

1. Subject to the provisions of these Rules of Procedure, the Commission may establish the procedures for the elaboration of world-wide standards and of standards for a given region or group of countries, and when necessary, amend such procedures.

2. The Commission shall make every effort to reach agreement on the adoption or amendment of standards by consensus. Decisions to adopt or amend standards may be taken by voting only if such efforts to reach consensus have failed.
AMENDMENTS TO THE PROCEDURAL MANUAL

CRITERIA FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF WORK PRIORITIES

When a Codex Committee proposes to elaborate a standard, code of practice or related text within its terms of reference, it should first consider the priorities established by the Commission in the Medium-Term Plan of Work, any specific relevant strategic project currently being undertaken by the Commission and the prospect of completing the work within a reasonable period of time. It should also assess the proposal against the criteria set out below.

If the proposal falls in an area outside the Committee’s terms of reference the proposal should be reported to the Commission in writing together with proposals for such amendments to the Committee’s terms of reference as may be required.

1 CRITERIA

CRITERIA APPLICABLE TO GENERAL SUBJECTS

(i) Consumer protection from the point of view of health and fraudulent practices.

(ii) Diversification of national legislations and apparent resultant or potential impediments to international trade.

(iii) Scope of work and establishment of priorities between the various sections of the work.

(iv) Work already undertaken by other international organizations in this field.

CRITERIA APPLICABLE TO COMMODITIES

(i) Consumer protection from the point of view of health and fraudulent practices.

(ii) Volume of production and consumption in individual countries and volume and pattern of trade between countries.

(iii) Diversification of national legislations and apparent resultant or potential impediments to international trade.

(iv) International or regional market potential.

(v) Amenability of the commodity to standardization.

(vi) Coverage of the main consumer protection and trade issues by existing or proposed general standards.

(vii) Number of commodities which would need separate standards indicating whether raw, semi processed or processed.

(viii) Work already undertaken by other international organizations in this field.
CRITERIA FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF SUBSIDIARY BODIES OF THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION

When there is a proposal for the elaboration of a standard, code of practice or related text in an area not covered by the terms of reference of any existing subsidiary body\textsuperscript{94}, or the revision of standards, codes of practice or other texts elaborated by subsidiary bodies adjourned \textit{sine die}, such a proposal should be accompanied by a written statement to the Commission explaining its justification in light of the Commission’s Medium-Term Objectives and containing, as far as practicable, the information contained in the Criteria for the Establishment of Work Priorities.

Should the Commission decide to establish a Subsidiary Body for the purpose of elaborating an appropriate draft standard or related text or for the purpose of revising an existing standard(s) or related text(s), first consideration should be given to the establishment of an \textit{ad hoc} Intergovernmental Task Force under Rule IX.1(a) of the Commission’s Rules of Procedure under the following conditions:

TERMS OF REFERENCE:
- the terms of reference of the proposed \textit{ad hoc} Intergovernmental Task Force shall be limited to the immediate task at hand and normally shall not be subsequently modified;
- the terms of reference shall clearly state the objective(s) to be achieved by the establishment of the \textit{ad hoc} Intergovernmental Task Force;
- the terms of reference shall clearly state either (i) the number of sessions to be convened, or (ii) the date (year) by which the work is expected to be completed, which in any case shall not exceed five years;

REPORTING:
The \textit{ad hoc} Intergovernmental Task Force shall report to the Codex Alimentarius Commission and to the Executive Committee on the progress of its work. The reports of the \textit{ad hoc} Intergovernmental Task Force shall be transmitted to all Members of the Commission and interested international organization.

OPERATING EXPENSES:
No provision shall be made concerning the operating expenditures of the \textit{ad hoc} Intergovernmental Task Force in the estimate of expenditures of the Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme, except insofar as costs involved in preparatory work are recognized as operating expenses of the Commission in accordance with Article 10 of its Statutes.

HOST GOVERNMENT ARRANGEMENTS:
The Commission, at the time of the establishment of the \textit{ad hoc} Intergovernmental Task Force shall ascertain that there will be appropriate host government arrangements adequate to ensure the functioning of the Task Force for the duration of its assignment.\textsuperscript{95}

WORKING PROCEDURES:
\textit{Ad hoc} Intergovernmental Task Forces shall be open to all Members of the Commission and the Rules Procedure of the Codex Alimentarius Commission and the Uniform Procedure for the Elaboration of Codex Standards and Related Texts shall apply \textit{mutatis mutandis} to \textit{ad hoc} Intergovernmental Task Forces.

DISSOLUTION:
The \textit{ad hoc} Intergovernmental Task Force shall be dissolved after the specified work has been completed or when the number of sessions or the time limit allocated for the work has expired.

\textsuperscript{94} The Commission may wish to consider extending the Terms of Reference of an appropriate existing body to accommodate the proposal.

\textsuperscript{95} This may involve Host Government arrangements with one or more Members of the Commission.
AMENDMENT TO THE FOOD HYGIENE PROVISIONS IN “RELATIONS BETWEEN COMMODITY COMMITTEES AND GENERAL COMMITTEES”

Replace the current provisions on Food Hygiene with the following text:

**FOOD HYGIENE**

Commodity Committees should use in the commodity standards the following text:

- It is recommended that the products covered by the provisions of this standard be prepared and handled in accordance with the appropriate sections of the Recommended International Code of Practice - General Principles of Food Hygiene (CAC/RCP 1-1969, Rev 3-1997), and other relevant Codex texts such as Codes of Hygienic Practice and Codes of Practice.

- The products should comply with any microbiological criteria established in accordance with the Principles for the Establishment and Application of Microbiological Criteria for Foods (CAC/GL 21-1997).

AMENDMENT TO THE TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE CODEX COMMITTEE ON MILK AND MILK PRODUCTS

Replace the existing Terms of Reference with the following:

To elaborate world-wide standards, codes and related texts for milk and milk products.

DEFINITIONS OF RISK ANALYSIS TERMS RELATED TO FOOD SAFETY

**Risk Communication**

The interactive exchange of information and opinions throughout the risk analysis process concerning risk, risk-related factors and risk perceptions, among risk assessors, risk managers, consumers, industry, the academic community and other interested parties, including the explanation of risk assessment findings and the basis of risk management decisions.

**Risk Management**

The process, distinct from risk assessment, of weighing policy alternatives, in consultation with all interested parties, considering risk assessment and other factors relevant for the health protection of consumers and for the promotion of fair trade practices, and, if needed, selecting appropriate prevention and control options.
PRINCIPLES CONCERNING THE PARTICIPATION OF INTERNATIONAL NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS IN THE WORK OF THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION

1 PURPOSE
The purpose of collaboration with International Non-Governmental Organizations is to secure for the Codex Alimentarius Commission, expert information, advice and assistance from international non-governmental organizations and to enable organizations which represent important sections of public opinion and are authorities in their fields of professional and technical competence to express the views of their members and to play an appropriate role in ensuring the harmonizing of intersectoral interests among the various sectoral bodies concerned in a country, regional or global setting.

Arrangements made with such organizations shall be designed to advance the purposes of the Codex Alimentarius Commission by securing maximum cooperation from International Non-Governmental Organizations in the execution of its programme.

2 TYPES OF RELATIONSHIP
Only one category of relationship shall be recognized, namely “Observer Status”; all other contacts, including working relations, shall be considered to be of an informal character.

3 ORGANIZATIONS ELIGIBLE FOR “OBSERVER STATUS”
The following shall be eligible for Observer Status:

- International Non-Governmental Organizations in consultative status, specialized consultative status or liaison status with FAO;
- International Non-Governmental Organizations having official relations with WHO; and
- International Non-Governmental Organizations that:
  (a) are international in structure and scope of activity, and representative of the specialized field of interest in which they operate;
  (b) are concerned with matters covering a part or all of the Commission’s field of activity;
  (c) have aims and purposes in conformity with the Statutes of the Codex Alimentarius Commission; and
  (d) have a permanent directing body, authorized representatives and systematic procedures and machinery for communicating with its membership in various countries. Its members shall exercise voting rights in relation to its policies or action or shall have other appropriate mechanisms to express their views.

4 PROCEDURE FOR OBTAINING “OBSERVER STATUS”

4.1 INTERNATIONAL NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS HAVING STATUS OR OFFICIAL RELATIONS WITH FAO AND WHO

“Observer status” shall be accorded to those International Non-Governmental Organizations in consultative status, specialized consultative status or liaison status with FAO or International Non-Governmental Organizations having official relations with WHO that inform the Secretary of the Codex Alimentarius Commission of their desire to participate in the work of the Commission and/or any or all of the Commission’s subsidiary bodies\(^{96}\) on a regular basis. They may also request invitations to participate at specific sessions of the Commission or its subsidiary bodies on an ad hoc basis.

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\(^{96}\) The term “subsidiary bodies” means any body established under Rule IX of the Commission’s Rules of Procedure.
4.2 **Non-Governmental Organizations not having status or official relations with FAO and WHO**

Before any form of formal relationship is established with a Non-Governmental Organization, such Organization shall supply the Secretary of the Commission with the information outlined in the Annex to these Procedures. The Secretary shall transmit this information to the Directors-General of FAO and WHO.

Upon confirmation that the Directors-General are satisfied that the applicant Organization is in a position to make a significant contribution in advancing the purposes of the Codex Alimentarius Commission, Observer Status shall be granted to the applicant Organization.

Observer Status at specific meetings will not normally be granted to individual organizations that are members of a larger organization authorized and that intends to represent them at these meetings.

5 **Privileges and Obligations**

International Non-governmental Organizations in Observer status shall have the following privileges and obligations:

5.1 **Privileges of International Non-governmental Organizations in “Observer Status”**

An Organization in Observer Status:

(a) shall be entitled to send an observer (without the right to vote) to sessions of the Commission, who may be accompanied by advisers; to receive from the Secretary of the Commission, in advance of the session, all working documents and discussion papers; to circulate to the Commission its views in writing, without abridgement; and to participate in discussions when invited by the Chairperson;

(b) shall be entitled to send an observer (without the right to vote) to sessions of specified Subsidiary Bodies, who may be accompanied by advisers; to receive from the Secretaries of the Subsidiary Bodies, in advance of the session, all working documents and discussion papers; to circulate to these Bodies its views in writing, without abridgement; and to participate in discussions when invited by the Chairperson;

(c) may be invited by the Directors-General to participate in meetings or seminars on subjects organized under the Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme which fall within its fields of interest, and if it does not so participate it may submit its views in writing to any such meeting or seminar;

(d) will receive documentation and information about meetings planned on subjects agreed upon with the Secretariat;

(e) may submit, under the authority of its governing body, written statements on matters before the Commission, in one of the languages of Commission, to the Secretary, who may communicate them to the Commission or the Executive Committee as appropriate.

5.2 **Obligations of International Non-governmental Organizations in “Observer Status”**

An Organization in Observer Status shall undertake:

(a) to cooperate fully with the Codex Alimentarius Commission for the furtherance of the objectives of the Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme;

(b) in cooperation with the Secretariat, to determine the ways and means of co-ordinating activities within the scope of the Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme, with a view to avoiding duplication and overlapping;

(c) to contribute, as far as possible, and at the request of the Directors-General, to the promotion of a better knowledge and understanding of the Codex Alimentarius Commission and the Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme through appropriate discussions or other forms of publicity;

(d) to send to the Secretary of the Commission on an exchange basis, its reports and publications concerned with matters covering all or part of the Commission’s field of activity;

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97 An invitation to a Codex meeting and representation thereat by an observer shall not imply the granting to an international non-governmental organization of a status different from that which it already enjoys.
(e) to keep the Secretary of the Commission informed of changes in its structure and membership, as well as of important changes in its secretariat.

6 REVIEW OF “OBSERVER STATUS”

The Directors-General may terminate arrangements for Observer Status which are no longer considered necessary or appropriate in the light of changing programmes or other circumstances, and will report such action to the Commission. However, the international non-governmental organization concerned may appeal the termination of Observer Status.

An international non-governmental organization in Observer Status which has not shown any interest and has not attended any meetings during a period of four years may be deemed not to have sufficient interest to warrant the continuance of such relationship.

The Secretary shall report to the Codex Alimentarius Commission on the relations between the Codex Alimentarius Commission and international non-governmental organizations established in accordance with the present Procedures and shall provide a list of organizations granted Observer Status, with an indication of the membership that they represent.

The Commission shall periodically review these principles and procedures and shall consider, as necessary, any amendments which may seem desirable.
ANNEX: INFORMATION REQUIRED OF NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS REQUESTING “OBSERVER STATUS”

1. Official name of the organization in different languages (with initials)
2. Full postal address, Telephone, Telex address, Facsimile and Email as appropriate
3. Aims and subject fields (mandate) of organization, and methods of operation. (Enclose charter, constitution, by-laws, rules of procedures, etc.)
4. Member organizations (name and address of each national affiliate, method of affiliation, giving number of members where possible, and names of principal officers. If the organization has individual members, please indicate approximate number in each country)
5. Structure (assembly or conference; council or other form of governing body; type of general secretariat; commissions on special topics, if any; etc.)
6. Indication of source of funding (e.g., membership contributions, direct funding, external contributions, or grants)
7. Meetings (indicate frequency and average attendance; send report of previous meeting, including any resolutions passed) that are concerned with matters covering all or part of the Commission’s field of activity
8. Relations with other international organizations:
   - UN and organs (indicate consultative status or other relationship, if any)
   - UN Specialized Agencies (indicate consultative status or other relationship, if any)
   - Other international organizations
9. Expected contribution to the Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme
10. Past activities on behalf of, or in relation to, the Codex Alimentarius Commission and the Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme (indicate any relationship by national affiliates with the Regional Coordinating Committees and/or the National Codex Contact Points or Committees)
11. Area of activity in which participation as an observer is requested (Commission and/or Subsidiary Bodies). If more than one organization with similar interests is requesting observer status in any field of activity, such organizations will be encouraged to form themselves into a federation or association for the purpose of participation. If the formation of such a single organization is not feasible, the application should explain why this is so.
12. Language (English, French or Spanish) in which documentation should be sent to the international non-governmental organizations
13. Name, Function and address of the person providing the information
14. Signature and date
CORE FUNCTIONS OF CODEX CONTACT POINTS

The operation of Codex Contact Points will differ in each country depending on national legislation, government structures and practices.

**CODEX CONTACT POINTS:**

1. Act as the link between the Codex Secretariat and Member countries;
2. Coordinate all relevant Codex activities within their own countries;
3. Receive all Codex final texts (standards, codes of practice, guidelines and other advisory texts) and working documents of Codex sessions and ensure that they are circulated to those concerned within their own countries;
4. Send comments on Codex documents or proposals to the Codex Alimentarius Commission or its subsidiary bodies and/or the Codex Secretariat;
5. Work in close cooperation with the national Codex committee, where such a committee has been established. The Codex Contact Point acts as the liaison point with the food industry, consumers, traders and all other concerned to ensure that the government is provided with an appropriate balance of policy and technical advice upon which to base decisions relating to issues raised in the context of the Codex work;
6. Act as a channel for the exchange of information and coordination of activities with other Codex Members;
7. Receive the invitation to Codex sessions and inform the relevant chairpersons and the Codex Secretariat of the names of participants from their own countries;
8. Maintain a library of Codex final texts; and
9. Promote Codex activities throughout their own countries.
WHO’s current infant-feeding recommendation

WHO’s current infant-feeding recommendation may be summarised as follows:

The World Health Organization recommends that infants should be fed exclusively on breast milk from birth to 4 to 6 months of age; that is, they should be given no other liquids or solids than breast milk, not even water, during this period. Given the worldwide variation in growth velocity, an age range is an essential element of this feeding recommendation.

After this initial 4-to-6-month period of exclusive breast-feeding, children should continue to be breast-fed for up to 2 years of age or beyond, while receiving nutritionally adequate and safe complementary foods. Starting complementary feeding too early or too late are both undesirable. Ideally, the decision when precisely to begin will be made by a mother, in consultation with her health worker, based on her infant’s specific growth and development needs.

WHO’s current infant-feeding recommendation was based initially on the technical review and discussion undertaken in 1979 in connection with a joint WHO/UNICEF meeting on infant and young child feeding. The meeting’s statement and recommendations were subsequently endorsed in their entirety by the World Health Assembly. Important additional scientific evidence including, most recently in 1995, from the WHO Expert Committee on the use and interpretation of anthropometry, underscores the reliability of the earlier review.

Reported change in WHO’s recommendation

Some observers point to resolution WHA47.5, which the World Health Assembly adopted in May 1994, as evidence of a change in WHO’s infant-feeding recommendation. In fact, operative paragraph 2(1)(d) of this resolution merely restates that portion of the recommendation dealing with complementary feeding:

2. URGES Member States to take the following measures:
(1) to promote sound infant and young child nutrition ... through coherent effective intersectoral action, including:
   (d) fostering appropriate complementary feeding practices from the age of about six months, emphasizing continued breast-feeding and frequent feeding with safe and adequate amounts of local foods (emphasis added);

The significance of the words “about six months” is reinforced when viewed in the context of an earlier resolution (WHA45.34, 1992) where the entire recommendation is summarized as follows:

Reaffirming that during the first four to six months of life no food or liquid other than breast milk, not even water, is required to meet the normal infant’s nutritional requirements, and that from the age of about six months infants should begin to receive a variety of locally available and safely prepared foods rich in energy, in addition to breast milk, to meet their changing nutritional requirements (emphasis added);

Conclusion

WHO maintains a continual review of the scientific evidence relating to the optimal duration of exclusive breastfeeding, and thus the optimal timing of the start of complementary feeding. Based on the best available evidence, this is currently considered to be between 4 and 6 months of age for most infants. Given the worldwide variation in growth velocity, an age range is an essential element of WHO’s feeding recommendation. The wording “about 6 months” for the start of complementary feeding, which reflects this range, is identical in both the 1992 and 1994 Assembly resolutions.
TERMS OF REFERENCE OF CODEX COMMITTEES AND AD HOC TASK FORCES

TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE FAO/WHO COORDINATING COMMITTEE FOR THE NEAR EAST

Membership:
Membership of the Committee is open to all Member Nations and Associate Members of FAO and/or WHO that are members of the Codex Alimentarius Commission, within the geographic locations of the Near East as defined by FAO or the Eastern Mediterranean by WHO.

Terms of reference:
(a) defines the problems and needs of the region concerning food standards and food control;
(b) promotes within the Committee contacts for the mutual exchange of information on proposed regulatory initiatives and problems arising from food control and stimulates the strengthening of food control infrastructures;
(c) recommends to the Commission the development of world wide standards for products of interest to the region, including products considered by the Committee to have an international market potential in the future;
(d) develops regional standards for food products moving exclusively or almost exclusively in intra regional trade;
(e) draws the attention of the Commission to any aspects of the Commission’s work of particular significance to the region;
(f) promotes coordination of all regional food standards work undertaken by international governmental and non-governmental organizations within the region;
(g) exercises a general coordinating role for the region and such other functions as may be entrusted to it by the Commission, and
(h) promotes the acceptance of Codex standards and maximum limits for residues by member countries.

TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE AD HOC INTERGOVERNMENTAL TASK FORCE ON ANIMAL FEEDING

Objectives
With the aim of ensuring the safety and quality of foods of animal origin, the Task Force should develop guidelines or standards as appropriate on Good Animal Feeding practices.

Time Frame
The Task Force shall complete its work within four years. The Task Force should first submit a preliminary report to the Commission in 2001 and a full report in 2003.

Terms of Reference
(i) To complete and extend the work already done by relevant Codex Committees on the Draft Code of Practice for Good Animal Feeding.
(j) To address other aspects which are important for food safety, such as problems related to toxic substances, pathogens, microbial resistance, new technologies, storage, control measures, traceability, etc.
(k) To take full account of and collaborate with, as appropriate, work carried out by relevant Codex Committees, and other relevant international bodies, including FAO, WHO, OIE and IPPC.
**Terms of Reference for the Ad Hoc Codex Intergovernmental Task Force on Fruit and Vegetable Juices**

The ad hoc Task Force shall

(a) revise and consolidate the existing Codex standards and guidelines for fruit and vegetable juices and related products, giving preference to general standards;

(b) revise and up-date the methods of analysis and sampling for these products;

(c) complete its work prior to the 26th Session of the Commission (2005).

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**Terms of Reference of the Ad Hoc Intergovernmental Task Force on Foods Derived from Biotechnology**

**Objectives**

To develop standards, guidelines or recommendations, as appropriate, for foods derived from biotechnology or traits introduced into foods by biotechnology, on the basis of scientific evidence, risk analysis and having regard, where appropriate, to other legitimate factors relevant to the health of consumers and the promotion of fair trade practices.

**Time frame**

The Task Force shall complete its work within four years. The Task Force should first submit a preliminary report to the Commission in 2001, a mid-term report, where appropriate, to the Executive Committee in 2002, and a full report in 2003.

**Terms of Reference**

(a) To elaborate standards, guidelines, or other principles, as appropriate, for foods derived from biotechnology;

(b) To coordinate and closely collaborate, as necessary, with appropriate Codex Committees within their mandate as relates to foods derived from biotechnology; and

(c) To take full account of existing work carried out by national authorities, FAO, WHO, other international organizations and other relevant international fora.
## LIST OF STANDARDS AND RELATED TEXTS ADOPTED BY THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION AT ITS 23\textsuperscript{rd} SESSION

### PART 1. STANDARDS AND RELATED TEXTS ADOPTED AS FINAL TEXTS

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<tr>
<th>STANDARD AND RELATED TEXTS</th>
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<tr>
<td>Draft General Standard for the Use of Dairy Terms</td>
<td>ALINORM 99/11, Appendix II</td>
<td>Adopted with amendments</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Draft Revised Standard for Butter</td>
<td>ALINORM 99/11, Appendix IV</td>
<td>Adopted with amendments</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Draft Revised Standard for Milkfat Products</td>
<td>ALINORM 99/11, Appendix V</td>
<td>Adopted with amendments</td>
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<tr>
<td>Draft Revised Standard for Evaporated Milks</td>
<td>ALINORM 99/11, Appendix VI</td>
<td>Adopted with amendments</td>
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<tr>
<td>Draft Revised Standard for Sweetened Condensed Milks</td>
<td>ALINORM 99/11, Appendix VII</td>
<td>Adopted with amendments</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Draft Revised Standard for Milk Powders and Cream Powder</td>
<td>ALINORM 99/11, Appendix VIII</td>
<td>Adopted with amendments</td>
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<tr>
<td>Draft Revised Standard for Cheese</td>
<td>ALINORM 99/11, Appendix IX</td>
<td>Adopted with amendments</td>
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<tr>
<td>Draft Revised Standard for Whey Cheese</td>
<td>ALINORM 99/11, Appendix X</td>
<td>Adopted with amendments</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Draft Group Standard for Cheeses in Brine</td>
<td>ALINORM 99/11, Appendix XI</td>
<td>Adopted with amendments</td>
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<tr>
<td>Food Grade Salt: Draft Amendments to the Food Additive Provisions</td>
<td>ALINORM 99/12, Appendix VII</td>
<td>Adopted with amendments</td>
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<tr>
<td>Draft Specifications for the Identity and Purity of Food Additives</td>
<td>ALINORM 99/12, Appendix VIII and ALINORM 99/12A, para. 65, 68 and Appendix VII</td>
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<tr>
<td>International Numbering System for Food Additives: Allocation of new numbers for Konjac Flour, Stevioside, Argon, Helium and Oxygen</td>
<td>ALINORM 99/12, Appendix IX and ALINORM 99/12A, para. 74 and Appendix VIII</td>
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<tr>
<td>Draft Maximum Level for Aflatoxins in Peanuts intended for Further Processing</td>
<td>ALINORM 99/12, Appendix X</td>
<td>Adopted (Sampling Plan was adopted on interim basis)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Standard for Food Additives: Draft Table 1 (Additives Permitted for Use Under Specified Conditions in Certain Food Categories or Individual Food Items) and Corrigendum</td>
<td>ALINORM 99/12A, paras 34, 46, 56, Appendix II</td>
<td>Adopted with amendments</td>
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<td>Proposed Draft Amendment to the General Standard for Food Additives: Preamble – Footnote</td>
<td>ALINORM 99/12A, para. 33, 56, Appendix V</td>
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<td>General Standard for Food Additives: Draft Revised Table 3 and Annex</td>
<td>ALINORM 99/12A, para. 52, 56 and Appendix III</td>
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<td>• Table 3: Additives Permitted for Use in Food in General, Unless Otherwise Specified, in Accordance with GMP</td>
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<td>• Annex to Table Three: Food Categories or Individual Food Items Excluded from the General Conditions of Table Three</td>
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<td>Draft Code of Hygienic Practice for Refrigerated Packaged Foods with Extended Shelf Life</td>
<td>ALINORM 99/13, Appendix III</td>
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<td>Draft Principles and Guidelines for the Conduct of Microbiological Risk Assessment</td>
<td>ALINORM 99/13A, Appendix II</td>
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<td>Draft Amendment to the Recommended International Code of Practice: General Principles of Food Hygiene</td>
<td>ALINORM 99/13A, Appendix III</td>
<td>Adopted with editorial amendment</td>
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<td>Draft Asian Regional Guidelines for Codex Contact Points and National Codex Committees</td>
<td>ALINORM 99/15, Appendix II</td>
<td>Adopted with amendment</td>
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<td>Draft Standard for Named Vegetable Oils</td>
<td>ALINORM 99/17, para. 62 and Appendix II</td>
<td>Adopted</td>
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<td>Draft Standard for Named Animal Fats</td>
<td>ALINORM 99/17, para. 79 and Appendix III</td>
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<tr>
<td>Draft Revised Standard for Edible Fats and Oils not Covered by Individual Standards</td>
<td>ALINORM 99/17, para. 91 and Appendix IV</td>
<td>Adopted</td>
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<tr>
<td>Draft Revised Code of Practice for the Storage and Transport of Fats and Oils in Bulk</td>
<td>ALINORM 99/17, para. 123 and Appendix V</td>
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<td>Draft Guidelines for the Sensory Evaluation of Fish and Shellfish in Laboratories</td>
<td>ALINORM 99/18, Appendix II</td>
<td>Adopted</td>
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<tr>
<td>Draft Guidelines for the Production, Processing, Labelling and Marketing of Organically Produced Foods (Except sections for livestock production)</td>
<td>ALINORM 99/22, Appendix II and ALINORM 99/22A, para. 33 and Appendix II</td>
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<td>Draft Amendment to the General Standard for the Labelling of Prepackaged Foods: Foods that can cause Hypersensitivity</td>
<td>ALINORM 99/22, Appendix III</td>
<td>Adopted with amendments</td>
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<td>Draft Amendment to the General Standard for the Labelling of Prepackaged Foods: Composite Ingredients</td>
<td>ALINORM 99/22A, para. 39 and Appendix III</td>
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<td>Draft Maximum Residue Limits (MRLs) for Pesticides</td>
<td>ALINORM 99/24, Appendix II; ALINORM 99/24A, Appendix II; ALINORM 99/24</td>
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<td>Thiabendazole</td>
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Draft Revised Recommended Methods of Sampling for Pesticide Residues for the Determination of Compliance with MRLs ALINORM 99/24A, Appendix III Adopted

Draft Revised Standard for Sugars ALINORM 99/25, Appendix III Adopted with amendments


Draft Guidelines for the Development of Equivalence Agreements regarding Food Imports and Export Inspection and Certification Systems ALINORM 99/30A, para. 30 and Appendix II Adopted

Draft Maximum Residue Limits for Veterinary Drugs in Foods ALINORM 99/31, Appendices II & III Adopted

- Azaperone
- Benzylpenicillin/procaine benzylpenicillin
- Ceftiofur
- Diclazuril
- Dihydrostreptomycin/streptomycin
- Febantel/fenbendazole/oxfendazole
- Fluazuron
- Moxidectin
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<td>Neomycin</td>
<td>ALINORM 99/35, Appendix II</td>
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<td>Nicarbazin</td>
<td>ALINORM 99/35, Appendix III</td>
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<td>ALINORM 99/35, Appendix IV</td>
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<td>Tilmicosin</td>
<td>ALINORM 99/35, Appendix V</td>
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<td>Draft Standard for Limes</td>
<td>ALINORM 99/35, Appendix II</td>
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<td>Draft Standard for Pummelos (Citrus grandi)</td>
<td>ALINORM 99/35, Appendix III</td>
<td>Adopted (except for Section 3)</td>
</tr>
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<td>Draft Standard for Guavas</td>
<td>ALINORM 99/35, Appendix IV</td>
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<td>Draft Standard for Chayotes</td>
<td>ALINORM 99/35, Appendix V</td>
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<td>Proposed Draft Standard for Mexican Limes</td>
<td>ALINORM 99/35, Appendix VI</td>
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<td>Draft Codex Standard for Pineapples</td>
<td>ALINORM 99/35A, para. 46 and Appendix II</td>
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<td>Draft Codex Standard for Grapefruits (Citrus paradisi)</td>
<td>ALINORM 99/35A, para. 62 and Appendix III</td>
<td>Adopted (except for Section 3)</td>
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<td>Draft Codex Standard for Longans</td>
<td>ALINORM 99/35A, para. 70 and Appendix IV</td>
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## Part 2. Draft Standards and Related Texts Adopted at Step 5

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<th>Standard and Related Texts</th>
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<tr>
<td>Proposed Draft Maximum Level for Patulin</td>
<td>ALINORM 99/12A, para. 120</td>
<td>Adopted at Step 5 and advanced to Step 6</td>
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<tr>
<td>Proposed Draft Revised Guideline for the Development of Maximum Levels of Use for Food Additives with Numerical Acceptable Daily Intakes</td>
<td>ALINORM 99/12A, para. 55 and Appendix IV</td>
<td>Adopted at Step 5 and advanced to Step 6</td>
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<tr>
<td>Proposed Draft Code of Hygienic Practice for the Transport of Foodstuffs in Bulk and Semi-Packed Foodstuffs</td>
<td>ALINORM 99/13A, para. 52 and Appendix IV</td>
<td>Adopted at Step 5 and advanced to Step 6</td>
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<tr>
<td>Proposed Draft Revised Standard for Cocoa Butters</td>
<td>ALINORM 99/14, Appendix II</td>
<td>Adopted at Step 5 and advanced to Step 6</td>
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<tr>
<td>Proposed Draft Revised Standard for Cocoa (Cacao) Mass (Cocoa/Chocolate Liquor) and Cocoa Cake, for the Use in the Manufacture of Cocoa and Chocolate Products</td>
<td>ALINORM 99/14, Appendix III</td>
<td>Adopted at Step 5 and advanced to Step 6</td>
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<tr>
<td>Proposed Draft Revised Standard for Cocoa Powders (Cocoas) and Dry Cocoa-Sugar Mixture</td>
<td>ALINORM 99/14, Appendix IV</td>
<td>Adopted at Step 5 and advanced to Step 6</td>
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<tr>
<td>General Standard for the Labelling of Prepackaged Foods: Proposed Draft Amendment concerning the Labelling of Foods obtained through Biotechnology</td>
<td>ALINORM 99/22, Appendix VII</td>
<td>Adopted at Step 5 and advanced to Step 6</td>
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<tr>
<td>Draft Amendment to the General Standard for the Labelling of Prepackaged Foods: Class names</td>
<td>ALINORM 99/22A, para. 52 and Appendix V</td>
<td>Adopted at Step 5 and advanced to Step 6</td>
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<tr>
<td>Proposed Draft Maximum Residue Limits (MRLs) for Pesticides</td>
<td>ALINORM 99/24, Appendix V; and ALINORM 99/24A, Appendix V</td>
<td>Adopted at Step 5 and advanced to Step 6</td>
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<td>Proposed Draft Revised Maximum Residue Limits (MRLs) for Pesticides</td>
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<td>Proposed Draft Revised Extraneous Maximum Residue Limit (EMRL)</td>
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<td>Proposed Draft Maximum Residue Limits for Veterinary Drugs in Foods</td>
<td>ALINORM 99/31, Appendix V</td>
<td>Adopted at Step 5 and advanced to Step 6</td>
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<tr>
<td>Proposed Draft Codex Standard for Tiquisque (White and Lilac)</td>
<td>ALINORM 99/35A, para. 117 and Appendix V</td>
<td>Adopted at Step 5 of the Normal Procedure and advanced to Step 6</td>
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<tr>
<td>Proposed Draft Codex Standard for Yellow Pita Hayas</td>
<td>ALINORM 99/35A, para. 155 and Appendix VI</td>
<td>Adopted at Step 5 of the Normal Procedure and advanced to Step 6</td>
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<td>Proposed Draft Codex Standard for Papaya</td>
<td>ALINORM 99/35A, para. 167 and Appendix VII</td>
<td>Adopted at Step 5 of the Normal Procedure and advanced to Step 6</td>
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<td>Proposed Draft Codex Standard for Oranges including Guide for Use in scoring Freezing Injury</td>
<td>ALINORM 99/35A, para. 108 and Appendix X</td>
<td>Adopted at Step 5 and advanced to Step 6</td>
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<td>Proposed Draft Codex Standard for Cape Gooseberry</td>
<td>ALINORM 99/35A, para. 145 and Appendix XI</td>
<td>Adopted at Step 5 and advanced to Step 6</td>
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<tr>
<td>Proposed Draft Codex Standard for Asparagus</td>
<td>ALINORM 99/35A, para. 87 and Appendix IX</td>
<td>Adopted at Step 5 and advanced to Step 6</td>
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<tr>
<td>Proposed Draft Revised Regional Code of Practice for the Preparation and Sale of Street-Vended Foods (Latin America and the Caribbean)</td>
<td>ALINORM 99/36, Appendix II</td>
<td>Adopted at Step 5 and advanced to Step 6</td>
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## APPROVED NEW WORK

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<th>RESPONSIBLE COMMITTEE</th>
<th>NOTES</th>
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<tr>
<td>Revised European Regional Standard for Mayonnaise</td>
<td>CCEURO</td>
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<td>Revised European Regional Standard for Vinegar</td>
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<td>Amendments to the International Numbering System for Food Additives</td>
<td>CCFAC</td>
<td>Accelerated Procedure: 4-Hexylresorcinol; Pectins (technological function only)</td>
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<td>Code of Practice for the Prevention of Contamination by Ochratoxin A in Cereals</td>
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<td>Standards for:</td>
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<td>- Apples</td>
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<td>- Table Grapes</td>
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<td>- Tomatoes</td>
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<td>Proposed Draft Guidelines for the Utilisation of and Promotion of Quality Assurance Systems</td>
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<td>- High Oleic Acid Sunflower Oil</td>
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<td>- High Oleic Acid Safflower Oil</td>
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<td>Code of Practice for Storage and Transport of Fats &amp; Oils in Bulk: List of Acceptable and</td>
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<td>Revised Standard for Whey Powders</td>
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<td>Standard for Products in Which Milk Components Are Substituted by Non-Milk Components</td>
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<td>for Infants and Children</td>
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### Maximum Residue Limits (New or Revised) for various pesticides (Priority List):

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<td>• Chlormequat</td>
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<td>• Chlorpyrifos</td>
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<td>• Diphenylamine</td>
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<td>• Ethephon</td>
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### Maximum Residue Limits (New or Revised) for various veterinary drugs in foods (Priority List):

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<td>• Carazolol</td>
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<td>• Natural hormones (estradiol-17β, progesterone &amp; testosterone)</td>
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<td>• Dihydrospreptomycin/streptomycin</td>
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<td>• Ivermectin</td>
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<td>Codex Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling</td>
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<td>Codex Committee on Pesticides Residues</td>
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<td>Codex Committee on Residues of Veterinary Drugs in Food</td>
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<td>Codex Committee on Food Import and Export Inspection and Certification Systems</td>
<td>Australia</td>
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<td>Codex Committee on Nutrition and Food for Special Dietary Uses</td>
<td>Germany</td>
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<td>Codex Committee on Cocoa Products and Chocolate</td>
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<td>Codex Committee on Sugars</td>
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<td>Codex Committee on Processed Fruits and Vegetables</td>
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<td>United Kingdom</td>
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<td>Codex Committee on Meat Hygiene</td>
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<td>Codex Committee on Soups and Broths</td>
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<td>Codex Committee on Cereals, Pulses and Legumes</td>
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<td>Codex Committee on Fresh Fruits and Vegetables</td>
<td>Mexico</td>
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### AD HOC CODEX INTERGOVERNMENTAL TASK FORCES

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<td>Japan</td>
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<td>ALINORM 99/1</td>
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<td>2. Election of Officers of the Commission and Appointment of Regional Coordinators</td>
<td>ALINORM 99/2</td>
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<td>3. Report by the Chairperson on the Forty-fifth and Forty-sixth Sessions of the Executive Committee</td>
<td>ALINORM 99/3 ALINORM 99/4</td>
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<tr>
<td>6. Consumers’ involvement in the work of the Codex Alimentarius Commission</td>
<td>ALINORM 99/8</td>
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<tr>
<td>7. Principles of risk analysis</td>
<td>ALINORM 99/9</td>
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<td>9. Consideration of draft standards and related texts</td>
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<td>10. Consideration of proposals to elaborate new standards and or related texts</td>
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<td>11. Matters arising from reports of Codex Committees</td>
<td>ALINORM 99/21</td>
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<td>Part III</td>
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<td>12. Designation of Host Governments for Codex Committees and ad hoc Intergovernmental Task Forces</td>
<td>ALINORM 99/16</td>
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<td>13. Other Business</td>
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<td>14. Adoption of Report</td>
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ALINORM 99/21 Part I – Addendum 2
Consideration of Draft Standards and Related Texts
Maximum Residue Limits for Bovine Somatotropins

ALINORM 99/21 - Part I – Addendum 3 ENGLISH ONLY
Consideration of Draft Standards and Related Texts
(Government comments on Standards and Related Texts at Step 8)

ALINORM 99/21 – Part I - Addendum 4
Consideration of Draft Standards and Related Texts and Abolition or Revocation of Existing Standards – Status of Endorsement of Standards Submitted at Step 8

ALINORM 99/21 - Part II
Consideration of Proposals to elaborate New Standards and/or Related Texts (Codex Sessions 1998)

ALINORM 99/21 - Part II – Addendum 1
Consideration of Proposals to elaborate New Standards and/or Related Texts (Codex Sessions 1999)

ALINORM 99/21 - Part III
Matters arising from Reports of Codex Committees (Codex Sessions 1998)

ALINORM 99/21 - Part III – Addendum 1
Matters arising from Reports of Codex Committees (Codex Sessions 1999)

CODEX COMMITTEE REPORTS

ALINORM 99/3
Report of Executive Committee of the Codex Alimentarius Commission, 45th Session

ALINORM 99/4 (CRD)
Report of Executive Committee of the Codex Alimentarius Commission, 46th Session

ALINORM 99/11
Report of Codex Committee on Milk and Milk Products, 3rd Session

ALINORM 99/11 – Corrigendum
Report of Codex Committee on Milk and Milk Products, 3rd Session

ALINORM 99/12
Report of Codex Committee on Food Additives and Contaminants, 31st Session

ALINORM 99/12A
Report of Codex Committee on Food Additives and Contaminants, 31st Session

ALINORM 99/12A – Corrigendum
Report of Codex Committee on Food Additives and Contaminants, 31st Session

ALINORM 99/13
Report of Codex Committee on Food Hygiene, 30th Session

ALINORM 99/13A
Report of Codex Committee on Food Hygiene, 31st Session

ALINORM 99/14
Report of Codex Committee on Cocoa Products and Chocolate, 17th Session

ALINORM 99/15
Report of Codex Regional Coordinating Committee for Asia, 11th Session

ALINORM 99/17
Report of Codex Committee on Fats and Oils, 16th Session

ALINORM 99/18
Report of Codex Committee on Fish and Fishery Products, 23rd Session

ALINORM 99/19
Report of Codex Regional Coordinating Committee for Europe, 21st Session

ALINORM 99/20
Report of Codex Committee on Natural Mineral Waters, 6th Session

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ALINORM 99/22A
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**INFORMATION PAPERS**

CAC 23/INF-1 | Provisional List of Documents |
CAC 23/INF-2 | Tentative Timetable of Codex Sessions 1999-2001 |
CAC 23/INF-3 | List of Governmental and Non-Governmental Organizations in “Observer Status” with the Codex Alimentarius Commission |
CAC 23/INF-4 ENGLISH ONLY | Current Status of Work (All Committees) |

**CONFERENCE ROOM DOCUMENTS**

CAC/LIM 1 (EFS) | List of Documents |
CAC/LIM 1/1 | List of CAC/LIM (1999) Documents |
CAC/LIM 2 | Principles of Risk Analysis |
ALINORM 99/9, Add. 1 | Comments of Consumers International |
CAC/LIM 3 | Membership of the Codex Alimentarius Commission |
CAC/LIM 4 | List of Governmental and non-Governmental Organizations, in “Observer Status” with the Codex Alimentarius Commission |
CAC 23/INF-3 | Government Comments on Standards and Related Texts at Step 8 |
CAC/LIM 5 (ALINORM 99/21-Part I - Add. 3) | Government Comments on Standards and Related Texts at Step 8 |
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MEMBERSHIP OF THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION
(27 OCTOBER 2000)

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<td>Libyan Arab Jamahiriya</td>
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133. Singapore
134. Slovak Republic
135. Slovenia
136. Solomon Islands
137. South Africa
138. Spain
139. Sri Lanka
140. Sudan
141. Suriname
142. Swaziland
143. Sweden
144. Switzerland
145. Syrian Arab Republic
146. Thailand
147. The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia
148. Togo
149. Tonga
150. Trinidad and Tobago
151. Tunisia
152. Turkey
153. Uganda
154. United Arab Emirates
155. United Kingdom
156. United Republic of Tanzania
157. United States of America
158. Uruguay
159. Vanuatu
160. Venezuela
161. Viet Nam
162. Yemen
163. Yugoslavia
164. Zambia
165. Zimbabwe