CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION E

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

World Health Organization

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ALINORM 10/33/22

JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME

CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION

Thirty-third Session
Geneva, Switzerland, 5 - 9 July 2010

REPORT OF THE THIRTY-EIGHTH SESSION OF THE CODEX COMMITTEE ON FOOD LABELLING

Quebec City, Canada, 3 – 7 May 2010

Note: This document incorporates Circular Letter CL 2010/15-FL

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CX 5/15 **CL 2010/15-FL**
May 2010

TO: Codex Contact Points;
Interested International Organizations

FROM: Secretariat, Codex Alimentarius Commission, Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme, FAO, 00153 Rome, Italy, fax: +39.06.5705.4593 or e-mail: Codex@fao.org

SUBJECT: **Distribution of the report of the 38th session of the Codex Committee on Food Labelling (ALINORM 10/33/22)**

A. MATTERS FOR ADOPTION BY THE 33rd SESSION OF THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION

Proposed Draft Guideline at Step 5/8

1. Proposed draft amendment to the *Guidelines on nutrition labelling* (CAC/GL 2-1985) at step 5/8 (new section 4 on Principles and criteria for legibility of nutrition labelling (para. 78, Appendix IV)

Proposed Draft Guideline at Step 5

2. Proposed draft revision of the *Guidelines on Nutrition Labelling* (CAC/GL 2-1985) concerning the list of nutrients that are always declared on a voluntary or mandatory basis (at step 5) (para 53 and Appendix II).

Other texts for adoption

3. Editorial amendment to the *Guidelines on Nutrition and Health Claims* (CAC/GL 23-1997) – table for conditions for nutrient contents (para. 111 and Appendix VI).

4. Deletion of section 8 and related text from the *Guidelines for the Production, Processing, Labelling and Marketing of Organically Produced Foods* (para. 139 and Appendix IX).

5. Alignment of the General standard for the labelling of prepackaged food (CODEX STAN 1-1985) with the Codex international numbering system in CAC/GL 36-1989 (para 167 and Appendix XI).

Governments wishing to propose amendments or comments on the above documents should do so in writing in conformity with the Procedural Manual of the Codex Alimentarius Commission to the Secretariat, Codex Alimentarius Commission, Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme, at the above address **before 15 June 2010.**

B. REQUEST FOR COMMENTS AND INFORMATION

Draft Standard at Step 6 of the Procedure

2. Draft Amendment to the *General Standard for the Labelling of Prepackaged Foods:* Definitions (para. 139, Appendix IX)

Governments and international organizations wishing to submit comments should do so in writing to the Secretariat, Codex Alimentarius Commission, at the above address, with a copy to Codex Contact Point for Canada, Food Directorate, Health Canada, 200 Tunney's Pasture Driveway, Bldg. No. 7, Room 2395, Tunney's Pasture, Ottawa K1A 0L2, Canada, Fax No. +1.613.941.3537, E-mail: codex_canada@hc-sc.gc.ca, **before 15 November 2010.**

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Proposed draft revision of the *Guidelines on Nutrition Labelling* (CAC/GL 2-1985) concerning the list of nutrients that are always declared on a voluntary or mandatory basis (at Step 5) (para 53 and Appendix II).

Editorial amendment to the *Guidelines on Nutrition and Health Claims* (CAC/GL 23-1997) – table for conditions for nutrient contents (para. 111 and Appendix VI).

Deletion of section 8 and related text from the *Guidelines for the Production, Processing, Labelling and Marketing of Organically Produced Foods* (para. 139 and Appendix VIII).

Alignment of the General standard for the labelling of prepackaged food (CODEX STAN 1-1985) with the Codex international numbering system in CAC/GL 36-1989 (para 167 and Appendix XI).

New work on: organic aquaculture (para 186 and Appendix XIII); a definition for nutrient reference values (para 191 and Appendix XII) and on the establishment of claims for sugars, salt/sodium and trans-fatty acids (paras 96 – 98 and Appendix V).

Other Matters of Interest to the Commission

The Committee:

Endorsed the labelling provisions in several Draft Standards, thereby allowing their adoption by the Commission (para 20);

Retained at Step 7 the Draft Amendment to the *Guidelines for the Production, Processing, Labelling and Marketing of Organically Produced Foods*: Annex I (inclusion of ethylene for other products) (para 119 and Appendix VII). Created an electronic working group for a more structured approach for the review of the Guidelines (para 126) and that this group would review substances recently submitted: spinosad, potassium carbonate and copper octanoate (para 125);

Agreed to append the results of its discussions on mandatory nutrition labelling to the report for possible use by FAO in capacity building tools (para 78 and Appendix III);

Returned to Step 6 the Draft Amendment to the *General Standard for the Labelling of Prepackaged Foods*: Definitions (para 139 and Appendix IX) and returned to Step 3 the Proposed Draft Recommendations for the Labelling of Food and Food Ingredients Obtained through Certain Techniques of Genetic Modification/ Genetic Engineering (para 161 and Appendix X);

Agreed to further examine issues related to exchange of information between competent authorities when suspecting fraud concerning organic products (para 181).

REPORT OF THE 38TH SESSION OF THE CODEX COMMITTEE ON FOOD LABELLING

INTRODUCTION

1. The Codex Committee on Food Labelling held its Thirty-eighth Session in Quebec City, Quebec, Canada from 3-7 May 2010, at the kind invitation of the Government of Canada. Mr Paul Mayers, Associate Vice-President, Programs, Policy and Programs Branch, Canadian Food Inspection Agency chaired the Session. 251 delegates representing 61 Member Countries, one Member Organization, and 25 international organizations attended the session. A complete list of participants is attached as Appendix I to this report.

Division of Competence

2. The Committee noted the division of competence between the European Union and its Member States, according to paragraph 5, Rule II of the Rules of Procedure of the Codex Alimentarius Commission, as presented in CRD 1.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA (Agenda Item 1)[1]

3. The Committee agreed to discuss the following issues on future work under Agenda item 12:

Inclusion of spinosad, potassium bicarbonate and copper octanoate in Annex II, Table 2 of the *Guidelines for the Production, Processing, Labelling and Marketing of Organically Produced Foods* proposed by the EU in CX/FL 10/38/17 (Item 12(a)).

- Proposal for new work on organic aquaculture proposed by the EU in CX/FL 10/38/18 (Item 12(b)).
- Proposal from on work on the use of the term “natural” proposed by AIDGUM in CX/FL 10/38/19 (Item 12(c)).

4. The Committee noted that document CX/FL 10/38/16 (Agenda item 11 - Misleading naming of energy drinks) had not been received and agreed with the proposal from Nigeria to remove the item from the agenda of the session taking into account the work already done by CCNFSDU. The Committee noted that it could be taken up at a future session should a working document become available from Nigeria who had proposed to elaborate a discussion paper with the assistance of IACFO at the 37th CCFL.

5. The Committee decided to group items related to the *Guidelines for the Production, Processing, Labelling and Marketing of Organically Produced Food* and thus moved items 10, 12 (a), and 12 (b) after item 5 (b).

6. The Committee adopted the Provisional Agenda as the Agenda for the Session with the amendments noted above.

MATTERS REFERRED BY THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION AND OTHER CODEX COMMITTEES (Agenda Item 2)[2]

7. The Committee noted the information presented in document CX/FL 10/38/2 most of which would be taken into consideration under the relevant agenda items and in addition noted, commented and/or decided the following:

Critical review by CCEXEC 62/63

8. The Committee noted that the Executive Committee had discussed progress of the work on Definitions and Proposed Draft Guidelines for the Labelling of Foods Obtained through Certain Techniques of GM/GE and had noted the deadline the CCFL had set for itself and fully expected that it would complete its work by the 2011 deadline; if it did not, the Executive Committee would recommend corrective action. During the remaining two years, the Executive Committee suggested that the CCFL try all possible means to reach consensus, such as using a facilitator.

[1] CX/FL 10/38/1
[2] CX/FL 10/38/2, CRD 2 (Matters of interest arising from FAO and WHO)

9. The delegation of the European Union said that it was important to finalise this work so that it would not be stopped by the EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE if the deadline was not met. The delegation stressed the importance of this work for consumers and that it would be a failure for the Committee and Codex in general if no consensus could be found.

10. The delegation of the United States said that the Committee had spent a significant amount of time on this issue but that fundamental differences of opinion remained. They recalled that an extensive discussion paper had been prepared by the United States, Canada and Nigeria (CL 2007/38-FL), which could possibly be considered a way forward.

Matters referred by the Codex Committee on Nutrition & Foods for Special Dietary Uses (CCNFSDU)

11. The Committee noted that the CCNFSDU had agreed to recommend to the CCFL to establish a definition for the term "nutrient reference values" and had proposed as a basis for discussion the following draft definition: "*Nutrient reference values are a set of numerical values established and used for purposes of nutrition labelling*". The CCNFSDU had also proposed to extend this definition to include the basis on which NRVs are determined by adding "and are based on scientific data on nutrient requirements" and "and/or nutrient levels associated with risk of diet-related noncommunicable diseases" but that the CCNFSDU did not reach agreement on this point.

12. The Committee agreed that there was a need for a definition of NRVs and several delegations indicated support for the wording proposed by the CCNFSDU.

13. The Delegations of Canada, the United States and the European Union offered to prepare a draft project document requesting new work on a definition for nutrient reference values, for discussion under agenda item 12.

Matters arising from FAO and WHO

14. The representative of the FAO informed the Committee about several new publications that may be relevant to the committee's deliberations, namely: *Innovations in Food Labelling, The Food Composition Study Guide, the Report of the Joint FAO/WHO Expert Consultation on fats and fatty acids in human nutrition, the Report of the Joint FAO/WHO Expert Consultation on the risks and benefits of fish consumption and Combating Micronutrient Deficiencies: Food-based Approaches.*

15. The Representative of WHO informed the Committee of the new WHO Guidelines Development process, which has led to substantial changes in the way WHO produces its guidelines and recommendations. To implement this new process in providing scientific advice on nutrition, WHO established the Nutrition Guidance Expert Advisory Group (NUGAG) and through this process, WHO had begun work in the areas of micronutrients for iron supplementation, food fortification and multiple micronutrient powders; of diet and health for sugars, total fat and nutrient profiling.

16. The Representative of WHO also informed the Committee that the proposed "Joint FAO/WHO Expert Meetings on Nutrition" (JEMNU) will replace the current ad hoc expert consultation arrangement for provision of scientific advice on food and nutrition to Codex and Member States.

17. The Representative of WHO further informed the Committee on WHO's work on salt/sodium reduction including the convening of three Population Salt/Sodium Reduction Strategy Platforms: 1) creating an enabling environment (jointly with the UK Food Standard Agency); 2) monitoring and evaluating dietary salt intake (jointly with the Government of Canada); and 3) salt as a vehicle for fortification to prevent iodine deficiency disorders (IDD) through identifying how two public health strategies (i.e. salt/sodium reduction and universal salt iodization) can efficiently and effectively work together, as well as regional initiatives by the WHO Regional Offices for the Americas, Europe and Western Pacific.

18. The Representative of the WHO Regional Office for the Americas (PAHO/AMRO) further informed the Committee of the work of the regional expert group that had prepared a policy statement aiming at reducing dietary salt intake to reach national targets or the internationally recommended target of less than 5g salt (2000 mg sodium) per day per person by 2020. The expert group had further recommended to the CCFL to consider that: the declaration of sodium/salt be mandatory; the decision on whether sodium or salt is declared be made by competent authorities in each country; communicating effectively about sodium/salt content of foods to consumers be mandatory (e.g. front-of-package information); the nutrient reference value for sodium be set as low as possible while keeping with an achievable health promoting diet.

19. In responding to a question regarding the timing of WHO work on nutrient profiling, the Representative of WHO informed the Committee that methodology guidance and a manual on guiding principles for developing and implementing nutrient profiling had been developed in 2009 and was currently being revised and updated considering peer-review comments. In 2010 it would be validated in countries in each WHO Region and after this a technical consultation would review the outcome of the validation work with a view to develop a WHO framework and manual for the country level development of nutrient profiling.

CONSIDERATION OF LABELLING PROVISIONS IN DRAFT CODEX STANDARDS (Agenda Item 3)[3]

20. The Committee endorsed the labelling provisions as proposed in the working document.

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE WHO GLOBAL STRATEGY ON DIET, PHYSICAL ACTIVITY AND HEALTH (Agenda Item 4)

Proposed draft revision of the *Guidelines on Nutrition Labelling* (CAC/GL 2-1985) concerning the list of nutrients that are always declared on a voluntary or mandatory basis (Agenda Item 4a) [4]

21. The Committee noted that at its last session there had been consensus on adding saturated fats and total sugars to the list but that the addition of sodium/salt, added sugars, dietary fibre and trans-fatty acids had remained in square brackets. The Committee discussed each of these items individually.

Sodium/salt

22. The Committee recalled that at its last session there was consensus on the importance of the nutrient sodium/salt and that it should be included in the list but due to the diversity of views on which term to use, the Committee had agreed to retain sodium/salt in square brackets and to establish an electronic working group led by the Delegation of New Zealand to resolve the issue.

23. The delegation of New Zealand introduced the report of the working group and said that there had been no consensus on which term to use: sodium as the technically correct term or salt because it was better understood by consumers. There was agreement in the working group that it was both important that information on the label be technically correct and at the same time understandable for the consumer. There was support for either grams or milligrams per 100g/100 ml and/or per serving as the unit in which to express a declaration of salt and sodium. An extensive piece of research had been provided by the United Kingdom that found that salt was the better term to convey information to their consumers.

24. As the working group had not been able to discuss the second item on its terms of reference namely to "consider different approaches to declare sodium/salt on food labelling to assist in the implementation of the Global Strategy on Diet, Physical Activity and Health and in consumer choice of foods lower in sodium/salt", the delegation suggested that the working group be re-established in order to complete its work.

25. In the discussion, different proposals were made: to use either term in the nutrient declaration; to use both terms, using sodium and salt equivalent (with a conversion factor of 2.5) in the nutrient declaration; or using only total sodium in the nutrient declaration but salt in the ingredient declaration. It was mentioned that in most countries 90% of all sodium came from salt and that WHO had used both terms.

26. Many delegations supported the term sodium and there was support for further discussion in a working group on how to deal with the term salt. One suggestion was made that the term salt could be maintained in square brackets but that the square brackets should be removed from the term sodium as this was the nutrient of public health concern and was already used in mandatory labelling in many countries.

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[3] CX/CF 10/38/3

[4] CX/FL 10/38/4 (comments of Australia, Brazil, Chile, Costa Rica, Malaysia, Mexico, Int. Council of Beverages Assoc. and Int. Dairy Federation (IDF)), CX/FL 10/38/4-Add.1 (comments of Canada, Kenya, Mali, Norway, European Committee of Sugar Producers and AIDGUM), CRD.3 (comments of Ghana, Guatemala, Indonesia, Korea, Phillippines and IDF), CRD 14 (Panama); CRD 16 (India); CRD 17 (IDF); CRD 19 (Bolivia), CRD 22 (CIAA); CX/FL 10/38/5 (Report from the electronic working group on sodium/salt); CRD 4 (comments of European Union, Indonesia, Thailand and United Kingdom), CRD 14 (comments of Panama), CRD 23 (comments of CIAA).

27. Many other delegations stressed the importance of using the term salt in the nutrient declaration to ensure consumer understanding and supported maintaining the square brackets around both terms and to continue the work of the working group on both terms. They said that including the term salt in the ingredients list was not a solution as this was not the place to give numerical nutrient information.

28. Several developing countries said that given the high level of illiteracy in their countries, it was necessary to use salt as the easily understood term.

29. It was mentioned that it should be recognised that the labelling of sodium or salt or both was not enough to address the public health concern related to excessive sodium/salt intake and there were other measures that governments should consider such as consumer education.

30. One observer said that in order to make the link between both terms sodium could be used in the nutrient declaration and the term sodium-chloride (salt) in the ingredient list.

31. Another observer expressed the view that a decision of the Committee to delete either of the two terms could undermine ongoing national public health campaigns and the standard should permit the use of whichever term works.

32. The Committee agreed to re-establish the electronic working group led by New Zealand and working in English only and open to all members and observers, with the mandate to consider different approaches to declare sodium/salt on food labelling to assist in the implementation of the Global Strategy on Diet, Physical Activity and Health and in consumer choice of foods lower in sodium/salt and to make recommendations to the 39th session of the CCFL on the findings of the Working Group.

Added sugars

33. Several delegations proposed the deletion of added sugars from the list of nutrients noting that there were no analytical methods to differentiate between intrinsic and added sugars, which could create difficulties for enforcement. They also noted that the human body did not differentiate between total sugars and added sugars and that added sugars could be addressed through other means than in a nutrient declaration.

34. A few delegations proposed to retain added sugars in the list and to delete the square brackets stating that their declaration would assist consumers in making informed choices that would result in the reduction of the intake of foods high in extrinsic or added sugars as recommended by a number of health associations; and that deletion would be against the advice of the WHO Global Strategy on Diet, Physical Activity and Health. It was noted that even though no analytical methods were available to distinguish between intrinsic and added (extrinsic) sugars, other means were available to verify compliance with nutrition labelling.

35. The Representative of the WHO informed the Committee that the Joint FAO/WHO Update on Carbohydrates had defined the different terms in relation to sugars and recommended total sugars be used for the purposes of labelling. The Representative further explained that “free sugars”, which was the subject the recommendations in the Global Strategy, was not equivalent to “added sugars”.

36. Some observers stressed the importance to differentiate between intrinsic and added (extrinsic) sugars and proposed that the Committee consider the development of enforcement methods that could assist in this differentiation and proposed the establishment of a working group to consider this matter.

37. The Committee agreed not to include added sugars in the list of nutrients in section 3.2.1.2.

Dietary fibre

38. Several delegations supported the deletion of dietary fibre from the list since it was not a nutrient identified in the Global Strategy and that it should be more appropriately left to national legislation. It was proposed that consideration be given to the inclusion of dietary fibre in section 3.2.1.4 as an example of other nutrients considered to be relevant for maintaining a good nutritional status as required by national legislation.

39. Other delegations supported the retention of dietary fibre and therefore the deletion of the square brackets in view of its importance to health; the need for information which could guide consumers to make better food choices; and in view of the adoption of a definition for dietary fibre by CCNFSDU and identification of associated methods of analysis by CCMAS.

40. The Committee acknowledged the importance of dietary fibre and indicated that it could be included at the national level according to section 3.2.1.4 without mentioning it explicitly in the section.

41. The Committee therefore agreed not to include dietary fibre in the list of nutrients in section 3.2.1.2.

Trans-fatty acids

42. A number of delegations and observers supported the declaration of trans-fatty acids and therefore the deletion of the square brackets stating that such labelling was mandatory in their respective countries; that such labelling could be an incentive to industry to reduce the level of trans-fatty acids in the food supply; and that it was important information to allow consumers to make informed choices.

43. Several other delegations supported the deletion of trans-fatty acids from the list of nutrients noting that such labelling could be more appropriately dealt with at the national level. These delegations therefore proposed that consideration be given to the inclusion of a footnote in section 3.2.1.4 to indicate that countries whose diets exceed 1% of total energy from trans-fatty acids should consider the declaration of trans-fatty acids in nutrition labelling as proposed by the WHO at the last session of the Committee.

44. A delegation reminded the Committee that there were ways to reduce trans-fatty acids in foods other than through labelling and that the last session of the Committee had agreed on criteria to identify nutrients for inclusion in the list, such as the ability to address public health issues; ability to assist in informing consumers to make healthy choices; and the practicability and enforceability of labelling. It noted that the high degree of variability of trans-fatty acids in diets in different countries would make mandatory labelling difficult.

45. An observer, while not supporting the inclusion of trans-fatty acids in the list of nutrients, noted that should trans-fatty acids be included, that those from ruminants be exempted. The Representative of the WHO explained that studies of ruminant trans-fatty acids were limited and that the evidence was inconclusive regarding the difference between trans-fatty acids from ruminants and those obtained through manufacturing processes.

46. In consideration of the proposal for the footnote, a delegation expressed concern with the reference to 1% as this could imply a safe level for trans-fatty acids and noted the recommendation of the US National Academy of Sciences Institute of Medicine that trans-fatty acids levels should be kept as low as possible.

47. The Representative of WHO explained that the WHO Scientific Update on Health Consequences of Trans-fatty Acids stated that the 1% threshold was not protective for population subgroups and therefore proposed that the footnote be revised to take this into account.

48. In view of the discussion, the Committee considered proposals for the footnote by either stating that where intakes of trans-fatty acids exceeded 1% of total energy either in the overall population or in one or more population subgroups, this intake may be due to use of partially hydrogenated vegetable oils and declaration of trans-fatty acids should be considered or alternatively to simply indicate that in cases where intake was considered to be a serious public health concern, that declaration should be considered as a risk management option.

49. An observer expressed the view that disclosure of trans-fatty acids where population intake is less than 1% of total energy could act as an early warning system for the use of partially hydrogenated oils before this became a public health problem.

50. Another alternative to reformulate section 3.2.1.4 to include reference to public health concern without specific mention of trans-fatty acids was considered, but not accepted.

51. There was general agreement that a footnote would provide clearer advice on trans-fatty acids and that the version mentioning a public health concern was preferred as it was important to provide advice before it became a serious health problem. There was also an exchange of views on whether to include reference to risk management options, as it was noted that several risk management options existed to reduce trans-fatty acids in the food supply (e.g. the banning of trans-fatty acids in certain foods) and that labelling was only one of those options.

52. In conclusion, the Committee agreed not to include trans-fatty acids in the list in 3.2.1.2 and to include a footnote to section 3.2.1.4 to indicate that in countries where the level of intake of trans-fatty acids is a public health concern, consideration should be given to declaration of trans-fatty acids in nutrition labelling.

Status of the proposed draft revision of the Guidelines on Nutrition Labelling concerning the list of nutrients that are always declared on a voluntary or mandatory basis

53. In noting that agreement had been reached on all the nutrients, except the sodium/salt, which had been retained in square brackets, the Committee agreed to forward the revised section 3.2 to Step 5 for adoption by the 33rd Session of the Commission (Appendix II).

Discussion paper on issues related to mandatory nutrition labelling (Agenda item 4(b))[5]

54. The delegation of Australia introduced the working document and recalled that the 37th session of the CCFL had agreed that Australia would revise and finalize the discussion paper prepared by an electronic working group, taking into account comments made at the session, and present it to the current session for review and possible publication as an appendix to the report so that it could be widely available to serve as a tool for governments. The delegation also mentioned that the document could be of use to FAO when developing capacity building tools related to nutrition labelling.

55. The Representative of FAO stated that FAO was prepared to produce a document on nutrition labelling for the purposes of outreach and capacity building and that the working document could serve as a useful source of information.

56. The Committee reviewed the document section by section.

57. The Committee noted a number of proposals by members and observers to add more specific elements to the text such as including examples for figures for expected cost/benefits; to indicate the magnitude of possible benefits to provide an incentive to governments to consider mandatory nutrition labelling; and mentioning specific modalities of labelling to ensure understandability such as front of pack labelling and the use of simplified interpretative schemes.

58. The Committee agreed not to include such additions in the document and clarified that the purpose of the review was merely to ensure consistency and clarity of the document, which is intended as a tool to assist countries considering mandatory nutrition labelling. The Committee further considered it outside the scope of the document to introduce new approaches such as front of pack labelling which had not yet been defined in Codex. The Committee also clarified that the text was not meant to provide a fully scoped cost benefit analysis or a rationale to governments for or against mandatory nutrition labelling but to collate issues that should be kept in mind when considering such a labelling approach.

59. Bearing the above in mind the Committee agreed on the following changes to the document:

60. Paragraph 5: the Committee agreed to reword the paragraph in order to avoid using the term “negative nutrients” and to clarify that nutrients associated with either an increased or decreased risk of non-communicable diseases should be considered for mandatory labelling.

61. Part 1, Benefits, Subsection (a) – Benefits to consumers: the Committee agreed to amend the text in the fifth bullet to stress that the benefit was not reformulated products as such but an “increased focus on nutritional quality thereby increasing availability of products that contribute to a healthy and balanced diet in the market place.”

62. Paragraph 2.1: the Committee agreed to reword the second bullet for clarity.

63. Paragraph 2.2: the Committee agreed to replace “all” with “certain” in the first bullet and to delete the mention of a specific surface area in the third bullet to allow for flexibility. In the fourth bullet the word “insignificant” was replaced with “negligible” for clarity. The last bullet was amended to clarify that exemptions could be based on business size and type of outlet.

64. Paragraph 2.5: The Committee agreed to add the words “but are not limited to” to the chapeau of the paragraph to indicate the open nature of the list of implementation options. The Committee also agreed to add to the 1st bullet “ideally supported by consumer research” and a third bullet on use of supplementary information and/or alternative equivalent information.

65. Paragraph 3.1: The Committee agreed to replace “national food safety authorities” with “competent authorities” for consistency and deleted the third bullet as it was not clear and its intent was covered in the

[6] CX/FL 10/38/6 and CX/FL 10/38/6-Add.1 (comments of Canada and Mali); CRD 5 (comments of Ghana, Indonesia, Thailand and IADSA); CRD 14 (comments of Panama); CRD 16 (comments of India); and CRD 19 (comments of Bolivia); CRD 24 (comments of CIAA)

second bullet.

66. Section 4: The Committee had an extensive discussion on this section. Several delegations considered the section to be outside of the scope of the document and proposed to delete it. Other delegations were of the opinion that the section was important to indicate possible implications of nutrition labelling on international trade. Several proposals for amending the text were made but after some discussion the Committee agreed to maintain the text as it was with the deletion of the second bullet and to include a new bullet to acknowledge the importance of considering available standards and guidelines from the Codex Alimentarius Commission.

Conclusion

67. The Committee agreed to include the text in Appendix III to the report to ensure its availability for governments as a tool when considering mandatory nutrition labelling. The Committee also agreed to recommend the use of the text to FAO when developing capacity building tools related to nutrition labelling.

Proposed draft principles and criteria for legibility of nutrition labelling (Item 4c)[6]

68. The Delegation of the United States introduced the report of the electronic Working Group as presented in CX/FL 10/38/8 and highlighted some of the key changes made to the document. The Delegation drew the attention of the Committee to the recommendations of the working group that further consideration be given to nutrition labelling of small packages (provisions 11 and 12); declaration of insignificant amounts of nutrients (bullet point 3); and presentation of nutrient content where foods are reconstituted or drained before consumption (bullet point 4) in the broader context of nutrition labelling. The recommendation of the working group for the placement of the principles and criteria in a new section 4 of the Guidelines on Nutrition Labelling.

69. It was noted that the purpose of the work was not to address approaches to enhance consumer understanding of nutrition labels, but to provide guidance on criteria to enhance legibility of such labels.

70. The Committee had a section by section discussion of the criteria and principles and made the following amendments and/ or comments:

Paragraph 1

71. The Committee agreed to remove the square brackets noting the view of several delegations that cross-references to relevant sections of the *General Standard for the Labelling of Prepackaged Foods* were important not only in the case of nutrition labelling applied on a mandatory or voluntary basis, but also to supplementary nutrition labels.

72. Regarding a proposal for inclusion of a purpose to clarify the intent of the criteria and principles, it was clarified that the criteria and principles would be included in the Guidelines on Nutrition Labelling, which already have a purpose statement.

Paragraph 2

73. The Committee agreed to delete “alternative” and to retain “additional” without the square brackets in the text as it was considered that the term “alternative” was too open and had been beyond the terms of reference of the electronic working group.

Paragraph 5

74. A number of delegations expressed the view that the 2nd sentence of paragraph 5 was too prescriptive and proposed its deletion, while some other delegations supported its inclusion noting that the use of “should” provided sufficient flexibility.

75. The Committee agreed to replace the wording in paragraph 5 with wording which would clarify the importance of the font style, type and minimum font size in addition to the use of a mix of upper and lower case lettering to ensure the legibility of nutrition labelling.

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[6] CX/FL 10/38/7 (comments of Australia, Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, European Union, India, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Norway, United States of America, ICGA, ICBA, IDF), CX/FL 10/38/7-Add. 1 (comments of Kenya, Mali), CRD 6 (comments of Guatemala, Korea), CRD 14 (comments of Panama), CRD 16 (comments of India), CRD 25 (comments of CIAA), CX/FL 10/38/8 (report of the working group), CX/FL 10/38/8-Add.1 (comments of Canada), CRD 7 (comments of European Union, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippine, Thailand, IADSA).

Paragraphs 8 and 9

76. The Committee agreed to delete both paragraphs since these were beyond the scope of the document and could imply that nutrient declaration is mandatory.

77. In view of the progress made on the document, the Chairperson proposed to forward it to Step 5/8 for adoption. In response to the concern raised by some delegations that members who had not been able to attend the session should also have the opportunity to comment on the document, the Secretariat clarified that it was still possible to provide comments in accordance with normal Codex procedures and that forwarding the document to step 5/8 now would give the flexibility to adopt it at the 33rd Session of the Commission either at step 5 or at step 8, with the omission of steps 6 and 7, if there was consensus.

Status of the proposed draft principles and criteria for legibility of nutrition labelling

78. The Committee agreed to forward the principles and criteria to Step 5/8 with omission of Steps 6 and 7 for adoption by the 33rd Session of the Commission (Appendix IV) and agreed to insert them as a new section 4 in the *Guidelines on Nutrition Labelling* (CAC/GL 2-1985).

Discussion paper on labelling provisions dealing with the food ingredients identified in the Global Strategy on Diet, Physical Activity and Health (Agenda Item 4d)[7]

79. The Committee recalled that an electronic working group led by Canada and Norway had been reconvened to further consider the food ingredients identified in paragraph 22 of the Global Strategy on Diet, Physical Activity and Health, i.e., fruits and vegetables and legumes, whole grains and nuts, and free/added sugars and salt (sodium), and prepare a discussion paper to propose possible actions by the CCFL and to identify paragraphs in existing CCFL texts under which food ingredients identified in the Global strategy can be addressed.

80. The Delegation of Canada introduced the discussion paper in which five actions were suggested to the Committee. The working group had also proposed text for these actions.

81. The Committee agreed to discuss the suggested actions presented by the working group to establish if there was interest to undertake work on any of these but not to review any suggested text at this stage. The Committee noted that it would take into account the referrals from the CCFNSDU and the decisions previously taken on the list of nutrients always to be declared.

Enhanced guidelines on health claims and claims related to dietary guidelines or healthy diets in the Guidelines for Use of Nutrition and Health Claims

82. Some delegations considered that it would be useful if the Committee dealt with claims related to healthy diets to ensure that if dietary guidance statements were used, a minimum of the ingredient was contained in the food.

83. Other delegations did not support new work on this matter. It was mentioned that the existing Codex guidance on claims was sufficient; this was not enough to address the problem; it was not the role of the Committee to deal with this issue and it would be difficult to translate health policies into labelling.

84. There was no consensus in the Committee to start new work on this topic.

Use of standardized symbols to represent the ingredients identified in the Global Strategy in food labelling

85. Several delegations felt that it would be premature to look into symbols for ingredients while there was some interest to look into symbols for nutrients. It was mentioned that the work would consist of setting conditions for the use of symbols which was related to the WHO work on nutrition profiling and thus timing was a problem as the outcome of that work should be considered.

86. Other delegations were of the opinion that symbols could represent useful information for the consumer and supported establishing an electronic working group. Some delegations were of the opinion that a working group could be useful to provide information on the harmonization of symbols to the committee.

87. The delegation of Canada clarified that the working group had been tasked to look into possible actions related to ingredients and not nutrients but that the mandate could be enlarged.

[7] CX/FL 10/38/9 (Working group report); CRD 8 (comments of Malaysia); CRD 19 (comments of Bolivia)

88. One observer appealed to the Committee that it was necessary to take any steps to tackle the problem as according to the World Economic Forum, 35 million annual premature deaths and according to the WHO, 20-25% of all deaths are attributable to dietary causes. In this area the Committee could deal with innovative ways to inform consumers and not only harmonize existing legislation.

89. The Representative of WHO stated that the proposed new work would complement and inform the on-going work of WHO on nutrition profiling and that it would also be very helpful to develop guidance on how existing systems should integrate conditions related to the ingredients identified in the Global Strategy on Diet, Physical Activity and Health.

90. One delegation suggested that as there seemed to be different understanding in the Committee as to the different terms used in labelling (e.g. principal display panel) it could be useful to develop a common understanding in the Committee of the elements used in labelling.

91. The Committee did not agree at this time to develop a discussion paper but agreed to give consideration to this at the next session when more information would be available.

Nutrient content claims on the non-addition of sugars or salt and addition of explicit comparative claims for sugars and/or sodium

92. There was general support in the Committee to start new work on these items.

93. It was clarified that the work on comparative claims should be on “sugars” and not “added sugars” as mentioned in the document.

94. As to one of the proposed claims for non-addition of sugars several delegations said that they would not be in favour of using the term “unsweetened”

95. The Committee agreed to request new work from the Commission on Nutrient Content Claims on the Non-Addition of Sugar or Salt and Explicit Comparative Claims for Sugars and/or Sodium.

96. The relevant project document prepared by Canada and Norway (see Appendix V) will be transmitted to the Executive Committee for critical review and approval by the Commission.

97. The Committee also agreed to establish an electronic working group led by Canada and working in English only and a physical working group operating in English, French and Spanish just prior to the next session of the Committee with the terms of reference to prepare a discussion paper on: (1) New entries to the table of conditions for nutrient contents in the *Guidelines for Use of Nutrition and Health Claims* (CAC/GL 23-1997) for the non addition of sugars and salt/sodium; (2) Additional conditions of use for comparative claims for sugars and salt/sodium content; (3) Reviewing the heading of the table of conditions for nutrient contents; and (4) Adding nutrient content claims in relation to trans-fatty acids.

98. Item (4) was added to the project document and the terms of reference for the working group as a result of the discussion on matters referred by the CCNFSDU (see paras. 105-108)

Developing common definitions of the ingredients identified in the Global Strategy

99. The delegation of Canada explained that there was moderate to moderately high support for this in the working group but as regards fruit and vegetables there was no clear direction as there were regional and botanical differences. Of interest had been whole grains which is why it had been included in the discussion paper.

100. In the discussion several delegations had strong reservations to start new work in this area as they were not convinced that common definitions were necessary and a mention of “labelling should not be misleading” could be sufficient. Differences in regional dietary habits and understanding of what was a fruit or vegetable were also mentioned as obstacles.

101. It was mentioned that the role of the CCFL in this area was not clear and definitions should be responsibility of the relevant commodity committees.

102. The Representative of WHO informed the Committee of the work done by the Joint FAO/WHO Scientific Update on Carbohydrates in Human Nutrition (EJCN, volume 61, supplement 1, 2007), which provided definitions of various sugars as well as other terms on carbohydrates including whole grain, which is recognized as an ingredient requiring a common definition.

103. One observer strongly supported Codex work on definitions where the Committee could have a positive impact on reconciling conflicting definitions. Even if there could be differences of opinion it was important that definitions were coherent from the health perspective. He suggested to accept the definitions from WHO.

104. As there was little support for new work in this area the Committee decided to note the ongoing work in WHO on this matter but not to undertake itself new work on definitions of ingredients identified in the Global Strategy.

Matters referred by the CCNFSDU

105. The delegation of Canada noted that the CCFL had asked that the CCNFDSU look at establishing conditions for claims for use for labelling relating to salt, trans-fatty acids and added sugars.

106. The delegation recalled that the CCNFSDU had considered that there was merit in establishing claims in relation to salt but there was no clear agreement for claims for added sugars and trans-fatty acids. CCNFSDU requested the CCFL to indentify the specific claims that are of interest and then CCNFSDU would be in a position to develop the corresponding conditions for those claims.

107. The Committee debated as to how to reply to the question of the CCNFSDU. The issue of whether to request CCNFSDU to look into criteria for claims on trans-fatty acids was discussed. Several delegations said that this would not be appropriate as the Committee had not started new work on claims for trans-fatty acids and they did not support such work, as there might be regional differences.

108. It was suggested that such work could be included in the project document and the terms of reference of the working groups previously established.

109. After some discussion, the Committee agreed to request from the Commission new work on considering the addition of nutrient content claims in relation to trans-fatty acids (see Appendix V) and to discuss this work in the working groups previously established (see paras. 96 - 97). There was no consensus to start work on claims on the absence of trans-fatty acids and it was agreed that this would be reconsidered in light of the outcome of the working groups.

110. Some delegations noted that section 3.2.1.4 of the *Guidelines on nutrition labelling* allows for additional declaration of nutrients addressing those that should be limited in the diet as well as those with inadequate intakes.

111. In the discussion it had been mentioned that there seemed to be an editorial error in the use of the footnote 3 in the table of conditions for nutrient contents in the *Guidelines on Nutrition and Health Claims* (CAC/GL 23-1997). The footnote should in fact apply to all four claims related to saturated fats and cholesterol. The Committee agreed to propose to the Commission to amend the table as indicated in Appendix VI in the framework of editorial changes to Codex standards and related texts.

GUIDELINES FOR THE PRODUCTION, PROCESSING, LABELLING AND MARKETING OF ORGANICALLY PRODUCED FOODS (Agenda Item 5)

Annex 1: Inclusion of ethylene for other products (Agenda Item 5a)[8]

112. The Committee recalled that at its 37th Session it had considered other uses of ethylene, namely: ripening of tropical fruits applying the same justification as had been given for kiwi fruit and bananas; de-greening of citrus fruit in case that this was part of a strategy to prevent fruit fly damage; sprouting inhibitor for onions and potatoes; and inducing flowering in pineapples to allow growers to produce marketable size in sufficient quantity from the same field at the same time. The Committee had noted however that more scientific justification was needed against the criteria in section 5.1 of the *Guidelines* and had therefore agreed to return other possible uses of ethylene to Step 6 for comments and further consideration at its 38th Session.

113. Many delegations supported extending the use of ethylene to include ripening of tropical fruits citing the importance of organic tropical fruit production to their economy**.** Some of these delegations expressed

[8] CL 2009/15-FL, ALINORM 09/32/22, Appendix IV, CX/FL 10/38/10, (comments of Argentina, Costa Rica and the European Union),CX/FL 10/38/10-Add.1 (comments of Canada, Chile, Kenya, and Mali), CRD 9 (comments of Costa Rica, Ghana, Guatemala, Philippines and Thailand), CRD 14 (comments of Panama), CRD 16 (comments of India), CRD 19 (comments of Bolivia)

the view that the justification provided by New Zealand should extend to all tropical fruits and additional justification should not be required.

114. Other delegations, while not opposing to extend the use of ethylene to ripening other tropical fruits, were of the view that it would not be appropriate to apply the justification developed by New Zealand to all tropical fruit without any scientific consideration against the criteria of section 5.1 the *Guidelines*, and that this could set a precedent and negatively affect the credibility of the *Guidelines.*

115. Some delegations noted that even though the criteria in section 5.1 were intended to be applied for additions to the table in Annex 2 and that paragraph 82 was in Annex 1, the criteria should also apply in this case and that New Zealand had been required to justify the addition of kiwi fruit and bananas against those criteria.

116. Some delegations noted that the use of ethylene for ripening should be considered for all fruits and not only tropical fruits.

117. The Committee agreed to establish an electronic working group, coordinated by Ghana, working in English only with the following terms of reference: to develop a justification regarding the use of ethylene for the ripening of fruit for consideration at the 39th Session of the CCFL. It was mentioned that this justification could be differentiated by fruit categories. The square brackets around the text in the draft revised paragraph 82 would be retained.

118. The Committee agreed that justification against the criteria in section 5.1 would also be required regarding the use of ethylene for de-greening of citrus fruit, for the induction of flowering in pineapples and for sprout inhibition in potatoes and onions. The European Union agreed to undertake the preparation of the relevant justifications with the assistance of Costa Rica incorporating their justification for use of ethylene for flower induction in pineapples.

Status of the draft amendment: Inclusion of Ethylene for Other Products

119. The Committee agreed to hold other possible uses of ethylene at Step 7 for consideration at the next Session of the Committee (see Appendix VII).

Discussion paper on a structured approach to the review of the *Guidelines* (Agenda Item 5b)[9]

120. The Committee recalled that at it 37th Session, it had noted that a more structured approach for periodic review of the *Guidelines for the Production, Processing, Labelling and Marketing of Organically Produced Food* was needed, in particular concerning proposals for modification of the lists in Annex 2 and had agreed that the United States would prepare a discussion paper that would more clearly define a process for the consideration of proposed amendments to the *Guidelines* for consideration at the present session. In addition the Committee had agreed to delete Sections 8 and 5.3. The 32nd Session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission, had returned this proposal for further consideration by the Committee.

121. In introducing the working document, the United States informed the Committee that during informal discussions, several members pointed out difficulties with the approach outlined, particularly with respect to the 4-year timeline proposed for periodic review. The Committee therefore considered a revised proposal prepared by the United States and the European Union as presented in CRD 15.

122. The proposed review process would work on a 2-year cycle, to consider proposals for inclusion of new substances in Annex II as well as for other sections of the guidelines. One observer stated that for substantial changes to the guidelines, physical working group meetings prior to the CCFL meeting should be foreseen when recommended as necessary by the electronic working group.

123. The approach outlined in CRD 15 would provide for a structured review process, address the existing difficulties in reviewing the Guidelines and allow for the deletion of Section 8 of the *Guidelines* and other related sections.

124. The Committee supported the procedure proposed in CRD 15 and agreed to the development of Terms of Reference for the electronic work group proposed in the process.

125. In this context, the Committee also considered the proposal presented by the European Union under Agenda Item 12a (CX/FL 38/10/38/17) regarding the inclusion of spinosad, potassium bicarbonate and

[9] CX/FL 10/38/11 (discussion paper from the United States), CRD 10 (comments of Indonesia), CRD 14 (comments of Panama), CRD 15 (United States and European Union), CRD 16 (comments of India), CRD 18 (comments of IFOAM)

copper octanoate in Annex II, Table 2 of the *Guidelines*. These substances could be considered as examples on which the electronic working group proposed in CRD 15 could start its work.

126. The Committee agreed to establish an electronic working group led by the United States, working in English only with the following terms of reference:

127. Review substances proposed at the 38th Session of CCFL, Agenda Item 5a and 12a, to be included in Annex II of the *Guidelines for the Production, Processing, Labelling and Marketing of Organically Produced Foods.*

128. Identify additional data needed to satisfy Section 5.1 criteria and undertake to collect such data from the submitting countries or from members of the eWG.

129. Make recommendations to the 39th session of CCFL on whether these substances should be included in Annex II.

130. Provide advice to the Committee on the utility of a working group approach to facilitating a two year cycle regarding substances to be included in Annex II.

Conclusion

131. It was agreed that the output of the electronic working group would be reviewed at the 39th Session of the CCFL to evaluate the effectiveness of the procedure proposed in CRD 15, for the purpose of endorsing it as a regular procedure for the review of proposals related to the *Guidelines*.

132. The Committee also agreed to delete Section 8 and related text of the *Guidelines* in view of the decision taken on the application of this alternate review process (see Appendix VIII).

133. An observer noted that while the formal review process was not established it had a concern to the deletion of section 8.

LABELLING OF FOODS AND FOOD INGREDIENTS OBTAINED THROUGH CERTAIN TECHNIQUES OF GENETIC MODIFICATION / GENETIC ENGINEERING

Draft Amendment to the *General Standard for the Labelling of Prepackaged Foods:* Definitions (Agenda Item 6a) [10]

134. The Committee discussed whether to advance the proposed definitions held at Step 7 (ALINORM 09/32/22, Appendix VI) to the Commission for adoption at Step 8. Some delegations supported the advancement of these definitions, while the Delegation of Japan, supported by several other delegations proposed to advance the text with amendments so as to define “food and food ingredients obtained through biotechnology” for consistency with the terms used in Section 4.2.2 of the General Standard for Labelling of Prepackaged Foods (GSLPF) and to amend the definition for GM/GE in line with the definition in the Principles for the Risk Analysis of Foods Derived from Modern Biotechnology (CAC/GL 44-2003) (CRD 11).

135. Other delegations proposed discontinuation of the work on definitions since they were linked to a paper that was no longer under discussion, noting that definitions in relation to biotechnology already existed in Codex.

136. Some delegations, while supporting consistency in the use of terms, noted that the intent of section 4.2.2 was to address the presence of allergens, which is a food safety issue. Those delegations felt that should there be need for a definition, then it should be within a food safety context.

137. It was also proposed to introduce a chapeau stating that the definition was for the purpose of section 4.2.2. An alternative proposal was to address this issue through a footnote in 4.2.2 where biotechnology is mentioned to reference the Principles on Risk Analysis since these Principles already defined certain terms of relevance and there currently are inconsistencies between the documents in these definitions. There was however no agreement on either of the proposals as some delegations were opposed to limiting the definition to section 4.2.2. Some delegations were also of the opinion that reference to the Principles on Risk Analysis would call undue attention to the safety of foods derived from biotechnology noting that it was generally accepted that such foods are safe after being assessed using the relevant Codex guidance.

[10] ALINORM 09/32/22, Appendix VI, CRD 11 (comments of Costa Rica, Japan, Kenya, Mali and the Philippines)

138. Noting the lack of consensus on advancing the definitions, but the general support for the amendments proposed by Japan, the Committee agreed to return the revised definitions to Step 6 for comments and consideration by the next session.

Status of the draft amendment to the General Standard for the Labelling of Prepackaged Foods: definitions

139. The Committee agreed to return the draft amended definitions to Step 6 for comments and consideration by the next session (Appendix IX).

Proposed draft Recommendations for the labelling of foods and food ingredients obtained through certain techniques of genetic modification/genetic engineering (Agenda Item 6b)[11]

General remarks

140. Many delegations and several observers expressed the hope that progress could be made on this matter and that this was important for the Committee and Codex in general as many countries expected guidance from Codex in this area. They mentioned that Codex had already shown itself to be capable of finding a consensus on issues related to foods derived from modern biotechnology, first in the relevant task force that had established risk analysis principles and guidance and more recently in the Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling that had established criteria for analytical methods. It was mentioned that while this was not a food safety issue, Codex had the mandate to ensure fair practices in the food trade and a failure to provide guidance on the labelling of GM/GE foods could in itself be considered misleading to the consumer. One delegation mentioned that Codex had already developed labelling guidance according to production or processing methods such as irradiation, halal foods or organic products.

141. Other delegations continued to be of the opinion that work on this issue should be discontinued noting that the matter had been discussed for almost two decades without consensus and that there was very little prospect of consensus. It was also mentioned that the guidance currently in the proposed draft text was not considered sufficient by those delegations supporting this work and that it was not realistic to consider that the Committee could develop adequate guidance in the timeframe permitted. Recognizing the inability to find consensus on this matter should not be seen as a failure of Codex and CCFL but as a strength to acknowledge that sufficient international basis for consensus did not exist. It was mentioned that the time of the Committee could be better used to address more pressing health issues such as the implementation of the Global Strategy on Diet, Physical Activity and Health.

142. As there was no consensus to discontinue the work the Committee considered the proposed draft Recommendations for the labelling of foods and food ingredients obtained through certain techniques of genetic modification/genetic engineering.

143. ***Chapeau text***

144. Many delegations and some observers supported the chapeau text entitled “chapeau 2 as amended by Brazil” or declared that while they preferred a different text they could accept it as a compromise. Some other delegations stated that they preferred the chapeau text entitled “chapeau 2 as amended by the USA”.

145. Differences of opinion were mainly on two sentences. The sentence “It also recognizes that each country can adopt different approaches regarding labelling of foods obtained by GM/GE techniques and that food labelling is the primary means of communications between the seller on the one hand and the purchaser and consumer on the other”, as contained in the Brazil text was considered by some as too permissive by allowing various approaches and by others as not necessary as Codex texts are voluntary. Other delegations noted that similar statements are found in some Codex texts.

146. The sentence “This document is not intended to suggest or imply that GM/GE foods are in any way different from other foods simply due to their method of production.”, as contained in the USA proposal was not supported by many delegations which were of the view that there was a difference between foods

[11] ALINORM 09/32/22, Appendix VII; CX/FL 10/38/12 (comments of Australia, Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, European Union, Malaysia, Biotechnology Industry Org. (comments of BIO) and ICGMA); CX/FL 10/38/12-ADD.1 (comments of United States, Institute Food Technology (IFT)); CX/FL 10/38/12-ADD.2 (comments of Kenya, Mali and Consumers International (CI)); CRD12 (comments of Ghana, Guatemala, Japan and the Philippines); CRD 14 (comments of Panama), CRD 16 (comments of India,); and CRD 19 (comments of Bolivia).

obtained by GM/GE methods and other foods as Codex had created a task force that developed a number of guidelines for the risk assessment of such foods.

147. The Chair clarified that according to the Codex Guidelines for the safety assessment of foods derived from modern biotechnology those foods that have been approved as a result of the use of Codex safety assessment guidance are recognised to be as safe as their conventional counterparts.

148. Several proposals were made to amend the proposals among others to align the language with that used in other Codex text i.e. to refer to "foods derived from modern biotechnology" instead of "foods obtained by GM/GE techniques".

149. The Chairperson summed up the changes proposed to the Brazil proposal as follows for consideration by the Committee: **"***The purpose of this document is only to recall and assemble in a single document some important elements of guidance from Codex texts, which are relevant for the labelling of foods derived from modern biotechnology. It also recognizes that each country can adopt different approaches regarding labelling of foods derived from modern biotechnology. This text is not intended to suggest or imply that GM/GE foods are necessarily different from other foods simply due to their method of production."*

150. The delegation of Argentina was of the opinion that the right of a country to adopt different approaches insofar as labelling is concerned is done under the auspices of the WTO but is not the responsibility of Codex and proposed that the recognition of availability of different approaches could be included in a footnote: "*The purpose of this document is only to recall and assemble in a single document some important elements of guidance from Codex texts, which are relevant for the labelling of foods derived from modern biotechnology/obtained by GM/GE techniques*[*]*. This text is not intended to suggest or imply that GM/GE foods are necessarily different from other foods simply due to their method of production.*

[*] *There are different approaches regarding labelling of foods derived from modern biotechnology which are applied by national authorities."*

151. Some other delegations supported Argentina and noted that referring to different national approaches brings into question the purpose of working on an international standard.

152. Many other delegations were of the view that several approaches for the labelling GM foods were possible as long as Codex basic principles were respected in line with the conclusions of the working group held in Oslo.

153. Several delegations indicated that even though they were not in favour of the last sentence in the chairs proposal they could accept it if the second sentence remained intact as in the Brazil proposal i.e. including the part of the sentence "and that food labelling is the primary means of communications between the seller on the one hand and the purchaser and consumer on the other" as this gave the important context to the chapeau.

154. Some observers opposed the inclusion of the last sentence in the chairs proposal while another observer supported it.

155. During the lunch hour, many delegations assembled in a session facilitated by the chair to concentrate on the objectives they wanted to achieve with the text instead of focussing on specific wording and the Chairman developed an alternative proposal as follows: "*Acknowledging that different approaches regarding labelling of foods derived from modern biotechnology are available, the purpose of this document is only to recall and assemble in a single document some important elements of guidance from existing Codex texts, which are relevant for the labelling of foods derived from modern biotechnology. This document is not intended to suggest or imply that foods derived from modern biotechnology are necessarily different from other foods simply due to their method of production."*

156. The Chair proposed that this text be circulated for comments at Step 3 together with the remainder of the draft recommendations with a view to collect comments and finalise the text at the next session.

157. It was proposed that not only this text but also the original chair's proposal (see para 149) and the Argentinean proposal (see para 150) should be circulated. It was also mentioned that the phrase starting "and that food labelling is the primary means..." should be reintroduced in the chapeau.

158. The delegation of Austria said that they would prefer to refer to "foods obtained by GM/GE techniques" instead of "foods derived from modern biotechnology".

159. After some discussion, the Committee agreed that the original chair's proposal for a chapeau (see para 149) and the proposal for a chapeau developed by the facilitated lunchtime session should be circulated together with the rest of the document at Step 3 for comments. The Committee also accepted the offer from the delegation of the European Union to host a facilitated work session in Brussels in the three working languages that would be chaired by Ghana and facilitated by the chair of the CCFL with the goal of exploring the objectives of different delegations and reconcile them in one text if possible.

160. Delegations were invited to provide in their comments a very clear rationale with respect to their objectives in relation to their proposals for changing text and that this would also be the approach in the facilitated work session because going back to the objectives would allow new options to be explored which could bridge the gap between different positions. The Chair indicated that all options would be considered in the facilitated session.

Status of the proposed draft Recommendations for the labelling of foods and food ingredients obtained through certain techniques of Genetic Modification / Genetic Engineering

161. The Committee agreed to circulate the Proposed Draft Recommendations at Step 3 for comments and consideration at the next session (Appendix X).

ALIGNMENT OF THE GENERAL STANDARD FOR THE LABELLING OF PREPACKAGED FOOD (CODEX STAN 1-1985) WITH THE CODEX INTERNATIONAL NUMBERING SYSTEM IN CAC/GL 36-1989 (Agenda Item 7)[12]

162. The Committee considered each of the questions posed in CL 2010/02-FL and made the following decisions and comments:

163. It was agreed to delete the functional class "acids" from the list in paragraph 4.2.3.3 as additives in this class were now included in the functional class "acidity regulators".

164. The Committee agreed to accept the proposal to amend paragraph 4.2.3.3 as proposed, but to delete the reference to "generally" since its application was to all foods. An alternative proposal was put forward to delete reference to the "following functional classes" and to state that "functional classes identified in CAC/GL 36-1989 shall be used...." to avoid having to update the list in 4.2.3.3 each time a new functional class was identified in CAC/GL 36-1989, and to delete the actual list. This proposal was however not accepted since it was felt that not all functional classes should automatically be included.

165. It was agreed to include in the list: "bleaching agent", "carbonating agent", and "sequestrant". In the case of the functional classes: "carriers" and "packaging gases", some delegations opposed their inclusion noting that carriers and packaging gases would be at levels that would not have a technological function and therefore their labelling would not be warranted. A few other delegations supported the inclusion of these functional classes in the list and noted that the exemptions in 4.2.4.2 could apply and that the reference to "as required by national legislation" in the chapeau to 4.2.3.3 provided sufficient flexibility. It was however clarified that in the case of these two functional classes their carry-over into foods would always be at a level less than required to achieve a technological function and their inclusion in the list not necessary. The Committee agreed to exclude these two functional classes.

166. The Committee agreed that there was no further need to improve the understandability of the terms listed in 4.2.3.3.

167. The Committee agreed to submit the above amendments to the Commission for adoption (see Appendix XI).

[12] CL 2010/02-FL, CX/FL 10/38/13 (comments of Australia, Bolivia, Brazil, Costa Rica, Japan, Mexico, Norway, Peru, Philippines, United States of America, IDF), CX/FL 10/38/13-Add.1 (comments of Canada), CRD 13 (comments of Chile, Indonesia, Thailand), CRD 14 (comments of Panama), and CRD 16 (comments of India)

DISCUSSION PAPER ON THE NEED TO AMEND THE GENERAL STANDARD FOR THE LABELLING OF PREPACKAGED FOODS (CODEX STAN 1-1985) IN LINE WITH OIML RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING THE DECLARATION OF THE QUANTITY OF PRODUCT IN PREPACKAGES (Agenda Item 8)[13]

168. The Committee noted the recommendation of the OIML (paragraph 6 of CX/FL 10/38/14) that it was premature for the OIML to submit a revised discussion paper and agreed to its proposal to postpone the discussion to the next session.

MODIFIED STANDARDIZED COMMON NAMES (Agenda Item 9)[14]

169. The Committee recalled that it had considered this matter at its 37th Session and while recognizing that there was a diversity of views on whether or not CCFL should undertake work in this area, had agreed that Codex Commodity Committees and FAO/WHO Regional Coordinating Committees should be invited to provide advice, in particular concerning the relevance and implications to their work of horizontal guidance or related texts from CCFL. Taking into account the meeting schedule of the relevant Committees, it was further agreed that detailed discussion of this issue would be deferred until its 39th Session and consideration would be given to the terms of reference of an electronic working group at its 38th Session.

170. The Delegation of Canada informed the Committee that it had prepared draft Terms of Reference for the Committee's consideration which were contained in CX/FL 10/38/20. However, noting that to date only the Codex Committee on Milk and Milk Products had offered an opinion and that due to the cycle of meetings for other relevant commodity committees and Regional Coordinating Committees, advice from these committees would only be available before the next session, the delegation suggested that consideration of the draft Terms of Reference be deferred until the Committee's next session.

171. Some delegations re-iterated their view that they did not support work on this issue as the guidance provided in commodity standards was sufficient and underlined that the Codex Committee on Milk and Milk Products had agreed that nutrition claims in standards for milk and milk products would not benefit from horizontal guidance developed by the Codex Committee on Food Labelling (CCFL) on this matter

172. Other delegations expressed the view that the work was important and noted that it should be considered in the broader context of the WHO Global Strategy on Diet, Physical Activity and Health. The Chair said that this proposal could be considered at the 39th Session.

173. The Committee agreed to defer further discussion of this issue, including the draft Terms of Reference, until its next session in order to allow for input from other relevant committees.

DISCUSSION PAPER ON EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION BETWEEN COMPETENT AUTHORITIES WHEN SUSPECTING FRAUD CONCERNING ORGANIC PRODUCTS (Agenda Item 10)[15]

174. The European Union introduced the discussion paper proposing an improved mechanism for the exchange of information between competent authorities when suspecting fraud concerning organic products including the scope of possible new work.

175. In the discussion paper the European Union proposed that: 1) CCFL should recommend to FAO to set up and maintain a list of all Competent Authorities as referred to in section 6.2 of the Guidelines; 2) to amend the text of the Guidelines to add reference to all relevant CCFICS texts, in particular to specific sections of CAC/GL 25-1997, and 3) to add new guidance text to the *Guidelines* on the exchange of information between competent authorities.

176. In response to the recommendation relating to the FAO, the representative from the FAO informed the Committee that a list of competent authorities could be posted on its website.

177. With respect to the other recommendations, some delegations expressed the view that such work should more appropriately be dealt with in the Committee on Food Import and Export Certification Systems

[13] CX/FL 10/38/14 (Information from OIML), CRD 14 (comments of Panama)
[14] CX/FL 09/37/13 (for reference), CX/FL 10/38/20 (comments from Canada), CRD 16 (comments of India)
[15] CX/FL 10/38/15 (Discussion paper prepared by the European Union), CX/FL 10/38/15-Add.1 (comments of Canada), CRD 16 (comments of India).

(CCFICS) and that the *Guidelines on Exchange of Information Between Countries on Rejections of Imported Food* (CAC/GL 25-1997) were broad enough to accommodate exchange of information between governments on fraud concerning organic products. Further clarifications were also requested on the type of fraud being discussed.

178. Other delegations welcomed this proposal for new work and were of the opinion that CAC/GL 25-1997 did not provide sufficient guidance and that CCFL would be the appropriate committee to undertake such work.

179. The Codex Secretariat reminded the Committee that a discussion had taken place at the 37th CCFL on the most appropriate body to undertake such work, and it had been indicated that current procedures placed no impediment for CCFL to discuss the possibility to undertake such work and prepare a project document. The Executive Committee through the critical review process and consequently the Commission would then decide which subsidiary body should undertake the new work.

180. Recognizing that the late submission of the discussion paper had not permitted a full consideration by Codex members, the Committee agreed that the current paper would be re-circulated for comments, and a revised discussion paper would be prepared for consideration at its next Session. It also noted that, at that time, a series of questions could be prepared and forwarded to CCFICS to consider to provide advice on addressing issues of fraud in organic products, taking account of the gaps identified by the CCFL on the effectiveness of controls in this respect.

181. It was agreed that the Codex Secretariat would prepare a Circular Letter which would include the discussion paper (CX/FL 10/38/15). On the basis of comments received, the European Union would prepare a revised discussion paper for consideration at the next session of the CCFL.

OTHER BUSINESS, FUTURE WORK AND DATE AND PLACE OF THE NEXT SESSION (Agenda Item 12)

Inclusion of spinosad, potassium bicarbonate and copper octanoate in Annex II, Table 2 of the *Guidelines for the Production, Processing, Labelling and Marketing of Organically Produced Foods* (Agenda Item 12a)[16].

182. This issue was discussed under Agenda Item 5(b).

Proposal for new work on organic aquaculture (Agenda Item 12b)[17]

183. The European Union introduced their proposal to undertake new work to elaborate provisions on organic aquaculture animal and seaweed production for inclusion in the *Guidelines for Production, Processing, Labelling and Marketing of Organically Produced Foods*.

184. Some delegations supported the proposed new work. One delegation was of the view that such work was premature, that this was a complex matter and that agreement would be difficult especially since there was a lack of consensus internationally in relation to aquaculture and should thus be postponed to a later date.

185. The Committee reviewed the project document and amended the last sentence in the Section on "Relevance to Codex Strategic Objectives", by replacing "fair practices in organic seafood trade" with "fair practices in trade organic aquaculture products".

186. The Committee agreed to initiate new work on organic aquaculture as presented in the Project Document (Appendix XIII). Subject to approval by the Commission, the Committee agreed that the European Union would prepare the proposed revisions on aquaculture animal and seaweed production for consideration at the next session.

[16] CX/FL 10/38/17, CX/FL 10/38/17-Add.1 (comments from Canada and Mali), CRD 16 (comments of India)
[17] CX/FL 10/38/18, CX/FL 10/38/18-Add.1, CRD 16 (comments of India).

Proposal for new work on the use of the term "natural" (Agenda Item 12c)[18]

187. The Committee considered a proposal from the International Association for the Development of Natural Gums (AIDGUM) as presented in CX/FL 10/38/19.

188. The Observer from AIDGUM indicated that many foods, food ingredients and food additives are produced or processed using chemical treatments and that these chemical treatments changed the raw materials from the natural state to a chemically modified state. There was a need for labelling to indicate that only those foods, food ingredients or food additives that do not undergo any chemical treatment may be labelled as "natural". The Observer therefore proposed that the Guidelines on Nutrition Labelling be revised to include guidance on the use of the word "natural".

189. The Committee, noting that section 5 of the *General Guidelines on Claims* (CAC/GL 1-1979) provided guidance for the use of term "natural" and that this matter had previously been discussed in the Committee, did not agree to take up new work in this respect.

Proposal for new work on a definition for nutrient reference values (NRVs)

190. In view of its earlier agreement to develop a definition for nutrient reference values (NRVs) in response to a request from the Committee on Nutrition and Foods for Special Dietary Uses (see Agenda Item 2), the Committee considered the proposed Project Document presented in CRD 20 and made a few editorial amendments.

191. The Committee agreed to initiate new work on a definition for NRVs as proposed in the project document (Appendix XII). Subject to approval by the Commission, the Committee agreed that comments would be requested through a circular letter on the proposed text provided by the CCNFSDU (CX/CF 10/38/2) and that the Delegation of Canada would provide a proposed draft definition for consideration by the next session based on these comments.

Date and place of the next session of the Committee

192. The Committee was informed that its next session would be held tentatively in Quebec City, Canada from 9 to 13 May 2011, the final arrangements to be determined between the host country and Codex Secretariat.

[18] CX/FL 10/38/19 (Proposal from AIDGUM), CRD 16 (comments of India).

SUMMARY STATUS OF WORK

Subject Matter	Step	Action by	Reference in ALINORM 10/33/22
Proposed draft principles and criteria for legibility of nutrition labelling – Amendment to CAC/GL 2-1985	5/8	Governments, CAC33	Para 78 and Appendix IV
Proposed draft revision of the *Guidelines on Nutrition Labelling* (CAC/GL 2-1985) concerning the list of nutrients that are always declared on a voluntary or mandatory basis	5	Governments, CAC33	Para 53 and Appendix II
Draft amendment to the *Guidelines for the Production, Processing, Labelling and Marketing of Organically Produced Foods* (CAC/GL 32-1999) - Ethylene for other uses	7	Governments, CCFL39	Para. 119 Appendix VII
Draft amendment to the *General Standard for the Labelling of Prepackaged Foods* (CODEX STAN 1-1985): Definitions	6	Governments, CAC33	Para. 139 Appendix IX
Proposed draft Recommendations for the labelling of foods obtained through certain techniques of GM/GE	3	Governments, CCFL39	Para. 161 Appendix X
New work: Establishment of claims for sugars, salt/sodium and trans-fatty acids	1/2/3	Governments, CAC33, CCFL39	Paras 96-98 and 105-108 and Appendix V
New work: Organic aquaculture	1/2/3	Governments, CAC33, CCFL39	Para 186 and Appendix XIII
New work: Definition for nutrient reference values	1/2/3	Governments, CAC33, CCFL39	Para 190 and Appendix XII
Discussion paper on issues related to mandatory nutrition labelling	-	FAO, CCFL39	Para 67 and Appendix III
Use of standardized symbols	-	CCFL39 (if new information available)	Para 91
Structured approach to the review of CAC/GL 32-1999	-	Governments, CCFL39	Para. 131
Need to amend CODEX STAN 1-1985 in line with OIML recommendations regarding the declaration of the quantity of product in prepackages	-	OIML, CCFL39	Para 168
Modified standardized common names	-	Coordinating committees, CCFL39	Para 173

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APPENDIX II

PROPOSED DRAFT REVISED GUIDELINES ON NUTRITION LABELLING (CAC/GL 2-1985)
(Section 3.2 Listing of Nutrients)

(At Step 5 of the Procedure)

3.2 Listing of Nutrients

3.2.1 Where nutrient declaration is applied, the declaration of the following should be mandatory:

3.2.1.1 Energy value; and

3.2.1.2 The amounts of protein, available carbohydrate (i.e. dietary carbohydrate excluding dietary fibre), fat, saturated fat, [sodium/salt] and total sugars; and

3.2.1.3 The amount of any other nutrient for which a nutrition or health claim is made; and

3.2.1.4 The amount of any other nutrient considered to be relevant for maintaining a good nutritional status, as required by national legislation or national dietary guidelines[1].

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[1]Countries where the level of intake of trans-fatty acids is a public health concern should consider the declaration of trans-fatty acids in nutrition labelling.

APPENDIX III

ISSUES RELATED TO MANDATORY NUTRITION LABELLING

PREAMBLE

This document has been prepared by the Codex Committee on Food Labelling for use as a tool by governments in considering the implementation of mandatory nutrition labelling for pre-packaged foods at the national level. This refers to nutrition labelling that would be applied to virtually all pre-packaged foods in the absence of a nutrition claim.

INTRODUCTION

1. The decision to implement mandatory nutrition labelling needs careful consideration in the context of the relevance of the information to populations in different countries, and of implications for international trade. The level of consumer awareness or consumer understanding and use of food labels varies among countries and regions. To be an effective tool for public health promotion, consumers need to be adequately informed by the information on the label and educated as to its use in making dietary choices. Nutrition labelling requirements should ideally be accompanied by consumer education campaigns and the ability of nations to undertake such educational efforts needs to be considered.

2. The introduction of mandatory nutrition labelling on pre-packaged foods is a way to provide information to consumers and has the potential to lead to public health improvements. Consumers can use nutrition labels to compare and choose between food products and plan their diets.

3. The introduction of mandatory nutrition labelling may encourage manufacturers to reformulate products to improve their nutritional quality, thus increasing the availability of healthier products in the marketplace. While the move from voluntary to mandatory nutrition labelling can involve additional cost to government and industry, cost has not been identified as a major issue by those countries that have implemented mandatory nutrition labelling.

4. In exploring the possibility of adopting mandatory nutrition labelling, consideration should be given to the development of appropriate education resources for consumers; support for industry; and allowing for the possibility of exemptions e.g. on the basis of business size; type and/or size of outlet; food characteristics (eg plain tea and coffee, unflavoured/unsweetened water, herbs and spices); or type and/or size and shape of packaging.

5. Both those nutrients associated with either an increased or decreased risk of non-communicable diseases should also be considered for mandatory labelling.

6. Issues of importance that may require further consideration when discussing implementation of mandatory nutrition labelling, include (but may not be limited to) the following:

   i. costs and benefits associated with the introduction of mandatory nutrition labelling;
   ii. particular needs of the country :
   iii. the role that mandatory nutrition labelling could potentially play in supporting public health initiatives; and
   iv. the foods that mandatory nutrition labelling may not apply to;
   v. practical issues related to implementation, application, compliance and enforcement such as resource and technical considerations, infrastructure and communication; and
   vi. implications for trade.

1. COSTS AND BENEFITS

The introduction of mandatory nutrition labelling has potential costs and benefits.

1.1 Costs

Costs associated with implementation of mandatory nutrition labelling may include but are not limited to:

(a) *Costs to consumers*

- increased food prices, as costs incurred by industry may be passed on to consumers; and
- too much information on a label, which may impact on consumers' ability to absorb and evaluate other information, such as information related to ingredients and safe handling.

(b) *Costs to Government*

- building the capacity of laboratories and training the personnel required for monitoring and surveillance of compliance with nutrition labelling;
- development of official guidelines on nutrition labelling to the food industry and consumers in order to facilitate the implementation and the use of nutrition labelling;
- development of official databases on nutrient composition of foods to support small and medium businesses to implement nutrition labelling; and
- development of nutrition education materials and programmes for consumers and industry explaining the new requirements.

(c) *Costs to industry*

- administrative costs, which are costs of interpreting the regulation and deciding on an appropriate action in response to the regulation;
- costs of testing and/or use of databases to determine the nutrient content;
- printing costs, the costs of changing the printing plates or other printing mechanism; and
- inventory costs, the value of the labels in inventory that cannot be used due to the new regulation.

1.2 Benefits

Benefits associated with the introduction of mandatory nutrition labelling may include but are not limited to:

(a) *Benefits to consumers*

Consumers could see some benefits immediately and directly while others would become apparent overtime. The benefits include:

- wider access to nutrition information;
- the opportunity to make consistent comparisons between food products and across categories;
- information on labels may potentially influence behaviour and lead to flow-on public health benefits, thereby serving as a link between the consumer, nutrition education and public health outcomes;
- the potential to lower health-care costs to the individual and society over time, due to reductions in diet related preventable non-communicable diseases; and
- increased focus on nutritional quality thereby increasing availability of products that contribute to a healthy and balanced diet in the marketplace.

(b) *Benefits to government*

- supporting initiatives for populations to make food choices that contribute to healthy and balanced diets; and
- potential for savings in public health costs in the treatment of chronic non-communicable diseases related to diet.

(c) *Benefits to industry*

- improved consumer confidence associated with greater disclosure of nutrition information; and
- the provision of nutrition information so that consumers are able to select products based on ready comparison between products and across food categories.

2. IMPLEMENTATION

2.1 There are a range of issues surrounding implementation that may be faced by businesses:

- a possible lack of technical capacity and resources required for determining the nutritional values to be declared; and
- small and medium sized enterprises may bear proportionally greater costs than larger enterprises.

2.2 To assist in this respect there are a variety of possible exemptions that could be applied to mandatory nutrition labelling, including:

- certain unpackaged food;
- perishable cooked food ready for direct consumption which is packaged on retail premises in response to demand by a purchaser;
- small packages, packages that have shapes such that a label cannot be affixed or refillable bottles. In such cases, nutrition information could be provided by alternate means such as a telephone number, hang tags, address or website;
- foods that contain negligible amounts of all of the nutrients required to be declared under the mandatory nutrition labelling requirements. Examples of such foods could include coffee beans, tea leaves, plain unsweetened instant coffee and tea, unsweetened/unflavoured water, condiments, flavour extracts, and food colours. If this exemption were to apply, it would first be necessary to determine a definition of 'a negligible amount' of a nutrient;
- exempting declaration of those nutrients that could be declared as zero;
- foods that do not contribute significantly to dietary intake of the population of the country in question (the implementation of this option would first require a definition of 'significant'); and
- exemptions based on business size and type of outlet.

2.3 A number of potential technical difficulties associated with the introduction of mandatory nutrition labelling include:

- availability of suitable laboratory facilities, equipment and staff training to check for nutrition labelling compliance and accuracy;
- the cost, accuracy and repeatability of alternate methods of analysis;
- variability in nutrient levels due to geographic source and seasonal fluctuation of ingredients;
- development of official databases on nutrient composition of foods to facilitate determination of nutrition information by manufacturers allowing for appropriate tolerance values (these would need to be defined) to account for the inherent variability in amounts of nutrients and the variability in laboratory analysis;
- determining an adequate transition period for the implementation of mandatory nutrition labelling;
- determining those products which must carry mandatory nutrition labelling, and
- linking to nutrition education programmes and education materials for consumers.

2.4 *Support Mechanisms*

A range of issues surrounding the implementation of mandatory nutrition labelling and mechanisms for supporting its introduction are discussed in Section 2.2 above. Some of the resource and technical considerations identified in Section 2.3 may be addressed or significantly reduced through provision of appropriate support mechanisms, such as:

- nutrient calculation software or similar online tools;
- food composition databases;
- allowing a long (e.g. 2 year or 3 -5 years for products with a long shelf life) period for phasing-in before enforcement takes place, for example regulatory authorities could provide transition periods or temporary relief under certain circumstances for businesses to use existing label inventory and prepare new labels to conform to the nutrition labelling requirements;
- allowing alternate means of deriving nutrient values, e.g. manufacturer's analysis or by calculation from database values of the ingredients used;

- government and businesses access to the necessary infrastructure. One such consideration might be development of IT infrastructure (including internet based systems) through government and industry partnerships;

2.5 In order to facilitate labelling implementation consideration should be given to communications strategies that might include but are not limited to:

- consumer education campaigns, ideally supported by consumer research; and
- involvement of relevant stakeholders (industry, consumers, medical community, academia, and state and local authorities)
- use of supplementary information and/or alternative equivalent information.

3. COMPLIANCE AND ENFORCEMENT

3.1 Codex members have identified a variety of compliance and enforcement mechanisms currently operating or being considered in the future, these are summarised below:

- the specific requirements and penalties for non-compliance are gazetted and administered by the competent authorities, and surveillance and enforcement activities undertaken to ensure compliance;
- monitoring of compliance is conducted by local food inspectors through inspection of food traded and by official public laboratories.

3.2 Compliance and enforcement issues that may impact on the introduction of mandatory nutrition labelling include:

- the capacity and infrastructure of industry and regulatory authorities;
- access to analytical testing and/or reliable, validated databases for determining nutrient content (availability and validity of methods);
- variability in analytical methods and the use of different laboratories may lead to differing results;
- permitted variability from declared value (accounting for inherent analytical variability and variations within good manufacturing practices); and
- costs to public and private sectors for compliance, monitoring and enforcement including follow-up corrective actions.

4. INTERNATIONAL AND TRADE CONSIDERATIONS

4.1 The introduction of mandatory nutrition labelling on a global scale, and the level of alignment with national nutrition labelling requirements, may have implications for global food trade. Considerations include, but are not limited to:

- the possible impact on existing trading alliances or trading blocks, for example the regulation of mandatory nutrition labelling being harmonized in some instances would facilitate the trade in food within the alliance; and
- the standards and guidelines available from the Codex Alimentarius Commission

APPENDIX IV

PROPOSED DRAFT AMENDMENT TO THE GUIDELINES ON NUTRITION LABELLING (CAC/GL 2-1985): PRINCIPLES AND CRITERIA FOR LEGIBILITY OF NUTRITION LABELLING

(At Step 5/8 of the Procedure)

Insert a new section 4 as follows and renumber existing section 4 to section 5:

4. PRINCIPLES AND CRITERIA FOR LEGIBILITY OF NUTRITION LABELLING

4.1 General principles

In the case of nutrition labelling whether applied on a mandatory or voluntary basis, the principles of Sections 8.1.1, 8.1.2, 8.1.3 and 8.2 of the General Standard for the Labelling of Prepackaged Foods (CODEX STAN 1-1985) should be applied. Sections 8.1.1, 8.1.2 and 8.1.3 should be applied to any supplementary nutrition labels.

4.2 Specific features of presentation

4.2.1 These recommendations related to specific features of presentation are intended to enhance the legibility of nutrition labelling. However, competent authorities may determine any additional means of presentation of nutrition information taking into account approaches and practical issues at the national level and based on the needs of their consumers.

4.2.2 Format – Nutrient content should be declared in a numerical, tabular format. Where there is insufficient space for a tabular format, nutrient declaration may be presented in a linear format.

4.2.3 Nutrients should be declared in a specific order developed by competent authorities and should be consistent across food products.

4.2.4 Font – The font type, style and a minimum font size as well as the use of upper and lower case letters should be considered by competent authorities to ensure legibility of nutrition labelling.

4.2.5 Contrast – A significant contrast should be maintained between the text and background so ~~as to be~~ that the nutrition information is clearly legible.

4.2.6 Numerical Presentation – The numerical presentation of nutrient content should be in accordance with the provisions of Section 3.4.

APPENDIX V

PROJECT DOCUMENT

PROPOSAL FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF CLAIMS FOR SUGARS, SALT/SODIUM AND TRANS-FATTY ACIDS

Purpose and Scope of the Proposed Revised Standard

The purpose of the proposed work is to include in the Table of conditions for nutrient contents in the *Guidelines on Use of Nutrition and Health Claims* (CAC/GL 23-1997) new claims concerning sugars, salt/sodium and trans-fatty acids.

Its Relevance and Timeliness

According to the World Health Organization's Global Strategy on Diet, Physical Activity and Health (GS DPAH), non-communicable diseases are a large contributor to population mortality and the global burden of disease. Diets high in certain fatty acids, sugars and salt are associated with increased risk of noncommunicable diseases.

At the 37th session of the CCFL, an electronic working group was established to develop a discussion document on ways of addressing labelling text in relation to the ingredients identified in the Global Strategy, including added sugars and salt/sodium. Discussion of the suggested actions in this paper at the 38th session resulted in the agreement to propose new work on claims related to the non-addition of sugars and/or salt/sodium and explicit comparative claims for sugars and/or salt/sodium. The discussion document CX/FL 10/38/9 included proposed text related to these types of claims.

Additionally, in Matters Referred to the 38th session of the CCFL, the Codex Committee on Nutrition and Foods for Special Dietary Uses (CCNFSDU) also requested that CCFL identify the claims related to salt/sodium, trans fatty acids and sugars for which conditions should be established, as well as to provide additional information on the types of claims for which CCFL wishes CCNFSDU to establish criteria, the purpose of the claims and CCFL's priorities for the development of criteria for the claims.

The Main Aspects to be Covered

It is proposed that new entries to the Table of conditions for nutrient contents in the *Guidelines for Use of Nutrition and Health Claims* (CAC/GL 23-1997) be entered for the non addition of sugars and salt/sodium and that additional conditions of use be established for comparative claims for sugars and salt/sodium content.
Additionally, the heading of the Table of conditions for nutrient contents will be reviewed and consideration will be given for adding nutrient content claims in relation to trans fatty acids.

Assessment Against the Criteria for the Establishment of Work Priorities

The proposal is consistent with the criteria as follows:

Consumer protection from the point of view of health, food safety, ensuring fair practices in the food trade and taking into account the identified needs of developing countries: The proposed claims should support consumers in making informed food choices to support the selection of an overall healthy diet. In addition, the establishment of conditions for claims ensures a level playing field for the food industry by setting consistent criteria for the use of the claims which had been identified as an issue by developing countries at the 38th session.

Relevance to the Codex Strategic Objectives

This work is relevant to Goal 1 of the Codex Strategic plan 2008-2013 – promoting sound regulatory frameworks. This work is to review and develop Codex standards and related texts for food labelling and nutrition, taking into account scientific and technological developments and the WHO Global Strategy on Diet, Physical Activity and Health, to ensure that they: emphasize a horizontal approach and the need to

maintain inclusiveness, and address food labelling and nutrition so as to avoid being overly prescriptive and not more trade restrictive than necessary, while respecting the basic objectives of the CAC, taking into consideration the technical and economic implications for all members as well as the special needs of developing countries including infrastructure, resources and technical and legal capabilities.
Information on the Relation between the Proposal and Other Existing Codex Documents

The proposal is to amend the Guidelines for Use of Nutrition and Health Claims. It does not affect other existing Codex documents.

Identification of any Requirement for and Availability of Expert Scientific Advice

The development of these claims and their conditions will require review and expertise from the Codex Committee on Nutrition and Foods for Special Dietary Uses.
Identification of any Need for Technical Input to the Standard from External Bodies so that this Can be Planned For

None identified.

The Proposed Time-Line

It is proposed that the work in 2010 with a proposed date for adoption at Step 5 in 2012 and adoption by the Commission in 2014.

APPENDIX VI

PROPOSED EDITORIAL AMENDMENT TO THE GUIDELINES ON NUTRITION AND HEALTH CLAIMS (CAC/GL 23-1997)

In the table of conditions for nutrient contents amend the footnote reference and footnote text of the footnote for saturated fats and cholesterol:

COMPONENT	CLAIM	CONDITIONS (not more than)
Saturated Fat[3]	Low	1.5 g per 100 g (solids) 0.75 g per 100 ml (liquids) and 10% of energy
	Free	0.1 g per 100 g (solids) 0.1 g per 100 ml (liquids)
Cholesterol[3]	Low	0.02 g per 100 g (solids) 0.01 g per 100 ml (liquids)
	Free	0.005 g per 100 g (solids) 0.005 g per 100 ml (solids) and, for both claims, less than:1.5 g saturated fat per 100 g (solids) 0.75 g saturated fat per 100 ml (liquids) and 10% of energy of saturated fat

[3] In the case of the claims for saturated fat and cholesterol ~~"low in saturated fat"~~,, trans fatty acids should be taken into account where applicable. ~~This provision consequentially applies to foods claimed to be "low in cholesterol" and "cholesterol free".~~

APPENDIX VII

DRAFT AMENDMENT TO THE GUIDELINES FOR THE PRODUCTION, PROCESSING, LABELLING AND MARKETING OF ORGANICALLY PRODUCED FOODS (N10-2006): (ETHYLENE)

(At Step 7 of the Procedure)

Annex 1 - Principles of Organic Production

C. HANDLING, STORAGE, TRANSPORTATION, PROCESSING AND PACKAGING

82. The integrity of the organic product must be maintained throughout the processing phase. This is achieved by the use of techniques appropriate to the specifics of the ingredients with careful processing methods limiting refining and the use of additives and processing aids. Ionizing radiation should not be used on organic products for the purpose of pest control, food preservation, elimination of pathogens or sanitation.
Ethylene may be used for ripening of kiwi fruit, bananas, **[other products to be determined].**

APPENDIX VIII

EDITORIAL AMENDMENTS TO THE GUIDELINES FOR THE PRODUCTION, PROCESSING, LABELLING AND MARKETING OF ORGANICALLY PRODUCED FOODS (CAC/GL 32-1999)

Paragraph 3.5: delete the words "in accordance with Section 8,"

Footnote 13: delete the words "in line with the provisions as set out in Section 8 of these Guidelines"

Delete paragraph 5.3.

Delete section 8.

Annex 3, 12: delete the words "in accordance with Section 8,"

APPENDIX IX

DRAFT AMENDMENT TO THE GENERAL STANDARD FOR THE LABELLING OF PREPACKAGED FOODS – DEFINITIONS

(At Step 6 of the Procedure)

SECTION 2. DEFINITION OF TERMS[1]

For the purpose of the General Standard:

"Food and food ingredients obtained through biotechnology" means food and food ingredients composed of or containing genetically modified / engineered organisms obtained through modern biotechnology, or food and food ingredients produced from, but not containing genetically modified / engineered organisms obtained through modern biotechnology.

"Organism" means any biological entity capable of replication, reproduction or of transferring genetic material.

"Genetically modified / engineered organism" means an organism in which the genetic material has been changed through modern biotechnology.

"Modern biotechnology" means the application of:

a. In vitro nucleic acid techniques[2], including recombinant deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA) and direct injection of nucleic acid into cells or organelles, or

b. Fusion of cells[3] beyond the taxonomic family,

that overcome natural physiological, reproductive or recombination barriers and that are not techniques used in traditional breeding and selection

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1 The terminology used in this section on definitions should not determine the terminology which is appropriate for use on food labels

2 These include but are not limited to: recombinant DNA techniques that use vector systems and techniques involving the direct introduction into the organism of hereditary materials prepared outside the organism such as micro-injection, macro-injection, chemoporation, electroporation, micro-encapsulation and liposome fusion

3 Fusion of cells (including protoplast fusion) or hybridization techniques that overcome natural physiological, reproductive, or recombination barriers, where the donor cells/protoplasts do not fall within the same taxonomic family

APPENDIX X

PROPOSED DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE LABELLING OF FOODS AND FOOD INGREDIENTS OBTAINED THROUGH CERTAIN TECHNIQUES OF GENETIC MODIFICATION/GENETIC ENGINEERING

(At Step 3 of the Procedure)

*[**Chapeau version 1:** The purpose of this document is only to recall and assemble in a single document some important elements of guidance from Codex texts, which are relevant for the labelling of foods derived from modern biotechnology. It also recognizes that each country can adopt different approaches regarding labelling of foods derived from modern biotechnology. This document is not intended to suggest or imply that foods derived from modern biotechnology are necessarily different from other foods simply due to their method of production.]*

*[**Chapeau version 2:** Acknowledging that different approaches regarding labelling of foods derived from modern biotechnology are available, the purpose of this document is only to recall and assemble in a single document some important elements of guidance from existing Codex texts, which are relevant for the labelling of foods derived from modern biotechnology. This document is not intended to suggest or imply that foods derived from modern biotechnology are necessarily different from other foods simply due to their method of production.]*

[Text as annexed to report of the 36th Session of the CCFL:

1. The following Codex standards and related texts contain provisions applicable to the labelling of food products and may be applied to foods obtained by GM/GE:]

- The Codex General Standard for the Labelling of Prepackaged Foods, (Codex Stan 1-1985)
- The Codex General Guidelines on Claims (CAC/GL 1-1979)
- The Codex Guidelines for Use of Nutrition and Health Claims (CAC/GL 23-1997)
- Principles for Risk Analysis of Foods Derived from Modern Biotechnology (CAC/GL 44-2003);
- Guidelines for the Conduct of Food Safety Assessments of Foods Derived from Recombinant-DNA plants (CAC/GL 45-2003)
- Guidelines for the Conduct of Food Safety Assessments of Foods Derived from Recombinant-DNA microorganisms
- Working Principles for Risk Analysis for Food Safety for Application by Governments

2 Codex labelling and other texts apply to foods sold in unpackaged/non-retail containers including those foods obtained through GM-GE techniques and sold in such manner. Labelling means "any written, printed or graphic matter that is present on the label, accompanies the food, or is displayed near the food, including that for the purpose of promoting its sale or disposal."

3. Labelling of a food is considered only after the food has undergone appropriate assessments to deem it safe for human consumption. Codex has adopted several texts which address the safety aspects of GM/GE foods and are available to Member Countries for this purpose[4].

4. The Guideline for the Conduct of Food Safety Assessment of Foods Derived from Recombinant-DNA Plants (CAC/GL 45-2003) states that the "transfer of genes from commonly allergenic foods . . . should be avoided unless it is documented that the transferred gene does not code for an allergen . . .".

5. The presence in any food or food ingredients obtained through biotechnology of an allergen transferred from any of the products listed in section 4.2.1.4 shall be declared. When it is not possible to provide

[4] Guideline for the Conduct of Food Safety Assessment of Foods Derived from Recombinant-DNA Plants (CAC/GL 45-2003); Guideline for the Conduct of Food Safety Assessment of Foods Produced Using Recombinant-DNA Microorganisms (CAC/GL 46-2003).

adequate information on the presence of an allergen through labelling, the food containing the allergen should not be marketed (section 4.2.2, GSLPF).

6. When the physical, chemical, or functional characteristics of a food are significantly altered through any means (production or processing), the labelling of such food be appropriately modified from its traditional labelling to ensure that the food is described or presented in a manner that is truthful and not misleading and not likely to create an erroneous impression regarding its character in any respect. The traditional name of such food may need to be changed or qualified with additional words or phrases to describe the true nature of the food and to avoid misleading or confusing the consumer.
7. In cases where GM/GE modifications result in a claim related to the nutritional properties of the food, the claim language should be consistent with the Guidelines for Use of Nutrition and Health Claims.
8. The provisions in existing Codex texts can be applied to labelling statements related to GM/GE foods.
9. Codex labelling texts apply to representation used to provide information to enable consumer choice about the food they purchase and/or when used by marketers to indicate that a food meets certain consumer preferences.
10. Any representations made on the label or in the labelling of GM/GE foods should be consistent with the GSLPF (Codex Stan 1-1985) and the General Guidelines on Claims (CAC/GL 1-1979).

Table 1. Provisions in existing Codex labelling texts that apply to the labeling of GM/GE foods

Section	Mandatory Labelling Provisions
General Standard for the Labelling of Prepackaged Foods	
3.1	Prepackaged food shall not be described or presented on any label or in any labelling in a manner that is false, misleading or deceptive or is likely to create an erroneous impression regarding its character in any respect.
3.2	Prepackaged food shall not be described or presented on any label or in any labelling by words, pictorial or other devices which refer to or are suggestive either directly or indirectly, of any other product with which such food might be confused, or in such a manner as to lead the purchaser or consumer to suppose that the food is connected with such other product.
4.1.1	The name [of the food] shall indicate the true nature of the food and normally be specific and not generic.
4.1.2	There shall appear on the label either in conjunction with, or in close proximity to, the name of the food, such additional words or phrases as necessary to avoid misleading or confusing the consumer in regard to the true nature and physical condition of the food including but not limited to the type of packaging medium, style, and the condition or type of treatment it has undergone; for example, dried, concentrated, reconstituted, smoked.
4.2.2	The presence in any food or food ingredients obtained through biotechnology of an allergen transferred from any of the products listed in section 4.2.1.4 shall be declared. When it is not possible to provide adequate information on the presence of an allergen through labelling, the food containing the allergen should not be marketed.

Section	Voluntary Labelling Provisions
General Standard for the Labelling of Prepackaged Foods	
7.1	Optional labelling – Any information or pictorial device written, printed, or graphic matter may be displayed in labelling provided that it is not in conflict with the mandatory requirements of this standard and those relating to claims and deception given in section 3 – General Principles.
General Guidelines on Claims	
1.2	The principle on which the guidelines are based is that no food should be described or presented in a manner that is false, misleading or deceptive or is likely to create an erroneous impression regarding its character in any respect.
1.3	The person marketing the food should be able to justify the claims made.
2	Definition – For the purpose of these guidelines, a claim is any representation which states, suggests, or implies that a food has particular characteristics relating to its origin, nutritional properties, nature, production, processing, composition or any other quality.
3.3	Prohibited claims – Claims which cannot be substantiated.
3.5	Prohibited claims – Claims which could give rise to doubt about the safety of similar food or which could arouse or exploit fear in the consumer.
4.1	Potentially misleading claims – Meaningless claims including incomplete comparatives and superlatives.
5.1(iii)	Conditional claims – Terms such as “natural,” “pure,” “fresh,” “home made,” “organically grown,” and “biologically grown” when they are used, should be in accordance with the national practices in the country where the food is sold. The use of these terms should be consistent with the prohibitions set out in Section 3.
5.1(v)	Conditional claims – Claims that a food has special characteristics when all such foods have the same characteristics, if this fact is apparent in the claim.
5.1 (vi)	Conditional claims – Claims which highlight the absence or non-addition of particular substances to food may be used provided that they are not misleading and provided that the substance: (b) is one which consumers would normally expect to find in the food; (d) is one whose presence or addition is permitted in the food.
Guidelines for Use of Nutrition and Health Claims	
“**]**	

APPENDIX XI

PROPOSED ALIGNMENT OF THE GENERAL STANDARD FOR THE LABELLING OF PREPACKAGED FOOD (CODEX STAN 1-1985) WITH THE CODEX INTERNATIONAL NUMBERING SYSTEM IN CAC/GL 36-1989

4.2.3.3 For food additives falling in the respective classes and appearing in lists of food additives permitted for use in foods ~~generally~~, the following functional classes~~class titles~~ shall be used together with the specific name or recognized numerical identification such as the Codex International Numbering System (CAC/GL 36-1989) as required by national legislation.

- Acidity Regulator
- ~~Acids~~
- Anticaking Agent
- Antifoaming Agent
- Antioxidant
- Bleaching Agent
- Bulking Agent
- Carbonating Agent
- Colour
- Colour Retention Agent
- Emulsifier
- Emulsifying Salt
- Firming Agent
- Flour Treatment Agent
- Flavour Enhancer
- Foaming Agent
- Gelling Agent
- Glazing Agent
- Humectant
- Preservative
- Propellant
- Raising Agent
- Sequestrant
- Stabilizer
- Sweetener
- Thickener

APPENDIX XII

PROJECT DOCUMENT

DEFINITION OF NUTRIENT REFERENCE VALUES

The Purposes and Scope of the Guideline

The purpose of the work would be to add a definition for Nutrient Reference Values (NRVs) for use with respect to the Codex Guidelines on Nutrition Labelling, CAC/GL 2-1985.

Its Relevance and Timeliness

The Codex Committee on Nutrition and Foods for Special Dietary Use (CCNFSDU) is in the process of doing further work on establishing NRVs. During the discussions at its last session, CCNFSDU noted that it would be desirable to establish a definition for NRV. Since the establishment of such a definition is the responsibility of CCFL, CCNFSDU has requested this from CCFL, through matters referred (see CX/FL 10/38/2).

The Main Aspects to be Covered

Amendment of an existing standard, i.e. the Codex Guidelines on Nutrition Labelling, CAC/GL 2-1985, Section 2: Definitions, to add a definition for Nutrient Reference Values (NRVs).

In considering the definition, the Committee is advised to refer to the relevant text in the CCNFSDU Alinorm 10/33/26, paragraphs 144-148.

Subject to the agreement of the Commission, a Circular Letter will be prepared with the text proposed by the CCNFSDU to expedite obtaining feedback from Codex member countries and organizations in 2010, prior to the next session.

Assessment Against the *Criteria for the Establishment of Work Priorities*
In relation to the *Criteria for the Establishment of Work Priorities* contained in the Codex Procedural Manual, 19th Edition, page 33, the proposed work is considered to meet Criterion c) of Criteria Applicable to General Subjects, i.e. Work already undertaken by other international organizations in the field.

This work has been requested by another Codex Committee working on matters concerning the review and establishment of NRVs. This work, in turn, is relevant to the actions being undertaken by both the CCFL and the CCNFSDU in relation to the Global Strategy on Diet, Physical Activity and Health. It is considered to be work that will not require significant time and resources to address.

Relevance to the Codex Strategic Objectives
This work is aligned with Goal 1: Promote sound regulatory frameworks, of the Codex Strategic Goals for 2008-2013 in that it would help to ensure the clear definition of terms which assists in the development of understandable standards that promote international harmonization. This is in turn essential to promoting a global approach to consumer health protection.

Further, this is aligned with Strategic Goals for 2008-2013, Section 1.3 **Review and develop Codex standards and related texts for food labelling and nutrition,** since it is associated with the work of reviewing and developing Codex standards and related texts for food labelling and nutrition, taking into account the WHO Global Strategy on Diet, Physical Activity and Health.

Information on the Relation Between the Proposal and Other Existing Codex Documents

This proposal is dealing with an amendment to an existing Codex document (See Main aspects to be covered, above). Codex Guidelines for use of Nutrition and Health Claims (CAC/GL 23-1997), also make reference to NRVs, however, there is no anticipated need to amend these guidelines.

Identification of Any Requirement for and Availability of Expert Scientific Advice

None anticipated.

Identification of Any Need for Technical Input to the Standard From External Bodies so That This Can Be Planned For

None anticipated.

The Proposed Time-line for Completion the New Work, Including the Start Date, the Proposed Date for Adoption at Step 5, and the Proposed Date for Adoption by the Commission

Start Date:	2010
Proposed Date for Adoption at Step 5:	2011
Proposed Date for Adoption by the Commission:	2012

APPENDIX XIII

PROJECT DOCUMENT

ORGANIC AQUACULTURE

Purposes and scope of the proposed standard:

The purpose is to include aquaculture animals and the collection and farming of seaweeds in the scope of CAC/GL32 on organically produced foods. For aquaculture animals this would mainly cover origin of the stock, husbandry practices and breeding, feed, disease prevention and veterinary treatment. For seaweed it would mainly cover water quality conditions as regards environment and health, sustainable practices, stock maintenance and use of inputs.

Its relevance and timeliness:

The aquaculture sector is currently the fastest growing segment in the international food market. The organic production of aquaculture animals and seaweed has been growing fast over the last decade and there has been significant growth in the market for these products. While very little reliable and detailed data is currently available, world aquaculture production is estimated to have reached 50,000 tonnes by industry sources[5]. In order to facilitate the harmonization of requirements for organic aquaculture and seaweed products at the international level, the EU believes that it is both relevant and timely for Codex Alimentarius to commence new work in this area.

The main aspects to be covered:

These include conditions for the aquatic production environment, for impact on other species of animal, plant, algae and birds, separation of organic and non-organic production units and defining the suitability of the aquatic medium. For aquaculture animals the coverage would include detailed provisions on feed ingredients, animal husbandry conditions with reference in particular to maximum stocking densities in the production phase and conditions at the time of killing.

An assessment against the Criteria for the Establishment of Work Priorities:

The volume of organic aquaculture production is growing fast. While the main market is in the richer countries, there is scope for growth or organic aquaculture in developing countries. There exists the possibility that divergent legislation in this field could give rise to multiple certification requirements, which in addition to being a heavy burden on producers can impede international trade. Without clear international guidelines there is also a greater risk that fraud could occur and damage the reputation and future prospects of the sector.

Relevance to Codex Strategic Objectives:

It can be complex and difficult to find agreement between the sector, non-governmental organisation and governments on criteria for organic aquaculture. The commencement of work on this area by the Codex Committee on Food Labelling is highly relevant so that global guidance, with the highest attainable criteria, will be available for this fast developing sector so as to ensure fair practices in trade of organic aquaculture products.

[5] Bergleiter, S et al (2009). Organic Aquaculture 2009 – Production and markets. Naturland e.V & Organic Services GmbH

Information on the relation between the proposal and other existing Codex documents:

No work carried out on this field in other areas of Codex.

Identification of any requirement for the availability of expert scientific advice:

None identified.

Identification of any need for technical input to the standard from external bodies so that this can be planned for:

None identified.

The proposed timeline:

Proposed start by CCFL in 2010 with a view to adoption by the Commission within four years.