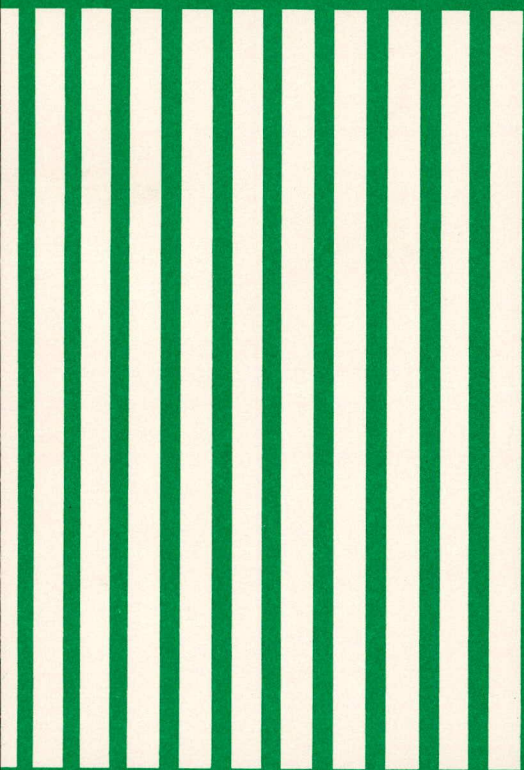


Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme

CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION

REPORT OF THE NINETEENTH SESSION
Rome, 1-10 July 1991



FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION

Rome 1991



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JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME
REPORT OF THE NINETEENTH SESSION
OF THE
JOINT FAO/WHO CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION
FAO Headquarters, Rome, 1-10 July 1991

INTRODUCTION

1. The Nineteenth Session of the Joint FAO/WHO Codex Alimentarius Commission was held at FAO Headquarters, Rome, from 1 to 10 July 1991. The Session was attended by 351 participants, including the representatives and observers from 77 countries and observers from 25 international organizations (See Appendix 1 for the List of Participants).
2. The Commission was presided over by its Chairman, E.R. Méndez, Mexico, and for certain items of the Agenda by two of its Vice-Chairmen, N. Tape (Canada), and F.G. Winarno (Indonesia). The Secretary of the Commission was R.J. Dawson, assisted by the Session Joint Secretaries A.W. Randell, and F. Käferstein.
3. The Session was opened by Dr. B.P. Dutia, Assistant Director-General, Economic and Social Department, FAO on behalf of the Director-General of FAO, Mr. Edouard Saouma and the Director-General of WHO, Dr. H. Nakajima. The text of the address and the text of the Chairman's reply, are contained in Appendix 2 to this report.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND TIMETABLE (Agenda Item 1)

4. The Commission adopted the Provisional Agenda ALINORM 91/1 as the Agenda for its Session, deleting certain points under Item 24 (See paragraphs 199-225, below).

ELECTION OF OFFICERS OF THE COMMISSION AND MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (Agenda Item 4)

5. During the Session, the Commission elected F.G. Winarno (Indonesia) as Chairman of the Commission to serve from the end of the Nineteenth Session to the end of the Twentieth Session. The Commission also elected L. Crawford (USA), Pakdee Pothisiri (Thailand) and John Race (Norway) as Vice-Chairmen of the Commission for the same period.
6. The following Members of the Commission were elected to represent the geographic locations described in Rule III.1 of the Commission's Rules of Procedure, to hold office from the end of the Nineteenth Session to the end of the Twenty-First Session: Tunisia - Africa; Malaysia - Asia; The Netherlands - Europe; Cuba - Latin America and the Caribbean; Canada - North America; New Zealand - South West Pacific.

Appointment of Regional Coordinators

7. The following persons were appointed as Regional Coordinators for:

Africa	Etienne Enobong Essien (Nigeria)
Asia	Azizan Ghazali (Malaysia)
Europe	Barbro Blomberg (Sweden)
Latin America and the Caribbean	Carlos Alberto Ferreira Guimaraes (Brazil)
North America and the South West Pacific	Digby Gascoine (Australia)

IN MEMORIAM

8. The Commission observed one minute's silence in memory of its former colleagues who had passed away since its previous Session:

- Professor Bent Simonsen (Denmark), Chairman of the Codex Committee on Processed Meat and Poultry Products; and
- Mr. Arthur Hubbard (United Kingdom), former Chairman of the Codex Committee on Fats and Oils, member of the United Kingdom Delegation, and Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Food Additives.

REPORT BY THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMISSION ON THE 37TH AND 38TH SESSIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (Agenda Item 2)

9. In introducing the Reports of the 37th and 38th Sessions of the Executive Committee contained in documents ALINORM 91/3 and ALINORM 91/4 respectively, the Chairman indicated that all items dealt with by the Executive Committee should be dealt with by the Commission under the Agenda Items relating to the matters concerned.

10. The Commission noted that the Thirty-Eighth Session of the Executive Committee had also expressed its appreciation of the work of the Chairman of the Commission for his positive contributions to the work of the Commission and his effectiveness as Chairman of both the Commission and the Executive Committee.

MEMBERSHIP OF THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION (Agenda Item 3)

11. The Chairman reported that two new Members had joined the Commission since the 18th Session - Angola and Kiribati. The total membership of the Commission was currently 138 countries and is set out in Appendix 3 to this report. The Commission requested FAO and WHO to continue their efforts to complete the Commission's membership by drawing the attention of those eligible countries which had not yet notified desire to become members to the benefits of participation in the Commission's work.

PROGRESS REPORT ON ACCEPTANCES OF CODEX STANDARDS AND CODEX MAXIMUM LIMITS FOR PESTICIDE RESIDUES, AND ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CODE OF ETHICS FOR INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN FOOD (Agenda Item 5)

12. The Commission had before it document ALINORM 91/5, a summary of acceptances notified by countries since its 18th Session. It was noted that this document was based on replies received from Cuba, Iran, Morocco, New Zealand, and Thailand, in

relation to the acceptance of Codex standards, and from Cuba, Egypt, India, Israel, New Zealand, Mozambique, Romania, and Singapore in relation to Codex Maximum Residue Limits (MRLs) for Pesticides. This information was supplemented by information provided by several delegations present at the Session.

13. The Commission noted that a new form of acceptance of Maximum Residue Limits for Pesticides and Veterinary Drugs had been adopted at its 18th Session and that the first notifications of acceptance of "Free Distribution" had been indicated. It appeared that countries notifying acceptance preferred to use this form of acceptance rather than others. The Commission stressed that all Member countries should give favourable consideration to notifying the Secretariat that products in conformity with Codex Standards and MRLs would be permitted free entry into and distribution within their territorial jurisdictions. It welcomed the efforts made by the Commission of the European Communities to notify acceptance of Codex Standards for products sold within the territory of the Community.

14. The Commission noted that since the publication of ALINORM 91/5, an additional response had been received from the Government of Mexico notifying the acceptance of a number of Codex MRL's, and that these would be published in due course. It also recommended to national and international authorities, that efforts be made to increase the use of Integrated Pest Management procedures and reduce or eliminate the use of persistent pesticides as means of achieving greater acceptance of Codex MRL's by governments.

REPORT ON THE FINANCIAL SITUATION OF THE JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME FOR 1990/91 AND 1992/93 (Agenda Item 6)

15. The Commission received a report on the financial situation of the Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme for the biennia 1988/89, 1990/91 and 1992/93 (ALINORM 91/6). In introducing the report, the Secretary of the Commission noted that the budget situation of the Programme was very satisfactory in that the tighter control exercised over documentation had resulted in the programme being able to operate within its budget. The Commission noted that the cost sharing arrangements between FAO and WHO were still based on a contribution by FAO of 75 percent and by WHO of 25 percent to the Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme, and an additional contribution by FAO as the administering agency providing documentation and other support services, reflected in an actual cost sharing at a level which resulted in FAO paying 83 percent of total Codex costs.

16. The Commission noted the 1990/91 and 1992/93 budgets of the Programme, and the continuing high costs of documentation. It proposed that further efforts be made to reduce the documentation costs by examining the numbers of copies of Codex documents prepared and distributed. It expressed its appreciation to FAO for its continued strong financial support of the Programme and to the Secretariat for its efforts in carrying out the work of the Commission within the available budgetary provisions. However, it noted that the budget continued to be maintained on a "zero growth" basis. Concern was expressed that this was the minimum required for the Programme to meet its current obligations and that further development of the Programme, for example in response to obligations under the proposed GATT Agreement could need greater resources. The Commission also noted that no provisions had been made in response to proposals to finance the attendance of developing Member countries, as these would be met, insofar as would be possible, by other resources (see paras. 64-65 below). The Secretariat noted that the outcome of the FAO/WHO Conference on Food Standards, Chemicals in Food and Food Trade implied additional expenditure for the programme in several areas, and agreed to prepare an analysis of these expected costs for the next session of the Executive Committee.

REPORT ON ACTIVITIES WITHIN FAO AND WHO RELEVANT TO THE WORK OF THE COMMISSION (Agenda Item 7)

A. Report of Joint FAO/WHO Activities

Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Food Additives (JECFA)

17. The Commission was informed that three meetings of the Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Food Additives (JECFA) had been held since the last session of the Commission. These were:

- the 36th Meeting held in Rome, February 1990, to evaluate veterinary drug residues in food;
- the 37th Meeting held in Geneva, June 1990, to evaluate food additives;
- the 38th Meeting held in Geneva, January 1991, to evaluate veterinary drug residues in food.

18. At the two Meetings devoted to veterinary drug residues (36th and 38th), a total of 18 drug substances were considered. These included 7 anthelmintics, 5 antimicrobial agents, 3 tranquillizing agents, 2 growth promoters and a β -adrenoceptor blocking agent. Of these, 10 were assigned Acceptable Daily Intake (ADI) levels and recommended Maximum Residue Levels (MRL) and two other substances were given Limited Acceptance of Residues with one assigned an MRL. At these meetings the expert committee detailed the decision process and parameters used to establish recommended MRLs and discussed the considerations of pharmacological effects in establishing ADIs.

19. At the 37th Meeting concerning food additives, 23 substances were evaluated, including antioxidants, enzyme preparations, flavouring agents, sweetening agents, a food colour and miscellaneous food additives. Two food contaminants (benzo[a]pyrene and ochratoxin A) were also evaluated and specifications for purity and identity for 12 food additives were revised. The Commission was advised that the 37th Meeting on Food Additives was the first JECFA meeting where substances produced by genetic manipulation were evaluated. These were 5 enzymes used in food production and the expert committee was concerned about the approach to be used for their safety evaluation. In this connection, the Committee prepared an addendum to the previously published "General Specifications for enzyme preparations used in food processing" which includes principles to be considered when evaluating enzyme preparations from genetically modified microorganisms.

20. The Commission was advised that FAO had completed work to combine existing JECFA food additive specifications into one compendium (exceeding 1400 pages), and to update and revise the Guide to JECFA Specifications (FAO Food and Nutrition Paper Number 5). These documents are in the final stages of preparation for publication.

21. Finally, the Commission was informed that two JECFA meetings were scheduled for 1992; namely the 39th Meeting on food additives, Rome, February 1992, and the 40th Meeting on veterinary drug residues, Geneva, June 1992.

Joint FAO/WHO Meeting on Pesticide Residues (JMPR)

22. The Commission was informed that two Joint FAO/WHO Meetings on Pesticide Residues had been held since the Eighteenth Session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission. These were held in September 1989 and September 1990. Thirty-nine pesticides were evaluated for acceptable daily intake and/or maximum residue limits in 1989, and 44 pesticides were evaluated in 1990.

23. The Meetings emphasized that, when re-evaluations of existing compounds are undertaken, relevant human data should be included for consideration. The Meetings also considered the feasibility of extrapolating existing residue data to cover commodities of interest to developing countries, but reaffirmed that decisions to extrapolate would be on a case-by-case basis.

The Joint FAO/WHO Food Contamination Monitoring Programme

24. This programme, forming a component of UNEP's Global Environment Monitoring System (GEMS), was established in 1976 with, at present, 39 countries from all regions of the world participating. In the framework of it, priority contaminants are being monitored in selected foods. In addition, data on human exposure to certain contaminants are generated. Both sets of data are of particular interest to the Commission, in particular to its Committees on Food Additives and Contaminants and on Pesticide Residues. The Analytical Quality Assurance component of the programme allows for participating laboratories to see whether or not their analytical capabilities are adequate. However neither FAO nor WHO were in a position to provide accreditation to laboratories.

25. In order to respond better to the specific needs and possibilities of countries in various parts of the world, a certain degree of regionalization of the programme is taking place at the moment.

International Consultative Group on Food Irradiation (ICGFI)

26. The Group, established in 1984, had at present a membership of 32 countries. In addition, several non-governmental organizations (NGO's) participated in the work of the Group, including the International Organization of Consumer Unions (IOCU). The work of the Group was carried out with extra-budgetary resources, pledged by its members. This included training workshops, press briefing seminars and the preparation and publication of technical documents and inventories.

International Conference on Nutrition

27. The Commission was informed of the decision taken by the Directors-General of FAO and WHO to convene an "International Conference on Nutrition", in December 1992, in Rome. This Conference will present a unique opportunity for the international community to address the broad range of issues affecting nutritional status. It will be open to all Member Nations of FAO and WHO and to interested international, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations. In addressing the broad range of nutrition problems, it is envisaged that the Conference will give necessary emphasis to specific regional and sub-regional consensus. The Commission was further informed of the various organizational arrangements made for the Conference preparations to ensure the participation of member countries in all phases of these preparations, in the Conference itself and in its follow-up.

28. Preparatory activities will include the convening of national, sub-regional and regional workshops in food and nutrition - related matters and carrying out selected case studies. Food quality and safety aspects will receive the necessary attention in these preparatory activities and during the Conference itself.

29. The Commission expressed its appreciation and support to FAO and WHO for this important initiative.

Joint FAO/WHO/IAEA Expert Consultation on Trace Elements in Human Nutrition, Geneva, 18-22 June 1990

30. The Commission was informed of the results of this Consultation which discussed recent progress made in research on the analysis, interaction and bioavailability of such trace elements as zinc, selenium, copper, iodine and molybdenum. The Consultation's report would be published in late 1991 in the WHO Technical Report Series.

Joint FAO/WHO Expert Consultation on Protein Quality Evaluation, Bethesda, Md., USA, 4-8 December 1989

31. The Commission was informed of the main conclusions and recommendations of this Consultation which was held at the request of the Codex Committee on Vegetable Proteins (Fifth Session, Ottawa, 6-10 February 1989). The purpose of the Consultation was to:

- (i) review present knowledge in protein quality evaluation,
- (ii) discuss various techniques used, and
- (iii) specifically evaluate the protein digestibility-corrected amino acid score method.

32. The Consultation recognized that significant advancements have been made in standardizing amino acid methodology, human amino acid requirements and determination of digestibility of protein and amino acids in a variety of foods. It noted that methods for the determination of all amino acids in foods have been standardized resulting in acceptable interlaboratory variation (coefficients of variation of about 10%). It also recognized that the amino acid scoring pattern proposed in 1985 by FAO/WHO/UNU for children of preschool age is at present the most suitable pattern for use in the evaluation of dietary protein quality for all age groups, except infants. The Consultation further noted the similarity in the ability of humans and rats to digest foods, and concluded that the true digestibility of crude protein is a reasonable approximation of the true digestibility of most amino acids (as determined by the rat balance method) in diets based on animal protein sources, cereals, oilseed, legumes or mixture of protein sources. The Consultation agreed that the rat balance method is the most suitable practical method for predicting protein digestibility by humans.

33. Based on the above conclusions, the Consultation agreed that the protein digestibility-corrected amino acid score method was the most suitable approach for routine evaluation of protein quality for humans, and recommended the adoption of

this method as an official method at the international level. The Commission endorsed these conclusions and recommendations¹.

B. Report of Selected FAO Activities in Food Control and Consumer Protection

34. The Commission was informed of specific activities carried out by FAO's Food Quality and Consumer Protection Group, Food Quality and Standards Service, in cooperation with member governments in promoting the quality and safety of foods throughout the food chain. These activities were briefly described in Part B of ALINORM 91/7. The Commission noted with appreciation the technical assistance provided by FAO to developing member countries in the development and strengthening of integrated national food control systems, the establishment of food contaminants monitoring and control programmes and the setting up of national food import/export quality control and certification systems.

35. The Commission also noted the priority given in these activities to the development of human resources as indicated by the sixteen regional training courses and workshops carried out in various parts of the world and the local training activities organized in over thirty countries. These training courses embraced a wide range of technical subjects directly related to food quality control and safety. The Commission especially noted the training activities conducted by FAO under the Asian regional food control training network project.

36. The Commission further noted the extensive activities carried out in the field of mycotoxin prevention and control as a follow-up to the 2nd International Conference on Mycotoxins (Bangkok, 1987) and in collaboration with UNEP and UNEPCOM. It welcomed FAO's continued effort in supplying mycotoxin laboratories in developing countries with reference standards and materials and in organizing regional analytical quality assurance programmes for selected food contaminants including mycotoxins.

37. Concerning street foods, the Commission noted with interest the latest studies and workshops carried out on the subject in different countries, the progress made in the drafting of a Code of Hygienic Practice for the preparation and sale of street foods and the video programme prepared recently on street foods in Asia. It expressed its full support to these activities.

38. The Commission was apprised of FAO's action plan to assist the governments of the Latin American and the Caribbean countries affected by the cholera outbreak in their effort to control the spreading of this epidemic. It was informed that this assistance would be devoted essentially to improving handling practices at all levels of the food chain with particular emphasis on street foods and to improving import/export inspection and quality control programmes to protect national food supplies and promote trade opportunities. Several delegations expressed their concern about the possible use of this tragic event as a non-tariff barrier and drew the attention of the Commission to the negative repercussions that this may have on the food export trade from the region as well as on tourism all of which would have an effect on the economies of the countries concerned.

¹ The Delegation of France expressed its reservation as to the endorsement of the conclusions and recommendations of the Consultation.

C. Report of WHO Activities

39. The Commission noted the activities outlined in ALINORM 91/7, and in particular the following matters.

WHO Commission on Health and the Environment

40. The Commission was informed that the Director-General of WHO had established a Commission on Health and Environment which was charged with assessing the impact of environmental change to human health. The Commission's chairperson was Mme. Simone Veil, former Minister of Health of France and former President of the European Parliament. Four technical panels had been established to assist the Commission. Energy; Industry; Urbanisation; and Food and Agriculture. The Food and Agriculture Panel, which was chaired by Professor Kampelmacher of the Netherlands and in which one of the Codex Vice-Chairmen, Dr. Tape of Canada, participated, had made a comprehensive review of the environmental changes to be expected as a consequence of expanding and intensifying agricultural and fisheries production to meet the needs of the ever increasing world population. The report of the WHO Commission on Health and Environment would be one of WHO's inputs into the UN Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, June 1992.

Cholera

41. Since the beginning of the cholera epidemic in Latin America in early 1991, some 230 000 people had fallen ill. Besides the tremendous health problems with which the affected countries were faced, they were also facing serious economic problems since their export in certain agricultural and fishery commodities as well as tourism has declined. To respond effectively to this challenge, the Director-General of WHO had established a Global Task Force on Cholera Control to coordinate the work of all technical programmes of WHO. Since Cholera was a food and water borne disease, the Food Safety Programme was a member of this Task Force. In order to alleviate the economic problems related to the fact that several countries had reduced or even stopped their food and feed (fish meal) imports from the affected countries, the Task Force has published a press release and an article in its Weekly Epidemiological Record on Small Risk of Cholera Transmission by Food Imports.

42. The 44th World Health Assembly (May 1991), after an extensive discussion on the Cholera epidemic, adopted a resolution (WHA 44.6) which called *inter alia* upon the international community to intensify its solidarity with the countries affected by the epidemic and not to apply to those countries restrictions that cannot be justified on public health grounds, in particular as regards the importation of products from the countries concerned. The delegations to the 44th World Health Assembly were also provided with a statement prepared by the Task Force concerning the Risk of Cholera Transmission in Relation to the International Food Trade which emphasised that Cholera transmission by international food trade was more a theoretical than a real risk and one that could normally be dealt with by means other than an embargo on importation.

43. In order to provide travellers with practical advice on how to eat safely - and thus to prevent foodborne diarrhoea including cholera - and what to do if one gets diarrhoea, the WHO Programmes on Food Safety and Diarrhoeal Disease Control had published a Guide on Safe Food for Travellers which was available in Arabic, English, French, German and Spanish. Also, a Guide to identify Hazards and

Assessing Risks Associated with Food Production and Storage, which was applicable to food handling at the domestic/street vending/cottage-industry level, was in an advanced stage of preparation.

REPORT ON THE ACTIVITIES OF OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS WORKING ON STANDARDIZATION OF FOOD AND RELATED MATTERS (Agenda Item 8)

44. The Commission had before it document ALINORM 91/8 when discussing this Agenda Item, which summarized activities of interest arising from the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE).

45. The Observer from the UNECE highlighted activities arising from its Working Party on Standardization of Perishable Produce and Quality Developments, and noted with pleasure the progress which had been made by the Codex Committee on Tropical Fresh Fruits and Vegetables in harmonizing the text of the proposed draft Codex standard for mangoes with that of the UNECE mango standard and format. It was also stated that the UNECE Working Party was undertaking a review concerning Class II quality requirements and Codex minimum quality requirements for raisins, dates, dried apricots and unshelled pistachio nuts, as established in an earlier working agreement between the CAC and the UNECE which required alignment of these requirements where possible. In addition, it was indicated that the Working Party was continuing its activities concerning the harmonization of existing commercial standards to facilitate international trade between and to European countries for a wide range of perishable products. The Observer noted that working procedures had been established between the Codex and UNECE secretariats with the aim of avoiding duplication of work and an overlap of standardization activities.

46. Concern was expressed that the elaboration of a UNECE standard for cashew kernels should be carried out by an international standardization body such as Codex or the International Organization for Standardization instead of the UNECE, as UNECE membership was made up of consuming, as opposed to producing, countries. The Commission noted the importance of UNECE/ISO collaborative efforts in the continued elaboration of the cashew kernel standard, with a view towards producing a standard applicable to both exporting and importing countries.

REPORT ON THE GATT/URUGUAY ROUND OF MULTILATERAL TRADE NEGOTIATIONS IN RELATION TO SANITARY AND PHYTOSANITARY MEASURES AND BARRIERS (Agenda Item 9)

47. The Secretariat introduced document ALINORM 91/9 which gave a brief historical background to the development of the work on sanitary and phytosanitary barriers and the implications of this work on Codex and related FAO and WHO activities. The report was presented basically as an informative document, requiring no specific action by the Commission.

48. The Representative of GATT highlighted the major provisions of the draft agreement on sanitary and phytosanitary measures. Attention was drawn to: the encouragement to countries to use international standards, guidelines and recommendations, including Codex standards; recognition of the right of countries to use more stringent standards when scientifically justified; requirements that sanitary measures be based on risk assessment; recognition of the equivalency of alternative measures; provisions regarding the information and justification which countries must provide; and use of the GATT dispute settlement procedures. Several areas of disagreement remained, however, in particular concerning the coverage of animal welfare, consumer concerns, and environmental protection measures; national

procedures for establishing limits on residues in foodstuffs; and application of the GATT agreement to local and regional governmental bodies.

49. The GATT representative reported that negotiations were continuing and many participants desired to conclude the Uruguay Round around the end of 1991. However, it was not likely that a further meeting on the sanitary agreement would occur until considerable further progress had been made in other aspects of the agriculture negotiations. The representative further noted the value of the Conference on Food Standards, Chemicals in Food and Food Trade and the recommendations which had emanated from that meeting, in terms of the GATT proposed use of Codex standards.

50. At the request of some countries, the Secretariat clarified that the use by GATT contracting parties of Codex standards was envisaged by the GATT long term objective of furthering the use of harmonized sanitary measures on the basis of international standards, guidelines or recommendations. The GATT rules, however, were binding on contracting parties and governed the dispute procedures to determine whether or not particular measures applied by member governments were justified and legitimate.

51. The Commission agreed to express its continued support for the objectives of the GATT Negotiations in relation to sanitary and phytosanitary barriers and noted the importance of these discussions. The Commission also considered that even if the Uruguay Round negotiations were to fail, the work of the Commission would remain strengthened, and the new direction of the Commission's work would be valid.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE REPORT OF THE FAO/WHO CONFERENCE ON FOOD STANDARDS, CHEMICALS IN FOOD AND FOOD TRADE (Agenda Item 10)

52. The Commission had before it documents LIM 2, ALINORM 91/4 and ALINORM 91/10 which summarized the recommendations and consensus statements made by the Conference, indicated the implications of these recommendations for the Codex Alimentarius Commission, and proposed possible courses of action.

53. A report on the Conference was given by E.F. Kimbrell, the Conference Chairman, who emphasized that recommendations were provided not only for the CAC, but also for FAO and WHO in relation to food control activities and the work of FAO/WHO expert committees, groups and panels. The implications of the GATT Uruguay Round discussions on the work of the Commission and changes that might be necessary were analyzed. Also, attention was drawn to the need to do more to make known the important work of the Commission.

54. The important contributions that JECFA and JMPR had made and the need for increased output was pointed out. There was a need to make known the evaluation criteria, to standardize them and to increase the transparency of the processes. More and higher quality data on Good Agricultural Practice and Good Manufacturing Practice were essential.

55. It was pointed out that the Conference Recommendations had budgetary implications. The Commission expressed concern that essential areas of work had been identified which would require additional funding or other forms of external support in order to be implemented.

56. The Commission considered the recommendations on a point-by-point basis as outlined in ALINORM 91/10¹:

Relations with Consumers

57. The Commission strongly endorsed the Conference's recommendations and the proposals for action contained in ALINORM 91/10. It noted that national governments had the primary responsibility in achieving greater participation of consumers. Extensive discussions occurred regarding publicizing the work of the Commission and the Secretariat was requested to develop simplified summaries and reports that would be more easily understood.

58. The Commission accepted with pleasure the offer of the observer of IOCU to prepare a discussion document regarding consumer participation and training. The Commission encouraged mutual efforts in informing consumers and gaining input from outside groups during early stages of the harmonization process.

59. The Commission agreed that its next session would include an agenda item during which governments could report on progress toward increasing consumer and industry input into the decision making process.

Harmonizing national regulations and the effect on exports

60. The Commission endorsed the Conference statements calling for the urgent harmonization of national food regulations. It noted the importance of such harmonization as a means of increasing exports from developing countries.

"Horizontal" approach to food standardization

61. The Commission noted with satisfaction that work along horizontal lines was already underway and welcomed the recommendation to strengthen this approach. Several delegations stressed the need for more and improved dietary information if the horizontal approach is to be fully successful. The Commission also noted that this approach did not always apply across the board, but also may be used for specific classes, groups or even individual products.

62. The Commission indicated that the General Subject Committees should examine their terms of reference in this regard, but did not want this to delay the development of standards based on the horizontal approach.

Restructuring of standards to remove excessive detail

63. The Commission endorsed the general recommendations and noted that further discussion would occur under Agenda Item 13.

Improved participation in Codex work

64. The Commission reaffirmed the effectiveness of detailed written comments as a means of participation and strongly endorsed the Conference recommendation calling for greater efforts to improve participation by developing countries in

¹ The conclusions and recommendations of the Conference, as contained in ALINORM 91/10, are reproduced in Appendix 4 of this report.

Codex activities. The importance was stressed of committees keeping workshops and working groups held separately from committee sessions to the absolute minimum necessary, since such meetings posed extreme hardships on many countries, especially developing countries, which did not have the resources to participate. The Commission noted with satisfaction that several developed countries had assisted developing countries in participating in Codex and hoped that such efforts would continue or increase.

65. The recommendation that consideration be given to amending Rule XI.4 of the Rules of Procedure of the Commission was discussed in detail. Some delegations suggested that amendment to permit financing through FAO or WHO would not be desirable because of accountability and dispersal problems. A suggestion, supported by a number of countries, was made that the rule might be amended to allow only for use of extrabudgetary funds, including from sources outside FAO and WHO, to enhance participation by developing countries.

66. The Commission decided to refer the question of amending Rule XI.4 to the Codex Committee for General Principles for its consideration with the request that such consideration take into account the discussion at the Commission and the Executive Committee.

Importance of the GATT/Uruguay Round of Multilateral trade negotiations

67. The Commission expressed its full support for the Conference Statement on this matter. Several delegations pointed out the impetus that the negotiations had provided for the Commission's activities.

68. The Commission noted with satisfaction that it would be looked to for scientific guidance in food control matters and indicated its willingness to provide assistance.

Modification of the acceptance procedure

69. The Commission noted that "free distribution" had already been used in the notification process and strongly supported the Conference recommendation in principle. However several delegations indicated the need to carefully consider "free distribution" and its definition since it could have legal and other implications not readily discernible. The Commission indicated therefore that the Secretariat should prepare a detailed proposal on revisions of the acceptance procedure for consideration by the Codex Committee on General Principles with a view to revise the Procedural Manual.

Expediting the elaboration and review of Codex Standards

70. The Commission fully supported the Conference recommendation and noted that the matter would be addressed more fully in later agenda items.

Review of Codex Standards

71. The Commission fully agreed with the Conference recommendation calling for a review of standards. It noted with satisfaction that the Secretariat had already taken action to determine which standards should be subject to priority review. Based on a suggestion, the Commission agreed that "host" countries could be asked

for support in this effort. It also agreed that efforts to involve developing countries in the process should be undertaken.

Review of Codex Procedures

72. The Commission fully supported the proposals for action to implement the Conference proposals outlined in Point 11 of Appendix 1 to ALINORM 91/10. The Commission accepted the Executive Committee decision that actions to implement the adoption of a two-thirds majority rule in the elaboration process at Step 5 should be instituted immediately pending amendments to the Procedural Manual to be recommended by the Codex Committee on General Principles for adoption. Several delegates indicated that more meetings of the Codex Committee on General Principles were needed. Also, several delegations indicated that a review of the complete elaboration process should be undertaken, and that the possibility and modalities of instituting an elaboration process based on voting by correspondence could be considered.

73. The Commission decided that the complete elaboration procedure should be reviewed by the Codex Committee on General Principles and that written decisions should be considered as well as Executive Committee action as a means to speed up the process.

Codex Committee on Food Additives and Contaminants

74. The Commission noted that no action was required on the recommendation made at the March Conference not to split the Committee into two.

Structure of the Executive Committee and functions of the Regional Representatives

75. The Commission agreed with the Executive Committee that this matter was not of high priority. It agreed that the matter should be considered in more detail by the Executive Committee at its next session as well as by the Codex Committee on General Principles.

Good Agricultural Practice and Codex MRLs for pesticides

76. The Commission endorsed the Conference recommendation noting that they were aimed principally at the FAO/WHO Meetings on Pesticide Residues and to member countries. It agreed with the Executive Committee that the Codex Committee on Pesticide Residues does not evaluate pesticide residues.

Resources for JECFA, JMPR and other expert groups

77. The Commission endorsed the Conference statement that FAO and WHO should work to assure proper resources for JECFA, JMPR and other scientific support. It was pleased to note that the FAO Summary Programme of Work and Budget submitted to FAO Council in June 1991 had included a proposal for a third meeting of JECFA in the biennium 1991-1993. It also noted that extrabudgetary resources were used to meet additional requests for scientific evaluations in 1990/91 and it might be the only means to meet such requests for the current biennium.

Risk Assessment

78. The Commission endorsed the views of the Conference, noting and agreeing with the views expressed at the Executive Committee as regards the expansion of the need for transparency. Several delegations expressed the urgent need for criteria to be developed regarding evaluations especially for contaminants such as aflatoxins. The Commission noted that there was a need for uniformity of assessment, that the process should be open and available to national governments and interested organizations, and that steps be taken to increase understanding of the process by the press.

New Food Products derived from Biotechnology

79. The Commission endorsed the recommendations of the Conference, and noted that detailed discussion of this subject would occur under Agenda Item 11.

Migrants from packaging material

80. The Commission agreed with the Executive Committee that this issue did not warrant a high priority by JECFA. However, this did not mean that all work should stop on such migrant substances. Several delegations indicated that the Codex Committee on Food Additives and Contaminants should continue to allocate priorities for individual substances. They also indicated that there were perceptions of problems in this area among consumers and the Commission should be prepared to address these concerns. The observer from the IOCU asked that attention be given to such substances, as consumers were concerned.

81. The Commission agreed that it was the appropriate body to respond to concerns and noted that a limited number of substances warranting action were being addressed. It asked that the Committee on Food Additives and Contaminants keep it informed of additional concerns.

Establishment of a Committee to deal with import/export control

82. The Commission considered in detail the recommendations of the Conference, the proposed terms of reference prepared by the Secretariat, along with the recommendations of the Executive Committee. Most delegations expressed the view that a committee to address issues relating to import/export would be of great benefit to all countries but especially for developing countries. The Delegation of Mexico strongly supported the establishment of a committee and asked that the proposed terms of reference be rewritten to include the proposal of the Coordinating Committee for Latin America and the Caribbean regarding establishment of a certification system, as this had been a recommendation of the March Conference.

83. Some delegations expressed the view that the terms of reference were too broad, that they failed to address the specific problems, and that they in some cases duplicated the responsibilities already assigned to other Codex Committees. These delegations also thought that the problem areas should be sent to the Committee on General Principles so that it could determine the appropriate committee to which the problem should be referred.

84. The Commission decided that a committee to consider matters of import/export inspection and certification should be established under Rule IX.1(b)(i). It further decided that it would be essential to review the need for the committee's continuing activity after two sessions. The delegations of Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany, Ireland, Netherlands and Switzerland opposed the establishment of the Committee.

85. The Commission, using as a precedent the terms of reference for the Codex Committee on Residues of Veterinary Drugs in Foods, decided to forward the terms of reference as amended by the Secretariat (point "a" was deleted) to governments for comments along with copies of the discussion occurring at the meeting. These draft terms of reference, comments and the proposal of the Codex Regional Coordinating Committee for Latin America and the Caribbean regarding the establishment of a certification system would be reviewed by the Committee at its first session, and recommendations then made to the Commission for its consideration.

86. The Commission further decided unanimously to accept the kind offer of the Australian Government to serve as host country for the newly established committee.

Hygienic production of foods

87. The Commission strongly agreed with the Executive Committee's endorsement of the statement of the Conference in regard to the problems associated with the hygienic production of foods. It also agreed that microbiological contamination of foods requires priority attention and referred both issues to the Codex Committee on Food Hygiene for priority attention.

IMPLICATIONS OF BIOTECHNOLOGY ON INTERNATIONAL FOOD STANDARDS AND CODES OF PRACTICE (Agenda Item 11)

88. In considering document ALINORM 91/11, the Commission recalled that the issue of biotechnology was first discussed in 1989 during its 18th Session. At that time, the Commission had been informed of an initiative of WHO to convene, jointly with FAO, a Consultation on the Assessment of Biotechnology in Food Production and Processing as Related to Food Safety. This Consultation had taken place in Geneva in November 1990 and the Report of it would be available, as a formal WHO publication, at the end of 1991. The Consultation had recognized biotechnology as a continuum, embracing traditional breeding techniques and modern techniques based on recombinant DNA - technologies. "Modern" biotechnologies had the potential of revolutionizing the food supply, both in quantity and quality. While the Consultation was of the opinion that foods derived from "modern" biotechnologies were inherently not less safe than those derived from traditional biotechnologies, the issue of safety had to be considered. In addition, nutritional concerns may have to be addressed.

89. Based on scientific and technical advice by Joint FAO/WHO expert committees and consultations, the Codex Committees on Nutrition and Foods for Special Dietary Uses, on Food Labelling, on Food Additives and Contaminants and on Food Hygiene were expected to be the main committees with responsibilities for matters on biotechnologies. In addition, several commodity committees (e.g. Vegetable Protein, Cereals, Pulses and Legumes, Fish and Fishery Products, Fats and Oils) might need to play a role in reaching international consensus on particular novel foods.

90. The Commission endorsed the conclusions and recommendations of the Joint FAO/WHO Consultation. It noted that while consumers would benefit from "modern" food biotechnology, some consumers felt that this technology would pose certain problems. For example, individual consumers might, on ethical or other grounds, not wish to buy foods derived from "modern" biotechnology. The Commission requested the Codex Committee on Food Labelling to provide guidance on how the fact that a food was derived from "modern" biotechnologies could be made known to the consumers.

91. The need to provide consumers with sound, scientifically based information which explained the application of biotechnology in food production and processing and clarified the safety issues was stressed. In this context, the Commission was informed that WHO was exploring possibilities to prepare a book on food biotechnology for the non-technical reader which would be based on the report of the Joint FAO/WHO Consultation.

92. The Commission endorsed the views expressed by its Executive Committee and agreed that the Commission should monitor developments in the field of food biotechnology and that the General Subject Committees identified above should discuss issues related to biotechnology within the context of their Terms of Reference (see ALINORM 91/4, para. 34). The Commission requested WHO to make copies of the Consultation report available to all Codex Contact Points. A progress report is to be presented to the 20th Session of the Commission.

**CONVERSION OF CODEX REGIONAL STANDARDS TO WORLD-WIDE STANDARDS -
PROGRESS REPORT (Agenda Item 12)**

93. The Commission had before it ALINORM 91/2, a paper prepared by the Secretariat. The Commission noted that the regional standards prepared by the Committees for Europe and Africa covered commodities which by and large were traded beyond the region in which the standards was originated. In response to a request from the Executive Committee (37th Session, July 1990) governments were invited to comment on proposals leading to the conversion of the Commission's regional standards to world-wide ones. Although few responses were received, those countries which did respond favoured this approach.

94. The Commission decided not to adopt existing regional standards as world-wide standards until such time as they had been reviewed by all countries through the step procedure. This was seen as necessary to ensure adequate input from those countries which did not participate in the original elaboration of the standards concerned. It therefore recommended that current regional standards and the regional standards adopted at its present session should be resubmitted to governments for comments at Step 3 with a view to their elaboration as world-wide standards. It agreed to entrust the development of the world-wide standards to the following committees:

Natural Mineral Water Codex Committee on Natural Mineral Waters¹
Fresh Fungus "Chanterelle" Codex Committee on Processed Fruits and Vegetables

¹ The Commission agreed that the Codex Committee on Natural Mineral Waters, previously operating as a European Committee, would subsequently act on a world-wide basis.

Vinegar	Codex Committee on Processed Fruits and Vegetables
Mayonnaise	Codex Committee on Fats and Oils
Gari	Codex Committee on Cereals, Pulses and Legumes
Pearl Millet Grains	Codex Committee on Cereals, Pulses and Legumes
Pearl Millet Flour	Codex Committee on Cereals, Pulses and Legumes

REVIEW OF THE FORMAT OF CODEX STANDARDS (Agenda Item 13)

95. The Secretariat introduced document 91/30 which had been prepared in response to debates within Codex over a number of years as to whether the considerable detail in some Codex standards might influence negatively their acceptance by governments. The FAO/WHO Conference on Food Standards, Chemicals in Food and Food Trade considered that this was the case to some degree and had recommended that all Codex standards should be reviewed in the light of their acceptance and their importance in international trade. The present paper had been prepared in the light of the Conference recommendation. A list of Codex standards ordered for priority review developed by the Secretariat in response to the Conference recommendation was appended to ALINORM 91/30.

96. The Commission saw no objection in principle to revising the Codex standards as proposed in the paper and as endorsed by the Executive Committee (ALINORM 91/4 paras. 35-37). However, the Commission agreed that emphasis in the review should be broader than that recommended in the paper and extended to cover health, safety and consumer protection concerns as well as essential elements needed to assure fair trade practices and to protect against fraud. It agreed in principle that the detailed information contained in Codex standards should be transferred from the standards themselves to other advisory documents and that as far as was possible standards should not contain any provisions of an optional nature.

97. The Commission stressed that the need to review Codex standards was urgent and requested the Secretariat to contact host government secretariats to initiate this work as soon as possible. It applauded the work already being undertaken by the Codex Committee on Fish and Fishery Products in this regard. It also agreed that the Abridged Codex Alimentarius could serve as a useful model for simplifying the information contained in Codex standards.

STATUS OF CODEX ADVISORY TEXTS AND PROCEDURES FOR THEIR ELABORATION (Agenda Item 14)

98. The Commission had before it document ALINORM 91/33 prepared as a follow-up to questions raised at the 18th Session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission and the 37th Session of the Executive Committee ALINORM 91/3 para. 43.

99. The Commission endorsed the Executive Committee conclusions that in principle all Codex texts should be subject to full and transparent elaboration procedures, with full and equal participation by all member governments and other interested parties. It requested all committees to ensure that texts which were not defined as standards or maximum residue limits would be clear and unambiguous in their interpretation and their intended application. It noted the opinion of

FAO Legal Counsel that the Commission had full authority to elaborate advisory texts and texts in support of standards or other recommendations intended for mandatory application by governments. However noting that internationally developed standards, guidelines and other recommendations would be the basis for the future work of GATT as a consequence of the Uruguay Round, the Commission agreed that all such texts should be developed openly and with the same scientific rigour.

100. The Commission requested those committees which had prepared advisory texts to examine the implication of these recommendations especially in relation to international trade. Guideline levels for contaminants were mentioned as needing clarification in this regard. The Commission also agreed that the present paper be examined by the Codex Committee on General Principles to determine if changes to the Procedural Manual would be needed to ensure the principles outlined above were met.

CONSIDERATION OF "ORGANICALLY/BIOLOGICALLY PRODUCED FOODS"
(Agenda Item 15)

101. The Commission had before it document ALINORM 91/37 which was introduced by the Delegation of Canada. The introduction of the document provided a background to the previous activities undertaken by Codex Committees on this issue, and a proposed draft guideline, attached to the document as Appendix I, had been prepared by Canada on the basis of the discussions held during the FAO/WHO Conference on Food Standards, Chemicals in Food and Food Trade. The Commission was informed that this proposed draft guideline represented the initial approach for the harmonization and elaboration of international guidelines on this subject. Several sections of the guideline had been placed in square brackets or parentheses when an agreement had not been reached.

102. Several delegations requested clarification on different points of the proposed draft guidelines, with particular reference to the problems related to inspection and control of biologically/organically produced foods. The Commission was informed that these proposed draft guidelines would be translated and circulated among member countries for comments. The Commission noted that particular emphasis should be given in consumer information that these products which did not differ in composition, nutritional value or safety from traditionally produced foods, and further noted that labelling was a focal point in the regulation of production, processing and marketing of these products.

103. The Commission also noted the decision of the Executive Committee at its 38th Session and decided to endorse its recommendation which referred to a review of the proposed draft guidelines by the Codex Regional Committees. The comments received from governments and Regional Committees should be referred to the Codex Committee on Food Labelling, which would be responsible for the future development of the guidelines.

CODEX COORDINATING COMMITTEE FOR AFRICA (Agenda Item 16)

104. The Commission had before it the report of the 9th Session of the Codex Coordinating Committee for Africa (ALINORM 91/28) which had been held in Cairo, Egypt from 3-7 December 1990. The report was introduced by the Codex Secretariat which informed the Commission of the most important points and activities, including the discussions held by this Committee on regional non-tariff technical

barriers to trade in food, control of pesticide residues in food, strengthening of the Codex Contact Points and revision of the Code of Hygienic Practice for the Preparation and Sale of Street Vended Foods and on the elaboration of regional standards.

Consideration at Step 8 of the Draft African Regional Standard for Edible Cassava Flour (Appendix II, ALINORM 91/28)

105. The Commission noted that the Section on Hygiene was according to the general text proposed by the Codex Committee on Food Hygiene and the other sections on Labelling and Methods of Analysis and Sampling had been endorsed by the related Committees. Some delegations requested clarification concerning the decision taken by the Commission regarding the conversion of Codex Regional Standards to worldwide standards and the proposed endorsement for Edible Cassava Flour at Step 8 and the draft African Regional Standard for Processed Couscous at Step 3. The Commission was informed that the draft regional standards proposed for endorsement should be submitted to the normal Codex procedure, in view of their future conversion to a worldwide standard starting at Step 3.

Status of the Standard

106. The Commission adopted the Regional African Standard for Edible Cassava Flour at Step 8 of the Codex Procedure.

Other matters arising from the Report of the 9th Session of the Committee

Proposed Draft African Regional Standard for Processed Couscous

107. The Secretariat informed the Commission that a proposed draft standard for processed couscous had been elaborated by Algeria and reviewed at the 9th Session of the Codex Coordinating Committee for Africa. The revised version was attached to the report as Appendix III. The Commission was requested to consider further elaboration of this standard and to decide which Codex Committee should be responsible for developing such a standard. The first analysis of the proposed draft standard by several delegations indicated that the Coordinating Committee for Africa was competent in the elaboration of this standard and the Commission agreed to its adoption at Step 3, considering that at the final Step of the Codex Procedure, the draft standard would be revised by the Codex Committee on Cereals, Pulses and Legumes.

Regional and National Programmes on Control of Mycotoxins in Food

108. The Commission was informed of a specific request of the Coordinating Committee for an international regulation regarding acceptance of aflatoxin detoxified groundnut extraction which represented an important commodity for exportation for several African countries. The Commission noted that a Code of Practice for groundnuts had been elaborated to prevent aflatoxin contamination and that full information was not available on the toxicological aspects of the detoxification process. It considered that such matter should be referred to the Codex Committee on Food Additives and Contaminants which should consider this issue in the light of priorities established for JECFA evaluation.

Appointment of Coordinator for Africa

109. The Delegation of Egypt reported that the Government of Egypt was willing to support the hosting of the next session of the Coordinating Committee for Africa but in view of the fact that the last two sessions had been held in Cairo, it was considered opportune to move the Coordinating Committee for Africa to another African country.

110. The Commission was informed that Prof. Etienne Enobong Essien, Director of the Food and Drug Administration and Control (Nigeria) had been proposed by the delegations from the Region present at the Session as the new Coordinator for the Region of Africa. The Delegation of Nigeria indicated that it would be willing to host the 10th Session of the Coordinating Committee for Africa. In accordance with Rule II.4 (b) the Commission appointed Prof. Etienne Enobong Essien of Nigeria as Coordinator for Africa to serve from the end of the 19th until the end of the 20th Session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission.

CODEX COORDINATING COMMITTEE FOR ASIA (Agenda Item 17)

111. The Report of the 7th Session of the Coordinating Committee was presented by the Coordinator for Asia, Dr. Pakdee Pothisiri, Thailand. Dr. Pakdee reported that the Coordinating Committee at its 7th Session had discussed in detail technical support programmes and projects related to food control and consumer protection and had expressed strong support for continued activities in this area, especially in relation to regional work for mycotoxin control and training of food control officials. The Coordinator also reported that the Coordinating Committee had studied a number of issues related to import/export certification and inspection programmes which it believed were highly important. The Coordinator raised the following specific matters for the attention of the Commission:

Radionuclide Contamination of Food in International Trade

112. The Commission noted the opinion of the Coordinating Committee that the Guideline levels for radionuclides were too high and that they should be revised to take into account more acceptable risk assessment procedures. The Commission noted that the matters raised by the Coordinating Committee had been discussed at the Codex Committee on Food Additives and Contaminants (see paras. 217-221 below).

Code of Practice for Street Foods

113. The Commission endorsed the development of a Code of Practice for the Preparation and Sale of Street Foods for the region and noted that similar activities were underway in other Coordinating Committees. It was agreed that the Codex Committee on Food Hygiene would continue to coordinate the basic elements of the different regional codes.

Proposed Draft Codex Standard for Milled Rice

114. The Commission noted the opinion of the Coordinating Committee that Codex should not embark on the elaboration of a world-wide standard for rice, but recalled its decision taken at its 18th Session to develop a Codex Standard for Milled Rice through the Codex Committee on Cereals, Pulses and Legumes.

Appointment of Coordinator for Asia

115. The Commission appointed Dr. Azizan Ghazali, Malaysia, as Coordinator for Asia in accordance with Rule II.4(a). Dr. Azizan informed the Commission that the 8th Session of the Coordinating Committee would be held in Kuala Lumpur in January 1992.

CODEX COORDINATING COMMITTEE FOR EUROPE (Agenda Item 18)

116. The Commission had before it ALINORM 91/19, the report of the 17th Session of the Codex Coordinating Committee for Europe. The report was introduced by Prof. H. Woidich, the Coordinator for Europe and the Chairman of the Committee. Prof. Woidich informed the Commission of the most important points and activities developed by the Coordinating Committee at its last session, which included a more active participation of Codex Contact Points in a programme of coordination and implementation of food legislation. The Coordinator also informed the Commission on a thorough review of the Codex Standard for Natural Mineral Waters which had been carried out by this Committee and discussions held on biotechnology and organically/biologically produced foods.

Matters arising from the Report of the 17th Session of the Committee

Draft Amendments to the Codex European Standard for Natural Mineral Waters

117. The Coordinator informed the Commission of proposed amendments to the Codex European Standard on Natural Mineral Waters as referred to in ALINORM 91/21.

- i) Proposed amendment of the Maximum Levels for Radionuclides in Natural Mineral Waters
- ii) Proposed amendment to Section 3.1 on Treatment and Handling for Natural Mineral Waters
- iii) Proposed amendment to the Limit for Nitrites for Natural Mineral Waters

118. Several delegations pointed out that these amendments should be considered in light of the programme of conversion adopted by the Commission of regional standards to international standards. The Commission noted that the above standard should be completed according to the normal procedure before being submitted to the new procedure of conversion to a worldwide standard starting at Step 3 of the Codex Procedure.

Status of the Draft Amendments to the Standard

119. The Commission adopted the draft amendment on the provision for Radionuclide Levels in the Codex European Standard for Natural Mineral Waters at Step 8. It agreed that the other proposed draft amendments would be studied in conjunction with the conversion of the European Standard to a World-wide Standard.

Methods of Bacteriological Analysis for Natural Mineral Waters and Methods of Chemical Analysis for Natural Mineral Waters

120. The Commission was informed that the methods of bacteriological analysis were validated methods selected by ISO and that the Committee had recommended the

omission of Steps 6 and 7 for endorsement as Codex methods. The methods of chemical analysis proposed by the Coordinating Committee for Europe were endorsed by the Codex Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling with minor exceptions.

Status of the Draft Methods of Analysis

121. The Commission agreed with the proposal of the omission of Steps 6 and 7 for bacteriological and chemical methods of analysis, and adopted these provisions at Step 8.

Appointment of Coordinator for Europe

122. The Commission was informed that the Coordinating Committee for Europe had unanimously nominated Mrs. Barbro Blomberg of Sweden as the new Coordinator for Europe for appointment by the Commission from the end of 19th Session until the end of the 20th Session of the Commission. The Commission was informed by the Delegation of Sweden that the Government of Sweden had officially agreed to host the 18th Session of the Coordinating Committee for Europe in Stockholm in May 1992. The Commission appointed Mrs. Barbro Blomberg as Coordinator for the Region of Europe.

123. The Commission expressed its thanks to the Government of Austria for hosting the last session of the Coordinating Committee and thanked the Coordinator, Prof. H. Woidich for his valuable contribution to promote the work of Codex in the region of Europe.

CODEX COORDINATING COMMITTEE FOR LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN (Agenda Item 19)

124. The Secretariat presented the document for this agenda item (ALINORM 91/36), the report of the 7th Session of the Committee. The 7th Session took place in San José, Costa Rica from 25 February to 1 March 1991 with the participation of over 70 delegates from Argentina, Bahamas, Belize, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Peru, Uruguay, Venezuela and observers from Spain, ICAITI, CARICOM and the Organization of American States. A number of items were brought to the attention of the Commission.

Draft Code of Hygienic Practice for Street-vended Foods at Step 5 of the Procedure

125. The Coordinating Committee had initiated the elaboration of this Code at its 5th Session. A totally revised version was approved at the 6th Session in February 1989 and circulated for comments at Step 3 (ALINORM 89/36, Appendix III). The Commission noted that the 7th Session of the Committee had revised this draft and had advanced it to Step 5 of the procedure (ALINORM 91/36, paras. 159-174, Appendix IV).

126. The Commission adopted the draft Code of Hygienic Practice at Step 5 and also took note of the strong support for the further elaboration of the Code expressed by the Committee.

Food Export/Import Certification Programmes

127. The Coordinating Committee had considered food export/import issues under several agenda items and recognized that certification programmes were of extreme importance for the countries of the Region and should be given high priority in the Region and in the future work of the Codex Alimentarius Commission. The need for a world-wide information system concerning import/export matters was also raised by the Committee. The Coordinating Committee also supported a Mexican proposal for the involvement of the Codex Alimentarius Commission in certification activities (ALINORM 91/36 paras. 21, 96, 142).

128. The Commission noted that this proposal had been discussed in depth during the Joint FAO/WHO Conference on Food Standards, Chemicals in Food and Food Trade, and during the review of the Conference recommendations under Agenda Item 10 of the present session (see paras. 82-86). Recalling that the Commission had endorsed the creation of a new Codex committee addressing itself to the problems of import/export inspection and certification the Commission agreed to request the new committee to consider these proposals (ALINORM 91/36, para. 143) when it considers its terms of reference and future work.

Strengthening of Codex Contact Points and National Codex Committees

129. The Coordinating Committee considered a number of activities aimed at improving exchange of information and strengthening the work of the Codex Contact Points in the Region. A Directory of the Contact Points and Guidelines for setting up national Codex Committees were approved. The Committee supported the recommendations of a meeting of the Codex Contact Points in Latin America that took place in Chile in December 1990. This meeting reviewed the status and activities of the Contact Points, elaborated an action plan for their strengthening and proposed the elaboration of a manual of procedures for the Contact Points (ALINORM 91/36, paras. 175-180, 187 Appendix V).

130. The Commission took note of these initiatives and recommended and encouraged similar activities in other regions. The Commission also stressed the importance of further strengthening the network of Codex Contact Points and National Codex Committees in view of the future plans of work of the Codex Commission.

Harmonization of Regional and Codex Standards

131. The Coordinating Committee had reviewed the wide activities in the harmonization of regional standards with those of Codex and urged the countries of the Region and institutions involved in standardization to apply Codex standards (ALINORM 91/36, paras. 188-201). The Commission noted that the Committee had agreed to circulate a number of food products (apples in syrup, fruit marmalades from strawberry, raspberry, blackberry, plum, pear, apricot, peach, grapefruit, guava, quince, cookies and pastas) for government comments concerning the need for the elaboration of regional or worldwide standards, and endorsed this procedure.

Appointment of Coordinator

132. Under Rule 4.II (b) of the Rules of Procedure of the Codex Alimentarius Commission, the Commission appointed Carlos Alberto Ferreira Guimaraes of Brazil as the new Regional Coordinator. The Delegation of Brazil confirmed the readiness

of their Government to act as host of the Codex Coordinating Committee for Latin America and the Caribbean.

CODEX COORDINATING COMMITTEE FOR NORTH AMERICA AND THE SOUTH-WEST PACIFIC (Agenda Item 20)

133. The Commission had before it the report of the First Session of the Coordinating Committee for North America and the South-West Pacific (ALINORM 91/32) which was held in Honolulu, Hawaii from 30 April to 4 May 1990. The report was introduced by Dr. Lester Crawford, Coordinator for North America and the South-West Pacific who drew the Commission's attention to those matters of interest summarized in ALINORM 91/21, and as highlighted below.

Acceptance of Codex Standards

134. The Coordinating Committee had noted that very detailed Codex standards could hamper their acceptance by individual member countries and indicated that more concise or general standards might be easier to accept by governments (see paras. 28-34, ALINORM 91/32). The Commission, noting that the Review of the Format of Codex standards had been previously discussed under Agenda Item 13, decided that no further action was required concerning this subject.

Acceptance of Codex Maximum Residue Limits for Pesticides

135. The Coordinating Committee had proposed a thorough review of pesticide safety, risk assessment and the establishment of acceptable daily intakes and in this regard, agreed to explore ways to promote increased acceptance of Codex Maximum Residue Limits for Pesticides by countries of the region with a view towards providing recommendations to the 20th Session of the Commission, (see paras. 35-38 and 94, ALINORM 91/32). The Commission supported the further study of this subject by the Coordinating Committee, however as this issue was discussed by the FAO/WHO Conference on Food Standards, Chemicals in Food and Food Trade and was under active consideration by the Codex Committee on Pesticide Residues, it was recommended that the Coordinating Committee should take the results of these discussions into account.

Codex Code of Ethics for International Trade in Foods

136. The Coordinating Committee had agreed to forward discussions concerning this issue (see paras. 63-68, ALINORM 91/32) to the Executive Committee and the Commission with a view towards stimulating ideas for specific initiatives in implementing acceptance of the Code by Codex Member Governments. The Commission supported the general conclusions of the Committee.

Labelling and Other Issues in Relation to Organically Produced Foods

137. The Coordinating Committee had agreed on the importance of establishing guidelines for organic foods under the guidance of the Codex Committee on Food Labelling (see paras. 71-73, ALINORM 91/32). The Commission, while noting its positive conclusions concerning this issue under Agenda Item 15 above, decided that no additional action was required.

Use of the Term "Natural" in Food Product Labelling

138. The Coordinating Committee had agreed on the need to establish labelling guidelines for products labelled as "natural" (see paras. 74-76, ALINORM 91/32) through the Codex Committee on Food Labelling, and had decided to forward this proposal to the 37th Session of the Executive Committee for advice. The Commission recalled the positive decision taken by the 37th Session of the Executive Committee (see Agenda Items 2 and 23) concerning this issue, and noted that the matter had been taken up by the Codex Committee on Food Labelling.

Health and Nutrition Claims in Food Labelling

139. The elaboration of Codex general guidelines on nutrition and health claims for labelling by the Codex Committee on Food Labelling had been recommended by the Coordinating Committee (see paras. 77-79, ALINORM 91/32). The Commission recalled the positive decision taken by the 37th Session of the Executive Committee (see Agenda Items 2 and 23) concerning this issue, and therefore, decided no further action was required.

Codex promotion activities

140. The Coordinating Committee had recommended further promotion of Codex directed to FAO, WHO and Codex member governments with a view towards enhancing the visibility of Codex and the effectiveness of document distribution in Codex member countries (see para. 93, ALINORM 91/32). The Commission supported these recommendations.

Appointment of Coordinator

141. In accordance with Rule II.4.(a) the Commission appointed Mr. Digby Gascoine of Australia as the Coordinator for North America and the South-West Pacific to serve from the end of the 19th to the end of the 20th Session of the Commission. The Delegation of Australia indicated that Australia would be willing to host the 2nd Session of the Coordinating Committee for North America and the South-West Pacific.

CODEX COMMITTEE ON PESTICIDE RESIDUES (Agenda Item 21)

142. The Commission had before it documents ALINORM 91/24, ALINORM 91/24A and ALINORM 91/24A-Add.1. The reports were introduced by the Chairman of the Committee, Dr. J. Van der Kolk who highlighted the main activities of the Codex Committee on Pesticide Residues during the last two sessions. The Chairman informed the Commission that the FAO/WHO Conference on Food Standards, Chemicals in Food and Food Trade, held in March 1991 in Rome had coincided with specific initiatives undertaken by the Codex Committee on Pesticide Residues during the Workshop held in April 1990 and with the organization of an *Ad Hoc* Working Group on Acceptances, related to increasing the transparency of the work of Joint FAO/WHO Meeting on Pesticide Residues and Codex Committee on Pesticide Residues in the elaboration of international standards on Maximum Residue Limits for Pesticides in foods, in order to increase acceptances at member country level. Dr. Van der Kolk noted that the Codex Committee on Pesticide Residues had commenced a programme of review of old MRLs three years ago and a mechanism had been created for a periodical review of old standards. Other important points referred to the

revision of the terms of reference for the working groups of developing countries, discussion on grain protectants and fumigants and the elaboration of FAO guidelines for submission of information on Good Agricultural Practice and residue data for estimation of Maximum Residue Limits.

143. The Chairman of the Codex Committee on Pesticide Residues, in view of the increased activities of the Codex Committee and Joint FAO/WHO Meeting on Pesticide Residues concerning the scheduled programme of revision of old standards and old compounds, requested information on the financial resources available to support such a programme.

144. The Commission was informed by the Representative of WHO that the International Programme on Chemical Safety (IPCS) planned on expanding and consolidating its various activities related to pesticides, but that the highest priority would continue to be given to the assessment of pesticide residues in foods. Thus, with the resources that were presently available, one Joint FAO/WHO Meeting on Pesticide Residues meeting per year, would continue to be held.

Draft Maximum Residue Limits at Steps 5, 5/8 and 8 of the Codex Procedure

145. The Commission had before it the draft Maximum Residue Limits at Steps 5 and 8 of the Codex Procedure, including uncontroversial Maximum Residue Limits at Step 5/8 where the Codex Committee on Pesticide Residues had recommended the omission of Steps 6 and 7 (ALINORM 91/24A-Add.1).

146. Several Delegations informed the Commission that the draft Maximum Residue Limits had been received too late and there had not been adequate time to prepare written comments. The Delegations of Sweden, the Netherlands, the United States of America, Spain, Denmark, France, Finland and Austria expressed reservations on some high levels proposed for adoption by the Commission, confirming their same positions held during the discussions at the last two Codex Committee on Pesticide Residues sessions and reflected in the corresponding reports. This was particularly the case for those pesticides which had been scheduled for re-evaluation by the Joint FAO/WHO Meeting on Pesticide Residues over the next few years.

147. The Chairman of the Committee confirmed that the discussions reflected the position of these countries at the Codex Committee on Pesticide Residues meeting however, the Maximum Residue Limits submitted for adoption would be entered in a process of review by the Codex Committee on Pesticide Residues and re-evaluation by the Joint FAO/WHO Meeting on Pesticide Residues. The Commission agreed to adopt the draft Maximum Residue Limits at Steps 5 and 8 and the proposed draft amendments to existing Codex Maximum Residue Limits as indicated in document ALINORM 91/24A-Add.1.

Other matters arising from the Reports of the 22nd and 23rd Sessions of the Committee

Draft Method of Sampling for the Determination of Pesticide Residues in Meat and Poultry Products for Control Purposes

148. The Commission was informed that the Codex Committee on Pesticide Residues had considered the proposal for the above recommended method of sampling as indicated in Appendix II, ALINORM 89/24A and that minor changes had been included

in Appendix VIII of ALINORM 91/24A. This draft method of sampling was advanced by the Committee to Step 8 for adoption by the Commission.

149. The Commission adopted the draft method of sampling which would replace the existing sampling plan (CAC/PR 5-1984) in the part which dealt with meat and poultry.

Confirmation of Chairmanship of the Committee

150. The Commission expressed its appreciation to Dr. J. Van der Kolk who had chaired the last three sessions of the Codex Committee on Pesticide Residues for his contribution to the work of Codex.

151. The Commission confirmed under Rule IX.10 that the Codex Committee on Pesticide Residues should continue to be under the Chairmanship of the Government of the Netherlands.

CODEX COMMITTEE ON RESIDUES OF VETERINARY DRUGS IN FOODS

(Agenda Item 22)

152. The Commission had before it working papers ALINORM 91/31 and 91/31A, which were the reports of the 4th and 5th Sessions of the Codex Committee on Residues of Veterinary Drugs in Foods, respectively. These reports were introduced by the Committee's Chairman, Dr. Gerald B. Guest (USA).

Consideration of Draft Maximum Residue Limits for Veterinary Drugs at Step 8

153. To facilitate its discussions, the Commission agreed to discuss the Draft Maximum Residue Limits for hormones and for Chloramphenicol as separate issues.

Maximum Residue Limits for Estradiol-17 β , Progesterone, Testosterone and Zeranol

154. The Commission was informed that the 4th Session of the Codex Committee on Residues of Veterinary Drugs in Foods agreed to advance the above hormones, as evaluated by the 32nd Session of the Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Food Additives (JECFA), to the Commission for adoption at Step 8.

155. The Delegation of the Netherlands, speaking on behalf of the EEC Member States present at the Session, and the Observer of the European Economic Community, while not objecting to the evaluation of JECFA, expressed their opposition to the proposal forwarded by the Committee, as the use of these substances for growth-promoting purposes was banned in the EEC Member States and therefore, the establishment of maximum residue limits for these substances was objected to in principle. The Observer noted that the following views were expressed on repeated occasions in the Codex Committee on Residues of Veterinary Drugs in Foods when elaborating these limits. This position was taken for a number of reasons, namely:

- Concerns about the different aspects of the use of hormones;
- Concerns about the practical possibilities to enforce and control the prescribed administration of growth-promoting hormones independent of these concerns;

- The need to take into account the clear concerns of European consumers on the safety of meat produced with growth hormones;
- The opposition to the use of hormones for growth-promoting purposes as expressed on repeated occasions by the European Parliament as well as consumer organizations in the Community.

156. This position was supported by the Observer of the International Organization of Consumer Unions.

157. Other delegations, namely those of Finland, Norway and Sweden, while not opposing the adoption of the Maximum Residue Limits for these substances at Step 8, noted that the use of hormones as growth-promotants in their countries was not allowed. This position was taken because their use did not comply with principles of Good Agricultural Practice, there was no demonstrated need and because of consumer concerns. These countries emphasized that they accepted JECFA's evaluation and pointed out that these compounds were also used for therapeutic purposes.

158. Other delegations noted that the work of Codex was consistently based on sound scientific principles and that the JECFA evaluation confirmed that health issues in relation to residues of these substances in food were not a cause for concern. It was stated that consumers were often unaware of the scientific validity and logic supporting the use of these compounds, and that regulatory control procedures for their use were similar to those for the application of any chemical substance. These delegations stated that the use of the compounds in accordance with Good Agricultural Practice did not pose health risks, and that consumer concerns could be addressed through other means. It was noted that the method or purpose of application was the only issue, and that individual countries could prohibit hormone applications as growth promotants regardless of the Commission's decision concerning international trade. More importantly, the worldwide use of these compounds for therapeutic purposes strongly supported the need for an MRL to facilitate international trade, as it was difficult to determine the purposes for which the compounds were introduced. It was also noted that the technical need for hormones had been amply demonstrated. These comments were felt to be especially relevant to the current negotiations concerning sanitary and other technical barriers to trade in the GATT Uruguay Round, as this body has already recognized Codex as the primary international technical organization which works strictly within scientific principles and procedures. Deviating from these basic and founding principles of the Commission was felt to have serious implications for Codex.

159. This position was supported by the Observer of the Consultation Mondiale de l'Industrie de la Santé Animale (COMISA).

160. The Delegation of the Netherlands requested that the matter be decided by vote, unless there was agreement to postpone the matter. The Delegation of Mexico requested that the views of WHO and GATT be sought before the Commission should proceed to take a decision. The Commission agreed to decide the issue by role call vote. The Members of the Commission were called in alphabetical order starting with the Delegation of Spain, as determined by random selection. The result of the vote was as follows:

In favour of adoption: Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, Finland, Israel, Japan, New Zealand, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland, United States.

Against adoption: Algeria, Austria, Bahrain, Belgium, Cape Verde, China, Cuba, Cyprus, Denmark, France, Germany, Hungary, Indonesia, Ireland, Iran, Italy, Morocco, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Saudi Arabia, Spain, Tanzania, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, United Kingdom.

Abstaining: Costa Rica, Lesotho, Malaysia, Mexico, Peru, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Singapore, Thailand.

161. The numerical result of the voting was as follows: in favour of adoption: 12; against adoption: 27; abstentions: 9.

Status of the Draft Maximum Residue Limits for Estradiol 17- β , Progesterone, Testosterone and Zeranol

162. The Commission decided not to adopt the Draft Maximum Residue Limits for these hormones, as contained in Appendix IV of ALINORM 91/31. It was agreed that the results of these discussions would be forwarded to the next session of the Codex Committee on Residues of Veterinary Drugs in Foods for information.

Consideration of the Draft Maximum Residue Limit for Chloramphenicol at Step 8

163. The Commission was informed that Chloramphenicol was scheduled for re-evaluation at the 1993 JECFA Session devoted to the examination of veterinary drugs. In view of this, several delegations indicated that the elaboration of a Maximum Residue Limit for Chloramphenicol should be postponed in view of current studies and data which will be available in the near future. Other delegations felt that the Maximum Residue Limit for Chloramphenicol should be advanced to Step 8 as current data and toxicity concerns indicated that the compound should not be used.

Status of the Draft Maximum Residue Limit for Chloramphenicol

164. The Commission decided to withhold the adoption of the Draft Maximum Residue Limit for Chloramphenicol at Step 8, pending the re-evaluation of this compound at the 1993 JECFA Session. This decision was taken with a view towards adopting the Maximum Residue Limit for Chloramphenicol at Step 8 at the 20th Session of the Commission, based on the JECFA re-evaluation.

Consideration of Proposed Draft Maximum Residue Limits for Albendazole, Sulfadimidine and Trenbolone Acetate at Step 5

165. The Commission was informed that the Codex Committee on Residues of Veterinary Drugs in Foods agreed to advance proposed Draft Maximum Residue Limits for these compounds to the Commission for adoption at Step 5.

166. The Observer of the European Economic Community reiterated the Community's comments concerning hormones in regard to the adoption of the Maximum Residue Limit for Trenbolone Acetate.

Status of the Proposed Draft Maximum Residue Limits for Albendazole, Sulfadimidine and Trenbolone Acetate

167. The Commission adopted the Proposed Draft Maximum Residue Limits for Albendazole, Sulfadimidine and Trenbolone Acetate, as contained in Appendix III of ALINORM 91/31A, at Step 5.

Consideration of the Proposed Draft Code of Practice for the Control of the Use of Veterinary Drugs at Step 5

168. The Commission was informed that the Codex Committee on Residues of Veterinary Drugs in Foods had agreed to advance the Draft Code to the Commission for adoption at Step 5.

Status of the Proposed Draft Code of Practice for the Control of the Use of Veterinary Drugs

169. The Commission adopted the Proposed Draft Code of Practice for Control of the Use of Veterinary Drugs, as contained in Appendix V of ALINORM 91/31A, at Step 5.

Consideration of the Proposed Draft Guidelines for the Establishment of a Regulatory Programme for Control of Veterinary Drug Residues in Foods at Step 5

170. The Commission was informed that the Codex Committee on Residues of Veterinary Drugs in Foods had agreed to forward the general introductory section of the Guidelines to the Commission for adoption at Step 5, with the understanding that several annexes under development by its Working Group on Methods of Analysis and Sampling would be incorporated into the Guidelines in the near future.

Status of the Proposed Draft Guidelines for the Establishment of a Regulatory Programme for Control of Veterinary Drug Residues in Foods

171. The Commission adopted the above Guidelines, as contained in Appendix VI of ALINORM 91/31A, at Step 5.

Consideration of the Proposed Draft Glossary of Definitions and Terms at Step 5

172. The Commission noted that the Codex Committee on Residues of Veterinary Drugs in Foods, while agreeing to the importance of the Proposed Draft Glossary for the Committee's internal use, agreed to forward it to the Commission for adoption at Step 5. The Committee also agreed that other Codex publications used to define similar terms would be consulted in the future when revising the Glossary in order to prevent duplication of efforts or confusion.

Status of the Proposed Draft Glossary of Definitions and Terms

173. The Commission adopted the Proposed Draft Glossary of Definitions and Terms, as contained in Appendix IV of ALINORM 91/31A, at Step 5.

Confirmation of Chairmanship of the Committee

174. The Commission confirmed, under Rule IX.10, that the Codex Committee on Residues of Veterinary Drugs in Foods should continue to be under the Chairmanship of the Government of the United States of America.

CODEX COMMITTEE ON FOOD LABELLING (Agenda Item 23)

175. The Chairman designate of the Codex Committee on Food Labelling, Mrs. Katherine Gourlie (Canada), introduced the report of the 21st Session of the Codex Committee on Food Labelling (ALINORM 91/22) which was held in Ottawa, Canada from 11 to 15 March 1991. The Commission was also informed of other matters of interest as outlined in document ALINORM 91/21.

Consideration of the Draft Revised General Guidelines on Claims at Step 8

176. The Commission recalled that the 18th Session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission, when adopting the guidelines at Step 5, reiterated that although the Codex Committee on Food Labelling could discuss issues related to advertising there was no need to initiate work on a Code of Practice on Advertising (see paras. 256 - 257, ALINORM 89/40), as determined by the FAO Legal Counsel. The Commission noted that other international agreements covered advertising, including the UN General Assembly Guidelines for Consumer Protection (39/248) as well as codes of practice promulgated under the International Chamber of Commerce.

Status of the Draft Revised Guidelines

177. The Commission adopted the Draft Revised Guidelines, as contained in Appendix II of ALINORM 91/22, at Step 8.

Consideration of Draft Amendments to the General Standard for the Labelling of Prepackaged Foods at Step 8

178. The Commission noted that the 18th session of the Commission, when adopting the above amendments at Step 5, requested the Codex Committee on Food Labelling to review the need for amending section 4.2.1.3 of the General Labelling Standard. The Committee concluded that such a revision was unnecessary and therefore agreed to maintain the current wording of this section.

179. The Committee also agreed to forward the draft amendment of section 5.2.1 (irradiated foods) to the Commission for adoption at Step 8. It was indicated that the remaining sections (i.e. Sections 5.2.2 and 5.2.3) would remain as currently elaborated.

Status of the Draft Amendment

180. The Commission adopted the Draft Amendment to Section 5.2.1 of the General Labelling Standard at Step 8, as contained in Appendix III of ALINORM 91/22.

Consideration of the Revised Proposed Draft List of Class Titles for Food Additives at Step 5

181. The Commission was informed that the Codex Committee on Food Labelling, while noting that the Codex Committee on Food Additives and Contaminants was also forwarding identical class titles as part of the International Numbering System for adoption by the Commission at Step 8, agreed that the Draft List of Class Titles should be forwarded for adoption at Steps 5 and 8 (i.e. with a recommendation to omit Steps 6 and 7).

Status of the Revised Proposed Draft List of Class Titles for Food Additives

182. The Commission adopted the Revised Proposed Draft List of Class Titles for Food Additives at Step 8, as contained in Appendix IV of ALINORM 91/22.

Consideration of Proposed Draft Guidelines for Use of the Term "Natural" in Food Product Labelling

183. The Commission was informed that the Codex Committee on Food Labelling had agreed that updated guidelines would be prepared based on written comments and discussions at its 21st meeting, with a view towards circulating the guidelines for government comments at Step 3 prior to its next session. Although reservations were expressed concerning the complexity of separate guidelines established solely for the purposes of defining "natural", the Commission supported this procedure. The Codex Committee on Food Labelling was encouraged to take other governmental and international organization initiatives concerning "natural" into account.

Consideration of Proposed Draft Guidelines for the Use of Health and Nutrition Claims in Food Product Labelling

184. The Commission was informed that the Codex Committee on Food Labelling had agreed that updated guidelines would be prepared based on written comments and discussions at its 21st meeting, with a view towards circulating the guidelines for government comments at Step 3 prior to its next session. The Committee had also agreed that input was required from the Codex Committee on Nutrition and Foods for Special Dietary Uses as to the values to be used for quantitative comparisons contained in the draft guidelines.

185. The Commission supported this procedure.

Other matters arising from the Report of the 21st Session of the Committee

Standardization of Date Marking Systems

186. The Commission noted that the Codex Committee on Food Labelling forwarded a request to the 38th Session of the Executive Committee to consider the appropriateness of aligning Codex and the International Organization for Standardization recommendation on the presentation of date marking and, if necessary, to suggest a plan of action.

187. The Executive Committee, while noting that the International Organization for Standardization recommendation was not intended for use in public information but was principally established for the electronic exchange of information, decided

to recommend to the Commission that the matter not be pursued further at the present time. This decision was taken in view of provisions in the Codex General Standard for Labelling, which provided for clear, unambiguous information to the consumer in a manner which was not deceptive or misleading.

188. The Commission agreed with the conclusions of the Executive Committee and decided not to initiate work in this area.

Consideration of the Implementation of Food Labelling in Asian countries

189. The Commission was informed that the Codex Coordinating Committee for Asia had requested the opinion of the Codex Committee on Food Labelling as to the elaboration of labelling guidelines specific to the Asian region.

190. The Committee noted that the elaboration of these guidelines specific to the Asian region could create a variety of problems, especially in relation to the establishment of trade barriers. The Commission agreed and concluded that such guidelines, prepared in addition to the Codex General Standard for Labelling might be acceptable as long as the Codex Committee on Food Labelling was entrusted with the review and endorsement of any such initiatives. It also noted the opinion of the Codex Committee on Nutrition and Foods for Special Dietary Uses in this matter (see ALINORM 91/26, paras. 129-131). The Commission agreed that more detailed proposals should be prepared by the Coordinating Committee for Asia and that developments in this area should be coordinated by the Executive Committee.

Consideration of Proposed Draft Nutrient Reference Values for Food Labelling Purposes

191. The Commission was informed that the Draft Amendment of Section 3.3.4 of the Codex Guidelines on Nutrition Labelling was strongly supported by the Codex Committee on Nutrition and Foods for Special Dietary Uses and the European Community.

Status of the Proposed Draft Nutrient Reference Values for Food Labelling Purposes

192. The Commission adopted the Proposed Draft Nutrient Reference Values for Food Labelling Purposes at Step 5, as contained in Appendix V of ALINORM 91/22, and as revised by the Codex Committee on Nutrition and Foods for Special Dietary Uses.

Analytical Methodology for Use in the Codex Guidelines on Nutrition Labelling

193. The Commission noted that the most recent session of the Codex Committee on Food Labelling questioned the relationship between its ad hoc working group on Methodology for Use in Codex Guidelines on Nutrition Labelling and the terms of reference of the Committee. The Codex Committee on Food Labelling felt that the identification of nutrients and corresponding methods of analysis were more appropriately within the responsibilities of the Codex Committee on Nutrition and Foods for Special Dietary Uses and the Codex Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling and decided to forward this discussion to the Executive Committee for advice.

194. The 16th Session of the Codex Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling suggested that the Codex Committee on Nutrition and Foods for Special Dietary Uses should be responsible for defining those nutrients for which methodology was

required and proposing suitable methods, while the Codex Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling should retain its responsibilities in endorsing those methods proposed. The Executive Committee had concluded that further examination by the Codex Committee on Food Labelling of methods of analysis in relation to nutrient declaration was not warranted (ALINORM 91/4, paras. 47-48). The Commission agreed with this point of view.

Labelling of Potential Allergens in Food

195. The Commission was informed that the Codex Committee on Food Labelling had agreed to examine Section 4.2.1.3 of the General Labelling Standard, which states in part that "where a compound ingredient constitutes less than 25% of the food, the ingredients need not be declared." The Codex Committee on Food Labelling agreed that a working paper would be prepared for discussion at its next session on the labelling of potential allergens which were present as components of composite ingredients in foods but which were not sub-listed in the product ingredient list as a result of the application of this section of the standard. The Delegation of Austria requested that particular consideration be given to the use of gluten-containing preparations, since such products used as compound ingredients, were becoming more widely used in foods which traditionally and according to consumer expectations were produced without gluten.

196. The 38th Session of the Executive Committee expressed concern as to the practicality of the proposal, as almost all foods contain potential allergens. With this in mind the Executive Committee recommended that the Codex Committee on Food Labelling should proceed cautiously when examining this subject. The Executive Committee also noted that the proposed working document was in the preliminary stages of preparation and therefore agreed that a progress report concerning this issue should be provided to the Executive Committee at the earliest opportunity. The Commission agreed with this proposal.

Endorsement of Labelling Provisions in Codex Standards

197. The Commission noted, with approval, the endorsement of labelling provisions of various standards examined by the Codex Committee on Food Labelling as summarized in paragraphs 59-86 of ALINORM 91/22.

Confirmation of Chairmanship of the Committee

198. The Commission confirmed the Government of Canada as Chairman of the Committee under Rule IX.10 of the Codex Rules of Procedure.

CODEX COMMITTEE ON FOOD ADDITIVES AND CONTAMINANTS (Agenda Item 24)

199. The Commission had before it the reports of the 22nd and 23rd Sessions of the Codex Committee on Food Additives and Contaminants (ALINORM 91/12 and ALINORM 91/12A). In addition, other matters of interest were highlighted in document ALINORM 91/21. The reports were introduced by Mr. R. Top (Netherlands) in the absence of Mrs. C.G.M. Klitsie, Chairman of the Committee.

Consideration of Draft Guideline Levels for Methylmercury in Fish

200. The Commission was informed that the 23rd Session of the Codex Committee on Food Additives and Contaminants agreed to maintain those levels proposed for

methylmercury in fish as elaborated at its 22nd Session, with the understanding that governments would be requested to identify additional predatory fish species causing problems in international trade for examination at the next session of the Committee. It was noted that although the Codex Committee on Fish and Fishery Products opposed the establishment of guideline levels in general, it indicated that if levels needed to be established, they should be based on total mercury as opposed to methylmercury. However, the Codex Committee on Food Additives and Contaminants reached a decision contrary to these conclusions.

201. Several countries agreed with the opinion of the Codex Committee on Fish and Fishery Products that there were perhaps more appropriate ways of managing health risks associated with methylmercury (for example, control of intake over time) than the setting of Guideline Levels, and that the proposal should be returned to Step 6 for consideration. It was felt that this point of view was especially relevant as the Codex Committee on Food Additives and Contaminants had not yet elaborated a philosophy concerning the establishment of contaminant levels.

Status of the Guideline Levels for Methylmercury in Fish

202. The Commission adopted the two Guideline Levels for Methylmercury in Fish at Step 8, as contained in Appendix VIII of ALINORM 91/12. This decision was taken with the understanding that the Guidelines would be kept under review by the Codex Committee on Food Additives and Contaminants as well as the Codex Committee on Fish and Fishery Products, especially as to the identification of predatory species of fish to which the higher guideline level applied. Several delegations expressed their reservations on the action taken by the Commission.

Consideration of Draft Guideline Levels for Acrylonitrile in Food and Vinyl Chloride Monomer in Food and Food Packaging Materials

203. The Commission was informed that the Codex Committee on Food Additives and Contaminants had advanced the draft guideline levels for these contaminants for adoption by the Commission at Step 8, with the understanding that the ISO and AOAC would be requested to elaborate appropriate sampling plans and methods of analysis.

Status of the Draft Guideline Levels for Acrylonitrile and Vinyl Chloride Monomer

204. The Commission adopted the guideline levels at Step 8 (see Appendix VIII, ALINORM 91/12) under the above procedure.

Draft Amendments to the International Numbering System for Food Additives

205. The Commission was reminded that the International Numbering System (INS) was adopted at its last session at Step 8 as a Codex advisory text for inclusion in Volume I of the Codex Alimentarius. Subsequent to the Commission's adoption, the 22nd Session of the Codex Committee on Food Additives and Contaminants agreed to advance a proposed Foreword, Table of Functional Class Titles and Definitions to the INS system for adoption by the Commission. In addition, the 23rd Session of the Codex Committee on Food Additives and Contaminants also agreed to forward other revisions to the INS list for adoption by the Commission at Step 8.

Status of the Draft Amendments to the International Numbering System for Food Additives

206. The Commission adopted the amendments contained in Appendix III of ALINORM 91/12 and Appendix IV of ALINORM 91/12A, at Step 8. This decision was taken with the understanding that revisions and amendments to the list would remain as a standing agenda item for the Committee.

Consideration of Proposed Draft Guideline Levels for Cadmium and Lead in Food

207. The Commission was informed that the 21st Session of the Codex Committee on Food Additives and Contaminants had elaborated guideline levels for cadmium and lead in certain food groups as contained in Appendix IX of ALINORM 89/12A, for circulation and government comment at Step 3. After reviewing comments submitted, the Committee had decided to solicit additional government comments on existing guideline levels for cadmium and lead in current Codex standards along with a request for information on national regulations, methods of compliance and enforcement. In addition, the Committee recommended that the Commission should consider preventive measures for the control of cadmium and lead contamination, including the elimination of lead capsules for wine, lead soldered cans, lead shot used in hunting and clay pigeon shooting, lead uses in food contact materials and lead in gasoline, as well as cadmium containing fertilizers as a means to lower contaminant levels.

208. The Observer from the Office International du Vin et de Vignes noted that at its General Assembly in September, 1990, a recommendation was finalized to recommend against the use of lead capsules for wine. The Commission welcomed this statement and supported the recommendation. In regard to recommendations concerning other preventive measures, it was indicated that such measures could be incorporated into Codex Codes of Practice or similar advisory Codex texts. In addition, the Commission was informed that FAO and WHO had recommended preventive measures and had published recommendations on the control of lead and tin contamination in canned foods (FAO Food and Nutrition Paper No. 36).

Consideration of Draft Guideline Levels for Aflatoxins in Food and Feed

209. The Commission noted that the 23rd Session of the Codex Committee on Food Additives and Contaminants decided to discontinue the consideration of those levels for aflatoxins in food and feed as elaborated at its 22nd Session (Appendix VI, ALINORM 91/12) for a variety of reasons, particularly in view of the difficulty in establishing general levels acceptable to all foods, as opposed to specific commodities. The Commission was also informed of the need to establish practical limits based on variances in levels due to climatic conditions, regional variations and other factors, with a view towards the avoidance of an unnecessary disruption in trade. The Committee, while agreeing to establish a new level for aflatoxin M₁ in milk and a revised level of aflatoxin B₁ in supplementary feedingstuffs for milk-producing animals for circulation and government comment at Step 3, also decided to solicit additional government comments on other issues related to aflatoxin contamination in certain foods. The Commission agreed with this procedure.

Consideration of Draft Specifications for the Identity and Purity of Food Additives at Step 3

210. The Commission noted that the Codex Committee on Food Additives and Contaminants agreed to forward Categories I and II of specifications arising from the 31st and 33rd JECFA (Appendix V, ALINORM 91/12) as well as those arising from the 35th JECFA (Appendix III, ALINORM 91/12A) to the Commission for adoption as Codex Advisory Specifications at Step 3.

211. The Observer of the International Organization for Consumer Unions, while noting the importance of JECFA specifications for use in the food industry, supported the reevaluation of gum arabic in view of the different varieties of this compound within the species. The Observer indicated that caution should be exercised in avoiding the establishment of specifications which were too broad or general in nature.

Status of the Draft Specifications for the Identity and Purity of Food Additives

212. The Commission adopted the specifications listed above as Codex Advisory specifications. The Commission noted that specifications were not subject to government acceptance.

Consideration of the Proposed Draft Codex General Standard for Food Additives

213. The Commission was informed that the Codex Committee on Food Additives and Contaminants agreed to the importance of continuing this activity and in view of the significant workload involved, decided to establish a working group under the direction of the United States to prepare a revised general standard for circulation and government comment at Step 3, prior to the next session of the Committee. The Committee also agreed that the "Denner" paper (CX/FAC 89/16) would form the basis of its deliberations, and that the standard would be developed under specific terms of reference for the Working Group (see para. 36, ALINORM 91/12A). The Commission agreed with this procedure.

Methods of Analysis for Aflatoxins

214. The Codex Committee on Food Additives and Contaminants had agreed to forward a list of methods of analysis for aflatoxins to the Codex Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling for endorsement and consequently to the Commission for adoption. The 17th Session of the Codex Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling decided against endorsing these methods because in some cases, the limits were at or below the reliable limit of determination of the methods proposed. The Codex Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling concluded that a list of general criteria for evaluating acceptable methods for determining aflatoxins should be prepared by the United Kingdom, while the AOAC representative would prepare an updated list of available methods for consideration by the next session of the Codex Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling.

215. The Commission agreed with this procedure, and noted that this would result in the establishment of methods of analysis for aflatoxins under the Codex Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling.

Sampling Plans for Aflatoxins

216. The Codex Committee on Food Additives and Contaminants agreed with a request of the Codex Committee on Cereals, Pulses and Legumes to consider holding an expert consultation to examine issues regarding sampling plans in aflatoxins in view of the complexity of this subject, (see paras. 352-354).

Guideline Levels for Radionuclides in Foods (Dilution Factors and Minor Dietary Components)

217. The Codex Committee on Food Additives and Contaminants agreed to recommend to the Commission that the guideline levels should apply to the reconstituted product (i.e., ready for consumption) and that the current text concerning the treatment of minor dietary components should remain as elaborated.

218. The Commission supported these recommendations, and agreed to amend CAC/VOL. XVIII-Add.1, Supplement 1 by removing the current footnote included on page 2 of CAC/GL 5-1989.

Establishment of Guideline Levels for Radionuclide Levels in Foods Subsequent to the Accident Year

219. The Commission was informed that the Codex Committee on Food Additives and Contaminants had agreed to recommend that the current Codex levels for radionuclide contamination in foods be extended for an indefinite period, with the understanding that the need for such a permanent level would be regularly reviewed.

220. Several delegations from the Region of Asia expressed concern that the levels proposed for application on a permanent basis were too high, especially when the natural decrease of these levels over time was taken into account. In response to these concerns, the Secretariat indicated that the IAEA, through inter-agency consultations, was in the process of revising its volume Safety Series No. 72 on protection of the public in the event of a nuclear accident which would include the most recent evaluation of the International Commission on Radiological Protection (ICRP). It was indicated that these recommendations, once finalized, could be discussed by the Codex Committee on Food Additives and Contaminants with a view to a revision of the Codex Guidelines if necessary.

221. The Commission agreed to extend the current levels for radionuclide contamination of foods on a permanent basis (i.e., subsequent to the accident year). In taking this decision, the Commission also agreed that these levels would be kept under review, and that the Executive Committee would keep the Commission informed of activities concerning this subject.

Procedure for the Establishment of Guideline Levels for Contaminants

222. The Commission noted that the Codex Committee on Food Additives and Contaminants agreed to the need for a general philosophy and procedure to facilitate its deliberations in the establishment of guideline levels for contaminants. The Commission supported the elaboration of a general procedure for the internal use of the Committee and agreed that the Commission should be informed of the Committee's future efforts in this area.

Lead Levels in Sugars

223. The Commission was informed that the Codex Committee on Food Additives and Contaminants recommended that all lead levels in sugars should be lowered to 0.5 mg/kg, when reviewing those levels forwarded for endorsement. See also discussion under Agenda Item 36, paras 376-377 below.

Sampling Plan for Mercury, Cadmium and Lead

224. The Commission was informed that the Codex Committee on Food Additives and Contaminants supported a simple sampling plan for mercury, cadmium and lead and decided to await the decision of the Codex Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling concerning this sampling plan prior to advancing the plan to the Commission for adoption at Step 8. The 17th Session of the Codex Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling temporarily endorsed the sampling plan, pending the outcome of its review of general sampling plans for contaminants.

Status of the Sampling Plan for Mercury, Cadmium and Lead

225. The Commission agreed to endorse temporarily the sampling plan as proposed at Step 8 (CAC/PR 5-1984).

Confirmation of Chairmanship

226. The Commission confirmed under Rule IX.10 that the Codex Committee on Food Additives and Contaminants should continue under the Chairmanship of the Netherlands.

CODEX COMMITTEE ON FOOD HYGIENE (Agenda Item 25)

227. For this agenda item the Commission had before it documents ALINORM 91/13, the report of the 24th Session of the Codex Committee on Food Hygiene and ALINORM 91/21. These documents were presented by Dr. Catherine E. Adams (United States), on behalf of the Chairman of the Committee, Dr. Douglas Archer.

Draft Guidelines for the Salvaging of Canned Foods Exposed to Adverse Conditions at Step 8 (paras. 47-49 and Appendix IV, ALINORM 91/13)

228. The Commission noted that the guidelines were intended to reduce loss of wholesome food unaffected by exposure to adverse conditions and to prevent the sale of food not fit for human consumption.

Status of the Guidelines

229. The Commission agreed to adopt the Guidelines at Step 8 of the Procedure.

Draft Guideline Procedures to Establish Microbiological Causes of Spoilage in Canned Foods at Step 8 (paras. 50-53 and Appendix V, ALINORM 91/13)

230. The Commission noted that the Committee had approved several proposed changes and revisions of the draft guidelines and had forwarded them to Step 5 with a recommendation for their adoption at Step 8.

Status of the Guideline Procedures

231. Taking into consideration the detailed revision of the document and its importance, the Commission adopted the Guideline Procedures to Establish Microbiological Causes of Spoilage in Canned Foods at Step 8 with the omission of Steps 6 and 7.

Draft Guidelines for the Preservation of Raw Milk by Use of the Lactoperoxidase System at Step 8 (paras. 82-89 and Appendix X, ALINORM 91/13)

232. The Commission took note that the guidelines had been thoroughly discussed at the 24th Session. The Codex Committee on Food Hygiene had agreed that the lactoperoxidase system was of great utility for fluid raw milk when refrigeration was practically impossible and had recommended the adoption of the guidelines at Step 8 with the omission of Steps 6 and 7. The Commission also noted that JECFA determined no toxicological hazard by the use of this system (35th Meeting, WHO Technical Report Series 789, 1990), and that the Joint FAO/WHO Committee of Government Experts on the Code of Principles Concerning Milk and Milk Products had reviewed the draft and had supported the conclusions and recommendations of the Codex Committee on Food Hygiene (CX 5/70-22nd, paras. 69-72).

233. The Delegation of Switzerland repeated its reservation in principle in regard to this process. The Observer from the EEC stated that this document and the two preceding documents should be finalized as codes of practice instead of guidelines to ensure more transparency in their elaboration.

Status of the Guidelines

234. The Commission noted that the Codex Committee on Food Hygiene had decided to elaborate this text as guidelines through the step procedure and, recognizing the detailed discussions of the document and its importance for many developing countries, adopted the guidelines at Step 8. The Commission also agreed to emphasize that the lactoperoxidase system should not be used for products intended for international trade and should never be used as a substitute for refrigeration.

Proposed Draft General Provisions Relating to Hygiene in Codex Standards at Step 5 (paras. 41-44 and Appendix II, ALINORM 91/13)

235. The general provisions, intended to simplify endorsement procedures and unify hygiene provisions in Codex standards, were revised at the 24th Session of the Codex Committee on Food Hygiene and advanced to Step 5.

Status of the Proposed Draft General Provisions

236. The Commission adopted the draft general provisions relating to hygiene at Step 5 and agreed that they should be applied to all Codex standards when they are revised or republished.

Proposed Draft Code of Hygienic Practice for Aseptically Processed and Packaged Foods at Step 5 (pars. 68-71 and Appendix VIII, ALINORM 91/13)

237. The Commission noted that the Codex Committee on Food Hygiene had approved the draft as it applied to low acid foods and had advanced it to Step 5. The Codex

Committee on Food Hygiene had requested the Delegation of the United States to report at the next meeting of the Committee on an annex to the code addressing acid foods.

Status of the Proposed Draft Code of Hygienic Practice

238. The Commission adopted the Draft Code of Hygienic Practice at Step 5 and endorsed the proposed procedure.

Proposed Draft Code of Hygienic Practice for Refrigerated Packaged Foods with Extended Shelf-Life (para. 67, ALINORM 91/13)

239. The proposal to elaborate a separate code for this type of cooked foods was approved by the Committee in view of important technological developments, the growth of refrigerated packaged food industries and substantial international trade in these products. The Commission noted that the Delegation of France had been asked to provide a draft for the next session of the Committee and agreed to endorse the elaboration of this code.

Core Elements for a Draft Code of Hygienic Practice for Street Foods (ALINORM 91/21)

240. The Commission recalled that at its 18th Session in 1989 it had decided to circulate at Step 3 a revised code prepared by the Codex Coordinating Committee for Latin America and the Caribbean and had also made the Codex Committee on Food Hygiene responsible for the elaboration of common core elements and for coordinating the work on regional versions of this code (para. 176, ALINORM 89/40). The convening of an expert consultation on street food hygienic practice, as suggested by the Codex Committee on Food Hygiene, was not considered warranted by the Executive Committee in 1990 before sufficient additional information became available (para. 51, ALINORM 91/3).

241. The Commission took note that the Codex Coordinating Committee for Latin America and the Caribbean (paras. 172-174, ALINORM 91/36) and the Codex Coordinating Committee for Asia (para 170, ALINORM 91/15) had continued to elaborate separate codes, and that the Codex Coordinating Committee for Africa had discussed these codes in detail and made extensive comments (paras. 101-110, ALINORM 91/28). The Commission noted the strong interest in and support for the elaboration of a code of practice for street foods within the three regional Codex Coordinating Committees and strongly requested the Codex Committee on Food Hygiene to positively consider its future involvement in this problem.

Future Work and Terms of Reference of the Committee (ALINORM 91/21)

242. The Commission noted that a number of important items were included in the agenda for the future session of the Committee, such as review of recommendations on *Listeria monocytogenes*, development of definitions and procedures for application of the HACCP system for use by Codex, Code of Practice for Uncured Unripened Cheese, and Ripened Soft Cheese, Can Defect Classification and Manual. The Commission also recognized that the recommendations of the FAO/WHO Conference on Food Standards, Chemicals in Food and Food Trade and the decisions of the Commission on these recommendations (this Report, Agenda Item 10) contained a number of implications for the terms of reference and the future work of the Codex Committee on Food Hygiene and agreed to request the Secretariat to arrange for the

preparation of a paper addressing these issues for the next session of the Codex Committee on General Principles.

Confirmation of Chairmanship

243. The Delegation of the United States confirmed its readiness to continue to host the Committee and informed the Commission that the 25th Session of the Codex Committee on Food Hygiene would be held in Washington, D.C. from 28 October to 1 November 1991.

CODEX COMMITTEE ON METHODS OF ANALYSIS AND SAMPLING (Agenda Item 26)

244. The Commission had before it the report of the 17th Session of the Codex Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling (ALINORM 91/23). The report was introduced by Prof. P. Biacs, Chairman of the Codex Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling, who informed the Commission of the main activities undertaken by the Committee concerning guidelines on sampling which should provide guidance on particular areas of concern to the Codex and flexibility of the application of sampling plans to Codex standards.

245. The Codex Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling had endorsed the provisions concerning sampling and methods of analysis in a large number of Codex standards and confirmed that greater attention would be given to the elaboration and selection of general methods of analysis, multi-analyte methods for trace analysis and ELISA methods.

246. The Chairman of the Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling also pointed out that the Committee had expressed its interest in the area of proprietary analytical techniques and in the work on laboratory certification, and that this Committee was ready to develop further work in a horizontal approach in the area of methods of analysis, sampling and laboratory proficiency programmes.

Matters arising from the Report of the 17th Session of the Committee (ALINORM 91/21)

Sampling for Net Content

247. The Codex Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling noted that there was no support for the general method for net weight determination as outlined in the OIML Recommendation.

248. The Commission agreed that the provisions contained in the Codex General Labelling Standard were adequately covered by available national and international practices and that no further action was required on this matter.

Amendment of the Definition of Type I Method

249. The Commission noted the proposed amendment of the definition of Type I method and adopted the proposal as outlined in document ALINORM 91/21.

Terms of Reference of the Codex Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling

250. The Commission was informed that the Codex Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling had expressed its interest in work on laboratory certification,

proficiency programmes and guidelines on quality assurance in laboratories and in combining its future work on methodology with the study of such laboratory systems.

251. The Commission noted the interest of the Codex Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling and in view of the discussions held during the FAO/WHO Conference on Food Standards, Chemicals in Food and Food Trade in March and agreed that the Codex Committee on General Principles should consider new terms of reference for the Codex Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling to strengthen the Committee's role in selecting methods of analysis for application to all Codex standards and in the area of laboratory certification.

Confirmation of Chairmanship

252. The Commission confirmed under Rule IX.10 that the Codex Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling should continue under the Chairmanship of the Government of Hungary.

CODEX COMMITTEE ON NUTRITION AND FOODS FOR SPECIAL DIETARY USES (Agenda Item 27)

253. For this Agenda Item the Commission had before it ALINORM 91/26, the Report of the 17th Session, and ALINORM 91/21 containing some additional matters for action by the Commission. The Report of the Session was introduced by the Chairman of the Committee Prof. G.H. Pahlke of Germany.

Draft Guidelines on Formulated Supplementary Foods for Older Infants and Young Children (at Step 8) (ALINORM 91/26 paras. 18-37, App. II)

254. The Commission recalled the background to the elaboration of this document and the wish expressed by developing countries, through FAO and WHO, for guidance in preparing foods for infants and children from locally-available raw materials. The Commission noted that the Committee had revised the Guidelines extensively, and had advanced them to Step 8, and that the delegations of Switzerland and the Netherlands had reserved their position due to their concern about overlapping of the Guidelines with existing Codex standards.

255. Concern was expressed at the present session about overlapping of the Guidelines with CODEX STAN 74-1981 on Cereal-based Foods and the implication for the application of these two documents within the context of the proposed GATT Agreement on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures and Barriers. It was proposed that the Guidelines be returned to Step 6 and that one single document be prepared. Several delegations supported the adoption of the Guidelines at Step 8 but stressed the need for clarifying any possible confusion and overlapping between the Guidelines and the Standard.

256. Comments were made in relation to the use of polyols as sweetening agents and the possible laxative effect on children, and the different national daily requirements for the nutrients listed in the Guidelines.

Status of the Draft Guidelines

257. The Commission noted that the Guidelines had been elaborated and discussed over several years, and recognizing that Guidelines could be used as guidance by national authorities agreed to adopt them at Step 8 and requested the Codex

Committee on Nutrition and Foods for Special Dietary Uses to revise the Codex Standard on Cereal-Based Infant Foods (CODEX STAN 74-1981) in order to integrate the Guidelines into the Standard so as to avoid duplication.

Draft Standard for Formula Foods for use in Weight Control Diets (ALINORM 91/26 paras. 38-70, App. III)

258. The Delegation of Mexico stated that the vitamins and minerals in Section 3.2.3 should cover 100% of the daily requirements and suggested that the following values be substituted for the existing ones: Vitamin A - 1000 micrograms (μg) retinol equivalent; Vitamin E - 50 mg; Thiamine - 1.4 mg; Riboflavin - 1.4 mg; Niacin - 22.5 mg. The delegation also pointed out that Section 9.6.5 should contain a statement that the product should always be administered under medical supervision and should be considered a drug.

Status of the Standard

259. The Commission noted that this Standard had been substantially revised, and improved at the 17th Session of the Committee and adopted it at Step 8 of the Procedure.

Draft Standard for the Labelling of and Claims for Foods for Special Medical Purposes (ALINORM 91/26, paras. 71-85; App. IV)

260. The Commission noted that the Committee had agreed in principle that the essential element of the products covered by the Draft Standard was that they should be used under medical supervision and that they were a special category of food for special dietary uses for which specific claims were made. The Commission noted that the Committee had agreed to include in Section 3 of the Standard a statement prohibiting the advertising of these products to the general public but had concluded that legal advice on the matter was needed (ALINORM 91/26, para. 77).

261. At the request of the Commission the FAO Legal Counsel stated that given the character and context of this particular Standard, if the Commission considered that the inclusion of such a statement would be appropriate, although the Commission's mandate did not include advertising standards, there would be no legal objection to this in the context of the Standard under consideration.

Status of the Standard

262. The Commission adopted at Step 8 the Standard as presented in App. IV of ALINORM 91/26.

Proposed Draft Amendments to the General Principles for the Addition of Essential Nutrients to Foods (ALINORM 91/26, paras. 93-96, App. V A and B)

263. The Commission recalled that the General Principles for the Addition of Essential Nutrients to Foods (ALINORM 87/26 App. V) were adopted by the Commission at its 17th Session (ALINORM 89/39 paras. 444-447) and that the inclusion of the definition for "nutrient density" was adopted by the Commission at its 18th Session (ALINORM 89/40 paras. 359-361). The Commission noted that the Committee had discussed in detail the definitions for "fortification or enrichment" and "standardization" and had advanced them to Step 5 of the Procedure. Taking into

account the extensive written comments and discussions the Commission adopted the two amendments at Step 8.

Proposed Draft Amendments to the Codex Standard for Processed Cereal Based Foods for Infants and Children (Codex STAN 74-1981, ALINORM 91/26 paras. 97-99, App. V-C)

264. The Committee had endorsed at its last Session the earlier proposal to change the existing maximum level of 5% cocoa on a dry basis into a maximum level of 1.5% in the ready-to-eat product and agreed to move it to Step 5.

265. The Commission noted the wide support for this amendment in written comments and at the Committee's Session and adopted it at Step 8.

Proposed Draft Standard for the Labelling of and Claims for "Low Energy" and "Reduced Energy" Foods (ALINORM 91/26 paras. 86-92)

266. The Commission noted that the Committee had agreed to withdraw this Standard since its subject would be more fully developed by the Codex Committee on Food Labelling within the framework of the Draft Guidelines for Use of Health and Nutrition Claims in Food Labelling. The Commission endorsed this decision.

Proposal for a Draft Standard for Formula Foods for Use in Very Low Energy Diets (ALINORM 91/26, paras. 108-111 and App. VI; ALINORM 91/21)

267. During the discussions on Formula Foods for Use in Weight Control Diets at the 16th Session of the Codex Committee on Nutrition and Foods for Special Dietary Uses, the Delegation of the Netherlands was of the opinion that very low-energy formula foods should also be considered, as such foods were hazardous if used improperly. The Committee agreed to consider a paper on this issue. The Commission noted that a Proposed Draft Standard had been presented and briefly discussed at the 17th Session of the Codex Committee on Nutrition and Foods for Special Dietary Uses and it was agreed to request the Commission to advise on whether the Committee should proceed with the elaboration of such a standard.

268. The Commission also noted that government comments on the Proposed Draft had been requested by CL 1991/12-NFSDU and recommended that the subject be reviewed at the next session of the Committee and that the Commission be advised accordingly at its 20th Session in 1993.

Amendments to the Advisory List of Vitamin Compounds and Mineral Salts (ALINORM 91/26, paras. 112-122 and App. VII; ALINORM 91/21)

269. The Commission recalled that the advisory list of vitamin compounds and mineral salts in Part IV of the Codex Standards for Foods for Special Dietary Uses was being continuously reviewed and amended and noted the unanimous approval by the Committee of the new proposals, which included phosphoric acid as a source of phosphorus, hydrochloric acid, as a source of chlorine, potassium iodate as a source of iodine, gum arabica, gum acacia and silicon dioxide. In accordance with the procedure agreed at its 17th Session (ALINORM 87/39 para. 458), the Commission endorsed these amendments.

Salt Iodization (ALINORM 91/26, paras. 123-125; ALINORM 91/21)

270. At its 16th Session, the Codex Committee on Nutrition and Foods for Special Dietary Uses agreed that it would be possible to prepare advice on the iodization of salt, and discussed this subject on the basis of a background paper at the 17th Session.

271. The Commission was aware of extensive regional and world-wide activities and of a World Health Assembly Resolution (WHA 43.2) concerning the elimination of iodine deficiency disorders and recognizing the importance of salt iodization, requested the Secretariat to arrange for the development of an Annex on iodization to the existing Codex Standard for Food-Grade Salt.

Vitamin and Mineral Supplements (ALINORM 91/26, paras. 126-128; ALINORM 91/21)

272. The Commission recalled its earlier decision to seek the views of governments on whether or not work on vitamin and mineral supplements should be undertaken within the Codex System, and to provide appropriate information so that distinction could be made between products which are foods and those which are pharmaceutical or medicines (ALINORM 89/40, para. 371).

273. The Commission noted that the comments received in response to this request had been discussed at the 17th Session of the Codex Committee on Nutrition and Foods for Special Dietary Uses. Most of the comments stressed the need to clearly distinguish between foods and drugs, and there was a general support for the development of guidelines. Several delegations at the present Session expressed support for the development of the document in view of the increasing international trade in these products and their free availability to the general public. Two delegations proposed that the Guidelines be further developed to cover other supplements such as amino acids, fatty acids. One delegation expressed concern over the implications of the Guidelines in those countries where these products are considered medicines.

274. The Commission noted the general support for a document on this subject and agreed that work on the Guidelines should continue. The Commission noted that a paper on vitamin and mineral supplements would be presented at the next session of the Codex Committee on Nutrition and Foods for Special Dietary Uses.

Nutritional Guidelines on Intakes of Fat, Sugars, Sodium and Fibre, and their Implication for Food Standards (ALINORM 91/26, paras 105-107; ALINORM 91/21)

275. The Commission noted that at the 17th Session of the Codex Committee on Nutrition and Foods for Special Dietary Uses, there had been strong general support for work by the Committee to address the concern over excessive intakes of fat, sugar and sodium and inadequate intake of fibre. The Committee had welcomed proposals to have a Consultant examine current nutritional recommendations and guidelines and prepare specific proposals for the Committee. The Commission endorsed this procedure.

276. One delegation proposed that the Codex Committee on Nutrition and Foods for Special Dietary Uses be renamed Codex Committee on Nutrition and that it should become a General Subject Committee. It was pointed out that this would not necessarily involve a change in the terms of reference of the Committee, which were

now of a rather general nature. Several delegations supported in principle this idea. The Commission noted that the forthcoming International Conference on Nutrition (December 1992) would certainly provide much specific guidance on how governments would like to address nutritional problems and agreed to consider this proposal at its 20th Session in July 1993.

Confirmation of the Chairmanship

277. The Commission noted that the Chairman of the Committee, Prof. Dr. G.H. Pahlke had retired and expressed appreciation of his able guidance of the Committee as its Chairman and of his contribution to the work of the Committee over 22 years.

278. The Commission confirmed under Rule IX.10 that the Codex Committee on Nutrition and Foods for Special Dietary Uses should continue to be under the Chairmanship of Germany.

JOINT UN/ECE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS GROUP OF EXPERTS ON STANDARDIZATION OF FRUIT JUICES (Agenda Item 28)

279. This Agenda Item was presented by Prof. H. Woidich (Austria) on the basis of the Report of the 19th Session of the Group of Experts (ALINORM 91/14, AGRI/WP.2/GE4/19), ALINORM 91/21, ALINORM 91/39 and ALINORM 91/39 Add 1, containing the comments of Egypt, Spain and Sweden. In summing up the work of the 19th Session of the Group of Experts Prof. Woidich highlighted the excellent working cooperation between the ECE Working party on Standardization of Perishable Produce and the Codex Alimentarius, which had resulted in the production of 26 Standards and Guidelines over a period of almost 30 years. At the Session which took place in Rome 12-16 November 1990 the Group reviewed and agreed on several items of a more general character such as provisions for contaminants, (ALINORM 91/14 paras. 25-37) and the definition of fruit juice, which remained based on mechanical means of production (ALINORM 91/14, paras. 78-90). Several items were presented for the attention of the Commission.

Draft General Standard for Vegetable Juices at Step 8 of the procedure (ALINORM 91/14 paras. 38-47 App. II)

280. The Delegation of Poland stated that the Standard was unacceptable for them since the Polish Standard has lower maximum values for copper and tin and does not provide for the addition of malic acid. The Commission also noted the comments of certain other delegations relating to the declaration of the use of concentrated juice as part of the name of the product and provisions for additives and contaminants.

Status of the General Standard for Vegetable Juices

281. The Commission adopted the General Standard for Vegetable Juices at Step 8 of its Procedure.

Draft Guidelines on Mixed Fruit Juices at Step 8 of the procedure (ALINORM 91/14 paras. 48-62, App. III)

282. One delegation pointed out that the Guidelines contained no specific numerical provisions for fruit components and suggested that adequate methodology be developed for dealing with a trade that was very prone to fraudulent practices.

The Commission noted that approaches for the determination of fruit content were being investigated, and were not likely to be available soon in a form suitable for regulatory purposes. The Observer from the EEC recommended that since the Guidelines were in the form of a standard they should be adopted as a Codex Standard.

Status of the Guidelines on Mixed Fruit Juices

283. The Commission noted that the Guidelines had been discussed and reviewed in detail in the Committee and adopted them at Step 8. The Delegation of the United Kingdom reserved its position because it considered the Section 8.1.3 of the Guidelines unhelpful and confusing particularly when considered jointly with the footnote to paragraph 58 of the Report (ALINORM 91/14).

Draft Guidelines on Mixed Fruit Nectars at Step 8 of the procedure (ALINORM 91/14 paras. 63-77, App. IV)

284. The Group of Experts had discussed at length whether the addition of sugars or honey should be mandatory or optional for mixed fruit nectars. Several countries noted that fruit nectars were characterized by the addition of sugars or honey but that in certain cases this addition was not required. The Commission noted that the Group of Experts had reached a consensus on the definition of nectars which would require consequential changes in the General Standard for Fruit Nectars and requested the Secretariat to undertake the necessary amendments.

Status of the Guidelines on Mixed Fruit Nectars

285. The Commission adopted the Guidelines at Step 8 of the procedure.

Methods of Analysis of Fruit Juices (ALINORM 91/14 paras 91-92, Appendix V)

286. The Commission noted that of the three methods proposed by the Group of Experts, for carbon dioxide, for ethanol and for essential oil, the Codex Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling had fully endorsed only the International Fruit Juice Union Method no. 45A(1972) for Essential Oil and adopted this method for the Analysis of Fruit Juices.

Adjournment sine die

287. The Commission noted that the Group of Experts had proposed to adjourn *sine die* since there were no outstanding issues requiring future sessions of the Group. The Commission endorsed the proposal and noted that a number of areas of future interest had been identified, i.e. analytical methodology, chemometry and identity control, technological advances in the manufacture of fruit juices, possible revisions and updating of standards and guidelines. It was agreed that the review of contaminant provisions would be taken up by the Codex Committee on Food Additives and Contaminants.

288. The Commission expressed its appreciation of the longstanding and dedicated Chairmanship of Prof. Dr. W. Pilnik, who retired after the 19th Session.

CODEX COMMITTEE ON TROPICAL FRESH FRUITS AND VEGETABLES (Agenda Item 29)

289. The report of the 2nd Session of the Codex Committee on Tropical Fresh Fruits and Vegetables (ALINORM 91/35) was presented by Ricardo Gonzalez (Mexico) in the absence of the Chairman of the Committee, Lic. Agustín Portal Ariosa. The Commission also noted that other matters arising from the Committee were summarized in document ALINORM 91/21.

290. The Commission agreed that comments of a technical nature should be forwarded to the 3rd Session of the Codex Committee on Tropical Fresh Fruits and Vegetables for consideration, as related to the following agenda items.

Consideration of the General Format for Codex Standards for Tropical Fresh Fruits and Vegetables at Step 5

291. The Commission was informed that the proposed draft format was revised as instructed by the 17th Session of the Commission to ensure that the Codex format was respected for those matters not dealing exclusively with commercial quality, while the UNECE format was respected for quality characteristics. The Committee agreed to forward the revised proposed draft format for adoption by the Commission at Step 5.

292. Subsequent to the meeting of the Codex Committee on Tropical Fresh Fruits and Vegetables, the 21st Session of the Codex Committee on Food Labelling, while considering the labelling sections of proposed draft standards for pineapple, papaya and mango for endorsement, noted that these standards should be aligned with the revised procedures for the elaboration of labelling provisions in Codex standards. More importantly, the Codex Committee on Food Labelling noted that several aspects of the labelling section were applicable to non-retail containers, which were not normally within the scope of the General Labelling Standard (i.e., prepackaged foods). The Codex Committee on Food Labelling decided to withhold endorsement of the labelling sections, pending the division of non-retail and retail labelling sections into separate parts.

Status of the General Format for Codex Standards for Tropical Fresh Fruits and Vegetables

293. The Commission adopted the proposed draft General Format (Appendix II, ALINORM 91/35) at Step 5, with the understanding that the recommendations of the Codex Committee on Food Labelling would be taken into account. The Commission also agreed that similar provisions would be required for the proposed draft standards for pineapple, papaya and mango (see below).

Consideration of the proposed Draft Codex Standard for Pineapple at Step 5

294. The Commission was informed that the proposed Draft Codex Standard for Pineapple was forwarded for adoption at Step 5.

Status of the Proposed Draft Codex Standard for Pineapple

295. The Commission adopted the Proposed Draft Codex Standard for Pineapple at Step 5, as contained in Appendix III of ALINORM 91/35.

Consideration of the Proposed Draft Codex Standard for Papaya at Step 5

296. The Commission noted that the Proposed Draft Codex Standard for Papaya was forwarded for adoption at Step 5.

Status of the Proposed Draft Codex Standard for Papaya

297. The Commission adopted the Proposed Draft Codex Standard for Papaya at Step 5, as contained in Appendix IV of ALINORM 91/35.

Consideration of the Proposed Draft Codex Standard for Mango at Step 5

298. The Commission noted that the Proposed Draft Codex Standard for Mango was forwarded for adoption at Step 5. In elaborating this standard, the Commission was also informed that the relevant quality sections of the UNECE Standard for Mangoes were taken into account.

Status of the Proposed Draft Codex Standard for Mango

299. The Commission adopted the Proposed Draft Codex Standard for Mango at Step 5, as contained in Appendix V of ALINORM 91/35.

Other matters arising from the Report of the 2nd Session of the Codex Committee on Tropical Fresh Fruits and Vegetables

Proposed Draft Codex Standards for Nopal, Prickly Pear, Carambola and Litchi

300. The Commission was informed that the 37th Session of the Executive Committee had approved the elaboration of the aforementioned standards, pending confirmation at the 19th Commission session. The Commission agreed to the elaboration of these standards.

Proposed Draft Codex Codes of Practice for the Packaging, Transport, Control and Inspection of Tropical Fresh Fruits and Vegetables

301. The Commission was informed that the 37th Session of the Executive Committee had approved the elaboration of the aforementioned Codes pending confirmation at the 19th Commission session. The Commission also noted that the Codes would be presented in two parts, namely, one code for packaging/transport and another code for control/inspection. The Commission agreed to the elaboration of the proposed draft codes.

Confirmation of Chairmanship of the Committee

302. In accordance with Rule IX.10, the Commission confirmed that the Government of Mexico should continue as Chairman and Host Government of the Committee on Tropical Fresh Fruits and Vegetables.

CODEx COMMITTEE ON FISH AND FISHERY PRODUCTS (Agenda Item 30)

303. The Commission had before it document ALINORM 91/18, the report of the 19th Session of the Committee. Mr. John Race, Chairman of the Codex Committee on Fish and Fishery Products, underlined some important items concerning the heavy work

carried out by the Committee at its last session. This had included discussions on the Draft General Standard for Quick Frozen Fish Fillets, retained at Step 6 in view of commencing the process of revision of Codex standards for fish and fishery products undertaken by the Committee.

304. The Commission was informed that the Codex Committee on Fish and Fishery Products had endorsed the approach that a Code of Practice covering all aspects of shark utilization be elaborated by the FAO Fisheries Department and that a first draft of the Code of Hygienic Practice for Products of Aquaculture, prepared by the FAO Fisheries Division through an expert consultation held in Rome in December 1990, would be presented to the Committee for consideration at its next session.

305. The Commission was also informed that the Committee had agreed that considerable emphasis needed to be placed on uniform procedures for sensoric evaluation of fish and fishery products in order to complement the standards and improve their uniform application and that the Secretariat would explore the possibility of recruiting a consultant to prepare a background paper on practical sensoric evaluation procedures for use in international trade.

Consideration at Step 5 of Proposed Draft Standard for Shark Fins

306. The Delegation of the United Kingdom pointed out that the United Kingdom did not oppose the endorsement of this proposed draft standard at Step 5 by the Commission however, it requested that it be made clear in the report that the Delegation of the United Kingdom maintained the same concern expressed during the session of the Codex Committee on Fish and Fishery Products regarding the practice of defining live sharks.

Status of the Standard

307. The Commission adopted the Proposed Draft Standard for Shark Fins at Step 5 of the Procedure.

Draft Amendments to Codex Standards for Canned Shrimps or Prawns (CODEX STAN 92-1981) and Quick Frozen Shrimps or Prawns (CODEX STAN 34-1981)

308. The Commission noted that the Codex Committee on Fish and Fishery Products had recommended the deletion of canthaxanthine and erythrosine for the two Codex standards mentioned above due to the changes introduced by the Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Food Additives on the ADI of these two colorants.

Status of Proposed Draft Amendments

309. The Commission adopted the proposed draft amendments to the Codex Standards for Canned Shrimps or Prawns and Quick Frozen Shrimps or Prawns.

Other matters arising from the Report of the 19th Session of the Committee

Review of Codex Standards for Fish and Fishery Products with regard to format, suitability and possible revision

310. The Commission was informed of the work being carried out by the Committee to review the Codex standards for Fish and Fishery Products with a view to making the standards more appropriate for their intended purpose. Emphasis would be

placed on provisions concerning food safety and consumer protection, with "non-essential" detail being transferred to Codes of Practice. The preparatory work has been carried out by a drafting group led by Canada. The Commission noted that this process of review of Codex Standards for Fish and Fishery Products was in line with the recommendations adopted by the Commission, arising from the FAO/WHO Conference on Food Standards, Chemicals in Food and Food Trade, held in March 1991. The Codex Committee on Fish and Fishery Products hoped to complete this review in approximately two years.

311. The Commission supported this review process of Codex fish and fishery products standards.

Consideration at Step 4 of the proposed draft amendment to the Codex Standard for Canned Shrimps and Prawns

312. The Commission endorsed the recommendation to withdraw the proposed draft amendment to the Codex Standard for Canned Shrimps and Prawns because the proposal did not meet the new approach being taken by the Committee on the review process of Codex standards.

Consideration of amendments to Sections 4.3.2 and 4.5.7 of the Code of Practice for Cephalopods and consequential amendments to related codes

313. The Commission noted the action of amendments to the fish codes undertaken by the Committee concerning unused ice and agreed to an automatic amendment of the fish codes.

Draft Definition of Frozen Surimi for Codex Purposes

314. The Commission noted the definition of Frozen Surimi, elaborated by the Codex Committee on Fish and Fishery Products as it appeared in Appendix IV, ALINORM 91/18 and agreed that such definition be incorporated in the volume of the Codex Alimentarius Commission dealing with fish and fishery products.

Code of Practice for Fish and Fishery Products in Controlled and Modified Atmosphere Packaging

315. The Commission was informed of the discussions carried out by the Codex Committee on Fish and Fishery Products on the importance in the fish market of controlled and modified atmosphere packaging. The Commission noted the agreement of the Executive Committee for the elaboration of a Code of Practice for such issue and supported such decision.

Methods of Analysis

316. The Commission agreed to the inclusion of the following methods of analysis in the Codex standards listed:

- Inclusion of method of water capacity of containers in Codex Standards for Canned Shrimps and Prawns;
- Inclusion of the method of net content, given in Codex Stan 94-1991 and Codex Stan 119-1981 in the Standards for Canned Pacific Salmon,

Canned Shrimps and Prawns, Canned Tuna and Bonito in Water or Oil, and Canned Crab Meat;

- Inclusion of the method of net content of products covered by glaze (CAC/RM 41-1971) in the Standard for Quick Frozen Guttled Salmon (Codex Stan 36-1981).

Proposed Amendment to the Codex Standard for Canned Crab Meat with respect to food additive provisions

317. The Commission noted that the proposed amendment referred to the inclusion of EDTA and its salts as sequestrants and colour stabilizers in canned seafood and adopted the proposed draft amendment as published in Appendix IX of ALINORM 91/18 at Step 3 of the Codex Procedure for government comments.

Confirmation of Chairmanship of the Committee

318. The Commission confirmed under Rule IX.10 that the Codex Committee on Fish and Fishery Products should continue to be under the Chairmanship of the Government of Norway.

CODEX COMMITTEE ON PROCESSED MEAT AND POULTRY PRODUCTS (Agenda Item 31)

319. The report of the 15th Session of the Codex Committee on Processed Meat and Poultry Products (ALINORM 91/16) was presented by the Chairman of the Committee, Mrs. K. Jensen (Denmark). The Commission noted that certain matters arising from the Committee were summarized in ALINORM 91/21, and that government comments submitted in response to a "Survey of Trade Problems Encountered with Processed Meat and Poultry Products in International Commerce" were contained in documents ALINORM 91/39 and LIM.4.

Draft Revised Standard for Corned Beef

320. The Commission was informed that the Codex Committee on Processed Meat and Poultry Products had agreed to advance the above standard for adoption by the Commission at Step 8.

321. Subsequent to the decision of the Codex Committee on Processed Meat and Poultry Products, the labelling provisions of this standard had been endorsed by the Codex Committee on Food Labelling while the food additive provisions had been previously endorsed at the 22nd Session of the Codex Committee on Food Additives and Contaminants. However, the 23rd Session of the Codex Committee on Food Additives and Contaminants had only temporarily endorsed the contaminant provisions for lead and tin, as they were felt to be excessively high. Several delegations reiterated their reservations on the high levels established for contaminants derived from the packaging material in this and the other Draft Standards before the Commission.

Status of the Draft Revised Standard for Corned Beef

322. The Commission adopted the Draft Revised Standard for Corned Beef at Step 8, as contained in Appendix V of ALINORM 91/16, with the understanding that the contaminant provisions for lead and tin would remain as temporarily endorsed,

pending a review by the Codex Committee on Food Additives and Contaminants and the Secretariat in the future.

Draft Revised Standard for Luncheon Meat

323. The Commission was informed that the Codex Committee on Processed Meat and Poultry Products had agreed to advance the above standard to the Commission for adoption at Step 8. The Commission was also advised that the labelling provisions were endorsed by the Codex Committee on Food Labelling, while the Codex Committee on Food Additives and Contaminants did not endorse the food additive provisions for erythrosine in view of its low ADI and possible intake from other food sources. In addition, the Codex Committee on Food Additives and Contaminants only temporarily endorsed the contaminant provisions for lead and tin.

Status of the Draft Revised Standard for Luncheon Meat

324. The Commission adopted the Draft Revised Standard for Luncheon Meat at Step 8, as contained in Appendix VI of ALINORM 91/16. This decision was taken with the understanding that the provision for erythrosine was deleted from the standard and that the food contaminant provisions for lead and tin would be dealt with as noted above.

Draft Revised Standard for Cooked Cured Ham at Step 8

325. The Commission was informed that the Codex Committee on Processed Meat and Poultry Products had agreed to advance the above standard to the Commission for adoption at Step 8. The Commission also noted that while the food labelling provisions and food additive provisions were endorsed by the Codex Committee on Food Labelling and the Codex Committee on Food Additives and Contaminants, respectively, the food contaminant provisions for lead and tin were only temporarily endorsed.

Status of the Draft Revised Standard for Cooked Cured Ham

326. The Commission adopted the Draft Revised Standard for Cooked Cured Ham, as contained in Appendix VII of ALINORM 91/16, at Step 8, with the understanding that the proposed contaminant levels for tin and lead would remain as temporarily endorsed pending their future review.

Draft Revised Standard for Pork Shoulder at Step 8

327. The Commission noted that the Codex Committee on Processed Meat and Poultry Products had agreed to advance the above standard for adoption by the Commission at Step 8. The Codex Committee on Food Additives and Contaminants, while endorsing the food additive provisions as proposed, only temporarily endorsed those contaminant provisions proposed for lead and tin. The Codex Committee on Food Labelling endorsed the labelling provisions as forwarded by the Committee.

Status of the Draft Revised Standard for Pork Shoulder

328. The Commission adopted the Draft Revised Standard for Pork Shoulder at Step 8, as contained in Appendix VIII of ALINORM 91/16, with the understanding that the lead and tin levels would remain as temporarily endorsed, pending their future review.

Draft Revised Standard for Cooked Cured Chopped Meat at Step 8

329. The Commission noted that the Codex Committee on Processed Meat and Poultry Products had agreed to advance the above standard for adoption by the Commission at Step 8. As noted above, the Codex Committee on Food Additives and Contaminants had endorsed all food additive provisions except for proposals concerning erythrosine (not endorsed), and decided to temporarily endorse the food contaminant provisions for lead and tin.

Status of the Draft Revised Standard for Cooked Cured Chopped Meat

330. The Commission adopted the Draft Revised Standard for Cooked Cured Chopped Meat, as contained in Appendix IX of ALINORM 91/16, at Step 8. In taking this decision, the Commission agreed that the food additive provision for erythrosine would be deleted and that the food contaminant provisions for lead and tin would be subject to future review.

Consideration at Step 8 of Annex D - Preservation of Shelf-Stable Cured Meat Products in Consumer Size Hermetically Sealed Containers to the International Code of Hygienic Practice for Processed Meat Products (CAC/RCP 13-1976, Rev. 1)

331. The Commission was informed that the Codex Committee on Processed Meat and Poultry Products had agreed to advance the draft annex for adoption at Step 8.

Status of Annex D

332. The Commission adopted the draft Annex as contained in Appendix II of ALINORM 91/16, at Step 8.

Consideration of Draft Guidelines for the Use of Standardized Non-Meat Protein Products in Processed Meat and Poultry Products at Step 8

333. The Commission was informed that the Codex Committee on Processed Meat and Poultry Products had agreed to advance the draft guidelines for adoption by the Commission at Step 8. The Codex Committee on Food Labelling fully endorsed those provisions of the guidelines pertaining to labelling.

334. The Commission agreed with a recommendation of the Chairman of the Committee to revise Section 5.2 of the guidelines as follows:

5.2

- (i) Its protein quality, as monitored by an internationally recognized method (such as the amino acid score corrected for digestibility*) is appropriate for the nutritional purposes of its usage.

* Recommended by the Joint FAO/WHO Expert Consultation on Protein Quality Evaluation, Bethesda, Maryland, U.S.A., 4-8 December 1989.

Status of the Draft Guidelines for the Use of Standardized Non-Meat Protein Products in Processed Meat and Poultry Products

335. The Commission adopted the draft guidelines, as contained in Appendix IV of ALINORM 91/16, at Step 8, with the understanding that the amendment to Section 5.2 (i) and its accompanying footnote as outlined above were included.

Consideration of the Proposed Draft Guide for the Microbiological Quality of Spices and Herbs Used in Processed Meat and Poultry Products at Steps 5/8

336. The Commission noted the Codex Committee on Processed Meat and Poultry Products had agreed to forward the proposed draft guide to the Commission for adoption at Steps 5/8 under the accelerated elaboration procedure (i.e., omitting Steps 6 and 7). The Commission also noted that the labelling provisions were endorsed by the Codex Committee on Food Labelling, with the understanding that all references to "bulk" containers should be changed to read as "non-retail" containers.

Status of the Proposed Draft Guide for the Microbiological Quality of Spices and Herbs Used in Processed Meat and Poultry Products

337. The Commission adopted the proposed draft guide, as contained in Appendix III of ALINORM 91/16, at Step 8, with the understanding that the labelling provisions cited above would be taken into account.

Other matters arising from the Report of the 15th Session of the Committee

Survey of Trade Problems encountered with Processed Meat and Poultry Products in International Commerce

338. The Commission was informed that the Committee had agreed to recommend its adjournment *sine die* unless substantial work was proposed in response to the above survey (CL 1991/6-PMPP) to support its continuation. The Commission noted that the survey results did not support continued activities of the Committee.

339. In response to concerns expressed by some delegations concerning the review of Codex standards with a view towards their simplification, the Commission was informed that this activity could best be accomplished through cooperation between the Codex Secretariat and the host government, and if necessary, the Committee could be reinstated to examine these issues.

Adjournment of the Committee *sine die*

340. The Commission, while expressing its appreciation to the Committee and to the Government of Denmark for its valuable work over the years, concurred that the Committee be adjourned *sine die*.

Confirmation of Chairmanship of the Committee

341. The Commission confirmed under Rule IX.10 that the Codex Committee on Processed Meat and Poultry Products should continue to be under the Chairmanship of the Government of Denmark.

CODEX COMMITTEE ON CEREALS, PULSES AND LEGUMES (Agenda Item 32)

342. The Commission had before it the report of the 7th Session of the Codex Committee on Cereals, Pulses and Legumes (ALINORM 91/29) which was presented by the Chairman of the Committee, Mr. Steven N. Tanner (United States). The Commission also noted that other matters arising from the Committee were summarized in ALINORM 91/21, and that additional comments were included in ALINORM 91/39 and ALINORM 91/39-Add.1.

Consideration of the Draft Standard for Durum Wheat Semolina and Durum Wheat Flour

343. The Commission was informed that the Standard for Durum Wheat Semolina and Durum Wheat Flour had been adopted at its 18th Session at Step 5, and that the labelling provisions had been endorsed by the Codex Committee on Food Labelling. In addition, the Commission noted that the methods of analysis and sampling had been endorsed by the Codex Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling.

Status of the Draft Standard for Durum Wheat Semolina and Durum Wheat Flour

344. The Commission adopted the Draft Standard for Durum Wheat Semolina and Durum Wheat Flour, as contained in Appendix III of ALINORM 91/29, at Step 8, (see also para. 355 below).

Consideration of the Draft Amendment of the Fat Acidity Provision in the Codex Standard for Wheat Flour at Step 8

345. The Commission noted that at its previous session the amendment to increase the provision for fat acidity in the Codex Standard for Wheat Flour from 30 mg to 50 mg KOH/100g had been adopted at Step 5. Subsequent to this decision, the Codex Committee on Cereals, Pulses and Legumes had agreed to forward the draft amendment (Section 3.3.2 - Fat Acidity) of the Codex Standard for Wheat Flour to Step 8 for adoption by the Commission, with the understanding that the corresponding AOAC method of analysis would be maintained.

Status of Draft Amendment of the Fat Acidity Provision in the Codex Standard for Wheat Flour

346. The Commission adopted the draft amendment of the Codex Standard for Wheat Flour at Step 8 (see paras. 350-351 below).

Consideration of Proposed Draft Guideline Levels for Contaminants in Cereals, Pulses and Legumes at Step 5

347. The Commission noted that the Codex Committee on Cereals, Pulses and Legumes had decided to advance the proposed draft guideline levels for arsenic, cadmium, mercury and lead in cereals, pulses and legumes through the Codex Committee on Food Additives and Contaminants for endorsement and to the Commission for adoption at Step 5.

348. The 23rd Session of the Codex Committee on Food Additives and Contaminants, while noting the difficulty in establishing guideline levels for contaminants in general as opposed to specific commodities, decided to temporarily endorse those levels proposed for arsenic, mercury and lead and postpone endorsement of cadmium. This decision was taken to allow for the Codex Committee on Cereals, Pulses and Legumes to review the proposed draft levels for lead and cadmium and to indicate the necessity for the establishment of levels for arsenic and mercury.

Status of the Proposed Draft Guideline Levels for Contaminants in Cereals, Pulses and Legumes

349. The Commission adopted the proposed draft guideline levels, as contained in para. 24 of ALINORM 91/29, at Step 5, with the understanding that the above discussion would be brought forward to the Committee for its consideration. In

addition, it was agreed that the Codex Committee on Cereals, Pulses and Legumes should clearly indicate the stage of processing for which these levels would apply.

Others matters arising from the Report of the 7th Session of the Committee

Proposed draft amendment of the Codex Standard for Wheat Flour to revise the fat acidity provision and related method of analysis

350. The Commission, while noting its agreement to adopt the draft Codex Standard for Wheat Flour (see paras. 346 above), was also informed that the Committee had agreed to consider a proposal to elaborate an additional revision of the fat acidity provision to include a new fat acidity basis and measurement related to an ISO method of analysis, with the understanding that the current revised fat acidity level and corresponding AOAC method of analysis would be maintained for the time being.

351. The Commission agreed that the current fat acidity provision and corresponding AOAC method of analysis would be maintained. However, this decision was made with the understanding that the proposal to amend this Section with a new fat acidity level and corresponding ISO method of analysis would be supported by the appropriate data and information being forwarded to the Committee. It was also agreed that this amendment, if and when proposed, would be subjected to the full Codex elaboration procedure.

Sampling Plans and Guideline Levels for Aflatoxins

352. The Commission was informed that the Committee had decided to circulate two proposed sampling plans as well as proposed draft guideline levels specific to peanuts for government comment, and also recommended the convening of an expert consultation on sampling plans for aflatoxins to examine the various issues concerning this subject.

353. The 23rd Session of the Codex Committee on Food Additives and Contaminants reviewed the proposed draft guideline levels for aflatoxins in peanuts and decided to request additional data from the Codex Committee on Cereals, Pulses and Legumes in support of the levels proposed (i.e., the levels were felt to be too high) as well as an indication of the stage of processing (i.e., ready for processing, ready for consumption, etc.) for which the levels would apply. The Codex Committee on Food Additives and Contaminants also agreed in principle with the request to FAO and WHO to consider holding an expert consultation regarding sampling plans for aflatoxins.

354. The Commission supported these proposals. However, as funds were not available to FAO or WHO to conduct such a consultation, the Commission noted that sources of funding would need to be found.

Methods of Analysis and Sampling in the Codex Standard for Durum Wheat Semolina and Durum Wheat Flour

355. The Commission, while noting that the draft standard concerned had been adopted (see para. 344), was informed that the Codex Committee on Cereals, Pulses and Legumes had agreed to elaborate a method of analysis for the determination of particle size as well as a fat acidity limit and related method of analysis as future amendments to the Standard. The Commission agreed with this procedure.

Proposals for the Elaboration of Proposed Draft Codex Standard for Oats, Durum Wheat, Wheat and Peanuts

356. The Commission noted that the Codex Committee on Cereals, Pulses and Legumes had recommended the elaboration of these proposed draft standards.

357. The Commission, while agreeing to the elaboration of proposed draft standards for oats, durum wheat and peanuts, noted that relevant standards elaborated by the International Organization for Standardization should be taken into account by the Committee when developing these standards.

Confirmation of Chairmanship of the Committee

358. The Commission confirmed under Rule IX.10 that the Codex Committee on Cereals, Pulses and Legumes should continue to be under the Chairmanship of the Government of the United States of America.

JOINT FAO/WHO COMMITTEE OF GOVERNMENT EXPERTS ON THE CODE OF PRINCIPLES CONCERNING MILK AND MILK PRODUCTS (Agenda Item 33)

359. The Report of the 22nd Session of the Joint FAO/WHO Committee of Government Experts on the Code of Principles Concerning Milk and Milk Products CX 5/70 (22nd Session) was presented by Mr. A. Oterholm (Norway).

360. The Commission noted that the Committee had agreed to advance Standards A-3 and A-4 for Evaporated and Condensed Milk respectively to Step 7 of the procedure for the elaboration of standards for milk and milk products. Group standards for Cheeses in Brine and for Uncured/Unripened Cheeses, and standards for Edible Rennet Casein and Food Grade Sweet and Acid Whey Powders had been advanced to Step 5. The Committee had also amended its Guidelines for the Designation and Presentation of Substitute Products, adopted a Definition of Sterilization of Milk. The Delegation of Egypt expressed its reservation on the decision of the Committee not to proceed with a standard for Feta Cheese and a reservation on the use of bleaching agents in the preparation of cheeses in brine.

361. The Committee had discussed the development of a proposed draft standard for low-fat dairy spreads but had agreed to initiate the preparation of a broader based standard or guideline to cover all fat spreads in consultation with the Codex Committee on Fats and Oils and other interested parties. The Commission agreed to the development of such a standard by the Codex Committee on Fats and Oils in consultation with the Milk Committee's Steering Committee, the International Dairy Federation and the International Federation of Margarine Associations. Several delegations expressed the need to ensure that the use of the term "low-fat" be closely controlled so as to prevent it from misleading consumers as to the true nature of the product.

362. The Commission noted the opinions of many delegations which expressed full support for the Committee's ongoing future work and which called for more frequent meetings of the Committee if possible. Noting the interest expressed by these delegations and also the financial constraints facing the Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme, which was fully responsible for this Committee, the Commission welcomed expressions of interest in hosting the Committee made by the delegations of Canada and France.

363. Several delegations proposed that the Milk Committee should operate along the same lines as other Codex Committees. In this regard the Commission invited the Secretariat to study the structure and the elaboration procedures of the Milk Committee in consultation with FAO and WHO Legal Counsels and report to the next Session of the Codex Committee on General Principles.

CODEX COMMITTEE ON PROCESSED FRUITS AND VEGETABLES (Agenda Item 34)

Consideration of the Draft Standard for Grated Desiccated Coconut at Step 8

364. The Commission had before it the document ALINORM 91/20 which was introduced by the Secretariat. The Commission was informed that the draft standard for grated desiccated coconut, adopted at Step 5 by the 18th Session of the Commission, had been redrafted by the Secretariat in cooperation with the Chairman of the Codex Committee on Processed Fruits and Vegetables and had been circulated for government comments through CL 1990/7-PFV. Written comments had been received from Argentina, Canada, Costa Rica, Cote d'Ivoire, Egypt, Mexico, Poland, Spain, Thailand and the United Kingdom. A redrafted standard for grated desiccated coconut, taking into account the comments received had been attached to document ALINORM 91/20.

365. The Commission noted that several sections of the draft standard had been revised and that in the Section on Analytical Characteristics two values in square brackets had been included, for Oil Content and Ash respectively, in function of some country comments related to partial extraction of fat in the product to reduce rancidity problems and washing practice with chlorinated water. The Commission was requested to remove the square brackets and to adopt the draft standard at Step 8.

Status of the Standard

366. The Commission adopted the draft standard for Grated Desiccated Coconut at Step 8 as a world-wide Standard.

Confirmation of Chairmanship of the Committee

367. The Commission confirmed under Rule IX.10 that the Codex Committee on Processed Fruits and Vegetables should continue under the Chairmanship of the United States of America.

CODEX COMMITTEE ON FATS AND OILS (Agenda Item 35)

368. For this discussion the Commission had before it ALINORM 91/17 together with ALINORM 91/17 Add. 1 and Add. 2. The papers were introduced by the Chairman of the Committee Dr. W.H.B. Denner (United Kingdom). Dr. Denner noted that the Committee had continued to work since being adjourned *sine die* after its 13th Session in 1987.

Proposed Draft Standards for Palm Olein and Palm Stearin

369. The Commission noted that substantive comments, as contained in ALINORM 91/17 Add. 1 and Add. 2 had been received on the proposed draft standards and that because of these comments it would be suitable to consider them at Step 5 only. It requested the Committee's Secretariat to incorporate the comments into revised drafts for circulation to governments at Step 6. The Commission also noted the comments of Malaysia concerning the Iodine Value and Slip Point contained in the

standards and that the UK Secretariat's recommendation for the Slip Point for Palm Stearin should be "not less than 45°C". The Delegation of Tanzania reiterated its reservations concerning the elaboration of a standard for palm stearin which in its opinion was unsuitable as a product for human consumption because of its high melting point and unsuitable fatty acid composition.

Status of the Standards

370. The Commission accepted the UK Secretariat's amendments (a) and (b) in both Appendices 1 and 2 of ALINORM 91/17 and adopted the draft standards for Palm Olein and Palm Stearin at Step 5 of its Procedure.

Future Work of the Committee

371. The Commission noted that the Committee had received a request to revise the Code of Practice for the Storage and Transport of Fats and Oils and Oils in Bulk; to revise the Standard for Olive Oil; to be responsible for the development of world-wide standards for mayonnaise (see para. 94 above); and "low-fat" spreads (see para. 361 above). The Delegation of the United Kingdom, as Chairman of the Committee noted that it may be necessary to reconvene the Committee in order to complete this work and that the possibility of holding a meeting in 1993 was being examined.

Confirmation of Chairmanship of the Committee

372. The Commission confirmed under Rule IX.10 that the Codex Committee on Fats and Oils should continue under the Chairmanship of the United Kingdom.

CODEX COMMITTEE ON SUGARS (Agenda Item 36)

373. The Commission noted that this Committee had been adjourned *sine die* and current issues had been dealt with by correspondence through the United Kingdom Secretariat. Mr. Charles Cockbill of the United Kingdom introduced a progress report on items requiring action by the Commission, ALINORM 91/27.

Proposed Draft Standard for Raw Cane Sugar at Step 5 (ALINORM 91/27(a), App. I, App. IA)

374. The Commission noted that the elaboration of this Standard had been initiated by the Codex Coordinating Committee for Latin America and the Caribbean and that the present draft had been prepared by the Delegation of Cuba in consultation with the Secretariat of the Codex Committee on Sugars. The Commission noted a proposal that raw beet sugar should also be covered by the Standard but agreed that raw beet sugar differed significantly from cane sugar and was not a significant product in world-wide trade.

Status of the Standard

375. The Commission adopted the draft at Step 5 and endorsed its further elaboration by the Codex Committee on Sugars on the understanding that the Standard will cover the product destined for direct human consumption and not for further processing.

Amendments to Codex standards for Sugar - Revision of Lead Levels (ALINORM 91/27(b) App. II)

376. The Commission recalled that at its two last sessions it had welcomed proposals made within the Codex Committee on Food Additives and Contaminants to reduce the lead provisions in all sugar standards to 1 mg/kg, except in fructose where it already was at 0.5 mg/kg (ALINORM 89/40 paras. 503-505). The Commission took note that the Codex Committee on Food Additives and Contaminants had concluded during its 23rd Session that the lead levels could be lowered significantly and had decided to recommend that the lead levels in sugars be lowered to 0.5 mg/kg (ALINORM 91/12A, paras. 158-159). Based on this decision the Codex Committee on Sugars proposed that the amendments be adopted at Step 5 and advanced by the Commission to Step 8 for final adoption.

377. Several Delegations supported maintaining the lead levels to 1 mg/kg but could not support the further lowering of this level without further study of its impact; other delegations were in favour of adopting levels of 0.5 mg/kg without delay.

Status of the Amendments

378. The Commission adopted the amended value of 0.5 mg/kg at Step 5 for further comments.

Revision of Methods of Analysis for Sugars (ALINORM 91/27(c))

379. The Commission noted that the Codex Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling had endorsed temporarily the method of analysis for sugar at its 16th Session and that no change in the status of these methods had been made at the 17th Session of the Committee (April 1991), since the requested additional information had not been made available.

380. The Commission strongly appealed to the International Commission on Uniform Methods of Sugar Analysis (ICUMSA) and ISO for further collaborative studies on the methods for sugars with a view of speeding-up their final endorsement by the CCMAS and the Commission. The Commission also recommended to the Codex Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling to consider endorsing these methods on the basis of their long use in case that this information was still not available for the next session of the Committee.

Confirmation of Chairmanship of the Committee

381. The Commission confirmed under Rule IX.10 that the Codex Committee on Sugars should continue to be under the Chairmanship of the United Kingdom.

CODEX COMMITTEE ON MEAT HYGIENE (Agenda Item 37)

382. The Commission was informed by the Delegation of New Zealand that preparations for the Sixth Session of the Committee, to be held in Rome from 14 to 18 October 1991, had been completed and that the Draft Revised Codes had been circulated to Governments for comments early in the year. The Delegation noted that this progress had been made possible by the convening of an informal working group at the invitation of the Government of New Zealand in September 1990. Experts from Argentina, New Zealand, USA, EEC, Office International des Epizooties (OIE), FAO

and WHO had participated in this meeting. It was hoped that the draft revised codes could be submitted to the 20th Session of the Commission for adoption at Step 8 following their review by the Seventh Session of the Committee scheduled to be held in Rome in March 1993.

Confirmation of Chairmanship of the Committee

383. The Commission confirmed under Rule IX.10 that the Codex Committee on Meat Hygiene should continue to be under the Chairmanship of New Zealand.

CODEX COMMITTEE ON VEGETABLE PROTEINS (Agenda Item 38)

Confirmation of Chairmanship of the Committee

384. The Commission confirmed under Rule IX.10 that the Codex Committee on Vegetable Proteins should continue to be under the Chairmanship of Canada.

CODEX COMMITTEE ON COCOA PRODUCTS AND CHOCOLATE (Agenda Item 39)

Confirmation of Chairmanship of the Committee

385. The Commission confirmed under Rule IX.10 that the Codex Committee on Cocoa Products and Chocolate should continue to be under the Chairmanship of Switzerland.

CODEX COMMITTEE ON SOUPS AND BROTHS (Agenda Item 40)

386. The Delegation of Switzerland informed the Commission that proposals for the revision of the Codex Standard for Bouillons and Consommés had been received, and in light of the Commission's decision to encourage the revision and simplification of Codex Standards this work would be initiated by the Committee by correspondence.

Confirmation of Chairmanship of the Committee

387. The Commission confirmed under Rule IX.10 that the Codex Committee on Soups and Broths should continue to be under the Chairmanship of Switzerland.

CODEX COMMITTEE ON EDIBLE ICES (Agenda Item 41)

Confirmation of Chairmanship of the Committee

388. The Commission confirmed under Rule IX.10 that the Codex Committee on Edible Ices should continue to be under the Chairmanship of Sweden.

CODEX COMMITTEE ON NATURAL MINERAL WATERS (Agenda Item 42)

389. The Commission was informed that the conversion of the existing Codex European Regional Standard for Natural Mineral Waters (CODEX STAN 108-1981) would be carried out initially by correspondence at Step 3 (See also paragraph 94 above).

Confirmation of Chairmanship of the Committee

390. The Commission confirmed under Rule IX.10 that the Codex Committee on Natural Mineral Water should continue to be under the Chairmanship of Switzerland, and that it would operate as a World-wide Committee.

CODEX COMMITTEE ON GENERAL PRINCIPLES

Confirmation of Chairmanship of the Committee

391. The Commission confirmed under Rule IX.10 that the Codex Committee on General Principles should continue to be under the Chairmanship of France.

REPORT ON THE STATUS OF INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS FOR COFFEE

(Agenda Item 43)

392. The Commission had before it document ALINORM 91/38, prepared by the Secretariat on the basis of replies received to Circular Letter CL 1990/13-CAC. The Commission noted that the question of whether or not the Commission should elaborate standards for tea and coffee has been raised many times, most recently at the 6th Session of the Coordinating Committee for Asia and the 18th Session of the Commission.

393. The Commission noted that the majority of replies received did not support work being undertaken in this area. Considering the existing work carried out by ISO in this area, it was not considered appropriate for the Commission to duplicate or repeat this work. The International Organization for Standardization (ISO) was invited to keep the Secretariat informed of any new standards being considered and it was suggested that the Codex Circular Letter system could be used to ensure that the opinions of Codex Member countries not members of ISO could be transmitted to the ISO committees concerned.

394. The Commission further noted that Codex Committees working in certain general subject areas (additives, contaminants, pesticide residues and labelling) would, under the new horizontal approach, consider some aspects of standards applying to coffee from the broader perspective and that this should ensure consumer protection and minimize barriers to trade in so far as health protection measures are concerned.

FUTURE WORK (Agenda Item 44)

395. Given the major programme of review of the procedures and content of the Commission's existing standards, the Commission decided that it would be inappropriate to consider additional new work.

PROVISIONAL TIMETABLE OF CODEX SESSIONS 1992-93 (Agenda Item 45)

396. The Commission had before it ALINORM 91/25, a Provisional Timetable of Codex Sessions prepared by the Secretariat. It noted a number of amendments would be required as a result of decisions taken at the Commission's present session, especially in regard to the establishment of a new Codex Committee on Export and Import Inspection and Certification, and the possible convening of an additional

session of the Codex Committee on General Principles. It was also noted that the Codex Regional Coordinating Committee for Africa would meet in Abuja, Nigeria at a date to be determined in 1992. The Delegation of Hungary informed the Commission that the next Session of the Codex Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling would most likely be held in Budapest in early 1993.

397. The Commission noted with concern the problem of having meetings in the month of April in the year of a Commission session, which left little time for the finalization of reports and their distribution to Member Governments in time for study and comment.

OTHER BUSINESS (Agenda Item 46)

398. The Delegation of Mexico stated that the newly established Committee on Export and Import Inspection and Certification, to be hosted by Australia, would be considering highly significant matters of importance to developing countries, and called for the early implementation of proposals aimed at assisting the participation of developing countries at Codex meetings.

Statement by the Delegation of Austria

399. The Delegation of Austria, speaking on the occasion of the Centenary of the *Codex Alimentarius Austriacus*, outlined the historical developments leading from that time to the present international Codex Alimentarius Commission. The Statement of the Delegation is attached to the present report as Appendix 5.

VALEDICTION

400. The Commission expressed its fullest appreciation of the work of its outgoing Chairman, Ir. E.R. Méndez. It noted that Ir. Méndez had been associated with the Commission for very many years and had held the office of Vice Chairman on three separate occasions, over a period of 10 years before being elected to the office of Chairman. It wished Ir. Méndez and his family greatest success and happiness in the years ahead.

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¹The heads of delegations are listed first; alternates, advisers and consultants are listed in alphabetical order.

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

Figuran en primer lugar los Jefes de las delegaciones; los Suplentes, Asesores y Consultores aparecen por orden alfabético.

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Opening Statement by Dr. B.P. Dutia
Assistant Director-General
Economic and Social Policy Department, FAO
to the
Nineteenth Session of the
CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION

1 July 1991

Mr. Chairman;
Honourable Delegates and Observers;
Ladies and Gentlemen:

It is indeed a great pleasure for me to welcome you, on behalf of the Director-General of FAO, Mr Edouard Saouma and the Director-General of WHO, Dr. Nakajima, to the Nineteenth Session of the FAO/WHO Codex Alimentarius Commission.

This meeting of the Commission comes at an opportune time. Four years ago, when the Director-General addressed you, changes were being initiated so that the Commission would be able to better respond to the challenges of the coming years. Little did we know at that time just how great these challenges would be, or that they would indeed lead to priorities for the first decades of the next Century. I speak, of course, of changes in world trade and political and economic systems, as well as the ambitious programme outlined in the course of the Uruguay Round of Multilateral Trade Negotiations for the harmonization of national regulations relating to Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures and Barriers, and the fact that the negotiations have agreed to give a central place in the food field to the Codex Alimentarius standards and other guidelines in providing the scientific basis of this programme. Other challenges related to improving nutritional status of all populations, making foods more nutritious and accessible to all are to be addressed by the FAO/WHO sponsored International Conference on Nutrition which will be held in Rome in December 1992. The outcome of this first intergovernmental conference on nutrition on the global level would have many implications for future Codex work.

IMPLICATIONS OF THE GATT URUGUAY ROUND

The Uruguay Round is not yet completed and there are tough questions that still need to be satisfactorily resolved. However, there is a broad consensus on the objectives of the Round insofar as sanitary and phytosanitary regulations are concerned. This is not to say that there may not be a few surprises. There is the need to address the fears of those consumers who feel that the liberalization of trade in agricultural and food products could lead to a lowering of national standards and thus pose a threat to public health. It is therefore necessary to clearly explain that Codex standards provide adequate consumer protection when properly applied, and that national standards whose increased strictness cannot be justified scientifically do not truly offer greater protection to the consumer, but can be *and are* used as barriers to trade. One of the new concepts to arise from the Uruguay Round is that of recognizing the equivalence of different food control systems. Although actions taken to control the safety of foods in different countries may differ in detail because of their different administrative systems

and climatic conditions and agricultural practices, systems can be equivalent provided that these different approaches result in foods of undoubted safety and good quality. Only such a system based on the principle of equivalence can ensure that the rich variety of the world's food production is accessible to all.

ENSURING THE RESOURCES TO MEET NEW CHALLENGES

How is the Codex Alimentarius Commission to meet these great challenges now, and to ensure that it retains both the flexibility to meet new ones while continuing its reputation for scientific soundness and rigor. Certainly, from a technical point of view your deliberations in the next 10 days will show the way. But there are other, and even greater obstacles to be overcome in achieving the reality of a truly effective Joint Food Standards Programme. FAO, which provides some 83 per cent of the Programme's resources, continues to face a severe financial crisis. Nonetheless, the FAO Conference in November 1991 will be requested for the biennium 1992/93 to maintain the Codex Programme at a level similar to that of the current biennium, and to approve an increase in the resources for the Food Quality and Consumer Protection Programme to strengthen the FAO/GATT/Codex cooperation. But even these positive steps could be threatened unless all Member Governments pay their assessed contributions in full and promptly. Regrettably, the recent experience on this score leaves much to be desired. If FAO has to operate with insufficient funds due to some Member Governments failing to meet their obligations, even programmes of high priority such as the Codex Alimentarius cannot be implemented efficiently and effectively.

There are other challenges facing the Commission in the 1990's. The main body of the Commission's work over the past 30 years, its standards and other guidelines to member countries, has still not received the recognition it requires in terms of formal acceptance by governments of Codex Standards. There have been several reasons put forward to explain this anomaly, even though it is generally recognized that the Codex work is invaluable to world trade. In order to improve on this situation, the FAO/WHO Conference on Food Standards, Chemicals in Food and Food Trade has recommended simplification of procedures, more transparency in decision-making, and simplification of the standards themselves so that they retain essential elements, while eliminating unwarranted sanitary and technical barriers to trade. The Conference also recommended that the Commission adjust its procedures in a way which would make the process of standards setting more responsive to the urgent needs of governments, consumers and the food trade and industry. This is one of the challenges facing the present session of the Commission: to take the hard decisions to move ahead and simplify some of the complex Codex procedures which can impede progress and strengthen overall Codex clarity and effectiveness.

Another challenge is to take clear, practical decisions which have relevance to trade within the context of consumer protection. In this regard, the Commission must be aware of new trends and developments, and be ready to apply them to its needs. Many countries, particularly developed countries, have realized that placing exclusive emphasis on the inspection of foods at the point of import or export, or of sale, is not the most productive technique. Control of the food process, from the point of harvest or slaughter, to the time that the food reaches the consumer is essential. But this control cannot be carried out by government alone. A strong reliance must be placed on food producers, processors and shippers to institute adequate quality control systems to assure food quality and safety throughout the food chain, with government regulatory authorities playing the role of controller and monitor to assure that quality control procedures are adequate. Only in this way can we reach the point where mutual recognition of the competence of import and export control authorities can be attained. This can also lead to harmonization of the certification process, which is a new area of thought in the food field, but one which has been successfully studied and applied by many non-food industries. It has the potential to become an even greater facilitator of

trade than the establishment and acceptance of standards. The total quality assurance concept embodied in this process provides greater assurance of safety to consumers and minimizes processing losses and costs. FAO and WHO agree that the Codex Alimentarius Commission should study the implications of agreeing on internationally harmonized guidelines for the application of this concept.

It is true that the burden of meeting the new challenges facing the Commission will fall heavily on the Commission's subsidiary bodies. Codex Committees, generously hosted by Member countries, may find that their work loads will increase dramatically, and that there will be a greater demand for precision and rigour in arriving at final recommendations. I invite these Committees to exploit their relative advantages in their areas of competence, and establish clear objectives as ways of providing clear and precise recommendations to the Commission and governments.

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON NUTRITION

Mr. Chairman, access to a reliable, safe and nutritious food supply is a basic need for all people, and ensuring the safety and nutritional value of foods is one of the essential themes of FAO's mission. The International Conference on Nutrition, organized jointly by FAO and WHO and to be held here in Rome in December 1992, is a concrete expression of FAO's commitment to these goals. The Conference will examine all aspects of nutrition and their implication for both developing and the developed nations. It will include in its discussions the question of food quality and safety and the protection of food against contamination and losses and the role of Codex will receive a great deal of attention. Preparations for the Conference are underway: Governments have been invited to nominate national Focal Points to draw together the views of the different national sectors working in wide-ranging aspects of nutrition. Special emphasis is being placed on government inputs at the national and regional levels through country papers, seminars and regional and sub-regional workshops. Non-governmental organizations are being invited to participate in the preparations and in the Conference itself. Unfortunately, although FAO and WHO have guaranteed funds to ensure the successful holding of the Conference itself, the preparatory activities at national and regional levels will be dependent on extra-budgetary resources, which we are currently actively seeking.

ONE HUNDRED YEARS OF THE *CODEX ALIMENTARIUS AUSTRIACUS*

Mr. Chairman, as the delegates know, for many centuries societies have taken action to protect crops from losses both qualitative and quantitative, and to protect food from spoilage in order to maintain its nutritive and commercial value. Societies have also recognized that the fraudulent adulteration of food has negative social and economic consequences. One hundred years ago, in October 1891 to be precise, a decision was made in Vienna to establish a *Codex Alimentarius Austriacus* which would seek to protect the legitimate interests of consumers and establish uniform principles for testing and evaluating foods for safety. This idea of codified food standards was the forerunner of today's international Codex Alimentarius Commission. Thus FAO congratulates the far-sighted Authorities of Austria on the centennial anniversary of the *Codex Alimentarius Austriacus*.

Mr. Chairman, the current session of the Commission is the last one in which we will see you guiding the deliberations of the Commission. The Rules of the Commission require that new officers be elected at this session. You have been associated with the Commission for very many years and have held the office of Vice Chairman on three separate occasions, over a period of 10 years before being elected to the high office of Chairman - the first ever Chairman of the Commission from a developing country. You have carried out your functions with enthusiasm and with dignity, and you have presided over a period of great significance to the

history of the Codex Alimentarius Commission, which has seen Codex Standards recognized as instruments for world development. On behalf of the Director-General of FAO and the Director-General of WHO as well as on my own behalf, I take this opportunity to congratulate you on your achievements, and the other Members of the Commission who have supported you in achieving this accomplishment.

Mr. Chairman, I wish you all success in the deliberations of the Commission in the days ahead. Thank-you.

Reply by the Chairman of the Codex Alimentarius Commission
to the Opening Statement by the Assistant Director-General,
Economic and Social Policy Department, FAO

Mr. Assistant Director-General,

Thank you for your kind words. It is indeed a pleasure for me to be back in Rome at the FAO Headquarters for this Nineteenth Session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission.

This Session is of special significance for me as it will be the last one in which I shall serve as Chairman of the Commission. I had the honour of being elected Chairman four years ago in this very hall and so have always been aware and proud of belonging to our large Codex family. I first participated in a Commission session 25 years ago. However my chairmanship has, as you mentioned, taken place during a highly interesting and significant period for the Codex Alimentarius. Not only have we seen a move towards the use of Codex standards in the discussions of the Uruguay Round of the GATT Negotiations and the International Trade in Food, we have also witnessed an increased participation on the part of the developing countries in the Codex - clear evidence of its important role for both developing and developed countries.

The Commission's work has been particularly important in the Codex Regional Committees. Their meetings have provided national delegates with an excellent opportunity to understand the benefits of using Codex standards in national legislation and in food import and export requirements and have enabled them to understand how it operates at both the national and regional levels. There has been active participation in the Commission's decisions and opportunities to voice regional and national standpoints. I have been able to attend virtually all the Coordinating Committee meetings during my terms of office and have been gratified to note how these have served to promote the Codex world-wide.

I am particularly proud that during my chairmanship a developing country - my country, Mexico - has for the first time hosted a Codex Committee - the Committee on Tropical Fresh Fruits and Vegetables - and that, even in its short existence, standards have been formulated for adoption as standards recommended during this Session of the Commission. Countries from all the regions have participated in the work of this Committee.

I have also witnessed the planning, development and completion of the extremely successful meeting last March of the FAO/WHO Conference on Food Standards, Chemicals in Food and Food Trade. I must congratulate FAO and the World Health Organization on their vision in having organized such a conference and I must congratulate the Secretariat on its magnificent effort in having accomplished this work in such a short time. FAO merits a special word for its recognition of this Conference and for its generosity in making these facilities available and providing interpretation and translation services. The Conference's recommendations will be discussed at length during this Session. In the Executive Committee we have already come to understand the forceful and dynamic impact that these will have on the work and future of the Codex.

Mr. Assistant Director-General,

Another important development to have taken place during these last four years has been the progress made within the Uruguay Round of the GATT Negotiations regarding sanitary barriers to trade - of major interest to the countries

represented here today. You yourself have underlined what this means for the Codex Alimentarius Commission. Progress within GATT has been mirrored by the increase in free trade treaties in different parts of the world. Many only consider trade flows towards Europe, but such treaties are in operation or are under consideration for negotiation in Asia, the South-West Pacific and America. I have had the chance to participate in the free trade treaty between Canada, the United States of America and Mexico and in the Cono Sur treaty between Brazil, Paraguay, Uruguay, Argentina and Chile. We cannot deny the importance of the Codex standards and of the pesticide maximum residue limits in these areas. They represent our common means of communication - our universal language.

The Uruguay Round has emphasized the sanitary or health aspects of the Codex standards and the Conference which took place here in March put forward recommendations which will highlight this aspect in the work of the Codex. However, Dr. Dutia, there are many Codex standards which contain additional information on the quality characteristics that a product should possess to be accepted by purchasers on the world market. Though these characteristics are not always considered part of the national regulatory requirements, they are more than descriptive models of market agreements between buyer and seller. The opening of trade must take into account the quality descriptions of marketed products, even if only to protect the purchaser and the consumer from fraud due to inadequate labelling. There is a need for identity standards for certain kinds of products as these give a degree of legitimacy to, or a recognition of the importance of, the trade of these products. The recognition of the commercial validity of the standards for fresh tropical fruits and vegetables being placed on the international market is seen as an instrument for market development. Our positive experience has been precisely the case of tropical fruits and vegetables and there are many such cases. This important Codex information is vital to developing countries and should not be lost as we draw nearer to so-called simple horizontal standards.

Standards, Mr. Assistant Director-General, though well accepted, are not sufficient for us in the developing countries to understand the benefits of the Uruguay Round or the free trade treaties. I know that FAO and WHO have been particularly active in promoting the use of Codex standards in both the domestic and external food market by reinforcing the food control programmes, the certification services and the establishment of networks and related training centres. These are extremely welcome farsighted activities which benefit the consumers in industrialized countries as they find a greater variety of high-quality and safe products from our countries in their supermarkets. Dr. Dutia, I am aware of the support that FAO has given to the Latin American region to guarantee the quality and safety of our export products and of foods sold in the street and offset the regrettable cholera epidemic that has broken out. We should like you to thank Dr. Saouma, on our behalf, for his action.

Mr. Assistant Director-General,

You kindly informed us of the International Conference on Nutrition and we recognize the importance that both FAO and WHO have attached to this. Man has always sought to meet his nutritional needs by facilitating the purchase or sale of domestic and imported foods which meet recognized quality and safety standards. This extends from making food available where most needed to convincing the most demanding consumer of the possibility of obtaining safe and nutritionally balanced food through normal distribution channels. There are sometimes enormous imbalances in the pursuit of these goals. I believe that the International Conference on Nutrition will provide you with an opportunity to attract the attention of our governments and to provide them with action plans to fulfil this objective. I can assure you that the Codex Alimentarius Commission - with its implicit interest in

nutritional quality, information and safety - will be at your disposal for any assistance you may need.

Finally, Mr. Assistant Director-General, I should like to express my personal gratitude to FAO and to Dr. Saouma for the continuous and strong support given to the Codex programme despite the difficult times the Organization has been going through. I am extremely pleased not only to have led the Commission during these interesting years but also to have been Chairman at a time when its work has received universal recognition. I give due credit to my predecessors and their work - I thank them and I thank the Secretariat for its invaluable and efficient help. These four years have provided me with many friends and have been an unforgettable experience.

I take this opportunity to promise you my full and continuing support. Thank you.

MEMBERS OF THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION

1. Algeria	47. Germany	94. Panama
2. Angola	48. Ghana	95. Papua New Guinea
3. Antigua and Barbuda	49. Greece	96. Paraguay
4. Argentina	50. Grenada	97. Peru
5. Australia	51. Guatemala	98. Philippines
6. Austria	52. Guinea Bissau	99. Poland
7. Bahrain	53. Guinea	100. Portugal
8. Bangladesh	54. Guyana	101. Qatar
9. Barbados	55. Haiti	102. Republic of Korea
10. Belgium	56. Honduras	103. Romania
11. Benin	57. Hungary	104. Rwanda
12. Bolivia	58. Iceland	105. Samoa
13. Botswana	59. India	106. Santa Lucia
14. Brazil	60. Indonesia	107. Saudi Arabia
15. Bulgaria	61. Iraq	108. Senegal
16. Burkina Faso	62. Ireland	109. Seychelles
17. Burundi	63. Islamic Rep. of Iran	110. Sierra Leone
18. Cambodia	64. Israel	111. Singapore
19. Cameroon	65. Italy	112. Spain
20. Canada	66. Jamaica	113. Sri Lanka
21. Cape Verde	67. Japan	114. Sudan
22. Central African Republic	68. Jordan	115. Suriname
23. Chad	69. Kenya	116. Swaziland
24. Chile	70. Kiribati	117. Sweden
25. China	71. Kuwait	118. Switzerland
26. Colombia	72. Lebanon	119. Syria
27. Congo	73. Lesotho	120. Tanzania
28. Costa Rica	74. Liberia	121. Thailand
29. Côte d'Ivoire	75. Libya	122. Togo
30. Cuba	76. Luxembourg	123. Trinidad and Tobago
31. Cyprus	77. Madagascar	124. Tunisia
32. Czechoslovakia	78. Malawi	125. Turkey
33. Democratic People's Rep. of Korea	79. Malaysia	126. U.S.A.
34. Denmark	80. Malta	127. U.S.S.R.
35. Dominica	81. Mauritius	128. Uganda
36. Dominican Republic	82. Mexico	129. United Arab Emirates
37. Ecuador	83. Morocco	130. United Kingdom
38. Egypt	84. Mozambique	131. Uruguay
39. El Salvador	85. Myanmar	132. Venezuela
40. Equatorial Guinea	86. Nepal	133. Viet Nam
41. Ethiopia	87. Netherlands	134. Yemen
42. Fiji	88. New Zealand	135. Yugoslavia
43. Finland	89. Nicaragua	136. Zaire
44. France	90. Nigeria	137. Zambia
45. Gabon	91. Norway	138. Zimbabwe
46. Gambia	92. Oman	
	93. Pakistan	

RECOMMENDATIONS AND CONSENSUS STATEMENTS OF THE FAO/WHO CONFERENCE
ON FOOD STANDARDS, CHEMICALS IN FOOD AND FOOD TRADE HAVING IMPLICATIONS
FOR THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION

1. The Conference

- Agreed that more needed to be done to involve consumers in decision-making, both at the national and international levels (para. 30)
- Recognized that Codex standards and procedures needed to gain consumer confidence, and that a good way to achieve this would be to include representative views of consumers at national and international levels, using different means relating to different national situations (para. 33), and
- Adopted the following Recommendations addressed to Member Governments, and international organizations for these purposes (para. 33)

(i) To Increase Consumer Participation at National Level:

(a) In countries without a developed consumer movement

Governments and international organizations should stimulate consumer awareness of food quality and safety matters, including the work of the Codex Alimentarius Commission, by giving information via the media, existing relevant organizations and other appropriate fora, and encouraging consumer participation in decision-making. Governments could draw on advice and technical assistance available from the relevant international organizations.

(b) In countries with a developed consumer movement:

Governments should be encouraged to consider setting up a regular consultative procedure (e.g. a national Codex advisory group) in which the representative views of consumers are given equal consideration with the views of producers, industry and trade

(ii) To Increase Consumer Participation at International Level:

(a) It should be recognized that consumer representatives in national delegations can be helpful, but that the prime focus should be on regular consultation with consumers when deciding national positions before Codex and related meetings.

(b) Governments should encourage support and funding for consumer experts and representatives to participate in Codex and other food quality and safety work.

(iii) Information and Support

(a) FAO/WHO should consider producing short, accessible summaries of Codex issues and discussions for public distribution.

- (b) National Codex Contact Points should be given guidelines and support on the best ways to disseminate information to relevant organizations, including consumers' organizations.

2. The Conference:

- Agreed that the process of harmonizing national food regulations to bring them into line with international standards and recommendations was an urgent one, which needed to be accelerated (para. 47)

3. The Conference:

- Reaffirmed that Codex standards could assist countries in achieving higher levels of exports (para. 53)

4. The Conference:

- Welcomed recent action taken by the Codex Committee on Food Additives and Contaminants to establish a special working group to elaborate in detail a general standard for food additives, and, in particular, called upon governments, in formulating their national input to this work, to maintain close liaison with consumer groups as well as industry (para. 65)
- Strongly endorsed the use of a "horizontal" approach as the main strategy for the control of additives in food (para. 61) and
- Adopted a Recommendation addressed to the Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC) that it (the CAC) take action to proceed in this manner (para. 61) and further
- Adopted a Recommendation addressed to the CAC that it (the CAC) explore the same horizontal approach in other areas, for example, in relation to chemical and microbiological contaminants, and methods of analysis and sampling (para. 62).

5. The Conference:

- Agreed that provisions essential for consumer protection (health, safety of food, etc.) should be the focus of emphasis in Codex standards, and although recognizing the importance of such provisions as those relating to styles, types of pack, sizes, defects, etc. agreed that the elaboration of such provisions should be limited to very special circumstances, since they might be capable of creating barriers to trade (paras. 77 and 78)
- Recognized, following on the above, the need to develop procedures for the review and possible re-structuring of existing Codex standards (para. 79)
- Noted that the Codex Committee on Fish and Fishery Products had already commenced a review of fish standards (para. 79), and
- Agreed to forward the following Recommendations to the CAC for consideration:
 - (a) The Conference emphasized the importance of Committees focusing their efforts on the elaboration of horizontal provisions in

Codex standards as related to consumer protection (i.e. health, safety) and facilitation of international trade. The importance of eliminating detail, where appropriate, was also recognized as a major factor in simplifying standards and facilitating government acceptance of Codex standards. The Conference recommended that these matters be taken up by the Commission. The deliberations of the Codex Committee on Fish and Fishery Products in this regard should also be taken into account.

- (b) As an initial step, it was agreed that for the next session of the Commission existing Codex standards would need to be reviewed, on the basis of a paper to be prepared by the Secretariat, in the light of acceptances and in relation to their importance in international trade, with a view to their simplification. It was noted that government comments should be solicited to facilitate the prioritization of standards needing revision.

6. The Conference agreed to forward the following Recommendations to the CAC for consideration.

- (i) Although the Conference recognized the importance of past FAO and WHO initiatives towards assisting developing countries in participating in Codex activities, it urged the Commission to reaffirm the effectiveness of detailed written comments which should be fully considered and discussed at Codex meetings, especially comments from countries not able to be represented at meetings.
- (ii) The Conference suggested a review of mechanisms to facilitate developing country participation, which might include extra-budgetary resources, pre-session workshops and a possible amendment of Codex Rules of Procedure (Rule XI.4) regarding national delegation financing.

7. The Conference:

- Noted the importance of the Uruguay Round of Multilateral Trade Negotiations in relation to the work of the CAC, in that the draft GATT Agreement would accord a new international status to Codex standards, guidelines and other recommendations on health matters within the terms of the General Agreement, and would mean that GATT Contracting Parties could be required to justify deviations from the health-related components of Codex standards, regardless of a country's position in regard to acceptance (paras. 82, 83 and 84).

8. The Conference:

- Strongly supported the proposed modification to the Acceptance Procedure which would enable countries to notify "free distribution" of foods conforming to Codex standards (para. 88).

9. The Conference:

- Agreed that there was a need to expedite the elaboration and review of Codex standards and other Codex recommendations (para. 89)

10. The Conference recommended:

- (i) Establishing an early review programme to examine all Codex standards as to their current relevance and sound scientific basis, with a view to facilitating international trade. This should include prioritization of standards to be examined.
- (ii) Ensuring the timeliness of Codex procedures for the establishment and review of standards. Procedures might be required to examine standards on a periodic basis.
- (iii) Requesting all Codex Committees, as well as JECFA and JMPR, to continue to base their evaluations on suitable scientific principles and to ensure necessary consistency in their risk assessment determinations.

11. The Conference also recommended to the Codex Alimentarius Commission that as quickly as possible it should:

- (a) review its acceptance procedures with a view to adoption of a new category of acceptance in the form of positive notification of free distribution of products conforming to Codex standards;
- (b) review its other forms of acceptance, especially that of Acceptance with Specified Deviations, to determine if they are still appropriate and necessary;
- (c) review its procedures for the elaboration of standards to provide for the elimination of steps 6 and 7, in cases where this was considered necessary or appropriate by a majority of the delegations at Codex committee meetings and confirmed by a two-thirds majority of the delegations at the Commission, in the same manner as currently applied to the adoption procedure for maximum residue limits.
- (d) consider the rationalization of its work on commodity-specific standards;
- (e) strengthen the horizontal work of its General Subject Committees so that matters of general importance such as labelling, additives, contaminants, and methods of analysis and sampling, would be handled entirely by the General Subject Committee concerned. These Committees would be the main source of direction in these areas and would not be dependent on proposals or provisions put forward by Commodity Committees. This was seen to be necessary if the Commission was to encompass all foods moving in international trade and to provide general guidance.

12. The Conference:

- Agreed that, for the time being, there was no need to divide the Codex Committee on Food Additives and Contaminants into two separate Codex committees (para. 90)

13. The Conference:

- Requested the CAC to re-examine the structure of its Executive Committee to consider whether the Codex Regional Coordinators should be members of the Executive Committee and thus have the right to vote, or, if this was not possible, to better define the functions of Codex Regional Representatives (para. 95)

14. The Conference:

- Adopted Recommendations concerning the importance of information on good agricultural practice (GAP) as a factor in increasing acceptances of Codex maximum residue limits (MRLs) for pesticides, which read as follows:
 - "(i) JMPR should be provided with complete and timely toxicology and residue data. This should include specific GAP information reflecting nationally approved uses.
 - (ii) JMPR and CCPR should make every effort to inform countries about the basis for evaluation, so as to increase the transparency of the process and to take steps to resolve differences in approach which might arise, between CCPR and JMPR and national authorities. This should ultimately lead to more acceptances of Codex MRLs.
 - (iii) GAP information provided to the JMPR should be under constant review and reflect effects on the environment, to the degree that this is possible.
 - (iv) FAO should consider the manner in which assistance could be given to developing countries for the purpose of generating GAP data."

15. The Conference:

- Adopted a Recommendation that governments, FAO and WHO should work to assure proper resources for CAC activities, as well as for JECFA, JMPR and other scientific support expert committees, in line with the priorities established at the Conference (para. 124).

16. The Conference:

- Adopted a Recommendation that the CAC and the relevant Codex Committees responsible for the development of standards, codes of practice or guidelines concerned with the protection of human health should make explicit the methods they have used to assess risk (para. 210).

17. The Conference:

- Adopted Recommendations to the effect that (i) the activities of JECFA should be enlarged, subject to certain provisos, to cover new food products derived from biotechnology, (ii) the CAC should review such new food products from the point of view of nutrition and labelling, and (iii) the CCFAC should be asked to establish priorities on work on new products to be assigned to JECFA.

18. The Conference recommended that a high priority should be placed on the evaluation by JECFA of migrants from packaging materials and that the Codex Committee on Food Additives and Contaminants (CCFAC) should allocate priorities for individual substances.

19. The Conference:

- Adopted a Recommendation addressed to the CAC asking it (the CAC) to give consideration to the establishment of a committee that would deal with import/export control problems, with the proviso that the committee review the need for its continuing activity after two sessions (para. 192).

- Also adopted a Recommendation that the proposed new committee should develop guidelines as opposed to standards (para. 192).
- Agreed that the Secretariat should prepare a paper on possible terms of reference for the proposed new committee, for review by the CAC at its July 1991 session. The Chairman stated that the Secretariat would consider the views of the Codex Coordinating Committee for Latin America and the Caribbean about certification when developing the terms of reference for the proposed new committee (paras. 193 and 196).

20. The Conference:

- Recognized that there was a general problem of hygienic production of foods, which was a very important problem from the point of view of public health protection and one which had repercussions on the movement of food in world trade (para. 205).
- Adopted a Recommendation addressed to WHO, FAO and the CAC to the effect that they give priority attention to the subject of microbiological contamination of foods and increase their efforts in this area (para. 205).

STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF AUSTRIA

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen, dear Colleagues,

It is a privilege to speak at this meeting today about the 100th anniversary of the Austrian codex, the Codex Alimentarius Austriacus, and about its eventual relevance to our worldwide Codex Alimentarius Commission.

Endeavours in Austria to create uniform principles for testing and evaluation of foodstuffs date back to the year 1891. On the occasion of an "International Exhibition for Foods and Household Needs from the Hygienic Point of View", organized in Vienna, food chemists and microscopians met and decided to create a "Scientific Commission for Establishing a Codex Alimentarius Austriacus". The first meeting of this Commission and birthday of Codex was on 13 October, 1891. It was actually a purely private initiative reflecting the concern for the fact that the establishment of an Austrian Food Law did not proceed well at that time. Other countries had already food laws, Italy since 1860, Germany 1879, France 1885, not to speak of England, where comparable regulations had existed long before.

The actual development of the Austrian Food Law lasted from 1880 to 1896. The concept of codex and the base it provided speeded up that development and the work of codex was already acknowledged with gratitude by the government after 2 years, in 1893. After 7 years 21 chapters were finished, they included subjects like "fats and oils", "bread", "milk", "cheese", "meat and meat products", "cereals".

Basic concepts for definitions of "deception", "adulteration", "hazard to human health" were laid down at that time. If one takes into consideration the resolutions of the last food conference (FAO/WHO Conference on Food Standards, Rome, 18-27 March, 1991) one may judge how prudently and foresightedly the first works at the Codex Alimentarius Austriacus started.

It may be noteworthy that by the very strict and puristic semantic criteria of the late 19th century the chosen term "codex" was criticized; in a debate in parliament it was said that codex means something final, while this codex alimentarius had to be flexible, adapting not only to new products but also to constantly improving analytical methods.

In 1907 the commission, having worked on a private basis up to that time, became an official one.

It must be emphasized especially that the individual chapters were compiled under consideration of every group which might have been interested in the subject. This means that the work was done entirely on a cooperative basis. The records of this time show clearly that guidelines and principles for foods were elaborated in the legitimate interests of the consumers without neglecting producer or trade interests. Care was taken to consider also regional conditions and traditions which were sometimes quite different from one another in the multinational Central European community of that time.

After publication of the first edition of the Codex Alimentarius Austriacus in the year 1910 the commission did not dissolve but continued work for supplementing and modernizing with respect to the development of technology and the rapid change of production conditions.

Codex continued to serve its purpose well also after 1918, not only in Austria itself, but also in the other newly founded states of Central Europe, Hungary, Czechoslovakia, Poland and Yugoslavia. In Austria up to 1938 a second edition of codex was published with 48 chapters.

Although being an official commission it was not embodied in the Food Law formally before its amendment 1950. Federal Minister Frenzel was the pushing force of this development and presided the commission later on. The composition of this commission as defined by the law strongly reflects the principle of what we call in Austria "social partnership"; agricultural and industrial producers are equally represented as trade unions, employees and the national consumer organization. Other members are the ministries and scientists.

For understandable reasons a strong desire for international cooperation and partnership emerged after the war and contributed to the concept of an international codex. In 1953 at a meeting of food scientists in the FRG Austria's Minister Frenzel for the first time presented the idea of a European codex. The name Codex Alimentarius Europaeus was stimulating indeed, discussions continued at many meetings, in particular in Berne in 1954, in Amsterdam 1956, in Mainz 1957 and finally in 1958 in Paris, where 15 countries were invited by the French Ministry of Agriculture and the Commission Internationale des Industries Agricole and Frenzel was elected 1st president of the European Council of the Codex Alimentarius. The first session of this Council took place on 12 June 1958 in Vienna. In the following years the number of countries participating increased to 21. It should be mentioned that Poland was a very active member contributing to improved contacts between East and West. It should also be mentioned that at those sessions representatives of FAO and WHO were present.

With all due respect for the successful work of the European codex it became clear soon that efforts for cooperation in the food sector should not be restricted to one continent. Members of the European codex and representatives of FAO and WHO entered into discussions with the result that the two UN organizations established an international body, the Codex Alimentarius Commission. The founding conference took place in Geneva in October 1962 with 40 countries participating.

I come to the end now because as far as Codex history since 1962 is concerned some of you will know much more than I do. In any case, the term Codex Alimentarius still symbolizes what it was meant to be at its beginning 100 years ago, namely cooperation of experts and flexibility to changes in technology and to scientific progress.