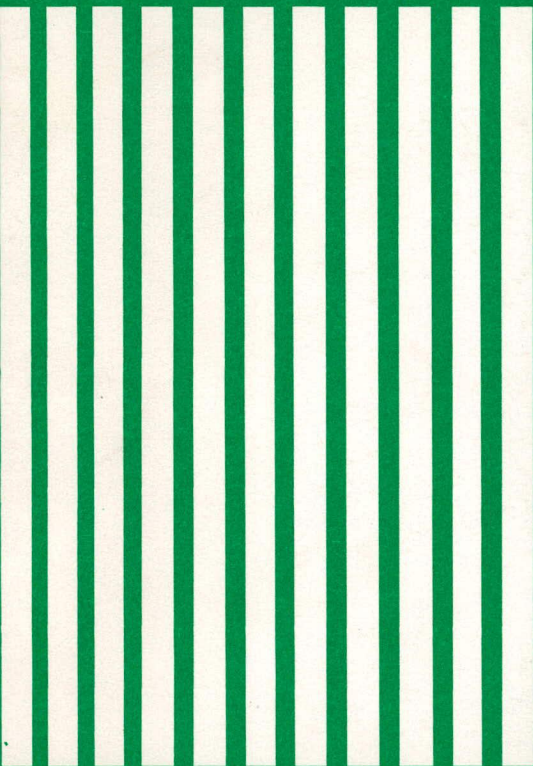


# CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION

REPORT OF THE TWENTIETH SESSION  
Geneva, 28 June - 7 July 1993



FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS  
WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION

Rome 1993



Issued by the Secretariat of the  
Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme, FAO, Rome

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**ALINORM 93/40**

**REPORT OF THE TWENTIETH SESSION  
OF THE  
JOINT FAO/WHO CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION**

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**FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS**

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**WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION**

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**Rome, 1993**

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**CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION**  
*Twentieth Session, Geneva, 28 June - 7 July 1993*

**Summary and Conclusions**

**The Commission:**

elected F.G. Winarno (Indonesia) as its **Chairman** and D. Gascoine (Australia), Pakdee Pothisiri (Thailand) and J. Race (Norway) as its **Vice-Chairmen**.

expressed concern that reductions in the **Codex budget** would have negative consequences on the Commission's work and requested the Secretariat to take steps as appropriate to reduce the number of direct costs to the budget, especially the costs of documentation.

expressed continued support to the objectives of the **GATT Uruguay Round negotiations** in relation to sanitary and phytosanitary measures and on technical barriers to trade.

invited governments to involve **consumers** more effectively in decision-making processes related to food standards and the Codex Programme.

discussed the incorporation of **risk assessment procedures** into the Codex decision-making processes and requested that a paper on the use of risk assessment procedures be transmitted to the Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Food Additives and the Joint FAO/WHO Meetings on Pesticide Residues as well as to the Commission's subsidiary bodies primarily responsible for elaborating recommendations on food safety measures.

endorsed a series of **Medium-Term Objectives for 1993-1998** and called for the development of a strategy whereby they would be implemented.

agreed to change the status of the FAO/WHO Committee of Government Experts on the Code of Principles on Milk and Milk Products operating under Rule IX.1(a) of the Commission's Rules of Procedure to that of a **Codex Committee on Milk and Milk Products** operating under Rule IX.1(b)(i) and designated New Zealand as the Member responsible for appointing the Chairman of the Committee.

due to lack of a quorum, was unable to endorse proposed changes to its **Rules of Procedure (Rule II - Officers)** and requested the Legal Counsels of FAO and WHO to consider in detail the issues related to the amendment of the Rules of Procedure and to prepare proposals for future consideration.

adopted amendments to the **General Principles of the Codex Alimentarius - Acceptances**, to simplify the acceptance procedure and adopted new, uniform Procedures for the **Elaboration of Codex Standards and Related Texts** which include provisions for accelerated elaboration procedures.

adopted **Maximum Residue Limits** for 18 pesticides and for 5 veterinary drugs in foods.

requested the **Codex Committee on Pesticide Residues** to examine the relationship between draft Maximum Residue Limits proposed to the Commission for adoption and the conditions of Good Agricultural Practices, Acceptable Daily Intake and Estimated Maximum Daily Intake using risk assessment principles.

endorsed the establishment of a separate list of **extraneous or environmental maximum residue limits** for pesticides no longer in agricultural use, these limits to be based on contamination monitoring principles.

agreed to hold the maximum residue limits for Trenbolone acetate at Step 8 of its Procedure along with those for other **growth-promoting hormones** until such time as guidance would be obtained from the Committee on General Principles on the status of science in Codex policies and procedures.

adopted **Terms of Reference for the Codex Committee on Food Import and Export Inspection and Certification Systems** and agreed that the Committee should continue to meet in the future with the understanding that it should exercise caution in setting its programme of work.

agreed to maintain the **Terms of Reference of the Codex Committee on Tropical Fresh Fruit and Vegetables** as currently drafted pending the outcome of further consultations between the Commission through its Executive Committee and the Secretariats of Codex, FAO and the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) on future cooperation between Codex and the UNECE Working Party on Standardization of Perishable Produce and Quality Development.

endorsed proposals aimed at making a more effective **distribution of Codex documents** in developing countries and providing guidance for Codex Contact Points.

endorsed the view that Codex meetings should be open to the public and to the press to the greatest extent possible and asked for a revision of the Codex Guidelines governing **public and press** attendance at Codex sessions.

adopted 8 new **Codex Standards**, 6 new **Codes of Practice**, and 4 other guidelines and texts of an advisory nature.

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ALINORM 93/40

**JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME**

**REPORT OF THE TWENTIETH SESSION**  
**OF THE**  
**JOINT FAO/WHO CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION**  
*International Conference Centre, Geneva, Switzerland*  
*28 June - 7 July 1993*

**INTRODUCTION**

1. The Twentieth Session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission was held at the International Conference Centre, Geneva, Switzerland from 28 June to 7 July 1993. The Session was attended by 259 participants, including official representatives and observers from 70 countries and observers from 27 international governmental and non-governmental organizations. See Appendix 1 for the list of participants.

2. The Commission was presided over by its Chairman, F.G. Winarno (Indonesia), and for certain items of its agenda by two of its Vice-Chairmen, John Race (Norway) and Pakdee Pothisiri (Thailand). The Secretary of the Commission was R.J. Dawson, assisted by the Joint Session Secretaries A.W. Randell and F. Käferstein.

3. The Session was opened by Dr. F. Antezana, Assistant Director-General, on behalf of the Director-General of WHO, Dr. H. Nakajima, and Mr. John R. Lupien, Director, Food Policy and Nutrition Division on behalf of the Director-General of FAO, Mr. Edouard Saouma. The texts of the opening addresses and the Chairman's reply are contained in Appendix 2 to this report.

**ADOPTION OF THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA AND TIMETABLE**

(Agenda Item 1)

4. The Commission adopted the Provisional Agenda ALINORM 93/1, supplemented by ALINORM 93/1-Addendum 1, as the Agenda for the Session. On the recommendation of the Fortieth Session of the Commission's Executive Committee it was agreed to discuss the following matters under Item 43 Other Business:

- The need for more effective mechanisms to distribute Codex documents in developing countries (ALINORM 93/4, paras. 33-37), and
- Press participation at Codex sessions (ALINORM 93/4, paras. 38-39).

5. The Commission also agreed to discuss a report on the progress made by the Steering Committee of the Joint FAO/WHO Committee on Government Experts on the Code of Principles concerning Milk and Milk Products under "Other Business" if time allowed.

#### **ELECTION OF OFFICERS OF THE COMMISSION (Agenda Item 4)**

6. During the Session the Commission re-elected F.G. Winarno (Indonesia) as its Chairman to serve from the end of the Twentieth Session to the end of the Twenty-First Session. The Commission also elected D. Gascoine (Australia), and re-elected Pakdee Pothisiri (Thailand) and J. Race (Norway), as Vice-Chairmen of the Commission for the same period.

#### Appointment of Regional Coordinators

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

<b>Africa</b>	.....	Joseph Ahmadu Abalaka (Nigeria)
<b>Asia</b>	.....	Dai Yin (China)
<b>Europe</b>	.....	Stuart Slorach (Sweden)
<b>Latin America and the Caribbean</b>	...	Carlos Alberto Ferreira Guimarães (Brazil)
<b>North America and the South-West Pacific</b>	.....	Katherine Gourlie (Canada)

#### **REPORT BY THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMISSION ON THE 39TH AND 40TH SESSIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (Agenda Item 2)**

8. In introducing the Reports of the 39th and 40th Sessions of the Executive Committee, ALINORM 93/3 and 93/4 (CRD) respectively, the Chairman indicated that all items dealt with by the Executive Committee would be dealt with by the Commission under the various items of its agenda, or had been dealt with by Codex Committees following the Executive Committee's 39th Session.

#### **MEMBERSHIP OF THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION (Agenda Item 3)**

9. The Secretary of the Commission reported that the Membership of the Commission currently stood at 144 Member countries. Since the Commission's Nineteenth Session the following countries had become Members: Belize; Estonia; Federated States of Micronesia; Lithuania; Mongolia; Slovenia. The Commission noted that Czechoslovakia had ceased to be a Member of the Commission. The Commission invited FAO and WHO to continue their efforts to ensure that all eligible countries become Members of the Commission.



**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)**

10. The Commission had before it document ALINORM 93/5 when discussing this Agenda Item, which summarized acceptances notified by countries since its 19th Session. It was noted that Cuba had notified Acceptance with Specified Deviations for some Codex standards on milk and milk products and that about 10 percent of Codex member countries had notified acceptances under the revised procedures applying to Maximum Residue Limits for Pesticides.

11. Some delegations noted that acceptance of Codex Maximum Residue Limits (MRLs) for pesticides in food required an appreciation of the data on which conditions of Good Agricultural Practices were evaluated, and that countries could not always accept MRLs which were based on criteria for good agricultural practice which did not take into account environmental and other similar considerations.

12. The Delegation of China informed the Commission that several Codex MRLs had been accepted under the form of full acceptance and that future notifications would be sent to the Codex secretariat. The Delegation also emphasized the importance for Codex to endorse uniform detection methods for pesticides to control commodities moving in international trade.

13. The Observer from the EEC pointed out that the Community was still working to define the appropriate procedure to accept Codex Standards. The Observer also suggested that clarification needed to be provided by the Codex Committee on General Principles on the status of acceptance of Codex standards in view of the application of the anticipated GATT agreements on sanitary and phytosanitary measures and on technical barriers to trade.

14. The Commission called for more countries to make positive statements concerning the acceptance, adoption and use of Codex Standards in their countries. It noted that the new form of acceptance "**free distribution**" (see Agenda Item 15(b), paras. 86 - 88 below) would allow for more positive statements of acceptance when the Commission meets at its next Session. The Commission invited the Secretariat to encourage countries, especially the industrialized importing countries, to make positive replies under this new form of acceptance in time for the 21st Session of the Commission.

**REPORT ON THE FINANCIAL SITUATION OF THE JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME FOR 1992/93 AND 1994/95 (Agenda Item 6)**

15. The Secretary of the Codex Alimentarius Commission presented ALINORM 93/6 containing a report on the final accounts of the Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme for 1990/91, the approved budget for the biennium 1992/93, and the budget proposed by FAO and WHO for the biennium 1994/95. The Commission noted that in the biennium 1990/91 the Programme started with a small surplus and finished with a small deficit which had been carried forward into the current biennium. It also noted that there had been a reduction in the basic budget

for the Programme for 1992/93 due to an overall reduction in appropriations for the FAO Programme of Work and Budget for the biennium. The reduction was about 8% of the total. The budget being proposed for 1994/95 was based on the full budget for 1992/93 without this budget cut being applied.

16. The Commission noted that apart from the reduction applied to the 1992/93 budget, the budget of the Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme had remained constant in real terms since 1974 when it had been incorporated into the Regular Budgets of its parent organizations on the basis of 75:25 per cent cost-sharing between FAO and WHO respectively. Supplementary contributions from FAO since 1974, currently accounting for approximately US\$1.5 million covering mainly the costs of documentation, had meant that FAO had assumed approximately 82 % of the Programme's costs. The Commission was pleased to acknowledge the direct support provided by Host Governments of Codex Committees. It was estimated that this support represented an amount equivalent to approximately 17 % of the Commission's total budget.

17. The Commission expressed concern that reductions in the Codex budget would have negative consequences for the Commission's work, especially at a time when it was accelerating its work programme to meet the requirements of the post-Uruguay Round. It nevertheless expressed its appreciation of the continued support given to the Commission's work by the Directors-General of FAO and WHO, and of the priority which the parent organizations had accorded the Programme in periods of general financial difficulty.

18. Noting the continued financial constraints facing FAO and WHO and many Member governments, the Commission requested the Secretariat to take steps as appropriate to reduce a number of direct costs to the Programme's budget, including especially the costs of documentation. The Commission supported the idea proposed by the Executive Committee (ALINORM 93/4, para. 7) that an analysis should be made of the costs of holding Commission sessions in Geneva, and whether consideration might be given to holding meetings in the immediate future only in Rome.

## **REPORT ON THE ACTIVITIES OF FAO AND WHO RELATIVE TO THE WORK OF THE COMMISSION (Agenda Item 7)**

### **A. Report of Joint FAO/WHO Activities**

#### International Conference on Nutrition (ICN)

19. The Commission was informed of the outcome of the International Conference on Nutrition (ICN) held in Rome, 5 to 11 December 1992 under the joint sponsorship of FAO and WHO. The ICN adopted unanimously the **World Declaration and Plan of Action for Nutrition**. The World Declaration sets out the determination of the international community to eliminate hunger and reduce all forms of malnutrition within the decade. To achieve these goals the Plan of Action sets out overall objectives and policy guidelines and identifies specific areas for action which include: improving household food security; protecting consumers through improved food quality and safety; preventing and managing infectious diseases; promoting breast-feeding; caring for the socio-

economically deprived and nutritionally vulnerable; preventing and controlling specific micronutrient deficiencies; promoting appropriate diets and healthy lifestyles; assessing, analyzing and monitoring the nutrition situation and incorporating nutritional objectives, considerations and components into development programmes and policies. By adopting the World Declaration and Plan of Action, countries committed themselves to develop or to revise national plans of action not later than end of 1994, outlining specific actions to be taken.

20. The Commission noted in particular that the Plan of Action calls upon member governments and other concerned parties to "adopt and strengthen comprehensive measures to cover the control of food quality and safety with a view to protecting the health of consumers and producers and ensuring sound production, good manufacturing and fair trade practices". It also states that "food regulations should fully take into account the recommended international standards of the Codex Alimentarius Commission". Some delegations provided information on activities in their countries to implement the Plan of Action.

21. The Commission was further informed of the steps taken by FAO and WHO to assist developing member countries to implement the ICN Plan of Action, particularly as regards the formulation or revision of their respective national Plans of Action for Nutrition. It took note of the need of both FAO and WHO for additional extrabudgetary resources to enable them to respond positively to the need for technical assistance by developing countries in the implementation of the Plan of Action.

Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Food Additives (JECFA) and Joint FAO/WHO Meetings on Pesticide Residues (JMPR)

22. The Commission was informed that three JECFA meetings and two meetings of the JMPR had been held since the 19th Session of the Commission. Two of the JECFA meetings (the Thirty-ninth held in Rome, February 1992 and Forty-first held in Geneva in February 1993) were devoted to the toxicological evaluation of certain food additives, contaminants and naturally-occurring toxicants. The Fortieth meeting, held in Geneva in June 1992, had evaluated residues of certain veterinary drugs. In regard to JMPR, two meetings were held in September 1991 and September 1992, which evaluated toxicological, residue and analytical data for several new pesticides and re-evaluated data supporting pesticides previously considered by JMPR. MRLs were estimated on a large number of food commodities.

International Consultative Group on Food Irradiation (ICGFI)

23. The Commission was informed that the ICGFI, created by FAO, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and WHO in 1984, had a current membership of 39 countries. A review of progress, achievements and future work of the ICGFI in support of the implementation and acceptance of food irradiation by Member countries was briefly reported to the Commission.

### Food Quality, Safety and Tourism

24. The Commission noted that tourism was the third largest global industry and was an important foreign revenue earner for both developing and industrialized countries. FAO and WHO had developed collaborative activities with the World Tourism Organization (WTO) for the improvement of food quality and safety in the tourism sector. International conferences on tourism and food safety had been convened for francophone Africa in Tunisia in 1992 and for Latin America and the Caribbean in Mexico in 1993. FAO had collaborated with WTO in organizing a training course for hotel food service personnel in Bahrain in 1993. Additional conferences were scheduled for Malaysia in 1994 and Sri Lanka in 1995.

25. The Commission was further informed of the Joint activities carried out by FAO and PAHO to assist member countries of the Latin American and Caribbean region in their efforts to prevent and control the spread of the cholera epidemic. These activities included the implementation of three regional training courses on the microbiological analysis of foods for *Vibrio cholera* and of at least four regional seminars and workshops on various aspects related to the cholera epidemic.

#### **B. Report on FAO Activities**

26. The Commission was informed of the priority given by FAO to activities in the field of food quality control and consumer protection and of the actions taken recently by FAO to further strengthen these activities as a follow-up to the International Conference on Nutrition and to the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development. These actions include (i) a proposed budget increase of US\$774,000 for Food Control and Consumer Protection in FAO's Programme of Work and Budget 1994-95; (ii) the establishment as of 1994, of a country-oriented Special Action Programme on Nutrition and Food Quality Assurance with the aim of bringing together food and nutrition-related activities to ensure access for all to adequate supplies of good quality and safe foods at affordable prices, thus requiring consideration of food quality through the entire food chain and (iii) the consideration being given by FAO and IAEA to establish a FAO/IAEA Training and Reference Service for Food Quality and Pesticides at the IAEA facilities in Siebersdorf, Austria.

27. The Commission noted with appreciation the extensive technical assistance provided by FAO to member countries to strengthen their food control infrastructures and activities. This assistance was provided under the FAO regular programme and through more than 50 field projects covering all regions. Nineteen of these projects were in Latin America and the Caribbean region, 15 in Africa, 10 in Asia, 6 in Europe and 4 in the Near East. The total budget of these projects exceeded US\$ 12 million.

28. The Commission further noted the priority given to the development of human resources through training courses and workshops held at national and regional levels on management of food control programmes, food analysis, food additives and contaminants, food inspection and import and export certification and control programmes. The Commission appreciated in particular, the priority given by FAO to the Africa region in the field of training.



29. Concerning food contaminants, the Commission was informed of FAO's assistance programme to member countries to support their efforts to control and monitor the levels of mycotoxins, pesticide residues, heavy metals and other environmental contaminants in food. It was apprised in particular, of the assistance provided to member countries in Latin America and the Caribbean Region to control and prevent the spread of the cholera epidemic. This assistance focused on the application of good manufacturing practices at industry level and of hygienic practices in the handling and preparation of foods, especially street foods. The Commission was informed of the recent convening by FAO of two expert consultations; one on "Sampling Plans for Aflatoxin Analysis in Food" and the other on "Integration of Consumer Interests in Food Control".

### C. Report on WHO Activities

30. The Commission was informed that WHO considered the safety of weaning food as one of its priorities as some 1500 million episodes of diarrhoea occurring annually in children under five years of age not only caused some 3.5 million children to die but also reduced the nutritional status among the survivors. A review article had been published in the WHO Bulletin and a fact sheet was issued within WHO's new series "Facts about Infant Feeding". A WHO consultation on weaning food safety had been scheduled for 1994 and national projects in three developing countries were under preparation.

31. A WHO consultation on Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point (HACCP) System training had been held in March 1993 and had issued advice in a document entitled "Training Considerations for the Application of the HACCP System to Food Processing and Manufacturing". WHO was also in the process of preparing model training material for the training of both government and industry officials in HACCP. First training courses had been held in China and the Philippines and another was scheduled for the Republic of Korea.

32. It was reported that, as a follow-up to the 1990 Joint FAO/WHO Consultation on Strategies for Assessing the Safety of Foods Produced by Biotechnology, WHO was planning to convene in September 1993 a Workshop on health aspects of the use of marker genes in plants and possibilities for their use in identification and control of genetically modified plants. It was anticipated that a further joint FAO/WHO consultation on food biotechnology would be convened in 1994.

33. In relation to bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE), WHO had organized two consultations (November 1991 and May 1993) to discuss the possible implications for public and animal health of spongiform encephalopathies, especially BSE, with regard to the use of animal tissues as animal feed and human food as well as in the preparation of medicinal and other products for human use. The reports of the two Consultations had been published by WHO (documents WHO/CDS/VPH.92.104 and 93.119). Regarding food-borne transmission of the BSE agent, it was reported that studies on scrapie suggested that the risk, if any, of infection of humans would only arise from exposure to certain tissues of infected animals. Recent results indicated that infectivity in BSE infected animals was more restricted than in the scrapie model. Therefore in countries where there is a high incidence of the disease, prohibiting the "specified offals" (i.e. brain, spinal cord, tonsils, thymus, spleen and intestines - from duodenum to rectum inclusive) from cattle over

6 months of age, from entering the human or animal food chain should suffice to minimize the risk of exposure to the BSE agent.

34. The Commission was informed that WHO had provided guidance in its Weekly Epidemiological Record on the vaccination of food handlers against hepatitis A and on food safety measures for eggs and foods containing eggs (Nos. 5 and 22 of 1993, respectively).

35. In the ensuing discussions, the Delegation of Sweden informed the Commission that the National Veterinary Institute of Sweden organized, under the auspices of WHO, an International Course on Salmonella Control in Animal Production and Products in Sweden in August 1993.

36. The Delegation of Nigeria expressed the opinion that Africa did not receive adequate attention from FAO and WHO in the face of the serious health and food problems prevailing in the continent. Representatives of both FAO and WHO informed that Africa was a priority region for both Organizations but that some countries did not consider food quality, safety and food control as priority problems. They indicated that FAO and WHO could only provide technical assistance if they were requested to do so. In the case of WHO, it was also noted that it was essential that countries set aside sufficient funds from their national WHO budget for technical cooperation activities in the field of food safety and nutrition.

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

37. The Commission had before it document ALINORM 93/8 when discussing this Agenda Item, which summarized activities of interest arising from the International Organization for Standardization and the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe. An oral report was also presented by the Observer from the African Regional Organization for Standardization.

##### International Organization for Standardization (ISO)

38. The Observer from the ISO highlighted the work carried out by Technical Committee ISO/TC 34, "Agricultural Food Products", which is comprised of fourteen ISO Sub-Committees. The Observer noted that the standards developed by ISO/TC 34 and its Sub-Committees cover various aspects, such as terminology, methods of analysis and sampling and product specifications for those food products which are not on the programme of the Codex Alimentarius Commission and its Subsidiary Bodies. The Observer of the ISO stated that in addition to the existing collaboration on technical matters between the relevant ISO and Codex Committees, close contacts exist between the Codex and ISO Secretariats so that the risk of duplication of effort between the two organizations is avoided.

39. In highlighting the activities of other ISO Committees whose activities are of interest to the Codex Alimentarius Commission, the Observer of the ISO noted ISO 10470-1993 "Green Coffee-Defect Reference Chart" had been published on 1 June 1993. It was also noted that a

selective list of ISO Standards were available for the information of delegates at the Commission meeting.

40. The Commission agreed that ISO activities related to the establishment of methods of analysis and sampling would be discussed under Agenda Item 26, Codex Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling.

United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE)

41. The Observer of the UNECE noted and agreed with the decision of the Commission to defer discussions concerning the UNECE until Agenda Item 30 (Codex Committee on Tropical Fresh Fruits and Vegetables), as these UNECE activities were of a general nature which were closely linked and applicable to other Codex Committees.

African Regional Organization for Standardization (ARSO)

42. The Observer of the ARSO, while welcoming the close collaboration between Codex and the ARSO to avoid duplication of work and the establishment of trade-distorting regional standards, stated that most items of interest from the ARSO had been discussed by the Codex Coordinating Committee for Africa. Therefore, the Commission agreed that concerns of the African region related to food standardization, including the relationship between the Commission, ARSO and ISO, would be discussed under Agenda Item 16.

**REPORT ON THE URUGUAY ROUND OF MULTILATERAL TRADE NEGOTIATIONS IN RELATION TO SANITARY AND PHYTOSANITARY MEASURES AND THE AGREEMENT (1991) ON TECHNICAL BARRIERS TO TRADE (Agenda Item 9)**

43. The Representative of the Secretariat of the GATT introduced document ALINORM 93/9, which contained a copy of Section L of the GATT Draft Final Act (MTN.TNC/W/FA) embodying the results of the Uruguay Round of Multilateral Trade Negotiations on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures, as well as Section G concerning the Agreement (1991) on Technical Barriers to Trade. It was also reported that the GATT Secretariat had issued a background paper to assist the public in understanding the proposed GATT Agreement on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures. The WHO Joint Session Secretary also informed the Commission that a paper concerning the relationship between Codex and GATT had been submitted to the 46th Session of the World Health Assembly in May 1993.

44. The Representative of GATT stated that the situation and status of these draft GATT Agreements had not changed since the last session of the Commission, as formal negotiations on these measures were suspended pending agreement on the full Uruguay Round, which was expected at the end of 1993. However, the Representative indicated that in view of the general acceptability and completeness of these proposed agreements, they probably would not be discussed further pending their anticipated implementation at the beginning of 1995.

45. The Commission, noting the importance of the GATT discussions, agreed to express its continued support for the objectives of the GATT Negotiations in relation to sanitary and phytosanitary measures and on technical barriers to trade.

## **CONSUMER INVOLVEMENT IN DECISION-MAKING IN RELATION TO FOOD STANDARDS AND THE JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME**

(Agenda Item 10)

46. The Commission had before it documents ALINORM 93/10, including Part I prepared by IOCU and Part II presenting government comments in reply to CL 1993/3-CAC (Brazil, France, Netherlands, Sweden, Switzerland) and CAC/LIM.5 containing additional government comments (Australia, Finland, United Kingdom).

47. The Secretariat recalled the recommendations of the FAO/WHO Conference on Food Standards, Chemicals in Food and Food Trade (March 1991), as endorsed by the 19th Session of the Commission, for the improvement of consumer participation in the work of Codex. It had been agreed that IOCU would prepare a discussion paper presenting an assessment of the progress achieved and the main issues to be addressed in this area for consideration by the present session of the Commission. It had also been agreed that governments would be requested to report on their national policies with regard to consumer participation. The Commission noted the discussions held at the 40th Session of the Executive Committee (ALINORM 93/4, paras. 13-17).

48. The Commission was informed that an FAO Expert Consultation on the Integration of Consumers Interests in Food Control, attended by representatives of national food control organizations, consumers and industry, had been held in Rome from 14-18 June 1993. It had considered the current state of consumer participation in developed and developing countries, and identified the major difficulties to the achievement of such integration. It was agreed however not to discuss the results of the consultation as the final report was not yet available and the report was not directed to the Commission.

49. While presenting the working paper, the Observer from IOCU highlighted some points commented upon by the 40th Session of the Executive Committee. Although the paper reflected the views only of IOCU, it was noted that IOCU had a very wide membership in 70 countries throughout the world. In this respect, the Observer indicated that criteria should be established to assess the representativity of consumers associations, as many small groups with sectorial interests existed and only associations with a wide basis representing the concerns of a majority of consumers should be recognized at the national and international level. Several delegations concurred with this proposal and pointed out that in some countries, the multiplicity of consumers groups made it difficult for official authorities to establish an effective cooperation with them and to identify the representatives that could best advise governments on consumer policy, even when national legislation provided for consumer participation. However, many delegations indicated that consumers were involved in the elaboration of national food legislation as well as in the preparation of Codex meetings and that such participation was established by legislation or similar instruments.

50. The Observer from IOCU recognized that progress had been made to involve consumers in developing countries, and that it was increasingly significant especially in Asia. He further expressed his support for press participation at Codex meetings, so as to improve the transparency of the proceedings.

51. The Observer reasserted the view of IOCU that the available resources of industry groups enabled them to participate more actively in the decision-making process, so that their interests were strongly represented, which was not the case of consumers' organizations and that efforts should therefore be made to reach a better balance of interests. He pointed out that the difficulties faced by consumers organizations essentially came from a lack of funding, which affected their representation at the international level, and suggested that assistance might be provided from international organizations or the industry. Many delegations however, objected to direct or indirect funding from industry as it was felt that this would affect negatively the independence of consumer organizations and pointed out the impracticability of administering such a levy. The FAO Legal Counsel pointed out that as regarded procedure according to Rule VII.5 the participation of and relations with international organizations were governed by the relevant provisions of the constitutions of FAO and WHO. Moreover, as regards funding, Rule XI.4 stipulated that costs of attendance at Codex meetings must be borne by participants and not by Codex, FAO or WHO.

52. There was general consensus on the fact that the improvement of consumer participation was primarily a national issue and should be addressed as such by governments. The Delegation of Singapore expressed the view that the official authorities in a country represented the interests of consumers as well as the global interest of their country. The Observer from IOCU however, indicated that there was still a need to build confidence between government agencies and consumers, as they did not feel they were adequately represented or that their interests were taken into account as they should.

53. The Observer from the EC informed the Commission that consumer participation was regarded as essential in the Community and that a Community-wide Committee included representatives of the consumers as well as other sectors of the economy. He also suggested that governments should consult with consumers' associations in the preparation of Codex meetings.

54. The Commission did not accept the proposal made by IOCU to participate in an observer capacity at the Executive Committee even though some Members took a more favourable approach. The WHO Legal Counsel indicated that the Executive Committee was defined as the executive organ of the Commission in Rule of Procedure III, that its composition was consequently strictly limited and no observers of any private interest group were admitted. He pointed out that were any such group allowed to participate, other organizations and countries might want to also participate. There was general consensus on this point, and it was agreed that the intergovernmental character of the Executive should be maintained and its current efficiency preserved.

55. In reply to a question on the integration of other interests such as environmental concerns or animal welfare into the proposed GATT Agreement on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures, the Observer from GATT informed the Commission that this issue had been discussed extensively

during the negotiations on that Agreement, but that a majority of countries did not accept their inclusion, especially as no recognized international standards existed in this area. It was also felt that such considerations might create new barriers to trade and that they could be addressed more adequately in other specialized bodies, recognizing that the responsibility of Codex was to establish standards and related texts for food.

56. The Commission agreed on the necessity to continue working in close cooperation with IOCU and other consumer organizations as might be required, and recognizing that consumer participation should be addressed at the national level, invited governments to involve consumers more effectively in the decision-making process. The Commission agreed to the recommendation of the Executive Committee to have this matter discussed by regional coordinating committees, especially as the situation varied greatly from one region to another.

#### **RISK ASSESSMENT PROCEDURES USED BY THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION, AND ITS SUBSIDIARY AND ADVISORY BODIES (Agenda Item 11)**

57. The Commission had before it ALINORM 93/37 for discussion. This item had been placed on the Agenda by the Executive Committee in response to the recommendations of the FAO/WHO Conference on Food Standards, Chemicals in Food and Food Trade held in March 1991. It was noted that the subject was strongly linked to the approach taken by the Uruguay Round for developing national and international standards for sanitary and phytosanitary measures. The paper was presented by a Consultant to the Secretariat Dr. Steve C. Hathaway (New Zealand).

58. The paper was prepared following consultation with the Secretariat; FAO and WHO; the Joint Secretaries of the Joint Expert Committee on Food Additives (JECFA) and Joint Meetings of the FAO Panel of Experts and the WHO Expert Group on Pesticide Residues (JMPR); and the Chairpersons of the Codex Committees on Food Additives and Contaminants, Pesticide Residues, Residues of Veterinary Drugs in Foods, Food Hygiene, and Meat Hygiene.

59. The paper described in detail the work of JECFA, JMPR and the relevant Codex Committees. It also described how this work would fit into a risk analysis framework. The paper documented several areas of Codex activity which did not conform to risk analysis principles but Dr. Hathaway noted that risk analysis was a relatively new applied science in the field of food safety and was itself continually evolving. There was, however, wide opportunity for Codex to improve its performance by adopting risk analysis principles and methodology.

60. The Consultant described the three main components of risk analysis: risk assessment, risk management and risk communication. Determination of "risk assessment policy" was another essential part of the risk analysis process. Additionally, the Consultant introduced the Commission to three general models of risk analysis that had different ways of including these components.

61. Dr. Hathaway described JECFA and JMPR as forming a bridge between those carrying out scientific research and the risk managers (usually Codex Committees) and he noted that these Expert Committees were ideally suited to perform risk assessment. Elements of a risk assessment

approach were embodied in a number of aspects of their activities, however, the Consultant pointed out that currently "risk assessment policy" components were not part of a coherent strategy determined by the Codex Committees.

62. Dr. Hathaway noted some important procedural differences between JECFA and JMPR in a risk analysis context. He noted that JECFA itself sometimes made a number of risk management decisions during the scientific review process, such as justification for use, technical concerns and in the context of *ad hoc* responses to questions put to it by the Codex Committee on Food Additives and Contaminants. In the case of residues of veterinary drugs, it was noted that risk management decisions were an explicit part of the scientific review.

63. The Consultant summarized his recommendations with respect to actions required by the Expert Committees and Codex Committees: The Expert Committees would need to develop risk assessment frameworks for the scientific review process, and explicitly characterize uncertainty; risk management decisions currently made by the Expert Committees would need to be reassessed, and an interactive model for all risk assessment policy decisions be developed. The Codex Committees would need to adopt common risk analysis principles but it should be accepted that different frameworks could be utilized. There was a strong need to promote the availability of formal quantitative exposure assessments as part of risk assessment, for example, dietary intake of particular ethnic groups and special "at-risk" groups. The Consultant stressed that improved hazard identification procedures were required and consistent decision-making criteria for risk management decisions within the consensus modality were needed.

64. Further recommendations were that the Codex Committee on Food Hygiene should develop a general document defining a common language and philosophy of risk analysis. This document should recognize the wide diversity of food hazards, and not create a drive for a single risk analysis methodology. With respect to harmonization of Codex Standards, the Consultant suggested the use of risk assessment frameworks that promote harmonization, and better symmetry of risk assessment methodology used by Codex and national programmes will inevitably reduce risk management problems.

65. Dr. Hathaway reiterated a general recommendation that countries develop a coherent risk communication strategy to inform and to educate consumers that food will always have some minimal level of risk.

66. The Commission unanimously congratulated Dr. Hathaway for preparing this document. It also welcomed the recommendations set forth in ALINORM 93/37 and noted the need for rapid progress in implementing risk analysis in Codex work.

67. In commenting on the paper, several delegations reiterated the importance of recognizing the different components of risk analysis and the importance of increasing transparency in the work of JECFA and JMPR, for example, in the identification of hazards and the choice of safety factors used in safety evaluations. Several delegations strongly supported the view that exposure characterizations relative to dietary intake suffered from a lack of information and consistent risk assessment methodology, and needed to be improved. It was pointed out that this was a particular

problem when hazards were distributed across a wide range of foods. Delegations also requested that much more attention be given to quantifying uncertainty in specific risk assessments carried out by the Expert Committees.

68. The Delegation of Austria, supported by other Delegations, underlined that there was at present no direct link between the Maximum Residue Limits derived from considerations of Good Agricultural Practice and the Acceptable Daily Intake for pesticides. They recommended that JECFA and JMPR take into account the potential exposure to food additives and pesticide residues in the same way that potential exposures were calculated by JECFA for residues of veterinary drugs.

69. A number of delegations stressed the future need for consideration of risk analysis by Codex Committees and the Expert Committees and the need for detailed comment on the report by these groups. It was suggested that the acceptance of MRLs would be improved by showing explicitly the application of risk assessment in Codex work. Also stressed was the importance of communicating the outcome of all risk analysis work undertaken by Codex to those developing countries that did not have the resources to carry out such activities.

70. The Commission agreed to send the paper to all relevant Codex Committees, including the Codex Committee on General Principles, for review and discussion, and recommended that the paper should also be brought to the attention of JECFA and JMPR. It was proposed that the Codex Committee on General Principles should address the adoption of risk analysis, including the possibility of changes in the Rules of Procedure and in the Terms of Reference of relevant Codex Committees.

71. The Commission also agreed to make the paper as widely available as possible to governments, interested organizations and industries. The Secretariat indicated that the paper would be published in the scientific literature so that it would be generally available to scientists carrying out risk assessment.

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

72. The Commission had before it the progress report contained in ALINORM 93/2, and ALINORM 93/2-Add.1 (CRD) presenting government comments at Step 3 on the Regional Standard for Natural Mineral Waters in reply to CL 1993/4-NMW. The Secretariat recalled that the 19th Session had decided on the conversion of regional standards into world-wide standards under the responsibility of the relevant commodity committees. The standards had been circulated for government comments at Step 3.

73. The Delegation of Brazil indicated that it disagreed with many provisions of the Revised Standards for Natural Mineral Waters, Vinegar, Mayonnaise and Edible Cassava Flour and could not accept them. It was agreed that such comments should be directed to the Committees responsible for the development of the standards. It was further agreed to discuss specific



comments on mineral waters under Agenda Item 40 (see paragraph 398). The Commission noted that of all of the Regional Standards under review that for Natural Mineral Water should receive the highest priority as this had become a very widely traded commodity.

74. The Commission noted that a number of comments at Step 3 had been received on the Standard for Mayonnaise, which would be considered by the 14th Session of the Committee on Fats and Oils (September 1993). The Committee on Cereals, Pulses and Legumes was currently considering the standards for cereals and derived products. As regards the standards for Natural Mineral Waters, Fresh Fungus "Chanterelle" and Vinegar, the procedure for the amendment of standards elaborated by committees which had been adjourned would be followed as indicated in the Procedural Manual.

#### **MEDIUM-TERM PROGRAMME OF WORK 1993-1998 (Agenda Item 13)**

75. While introducing ALINORM 93/38 and its Addenda presenting the Programme of Work (including Appendix 1 on the medium-term objectives and Appendix 2 on the current status of work), the Secretariat recalled that the proposal for a Medium-Term Programme of Work had been endorsed by the 39th Session of the Executive Committee. It had appeared that, up until now, initiatives to undertake new work were largely dependent upon the decisions of individual Codex Committees as statements of overall priorities to achieve consistency with the general objectives of the Commission and its parent organizations had not been defined. The Executive Committee indicated that it was the role of the Commission to establish overall priorities in the light of the programmes set by FAO and WHO so as to orient the work of its subsidiary bodies accordingly. The Commission would then be able to ensure that the work undertaken by individual committees was in accordance with their (medium- or long-term) objectives. The Commission was further informed of the discussions held at the 40th Session of the Executive Committee on this matter (ALINORM 93/4, paras. 21-24).

76. Following the discussions held under Agenda Item 11 on Risk Assessment Procedures used in Codex work the Commission agreed that work on risk analysis should be included in the medium-term programme of work.

77. The Delegations of the United States and Canada suggested that a strategic plan should be established in relation with the overall plan in order to indicate how to proceed to achieve the goals set out in the Medium-Term Programme. The Commission noted that the Executive Committee had also proposed to have a strategy paper prepared for consideration by its next session and agreed to this proposal.

78. Following the discussions on the terms of reference and activity of the Committee on Import and Export Food Inspection and Certification Systems (Agenda item 27), the Commission agreed to modify point 8 of Appendix 1 by deleting the reference to "Model legislation on government certification systems".

79. The Commission endorsed the medium-term objectives and agreed to recommend that committees should consider them as a standing item for each session. It decided that a report on the current status of work should be made to the Executive Committee and the Commission on a regular basis, to be reviewed in the light of the medium-term objectives. The Medium-Term objectives are attached to the present report as Appendix III.

#### **STATUS OF THE FAO/WHO COMMITTEE OF GOVERNMENT EXPERTS ON THE CODE OF PRINCIPLES CONCERNING MILK AND MILK PRODUCTS (Agenda Item 14)**

80. The Secretariat introduced document ALINORM 93/11 which gave a brief analysis of current status and, attached as Annex 1 to the paper, a report provided by the Director-General of FAO on the administrative and financial implications for the Programme as required by Rule IX.9 of the Rules of Procedure. The Commission recalled that it was proposed to change the status of the Milk Committee to establishment under Rule IX.1(b)(i) to become a Codex Committee and to rename the Committee "Codex Committee on Milk and Milk Products".

81. The Commission noted that the Committee on General Principles had confirmed that this change of status required no major amendments in Rules of Procedure other than consequential changes. It also noted that the Committee on General Principles had discussed the harmonization of elaboration procedures and had proposed the following Terms of Reference for the new Committee:

*To elaborate international codes and standards for milk and milk products within the framework of the Codex Alimentarius and the Code of Principles concerning Milk and Milk Products.*

82. Since the last Session of the Commission four countries had asked formally to be considered as host government for the new Committee; France, Germany, New Zealand and Norway. Each of the four countries expressed its willingness and eagerness to host the Committee. The Commission decided to put the matter to a vote by secret ballot. In the light of the result of the vote, New Zealand was designated by the Commission, under Rule IX.1 to host the Codex Committee on Milk and Milk Products, under the Terms of Reference reported above.

#### **CODEX COMMITTEE ON GENERAL PRINCIPLES (Agenda Item 15)**

83. The Chairman of the Committee, Professor Jean-Jacques Bernier (France) presented the report of the 10th Session of the Codex Committee on General Principles, as contained in ALINORM 93/33, ALINORM 93/33-Add. 1 and Add. 2.

**PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE RULES OF PROCEDURES OF THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION (RULE II - OFFICERS)**

84. The Commission was informed that the amendment to Rule II.1 (ALINORM 93/33 - Appendix II) had been proposed to make it clear that the Chairman and Vice-Chairmen could remain in office only with the continuing endorsement of their government, in order to preserve the intergovernmental character of the Commission. The amendments to Rule II.4 (c) were intended to clarify the functions of the Coordinators to assist the Executive Committee and coordinate Codex work at the regional level. Rule II.4(d) provided for the case where a Coordinator was unable to continue in office by nominating an interim Coordinator.

85. There was general consensus on these proposals. However, the FAO Legal Counsel recalled that pursuant to Rule IV.6, the quorum required to make recommendations for amendments to the Rules of Procedure was a majority of the Members of the Commission, namely 73 countries in the present case. As only 56 countries were present at this meeting, there was no quorum and the amendments could not be formally adopted. Thus, in the event, it would not be sufficient to obtain a two-thirds majority of the votes cast (Rule XIII.1) as the quorum required under Rule IV.6 was a pre-condition to holding the vote. Moreover, Rule XIII.2 specifically provided that Rule IV.6 could not be suspended by the Commission. The WHO Legal Counsel, whilst agreeing with the analysis made by the FAO Legal Counsel, considered, nevertheless, that an alternative solution was available because the Commission was sovereign in the matter and could interpret Rule XIII.1 in such a way that a two-thirds majority of those present could adopt the amendments even if the quorum required were not fulfilled. The Commission concluded that, in the absence of a quorum, the amendments could not be adopted now, although the Member countries attending the session had accepted them in principle. The Commission agreed that a permanent solution should be sought by addressing the basic issue at hand, i.e. the provisions governing the quorum, in order to avoid similar difficulties in future. Therefore, the Commission requested the Legal Counsels of FAO and WHO to consider in detail the issues related to the amendment of the Rules of Procedure and to prepare proposals for consideration by the Committee on General Principles, in April 1994, and subsequently by the Executive Committee and by the Commission itself at its 21st Session.

**PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE GENERAL PRINCIPLES OF THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS (ACCEPTANCE PROCEDURE)**

86. The Commission was informed of the proposed amendments to the General Principles (Appendix III of ALINORM 93/33) for the deletion of "target acceptance" and the inclusion of a provision allowing acceptance of standards on the principle of free distribution.

87. It was noted that acceptance procedures might need to be reviewed after the completion of the Uruguay Round. There was a consensus on the necessity of reviewing the current standards and related texts to ensure their relevance in relation to present scientific knowledge and international trade. The Observer of the EC expressed some concern that Codex standards would be used as reference when their acceptance might be limited to a few countries. The Chairman

pointed out that this amendment of the provisions for acceptance might be expected to encourage more countries to notify acceptance of Codex standards.

### **Status of the proposed Amendments to the General Principles of the Codex Alimentarius**

88. The amendments, as contained in Appendix III of ALINORM 93/33, were adopted by the Commission for inclusion in the Procedural Manual.

### **PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE PROCEDURES FOR THE ELABORATION OF CODEX STANDARDS AND RELATED TEXTS**

#### Authorization to omit Steps 6 and 7 by two-thirds majority vote of the Commission (Appendix IV)

89. It was recalled that this procedure already existed for the elaboration of maximum limits for pesticide residues and residues of veterinary drugs and that the text proposed by the Committee on General Principles implemented the decision of the 19th Session of the Commission to apply the procedure to all Codex standards.

#### Proposed Draft Uniform Procedure for the Elaboration of Codex Standards and Related Texts

90. The Chairman of the Committee on General Principles introduced the amended procedure which had been proposed in order to harmonize elaboration procedures applying to different categories of Codex texts, as it was agreed that this would lead to greater transparency and clarity. Following discussions held at the 39th Session of the Executive Committee, it had been further agreed to propose a new accelerated procedure for application whenever it was warranted by the urgency of elaborating a Codex standard. The Committee on General Principles had adopted the procedures, as contained in Appendix V of ALINORM 93/33 and subsequently presented in a slightly different form in Add.1 and Add.2 so as to make them more explicit, with a common Introduction, the Uniform Procedure in Part 1 and the Accelerated Procedure in Part 2, as well as the subsequent Publication and Acceptance in Part 3.

91. The Commission noted that a number of safeguards had been introduced as to the criteria justifying this procedure and decided to include in Part II-(1) an additional reference to the "Criteria for the establishment of Work Priorities and for the Establishment of Subsidiary Bodies". When standards were subject to an accelerated procedure, this would be notified to the Members of the Commission and interested international organizations in the first stages of the procedure. In reply to a question on the confirmation of an Accelerated Procedure initiated by the Executive Committee in the year preceding a Commission session, it was pointed out that the Commission could always return the draft to any appropriate previous Step in the Procedure.

92. Some countries were of the view that, as the FAO/WHO Committee of Government Experts on the Code of Principles Concerning Milk and Milk Products had been converted into a Codex Committee and Codex procedures should therefore be applied to the elaboration of the

relevant texts, any special reference to the International Dairy Federation (Part II-(2)) should be deleted. While noting that this question had been discussed by the Committee on General Principles and that it had been agreed to mention IDF in view of its particular input in this area, the Commission agreed to retain this reference.

### **Status of the proposed amendments to the Procedures for the Elaboration of Codex Standards and related texts**

93. The Commission adopted the proposed amendments for inclusion in the Procedural Manual. In the interim, the revised Procedure is attached to the present report as Appendix 4 for the use of Codex Committees.

### **OTHER MATTERS ARISING FROM THE REPORT OF THE 10TH SESSION OF THE COMMITTEE**

#### Rule XI.4: Funding of participation costs for least developed countries

94. The Committee had considered this matter in detail and had agreed not to change Rule XI.4 on the funding of costs incurred in connection with attendance at sessions of the Commission and its subsidiary bodies.

#### Terms of Reference of General Subject Committees

95. The Committee had proposed a number of technical changes to the terms of reference of the Committee on Food Hygiene and the Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling, and had approved the amendment of the terms of reference proposed by the Committee on Food Additives and Contaminants.

#### Advisory Texts

96. The Committee had recommended that advisory texts should be developed with the same scientific rigour and transparency as Codex standards, and that they should be elaborated through the Step-wise Codex procedures.

#### Format of Revised Standards (Appendix VI)

97. The Committee had recommended that Codex standards should be reviewed in the light of their relevance in international trade, and should retain only those provisions which appeared essential and were used by governments as regulatory control measures as regarded health, safety and consumer protection concerns.

#### Preminent Role of Science in Codex Decisions

98. This matter had been considered by the Committee and it had been agreed that a discussion paper would be prepared by the Secretariat for detailed consideration by the next session of the Committee.

99. The Delegation of Finland, in view of a number of misunderstandings expressed in connection with the application of the proposed Agreement on Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) Measures developed under the Uruguay Round summarized the main points of the Agreement. The Delegation drew attention to the explanatory notes prepared by the GATT Secretariat which were aimed at dispelling such misunderstandings. The Delegation stated that the SPS Agreement reconfirmed the sovereign rights of countries to take all necessary measures to protect the health and life of their citizens, but simultaneously to established a discipline to ensure that these sovereign rights were not misused for protectionist purposes or for creating unnecessary barriers to trade. The draft SPS Agreement confirmed that measures to protect health might require barriers to trade that are necessary. The Delegation also noted that the SPS Agreement did not strike a balance between health interests and trade interests; it clearly put health before trade. There was not even a requirement on proportionality as for example in some national or supranational legislation: Even unproportional measures were allowed if they were necessary for protecting life and health.

100. In relation to the role of Codex, the Delegation pointed out that it was correct that Codex Standards and other recommendations were referred to as important reference materials, and that there were important incentives for governments to use Codex standards as a basis for national regulations; but there was no obligation for countries to use Codex standards. There was a clear possibility for countries to deviate from Codex standards and to have stricter national measures if the government could show scientific justification or if the government considered that the level of protection contained in the Codex standard was not appropriate to the needs of that government. Under such circumstances governments could establish or maintain stricter measures than those recommended by Codex. Nevertheless, the Delegation stated that it was important that Codex standards were good, scientifically based and up-to date for without such standards the SPS Agreement would not be operational. The Delegation also stated that the SPS Agreement covered food import and export inspection and certification and that it was of equal importance that good international reference documents in these areas were available, even though there was no obligation for governments to use them. It would be up to each government to ensure that control measures were not misused.

#### **CONFIRMATION OF CHAIRMANSHIP**

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

#### **CODEX COORDINATING COMMITTEE FOR AFRICA (Agenda Item 16)**

102. The report of the 10th Session of the Coordinating Committee for Africa (ALINORM 93/28) was introduced by the Chairman, Professor J.A. Abalaka (Nigeria), who informed the Commission of its major activities and conclusions on matters relating to food standardization, food control and information exchange at the regional level. The Chairman also indicated that an FAO Workshop on the Management of Food Control Programmes had been held immediately prior to

the session and that more of such workshops would be very useful to the improvement of food control activities in the region.

**PROPOSED DRAFT AFRICAN REGIONAL STANDARD FOR PROCESSED COUSCOUS AT STEP 5 OF THE PROCEDURE (Appendix III)**

103. The Delegation of Poland informed the Commission of its comments regarding an error in the composition of couscous (point 3.1) and the expression of acidity in point 3.3.

**Status of the Proposed Draft African Regional Standard for Processed Couscous**

104. The Commission adopted the Draft Standard, as contained in Appendix III of ALINORM 93/28, at Step 5 of the Procedure.

**OTHER MATTERS ARISING FROM THE REPORT OF THE 10TH SESSION OF THE COMMITTEE**

Cooperation with ARSO

105. The Chairman of the Committee recalled that the African Regional Organization for Standardization (ARSO) had been created by African governments to elaborate standards for products moving in inter-African trade. Following the agreement between Codex and ISO as to the respective responsibilities of Codex for food standardization and ISO for methods of analysis and sampling, it appeared essential to avoid duplication of work and overlap of functions at the regional level as well. The Observer from ARSO indicated that his organization had relied on Codex texts to prepare regional standards and agreed that duplication should be avoided to optimize the resources of both bodies. To this effect he suggested that the representatives of ARSO, the Codex Secretariat and the coordinator for Africa should consult together to define better the modalities of cooperation. The Secretariat recalled that effective cooperation already existed with ISO, which provided a significant input at the level of the Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling in particular, and welcomed the proposal for further collaboration with ARSO.

Proposed Draft Code of Practice for Street Foods in Africa

106. The Commission was informed that a Proposed Draft Code of Practice for Street Foods in Africa had been considered by the Committee and circulated for government comments at Step 3. This text had been forwarded to the Committee on Food Hygiene for advice and its recommendations are presented under Agenda Item 25 (paras. 248 to 249).

**APPOINTMENT OF COORDINATOR FOR AFRICA**

107. Under Rule 4.II (b) of the Rules of Procedure, the Commission appointed Professor J.A. Abalaka of Nigeria as Coordinator for Africa. The Delegation of Nigeria confirmed the readiness of its government to host the 11th Session of the Coordinating Committee for Africa.

## **CODEX COORDINATING COMMITTEE FOR ASIA (Agenda Item 17)**

108. The Commission had before it ALINORM 93/15, the report of the 8th Session of the Coordinating Committee for Asia. The report was introduced by the Coordinator for Asia, Dato' Dr. Hajjah Azizan Bt. Aiyub Ghazali, Malaysia. Dr. Azizan informed the Commission of the most important points and activities developed by the Coordinating Committee at its 8th Session. The Commission noted that the Coordinating Committee strongly supported Commission initiatives to promote and to implement the Code of Ethics for International Trade in Foods, Commission efforts to strengthen the participation of developing countries in the Codex work, and the establishment and activities of the Codex Committee on Food Import and Export Inspection and Certification Systems. The Coordinator thanked FAO and WHO for their active and positive assistance in the region in the area of food safety and quality control.

### **MATTERS ARISING FROM THE EIGHTH SESSION OF THE COMMITTEE**

#### Code of Practice for Street-Vended Foods

109. The Coordinator informed the Commission that when discussing the matter, the Committee had had two documents before it, WHO Essential Safety Requirements for Street-Vended Foods and a proposed Code of Practice drafted by Malaysia. The Commission was informed that the Committee had decided to seek the advice of the Executive Committee. This matter was also discussed under Agenda Item 25 of this Session. (See paras. 248 to 249)

#### Labelling of Foods with Regard to Religious Requirements

110. The Coordinator reported that the Committee had decided to seek the advice of the Executive Committee as to the possibility of elaborating codes concerning "halal" slaughtering, preparation and processing. The Executive Committee referred this matter to the Codex Committee on Food Import and Export Inspection and Certification Systems.

#### Proposal of the elaboration of Guidelines for Codex Contact Points and National Codex Committees

111. The Coordinator informed the Commission that the Committee had strongly supported the elaboration of Guidelines for Codex Contact Points and National Codex Committees based on a system developed by Thailand. The Commission endorsed the elaboration of Guidelines by the Committee.

#### Guideline Levels for Radionuclides

112. The Commission was informed that the Coordinating Committee reiterated its opinion that the Guideline Levels for Radionuclides were too high even on an interim basis. It was further informed that the request to establish permanent levels, which are acceptable for long term exposure, had also been reiterated.



### Code of Practice for "Low-Energy" or "Reduced-Energy" Foods

113. The Coordinator informed the Commission that the Committee had discontinued the consideration of a proposal to elaborate the Code of Practice in light of the elaboration of Standards for Formula Foods for Use in Weight Control Diets and Formula Foods for Use in Very Low Energy Diets for Weight Reduction by the Codex Committee on Nutrition and Foods for Special Dietary Uses and Guidelines for Use of Health and Nutrition Claims in Food Labelling by the Committee on Food Labelling.

### Limits for Mycotoxin Contamination

114. The Commission was informed that the Committee had reiterated its previous position regarding the importance of establishing proper methods of sampling and analysis to ensure the validity of results. It had also renewed its call for Codex Commission to establish more practical and realistic limits for mycotoxins, especially for aflatoxins in animal feeds in view of the concerted efforts made by countries in the Region to reduce contamination.

### **APPOINTMENT OF COORDINATOR FOR ASIA**

115. The Commission appointed Dr. Dai Yin of People's Republic of China as Coordinator for Asia under Rule II.4(a). The Delegation of China informed the Commission of the willingness of their Government to host the Codex Coordinating Committee for Asia.

116. The Commission expressed its thanks to the Government of Malaysia for hosting the last session of the Coordinating Committee and thanked Dr. Azizan for her contribution to the work of Codex in the region.

### **CODEX COORDINATING COMMITTEE FOR EUROPE (Agenda Item 18)**

117. The Commission had before it ALINORM 93/19, the report of the Eighteenth Session of the Codex Coordinating Committee for Europe. The report was introduced by Mrs Barbro Blomberg (Sweden), the Coordinator for Europe and the Chairman of the Committee. Mrs Blomberg reported that the Coordinating Committee at its 18th Session had discussed in detail a future programme to collect updated information on the national authorities responsible for food safety in Europe and to improve cooperation at the national level between ministries of Agriculture and Health and at international level between countries, with the view towards the harmonization of food control and food policies in European countries.

118. Mrs Blomberg also informed the Commission that the Coordinating Committee had reviewed measures taken by governments to improve consumer participation in matters relating to food legislation. Nevertheless, it was noted that consumer participation was well established in several European countries. Lastly, Mrs Blomberg underlined activities undertaken by the Coordinating Committee in revising the Proposed Draft Guidelines on Organically Produced Food

and on measures proposed for the control of contamination with salmonella. The Coordinator raised the following specific matters for the attention of the Commission:

Code of Ethics for International Trade in Foods

119. The Commission noted the opinion of the Coordinating Committee that the Code of Ethics for International Trade in Food should be regularly reexamined to take into account developments concerning conditions of production and international trade. The Commission considered that the review of the Code of Ethics was not a priority at this time for Codex, taking into consideration that the newly revised publication of the Code had been recently issued.

Terms of Reference of the Committee

120. The Commission noted that the Coordinating Committee had recommended that the Executive Committee should provide its advice on the point of the Terms of Reference of the Committee dealing with the elaboration of regional standards. The Commission noted that the matter concerning the Terms of Reference of the Codex Coordinating Committees had been brought to the attention of the Committee on General Principles, which will discuss it more fully at its next session.

**APPOINTMENT OF COORDINATOR FOR EUROPE**

121. In accordance with Rule II.4.(b) the Commission appointed Dr Stuart Slorach of Sweden as Coordinator for Europe to serve from the end of the 20th to the end of the 21st Session of the Commission. The delegation of Sweden indicated that Sweden would be willing to host the 19th Session of the Coordinating Committee for Europe.

122. The Commission expressed its appreciation to the Government of Sweden for its kind offer to host the Coordinating Committee for a second time and its gratitude to the outgoing Coordinator, Mrs. Blomberg, both for her work as Coordinator over the past two years and for her long service to the Codex Alimentarius Commission.

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

123. The Commission had before it ALINORM 93/36, the report of the Eighth Session of the Coordinating Committee. The report was presented by Mr. Carlos Ferreira Guimarães (Brazil), the Coordinator for Latin America and the Caribbean. Mr. Guimarães informed the Commission that the Coordinating Committee expressed continued support for the objectives of the Sanitary and Phytosanitary Agreement and for a continued collaboration between the Codex Alimentarius and the GATT contracting parties. The Coordinator also underlined that several countries in the Region were in the process of evaluating Codex standards with a view to their future acceptance and stressed the importance of food standards harmonization. The Commission was informed on

programmes of control of mycotoxin and activities on food irradiation carried out in the Region. Mr. Guimarães drew the Commission's attention to those matters of interest summarized below.

#### Code of Hygienic Practice for Street-Vended Food

124. The Coordinating Committee considered the Code of Hygienic Practice for Street-Vended Food at Step 7 and in accordance with the recommendations of the Committee on Food Hygiene returned the Code to Step 6 for further review. The Commission noted this action.

#### Development of a list of products of interest to trade requiring the development of internationally harmonized standards

125. Two lists of food products had been elaborated by the Coordinating Committee which decided that both lists would be considered further and that more data should be collected on the respective importance of products in international food trade at export and import before referring them to the Commission.

#### Strengthening of National Codex Contact Points and National Codex Committees

126. The Coordinating Committee noted progress made in organizing the Codex Contact points and National Codex Committees in the Region, however, further assistance should be given by relevant international organizations in this area. The Commission expressed its appreciation of the work carried out by FAO and PAHO in the Region in this regard.

#### Microbiological Contamination of Food

127. The Coordinating Committee had agreed with the recommendations arising from the Workshop on Microbiological Contamination in Foods and its implications for International Trade, with a view to improving the control of microbiological contamination and promoting a better exchange of information in the Region.

#### **APPOINTMENT OF COORDINATOR FOR LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN**

128. The Commission appointed Mr. Carlos Alberto Ferreira Guimarães of Brazil as Coordinator for Latin America and the Caribbean in accordance with Rule II.4(b) to serve for a second term from the end of the 20th to the end of the 21st Session of the Commission. Mr. Guimarães informed the Commission that the Ninth Session of the Coordinating Committee would be held in Brazil in 1995.

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

129. The Commission had for its consideration the report of the Second Session of the Coordinating Committee for North America and the South-West Pacific (ALINORM 93/32), which was held in Canberra, Australia from 2-6 December 1991. The report was introduced by Mr. Digby Gascoine, Coordinator for North America and the South-West Pacific, who thanked FAO for its efforts in facilitating the participation of several developing countries of the Region at the meeting.

130. The Coordinator for North America and the South-West Pacific drew the Commission's attention to the Summary and Conclusions section as contained in the preamble to the Committee's report. Specifically, the Commission agreed with the Committee's recommendation to coordinate efforts with the International Office of Epizootics (OIE) and the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) in the context of regional information exchange and harmonized inspection and certification. The Commission also agreed that implications concerning the broader application of the hazard analysis and critical control point system (HACCP) should be examined by the Codex Committee on Food Hygiene and the third session of the Coordinating Committee for North America and the South-West Pacific.

131. The Commission also noted other matters of interest arising from the Coordinating Committee for North America and the South-West Pacific, including discussions concerning the review of the Commission's procedures on scientific principles; support for the successful outcome of the GATT Uruguay Round on sanitary and phytosanitary measures; guidance on risk assessment procedures; information sharing between members of the Committee on certification issues; the acceptance of food safety certification instead of inspection at the point of import; and, guidelines on organically and biologically produced foods.

### **APPOINTMENT OF COORDINATOR FOR NORTH AMERICA AND THE SOUTH-WEST PACIFIC**

132. In accordance with Rule II.4(a), the Commission appointed Mrs. Katherine Gourlie of Canada as the Coordinator for North America and the South-West Pacific to serve from the end of the 20th to the end of the 21st Session of the Commission. The Delegation of Canada indicated that Canada would be willing to host the 3rd Session of the Coordinating Committee for North America and the South-West Pacific.

### **CODEX COMMITTEE ON PESTICIDE RESIDUES (Agenda Item 21)**

133. The Commission had before it documents ALINORM 93/24, ALINORM 93/24A and ALINORM 93/24A-Add.1. The reports were introduced by the Chairman of the Codex Committee on Pesticide Residues, Dr. W.H. Van Eck (The Netherlands) who highlighted the main activities of the Codex Committee on Pesticide Residues during the last two sessions with the 25th Session being held in Cuba. Dr. Van Eck informed the Commission that the Committee at its last two

sessions had discussed risk analysis on the basis of calculations of Theoretical Maximum Daily Intake (TMDI) and Estimated Maximum Daily Intake (EMDI) with reference to what action should be taken when the Estimated Maximum Daily Intake exceeded the ADI. A Working Group had been appointed to produce draft guidelines for consideration at the 26th Session of the Committee.

134. The Commission welcomed developments by the Committee to give greater attention to risk assessment and particularly to the systematic calculation of estimated intake. However, some delegations recommended that when the best estimate of residue intake associated with individual proposed MRLs exceeded the ADI, the defined Good Agricultural Practices (GAPs) on which these MRLs were based should be reviewed before the MRLs would be advanced in the Codex Procedure. The Delegation of the United States was of the opinion that even when the estimated residue intake exceeded the ADI, the draft MRLs should advance according to the Codex Procedure but additional data on GAP should be sought and evaluated before the draft MRLs reached Step 8. The Commission requested the Committee to examine the issue. The Delegation of Germany asked that consideration be given to convening a Working Group on the relationship between GAPs, MRL and ADIs taking into account intake estimates. The Chairman of the Committee noted that such matters were discussed in the context of the Committee's *ad hoc* Working Group on Acceptances.

#### **DRAFT MAXIMUM RESIDUE LIMITS AT STEP 8 AND 5/8 OF THE CODEX PROCEDURE**

135. The Commission had before it the draft Maximum Residue Limits at Step 8 and 5/8 where the Codex Committee on Pesticide Residues had recommended the omission of Steps 6 and 7 (ALINORM 93/24A-Add.1).

136. The Delegation of Sweden, supported by Norway and Finland, reserved its position regarding draft MRLs of cyhexatin for plums and peach, and of azocyclotin for apple, pear, peach, plums and tomato, because estimates of residue intake exceeded the ADI. The Delegation of the United States reserved its position on the draft MRL for glyphosate for unprocessed wheat bran because it was based on wheat at the level of 10 mg/kg. The adoption of a MRL for wheat at 5 mg/kg was not followed by a consequent reduction in unprocessed wheat bran. The Delegation also expressed its reservation on draft MRLs of hexaconazole for wheat and wheat straw and fodder (dry) because data on processing studies and on transfer into animal products had not been provided.

137. The Delegation of France expressed its reservation to the draft MRLs of endosulfan and the Delegation of Brazil expressed its reservation on the draft MRLs of flusilazole.

#### **Status of the Draft Maximum Residue Limits**

138. The Commission adopted the draft MRLs at Step 8 except the draft MRLs of cyhexatin for peach and plums; of azocyclotin for apple, peach, pear, plums and tomato; of glyphosate for wheat bran; and of hexaconazole for wheat and wheat straw and fodder. These MRLs were returned to Step 7.

## PROPOSED DRAFT MAXIMUM RESIDUE LIMITS AT STEP 5 OF THE CODEX PROCEDURE

139. The delegations of Brazil, Finland, France, Germany, Norway, Poland, Spain and Sweden expressed reservations on some draft MRLs proposed for adoption at Step 5, which were considered too high or because the pesticide had not been registered for use at national level. The reservations concerned azinphos-methyl, azocyclotin, chlorpyrifos-methyl, cyhexatin, disulfoton, parathion and propoxur. The Observer from the EEC requested that the MRLs for these pesticides including azinphos-methyl be reviewed in the light of new data on GAP.

140. The Chairman of the Committee informed the Commission that a number of these compounds had been submitted to a periodic review and that in some cases the TMDI exceeded the ADI. However there was the possibility for further comments and submission of data on Good Agricultural Practice by member countries. He stated that the elaboration of guidelines on the review of existing Codex MRLs, if the TMDI or EMDI values exceeded the ADI, would help to establish MRLs taking full account of the residue intake. The Chairman also clarified that the draft MRL of azinphos-methyl for citrus fruit had been deleted because no information on registered use or on Good Agricultural Practice had been provided to the Joint FAO/WHO Meetings on Pesticide Residues.

### Status of the Proposed Draft Maximum Residue Limits

141. The Commission adopted the Proposed Draft MRLs at Step 5 and the proposed draft amendments to existing Codex MRLs at Step 5 as indicated in document ALINORM 93/24A Add.1.

### OTHER MATTERS ARISING FROM THE REPORTS OF THE 24TH AND 25TH SESSIONS OF THE COMMITTEE

#### Method of Sampling for the Determination of Pesticide Residues in Milk, Dairy Products and Eggs (ALINORM 93/24 Appendix VI)

142. The Commission adopted the proposed draft method of sampling and advanced it to Step 6.

#### Priority list of pesticides for evaluation

(ALINORM 93/24A paras. 236 - 249 and Appendix V; ALINORM 93/24A paras. 248-251 and Appendix IV)

143. The Chairman of the Committee informed the Commission that priority lists had been established by the 24th and 25th Sessions of the Committee and attached as Appendices V and IV respectively to the reports. The Commission noted the new Codex Procedure adopted under Agenda Item 15 and agreed to authorize the Codex Committee on Pesticide Residues to commence work on the elaboration of MRLs for pesticides referred to in the above lists.

Amendments to the Codex Classification of Food and Animal Feeds  
(ALINORM 93/24 paras. 53-55)

144. Amendments to the Codex Classification of food and animal feeds to the numbering system were supported by the Committee at its 24th Session. These amendments had been included in Volume 2 "Pesticide Residues" of the new Codex Alimentarius. The Commission confirmed the amendments proposed.

Establishment of a separate list of Extraneous Maximum Residue Limits (EMRLs)  
(ALINORM 93/24 paras 202-204 and ALINORM 93/24A paras. 210-214)

145. The Committee had proposed the elaboration of a separate list of EMRLs for those pesticides that were no longer in agricultural use or where no Good Agricultural Practices were recognized. The establishment of such extraneous or environmental maximum residue limits would be based on contamination monitoring principles and these limits would normally be significantly lower than those based on defined agricultural practices.

146. The Delegation of China pointed out that monitoring data for pesticides which are no longer used should cover different regions of the world with particular reference to developing countries. The Delegation also stressed the need for the development of quick and inexpensive screening methods for pesticide residues.

147. The Commission endorsed the establishment of a separate EMRL list on the basis of contamination monitoring principles.

Deletion of "Guideline Levels" (ALINORM 93/24 paras. 205-210 and ALINORM 93/24A paras.219-219)

148. Over a number of years the Committee had established a list of so-called "Guideline Levels" for pesticides for which an ADI had not been established. These Guideline Levels had not been submitted to the Commission for adoption, but had been used for the internal reference of the Committee. The existing Guideline Levels had recently been submitted to a review programme in order to delete compounds from the list. The Joint FAO/WHO Meetings on Pesticide Residues had also confirmed that no guidelines levels would be proposed in future for compounds not cleared toxicologically. The Commission welcomed this development.

**CONFIRMATION OF CHAIRMANSHIP OF THE COMMITTEE**

149. 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.

150. The Delegation of Cuba expressed its appreciation to the Government of The Netherlands to have accepted Cuba as hosting country for the 25th Session of the Committee and also thanked all participating countries and international organizations which contributed to the success of the meeting held in Havana.

## CODEX COMMITTEE ON RESIDUES OF VETERINARY DRUGS IN FOODS (Agenda Item 22)

151. The Commission had for its consideration documents ALINORM 93/31 and 93/31A, which were the reports of the 6th and 7th 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 AT STEP 8

152. The Commission was informed that the Codex Committee on Residues of Veterinary Drugs in Foods had agreed to advance Draft Maximum Residue Limits (MRLs) for Trenbolone Acetate and Albendazole, as contained in Appendix II of ALINORM 93/31, to the Commission for adoption at Step 8.

153. In order to facilitate its discussions, the Commission decided to discuss the Draft MRLs for Trenbolone Acetate and Albendazole as separate issues.

#### Trenbolone Acetate

154. The Commission was informed that the 6th Session of the Committee had decided to advance the draft MRLs for Trenbolone Acetate to Step 8 (para. 32, ALINORM 93/31). However, in view of the Commission's decision at its 19th Session not to adopt MRLs for a series of related compounds, the Codex Committee on General Principles had agreed that a discussion paper should be prepared by the Secretariat on the status of scientific principles as the basis for Commission recommendations (see para. 98).

155. Several delegations were of the opinion that the Commission should respond to the challenge posed by this dilemma in the context of the draft GATT Agreement on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures, which underscored the preeminence of scientific principles in national requirements in this field. The preservation and enhancement of Codex procedures and competence was felt to be especially critical in upholding the reputation of the Commission and its subsidiary bodies, which was widely recognized as the international food standardization body. The importance to all Codex member countries, especially from the developing world, in moving forward to adopt the draft MRLs at the earliest opportunity was also stressed.

156. Other delegations were of the opinion that the Commission should await the guidance of the Codex Committee on General Principles on the status of science in Codex procedures and decision-making processes before proceeding further. This was felt to be especially important because the issues did not concern health risks or technical matters, but were mainly focused on policies and principles.

157. In view of the above, the Commission decided that Trenbolone acetate should be held at Step 8 along with the other growth-promoting hormones until such time as guidance was obtained



from the Committee on General Principles on the status of science in Codex policies and procedures.

158. The Commission asked the Codex Committee on General Principles to consider developing guidance on how science and other factors should be integrated into its elaboration procedures and decision making processes based on the above discussions. It was further agreed that the discussion should not be limited to hormones, but should be very broad and also cover other Codex standards in areas such as food additives and pesticides, and other contaminants.

159. Although the Commission did not agree with a proposal to establish specific guidelines for the Codex Committee on General Principles when examining this issue, it was noted that other factors in addition to science and their corresponding importance would need to be considered during this review. These factors included legitimate consumer concerns, animal welfare, fraudulent or unfair trading practices, labelling and other ethical and cultural considerations while stressing the preeminence of science in Codex procedures.

160. In light of the Commission's decision, the observer from the Consultation Mondiale de l'Industrie de la Santé Animale (COMISA) stated that it appeared it would not be in a position to recommend to its membership that they place a high priority on becoming involved in the Codex process for establishing veterinary drug residue standards. However, it was stated that each company must make its own decision, taking into account the likely costs and benefits of such decisions.

#### **Status of the Draft Maximum Residue Limits for Trenbolone Acetate**

161. The Commission decided to hold the draft Maximum Residue Limit for Trenbolone Acetate along with the draft MRLs for  $\beta$ -estradiol, testosterone, progesterone and zeranol at Step 8, pending guidance provided by the Codex Committee on General Principles concerning this issue.

#### Albendazole

162. The Observer of the European Economic Community (EEC), while not opposing the adoption of draft maximum residue limits for Albendazole at Step 8, noted that previous technical difficulties with these proposals had been addressed. Specifically, it was stated that the Codex MRLs were based on total residue, while the European Community maximum residue limits were based on the marker residue 2-aminosulfone metabolite. The Delegation of Poland reserved its position on the adoption of the Draft MRLs.

#### **Status of the Draft Maximum Residue Limits for Albendazole**

163. The Commission adopted the Draft Maximum Residue Limits for Albendazole at Step 8.

**CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT MAXIMUM RESIDUE LIMITS AT STEP 5 WITH RECOMMENDATIONS THAT STEPS 6 AND 7 BE OMITTED**

164. The Commission was informed that the Committee had agreed to advance Draft Maximum Residue Limits for Closantel, Ivermectin, Benzylpenicillin, Oxytetracycline and Carbadox to the Commission for adoption at Step 5 with recommendations that Steps 6 and 7 be omitted. The Chairman of the Committee stressed that the elaboration had been based on sufficient information and that these veterinary drugs had been evaluated several times by JECFA.

165. The Delegation of Austria expressed reservations on several of the proposals concerning Benzylpenicillin and Oxytetracycline, bearing in mind its own more stringent requirements now in force for several years and considering the lack of definitive guidelines on the microbiological aspects of the use of these compounds. The Observer of the EEC reiterated the reservation of the position in relation to MRLs for Carbadox and noted that EEC legislation allowed the use of Carbadox as a feed additive but not as a veterinary drug. He further expressed the concern over the use of carbadox as a veterinary drug and noted that Codex MRLs for Carbadox would not be reflected in EEC legislation.

166. In response to a request for information concerning the possible effect of residues of oxytetracycline, the Chairman of the Committee informed the Commission of two recent symposia on microbiological aspects of contaminants held in Europe and USA and by referring to the Report of the 36th JECFA, that the effect of residual oxytetracycline at MRL level on intestinal microflora would not be of any public health concern.

**Status of the Draft Maximum Residue Limits for Closantel, Ivermectin, Benzylpenicillin, Oxytetracycline and Carbadox**

167. The Commission adopted the Proposed Draft Maximum Residue Limits for Closantel, Ivermectin, Benzylpenicillin, Oxytetracycline and Carbadox, as contained in Appendix II of ALINORM 93/31A, at Step 8 with the omission of Steps 6 and 7.

**CONSIDERATION OF THE PROPOSED DRAFT MAXIMUM RESIDUE LIMITS AT STEP 5**

168. The Commission was informed that the Committee had agreed to advance the Proposed Draft Maximum Residue Limits for Flubendazole, Thiabendazole, Triclabendazole, Isometamidium and Bovine Somatotropins to the Commission for adoption at Step 5.

**Status of the Proposed Draft Maximum Residue Limits for Flubendazole, Thiabendazole, Triclabendazole, Isometamidium and Bovine Somatotropins**

169. The Commission adopted the Proposed Draft Maximum Residue Limits for Flubendazole, Thiabendazole, Triclabendazole, Isometamidium and Bovine Somatotropins, as contained in Appendix IV of ALINORM 93/31A, at Step 5.

#### **CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT CODE OF PRACTICE FOR THE CONTROL AND USE OF VETERINARY DRUGS AT STEP 8**

170. The Commission was informed that the Committee had agreed to forward the Draft Code of Practice for the Control and Use of Veterinary Drugs to the Commission for adoption at Step 8.

##### **Status of the Draft Code of Practice for the Control and Use of Veterinary Drugs**

171. The Commission adopted the Draft Code of Practice for the Control and Use of Veterinary Drugs, as contained in Appendix VII of ALINORM 93/31A, at Step 8.

#### **CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT GUIDELINES FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A REGULATORY PROGRAMME FOR THE CONTROL OF VETERINARY DRUG RESIDUES IN FOODS, AT STEP 8**

172. The Commission was informed that the Committee had agreed to forward to the Commission for adoption at Step 8 the Draft Guidelines for the Establishment of a Regulatory Programme for the Control of Veterinary Drug Residues in Foods, as contained in Appendix VIII in ALINORM 93/31, with some amendments, as contained in Appendix VIII of ALINORM 93/31A.

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

173. The Commission adopted the Draft Guidelines for the Establishment of a Regulatory Programme for the Control of Veterinary Drug Residues in Foods at Step 8.

#### **CONSIDERATION OF THE DRAFT GLOSSARY OF TERMS AND DEFINITIONS AT STEP 8**

174. The Chairman of the Committee informed the Commission that the Committee had agreed to advance the Draft Glossary of Terms and Definitions to the Commission for adoption at Step 8. The Chairman stressed that the Glossary was necessary for the Committee and had been discussed since the first Session with updating and monitoring as needed.

##### **Status of the Draft Glossary of Terms and Definitions**

175. The Commission adopted the Draft Glossary of Terms and Definitions, as contained in Appendix IX of ALINORM 93/31, at Step 8.

#### **PRIORITY LIST OF VETERINARY DRUGS REQUIRING EVALUATION**

176. The Commission was informed that a Priority List had been established by the Committee as contained in Appendix X of ALINORM 93/31A. In the light of the adoption by the Commission of new Codex Procedure under Agenda Item 15, the Chairman of the Committee requested the

Commission's authorization to commence work on the elaboration of MRLs for veterinary drugs on the Priority List.

177. The Commission endorsed the Priority List as established by the Committee.

OIE Code of Practice for the Registration of Veterinary Drugs

178. The Commission was informed that the Committee had agreed to attach to ALINORM 93/31A as Appendix IX the final version of the Code of Practice for the Registration of Veterinary Drugs established by the Office International des Epizoöties (OIE) for the information of member governments. The Chairman of the Committee thanked OIE for its efforts and offer to update the Code if necessary.

**CONFIRMATION OF CHAIRMANSHIP OF THE COMMITTEE**

179. 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.

180. The Commission expressed its gratitude for the work of Dr. Guest as Chairman of the Committee since its third Session and wished him all the best in his retirement.

**CODEX COMMITTEE ON FOOD LABELLING (Agenda Item 23)**

181. The Commission had before it ALINORM 93/22, the report of the 22nd Session of the Committee, which was introduced by Mr. R.B. Burke (Canada) on behalf of Mrs. K. Gourlie, Chairman of the Committee.

**DRAFT NUTRIENT REFERENCE VALUES (DRAFT AMENDMENT OF SECTION 3.3.4 OF THE CODEX GUIDELINES ON NUTRITION LABELLING) (ALINORM 93/22, Appendix II)**

182. The Commission was informed that the Committee had approved the Draft Nutrient Reference Values (NRV) with the understanding that the definition and review of these values was an ongoing process, subject to revision according to new scientific data. The Committee had recognized the need for general principles to guide the choice and amendment of NRVs, and had requested the advice of the Committee on Nutrition and Foods for Special Dietary Uses in this respect.

183. The Delegation of Malaysia indicated that it had proposed the inclusion of Vitamin E in the list of NRVs in view of its nutritional importance and wished that this nutrient should be added. The Observer of the EC pointed out that new values were currently being considered at the international level and that this should be taken into account.

### **Status of the Draft Nutrient Reference Values (Draft Amendment of Section 3.3.4 of the Codex Guidelines on Nutrition Labelling)**

184. The Commission adopted the Draft Nutrient Reference Values, as contained in Appendix II of ALINORM 93/22, at Step 8 of the Codex Procedure.

### **PROPOSED DRAFT GUIDELINES FOR THE PRODUCTION, PROCESSING, LABELLING AND MARKETING OF ORGANICALLY PRODUCED FOODS**

185. In addition to the Report of the Session dealing with this matter, the Committee had before it the comments at Step 5 of Japan (LIM.7) and IFOAM (LIM.8). It was recalled that the 19th Session of the Commission had entrusted to the Committee on Food Labelling the development of the Guidelines which were initiated by the Coordinating Committee for Europe.

186. The Commission was informed that the Committee had amended the Guidelines in the light of the great number of comments received and had proposed its advancement to Step 5, with the understanding that some aspects of the text were of the competence of other committees, especially the Committee on Food Import and Export Inspection and Certification Systems and the Committee on Food Additives and Contaminants.

### **Status of the Proposed Draft Guidelines for the Production, Processing, Labelling and Marketing of Organically Produced Foods**

187. The Commission adopted the Draft Guidelines, as contained in Appendix V of ALINORM 93/22, at Step 5 of the Procedure and advanced them to Step 6.

### **OTHER MATTERS ARISING FROM THE REPORT OF THE 22ND SESSION OF THE COMMITTEE**

#### Biotechnology

188. As requested by the 19th Session of the Commission, the Committee had considered the issue of foods produced through biotechnology in relation to food labelling and agreed that a discussion paper would be prepared by the Delegation of the United States in the light of government comments on this issue, for consideration by the next session of the Committee.

#### Endorsement of Labelling Provisions in Codex Standards

189. The Commission noted with approval the endorsement of labelling provisions in Draft Standards proposed by the Committee on Tropical Fresh Fruits and Vegetables, the Committee on Fish and Fishery Products, the Committee on Cereals, Pulses and Legumes. The Committee had further recommended that the Committee on Nutrition and Foods for Special Dietary Uses should reconsider the labelling section of the Proposed Draft Standard on Formula Foods for Use in Very Low Energy Diets for Weight Reduction, as its provisions were already covered by the General Standard for the Labelling of and Claims for Prepackaged Foods for Special Dietary Uses, and the Commission endorsed this recommendation.

Proposed Draft Guidelines for the Use of Health and Nutrition Claims  
(ALINORM 93/22, Appendix III)

190. The Committee had agreed on the provisions relating to Nutrition Claims but as no consensus could be reached on Health Claims, the Guidelines were returned at Step 3 of the Procedure for further redrafting under the direction of the Delegation of Canada and consideration by the next session of the Committee.

Proposed Draft Guidelines for the Use of the Term "Natural"

191. The Committee had proposed that the Guidelines become an amendment to the General Guidelines on Claims, and returned them to Step 3 for redrafting by the Delegation of Canada.

Labelling of Potential Allergens ( ALINORM 93/22, Appendix IV)

192. The Commission was informed that the Committee had considered a working document prepared by Norway (in cooperation with Finland, Iceland and Sweden) on the problems associated with the labelling of allergens and proposing amendments to the General Standard on Labelling, especially in relation with Section 4.2.1.3 (25% rule). The recommendations were considered by the Committee, taking into account the advice of the 38th Session of the Executive Committee to proceed with caution in this area, and circulated for government comments at Step 3. The Commission endorsed the proposal of the Committee to initiate work on the Labelling of Potential Allergens.

**CONFIRMATION OF CHAIRMANSHIP OF THE COMMITTEE**

193. The Commission confirmed under Rule IX.10 that the Committee on Food Labelling should continue under the Chairmanship of the Government of Canada.

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

194. The Commission had for its consideration the reports of the 24th and 25th Sessions of the Codex Committee on Food Additives and Contaminants (ALINORM 93/12 and ALINORM 93/12A, respectively). Government comments submitted in response to CL 1992/8-FAC and 1993/8-FAC were also summarized in documents ALINORM 93/39, CAC/LIM 3 (ALINORM 93/39-Add.1) and CAC/LIM 7 (ALINORM 93/39-Add. 2). The reports were introduced by the Chairman of the Committee, Mrs. C.G.M. Klitsie (The Netherlands).

**PROPOSED DRAFT MAXIMUM LEVEL FOR AFLATOXIN M<sub>1</sub> IN MILK**

195. The Commission was informed that the Committee had decided on a maximum level of 0.05 µg/kg for aflatoxin M<sub>1</sub> in liquid milk for forwarding to the Commission for adoption at Step 5 (Appendix V, ALINORM 93/12). The Commission also noted that the Committee had decided

to discontinue the consideration of establishing a level for aflatoxin M<sub>1</sub> in milk destined for infant foods (paras. 81-85, ALINORM 93/12).

196. In discussing the proposed draft maximum level, several delegations, while noting that levels of aflatoxins should be kept as low as possible, were of the opinion that a level of 0.5 µg/kg was a more realistic value, as lower values were not necessary to insure consumer protection based on the available data. The feasibility, practicality and need for such a level to facilitate international trade were also noted as important factors to consider when establishing such limits. In view of ongoing discussions in the Codex Committee on Food Additives and Contaminants and the Codex Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling to develop general criteria for the evaluation of contaminants, to establish levels for aflatoxin in feed and to establish methods of analysis and sampling, it was suggested that the consideration of the level should be suspended for the time being.

197. A similar number of delegations, while noting that the proposed levels were based on valid scientific data and extensive Committee discussions, supported their adoption. It was stressed that levels for such a potentially toxic contaminant in milk, which could be maintained by controlling levels in feed, should be established as soon as possible to ensure consumer protection especially for children. The Observer of the International Dairy Federation also stated that the proposed levels could be detected by an immuno-affinity column assay method developed by an AOAC/ISO/IDF tripartite group.

#### **Status of the Proposed Draft Maximum Level for Aflatoxin M<sub>1</sub> in Milk**

198. The Commission agreed to adopt the proposed draft maximum level at Step 5, with the understanding that the statements mentioned as well as a review of available methods of analysis and sampling, and a thorough risk analysis would be carefully considered by the Committee before the Draft Maximum Level would be forwarded to the Commission for final adoption.

#### **CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT SPECIFICATIONS FOR THE IDENTITY AND PURITY OF FOOD ADDITIVES AT STEP 8**

199. The Commission was informed that the Committee had agreed to forward Categories I and II of those specifications arising from the 37th and 39th JECFA (Appendix III, ALINORM 93/12 and Appendix V, ALINORM 93/12A, respectively) for adoption as Codex Advisory Specifications at Step 3 (i.e., under the previous special procedures for the elaboration of Codex Advisory Specifications). It was noted that Uniform Procedures for the Elaboration of Codex Standards and Related Texts were recently adopted by the Commission (see Agenda Item 15(c) above) and therefore, the specifications were in fact being submitted for adoption at the equivalent of Step 8.

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

200. The Commission adopted those specifications listed above as Codex Advisory Specifications at Step 8 based on the newly revised elaboration procedures. The Commission noted that Codex Advisory Specifications were not subject to government acceptance.

**DRAFT AMENDMENTS TO THE INTERNATIONAL NUMBERING SYSTEM FOR FOOD ADDITIVES**

201. The Commission was informed that proposed amendments to the International Numbering System (INS) (Appendix IV, ALINORM 93/12 and Appendix VI, ALINORM 93/12A) were being forward to the Commission for adoption.

202. It was noted that the International Numbering System (INS) for Food Additives had been published in Volume 1 of the Codex Alimentarius (General Requirements - Section 5.1), and that amendments to the INS were considered by the Committee at each of its meetings based on the recommendations of an informal working group. It was stressed that the INS was used for ingredient labelling purposes only and did not imply that a toxicological evaluation for those additives listed had been undertaken by JECFA. Criteria for the inclusion of a food additive on the list (para. 90, ALINORM 91/12) were also highlighted.

203. To facilitate its discussions, the Commission agreed to discuss the status of processed eucheuma seaweed, as well as calcium behenate, separately from other proposed amendments.

Processed Eucheuma Seaweed

204. The Commission was informed that the Committee proposed to assign number 426 to processed eucheuma seaweed as a thickener and stabilizer, while noting that governments would have the opportunity to comment on this recommendation in the future (para. 70, ALINORM 93/12A). It was noted that JECFA had established a specification as well as a temporary Acceptable Daily Intake (ADI) for this compound at its 41st Session. It was also stated that the specifications for additives established by the 41st JECFA, including the specification for processed eucheuma seaweed, would be discussed at the 26th Session of the Codex Committee on Food Additives and Contaminants through its Working Group on Specifications.

205. The Delegation of the Philippines noted that JECFA had endorsed the safety of processed eucheuma seaweed by establishing a temporary ADI, with the condition for additional review of data in 1995. In view of the current temporary ADI status for processed eucheuma seaweed, the Delegation of the Philippines, supported by many other delegations, suggested that an INS number should not be assigned pending the future JECFA review. The Delegation of the Philippines suggested that the issue should be returned to the Codex Committee on Food Additives and Contaminants for consideration.

206. The Observer of the World Seaweed Producers Association (MARINALG International) highlighted comments submitted in regard to this issue and summarized in document CAC/LIM 3 (ALINORM 93/39-Add. 1). As a result of these observations, it was suggested by the Observer of MARINALG that the Commission should assign INS number 426 to processed eucheuma seaweed as recommended by the Codex Committee on Food Additives and Contaminants. The Delegation of the Philippines did not agree with the MARINALG observations.

207. In view of these discussions, the Commission agreed that an INS number should not be assigned to processed eucheuma seaweed pending the reexamination of this issue at the 26th Session



of the Codex Committee on Food Additives and Contaminants through its Working Groups on Specifications and on the International Numbering System. It was also agreed that JECFA would be informed of this decision.

#### Calcium Behenate

208. The Commission was informed that the Committee had agreed to assign INS number 275 to calcium behenate based on its use as a preservative (Number Series 200).

209. The Delegation of Germany was of the opinion that calcium behenate should not be listed under the INS technological functional category of preservatives, as it should more appropriately be assigned to the INS category of thickeners, stabilizers and emulsifiers (Number Series 400).

210. The Commission agreed that INS number 275 for calcium behenate should be sent back to the Codex Committee on Food Additives and Contaminants for reexamination.

#### **Status of Amendments to the International Numbering System for Food Additives**

211. The Commission adopted the amendments to the INS as contained in Appendix IV of ALINORM 93/12 and Appendix VI of ALINORM 93/12A at Step 8, with the exception of proposals for processed eucheuma seaweed and calcium behenate. This decision was taken with the understanding that amendments to the list would remain as a standing agenda item for the Committee.

#### **CONSIDERATION OF THE DRAFT PREAMBLE TO THE CODEX GENERAL STANDARD ON FOOD ADDITIVES**

212. The Commission was informed that the Committee had decided to forward the revised Preamble to the proposed draft General Standard on Food Additives (Appendix II, ALINORM 93/12A) to the Commission for adoption at Step 5. The Committee also agreed that Schedules 1 and 2 and Annex A of the General Standard would be revised and circulated for comments at Step 3 prior to its next session (paras. 27-49, ALINORM 93/12A).

213. The Delegation of Brazil objected that the list of food additives in the General Standard were limited to those compounds evaluated by JECFA, and did not take toxicological evaluations performed by non-JECFA bodies into account and excluded additives in regional use and those which, because of their historical use, had never been evaluated by JECFA.

#### **Status of the Proposed Draft Preamble to the Codex General Standard for Food Additives**

214. The Commission, while agreeing with the decision of the Committee to use a step-by-step approach in the elaboration of the General Standard, emphasized the importance and priority placed on its future development.

215. The Commission agreed to adopt the Preamble to the Codex General Standard for Food Additives (Appendix II, ALINORM 93/12A) at Step 5.

**PROPOSED DRAFT PROVISIONAL GUIDELINE LEVEL FOR AFLATOXIN B<sub>1</sub> IN SUPPLEMENTARY FEEDINGSTUFFS FOR MILK-PRODUCING ANIMALS**

216. The Commission was informed that the Committee had agreed to forward a proposed draft provisional guideline level of [5 µg/kg] for aflatoxin B<sub>1</sub> in supplementary feedingstuffs for milk-producing animals (Appendix VII, ALINORM 93/12A) for adoption at Step 5.

217. A majority of delegations was opposed to the adoption of the provisional guideline level as proposed, as it was noted that a realistic and practical limit based on sound science and economic considerations was required. It was also stated that the correlation between aflatoxin B<sub>1</sub> in supplementary feedingstuffs and aflatoxin M<sub>1</sub> in milk was clearly linked and therefore, the two levels (i.e. M<sub>1</sub> and B<sub>1</sub>) should be discussed together. The need for levels for international trade in supplementary feedingstuffs was also questioned, as it was stated that such trade was normally in raw feed materials.

218. It was also stated that the results of a recently held FAO Consultation on Sampling Plans for Aflatoxins as well as the pending elaboration of the Codex General Standard for Contaminants and paper on the status of science in Codex Procedures should be examined by the Codex Committee on Food Additives and Contaminants and the Codex Committee on Cereals, Pulses and Legumes before a final decision was taken. The Commission was also informed of an upcoming Canadian paper being prepared for consideration by the Committee which would examine the use of Good Agricultural Practice in the reduction of aflatoxin contamination.

219. Other delegations supported the proposed draft provisional guideline level as being based on sound science, as evidenced in part by the inclusion of a similar value in European Community legislation. It was stated that the correlation between aflatoxin B<sub>1</sub> in supplementary feedingstuffs and aflatoxin M<sub>1</sub> in milk was already clearly established. As the opposition to the adoption of the proposal was perceived to be a problem of risk analysis and management, it was suggested that the issue could be examined by the Codex Committee on General Principles.

**Status of the Proposed Draft Provisional Guideline Level for Aflatoxin B<sub>1</sub> in Supplementary Feedingstuffs for Milk-Producing Animals**

220. The Commission decided to return the proposed draft provisional guideline level to the Codex Committee on Food Additives and Contaminants for reexamination at Step 3, with the understanding that an examination of problems in international trade and risk analysis aspects would be undertaken. It was also agreed that the Codex Committee on General Principles could examine this issue in a general sense when discussing the use of science in Codex procedures.

## **GUIDELINE LEVELS FOR METHYLMERCURY IN FISH**

221. The Commission was informed that those levels adopted for methylmercury in fish at its 19th Session were published in Volume 1 of the Codex Alimentarius (section 6.2 - General Requirements). However, the 24th Session of the Codex Committee on Food Additives and Contaminants indicated that the guideline levels applied to total mercury as opposed to methylmercury (paras. 102-105, ALINORM 93/12). This revised proposal was submitted to the Commission for its consideration.

### **Status of the Guideline Levels for Methylmercury in Fish**

222. The Commission decided to maintain the current guideline levels for methylmercury in fish as previously adopted, while recommending that the establishment of corresponding guideline levels for total mercury in fish be considered by the Committee at its next meeting.

## **PROPOSED DRAFT GENERAL STANDARD FOR CONTAMINANTS IN FOODS**

223. The Commission was informed that the Committee had decided to prepare the above proposed draft standard for circulation and government comment at the earliest opportunity and based on the Committee's discussions (paras. 103-115, ALINORM 93/12A).

224. The Commission agreed with this procedure.

## **OTHER MATTERS ARISING FROM THE REPORTS OF THE 24TH AND 25TH SESSIONS OF THE COMMITTEE**

### Future Work

225. The Commission approved of the Committee's Programme of Future work, as summarized in paragraph 174 of ALINORM 93/12A.

226. The Commission also noted that the second sentence in the English version of paragraph 101 in ALINORM 93/12A (report of the 25th Session of the Codex Committee on Food Additives and Contaminants) retained a reference to chloropropanol which had been deleted by the Committee. The sentence should be amended to read as follows:

"In view of this recommendation, the Committee agreed that the Chairman/Secretariat of the Codex Committee on Soups and Broths should be informed accordingly."

## **CONFIRMATION OF CHAIRMANSHIP**

227. 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)**

228. The Commission had before it the reports of the 25th and 26th Sessions of the Committee presented in ALINORM 93/13 and ALINORM 93/13A, which were introduced by Dr. Douglas D. Archer, Chairman of the Committee.

### **DRAFT GENERAL PROVISIONS RELATING TO FOOD HYGIENE IN CODEX STANDARDS (ALINORM 93/13, Appendix II)**

229. The Commission noted that the General Provisions provided simplified reference to the General Principles of Food Hygiene and other Codes of Practice and that the Committee had recommended their inclusion in new standards or revised standards as they were republished.

### **Status of the Draft General Provisions Relating to Food Hygiene in Codex Standards**

230. The Commission adopted the Draft General Provisions at Step 8 of the Procedure, for inclusion in Codex standards whenever possible.

### **DRAFT CODE OF HYGIENIC PRACTICE FOR PRE-COOKED AND COOKED FOODS IN MASS CATERING (ALINORM 93/13, Appendix III)**

231. The Commission was informed that the Committee had agreed not to include raw foods in the scope of the Code, which was already in an advanced stage of elaboration and to discuss the feasibility of a separate Code for raw foods at a later date.

### **Status of the Draft Code of Hygienic Practice for Pre-cooked and Cooked Foods in Mass Catering**

232. The Commission agreed to adopt the Draft Code at Step 8 of the Procedure.

### **DRAFT CODE OF HYGIENIC PRACTICE FOR ASEPTICALLY PROCESSED AND PACKAGED LOW- ACID FOODS (ALINORM 93/13A, Appendix III)**

233. The Commission noted that the Committee had amended the Scope to indicate that the document should apply only to low-acid foods which had a water activity ( $a_w$ ) greater than 0.85.

### **Status of the Draft Code of Hygienic Practice for Aseptically Processed and Packaged Low- Acid Foods**

234. The Commission adopted the Draft Code at Step 8 of the Procedure.

235. Following the endorsement of the Scope of the Code of Hygienic Practice for Aseptically Processed and Packaged Low-Acid Foods, the Commission endorsed a consequential amendment to the Scope of the Recommended International Code of Hygienic Practice for Low-Acid and Acidified Low-Acid Canned Foods.

**DRAFT GUIDELINES PROCEDURES FOR THE VISUAL INSPECTION OF LOTS OF CANNED FOODS  
(ALINORM 93/13, Appendix IV)**

236. The Commission was informed that the Committee had agreed to propose the adoption of the Guidelines at Step 8, as it had been considered in detail and general consensus had been reached.

**Status of the Draft Guidelines Procedures for the Visual Inspection of Lots of Canned Foods**

237. The Commission adopted the Draft Guidelines at Step 8 with the omission of Steps 6 and 7 of the Procedure.

**PROPOSED DRAFT GUIDELINES FOR THE APPLICATION OF THE HAZARD ANALYSIS CRITICAL CONTROL POINT (HACCP) SYSTEM (ALINORM 93/13A, Appendix II)**

238. Some delegations expressed the view that the fourth paragraph of the Preamble referring to the possible use of HACCP for quality applications should be deleted, as the system applied only to food safety aspects. The Observer from IFGMA expressed its satisfaction that the HACCP System, which had been developed by the food industry and was now widely used, should be recognized at the level of Codex, as it represented a significant contribution to the safety of consumers. However, he was of the opinion that the reference to food quality should be deleted as HACCP was solely concerned with safety and other internationally recognized systems such as ISO 9000 appropriately dealt with quality matters. The Observer from CIAA, while supporting the Guidelines, was of the view that the reference to quality should be deleted. It was also noted that the Secretariat had contacted ISO to obtain its views on the compatibility of the document with ISO 9000, as requested by the Committee, and had been informed that in principle there appeared to be no conflict with the ISO 9000 texts.

239. The Chairman of the Committee informed the Commission that the development of HACCP Guidelines was regarded as a matter of high priority and it had been agreed that contact with ISO should not hold up its progress. It had also been agreed that paragraph 4 referred only to a possibility and was in no way mandatory. The Commission agreed to retain paragraph 4 as a footnote.

240. The Delegation of Tanzania, supported by Algeria, expressed the view that guidance was needed for the practical application of the HACCP System, and that efforts should be made in this direction, especially at the regional level for the benefit of developing countries.

241. The WHO Joint Session Secretary drew the attention of the Commission to a recent WHO Consultation on HACCP during which the Codex Draft Guidelines for the Application of the

HACCP System had been reviewed in depth by some of the world's most experienced HACCP specialists. They had come to the conclusion that the text needed further improvement. Therefore, he felt that the Commission might wish to request the Committee to revise the text in view of the review by the WHO consultant prior to its adoption at Step 8. The Chairman of the Committee, however, felt that Codex Guidelines for the Application of the HACCP System were urgently needed and any further improvement of the text could be made when the text was incorporated into the Revised General Principles of Food Hygiene.

#### **Status of the Proposed Draft Guidelines for the Application of the Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point (HACCP) System**

242. Taking into consideration the detailed revision of the document by the previous sessions of the Committee and the importance of this matter, the Commission adopted the Draft Guidelines at Step 8 with the omission of Steps 6 and 7 of the Procedure.

#### **PROPOSED DRAFT CODE OF HYGIENIC PRACTICE FOR SPICES AND CONDIMENTS (ALINORM 93/13A, Appendix V)**

243. The Commission noted that the Scope of the Code had been limited to dried spices and condiments and blends thereof, as these were the main subject of public health concern, and that specific government comments had been requested on the necessity of microbiological specifications for treated spices.

#### **Status of the Proposed Draft Code of Hygienic Practice for Spices and Condiments**

244. The Commission adopted the Draft Code at Step 5 of the Procedure.

#### **TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE COMMITTEE**

245. The Committee had agreed to the technical amendment of its terms of reference proposed by the Committee on General Principles. The Commission adopted the amendment as contained in ALINORM 93/13A, para. 12.

#### **OTHER MATTERS ARISING FROM THE REPORTS OF THE 25TH AND 26TH SESSIONS OF THE COMMITTEE**

##### Draft Revised General Principles of Food Hygiene

246. The Commission was informed that there was general consensus on the approach taken in the Draft Revised Principles and that it was returned to Step 3 of the Procedure to be completed under the direction of the United Kingdom and considered at the next session of the Committee. The Commission noted that the HACCP approach would be incorporated in the Revised General Principles.

Proposed Draft Code of Practice for Refrigerated Packaged Foods with Extended Shelf-Life

247. The Committee decided to return the Proposed Draft Code to Step 3 of the Procedure for further redrafting, as it appeared that major amendments would be required, especially in relation with the re-evaluation of the Scope.

Street Foods

248. The Committee had considered the Proposed Draft Regional Codes elaborated by the regions of Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean, had recognized that a general or global model code was inappropriate, as could be regional codes, and had invited the Coordinating Committees to reconsider their approach to determine whether regional codes in their present form were actually needed, as it was felt that the establishment of detailed codes should be left to local authorities in the countries concerned. Such codes could be developed with the help of a revised version of the WHO document on Essential Safety Requirements for Street-vended Foods.

249. The Delegation of Tanzania noted that in this perspective, guidelines would be necessary to develop the relevant codes and the Chairman of the Committee pointed out that the WHO "Essential Safety Requirements for Street-Vended Foods" was one of the references which could be used to this effect. The Delegation of Malaysia offered the Draft Regional Code of Hygienic Practice for Street-Vended Foods for Asia for use as a reference in this Region, taking into account the advice of the Committee on Food Hygiene, as well as the WHO document.

Proposed Draft Code of Hygienic Practice for Uncured/Unripened Cheese and Ripened Soft Cheese (ALINORM 93/13A, Appendix IV)

250. The Commission was informed that the Committee had considered a revised document incorporating the HACCP approach and including special provisions for cheese made with raw milk, and had agreed to circulate it for comments at Step 3 of the Procedure.

Medical examination of food handlers

251. Following the recommendations of the WHO Consultation on Health Surveillance and Management Procedures for Food Handling Personnel with regard to pre-employment examination, the Committee had agreed that the current text of the General Principles of Food Hygiene was consistent with the recommendations as it allowed for different national legislations. However, the language used in some other codes differed from the General Principles Code and needed to be amended accordingly.

Microbiological Specifications for Quick Frozen Cooked Crab Meat

252. The Committee had endorsed the specifications as proposed by the Committee on Fish and Fishery Products. The Delegation of Switzerland expressed the view that enterobacteriaceae were

appropriate microbiological criteria to indicate both incomplete heat treatment and post-processing contamination.

### Microbiological Criteria

253. The Committee had agreed that the existing Principles for the Establishment and Application of Microbiological Criteria for Foods should be revised, as well as current microbiological specifications in Codex Codes, as some of these were out of date and as the new concepts such as HACCP should be taken into account. It was therefore decided that the Secretariat should prepare a discussion paper in cooperation with ICMSF for consideration by the next session of the Committee.

### Listeria monocytogenes

254. The Commission had noted that there was insufficient data and inadequate scientific consensus to reach a conclusion about maximum levels for *L. monocytogenes* in foods for application at the international level. It was however, agreed that the HACCP approach should be preferred and that consumer education should be developed. The Committee agreed to request specific proposals for consensus on international control measures for this pathogen and information on measures taken at the national level, for consideration by its next session.

### **CONFIRMATION OF CHAIRMANSHIP**

255. The Commission confirmed under Rule IX.10 that the Committee on Food Hygiene would continue under the Chairmanship of the Government of the United States.

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

256. The Commission had before it the Report of the 18th Session of the Codex Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling (ALINORM 93/23). The report was introduced by Dr. Maria Varardi (Hungary) on behalf of the Chairman of the Committee, Professor Peter Biacs.

### **NEW TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE COMMITTEE (ALINORM 93/23 paras. 28-33)**

257. The Committee had recommended the adoption of its terms of reference as reported in paragraph 30 of the report of the Committee. It was emphasized that the proposed Terms of Reference were in line with the recommendations of the 19th Session of the Commission that and they had been endorsed by the Committee on General Principles.

258. The Delegation of France questioned whether the Codex Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling should define protocols for food laboratory proficiency. It was clarified that the specific mandate of the Codex Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling, working in collaboration with other bodies, would be to endorse procedures and protocols developed by



specialized organizations and intended as international procedures for the verification of provisions in Codex standards.

259. The Commission adopted the new terms of reference as proposed by the Committee.

**DRAFT CODEX GENERAL GUIDELINES ON SAMPLING (ALINORM 93/23 paras. 20-27)**

260. The Committee had proposed that draft Codex General Guidelines on Sampling should be prepared before the Committee's next Session in order to provide an advisory text for sampling plans, which could be used by importing and exporting countries to control commodities moving in international trade. The Delegation of Poland supported by Sweden emphasized the importance of these Guidelines and the need for an expert consultation in this matter as suggested by the Committee. They noted that notable work had been developed for many years by the Codex Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling, however sampling plans were not yet available for Codex Standards.

261. The Commission endorsed the elaboration of these Guidelines.

**CHECKLIST OF INFORMATION REQUIRED AND GUIDELINES TO EVALUATE METHODS OF ANALYSIS (ALINORM 93/23 paras. 34-39 and Appendices II and III)**

262. The Committee had revised the former Checklist and made a number of changes and was requesting the final adoption of these texts by the Commission for publication in Volume 13 of the Codex Alimentarius.

263. Written comments were received from Australia as reported in document CAC/LIM 3 (1993), calling attention to a small inconsistency between the text of the Checklist and the Precision Criteria. The Delegation of China also questioned the method of removal of outliers in the document and referred that from its point of view some error had been included in the example attached to the text.

264. The Commission adopted the proposed texts and requested the Committee to clarify the points made by Australia and China to the next meeting of the Executive Committee, so that the text may be published as soon as possible.

**OTHER MATTERS ARISING FROM THE REPORT OF THE 18TH SESSION OF THE COMMITTEE**

Cooperation with IUPAC (ALINORM 93/23 paras. 34-39 and 53-57)

265. The Commission noted the work developed with the International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry (IUPAC) on the Protocol for the Design, Conduct and Interpretation of Method Performance Studies and on the definition of Limit of Determination and welcomed this cooperation.

Laboratory Proficiency Testing (ALINORM 93/23 paras. 47)

266. The Delegation of Finland emphasized the importance of this area in the system of certification where the accreditation of laboratories covered an important role. The Commission agreed that this was a priority area associated with food inspection and certification systems.

Classification of Codex methods (ALINORM 93/23 para. 68)

267. The Committee had agreed to clarify the area of procedures related to the endorsement of methods and their classification, taking into consideration that an exhaustive document would be prepared on this topic for the next Session of the Committee.

268. The Commission endorsed the approach taken by the Committee and indicated that this work must be undertaken within the framework of the Codex Procedure.

General Methods of Analysis for Contaminants (ALINORM 93/23 paras. 70-81)

269. The Commission noted that general methods of analysis for contaminants were under revision, indicated that this work was of high priority and expressed the hope that a suitable final text would be available for consideration at Step 8 by the 21st Session of the Commission.

**CONFIRMATION OF CHAIRMANSHIP**

270. 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 FOOD IMPORT AND EXPORT INSPECTION AND CERTIFICATION SYSTEMS (Agenda Item 27)**

271. The Commission had for its consideration the report of the First Session of the Codex Committee on Food Import and Export Inspection and Certification Systems (ALINORM 93/30), which was presented by the Chairman of the Committee, Mr. Digby Gascoine (Australia). The Commission also noted that government comments requested (CL 1992/26-FICS) on issues arising from the Committee were summarized in document CAC/LIM 3 (ALINORM 93/39-Add. 1).

**TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE COMMITTEE**

272. The Commission was informed that the Committee drafted Terms of Reference which were now submitted to the Commission for adoption (Appendix II, ALINORM 93/30).

273. After considering extensive comments on the draft Terms of Reference as proposed, the Commission decided to form a drafting group consisting of representatives from Australia, Belgium, Malaysia and Sweden to revise the draft Terms of Reference based on these discussions.

274. The Commission adopted the following terms of reference for the Codex Committee on Food Import and Export Inspection and Certification Systems as a compromise solution based on the drafting group proposals.

- (a) To develop principles and guidelines for food import and export inspection and certification systems with a view to harmonising methods and procedures which protect the health of consumers, ensure fair trading practices and facilitate international trade in foodstuffs.
- (b) To develop principles and guidelines for the application of measures by the competent authorities of exporting and importing countries to provide assurance where necessary that foodstuffs comply with requirements, especially statutory health requirements.
- (c) To develop guidelines for the utilisation, as and when appropriate, of quality assurance systems<sup>1</sup> to ensure that foodstuffs conform with requirements and to promote the recognition of these systems in facilitating trade in food products under bilateral/multilateral arrangements by countries.
- (d) To develop guidelines and criteria with respect to format, declarations and language of such official certificates as countries may require with a view towards international harmonization.
- (e) To make recommendations for information exchange in relation to food import/export control.
- (f) To consult as necessary with other international groups working on matters related to food inspection and certification systems.
- (g) To consider other matters assigned to it by the Commission in relation to food inspection and certification systems.

#### CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT GENERAL PRINCIPLES FOR FOOD IMPORT AND EXPORT INSPECTION AND CERTIFICATION

275. The Commission was informed that in view of the extensive discussions held at the first Session of the Codex Committee on Food Import and Export Inspection and Certification Systems (paras. 42-51, ALINORM 93/30) when drafting the above principles, and in consideration of the importance of these matters to its future work, it had been decided to submit this item, along with comments received (CL 1992/26-FICS), directly to the Commission so that they would be adopted at the earliest opportunity.

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<sup>1</sup> *Quality assurance* means all those planned and systematic actions necessary to provide adequate confidence that a product or service will satisfy given requirements for quality. (ISO-8402 Quality - Vocabulary)

276. Many delegations were of the opinion that the General Principles (Appendix III, ALINORM 93/30) should be returned to the Committee for additional discussions and clarification on such issues as the application of equivalence principles in practice; differences between mandatory and voluntary application; private and government inspection systems; definitions for inspection, certification and control; enhancement of mutual confidence in inspection/control systems between importers and exporters; differences between inspection and verification; and, the role of consumers and the developing world. The importance of promoting trade, protecting consumers, and the publishing of timely information on rejections and detentions of products were also noted.

#### **Status of the General Principles for Food Import and Export Inspection and Certification**

277. In view of the above concerns, the Commission agreed that the proposed draft General Principles should be circulated for additional government comments at Step 3 for reconsideration by the Second Session of the Codex Committee on Food Import and Export Inspection and Certification Systems at Step 4. In view of the importance of the principles to the Committee's future work, it was noted that the omission of Steps 6 and 7 could be considered by the 21st Session of the Commission when adopting the Principles at Step 5.

#### **FUTURE PROGRAMME OF WORK OF THE COMMITTEE**

278. The Commission was informed that the Committee had agreed to consider those items listed in Appendix IV to its report, with the understanding that for the time being all of these matters would be of equal priority. The Commission was reminded that at its Nineteenth session it had decided that it would be essential to review the need for the Committee's continuing activity after two sessions (ALINORM 91/40, para 84). As the Committee had recognized that this programme of work would more than likely occupy it for more than one future session, it had been decided that this situation should be brought to the attention of the Commission (para. 76, ALINORM 93/30).

279. In discussing the Committee's future programme of work, some delegations were of the opinion that the Committee should focus on a few selected items and that in any case, the items for consideration should be prioritized. Many delegations, recognizing the importance of the Committee's work to both the developed and developing world, felt that the Committee should continue its future activities for several more meetings under the direction of the Commission. The future role of the Committee in responding to the concerns of the Commission regarding the above General Principles was also stressed.

280. The Commission agreed that the Codex Committee on Food Import and Export Inspection and Certification Systems should continue to meet in the future, with the understanding that it should exercise caution in setting its programme of work.

#### **CONFIRMATION OF CHAIRMANSHIP OF THE COMMITTEE**

281. The Commission confirmed under Rule IX.10 that the Codex Committee on Food Import and Export Inspection and Certification Systems should continue to be under the Chairmanship of the Government of Australia.

#### **CODEX COMMITTEE ON NUTRITION AND FOODS FOR SPECIAL DIETARY USES (Agenda Item 28)**

282. The Commission had before it ALINORM 93/26, the report of the 18th Session, for discussion. The report was introduced by the Chairman of the Committee, Professor Arpad Somogyi of Germany. The Chairman of the Committee stressed growing concern over nutrition, both malnutrition and over nutrition, in the world. The Commission noted that the Committee had reviewed the nutritional considerations in the work of the Codex Alimentarius Commission based on the paper prepared by a Canadian Consultant.

283. The Delegation of Tunisia informed the Commission of the situation in his country concerning medical food and supplements of some minerals.

#### **CONSIDERATION OF THE PROPOSED DRAFT STANDARD FOR FORMULA FOODS FOR USE IN VERY LOW ENERGY DIETS FOR WEIGHT REDUCTION AT STEP 5 (ALINORM 93/26, Appendix II)**

284. The Chairman of the Committee informed the Commission that the Committee had agreed, after lengthy discussion, to advance the Proposed Draft Standard for Formula Foods for Use in Very Low Energy Diets to the Commission for adoption at Step 5.

285. Some delegations, while not opposing the adoption of the Proposed Draft Standard, expressed their concern over the definition of formula foods for use in very low energy diets; whether it was a medical food or a normal food. However, several delegations were of the opinion that potential adverse effects might be seen even after short term use of a very low energy diet without standard or medical supervision and supported the adoption of the Proposed Draft Standard as a medical food to be used only under medical supervision.

286. The Delegation of China proposed to add a new section, "Reference", which collects all related standards, codes of practice and guidelines with assigned numbers.

#### **Status of the Proposed Draft Standard**

287. The Commission adopted the Proposed Draft Standard for Formula Foods for Use in Very Low Energy Diets for Weight Reduction at Step 5.

**OTHER MATTERS ARISING FROM THE REPORT OF THE 18TH SESSION OF THE COMMITTEE**

Proposed Amendment to the Terms of Reference of the Committee  
(ALINORM 93/26, para. 24)

288. The Commission was informed that the Committee had agreed to delete the phrase "and where specifically referred to the Committee" from the last indent of Terms of Reference in the Procedural Manual with a view to strengthening the horizontal work of the Committee.

289. The Commission amended the Committee's Terms of Reference as proposed and requested the Secretariat to draft new simplified Terms of Reference for the consideration of the next Session of the Committee.

Proposal for a Revision of the Standard for Gluten-Free Foods  
(ALINORM 93/26, para. 83)

290. The Chairman of the Committee informed the Commission of the intention of the Committee to revise the Standard for Gluten-Free Foods in the light of recent developments in the methods of determination and the chemical definition of gluten and human intolerance to it, such as Coeliac disease.

291. The Observer of the Association of Official Analytical Chemists (AOAC) offered to submit a new method of analysis of gliadin in food to the Committee for consideration at its next Session.

292. The Commission endorsed the proposal to revise the Standard for Gluten-Free Foods.

Vitamin and Mineral Supplements (ALINORM 93/26, para. 98-106)

293. The Commission noted that the Committee, at its 18th Session, had considered the Guidelines for Dietary Supplements with Special Reference to Vitamins and Minerals. The Guidelines would be further considered by the Committee taking into account recent research information on vitamins and minerals and the fact that more and more supplementary products were available on the market.

294. The Observer of AOAC informed the Commission that an AOAC Manual containing methods of sampling and analysis of vitamins and minerals for use for nutrition labelling purposes would be available in September.

Appendix on Salt Iodization to the Standard for Food Grade Salt  
(ALINORM 93/26, para. 56)

295. The Chairman of the Committee, while stressing the importance of salt iodization for the prevention of iodine deficiency, informed that at its next session the Committee would consider a draft Appendix prepared by Germany. It was noted that the Codex Committee on Food Additives and Contaminants would be consulted in the preparation of the Appendix.

Proposed Conditions for Descriptors of Claims for Nutrient Content  
(ALINORM 93/26, paras. 57-76 and Appendix III)

296. The Commission was informed that the Committee, at its 18th Session, had discussed the upper and lower limit for nutrient quantity descriptors in the Proposed Draft Guidelines for Health and Nutrition Claims on Food Product Labelling as requested by the Committee on Food Labelling. The Committee had agreed on a revised table of Proposed Conditions for Claims for Nutrient Contents for consideration by the Committee on Food Labelling as part of the Proposed Draft Guidelines on Nutrition and Health Claims for Food Labelling. The Chairman of the Committee added that the Committee should continue the work related to the Guidelines.

297. The Delegation of Denmark pointed out some discrepancy between the figure for sugars in liquid shown in paragraph 69 (0.25 g/100 ml) and that in Appendix III (0.5 g/100 ml) and stated that the latter figure was correct. The Commission requested the Committee to clarify this matter.

Methods of Analysis for Use in Standards for Foods for Special Dietary Uses  
(ALINORM 93/26, Appendix IV)

298. The Chairman of the Committee informed that the Working Group had considered the methods of analysis for use in Standards for Foods for Special Dietary Uses and the Committee had agreed on a list of methods for consideration by the Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling.

**CONFIRMATION OF THE CHAIRMANSHIP**

299. 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.

**CODEX COMMITTEE ON MEAT HYGIENE (Agenda Item 29)**

300. The Commission had before it the documents ALINORM 93/16 and 93/16A, the reports of the 6th and 7th Sessions of the Committee. The reports were presented by the Chairman of the Committee, Dr. Russell Ballard of New Zealand. The Commission recalled that the 18th Session of the Commission had decided to reactivate the Committee on Meat Hygiene to revise four meat codes established between 1972 and 1982 taking into account developments in the meat hygiene field, such as risk analysis and HACCP systems, and the progress in the GATT Uruguay Round discussions on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures.

301. The Chairman of the Committee thanked Dr. Colin Field, Consultant, for preparing the draft codes and the member governments for their cooperation that had enabled the revision of the codes in a very short time.

**CONSIDERATION OF THE DRAFT CODE OF HYGIENIC PRACTICE FOR FRESH MEAT AT STEPS 5 AND 8 (ALINORM 93/16A, Appendix II)**

302. The Chairman of the Committee informed the Commission that the Committee had agreed to advance the draft revised Code of Hygienic Practice for Fresh Meat to Step 5 with the recommendation that it be adopted by the Commission at Step 8 with the omission of Steps 6 and 7.

303. The Delegation of Brazil stated that the Code of Hygienic Practice was unacceptable for them since the legislation of Brazil was different from the Codex Code.

**Status of the Draft Code of Hygienic Practice**

304. The Commission adopted the draft Code of Hygienic Practice for Fresh Meat at Step 8.

**CONSIDERATION OF THE DRAFT CODE OF PRACTICE FOR THE ANTE- AND POST-MORTEM INSPECTION OF SLAUGHTER ANIMALS AND FOR ANTE- AND POST-MORTEM JUDGEMENT OF SLAUGHTER ANIMALS AND MEAT AT STEPS 5 AND 8 (ALINORM 93/16A, Appendix III)**

305. The Chairman of the Committee informed the Commission that the 6th Session of the Committee had decided to combine the draft revised Code of Practice for Ante- and Post-Mortem Inspection of Slaughter Animals with the draft revised Code of Practice for Ante- and Post-Mortem judgement of Slaughter Animals and Meat. The 7th Session of the Committee had agreed to advance the draft revised Code of Practice to Step 5 with recommendations that it be adopted by the Commission at Step 8 with the omission of Steps 6 and 7.

**Status of the Draft Code of Practice**

306. The Commission adopted the draft Code of Practice for the Ante- and Post-Mortem Inspection of Slaughter Animals and for Ante- and Post-Mortem Judgement of Slaughter Animals and Meat at Step 8.

**CONSIDERATION OF THE DRAFT CODE OF HYGIENIC PRACTICE FOR GAME AT STEPS 5 AND 8 (ALINORM 93/16A, Appendix IV)**

307. The Chairman of the Committee informed the Commission that the Committee had agreed to advance the draft revised Code of Hygienic Practice for Game to Step 5 with recommendations that it be adopted by the Commission at Step 8 with the omission of Steps 6 and 7.

**Status of the Draft Code of Hygienic Practice**

308. The Commission adopted the draft Code of Hygienic Practice for Game at Step 8.



**OTHER MATTERS ARISING FROM THE REPORTS OF THE 6TH AND 7TH SESSIONS OF THE COMMITTEE**

Harmonization of Branding and Other Marking Procedures  
(ALINORM 93/16A, paras. 97-98)

309. The Commission noted that the Committee, at its 7th Session had decided not to commence work on harmonization of branding and other marking procedures since governments had not shown real interest to undertake work in this area.

Control and Monitoring of Residues of Veterinary Drugs in Livestock  
(ALINORM 93/16A, paras. 33-35)

310. The Chairman of the Committee informed the Commission that the Committee had recommended that the Codex Committees on Residues of Veterinary Drugs in Foods and on General Principles explore a new approach of residue control in livestock and include appropriate principles into Codex recommendations on residue monitoring policies.

Adjournment of the Committee *sine die* (ALINORM 93/16A, para. 100)

311. The Commission, while congratulating the Chairman, the New Zealand Secretariat and the Committee for successfully completing the revision of the three, formerly four, meat codes, concurred that the Committee be adjourned *sine die*.

**CONFIRMATION OF CHAIRMANSHIP OF THE COMMITTEE**

312. 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 TROPICAL FRESH FRUITS AND VEGETABLES (Agenda Item 30)**

313. The reports of the Third and Fourth Sessions of the Codex Committee on Tropical Fresh Fruits and Vegetables (ALINORM 93/35 and ALINORM 93/35A, respectively) were presented by Ing. Eduardo R. Mendez (Mexico) in the absence of the Chairman of the Committee, Lic. Luis Guillermo Ibarra. The Commission also had for its consideration government comments on items discussed by the Committee as summarized in documents ALINORM 93/29 and CAC/LIM 3 (ALINORM 93/39-Add. 1), as well as the report of the 40th Session of the Executive Committee of the Codex Alimentarius Commission concerning this issue (paras. 25-32, ALINORM 93/4).

**CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT CODEX STANDARDS FOR PINEAPPLE, PAPAYA AND MANGO AT STEP 8**

314. The Commission was informed that the Third Session of the Codex Committee on Tropical Fresh Fruits and Vegetables had agreed to advance the draft Codex Standards for Pineapple, Papaya

and Mango (Appendices II, III and IV, respectively; ALINORM 93/35) to the Commission for adoption at Step 8 (paras. 56, 63 and 75, respectively; ALINORM 93/35). Subsequent to this decision, the Commission noted that the labelling provisions of these standards had been endorsed by the 22nd Session of the Codex Committee on Food Labelling (see para. 189, above).

315. With reference to the Codex Standard for Mango and in response to comments from the floor, the Commission noted that the Fourth Session of the Committee had considered proposals of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), and had decided to adopt the UNECE suggestions concerning size tolerances (Section 4.2). However, the Fourth Session of the Committee did not agree to the UNECE suggestions concerning the inclusion of a minimum requirement (Section 2.1) concerning freedom from pests nor regarding the mandatory labelling of variety in Section 6.2.2 - Nature of Produce (paras. 12-15, ALINORM 93/35A). The Commission noted that the above decisions concerning pests and variety were also applied to the draft Codex Standards for Pineapple and Papaya. The Delegation of Poland supported the UNECE position and stated that botanical names should of necessity be included in these standards. The Delegation of Germany stated that important aspects were missing from the standards including a provision for freedom from pests, and that there was a need to revise the tables for size tolerances.

316. In response to concerns expressed by the Delegation of Spain regarding the inclusion of a footnote to the standards stating that governments would indicate which provisions would be accepted at the point of import or export (Section 1 - Definition of Produce), the Commission noted that the footnote had been included in these standards at its 18th Session, on the advice of the Committee on General Principles, because of differences in the application of UNECE and Codex Standards and as a compromise solution (para. 391, ALINORM 89/40).

#### **Status of the Draft Codex Standards for Pineapple, Papaya and Mango**

317. The Commission, while noting that written as well as oral comments presented at its current Session had been adequately taken into account by the Codex Committee on Tropical Fresh Fruits and Vegetables when elaborating the above standards, adopted the Codex Standards for Pineapple, Papaya and Mango at Step 8. In making this decision, the Commission also noted that subsequent changes made to the Codex Standard for Mango by the Committee at its Fourth Session would be incorporated into the Standard before its final publication.

#### **CONSIDERATION OF PROPOSED DRAFT CODEX STANDARDS FOR NOPAL, PRICKLY PEAR AND CARAMBOLA AT STEPS 5/8**

318. The Commission was informed that the Third Session of the Codex Committee on Tropical Fresh Fruits and Vegetables had agreed to advance the proposed draft Codex Standards for Nopal, Prickly Pear and Carambola (Appendices V, VI and VII, respectively; ALINORM 93/35) to the Commission for adoption at Steps 5/8, with a recommendation to omit Steps 6 and 7 under the accelerated elaboration procedure (paras. 84 and 95, respectively; ALINORM 93/35). The Commission noted that the labelling provisions of these standards had been endorsed by the 22nd Session of the Codex Committee on Food Labelling (see para. 189, above).

### **Status of the Proposed Draft Codex Standards for Nopal, Prickly Pear and Carambola**

319. The Commission adopted the proposed draft Codex Standards for Nopal, Prickly Pear and Carambola at Step 8 under the accelerated elaboration procedures.

### **CONSIDERATION OF THE PROPOSED DRAFT CODEX STANDARDS FOR LITCHI AND BABY CORN AT STEPS 5/8**

320. The Commission was informed that the Fourth Session of the Codex Committee on Tropical Fresh Fruits and Vegetables had agreed to advance the proposed draft Codex Standards for Litchi and Baby Corn (Appendices II and III, respectively; ALINORM 93/35A) to the Commission for adoption at Steps 5/8, with a recommendation to omit Steps 6 and 7 under the accelerated elaboration procedure (paras. 36 and 49, respectively; ALINORM 93/35A). The Commission further noted that the labelling provisions of these standards had been endorsed by the 22nd Session of the Codex Committee on Food Labelling (see para. 189, above).

321. Several delegations were of the opinion that the proposed draft Codex Standard for Litchi required additional examination by the Committee, especially in regard to the Brix to acid ratio and the inclusion of a specific limit for sulphur dioxide treatments and therefore, did not accept the final adoption of the standard.

### **Status of the Proposed Draft Codex Standards for Litchi and Baby Corn**

322. The Commission adopted the proposed draft Codex Standard for Baby Corn at Step 8 under the accelerated elaboration procedures. The proposed draft Codex Standard for Litchi was adopted by the Commission at Step 5 only, with the understanding that the above comments would be taken into account by the Committee at Step 6 when discussing the standard at Step 7.

### **CONSIDERATION OF THE PROPOSED DRAFT CODEX STANDARDS FOR BANANA AND AVOCADO AT STEP 5**

323. The Commission was informed that the Fourth Session of the Codex Committee on Tropical Fresh Fruits and Vegetables had agreed to advance the proposed draft Codex Standards for Banana and Avocado (Appendices IV and V, respectively; ALINORM 93/35A) to the Commission for adoption at Step 5 (paras. 67 and 81, respectively; ALINORM 93/35A). Subsequent to this decision, the Commission noted that the labelling provisions of these standards were endorsed by the 22nd Session of the Codex Committee on Food Labelling (see Agenda Item 23(d), above).

324. With reference to the proposed draft Codex Standard for Banana, it was suggested that references to defects of the skin as related to specific total surface areas (i.e., in Class I and II) should be deleted. It was also suggested that the size tolerances (Section 4.2) should be raised from 5 to 10 percent and that a minimum requirement (Section 2.1) concerning damage from hail should be inserted.

325. In regard to the proposed draft Codex Standard for Avocado, some delegations were of the opinion that provisions concerning sizing (Section 3) should be aligned with the corresponding section of the UNECE Standard for Avocado in order to prevent consumer confusion and distortions in trade.

#### **Status of the Proposed Draft Codex Standards for Banana and Avocado**

326. The proposed draft Codex Standards for Banana and Avocado were adopted by the Commission at Step 5, with the understanding that the above comments would be taken into account by the Committee at Step 6 when discussing the standard at Step 7.

#### **CONSIDERATION OF THE PROPOSED DRAFT CODE OF PRACTICE FOR THE PACKAGING AND TRANSPORT OF TROPICAL FRESH FRUITS AND VEGETABLES AT STEP 5**

327. The Commission was informed that the Fourth Session of the Codex Committee on Tropical Fresh Fruits and Vegetables had agreed to advance the proposed draft Code of Practice for the Packaging and Transport of Tropical Fresh Fruits and Vegetables (Appendix VI, ALINORM 93/35A) to the Commission for adoption at Step 5 (para. 101, ALINORM 93/35A).

#### **Status of the Proposed Draft Code of Practice for the Packaging and Transport of Tropical Fresh Fruits and Vegetables**

328. The Commission agreed to adopt the proposed draft Code of Practice for the Packaging and Transport of Tropical Fresh Fruits and Vegetables at Step 5.

#### **CONSIDERATION OF THE PROPOSED DRAFT GLOSSARY OF SCIENTIFIC AND COMMON NAMES FOR TROPICAL FRESH FRUITS AND VEGETABLES**

329. The Commission was informed that the Third Session of the Codex Committee on Tropical Fresh Fruits and Vegetables had agreed to advance the proposed draft Glossary of Scientific and Common Names of Tropical Fresh Fruits and Vegetables (Appendix VIII, ALINORM 93/35) to the Commission for adoption at Step 5 (para. 122, ALINORM 93/35).

#### **Status of the Proposed Draft Glossary of Scientific and Common Names for Tropical Fresh Fruits and Vegetables**

330. The Commission adopted the proposed draft Glossary of Scientific and Common Names for Tropical Fresh Fruits and Vegetables at Step 5, with the understanding that similar names used by the UNECE and translation of English terms into French would be carefully considered by the Committee at Step 7.

**OTHER MATTERS ARISING FROM THE REPORTS OF THE 3RD AND 4TH SESSIONS OF THE COMMITTEE**

Consideration of Proposed Additions to the Priority List of Tropical Fresh Fruits and Vegetables

331. The Commission approved the priority list of tropical fresh fruits and vegetables (Appendix IX, ALINORM 93/35A), with the understanding that a suggestion of the Delegation of China to standardize Longan would be considered by the Committee at its next Session. The Commission also agreed that quality provisions contained in UNECE standards for similar products would be taken into account.

Terms of Reference for the Codex Committee on Tropical Fresh Fruits and Vegetables

332. The Commission was informed that the Fourth Session of the Codex Committee on Tropical Fresh Fruits and Vegetables, while recalling its discussions concerning the relationship between Codex and the UNECE (paras. 16-21, ALINORM 93/35A), had proposed to expand its terms of reference to create a Codex body which would establish international standards for all fresh fruits and vegetables (para. 123, ALINORM 93/35A). This proposal was based on the need to have an appropriate international infrastructure to satisfy the growing demand for international standards, as evidenced by the globalization of economic initiatives.

333. The Commission also noted that negotiations were under way between the UNECE, FAO and Codex secretariats to reach a compromise solution which would allow the continued activity in this area; one option under consideration was the establishment of joint ECE/Codex working groups operating under the same host country arrangements as applied within the Codex framework. The Executive Committee had been informed that in addition to work on fresh fruits and vegetables there were similar problems with the UNECE in relation to processed fruits and vegetables; cereals, pulses and legumes; and meat and poultry (ALINORM 93/4, para. 27).

334. The Executive Committee had noted that in view of the negotiations on the future of cooperation between UNECE and Codex the expansion of the Committee's terms of reference would be a consequential development of the establishment of a joint Codex/ECE working party. If negotiations led to the establishment of a joint Codex/ECE working party, this would lead to an enlarged scope for the Committee along the lines of the proposed expanded terms of reference.

335. Several delegations, as well as the Representative of the UNECE, did not support the expansion of the Committee's terms of reference as proposed, as the existing cooperative arrangements between Codex and the UNECE in the current Codex terms of reference for the Committee apparently prevented the duplication of work and overlap in standardization activities. It was stated that quality provisions in the UNECE standards as clarified by interpretive brochures produced by the Organization of Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), were of particular value for producers as well as quality control services and did not conflict with the emphasis of health and safety requirements in Codex standards. It was also noted that the establishment of quality provisions in Codex Standards was not in line with the "horizontal"

approach of standardization taken by Codex in recent years with its emphasis on food safety. The lack of participation by several newly created Eastern European countries in Codex activities was emphasized as a potential problem. It was pointed out that the membership of the UNECE included the countries of Europe, the former USSR, Israel, Canada and the United States of America.

336. The Representative of the UNECE clarified that the expansion of the scope of the UNECE standards to refer to their use in international trade was not intended to imply that such standards were elaborated on a global basis and stated that this decision was under review. The Representative also highlighted the past cooperative efforts of Joint Codex/UNECE groups on fruit juices and quick frozen foods.

337. A majority of delegations commenting on this issue supported the proposed expansion of the Committee's terms of reference and agreed that it should work in cooperation with the UNECE in order to produce standards for exporting and importing countries through the participation of the 144 Codex member countries. It was stated that there should only be one international standardizing body for foods moving in international trade, this being Codex, and that the elaboration of standards based on regional participation created confusion and duplication of efforts. It was emphasized that despite the recommendation arising from the Conference on Food Standards, Chemicals in Food and Food Trade to focus more attention on the elaboration of health and safety requirements in Codex standards, the 19th Session of the Commission had also stated that Codex Committees should consider other essential elements needed to assure fair trade practices and protection against fraud, which would include quality requirements.

338. Many delegations stated that it was desirable that only one standardizing body, Codex, should elaborate international standards for fresh fruits and vegetables. However, the Commission, in order to avoid duplication of effort, encouraged joint efforts with the UNECE in this and other areas, including the standardization of processed fruits and vegetables, cereal and cereal products and meat and poultry.

339. However, in view of the current negotiations between Codex, FAO and UNECE to arrive at a workable solution to the problem, the Commission agreed to maintain the Committee's terms of reference as currently drafted pending the outcome of further consultations between the Commission through the Executive Committee and the Codex, FAO and UNECE Secretariats. It was noted that a report concerning these efforts would be presented to the 41st Session of the Executive Committee with a view towards providing advice to the Commission on how to proceed and to the Committee on Tropical Fresh Fruits and Vegetables for information.

#### CONFIRMATION OF CHAIRMANSHIP

340. The Commission confirmed under Rule IX.10 that the Codex Committee on Tropical Fresh Fruits and Vegetables should continue to be under the Chairmanship of the Government of Mexico.

## **CODEX COMMITTEE ON FISH AND FISHERY PRODUCTS (Agenda Item 31)**

341. The Report of the Twentieth Session of the Committee on Fish and Fishery Products (ALINORM 93/18) was presented by Mr. John Race (Norway), the Chairman of the Committee. Mr. Race highlighted the work undertaken by the Committee in line with the recommendations of the Nineteenth Session of the Commission, concerning the review of the format of Codex Standards and he thanked the Delegation of Canada for its efforts in taking the leader role of the Working Groups involved in the review of the standards and Codes of Practice. The Committee had also incorporated HACCP principles as recommended by the Codex Committee on Food Hygiene.

### **CONSIDERATION OF THE DRAFT STANDARD FOR DRIED SHARK FINS AT STEP 8 (ALINORM 93/18 paras. 47-55 and Appendix III)**

342. The Commission was informed that the draft standard was revised by the Committee at its last Session and that written comments had been included in document CAC/LIM 3 (1993). The Commission also noted that the term "flavour" should be deleted from section 3.2.2 of the standard.

#### **Status of the Standard**

343. The Commission adopted the Standard for Dried Shark Fins at Step 8 (Appendix III, of ALINORM 93/18), as revised above.

### **CONSIDERATION OF A NUMBER OF PROPOSED DRAFT REVISED STANDARDS AT STEP 5 (ALINORM 93/18 paras. 56-110 and Appendices IV-XV)**

344. The Commission noted that a complex review had been carried out by the Committee at its last Session on all existing Codex Standards for Fish and Fishery Products, and that the Proposed Draft Revised Standards were being presented for adoption at Step 5.

345. The Representative of the EEC stated its opposition to the adoption at Step 5 of the proposed draft standards because several recommendations on processing and hygiene, strictly related to food safety, had been included in Codes of Practice as advisory issues and not in the standards as mandatory procedures. According the Observer, this could influence the acceptance of the standards, especially in view of the proposed GATT decision on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures. The Codex Secretariat pointed out that the advisory character of all Codex Codes of Practice had been decided by the Commission many years ago and was not an issue restricted to the fish standards and codes. It was suggested that the Codex Committee on General Principles could provide advice on the use of the Codes of Practice as documents intended for mandatory application.

346. The Delegation of Brazil expressed its reservation on the association of the terms tuna and bonito, which should not be used in the standard as synonyms, and on section 6.1.1 of the Codex standard for Canned Sardine and Sardine-Type products where the designation of sardine should not be reserved exclusively for *Sardina pilchardus*.

347. The Delegation of Sweden pointed out that the Codex Committee on Fish and Fishery Products should take into consideration the recommendation of the Labelling Committee on the simplification of the labelling provisions of the standards. The Delegation also noted that the nomenclature used by the Codex Committee on Fish and Fishery Products for canned sardines and sardine-type products and canned tuna and bonito should be in agreement with FAO Fisheries Synopsis No. 125, Vol. 7, para. 1, 1985 and para. 2, 1988 for sardines and No. 125, Vol 2, 1983 for tuna and bonito. The Delegation of Sweden also objected to the inclusion of azo-colours in the standards for Canned Shrimps or Prawns and Quick Frozen Shrimps or Prawns.

348. The Delegation of France, supported by Switzerland, presented reservations on several matters concerning the use of EDTA in canned shrimps and prawns, the definition of species of tuna and bonito, the level of histamine as being too high, the definition of sardines not compatible with EEC directives and the use of polyphosphate as water retention agents. The Delegation of Poland also reserved its position regarding the levels of heavy metals and the use of food additives in fish and fishery products.

349. The Delegation of The Netherlands questioned terminology used in Codex fish standards as "commercial sterility" and "reasonably free of parasites" which were considered not sufficiently precise. The Observer from the EEC stated that the EEC was not in favour of adopting the Proposed Draft Revised Standards for Tuna and Bonito and Sardines and Sardine-Like Products at Step 5.

350. The Chairman of the Committee noted that several of the comments presented reflected the position of the same countries at the Session of the Codex Committee on Fish and Fishery Products and that the revised standards represented in several cases a compromise solution. The Chairman also noted that there was no reason to delay the adoption of the revised standards. He highlighted that the draft standards would be revised and recirculated for comments. He encouraged countries to submit comments to the Committee on Fish and Fishery Products in a timely manner.

### **Status of the Standards**

351. The Commission agreed to adopt all of the proposed draft standards at Step 5.

### **CONSIDERATION OF THE PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE CODEX STANDARD FOR CANNED CRAB (EDTA) AT STEP 5 (ALINORM 93/18 paras.139-142)**

352. The Committee had noted that there was no reason to prevent the use of Ethylenediaminetetraacetic acid salts (EDTA) for Canned Crab Meat and proposed the amendment for adoption by the Commission at Step 5.

353. The Delegation of France, supported by Germany, reiterated its opposition to the use of EDTA, which could be substituted by other additives, such as glucono- $\delta$ -lactone or sorbitol. The Delegation expressed concern for toxicological and nutritional reasons.



354. The Commission adopted the proposed amendment at Step 5 of the Codex Procedure, with the understanding that the provision allowing the use of EDTA would be forwarded to the Codex Committee on Food Additives and Contaminants for endorsement.

#### **OTHER MATTERS ARISING FROM THE REPORT OF THE 20TH SESSION OF THE COMMITTEE**

##### Code of Practice for the Sensory Evaluation of Fish and Shellfish (ALINORM 93/18 paras. 19-24)

355. The Commission noted that the Committee had discussed Procedures for the Sensory Evaluation of Fish and Shellfish and had agreed that a comprehensive Code of Practice for Sensory Evaluation of Fish should be elaborated. The Commission approved this procedure.

##### Code of Practice for Surimi (ALINORM 93/18 paras. 126-129)

356. The Commission was informed that the Committee, noting the increased trade and consumption of surimi worldwide, had agreed to recommend the elaboration of a Code of Practice. The Commission approved this procedure.

##### Amendment to the Code of Practice for Fresh Fish (ALINORM 93/18 paras.25-27)

357. The Committee proposed to amend the Code to include provisions for fresh fish and fillets instead of amending the draft Codex standard for Quick Frozen Fish. The Commission noted the favourable opinion of the Executive Committee and agreed to approve the Committee's proceeding with the above amendment.

#### **CONFIRMATION OF CHAIRMANSHIP OF THE COMMITTEE**

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

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

359. The Commission had for its consideration the report of the 8th Session of the Codex Committee on Cereals, Pulses and Legumes (ALINORM 93/29) which was presented by the Chairman of the Committee, Mr. Steven N. Tanner (United States). Government comments on issues before the Commission were summarized in documents ALINORM 93/39 and CAC/LIM 3 (ALINORM 93/39-Add. 1).

#### **CONSIDERATION OF PROPOSED DRAFT GUIDELINE LEVELS FOR AFLATOXINS IN PEANUTS AT STEP 5**

360. The Commission was informed that the Committee had decided to forward proposed draft guideline levels for aflatoxins in peanuts (i.e., 10 µg/kg processed; 15 µg/kg raw) and sampling

plans previously discussed (Appendix II, ALINORM 91/29) in square brackets for adoption by the Commission at Step 5 on a provisional basis (para. 32, ALINORM 93/29). This decision was taken with the understanding that levels for aflatoxins should be kept as low as practical in order to facilitate trade and protect consumers, and should only be elaborated based on specific sampling plans. The Commission also noted that specific levels would be incorporated into a new section 4.3 in the proposed draft Codex Standard for Peanuts (see paras. 364 to 365, below) prior to their endorsement by the Codex Committee on Food Additives and Contaminants and final adoption by the Commission.

361. Several delegations were of the opinion that the proposed draft values were too high and that current analytical methods could detect much lower values. The Representative of the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) indicated that the ISO Standard for Peanuts (6478) had a maximum level for aflatoxins in peanuts of 5 µg/kg.

362. It was also suggested that the Committee should examine the results of the FAO Consultation on Sampling Plans for Aflatoxins and discussions in the Codex Committee on Food Additives and Contaminants before proceeding further.

#### **Status of the Proposed Draft Guideline Levels for Aflatoxins in Peanuts**

363. The Commission agreed to return the proposed draft levels and sampling plans to Step 3 for an additional round of government comments. It was also agreed that the Codex Committee on Food Additives and Contaminants would be advised of this decision.

#### **CONSIDERATION OF THE PROPOSED DRAFT CODEX STANDARD FOR RICE AT STEP 5 (Appendix II, ALINORM 93/29)**

#### **CONSIDERATION OF THE PROPOSED DRAFT CODEX STANDARDS FOR WHEAT AND DURUM WHEAT AT STEP 5 (Appendices III and IV, respectively; ALINORM 93/29)**

#### **CONSIDERATION OF THE PROPOSED DRAFT CODEX STANDARD FOR PEANUTS AT STEP 5 (Appendix V, ALINORM 93/29)**

#### **CONSIDERATION OF THE PROPOSED DRAFT CODEX STANDARD FOR OATS AT STEP 5 (Appendix VI, ALINORM 93/29)**

364. The Commission was informed that the Committee had agreed to advance all of the above proposed draft Codex Standards to the Commission for adoption at Step 5. The Commission also noted that the labelling provisions of the Standards had been endorsed by the 22nd Session of the Codex Committee on Food Labelling (see para. 189 above) and that the Standards were under review by an *ad hoc* Working Group under the direction of the United Kingdom to determine which sections should be transferred to an advisory text or removed from the Standard (see paras. 373 to 376 below).

365. In relation to the proposed draft standards for Wheat and Durum Wheat, the Delegation of the People's Republic of China suggested the elaboration of a combined Standard with a single moisture level of 13.5%, as it was of the opinion that higher moisture levels did not maintain product quality during transport and storage.

#### **Status of the Proposed Draft Codex Standards for Rice, Wheat, Durum Wheat, Peanuts and Oats**

366. The Commission agreed to adopt the proposed draft Codex Standards at Step 5, and requested the Committee to take into account the comment made by the Delegation of China concerning the Proposed Draft Standards for Wheat and Durum Wheat.

#### **CONSIDERATION OF A PROPOSED DRAFT AMENDMENT TO THE CODEX STANDARD FOR WHEAT FLOUR AT STEP 5**

367. The Commission was informed that the Committee had decided to revise the fat acidity basis and measurement (para. 118, ALINORM 93/29) as related to ISO Method 7305 in the Codex Standard for Wheat Flour (Section 3.3.2). The proposal to change the fat acidity value to 70mg/100g (expressed as sulphuric acid) was circulated for government comments at Step 3, and endorsed by the Codex Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling.

#### **Status of the Proposed Draft Amendment to the Codex Standard for Wheat Flour**

368. The Commission adopted the proposed draft amendment to the Codex Standard for Wheat Flour at Step 5, with the understanding that consideration would be given to including this provision in an advisory text to the Standard by the *ad hoc* Working Group under the direction of the United States (see paras. 373 to 376 below).

#### **OTHER MATTERS ARISING FROM THE REPORT OF THE 8TH SESSION OF THE COMMITTEE**

##### Consideration of Draft Guideline Levels for Contaminants in Codex Standards

##### **Arsenic and Mercury**

369. The Commission was informed that the Committee had decided to return the draft Guideline Levels for Arsenic and Mercury (i.e., 0.5 and 0.05 mg/kg, respectively) in cereals, pulses and legumes to Step 6 for additional government comments (para. 20, ALINORM 93/29).

370. The Commission agreed with this procedure.

##### **Cadmium and Lead**

371. The Commission was informed that the Committee had decided to return the draft Guideline Levels for Cadmium and Lead (i.e., 0.1 and 0.5 mg/kg, respectively) in cereals, pulses

and legumes to Step 6 for additional government comments and in consideration of the recent JECFA evaluation (para. 24, ALINORM 93/29).

372. The Commission agreed with this procedure.

Review of the Format of Worldwide Codex Standards for Cereal and Cereal Product and Conversion of Regional Standards to Worldwide Codex Standards

373. The Commission was informed that the Committee had established an *ad hoc* Working Group under the direction of the United States (paras. 98-100, ALINORM 93/29) to review and simplify previously adopted Worldwide Codex Standards for Cereals and Cereal Products as directed by the Codex Committee on General Principles (paras. 67-68, ALINORM 93/33).

374. The Committee also decided (paras. 105-106, ALINORM 93/29) that the U.S *ad hoc* Working Group would review previously adopted Codex Regional Standards for Cereals and Cereal Products with a view towards their elaboration as Worldwide Codex Standards, as directed by the 19th Session of the Commission (paras. 93-94, ALINORM 91/40).

375. The Commission was also informed that the Committee had decided (para. 49, ALINORM 93/29) to establish an *ad hoc* Working Group under the direction of the United Kingdom to review current standards being elaborated for Cereals and Cereal Products to determine which provisions would be transferred to an advisory text or completely removed from the standards.

376. The Commission, while noting that the Governments of the United States and the United Kingdom have commenced with this review, agreed with the above procedures.

**CONFIRMATION OF CHAIRMANSHIP OF THE COMMITTEE**

377. 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.

**CODEX COMMITTEE ON PROCESSED FRUITS AND VEGETABLES (Agenda Item 33)**

378. The Delegation of the United States introduced a progress report on the work of the Committee and recalled that the Commission had decided at its 19th Session to convert regional standards into world-wide standards, entrusting the Committee with the development of the standards for Vinegar and Fresh Fungus "Chanterelle" (see ALINORM 93/32 and paras. 72 to 74 above). These standards had been revised and circulated for government comments at Step 3. It was also noted that existing standards were currently being reviewed, in accordance with the recommendations of the 19th Session of the Commission, and that they would be circulated for comments according to the Arrangements for the Amendment of Codex Standards Elaborated by Codex Committees which had been adjourned *sine die*.

## CONFIRMATION OF THE CHAIRMANSHIP

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

## CODEX COMMITTEE ON FATS AND OILS (Agenda Item 34)

380. The Chairman of the Committee, Dr. John Bell (United Kingdom) presented a report on the activities of the Committee, recalling that it had been agreed by the 19th Session of the Commission to reconvene a session of the Committee in view of the work to be completed on the revision and elaboration of new texts. The 14th Session of the Committee would be held from 27 September - 1st October 1993 in London.

381. The Commission was informed that following the recommendations of the 19th Session of the Commission, fats and oils standards had been reviewed by the Secretariat of the Committee on Fats and Oils and proposals for simplifying the standards had been made by transferring provisions regarding quality to advisory appendices. A number of individual standards had been incorporated into proposed more general standards, as follows:

- Standard for Named Animal Fats and Oils
- Standard for Named Vegetable Oils
- Standard for Products Sold as an Alternative to Ghee (incorporating the provisions of the Standard for Specified Vegetable Fat Products and the Standard for Specified Animal or Mixed Animal and Vegetable Fat Products)

It was reported that the Standard for Edible Fats and Oils not covered by Individual Standards had been revised and a proposed revision of the Standard for Olive Oils had been revised based on recommendations of the International Olive Oil Council (IOOC). A draft revised Code of Practice for the Storage and Transport of Edible Fats and Oils in Bulk had also been prepared for the Committee's consideration. A Revised Proposed Draft Standard for Fat Spreads had been prepared in consultation with IDF and IFMA. The conversion of the Regional Standard for Mayonnaise to a world-wide standard was in progress. Government comments had been requested on all revised texts, for consideration by the next session of the Committee.

382. The Delegations of Norway and New Zealand pointed out that the Steering Committee on behalf of the former Milk Committee had expressed the view that butter should not be included in the Proposed Draft Standard for Fat Spreads, and recalled that it had been agreed to develop this standard in cooperation with the new Codex Committee on Milk and Milk Products. The Commission also noted the view expressed by Malaysia as regard to changes proposed for the Code of Practice for Storage and Transport of Edible Oils and Fats in Bulk. The Committee was requested to ensure that changes to be made to the Code of Practice were technically feasible without causing undue difficulties to existing trade practices but rather used as a guide to further facilitate trade. The Commission noted that these comments would be taken into account by the next session of the Committee.

383. The Commission was informed that the Draft Standards for Palm Olein and Palm Stearin, advanced at Step 5 by the 19th Session of the Commission, had been reformatted and revised in the light of comments at Step 6, and that they would be considered at Step 7 by the next session of the Committee.

#### **CONFIRMATION OF CHAIRMANSHIP**

384. The Commission confirmed under Rule IX.10 that the Committee on Fats and Oils would continue under the Chairmanship of the Government of the United Kingdom.

#### **CODEX COMMITTEE ON SUGARS (Agenda Item 35)**

385. The Commission noted that this Committee had been adjourned *sine die* and had been working through correspondence. Mr. Charles Cockbill of the United Kingdom introduced a progress report.

#### **PROPOSED DRAFT STANDARD FOR SUGARS (CL 1993/14-SH)**

386. The Commission recalled that the 19th Session of the Commission had adopted the proposed draft Standard for Raw Cane Sugar at Step 5 and Amendments to Codex Standards for Sugar - Revision of Lead Levels and recommended the Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling to endorse revised methods of analysis for sugars.

387. In light of the Commission's decision to review and simplify Codex Standards, the United Kingdom Secretariat had reviewed all the existing Standards for Sugars and found these standards very similar. In order to simplify the standards, the Secretariat had prepared a new Proposed Draft Standard for Sugars covering all sugars by combining the existing individual Standards and the Draft Standard for Raw Cane Sugar and by incorporating new lead levels and methods of analysis now endorsed by the Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling. The proposed draft Standard had been circulated for government comments at Step 3. It was recommended that the proposed draft Standard, after amendment based on government comments, if any, be submitted to the next Commission for adoption at Step 5 with recommendations that Steps 6 and 7 be omitted.

#### **PROPOSED DRAFT STANDARD FOR HONEY (CL 1993/14-SH)**

388. In order to simplify the existing Standard for Honey, the Secretariat had prepared a proposed draft Revised Standard for Honey and it had been circulated for government comments at Step 3. It was noted that the proposed draft revised Standard, after amendment based on government comments, should be submitted to the next Commission for adoption at Step 5 with recommendations that Steps 6 and 7 be omitted.

#### CONFIRMATION OF CHAIRMANSHIP

389. 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 VEGETABLE PROTEINS (Agenda Item 36)

##### CONFIRMATION OF CHAIRMANSHIP

390. 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 37)

##### CONFIRMATION OF CHAIRMANSHIP

391. 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 38)

392. The Commission noted that this Committee had been adjourned *sine die* and had been working through correspondence. Mr. Pierre Rossier (Switzerland) presented a progress report based on ALINORM 93/14.

#### REVISED PROPOSED DRAFT STANDARD FOR BOUILLONS AND CONSOMMÉS (ALINORM 93/14, Appendix I)

393. In light of the decision made by the 19th Session of the Commission to simplify and revise Codex Standards, the Secretariat had prepared a proposed draft revised Standard for Bouillons and Consommés and circulated it for government comments at Step 3. The Secretariat had amended the proposed draft standard based on the government comments in response to the Circular Letter, which were summarized in ALINORM 93/14. It had been proposed to advance the amended proposed draft Standard to Step 5 for adoption by the Commission and, if adopted, to circulate it for additional comments at Step 6 to decide whether the Committee should convene.

#### Status of the proposed draft Standard

394. The Commission adopted the proposed draft Standard at Step 5 and agreed to circulate it for government comment at Step 6.

#### **CONFIRMATION OF CHAIRMANSHIP**

395. 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 39)**

##### **CONFIRMATION OF CHAIRMANSHIP**

396. 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 PROCESSED MEAT AND POULTRY (Agenda Item 39 bis)**

##### **CONFIRMATION OF CHAIRMANSHIP**

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

#### **CODEX COMMITTEE ON NATURAL MINERAL WATERS (Agenda Item 40)**

398. The Commission was informed by the Delegation of Switzerland that the conversion of the existing Codex European Regional Standard for Natural Mineral Waters (CODEX STAN 108-1981) to a world-wide standard had been initiated. A proposed draft revision was circulated for comments at Step 3 through Circular Letter CL 1993/4-NMW. Written comments received in reply to the above circular letter were included in Conference Room Documents ALINORM 93/2 Add. 1 and Add.2. Proposed amendments to CODEX STAN 108-1981, as elaborated by the Codex and Swiss Secretariats, had been included in Appendix I of Conference Room Document ALINORM 93/2 Add. 1 and were presented to the Commission for adoption at Step 5.

399. The Delegation of Brazil indicated that it disagreed with the conversion of the regional standard to a worldwide standard because there was a need to take into consideration the different mineral characteristics in different regions of the world. The Representative of the EEC informed the Commission that the Scientific Committee for Food was currently considering the composition factors and contamination of mineral water and that a scientific document would be available by early 1994.

400. The Delegation of Malaysia raised the question of compatibility of some mineral levels with the WHO Guidelines for Drinking Water Quality. The WHO Joint Session Secretary informed that the Guidelines had been updated recently, that they were not standards in themselves and should be considered in the context of prevailing environmental, social, economic and cultural



conditions in different regions, but that they should be taken into account in the standardization of mineral water.

### Status of the Draft Amendments to the Standard for Natural Mineral Waters

401. The Commission adopted the proposed amendments as proposed at Step 5 of the Codex procedure.

### CONFIRMATION OF THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF THE COMMITTEE

402. The Commission confirmed under Rule IX.10 that the Codex Committee on Natural Mineral Waters should continue to be under the Chairmanship of the Government of Switzerland.

### FUTURE WORK (Item 41)

403. The Commission noted that in addition to the ongoing work being carried out by its subsidiary bodies, the following main subjects would need to be considered at its next session:

- Consideration of proposals to base Codex standards and other recommendations on scientific principles and the extent to which other factors needed to be taken into account;
- Development of strategies to implement the Medium-Term Plan 1993-98; and
- Cooperation with the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe in the elaboration of world-wide standards for fresh fruit and vegetables and related products.

404. The Commission also requested all committees adjourned *sine die* to take whatever action necessary to revise the standards for which they were responsible in line with the guidance provided by the Commission at its 19th Session.

405. The Delegation of Hungary requested that the Joint ECE/Codex Alimentarius Group of Experts on Standardization of Quick Frozen Foods be reconvened, in view of the need to revise existing product standards and consider new ones. The Commission noted that a decision to reconvene this Group should be taken in connection with the modalities of future cooperation with the UNECE.

406. The Delegation of Uganda requested that the Commission give consideration to the development of microbiological specifications for fish. The Commission recalled that the Committee on Food Hygiene had decided to undertake a review of the need for, and the role of, microbiological specifications for foods (See para. 253 above) and agreed that it would be appropriate for the relevant Codex Committees, including the Committee on Fish and Fishery Products, to take appropriate action on the outcome of this review.

## **PROVISIONAL TIMETABLE OF CODEX SESSIONS 1994-95**

(Agenda Item 42)

407. The Secretariat introduced document ALINORM 93/25, the provisional timetable of Codex sessions for the remainder of 1993 and 1994/95. It was reported that the first session of the new Codex Committee on Milk and Milk Products was tentatively scheduled to be held in Rome from 28 November to 2 December 1994. The Third Session of the Codex Regional Coordinating Committee for North America and the South-West Pacific (Vancouver) had been postponed to May/June 1994 and the Fourth Session of this Committee would most likely be held in 1996. Several other dates remained subject to confirmation and a new timetable would be issued once all dates were confirmed.

### **OTHER BUSINESS (Agenda Item 43)**

#### **A. THE NEED FOR MORE EFFECTIVE MECHANISMS TO DISTRIBUTE CODEX DOCUMENTS IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES**

408. The Commission endorsed the recommendations contained in paragraphs 33-38 of the Report of the Fortieth Session of the Executive Committee, ALINORM 93/4, on this subject.

409. The Delegation of Nigeria stressed the need for more effective direct contact to be made between the Codex Secretariat, Codex Contact Points and FAO Representative Offices as necessary, especially when those Contact Points were responsible for the organization of meetings of Regional Coordinating Committee meetings in their countries. The Commission was requested to encourage developing countries to participate more fully in the Commission's sessions and to participate fully in the Commission's debates. The Delegation also called for more effective cooperation between the Secretariat and the secretariats of regional standardizing bodies.

#### **B. PRESS PARTICIPATION AT CODEX SESSIONS**

410. The Commission noted that the Codex Secretariat had been informed by Legal Counsel that, although Commission Sessions are public and therefore open to the press, this was not true for Committee sessions. The Commission at its 4th Session (1966) endorsed the Guidelines for Codex Committees which state that Committee sessions should not be public unless the Committee concerned decides otherwise.

411. The Commission endorsed the views of the Executive Committee (ALINORM 93/4, paras. 38-39) that the Guidelines for Codex Committees be reviewed and revised so as to simplify them and make the Commission's work more easily understood, and to open Codex work to the public and to the press to the greatest extent possible. It asked the Committee on General Principles to develop the Guidelines for Codex Committees accordingly.

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ALINORM 93/40  
APPENDIX 1

**LIST OF PARTICIPANTS  
LISTE DES PARTICIPANTS  
LISTA DE PARTICIPANTES<sup>1</sup>**

**CHAIRMAN  
PRESIDENT  
PRESIDENTE**

Professor F.G. Winarno  
Secretary of National Research Council  
Food Technology Development Centre  
P.O. Box 61  
Bogor  
Indonesia

<sup>1</sup> The 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.

**MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION  
MEMBRES DE LA COMMISSION  
MIEMBROS DE LA COMISION**

**ALGERIA  
ALGERIE  
ARGELIA**

El-Mounir BOUABSA  
Chef de la Division Technique  
Centre Algérien du Contrôle de la Qualité et  
de l'Emballage (CACQE)  
2 rue des Frères Ziata  
El Mouradia  
Alger  
Algerie

Abdallah HASNAOUI  
Sous Director  
Réglementation de la Qualité et de la  
Sécurité des Produits  
Ministère de l'Economie  
Direction Generale de la Concurrence et des  
Prix  
Direction de la Qualité et de la  
Consommation  
Palais du Gouvernement, 6ème étage,  
Bureau N° 915  
Alger  
Algerie

**ARGENTINA**  
**ARGENTINE**

Juan Carlos BATISTA  
Asesor  
Paseo Colon 367  
Buenos Aires  
Argentina

Ernesto DE LA GUARDIA  
Secrétaire d'Ambassade  
Mission Argentine  
10 Route de l'Aéroport  
Geneva, Switzerland

**AUSTRALIA**  
**AUSTRALIE**

Digby GASCOINE  
Director  
Food Inspection Division  
Australian Quarantine and Inspection  
Service (AQIS)  
Department of Primary Industries and  
Energy  
GPO Box 858  
Canberra City, ACT 2601  
Australia

Ms. Gae PINCUS  
Chairperson  
National Food Authority  
P.O. Box 7186  
Canberra MC, ACT 2610  
Australia

**AUSTRIA**  
**AUTRICHE**

Arnulf SATTLER  
Director  
Federal Ministry of Health, Sports and  
Consumer Protection  
Bundesamtsgebäude, Sektion III  
Radetzkystrasse 2  
A-1030 Vienna  
Austria

Miss Anka LORENCZ  
Federal Ministry of Economic Affairs  
Stubenring 1  
A-1011 Vienna  
Austria

Hedwig WÖGERBAUER  
Assistant Director  
Federal Ministry of Agriculture and  
Forestry  
Stubenring 1  
A-1010 Vienna, Austria

Herbert WOJDICH  
Lebensmittelversuchsanstalt  
Blaasstrasse 29  
A-1190 Vienna  
Austria

**BELGIUM**  
**BELGIQUE**  
**BELGICA**

Charles CREMER  
Inspecteur principal - Chef de Service  
Ministère de la Santé Publique  
Inspection des denrées alimentaires  
Cité Administrative de l'Etat  
Quartier Vésale  
B1010 Bruxelles  
Belgique

Théo BIEBAUT  
Conseiller - Chef de Service  
Ministère des Affaires Economiques  
Industrie Alimentaire  
Rue du Commerce 44  
1040 Bruxelles  
Belgique

Mlle. Patricia DYKMANS  
Secrétaire Général  
Confédération des Brasseries de Belgique  
10 Grand Place  
1000 Bruxelles  
Belgique

Jean GIELEN  
Secretary-General  
F.I.E.B.  
51, Av. General de Gaulle (Bt 5)  
B1050 Bruxelles  
Belgique

Guido KAYAERT  
Nestlé Coordination Centre  
European Regulatory and Environmental  
Affairs Manager  
Birminghamstraat 221  
B1070 Brussels  
Belgique

Mme. Hilde VAN GERWEN  
Conseiller  
FIA  
Avenue Cortenbergh 172 B7  
1040 Bruxelles  
Belgique

Gabriel YSEBAERT  
Ingenieur Principal  
Service d'Organisations Internationales  
Ministère de l'Agriculture  
Manhattan Center  
Office Tower 08/09  
Av. du Boulevard 21  
1210 Bruxelles  
Belgique

**BOLIVIA**  
**BOLIVIE**

Rafael VALCARCE  
Premier Secrétaire  
Mission Permanente de la Bolivie  
7 bis rue de Valais  
1202 Genève  
Suisse

**BOTSWANA**

Mrs. Winnie G. MANYENENG  
Assistant Director Health Services  
Primary Health Care  
Private Bag 0038  
Gaborone, Botswana

Ms. Tshire O. MARIBE  
Chief Nutritionist  
Family Health Division  
Box 992  
Gaborone  
Botswana

Hussein TARIMO  
Senior Scientific Officer (Food Control)  
Ministry of Health  
Community Health Services Division  
Private Bag  
00269 Gaborone  
Botswana

**BRAZIL**  
**BRESIL**  
**BRASIL**

Carlos A. FERREIRA GUIMARAES  
Divisão de Organismos Internacionais  
Especializados  
Ministério das Relações Exteriores  
Anexo I. Sala 418  
Brasília DF  
Brazil

Francisco BEZERRA da Silva  
Ministerio da Agricultura, do Abastecimento  
e da Reforma Agraria  
Secretaria de Defesa Agropecuaria SDA  
Esplanada dos Ministerios  
70043 - 000 Brasilia/DF  
Brasil

Carlos A. CABRAL DE MENEZES  
Vice-Presidente, ABIA  
Praia de Botafogo 374  
Rio de Janeiro  
Brazil

Mrs. Regina G. SOUZA LANGSDORFF  
Total Quality Manager  
Rua Marques de Sapucaí nº 200/6º andar  
Cidade Nova  
Rio de Janeiro  
Brazil

Mrs. Maria A. MARTINELLI  
National Committee Secretariat -  
INMETRO  
SAS Quadra 02 Lote 1A  
70070 Brasilia DF  
Brazil

Mrs. Maria Teresa R. REZENDE  
National Committee Secretariat -  
INMETRO  
SAS Quadra 02 Lote 1A  
70070 Brasilia DF  
Brazil

Adauto RODRIGUES  
Medico Veterinario  
Coordenador dos Codex  
Alimentarius/MAARA  
Ministério da Agricultura  
Esplanada dos Ministérios  
Brasilia DF, Brazil

Edison L. SCADELAI  
Departamento de Proteção e Defesa do  
Consumidor  
Ministério da Justiça  
Esplanada dos Ministérios, Bloco T, Sala  
518  
Brasilia DF  
Brazil

#### **BURUNDI**

Sylvestre NDIKURIYO  
Directeur du Bureau Burundais de  
Normalisation et Contrôle de la Qualité  
(BBN)  
25 Av. de la Victoire  
B.P. 3535  
Bujumbura  
Burundi

#### **CANADA**

John EMBERLEY  
Director General  
Inspection Enforcement Department  
Fisheries and Oceans Canada  
200 Kent Street  
Ottawa, Ontario  
Canada K1A 0E6

Ronald BURKE  
Deputy Director  
Bureau of Food Regulatory, International  
and Interagency Affairs  
Food Directorate  
Health Protection Branch  
Health and Welfare Canada  
H.P.B. Bldg., Room 200  
Tunney's Pasture  
Ottawa, Ontario  
Canada K1A 0L2

James A. DRUM  
Vice-President  
Coca Cola Limited  
1 Concorde Gate  
Suite 500  
Toronto, Ontario  
Canada M4C 3N6

Glen HANSEN  
Counsellor (Agriculture)  
Canadian Mission to the Office of the  
United Nations at Geneva  
1 rue du Pre-de-la-Bichette  
1202 Geneva  
Switzerland

Roy HARWOOD  
Director, Technical Services  
Christie Brown and Company Ltd.  
2150 Lakeshore Boulevard West  
Toronto, Ontario  
Canada M8V 1A3

Barry L. SMITH  
Director  
Bureau of Food Regulatory, International  
and Interagency Affairs  
Food Directorate  
Health Protection Branch  
Health and Welfare Canada  
H.P.B. Bldg., Room 200  
Tunney's Pasture  
Ottawa, Ontario  
Canada K1A 0L2

Ian SUTHERLAND  
Director  
Agri-Food Safety and Strategies Division  
Agriculture Canada  
930 Carling Avenue  
Ottawa, Ontario  
Canada K1A 0Y5

**CHILE**  
**CHILI**

Fernando LABRA HIDALGO  
Second Secretary  
Mission of Chile  
Geneva  
Switzerland

**CHINA**  
**CHINE**

Qing'an LI  
Senior Government Official  
Department of Health Inspection  
Ministry of Public Health  
44 Houhai Beiyuan  
Beijing 100725  
China

Caimin LIN  
Vice-Director  
Bureau of Science, Technology and Quality  
Ministry of Commerce  
45 Fuxing Men Nei Street  
Beijing 100801  
China

Zhenghua CHENG  
Programme Officer  
No. 15 Fangcao di Xijie  
Chaoyang District  
7526 Beijing 100020  
China

Yin DAI  
Professor  
Institute of Food Safety, Control and  
Inspection  
Ministry of Public Health  
7 Pan-jia-yuan  
Chao-yang District  
100021 Beijing, China

Shaoqing FU  
Deputy Director  
Food Quality Supervision and Inspection  
Centre of P.R.C. Agriculture Ministry  
20 Jingjusi Road  
Jinjiang District  
Chengdu 610066  
Sichuan Province  
China

Weizhong GAO  
Programme Officer in Food Safety  
Department of Health Inspection  
Ministry of Public Health  
44 Houhai Beiyuan  
Beijing 100725, China

Ru Cheng LI  
Senior Engineer  
Division of Agriculture and Food  
Department of Standardization, CSBTS  
No. 4 Zhi Chuen Lu  
100088 Beijing  
China

Zhiqiang LI  
Director  
Center of Standardization Research and  
Consult  
Bureau of Science, Technology and Quality  
Ministry of Commerce  
45 Fuxingmen Nei Street  
Beijing 100801, China

You-pei LIU  
Official  
Industry, Science and Technology  
Department  
Qingdao Commercial Bureau  
42, Guangxi Road  
Qingdao  
266023 China

Xitai LU  
President  
Qingdao Meat-Food Group Corp.  
3, Siliu Zhong Zhi Road  
Qingdao  
266041 China

Wei Kang YAN  
Vice Director  
Shanghai Noodles Factory  
1469 Waima Road  
Shanghai  
China

Yong Mao YE  
Deputy Director  
Food Commission of Sci/Tech  
Committee of SACI, Senior Engineer  
15 Fangcaodi Xijie  
Chao Yang District  
100020 Beijing  
China

**COLOMBIA**  
**COLOMBIE**

Renato SALAZAR  
First Secretary  
17 Chemin du Champ d'Anier  
1209 Genève, Switzerland

**COSTA RICA**

Mme. Gloriana RODRIGUEZ  
Primer Secretario  
Mission du Costa Rica  
11 rue de Butini  
1202 Genève  
Switzerland

**CUBA**

A. Erice CARBONELL  
Food Director  
State Committee Standardization  
Egido 610 entre Gloria y Apodaca  
La Habana 1  
Cuba

Mrs. Linares MARITZA  
Director  
Quality Assurance  
Ministry of Fisheries  
Barcovento, Stafe, Playa  
Ciudad Habana  
Cuba

**DENMARK**  
**DANEMARK**  
**DINAMARCA**

Sten STROMGREN  
Head of Division  
Danish Veterinary Service  
Rolighedsvej 25  
DK-1958 Frederiksberg C  
Denmark

Ms. Lene BROBERG  
Secretary of the Danish Codex Committee  
Head of Section  
Danish Veterinary Service  
Rolighedsvej 25  
DK-1958 Frederiksberg C, Denmark  
Mrs. Anne BUSK-JENSEN  
Deputy Director  
Confederation of Danish Industries  
DK-1787 Copenhagen V  
Denmark

Ole Kopp CHRISTENSEN  
Director General  
National Food Agency  
Mørkhøj Bygade 19  
DK-2860 Søborg  
Denmark



Steen CLEMMENSEN  
Chief/Consultant  
Confederation of Danish Industries  
DK-1787 Copenhagen V  
Denmark

Jøergen FREDSTED  
Deputy Director General  
National Food Agency  
Mørkhøj Bygade 19  
DK-2860 Søborg, Denmark

Claus HEGGUM  
Head of Department  
Danish Dairy Board  
Frederiks Allé 22  
DK-8000 Aarhus C  
Denmark

Lars HERBORG  
Chief, Fish Inspection Service  
Ministry of Fisheries  
Stormgade 2  
Copenhagen  
Denmark

Ole Krog THOMSEN  
Project Manager  
Jydsk Telefon  
Centraldivisionen  
Css, P-256 Sletved 30  
DK-8310 Aarhus-Tranbjerg J  
Denmark

**DOMINICA**  
**DOMINIQUE**

Hugo LODRINI  
Ambassador  
Mission of the Commonwealth of Dominica  
9, Ave. Eugene Prittard  
1206 Geneva  
Switzerland

**EGYPT**  
**EGYPTE**  
**EGIPTO**

Salah H. ABU-RAIIA  
Associate Professor  
Food Technology Department  
Faculty of Agriculture  
Cairo University  
Giza  
Egypt

**EL SALVADOR**

Mme. Carmen TOBAR  
Ministro Consejero Misión en Ginebra  
65 rue de Lausanne  
Genève 1202  
Switzerland

**FINLAND**  
**FINLANDE**  
**FINLANDIA**

Kari BERGHOLM  
Ambassador  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
PL 176  
00161 Helsinki  
Finland

Jorma A. HIRN  
Professor  
National Veterinary and Food Institute  
Box 368  
00101 Helsinki  
Finland

Kalevi SALMINEN  
Director  
National Food Administration  
Box 5  
00531 Helsinki  
Finland

Vesa TUOMAALA  
General Secretary  
Advisory Committee on Foodstuffs  
Ministry of Trade and Industry  
Box 230  
00171 Helsinki  
Finland

**FRANCE**  
**FRANCIA**

Pierre GABRIE  
Chef de Service de la Consommation, de la  
Qualité et de la Sécurité  
Ministère de l'Economie des Finances et du  
Budget  
D.G.C.C.R.F.  
59 boulevard Vincent Auriol  
75703 Paris Cedex 13  
France

Mme Nicole BECARUD  
A.N.I.A.  
Association Nationale de l'Industrie  
Alimentaire  
Service scientifique et technique  
52 rue du Faubourg St-Honoré  
75008 Paris  
France

Jean-Jacques BERNIER  
Président du Comité National du Codex  
Alimentarius  
59 boulevard Vincent Auriol  
75013 Paris Cedex  
France

Jean BRUNEL  
Sous-Directeur, Qualité-Sécurité  
Ministère de l'Economie des Finances et du  
Budget  
D.G.C.C.R.F.  
59 boulevard Vincent Auriol  
75703 Paris Cedex 13, France

Madame Dominique BUREL  
Chef de Service  
CNIEL  
27 rue de la Proussian  
Paris 15<sup>e</sup>  
France

Mme Christine CANTOURNET  
Responsable Affairs Reglementaires  
BSN  
7 rue de Téhéran  
75381 Paris Cedex 08  
France

Félix DEPLEDT  
Expert Judiciaire Honoraire  
30 avenue de la République  
F.94700 Maisons-Alfort  
France

François FALCONNET  
Delegué Scientifique  
Chambre Syndicale Nationale des Industries  
de la Conserve  
44 rue d'Alésia  
75682 Paris Cedex 14  
France

Mlle Myriam FERRAN  
Ministère de l'Agriculture et de la Pêche  
Bureau Réglementation  
175 rue du Chevaleret  
75013 Paris  
France

Madame Marie-Odile GAILING  
Conseiller Scientifique et Réglementation  
Alimentaire  
Nestlé France  
17-19 Quai Président Paul Doumer  
92400 Courbevoie  
France

Madame Michelle A. GUNZLE  
Secrétariat Général du Comité National du  
Codex Alimentarius  
59 boulevard Vincent Auriol  
75703 Paris Cedex 13  
France

Daniel JEANCLAUDE  
Secrétaire du S.I.M.V.  
Syndicat de l'Industrie du Médicament  
Vétérinaire  
10 rue de la Trémoille  
75008 Paris  
France

Jean Pierre MARESCHI  
Directeur  
BSN  
7 rue de Téhéran  
75008 Paris  
France

Claude MEURIER  
Directeur Général du Centre National  
d'Etudes Vétérinaire et Alimentaire  
22 rue Pierre Curie  
94700 Maisons-Alfort  
France

Mlle Nadine NORMAND  
Programme de Normalisation Agro-  
Alimentaire  
Association Française de Normalisation  
(AFNOR)  
Tour Europe  
92049 Paris la Defense Cedex 7  
France

Jean Blaise ROCHETTE de LEMPDES  
Directeur des Etudes  
Société Diepal  
NSA-NUTRIPHARM  
126 rue Jules Guesde  
Levallois Perret Cedex  
France

François SAINT GUILHEM  
Ets. Roquette Frères  
Lestrem  
France

Madame Catherine VIGREUX  
Conseiller Réglementaire  
BSN  
7 rue de Téhéran  
75008 Paris  
France

**GABON**  
**GABÓN**

Jean Pierre NGOUA  
Commission Nationale de la FAO  
B.p. 551 Libreville  
Gabon

**GERMANY**  
**ALLEMAGNE**  
**ALEMANIA**

Wolf HÖLZEL  
Ministerialrat  
Bundesministerium für Gesundheit  
Am Probsthof 78a  
D-53121 Bonn  
Germany

Matthias HORST  
Hauptgeschäftsführer  
Bund für Lebensmittelrecht und  
Lebensmittelkunde  
Godesberger Allee 157  
D-53175 Bonn  
Germany

Friedrich FREDE  
Geschäftsführer  
Diätverband  
Postfach 1255  
61282 Bad Homburg  
Germany

Deterd GOEMAN  
Ministerialrat  
Bundesministerium für Ernährung  
Landwirtschaft und Forsten  
Rochusstrasse 1  
D-53123 Bonn  
Germany

Wilhelm HELLWIG  
Regierungsdirektor  
Bundesministerium für Gesundheit  
Am Probsthof 78a  
D-53121 Bonn  
Germany

Thomas KÜTZEMEIER  
Director  
German Dairy Association  
137 Meckenheimer Allee  
D-53115 Bonn  
Germany

Rolph LANGLAIS  
Director Scientific Regulatory Affairs  
Coca-Cola GMBH  
Frankenstrasse 348  
D-45133 Essen  
Germany

Mrs. Monika ROEMERSCHIEDT  
Regierungsdirektorin  
Bundesministerium für Ernährung,  
Landwirtschaft und Forsten  
Rochusstrasse 1  
D-53123 Bonn  
Germany

Franz SCHÜLLER  
Regierungsdirektor  
Bundesministerium für Wirtschaft  
53123 Bonn  
Germany

Arpad SOMOGYI  
Director  
Max von Pettenkofer Institute  
Bundesgesundheitsamt  
Thielallee 88-92  
D-14195 Berlin  
Germany

Hans Bodo TOLKMITT  
University Lecturer on Food Law (retired)  
Schwanenwik  
D-22087  
Hamburg  
Germany

Mrs. Jutta WILLENBROCK  
Food Chemist  
Bundesministerium für Umwelt, Naturschutz  
und Reaktorsicherheit  
Post Box 120629  
Bernkastelerstrasse 8  
D-53159 Bonn  
Germany

**GREECE**  
**GRECE**  
**GRECIA**

Loukas THEOHAROPOULOS  
Head of Section  
Ministry of Agriculture  
6 Kapnocoptirion Str.  
Athens  
Greece

**HONDURAS**

Mrs. Maria GUADALUPE CARIAS  
ZAPATA  
Counsellor  
Honduras Permanent Mission  
6 route de Meyrin  
1202 Geneva  
Switzerland

**HUNGARY**  
**HONGRIE**  
**HUNGRIA**

Aurél SALAMON  
President  
Hungarian National Codex Committee  
Head of Quality Control Department  
Ministry of Agriculture  
Kossuth L. tér 11  
Budapest V  
Hungary

István OLAH  
Secretary  
Hungarian National Codex Committee  
Hungarian Office for Standardization  
Ullői u. 25  
Budapest IX  
Hungary

Mrs. Mária VARADI  
Chairman  
Hungarian Committee of Experts on  
Methods of Analysis and Sampling  
Central Research Institute of Food Industry  
Herman O. u. 15  
Budapest II  
Hungary

**ICELAND**  
**ISLANDE**  
**ISLANDIA**

Stefan H. JOHANNESSON  
Counsellor  
9-11 rue de Varembe  
Geneva  
Switzerland

**INDIA**  
**INDE**

Dinesh Kumar PATNAIK  
Third Secretary  
Permanent Mission of India  
9 rue du Valais  
1202 Geneva  
Switzerland

**INDONESIA**  
**INDONESIE**

Wahyudi SUGIYANTO  
Agricultural Attaché  
Indonesian Mission to the European  
Community, Brussels  
Av. Tedesco 7, Box 3  
B-1160 Brussels  
Belgium

**IRAN (ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF)**  
**IRAN (REPUBLIQUE ISLAMIQUE D')**  
**IRAN (REPUBLICA ISLAMICA DEL)**

Mohammed Bagher TONEKABONI  
Deputy Director  
Food and Drug Quality Control  
Laboratories  
Ministry of Health and Medical Education  
31 Emam Khomeini Ave.  
P.O. Box 9385  
Tehran 11136  
Iran

Assadollah ABEDI  
Director-General  
Evaluation and Monitoring Department  
Ministry of Agriculture  
Keshavarz Blv.  
Tehran, Iran  
Morteza MOKHTARI-AMIN  
Troisième Secrétaire  
Mission d'Iran  
88 Chemin du Petit-Saconnex  
1209 Genève  
Suisse

Manonchehr NASSIRY AMINY  
Manager  
Food and Drug Control Labs  
Ministry of Health and Medical Education  
31 Imam Khomeiny Ave.  
P.O. Box 9385  
Tehran 11136  
Iran

**IRELAND**  
**IRLANDE**  
**IRLANDA**

Jerome J. O'SHEA  
Head  
International Organizations/General  
Coordination  
Dept. of Agriculture, Food and Forestry  
Agriculture House  
Kildare Street  
Dublin 2  
Ireland

**ISRAEL**

Ms. Miriam FREUND  
Head of Pesticide Registration Division  
Department of Plant Protection and  
Inspection  
P.O. Box 78  
Bet-Dagan 50250  
Israel

Yona F. GRUNFELD  
Consultant - Toxicology  
Dead Sea Bromide Group  
P.O. Box 180  
Beer-Sheva  
Israel

Ariel KEREM  
Deputy Permanent Representative to the  
United Nations  
9 Chemin de Bonvent  
1216 Geneva

Michael SPIEGELSTEIN  
Industry Consultant  
Head of Health  
Safety and Environment Division  
Dead Sea Bromide Group  
P.O. Box 180  
Beer-Sheva  
Israel

**ITALY**  
**ITALIE**  
**ITALIA**

Alberto BALBONI  
Deputy Permanent Representative to the  
United Nations  
16 Chemin de l'Imperatrice  
Geneva  
Switzerland

**JAPAN**  
**JAPON**

Kunio MORITA  
Senior Officer for Imported Food Inspection  
Environmental Health Bureau  
Ministry of Health and Welfare  
1-2-2 Kasumigaseki Chiyodaku  
Tokyo, 100-45  
Japan

Yoshiaki HAYASAKA  
Deputy Director  
Consumer Economy Div.  
Food and Marketing Bureau  
Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and  
Fisheries  
1-2-1 Kasumigaseki  
Chiyodaku  
Tokyo, 100  
Japan

Yasuhiro SUZUKI  
Deputy Director  
Food Sanitation Div.  
Environmental Health Bureau  
Ministry of Health and Welfare  
1-2-2 Kasumigaseki  
Chiyoda  
Tokyo, 100-45  
Japan

Taiichiro MAEKAWA  
First Secretary  
Japanese Mission  
3 Chemin des Fins  
Geneva  
Switzerland

Susumu MATSUDA  
First Secretary  
Japanese Mission  
3 Chemin des Fins  
Geneva  
Switzerland

Yoshihisa SUGITA  
Technical Advisor  
Japan Food Sanitation Association  
1-15-1 Kyobashi  
Chuoku  
Tokyo, 104  
Japan

**REPUBLIC OF KOREA**  
**REPUBLIQUE DE COREE**  
**REPUBLICA DE COREA**

Sang Won CHUNG  
Director of Standard and Processing  
Division  
Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and  
Fisheries  
1 Chungang-dong  
Kwachun-si  
Kyonggi-do  
Republic of Korea (South Korea)

Dong Kyun SHIN  
Director of Food Affairs Div.  
Ministry of Health and Social Affairs  
1 Chungang-dong  
Kwachun-si  
Governmental Building  
Kyoungki-do  
Republic of Korea (South Korea)

In-Sang SONG  
Head of Food Research Dept.  
Korea Advanced Food Research Institute  
1002-6, Bangbae-dong  
Seocho-ku  
Seoul  
Republic of Korea

Kun Sub CHUNG  
Principal Researcher  
Head of Testing and Analysis Laboratory  
Korea Food Research Institute  
San 46-1, Baekhyun-dong  
Bundang-ku  
Songnam-si,  
Kyonggi-do, 463-420  
Republic of Korea (South Korea)

**LESOTHO**

Gerard Phirinyane KHOJANE  
Ambassador and Permanent Representative  
to FAO  
Embassy of the Kingdom of Lesotho  
Via di Porta Pertusa 4  
00165 Roma

Miss Thakane F. ADORO  
Alternate Representative to FAO  
First Secretary  
Embassy of the Kingdom of Lesotho  
Via di Porta Pertusa 4  
00165 Roma

**LIBYAN ARAB JAMAHIRIYA**  
**JAMAHIRIYA ARABE LIBYENNE**  
**JAMAHIRIYA ARABE LIBIA**

Ezzedin ABDELRAHMAN  
General Director of Environmental  
Protection  
P.O. Box 81316  
Tripoli  
Libya

Yousef Aripe DOUGHA  
Assistant Researcher  
Engineer Food Science  
Technical Centre for Environmental  
Protection  
P.O. Box 83618  
Tripoli  
Libya

Abdulgader Abdulsami SHERIF  
Professor  
Chairman of Environment Society and  
Expert of Environment in Libya  
El Chatt Street  
Near Court of Justice  
P.O. Box 14149  
Tripoli  
Libya

**MADAGASCAR**

Max RAJAONARISOA  
Directeur de la Qualité et de la Métrologie  
Légale  
(Ministère du Commerce)  
B.P. 1316  
Antananarivo (101)  
Madagascar

**MALAYSIA  
MALAISIE  
MALASIA**

Dato' Dr. Hajjah AZIZAN BT. AIYUB  
GHAZALI  
Director  
General Hospital Kuala Lumpur  
50586 Jalan Pahang  
Kuala Lumpur  
Malaysia

Norlaili ABDUL AZIZ  
Medical and Health Officer  
City Hall Kuala Lumpur  
Jalan Tun Razak  
50400 Kuala Lumpur  
Malaysia

Mohd Salleh Mohd KASSIM  
Director, Quality Control, Licensing &  
Enforcement  
Palm Oil Registration and Licensing  
Authority  
P.O. Box 12184  
Kuala Lumpur 50720  
Malaysia

Mrs. Swee Keng LEONG  
Head  
International Standardization Unit  
Standards and Industrial Research Institute  
of Malaysia  
Persiaran Dato Menteri, Section 2  
P.O. Box 7035  
Kuala Lumpur  
Malaysia

Mrs. Nor'aini SUDIN  
Senior Research Officer  
Palm Oil Research Institute of Malaysia  
P.O. Box 10620  
Kuala Lumpur, 50720  
Malaysia

Soo Khwan WONG  
Head of Quality Control Section  
Palm Oil Registration and Licensing  
Authority  
Lot 6, SS6 Jalan Reebandaran  
47301 Kelana Jaya  
Selangor  
Malaysia

Basri ZAKARIA  
Senior Agricultural Officer  
Ministry of Agriculture  
Jalan Sultan Salahuddin  
50624 Kuala Lumpur  
Malaysia

**MAURITIUS  
MAURICE  
MAURICIO**

Renganaden MUNISAMY  
Attaché  
Mauritius Mission to the United Nations  
10 rue le Corbusier  
1208 Geneva

**MEXICO  
MEXIQUE**

Eduardo MENDEZ  
Advisor  
Ministry of Commerce  
Standards Department  
P.O. Box 60-468  
Mexico D.F. 03800

Ms. Aida ALBUERNE  
Directora de Dictaminacion y Fomento  
Sanitario S.S.A.  
Donceles 39  
Col. Centro  
Mexico, D.F.



Eduardo CERVANTES  
Scientific and Regulatory Affairs  
Calz. Vallejo 1849  
07630 Mexico, D.F.  
Mexico

Jose Luis CHAVEZ GARCIA  
Jefe de Depto. de Normas de Calidad  
Lope de Vega No. 125  
Col. Polanco 7º Piso  
11570 Mexico, D.F.

Mrs. Amada VELEZ  
Chief of Pesticide Registration Department  
Guillermo Perez Valenzuela #127  
Col. Coyoacan  
Mexico City D.F.  
Mexico

**MONGOLIA**  
**MONGOLIE**

Toivgoo TUGGEEGYN  
Director of the State Inspectorate for  
Hygiene and Epidemiology  
Enchtairan 17  
Ulaanbaator 49  
Mongolia

**MOROCCO**  
**LE MAROC**  
**MARRUECOS**

Ahmed JEBBDUR  
Chef de la Division de la Normalisation  
Ministère du Commerce et de l'Industrie  
1 Place Sefrou Hassan  
Rabat  
Maroc

**MYANMAR**

Nyunt SWE  
Second Secretary  
Permanent Mission of the Union of  
Myanmar  
47 Avenue Blanc  
1202 Geneva  
Switzerland

**NETHERLANDS**  
**PAYS-BAS**  
**PAISES BAJOS**

Pieter RITSEMA  
Ministry of Agriculture, Nature  
Management and Fisheries  
Deputy Director General for Rural Areas  
and Quality Management and  
Director Department for the Environment,  
Quality and Nutrition Affairs  
P.O. Box 20401  
2500 EK The Hague  
Netherlands

Mrs. Catharine G.M. KLITSIE  
Deputy Director  
Department for the Environment, Quality  
and Nutrition  
Ministry of Agriculture, Nature  
Management and Fisheries  
P.O. Box 20401  
2500 EK The Hague  
Netherlands

O.C. KNOTTNERUS  
Central Commodity Board for Arable  
Products  
P.O. Box 29739  
2502 LS The Hague  
Netherlands

Wim H. VAN ECK  
Head of Chemical Department  
Ministry of Welfare, Health and Cultural  
Affairs  
Food and Product Safety Affairs  
P.O. Box 3008  
2280 MK Rijswijk  
Netherlands

Steven VAN HOOGSTRAATEN  
Director for Food and Product Safety  
Ministry of Welfare, Health and Culture  
P.O. Box 3008  
2280 MK Rijswijk (ZH)  
Netherlands

Eduard VEEN  
Commission for the Dutch Food and  
Agricultural Industry  
P.O. Box 93093  
2509 AB The Hague  
Netherlands

**NEW ZEALAND**  
**NOUVELLE-ZELANDE**  
**NUEVA ZELANDIA**

Russ BALLARD  
Director-General  
Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries  
P.O. Box 2526  
Wellington  
New Zealand

Gilbert BOYD  
Manager (International Affairs)  
Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries  
P.O. Box 2526  
Wellington  
New Zealand

Peter HAMILTON  
Deputy Permanent Representative  
Permanent Mission of New Zealand  
28A Chemin du Petit Saconnex  
Geneva

Steve HATHAWAY  
National Manager (Research and  
Development)  
MAF Regulatory Authority (Meat and  
Seafood)  
Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries  
P.O. Box 646  
Gisborne  
New Zealand

**NIGERIA**

Joseph A. ABALAKA  
Director-General  
Standards Organization of Nigeria (SON)  
Federal Secretariat, Phase 1, 9th Floor  
Ikoyi, Lagos  
Nigeria

Mrs. May I. AYIVOR  
Principal Personnel Officer  
Standards Organization of Nigeria (SON)  
Federal Secretariat, Phase 1, 9th Floor  
Ikoyi, Lagos  
Nigeria

Filibbus BATURE  
Permanent Representative of the Federal  
Republic of Nigeria to FAO  
Embassy of Nigeria  
Via Orazio 14-18  
00193 Roma  
Italy

Etienne Enobong ESSIEN  
Secretary to Akwa Ibom State Government  
of Nigeria  
Government House  
Akwa Ibom State  
Uyo  
Nigeria

Gabriel Ediale OSUIDE  
Director-General  
National Agency for Food and Drug  
Administration and Control (NAFDAC)  
Federal Ministry of Health and Social  
Services  
P.M.B. 12525  
Lagos  
Nigeria

Adebayo O. OYEJOLA  
Director of Standards  
Standards Organization of Nigeria (SON)  
Federal Secretariat, Phase 1, 9th Floor  
Ikoyi, Lagos  
Nigeria

Gbolahan Adisa SOLABI  
Scientific, Regulatory and Environmental  
Affairs Manager  
Nestlé Foods Nigeria PLC  
20/24 Industrial Avenue  
Ilupeju  
PMB 21164  
Ikeja  
Nigeria

Ekpenyong Udo USORO  
Deputy Director  
National Agency for Food and Drug  
Administration and Control (NAFDAC)  
Federal Ministry of Health  
Lagos  
Nigeria

**NORWAY**  
**NORVEGE**  
**NORVEGA**

Atle Ørbeck SORHEIM  
Director-General  
Norwegian Food Control Authority  
P.O. Box 8187 Dep.  
N-0034 Oslo  
Norway

Dan V. AARSAND  
Specialist Executive Officer  
Department of Fish Quality Control  
Directorate of Fisheries  
P.O. Box 185  
N-5002 Bergen  
Norway

Mrs. Kirsten Elnæs AABY  
Head of Division  
Norwegian Food Control Authority  
P.O. Box 8187 Dep.  
N-0034 Oslo 1  
Norway

Aksel R. EIKEMO  
Head of Department  
Department of Fish Quality Control  
Directorate of Fisheries  
P.O. Box 185  
N-5002 Bergen  
Norway

John RACE  
Special Adviser  
International Liaison  
Norwegian Food Control Authority  
P.O. Box 8187-Dep.  
N-0034 Oslo  
Norway

Ms. Åse Marie RUSAANES  
Executive Officer  
Ministry of Agriculture  
P.O. Box 8007 Dep.  
N-0030 Oslo  
Norway

**PAKISTAN**

A.S. Babar HASHMI  
Second Secretary  
Permanent Mission of Pakistan  
56 Rue de Moillebeau  
Geneva

**PANAMA**

Lourdes VALLARINO  
Counsellor  
72 rue de Lausanne  
1202 Geneva  
Switzerland

**PARAGUAY**

Rigoberto GAUTO  
Conseiller  
Mission Permanente du Paraguay  
2 Chemin des Mines  
1202 Genève  
Suisse

**PERU**  
**PEROU**

Javier PRADO  
Diplomat  
63 rue de Lausanne  
1202 Geneva  
Switzerland

Mlle. Romy TINCOPA  
Troisième Secrétaire  
Mission du Perou  
63 rue de Lausanne  
1202 Genève  
Suisse

**PHILIPPINES  
FILIPINAS**

Mme Lilia R. BAUTISTA  
Ambassador and Permanent Representative  
Philippine Mission  
47 Avenue Blanc  
Geneva  
Switzerland

Mrs. Delia MENEZ-ROSAL  
Minister-Counsellor  
Philippine Mission  
47 avenue Blanc  
1202 Geneva  
Switzerland

Miss Jindra Linda L. DEMETERIO  
Agricultural Attaché  
Philippine Embassy  
Mission to the European Communities  
85 rue Washington  
1050 Brussels  
Belgium

Mme Lourdes BERRIG  
Trade Policy Adviser  
47 Avenue Blanc  
1202 Geneva  
Switzerland

Romeo BORILLO  
Commercial Attaché  
Philippine Mission  
47 Avenue Blanc  
Geneva  
Switzerland

Harris J. BIXLER  
Technical Adviser  
Seaweed Industry Association of the  
Philippines  
P.O. Box 252  
Searsport, ME 04915  
USA

**POLAND  
POLOGNE  
POLONIA**

Mrs. Joanna SWIECKA  
Deputy Director  
Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations  
Quality Inspection Office  
32/34 Zurawia str.  
00-950 Warsaw  
Poland

Mrs. Maria CIAPINSKA  
Main Specialist  
Department for Plant Production and Food  
Processing  
Ministry of Agriculture and Food Economy  
30 Wspólna str.  
00-930 Warsaw  
Poland

Jerzy MARCINEK  
Head of Department for Agriculture and  
Food  
Director of Polish Committee for  
Standardization Measures and Quality  
Control  
2 Elektoralna str.  
00-139 Warsaw  
Poland

Mrs. Grażyna OKOLSKA  
Chief of Laboratory of Food Hygiene  
Department of Food and Nutrition Hygiene  
National Food and Nutrition Institute  
61/63 Powsińska str.  
02-903 Warsaw  
Poland

Mrs. Krystyna RYBINSKA  
Chief of Laboratory Foods of Hygiene  
National Institute of Hygiene  
Department of Food Research  
Chocimska 24 Str  
01-791 Warsaw  
Poland

**Stanisław TYSZKIEWICZ**  
Professor  
Head of Department  
Meat and Fat Research Institute  
36 Rakowiecka str.  
02-532 Warsaw  
Poland

**PORTUGAL**

**Luis BARROS**  
Portuguese Mission  
1 rue Richard Wagner  
Geneva  
Switzerland

**ROMANIA  
ROUMANIE  
RUMANIA**

**Gheorghe ISTORE**  
First Secretary to the Permanent Mission of  
Romania  
6 chemin de la Perrière  
1223 Cologny  
Geneva  
Switzerland

**SINGAPORE  
SINGAPOUR  
SINGAPUR**

**Hong Kuan CHIA**  
Head  
Food Control Department  
Ministry of the Environment  
Environment Building  
40, Scotts Road  
Singapore 0922

**SPAIN  
ESPAGNE  
ESPANA**

**Felipe MITTELBRUNN GARCIA**  
Consejero Técnico  
Vicesecretaria General Técnica  
Ministerio de Sanidad y Consumo  
Paseo del Prado 18-20  
28071 Madrid  
España

**P. GOMEZ**  
Counsellor on Agriculture, Fisheries and  
Food  
Mission of Spain  
53 Av. Blanc  
1202 Geneva  
Switzerland

**Mme Elisa REVILLA GARCIA**  
Subdirector General de Normalización y  
Proceso Alimentarios  
Ministerio da Agricultura, Pesca y  
Alimentacion  
Paseo Infanta Isabel No. 1  
Madrid 28001, Spain

**SRI LANKA**

**Mahinda G. HEWAGE**  
Minister (Econ. and Comm.)  
Permanent Mission of Sri Lanka to UN  
Geneva  
56 Rue de Moillebeau  
Geneva 19  
Switzerland

**Abdul ASSIZ**  
Second Secretary  
Permanent Mission of Sri Lanka to UN  
Geneva  
56 Rue de Moillebeau  
Geneva 19  
Switzerland

Gomi Tharaka SENADHIRA  
First Secretary (Econ. and Comm.)  
Permanent Mission of Sri Lanka to UN  
Geneva  
56 Rue de Moillebeau  
Geneva 19  
Switzerland

**SWAZILAND**  
**SWAZILANDIA**

Mrs. Christabel MOTSA  
Principal Home Economics Officer  
Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives  
P.O. Box 162  
Mbabane  
Swaziland

**SWEDEN**  
**SUEDE**  
**SUECIA**

Arne KARDELL  
Director General  
National Food Administration  
Box 622  
751 26 Uppsala  
Sweden

Mrs. Barbro BLOMBERG  
Coordinator for Europe  
Lawyer  
Mohultsvägen 8A  
716 94 Mullhyttan  
Sweden

Nils FARNERT  
Consultant  
Grev Magnigatan 14  
11445 Stockholm  
Sweden

Mrs. Eva LONBERG  
Principal Administrative Officer  
Codex Coordinator  
National Food Administration  
Box 622  
751 26 Uppsala  
Sweden

Stuart SLORACH  
Deputy Director-General  
National Food Administration  
Box 622  
S-751 26 Uppsala  
Sweden

Mrs. Annika SODERBERG  
First Secretary  
Ministry of Agriculture  
S-10333 Stockholm  
Sweden

**SWITZERLAND**  
**SUISSE**  
**SUIZA**

Pierre ROSSIER  
Head of Codex Alimentarius Section  
Federal Office of Public Health  
Haslerstrasse 16  
CH-3000 Berne 14  
Switzerland

Ms. Irina DU BOIS  
NESTEC Limited  
55 Avenue Nestlé  
CH-1800 Vevey  
Switzerland

Mme Grethe HUMBERT  
Jacobs Suchard Tobler SA  
Rue des Usines 90  
CH-2003 Neuchâtel 3  
Suisse

Marquard IMFELD  
Head of Regulatory Affairs  
Hoffmann-La Roche AG  
CH-4002 Basel  
Switzerland

**TANZANIA**  
**TANZANIE**

Faustine K. MASAGA  
Principal Standards Officer and Head  
Process Technology Standards Dept.  
Tanzania Bureau of Standards  
P.O. Box 9524  
Dar-es-Salaam  
Tanzania

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

Chane BOONSONG  
Secretary General  
Thai Industrial Standards Institute  
Ministry of Industry  
Rama VI Street  
Bangkok 10400  
Thailand

Sunon ANILBOL  
Government Official  
Commodity Standards Division  
Department of Foreign Trade  
Ministry of Commerce  
Rajadamneon Avenue  
Bangkok 10200  
Thailand

Ittiporn BOONPRACONG  
First Secretary  
Permanent Mission of Thailand to the  
United Nations Office  
28b Chemin du Petit-Saconnex  
1209 Geneva  
Switzerland

Mrs. Marisa HOTRABHAVANANDA  
Director  
Office of National Codex Alimentarius  
Committee  
Thai Industrial Standards Institute  
Ministry of Industry  
Rama VI Street  
Bangkok 10400  
Thailand

Suang LIAMRANGSI  
Director  
Food Hygiene Division  
Department of Health  
Ministry of Public Health  
Samsen Road  
Bangkok 10200  
Thailand

Mrs. Phani NA RANGSI  
Senior Expert on Standardization  
Thai Industrial Standards Institute  
Ministry of Industry  
Rama VI Street  
Bangkok 10400  
Thailand

Mrs. Jintana NATEESATITTARN  
Government Official  
Standard Analysis Division  
Department of Foreign Trade  
Ministry of Commerce  
Bangkok  
Thailand

Pakdee POTHISIRI  
Inspector-General  
Ministry of Public Health  
Samsen Road  
Bangkok 10200  
Thailand

Mrs. Marasee SURAKUL  
Secretary-General  
National FAO Committee of Thailand  
Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives  
Bangkok  
Thailand

**TUNISIA**  
**TUNISIE**

MEFTAH AMARA  
Directeur de l'Agro-alimentaire  
Ministère de l'Agriculture  
30 rue Alain Savary  
1002 Tunis  
Tunisie

Zouhaiz KALLAL  
Professeur à la Faculté  
Président du Conseil de l'Institut de  
Nutrition  
15 rue Haroun Rachid  
Kheredine 2015  
Tunis  
Tunisie

**TURKEY**  
**TURQUIE**  
**TURQUIA**

Mrs. Ayse DOGAN  
Agriculture Engineer  
General Directorate of Protection and  
Control  
Akay Cad 3  
06100 Bakanliklar  
Ankara  
Turkey

Canan GURHAN  
Deputy Counsellor  
Turkish Permanent Mission  
28B, Ch. du Petit-Saconnex  
1211 Geneva

**UGANDA**  
**OUGANDA**

Dr. Eve KASIRYE-ALEMU  
Executive Director  
Uganda National Bureau of Standards  
P.O. Box 6329  
Kampala  
Uganda

**UNITED KINGDOM**  
**ROYAUME-UNI**  
**REINO UNIDO**

Charles A. COCKBILL  
Head of Consumer Protection Division  
Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food  
Room 308  
Ergon House  
c/o Nobel House  
17 Smith Square  
London SW1P 3JR  
UK

Jonathan BELL  
Head of Food Science Division  
Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food  
Nobel House  
17 Smith Square  
London SW1P3JR  
UK

Roger SKINNER  
Principal Medical Officer  
Department of Health  
Skipton House  
80 London Road  
London SE1 6LW  
UK

**UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**  
**ETATS-UNIS D'AMERIQUE**  
**ESTADOS UNIDOS DE AMERICA**

Alex B. THIERMANN  
Deputy Administrator  
International Services  
U.S. Codex Coordinator  
Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
USDA-APHIS-IS  
Room 324-E, Administration Building  
14th and Independence Ave., SW.  
Washington, DC 20250  
USA



Douglas ARCHER  
Deputy Director for Programs  
Center for Food Safety and Applied  
Nutrition (HFS-2)  
Food and Drug Administration  
200 C Street, SW.  
Washington, DC 20204  
USA

Roy BARRETT  
Deputy Director  
Office of Food Safety  
Foreign Agricultural Service  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
Room 5545 South Building  
1400 Independence Ave., SW.  
Washington, DC 20250  
USA

Kyd D. BRENNER  
Vice President  
Corn Refiners Association, Inc.  
1100 Connecticut Avenue, N.W.  
Suite 1120  
Washington, D.C. 20036  
USA

Ms. Franta J. BROULIK  
Director  
Regulatory Affairs and Information Services  
McNeil Specialty Products Company  
501 George Street  
P.O. Box 2400  
New Brunswick, NJ 08903-2400  
USA

Charles W. COOPER  
Director  
International Activities Staff  
Foods and Cosmetics  
Center for Food Safety and Applied  
Nutrition (HFS-585)  
Food and Drug Administration  
200 C Street, SW.  
Washington, DC 20204  
USA

Russell CROSS  
Administrator FSIS  
Room 331-E  
Adm. Building  
FSIS  
USDA  
Washington D.C. 20250  
USA

John W. FARQUHAR  
Vice President  
Scientific and Technical Services  
Food Marketing Institute  
800 Connecticut Avenue, NW.  
Suite 400  
Washington, DC 20006  
USA

Gerald GUEST  
(Consultant)  
Center for Veterinary Medicine (HFV-1)  
Food and Drug Administration  
7500 Standish Place  
Rockville, MD 20855  
USA

Ms. Jane HOPKINS  
Chief, International Activities  
Office of Pesticide Programs  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
401 Mst., S.W. H7501C  
Washington, D.C. 20460  
USA

Ms. Julia HOWELL  
Director  
Regulatory Submissions  
The Coca-Cola Company  
310 North Avenue  
Atlanta, Georgia  
USA 30301

Thad M. JACKSON  
Director of Issue Management  
Nestle USA, Inc.  
1133 Connecticut Avenue, N.W.  
Suite 310  
Washington, DC 20036  
USA

Gordon KEMP  
Director, Science Policy Affairs  
Pfizer Inc.  
Pfizer Central Research  
Eastern Point Road  
Groton, CT  
USA 06340

Eddie F. KIMBRELL  
Consultant  
Holland and Knight  
Suite 900  
888 17th Street, NW.  
Washington, DC 20006  
USA

Rodney E. LEONARD  
Executive Director  
Community Nutrition Institute  
2001 "S" Street, N.W., Suite 530  
Washington, DC 20009  
USA

Harry MUSSMAN  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
Representative in the U.S. Mission to the  
U.N. Agencies in Rome  
U.S. Mission to the U.N. Food and  
Agriculture Agencies in Rome  
Via Aurelia 294/A  
Rome, Italy

Rhonda S. NALLY  
Executive Officer for Codex Alimentarius  
Room 2151-South Building  
Food Safety and Inspection Service  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
14th and Independence Ave., SW.  
Washington, DC 20250  
USA

Thomas D. PIERCE  
Manager, Corporate Quality Assurance  
Hershey Foods Corporation  
1025 Reese Avenue  
Hershey, PA  
USA 17033

Ms. Leslie G. SARASIN  
Executive Vice President of Public Policy  
American Frozen Food Institute  
1764 Old Meadow Lane, Suite 350  
McLean, VA 22102  
USA

Fred SHANK  
Director  
Center for Food Safety and Applied  
Nutrition (HFS-1)  
Food and Drug Administration  
Room 6815  
200 C Street, SW.  
Washington, DC 20204  
USA

Steve TANNER  
Deputy Director  
Quality Assurance and Research Division  
Federal Grain Inspection Service  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
10383 N. Executive Hills Blvd.  
Kansas City, MO 64153-1394  
USA

Richard TESKE  
Acting Director  
Center for Veterinary Medicine (HFV-1)  
Food and Drug Administration  
7500 Standish Place  
Rockville, MD 20855  
USA

Ms. Sharon THOMPSON  
Special Assistant to the Director  
Center for Veterinary Medicine  
FDA  
Metro Park North 2  
HFV-3  
7500 Standish Place  
Rockville, MD 20855  
USA

Mrs. Patty L. WOODALL  
Staff Assistant for Codex Alimentarius  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
Food Safety and Inspection Service  
14th and Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington, DC 20250  
USA

**VENEZUELA**

Gerardo THIELEN  
First Secretary  
Venezuelan Permanent Mission to the UN  
18A Chemin François Lehmann  
1218 Grand Saconnex  
Geneva  
Switzerland

**OBSERVER COUNTRIES**  
**PAYS OBSERVATEURS**  
**PAISES OBSERVADORES**

**CZECH REPUBLIC**  
**REPUBLIQUE TCHEQUE**  
**REPUBLIC CHECA**

Michal ANDEL  
Professor of Medicine  
Third Medical Faculty  
Charles University  
Ruska 87  
100 00 Prague 10  
Czech Republic

Václav HRBEK  
Department of Food Production  
Ministry of Agriculture of the Czech  
Republic  
Praha 1, Tesnov 17  
Prague  
Czech Republic

**RUSSIAN FEDERATION**  
**FEDERATION DE RUSSIE**  
**FEDERACION DE RUSIA**

Aleksandre V. KARTINTCEV  
Deputy Director  
Russian Federal Research Institute of  
Fisheries and Oceanography (VNIRO)  
17 v. Krasnoselskaya  
Moscow  
107140 Russia

**INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS**  
**ORGANISATIONS**  
**INTERNATIONALES**  
**ORGANIZACIONES**  
**INTERNACIONALES**

**AFRICAN REGIONAL**  
**ORGANIZATION FOR**  
**STANDARDIZATION (ARSO)**

Zawdu FELLEKE  
Secretary-General  
African Regional Organization for  
Standardization  
P.O. Box 57363  
Nairobi  
Kenya

**ASSOCIATION OF EUROPEAN**  
**CELIAC SOCIETIES (AOECS)**

Mrs. Hertha DEUTSCH  
Member of Steering Committee  
Association of European Celiac Societies  
Anton Baumgartnerstr. 44/C5/2302  
A-1230 Vienna  
Austria

**ASSOCIATION OF OFFICIAL**  
**ANALYTICAL CHEMISTS (AOAC)**

Mme. Margreet LAUWAARS  
AOAC International Europe Representative  
P.O. Box 153  
6720 AD Bennekom  
Netherlands

**COMITE DES FABRICANTS D'ACIDE  
GLUTAMIQUE DE LA COMMUNAUTE  
ECONOMIQUE EUROPEENNE  
(COFAG)**

Yannick Yuichi O'HARA  
Scientific Representative, COFAG  
16 rue Ballu  
75009 Paris  
France

**CONFEDERATION OF THE FOOD  
AND DRINK INDUSTRIES OF THE  
EEC  
CONFEDERATION DES INDUSTRIES  
AGRO-ALIMENTAIRES DE LA CEE  
(CIAA)**

Dominique TAEYMANS  
Manager des Affaires Scientifiques et  
Techniques  
Rue de la Loi 74, Bte 9  
1040 Bruxelles  
Belgique

**CONSULTATION MONDIALE DE  
L'INDUSTRIE DE LA SANTE  
ANIMALE (COMISA)**

Peter ALTREUTHER  
President  
COMISA  
Rue Defacqz 1, Btc 8  
B-1050 Brussels  
Belgium

Roger COOK  
Director  
National Office of Animal Health  
3 Crossfield Chambers  
Gladbeck Way  
Enfield, EN2 7HF  
UK

Ms. Adrienne DERN  
Vice President  
International Activities  
Animal Health Institute  
501 Wythe Street  
P.O. Box 1417-D50  
Alexandria, Va 22313-1480  
USA

Brendan FOX  
President  
Elanco Animal Health  
Division of Eli Lilly & Co.  
Lilly Corporate Center  
Indianapolis, 46285 IN  
USA

David MILLER  
Executive Secretary  
COMISA  
Rue Defacqz 1, Btc 8  
B-1050 Brussels  
Belgium

Anthony MUDD  
Technical Manager  
Cyanamid UK  
Fareham Road  
Gosport  
Hants.  
PO13 OA  
UK

Christian VERSCHUEREN  
Director  
Technical and International Affairs  
FEDESA  
Rue Defacqz 1, B.8  
B-1050 Brussels  
Belgium

**EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES (EC)  
COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN  
COMMUNITIES**

Egon GAERNER  
Chef d'Unité  
Direction Générale "Industrie"  
Commission de la Communauté Européenne  
200 rue de la Loi  
B-1049 Bruxelles  
Belgique

Mme. O. DEMINE  
Administrateur Principal  
Direction Générale "Industrie"  
Commission de la Communauté Européenne  
200 rue de la Loi  
B-1049 Bruxelles  
Belgique

Lars C. HOELGAARD  
Director DGVI. Agriculture  
EEC Commission  
Rue de la Loi 130-6/41  
1049 Brussels  
Belgium

Brian HOGBEN  
Principal Administrator  
Deputy Head of Division  
Directorate General Agriculture  
Commission of the EC  
200 rue de la Loi  
1049 Brussels  
Belgium

Jean-Jacques BOUFLET  
Administrateur Principal à la Commission  
des Communauté Européennes  
Commission des Communauté Européennes  
200 rue de la Loi  
B-1049 Bruxelles  
Belgique

Gianluca BELOTTI  
Fonctionnaire, CEE  
200 rue de la Loi  
Bruxelles  
Belgique

Bent MEJBORN  
Official EC  
EC Council Secretariat  
Rue de la Loi 170  
B-1048 Bruxelles  
Belgique

**EUROPEAN FREE TRADE  
ASSOCIATION (EFTA)  
ASSOCIATION EUROPEENNE DE  
LIBRE ECHANGE (AELE)**

Mrs. Berit WILSHER  
Senior Officer  
European Free Trade Association  
Rue de Treves 74  
1040 Brussels  
Belgium

**EUROPEAN VEGETABLE PROTEIN  
FEDERATION  
FEDERATION EUROPEENNE DES  
PROTEINES VEGETALES  
FEDERACION EUROPEA DE  
PROTEINAS VEGETALES (EUVEPRO)**

Johan HALLAERT  
Secretary General  
Avenue de Cortenbergh 172/6  
1040 Bruxelles  
Belgium

**GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS  
AND TRADE  
ACCORD GENERAL SUR LES TARIFS  
DOUANIERS ET LE COMMERCE  
ACUERDO GENERAL SOBRE  
ARANCELES ADUANEROS Y  
COMERCIO**

Mrs. Gretchen STANTON  
Counsellor  
Agriculture and Commodities Division  
GATT  
Centre William Rappard  
rue de Lausanne 154  
Case postale  
CH-1211 Genève 21  
Suisse

**GROUPEMENT EUROPEEN ET UNION  
EUROPEENNE DES SOURCES D'EAUX  
MINERALES NATURELLES (GESEM-  
UNESEM)**

Paul BORDIER  
Président Chambre Syndicale Eaux  
Minérales  
10 rue de la Trémoille  
75008 Paris  
France

Pierangelo GRIPPO  
Segretario Generale  
GESEM  
Via delle Tre Madonne 12  
00197 Roma

**INSTITUTE OF FOOD  
TECHNOLOGISTS**

Bruce LISTER  
Consultant  
Institute of Food Technologists  
221 North La Salle Street  
Chicago, Illinois 60601  
USA

**INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF  
BOUILLON AND SOUP INDUSTRIES  
ASSOCIATION INTERNATIONALE DE  
L'INDUSTRIE DES BOUILLONS ET  
POTAGES (AIIBP)**

Ernst G. RAPP  
Ernest Claes 4  
B-3080 Tervuren - Brussels  
Belgium

**INTERNATIONAL DAIRY  
FEDERATION (IDF)  
FEDERATION INTERNATIONALE DE  
LAITERIE**

Edward HOPKIN  
Secretary General  
International Dairy Federation  
41 Square Vergote  
1040 Brussels  
Belgium

A. OTERHOLM  
President Commission D  
c/o Norwegian Dairies Association  
POB 9051 Grønland  
N-0133 Oslo  
Norway

**INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF  
GROCERY MANUFACTURERS  
ASSOCIATIONS (IFGMA)**

Sherwin GARDNER  
Senior Vice President  
Science and Technology  
Grocery Manufacturers of America, Inc.  
1010 Wisconsin Ave. N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20007  
USA

Ms. Gloria BROOKS-RAY  
Director  
Regulatory Affairs and Nutritional Sciences  
CPC International, Inc.  
Box 8000, International Plaza  
Englewood Cliffs  
N.J. 07632, USA

Charles FELDBERG  
Vice President, Health, Safety and Quality  
Assurance  
CPC International, Inc.  
Box 8000, International Plaza  
Englewood Cliffs  
N.J. 07632  
USA

**INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF  
MARGARINE ASSOCIATIONS  
FEDERATION INTERNATIONALE DES  
ASSOCIATIONS DE LA MARGARINE  
(IFMA)**

Ms. Janet NUNN  
Secretary General  
IFMA  
Rue de la Loi 74, BTE 3  
1040 Brussels  
Belgium

Mme Helen Ann ZEGERS de BEYL  
Deputy Secretary General  
IFMA  
74 rue de la Loi  
1040 Brussels  
Belgium

**INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF  
ORGANIC AGRICULTURE  
MOVEMENTS (IFOAM)**

Otto SCHMID  
International Federation of Organic  
Agriculture Movements (IFOAM) Standards  
Committee  
Halden  
CH-8615 Wermatswiel ZH  
Switzerland

**INTERNATIONAL LIFE SCIENCES  
INSTITUTE (ILSI)**

Jorrit VAN DER MEER  
ILSI  
Chaussee de Mons 1424  
1070 Brussels  
Belgium

**INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION  
OF CONSUMERS UNIONS (IOCU)**

John BEISHON  
Hon. Secretary  
Panos Institute  
9 White Lion Street  
London  
UK

Ms. Diane McCREA  
Research Manager  
Panos Institute  
9 White Lion Street  
London  
UK

**INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION  
OF THE FLAVOR INDUSTRY (IOFI)**

Friedrich GRUNDSCHOBER  
Secretary General  
International Organization of the Flavour  
Industry  
8, rue Charles-Humbert  
CH-1205 Geneva  
Switzerland

**INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION  
FOR STANDARDIZATION (ISO)**

K.-G. LINGNER  
Technical Group Manager  
Planning and Technical Coordination  
ISO Central Secretariat  
1 rue de Varembe  
CH-1211 Geneva 20  
Switzerland

**INTERNATIONAL PECTIN  
PRODUCERS ASSOCIATION**

Walter PILNIK  
Boeslaan 5  
6703 EN Wageningen  
Netherlands

**INTERNATIONAL PULSE TRADE AND  
INDUSTRY CONFEDERATION  
(CICILS)  
CONFEDERATION INTERNATIONALE  
DU COMMERCE ET DES INDUSTRIES  
DES LEGUMES SECS  
CONFEDERACION INTERNACIONAL  
DEL COMERCIO E INDUSTRIAS DE  
LEGUMBRES SECAS**

Jacques L. GAUTIER  
Conseiller Technique  
286 Bourse de Commerce  
2 rue de Viarmes  
F 75040 Paris Cedex 01  
France

**INTERNATIONAL TRADE CENTRE  
(UNCTAD/GATT)**

Enrique SIERRA  
Senior Adviser  
Export Quality Management  
International Trade Centre  
UNCTAD/GATT  
Palais des Nations  
1211 Geneva 10  
Switzerland

**MARINALG INTERNATIONAL  
(WORLD ASSOCIATION OF  
SEAWEED PRODUCERS)  
(ASSOCIATION MONDIALE DES  
PRODUCTEURS D'EXTRAITS  
D'ALGUES MARINES)**

Rodney J.H. GRAY  
Manager Regulatory Affairs  
Hercules Incorporated  
11334 Hercules Plaza  
Hercules Incorporated  
Wilmington, DE 19894, USA

Arie OVEREEM  
Marinalg International  
8 Veraartlaan  
2288 GM Rijswijk  
Netherlands

Jean-Jacques PIOT  
Adviser/Conseiller  
Marinalg International  
85 Bd. Haussmann  
75008 Paris  
France

**UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC  
COMMISSION FOR EUROPE  
NATIONS UNIES COMMISSION  
ECONOMIQUE POUR L'EUROPE  
(UNECE)**

Michael CANON  
Food Standards Officer  
Joint FAO/ECE Agriculture and Timber  
Division  
Palais des Nations  
CH1211 Geneva 10  
Switzerland

**WORLD ASSOCIATION OF FOOD  
GRADE BIOPOLYMER PRODUCERS  
ASSOCIATION MONDIALE DES  
PRODUCTEURS DE BIOPOLYMERES  
ALIMENTAIRES**

Ms. Alexandra HADJIYIANNI  
European Regulatory Affairs Manager  
FMC Europe  
480 A. Louise  
1050 Brussels  
Belgium

**SECRETARY, CODEX  
ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION  
SECRETAIRE, COMMISSION DU  
CODEX ALIMENTARIUS  
SECRETARIO, COMISION DEL  
CODEX ALIMENTARIUS**

R.J. DAWSON  
Chief, Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards  
Programme, and  
Chief, Food Quality and Standards Service  
Food Policy and Nutrition Division  
FAO  
Via delle Terme di Caracalla  
00100 Rome, Italy



**FAO SESSION SECRETARY  
SECRETAIRE FAO POUR LA SESSION  
SECRETARIO FAO PARA EL  
PERIODO DE SESIONES**

A.W. RANDELL  
Senior Officer  
Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards  
Programme  
Food Policy and Nutrition Division  
FAO  
Via delle Terme di Caracalla  
00100 Rome, Italy

**WHO SESSION SECRETARY  
SECRETAIRE OMS POUR LA SESSION  
SECRETARIO OMS PARA EL  
PERIODO DE SESIONES**

F. KAFERSTEIN  
Chief  
Food Safety Unit  
Division of Food and Nutrition  
WHO  
CH-1211 Geneva 27  
Switzerland

**LEGAL COUNSEL  
CONSEILLER JURIDIQUE  
ASESORIA JURIDICA**

Ms. J. FECTEAU  
Legal Officer  
General Legal Affairs Service  
Legal Office  
FAO  
Via delle Terme di Caracalla  
00100 Rome, Italy

S. SHUBBER  
Senior Legal Officer  
Office of the Legal Counsel  
WHO  
Geneva  
Switzerland

R. STEIN  
Chief  
General Legal Affairs Service  
Legal Office  
FAO  
Via delle Terme di Caracalla  
00100 Rome, Italy

**JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS  
PROGRAMME PERSONNEL  
PERSONNEL DU PROGRAMME  
MIXTE FAO/OMS SUR LES NORMES  
ALIMENTAIRES  
PERSONAL DEL PROGRAMA  
CONJUNTO FAO/OMS SOBRE  
NORMAS ALIMENTARIAS**

D. BYRON  
Food Standards Officer  
Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards  
Programme Group  
FAO  
Via delle Terme di Caracalla  
00100 Rome, Italy

E. CASADEI  
Food Standards Officer  
Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards  
Programme Group  
FAO  
Via delle Terme di Caracalla  
00100 Rome, Italy

Ms. Selma DOYRAN  
Food Standards Officer  
Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards  
Programme Group  
FAO  
Via delle Terme di Caracalla  
00100 Rome, Italy

Ms. Yukiko YAMADA  
Food Standards Officer  
Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards  
Programme Group  
FAO  
Via delle Terme di Caracalla  
00100 Rome, Italy

**FAO PERSONNEL  
PERSONNEL DE LA FAO  
PERSONAL DE LA FAO**

J.R. LUPIEN  
Director  
Food Policy and Nutrition Division  
FAO  
Via delle Terme di Caracalla  
00100 Rome, Italy

E. BOUTRIF  
Senior Officer  
Food Quality and Consumer Protection  
Group  
FAO  
Via delle Terme di Caracalla  
00100 Rome, Italy

**WHO PERSONNEL  
PERSONNEL DE LA OMS  
PERSONAL DE LA OMS**

F. ANTEZANA  
Assistant Director-General  
WHO  
1211 Geneva 27

D. BENBOUZID  
Medical Officer  
Nutrition Unit  
Division of Food and Nutrition  
WHO  
1211 Geneva 27  
Switzerland

J.-F. BLONDIAUX  
Budget Officer  
Division of Budget and Finance  
WHO  
1211 Geneva 27  
Switzerland

R. BUZINA  
Scientist  
Nutrition Unit  
Division of Food and Nutrition  
WHO  
1211 Geneva 27  
Switzerland

G. CLUGSTON  
Chief,  
Nutrition Unit  
Division of Food and Nutrition  
WHO  
1211 Geneva 27  
Switzerland

J. HERRMAN  
Senior Toxicologist  
Programme for the Promotion of Chemical  
Safety  
WHO  
1211 Geneva 27  
Switzerland

Y.M. KIM  
Technical Officer  
Food Safety Unit  
Division of Food and Nutrition  
WHO  
1211 Geneva 27  
Switzerland

F. MESLIN  
Chief  
Veterinary Public Health  
Division of Communicable Diseases  
WHO  
1211 Geneva 27  
Switzerland

Ms. Y. MOTARJEMI  
Scientist  
Food Safety Unit  
Division of Food and Nutrition  
WHO  
1211 Geneva 27  
Switzerland

G. MOY

Scientist

Food Safety Unit

Division of Food and Nutrition

WHO

1211 Geneva 27

Switzerland

G. QUINCKE

Director

Division of Food and Nutrition

WHO

1211 Geneva 27

Switzerland

**OPENING REMARKS BY DR. FERNANDO S. ANTEZANA  
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR-GENERAL, DELIVERED ON BEHALF OF  
DR. HIROSHI NAKAJIMA, DIRECTOR-GENERAL  
WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION  
(28 JUNE 1993)**

Mr. Chairman, distinguished colleagues, ladies and gentlemen,

Dr. Nakajima, Director-General of the World Health Organization, has asked me to convey to you his regrets that he is not able to be present at the opening of this memorable Session of your Commission. He wishes me to deliver these opening remarks on his behalf.

I welcome you most cordially to the 20th Session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission. This 20th Session represents 30 years of successful international, intersectoral and interagency collaboration in the field of food standardization. Our twin goals have been consumer protection and the facilitation of food trade - leading to achievements of which we can all be justifiably proud.

In November 1961 the FAO Conference adopted a resolution establishing a Codex Alimentarius Commission. Conscious of the importance of the health aspects of food standards work, it requested the Director-General of FAO to draw to the attention of the Director-General of WHO a proposal for the creation of a joint FAO/WHO food standards programme. Less than three months later, in January 1962, the WHO Executive Board noted with approval a proposal to convene a joint FAO/WHO committee of government experts. This committee was to review the proposed programme of FAO and WHO relating to food standards and draw up recommendations for future activities in this field.

The Committee of Government Experts was convened in Geneva in October 1962 as the "Joint FAO/WHO Conference on Food Standards". Representatives of 44 Members of FAO and/or WHO attended this Conference, together with observers from 24 international organizations. Half of the countries represented, some 20, were developing countries.

The Conference endorsed the proposal to create a joint FAO/WHO programme on food standards, whose principal organ would be the Codex Alimentarius Commission. It suggested, and the Sixteenth World Health Assembly later agreed, that the first session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission should be called in June 1963. The session opened at FAO Headquarters in Rome on 25 June 1963, 30 years ago almost to the day.

The early sessions of the Commission devoted their attention mainly to elaborating and adopting its rules of Procedure, to agreeing on how to finance the work of the Commission, and to deciding on working modalities and priorities. In line with national approaches to food standardization prevailing at the time, the Commission adopted - by and large - a commodity-specific approach; that is to say, committees were set up and charged with the development of internationally agreed standards for the individual foodstuffs that played an important role in the international food trade. However, several horizontal or general committees, such as on food

additives, food hygiene, food labelling, methods of analysis and sampling, and pesticide residues, started their work between 1964 and 1966.

At this 20th Session of the Commission you have the privilege of looking at the impressive results of the work accomplished during the past 30 years. Today - with its 144 Member States - the Commission has a truly global dimension, with more than just the satisfactory participation of developing countries. Since its last session, in Rome in 1991, another six countries have joined the Commission. I should like to welcome these new members by name: they are Belize, Estonia, Federated States of Micronesia, Lithuania, Mongolia and Slovenia. With its large membership, the Commission represents some 95% of the world's population.

The standards, codes of practice and maximum limits for pesticide residues, veterinary drugs and other contaminants, as well as other advisory texts, constitute such an impressive wealth of knowledge, over which international consensus has been reached, that all concerned - the members of the Commission and its two sponsoring Organizations, FAO and WHO - have good reasons to be proud. It is not surprising that the governing bodies of FAO and WHO, in reviewing the work and achievements of the Commission, have been more than just satisfied - they have been ready to go on to further achievements.

For example, in 1987 the Fortieth World Health Assembly called upon WHO Member States to make all appropriate efforts to adopt Codex standards, and to fully utilize the recommendations of the Commission for the promotion of food safety and the international food trade. More recently, in December 1992, the International Conference on Nutrition recognized the work of the Commission and suggested that national food regulations should take the Codex recommendations fully into account.

However, a great deal remains to be done, mainly at the national level, to put the wealth of Codex recommendations into practice, and in particular into public health practice. In this context, I would like to refer to the GATT negotiations being carried out within the framework of the "Uruguay Round". The Codex Alimentarius has long served as a reference for GATT with respect to technical barriers to trade. However, the proposed Final Act of the Uruguay Round, comprising, among its almost 30 agreements, two that will have a direct impact on health issues, will have implications for the Codex.

Although the acceptance and application of Codex standards will continue to be voluntary, the application - by national authorities - of requirements that are stricter than Codex recommendations will require to be justified as being really necessary for the protection of health. Consequently, the Final Act of the Uruguay Round, particularly its Agreement on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures, will change the status of Codex recommendations, especially those related to food safety. Therefore, we must be mindful of our responsibilities and ensure that Codex food-safety-related recommendations are up-to-date and irreproachable.

Knowing the role of such recommendations in international trade, it may become more difficult to formulate new Codex standards, and their formulation may be subject to greater political pressure. The Commission and its subsidiary bodies must, therefore, remain a forum for open dialogue among government representatives presenting a balanced view of their food industry and consumers. Consequently, it will be important for all Members of the Commission, particularly their health sectors, to participate even more actively in its work and that of its subsidiary bodies.

Remarkable changes and challenges can be expected in the coming 30 years. Judging by past performance, I am certain that - with your support and guidance - the Codex Alimentarius Commission will continue to serve humanity in fulfilling one of its essential requirements - adequate, nutritious and safe food.

Mr. Chairman, you have been associated with the work of the Commission and its various subsidiary bodies for many years. You have already chaired - very successfully - two sessions of the Executive Committee. However, this is the first actual session of the Commission of which you will be in the Chair. I wish you well in this demanding task. And I wish all of you success in your deliberations and an enjoyable visit to Geneva.

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**STATEMENT OF THE  
FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS  
on the occasion of the  
TWENTIETH SESSION OF THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION  
*Geneva, 28 June 1993***

Mr. Chairman;  
Dr. Antezana;  
Distinguished Delegates;  
Ladies and Gentlemen:

I am pleased to convey to you the greetings of the Director-General of FAO, Mr. Edouard Saouma, on the occasion of this, the Twentieth Session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission and also on the Fiftieth Anniversary of the United Nations Conference on Food and Agriculture convened by President Franklin D. Roosevelt at Hot Springs, Virginia, in May and June 1943. This was the founding Conference of the first of the United Nations' Specialized Agencies: FAO.

The Hot Springs Conference clearly recognized the growing importance of international food trade and its role in overall national development. The Conference stressed the need for harmonized food regulations and food standards to promote such trade and protect consumers. On the basis of the recommendations of the Hot Springs Conference, FAO established a series of activities, often jointly with WHO, on nutrition, pesticide residues and food additives in the 1940s and 1950s. The Codex Alimentarius Commission, founded in 1962 at the first FAO/WHO Food Standards Conference held here in Geneva took this work further as the means to further implement the recommendations of FAO's far-sighted founders.

The Codex Alimentarius Commission is one of the best known examples of effective inter-agency cooperation in the United Nations system. After more than 30 years, we can still pay tribute to the wisdom of those early delegations who established the goals, principles and procedures of a programme with two highly compatible goals; protecting the health of consumers while at the same time facilitating international trade in foods. It is appreciated by all nations that they must have adequate safety and quality control mechanisms to assure continued and problem-free operation of their multi-billion dollar domestic and international trade in raw and processed agricultural commodities. Codex standards provide the basis for such safety and quality control mechanisms for all of its 144 participating Member countries.

While the Codex Alimentarius Commission was founded over thirty years ago, the work of the Commission is kept under constant review to assure that Programme outputs are relevant to the needs of the present and foreseeable future. A little over two years ago, in March 1991, at FAO's initiative, the FAO/WHO/GATT Conference on Food Standards, Chemicals in Foods and Food Trade, set out a new agenda for the Codex Commission; an agenda which would enable the Commission to fulfil its strengthened role within the framework of the decisions which form part of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) Uruguay Round of Multilateral Trade Negotiations. The 1991 Conference challenged the Codex Commission to respond to this new trading environment in a way which would improve the transparency of the Commission's procedures; strengthen the role of consumers in decision making processes at the national and international levels; and improve the Commission's efficiency. I am pleased to note that almost all of the Conference's recommendations have been or will have been taken up by the Commission by the end of this current session.

Codex work has also been discussed in detail in the GATT Uruguay Round and has been given special recognition in the proposed final GATT texts. The Codex world-wide approach to standardization is consistent with the two texts which form part of the draft GATT Final Act of the Uruguay Round, namely the revised Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade and the Decision by the Contracting parties on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures. Codex is mentioned in these texts as being the basis of a long term programme of harmonization of national sanitary, or food quality and safety requirements and regulations. The reason for GATT recognition of Codex standards is that they are prepared and accepted by the 144 FAO/WHO member governments which are members of the Codex Alimentarius Commission.

Mr. Chairman, it is clear that the ever growing importance of Codex work to member countries requires increasing attention by all to the formulation and implementation of Codex work at the country level. To enhance effective Codex participation and implementation many member countries have formed national Codex coordinating mechanisms involving a wide range of government agencies, academia, consumers and industry to assure a broad based consensus at the national level prior to the attendance and participation of government delegations in Codex meetings. In addition to government delegations, the Codex system invites a broad range of consumer, scientific and industry based international non-governmental organizations as rather active observers to Codex meetings. Of course, government delegations may also include consumer industry or other national non-governmental representatives as advisors to their national delegations.

It is clear that reaching final Codex agreements requires the inputs of many groups. In the past food industry groups have been more active in Codex work, either through national level input, or by participation directly as recognized international non-governmental organizations in the work of the Commission and its subsidiary bodies since they clearly recognized the importance of Codex work. I am pleased to say that the importance of Codex work has now become more recognized by consumer and environmental protection groups as well. The International Organization of Consumers' Unions is a regular participant in Codex meetings and *Greenpeace* has recently participated in Codex meetings on pesticide residues. FAO looks forward to more consumer and environmentalist participation in Codex work. We recognize that such participation is a clear demonstration of the increased awareness by all of the importance of Codex work, justifying the technical and financial inputs which this participation requires. Nevertheless, the burden of Codex decision-making lies exclusively with the Member Governments that, together, comprise the Commission. Codex standards must continue to be based on independent and sound scientific advice developed by FAO and WHO experts such as those in the Joint FAO/WHO Meeting on Pesticide Residues (JMPR) and the Joint Expert Committee on Food Additives and Contaminants, but it is the governments which must take the decision to adopt, or not, a Codex Standard. In doing this, they must take into account their own national priorities, including the valid interests of their consumers and industry, and their responsibilities for economic and national development and environmental and consumer protection.

Mr. Chairman: a few words about the Codex financial situation and FAO priority to this Programme. As you all know, the UN specialized agencies have had some budgetary problems over the past several years, with late payment by many member countries and reductions in overall budgets. Despite these problems FAO priority and commitment to Codex has remained high, and technical and funding support have been continued to assure full Codex Programme implementation. FAO member countries are currently carrying out discussions towards setting the 1994-95 Programme and Budget and once again FAO is threatened with further budget cuts. As you know,



FAO has been the major contributor to the budget of the Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme since the Programme's budget was incorporated into the Regular Programmes of FAO and WHO in 1974. FAO's contribution has consistently been about 83% of the total Codex costs. At the same time FAO member countries have expressed very strong support of the Codex Programme and we sincerely hope that 1994/95 overall budget cuts will not impede full Codex funding. However, it is clear that continued reductions in overall budgets can eventually harm all programmes. We will of course keep you and the Codex Executive Committee advised of further developments. It would also be appropriate at this time to express our appreciation for another substantial contribution to the Codex budget, namely the direct contribution provided by the host countries of the standing Codex Committees in providing meeting facilities and interpretation, and translation and distribution of working documents. Host countries also provide technical and administrative support to Codex committees. Additionally, all Member Governments further demonstrate their support by bearing the costs of sending delegations to Codex sessions.

Mr. Chairman; FAO strongly believes that food trade must be based on sustainable agricultural and production systems which meet consumer needs and protect the environment at the same time. FAO is the lead UN agency for implementing the Biodiversity Treaty coming out of the 1992 Rio UNCED Conference and is assessing the potential environmental impact of the liberalization of trade in agricultural products. FAO remains committed to sustainable agricultural and rural development, the appropriate use of agrochemicals and veterinary pharmaceuticals, and the development and application of techniques such as integrated pest management and improved quality control systems which both protect the environment and improve food production and supplies, reduce food losses and assure safer, better quality and lower cost foods.

These goals have been reinforced by the Declaration and Plan of Action on Nutrition adopted by the International Conference on Nutrition held in Rome in December, 1992. The International Conference on Nutrition was a landmark event in many ways including its size and the high level of the government participation. For the first time, the full range of nutrition-related problems was discussed as a whole, from poverty alleviation to the scientific evaluation of the effects of under and over nutrition, or exposure to toxicants or lack of micro-nutrients. Food quality and safety were recognized by the delegations from 159 countries and the European Economic Community, including 137 Ministers of Agriculture and Health who were present, as elements essential to nutrition and to national development. Codex Standards and Codes were once again identified as the international reference point for quality and safety.

Mr. Chairman; you have a long and difficult agenda ahead of you. I wish you all the best in handling the policy and technical issues which will be raised during the session. On behalf of the Director-General, I congratulate the Commission on its achievements to date, and I look forward to receiving another positive report on the outcome of this 20th Commission session.

Thank you.

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**REPLY BY THE CHAIRMAN OF THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION TO  
THE OPENING STATEMENTS MADE BY  
THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF WHO AND THE DIRECTOR OF THE  
FOOD POLICY AND NUTRITION DIVISION OF FAO**

on the occasion of the

**TWENTIETH SESSION OF THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION  
Geneva, 28 June - 7 July 1993**

Mr. Assistant Director-General;  
Mr. Lupien;  
Distinguished Delegates;  
Ladies and Gentlemen:

On behalf of the Codex Alimentarius Commission, thank you for your kind words of encouragement. It is indeed a pleasure and honour to be here in Geneva as Chairman of this, the 20th Session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission.

It gives me great satisfaction to note the history and interest of developing countries in the activities of the Commission, as evidenced in part by the participation of the many developing country delegations present with us today. As many of you are already aware, I cannot claim to be the first Chairman of the Codex Alimentarius Commission from a developing country, as Dr. Eduardo Mendez of Mexico holds that distinction. However, I am the first Chairman of the Commission appointed from the Codex region of Asia, and am pleased to know that I will always hold this distinction.

After decades of disruptive superpower rivalry, the end of the cold war has been greeted with jubilation. The world community has been afforded the best chance to work together for an equitable and just world order. Our world today is changing at a very fast pace due to tremendous technology advances, especially in the information sector. The phenomena of globalization in world economics has become a fact of life. We cannot afford to ignore or avoid this situation. At this opportune time, I would like to underscore what I observe as the reality of this phenomena. That reality is the need of interdependence between industrialized and developing countries. With the swift pace of globalization, this interdependence is also increasing, it ignores boundaries.

There are several reasons why this interdependence is so important today. For industrialized countries, in order to sustain their role in the world, they must keep their position closer to the source of raw materials as well as to the market of developing countries. In the meantime, the developing countries with their comparative advantages in natural resources and abundant supply of labour, must also maintain a close relationship with industrialized countries for their capital, technology and expertise. This interdependence will continue to take place as the consequence of new product and new market development.

Today, the world, and in particular the developing countries, is still vulnerable to the changes in the global, political and economic reforms. In the economic field, various forms of non-tariff barriers have been erected blocking free trade and includes the introduction of new elements such as requirements on local content and discriminatory taxes. These have seriously impeded world trade.

In addition to the responsibilities of the Commission so adequately outlined by our previous speakers, I should like to point out that Codex is also relied upon for the coordination of all food standards work undertaken by other governmental and non-governmental organizations. In this regard, while Codex has in the past made some provisions for regional standards, in more recent years it has arrived at a policy to discourage, whenever possible, the development of standards by regional bodies which would establish preferential treatment for trading partners at the regional level. The Commission has expressed concern on many occasions about the negative impact on trade of regional standards, and has stated that such standards should not be developed for commodities moving in international trade as they tend to create confusion, duplication of work and often result in multiple "international" standards for foods. Although the Codex Alimentarius Commission is recognized as the sole United Nations body entrusted with responsibility for elaborating international standards for foods, it has also taken regional initiatives arising from other bodies into account. In the area of processed foods, Codex has already been successful in coordinating regional initiatives into its programme of work.

The Codex worldwide approach to standardization is covered under the newly revised draft GATT Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade, whereby the elaboration of quality provisions in Codex standards are and will continue to be the responsibility of the Codex Alimentarius Commission. This new draft GATT Agreement stresses that quality standards and technical regulations should be based on *international standards*. The definition of an International Standards Body states that membership must be open to the relevant bodies of at least all the parties to the GATT Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade. As you have already been informed, the international Codex approach is also consistent in so far as sanitary and phytosanitary measures and barriers are concerned under the draft GATT Uruguay Round Agreement on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures.

In December 1992, I had the honour to participate in the FAO/WHO International Conference on Nutrition as Chairman of the Drafting Committee to this historic assembly. As many of you are aware, the Conference unanimously adopted the World Declaration and Plan of Action for Nutrition at this meeting. The Plan of Action for Nutrition is of particular interest to Codex as it emphasizes strategies for protecting consumers through improved food quality and safety. These strategies include the adoption and strengthening of measures and infrastructures to cover food quality and safety; the establishment of measures to protect consumers from unsafe, low quality, adulterated, misbranded or contaminated foods; the establishment of effective working relationships with consumer and producer organizations; the support of international efforts to extend and enhance food standards programmes; the development of human resources; the implementation of existing international agreements; the development of surveillance and monitoring programmes for food-borne diseases and contaminants; and, the promotion of the development of ecologically sound agricultural practices and food quality and safety research.

Once again, it is evident that the Codex Alimentarius Commission has been and will continue to be called upon to serve as the international body with the responsibility of establishing international food standards.

In conclusion, I should like to express my personal gratitude to the sponsoring organizations of FAO and WHO for their continuous and strong support given to the Codex Programme despite the difficulties both organizations are going through, and wish to reemphasize the importance of continuing such support in the future. I look forward to the challenge of leading this meeting through a long and complicated agenda over the next ten days and trust that we can successfully report on its positive outcome to your satisfaction. I am sure that the help and guidance which will be provided by the distinguished delegates will make my work much easier and much more enjoyable.

Again, thank you both for your kind words and support. I look forward to working with you all over the next several days.

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Appendix 3

## MEDIUM-TERM PROGRAMME OF WORK 1993-98

### Medium Term Objectives by Programme Area

<u>Programme area</u>	<u>Medium-Term Objectives</u>
1. General principles and rules of procedure	Adoption of simplified, uniform elaboration procedures  Adoption of improved acceptance procedures
2. Food labelling	Harmonization of health and nutrition claims and warnings in food product labelling by 1995
3. Food additives	General recommendations for the use of Food Additives by 1995  Codex Advisory Specifications for Food Additives (on-going)
4. Contaminants (including Pesticide Residues, and Veterinary Drug Residues) and Naturally occurring toxicants	Establishment of general procedures for the review of contaminant levels in foods  Review of current and previous recommendations for Maximum Residue Limits for Pesticides (review of Good Agricultural Practices)  Establishment of Maximum Residue Limits for Veterinary Drugs in Foods (ongoing)  Establishment of maximum limits for significant contaminants in foods in international trade, especially aflatoxins, by 1995
5. Biotechnology	Guidelines for evaluation of foods produced from biotechnology
6. Food Hygiene	Review and up-dating of General Principles of Food Hygiene incorporating the Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point System by 1995  Recommendations on control of microbiological contamination by 1997

<u>Programme area</u>	<u>Medium-Term Objectives</u>
7. Risk Assessment	Application of risk assessment principles to Codex standards and recommendations in Programme area 3 to 6 above
8. Nutrition	Review of nutrition considerations in Codex standards in light of national and international recommendations
9. Harmonization of Testing Procedures, and Inspection and Certification Systems	Recommendations on harmonization of export and import inspection systems by 1995  Protocols on harmonized laboratory quality assurance and proficiency testing systems by 1997  Recommended methods of analysis and sampling
10. Commodity standards	Rationalization of existing Commodity Standards by 1997  Simplification of existing Commodity standards by 1995
11. Acceptances	Establishment of a data base on acceptances by 1994
12. Participation	Extending the membership of the Commission  Improved participation by developing countries  Improved participation by Consumers' organizations
13. Coordination	Coordination with the GATT Committee on Technical Barriers to Trade and with the proposed Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures and Barriers  Coordination with other international organizations
14. Publication	Publication of the Revised Codex Alimentarius by 1995  Publication, in electronic form, of the Commission's major texts  Publication, in electronic form, of Codex Acceptances

## PROCEDURES FOR THE ELABORATION OF CODEX STANDARDS AND RELATED TEXTS

**Note:** Throughout this text the word "Standard" is meant to include any of the recommendations of the Commission intended to be submitted to Governments for acceptance. Except for provisions relating to acceptance, the Procedures apply *mutatis mutandis* to codes of practice and other texts of an advisory nature.

### INTRODUCTION

1. The full procedure for the elaboration of Codex standards is as follows. The Commission decides, taking into account the "Criteria for the Establishment of Work Priorities and for the Establishment of Subsidiary Bodies", that a standard should be elaborated and also which subsidiary body or other body should undertake the work. Decisions to elaborate standards may also be taken by subsidiary bodies of the Commission in accordance with the above-mentioned criteria subject to subsequent approval by the Commission or its Executive Committee at the earliest possible opportunity. The Secretariat arranges for the preparation of a "**proposed draft standard**" which is circulated to governments for comments and is then considered in the light of these by the subsidiary body concerned which may present the text to the Commission as a "**draft standard**". If the Commission adopts the "**draft standard**" it is sent to governments for further comments and in the light of these and after further consideration by the subsidiary body concerned, the Commission reconsiders the draft and may adopt it as a "**Codex standard**". The procedure is described in Part 1 of this document.
2. The Commission or the Executive Committee, or any subsidiary body, subject to the confirmation of the Commission or the Executive Committee may decide that the urgency of elaborating a Codex Standard is such that an accelerated elaboration procedure should be followed. While taking this decision, all appropriate matters shall be taken into consideration, including the likelihood of new scientific information becoming available in the immediate future. The accelerated elaboration procedure is described in Part 2 of this document.
3. The Commission or the subsidiary body or other body concerned may decide that the draft be returned for further work at any appropriate previous Step in the Procedure. The Commission may also decide that the draft be held at Step 8.
4. The Commission may authorize, on the basis of two-thirds majority of votes cast, the omission of Steps 6 and 7, where such an omission is recommended by the Codex Committee entrusted with the elaboration of the draft. Recommendations to omit steps shall be notified to Members and interested international organizations as soon as possible after the session of the Codex Committee concerned. When formulating recommendations to omit Steps 6 and 7, Codex Committees shall take all appropriate matters into consideration, including the need for urgency, and the likelihood of new scientific information becoming available in the immediate future.

5. The Commission may at any stage in the elaboration of a standard entrust any of the remaining Steps to a Codex Committee or other body different from that to which it was previously entrusted.
6. It will be for the Commission itself to keep under review the revision of "Codex standards". The procedure for revision should, *mutatis mutandis*, be that laid down for the elaboration of Codex standards, except that the Commission may decide to omit any other step or steps of that Procedure where, in its opinion, an amendment proposed by a Codex Committee is either of an editorial nature or of a substantive nature but consequential to provisions in similar standards adopted by the Commission at Step 8.
7. Codex standards are published and sent to governments for acceptance. They are also sent to international organizations to which competence in the matter has been transferred by their Member States. See Part 3 of this document. Details of Government acceptances are published periodically by the Commission's Secretariat.

**PART 1:**  
**UNIFORM PROCEDURE FOR THE ELABORATION OF CODEX STANDARDS AND  
RELATED TEXTS**

**STEPS 1, 2 AND 3**

- (1) The Commission decides, taking into account the "Criteria for the Establishment of Work Priorities and for the Establishment of Subsidiary Bodies", to elaborate a Worldwide Codex Standard and also decides which subsidiary body or other body should undertake the work. A decision to elaborate a Worldwide Codex Standard may also be taken by subsidiary bodies of the Commission in accordance with the above-mentioned criteria, subject to subsequent approval by the Commission or its Executive Committee at the earliest possible opportunity. In the case of Codex Regional Standards, the Commission shall base its decision on the proposal of the majority of Members belonging to a given region or group of countries submitted at a session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission.
- (2) The Secretariat arranges for the preparation of a **proposed draft standard**. In the case of Maximum Limits for Residues of Pesticides or Veterinary Drugs, the Secretariat distributes the recommendations for maximum limits, when available from the Joint Meetings of the FAO Panel of Experts on Pesticide Residues in Food and the Environment and the WHO Panel of Experts on Pesticide Residues (JMPR), or the Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Food Additives (JECFA). In the cases of milk and milk products or individual standards for cheeses, the Secretariat distributes the recommendations of the International Dairy Federation (IDF).
- (3) The proposed draft standard is sent to Members of the Commission and interested international organizations for comment on all aspects including possible implications of the proposed draft standard for their economic interests.



#### STEP 4

The comments received are sent by the Secretariat to the subsidiary body or other body concerned which has the power to consider such comments and to amend the proposed draft standard.

#### STEP 5<sup>1</sup>

The proposed draft standard is submitted through the Secretariat to the Commission or to the Executive Committee with a view to its adoption as a **draft standard**. In taking any decision at this step, the Commission or the Executive Committee will give due consideration to any comments that may be submitted by any of its Members regarding the implications which the proposed draft standard or any provisions thereof may have for their economic interests. In the case of Regional Standards, all Members of the Commission may present their comments, take part in the debate and propose amendments, but only the majority of the Members of the region or group of countries concerned attending the session can decide to amend or adopt the draft. In taking any decisions at this step, the Members of the region or group of countries concerned will give due consideration to any comments that may be submitted by any of the Members of the Commission regarding the implications which the proposed draft standard or any provisions thereof may have for their economic interests.

#### STEP 6

The draft standard is sent by the Secretariat to all Members and interested international organizations for comment on all aspects, including possible implications of the draft standard for their economic interests.

#### STEP 7

The comments received are sent by the Secretariat to the subsidiary body or other body concerned, which has the power to consider such comments and amend the draft standard.

#### STEP 8

The draft standard is submitted through the Secretariat to the Commission together with any written proposals received from Members and interested international organizations for amendments at Step 8 with a view to its adoption as a **Codex standard**. In the case of Regional standards, all Members and interested international organizations may present their comments, take part in the debate and propose amendments but only the majority of Members of the region or group of countries concerned attending the session can decide to amend and adopt the draft.

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<sup>1</sup> Without prejudice to any decision that may be taken by the Commission at Step 5, the proposed draft standard may be sent by the Secretariat for government comment prior to its consideration at Step 5, when, in the opinion of the subsidiary body or other body concerned, the time between the relevant session of the Commission and the subsequent session of the subsidiary or other body concerned requires such action in order to advance the work.

**PART 2:**  
**UNIFORM ACCELERATED PROCEDURE FOR THE ELABORATION OF CODEX  
STANDARDS AND RELATED TEXTS**

**STEPS 1, 2 AND 3**

(1) The Commission or the Executive Committee between Commission sessions, on the basis of a two-thirds majority of votes cast, taking into account the "Criteria for the Establishment of Work Priorities and for the Establishment of Subsidiary Bodies", shall identify those standards which shall be the subject of an accelerated elaboration process.<sup>1</sup> The identification of such standards may also be made by subsidiary bodies of the Commission, on the basis of a two-thirds majority of votes cast, subject to confirmation at the earliest opportunity by the Commission or its Executive Committee by a two-thirds majority of votes cast.

(2) The Secretariat arranges for the preparation of a **proposed draft standard**. In the case of Maximum Limits for Residues of Pesticides or Veterinary Drugs, the Secretariat distributes the recommendations for maximum limits, when available from the Joint Meetings of the FAO Panel of Experts on Pesticide Residues in Food and the Environment and the WHO Panel of Experts on Pesticide Residues (JMPR), or the Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Food Additives (JECFA). In the cases of milk and milk products or individual standards for cheeses, the Secretariat distributes the recommendations of the International Dairy Federation (IDF).

(3) The proposed draft standard is sent to Members of the Commission and interested international organizations for comment on all aspects including possible implications of the proposed draft standard for their economic interests. When standards are subject to an accelerated procedure, this fact shall be notified to the Members of the Commission and the interested international organizations.

**STEP 4**

The comments received are sent by the Secretariat to the subsidiary body or other body concerned which has the power to consider such comments and to amend the proposed draft standard.

**STEP 5**

In the case of standards identified as being subject to an accelerated elaboration procedure, the draft standard is submitted through the Secretariat to the Commission together with any written proposals received from Members and interested international organizations for amendments with a view to its adoption as a **Codex standard**. In taking any decision at this step, the Commission will give due consideration to any comments that may be submitted by any of its Members regarding the implications which the proposed draft standard or any provisions thereof may have for their economic interests.

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<sup>1</sup> Relevant considerations could include, but need not be limited to, matters concerning new scientific information; new technology(ies); urgent problems related to trade or public health; or the revision or up-dating of existing standards.

**PART 3**  
**SUBSEQUENT PROCEDURE CONCERNING**  
**PUBLICATION AND ACCEPTANCE OF CODEX STANDARDS**

The **Codex standard** is published and issued to all Member States and Associate Members of FAO and/or WHO and to the international organizations concerned. Members of the Commission and international organizations to which competence in the matter has been transferred by their Member States notify the Secretariat of their acceptance of the Codex standard in accordance with the acceptance procedure laid down in paragraph 4, paragraph 5 or in paragraph 6 of the General Principles of the Codex Alimentarius, whichever is appropriate. Member States and Associate Members of FAO and/or WHO that are not Members of the Commission are invited to notify the Secretariat if they wish to accept the Codex standard.

The Secretariat publishes periodically details of notifications received from governments and from international organizations to which competence in the matter has been transferred by their Member States with respect to the acceptance or otherwise of Codex standards and in addition to this information an appendix for each Codex standard (a) listing the countries in which products conforming with such standard may be freely distributed, and (b) where applicable, stating in detail all specified deviations which may have been declared in respect to the acceptance.

The above-mentioned publications will constitute the *Codex Alimentarius*.

The Secretariat examines deviations notified by governments and reports periodically to the Codex Alimentarius Commission concerning possible amendments to standards which might be considered by the Commission in accordance with the Procedure for the Revision and Amendment of Recommended Codex Standards.

**SUBSEQUENT PROCEDURE CONCERNING PUBLICATION, ACCEPTANCE AND POSSIBLE**  
**EXTENSION OF TERRITORIAL APPLICATION**  
**OF THE STANDARD**

The Codex Regional Standard is published and issued to all Member States and Associate Members of FAO and/or WHO and to the international organizations concerned. Members of the region or group of countries concerned notify the Secretariat of their acceptance of the Codex Regional Standard in accordance with the acceptance procedure laid down in paragraph 4, paragraph 5 or in paragraph 6 of the General Principles of the Codex Alimentarius, whichever is appropriate. Other Members of the Commission may likewise notify the Secretariat of their acceptance of the standard or of any other measures they propose to adopt with respect thereto, and also submit any observations as to its application. Member States and Associate Members of FAO and/or WHO that are not Members of the Commission are invited to notify the Secretariat if they wish to accept the standard.

It is open to the Commission to consider at any time the possible extension of the territorial application of a Codex Regional Standard or its conversion into a Worldwide Codex Standard in the light of all acceptances received.

**MEMBERS OF THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION**  
(July 1993)

1. Albania	49. Gambia	100. Papua New Guinea
2. Algeria	50. Germany	101. Paraguay
3. Angola	51. Ghana	102. Peru
4. Antigua and Barbuda	52. Greece	103. Philippines
5. Argentina	53. Grenada	104. Poland
6. Australia	54. Guatemala	105. Portugal
7. Austria	55. Guinea	106. Qatar
8. Bahrain	56. Guinea Bissau	107. Republic of Korea
9. Bangladesh	57. Guyana	108. Romania
10. Barbados	58. Haiti	109. Russian Federation
11. Belgium	59. Honduras	110. Rwanda
12. Belize	60. Hungary	111. Samoa
13. Benin	61. Iceland	112. Santa Lucia
14. Bolivia	62. India	113. Saudi Arabia
15. Botswana	63. Indonesia	114. Senegal
16. Brazil	64. Iraq	115. Seychelles
17. Bulgaria	65. Ireland	116. Sierra Leone
18. Burkina Faso	66. Islamic Rep. of Iran	117. Singapore
19. Burundi	67. Israel	118. Slovenia
20. Cambodia	68. Italy	119. Spain
21. Cameroon	69. Jamaica	120. Sri Lanka
22. Canada	70. Japan	121. Sudan
23. Cape Verde	71. Jordan	122. Suriname
24. Central African Republic	72. Kenya	123. Swaziland
25. Chad	73. Kiribati	124. Sweden
26. Chile	74. Kuwait	125. Switzerland
27. China	75. Lebanon	126. Syria
28. Colombia	76. Lesotho	127. Tanzania
29. Congo	77. Liberia	128. Thailand
30. Costa Rica	78. Libya	129. Togo
31. Côte d'Ivoire	79. Lithuania	130. Trinidad and Tobago
32. Cuba	80. Luxembourg	131. Tunisia
33. Cyprus	81. Madagascar	132. Turkey
34. Democratic People's Rep. of Korea	82. Malawi	133. U.S.A.
35. Denmark	83. Malaysia	134. Uganda
36. Dominica	84. Malta	135. United Arab Emirates
37. Dominican Republic	85. Mauritius	136. United Kingdom
38. Ecuador	86. Mexico	137. Uruguay
39. Egypt	87. Mongolia	138. Venezuela
40. El Salvador	88. Morocco	139. Viet Nam
41. Equatorial Guinea	89. Mozambique	140. Yemen
42. Estonia	90. Myanmar	141. Yugoslavia
43. Ethiopia	91. Nepal	142. Zaire
44. Federated States of Micronesia	92. Netherlands	143. Zambia
45. Fiji	93. New Zealand	144. Zimbabwe
46. Finland	94. Nicaragua	
47. France	95. Nigeria	
48. Gabon	96. Norway	
	97. Oman	
	98. Pakistan	
	99. Panama	

**The Codex Alimentarius Commission is the body established in 1962 by FAO and WHO to implement the Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme. It currently has 144 Member Governments representing 95 percent of the world's consumers.**

**Its Twentieth Session in Geneva, 28 June to 7 July 1993, was attended by 259 participants, including official representatives and observers from 70 countries and observers from 27 international governmental and non-governmental organizations. This report highlights changes adopted by the Commission which respond to its new role in the context of the GATT Uruguay Round of Trade Negotiations on sanitary and phytosanitary measures and on technical barriers to trade and which provide governments with the means of responding to key elements of the Declaration and Plan of Action proclaimed by the International Conference on Nutrition. They also respond to consumer concerns that Codex procedures are slow and difficult to understand or do not adequately protect consumers. The report covers consumer involvement in Codex matters; the use of risk assessment in Codex work; consideration of maximum residue limits for veterinary chemicals and pesticides in foods; labelling; additives; contaminants; food hygiene, with special emphasis on meat hygiene and inspection; and a number of specific commodity standards.**

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