

CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION

Twenty-fourth Session, Geneva, 2-7 July 2001

Summary and Conclusions

The Commission:

- **expressed** its appreciation to FAO and WHO for the significant shifts in resources in their respective budgets towards the areas of food safety and consumer protection, in particular the support to the scientific expert bodies that advise Codex and the strengthening of Codex and food control related activities in developing countries (para. 18);
- **endorsed** the view of the Executive Committee concerning the status of the Codex Committee on Fresh Fruits and Vegetables as the international body responsible for drafting grade standards for these products and emphasized the need to draw upon and develop the experience and expertise of specialized bodies working in this field (para. 23);
- **agreed** that a document should be developed to provide guidance on cooperation with other International Intergovernmental Organizations on the elaboration of Codex Standards and Related Texts under the direction of the Codex Committee on General Principles (para. 31);
- **thanked** FAO and WHO for their various activities in support of food quality and safety and welcomed the direction to apply preventative approaches (para. 40);
- **endorsed** recommendations addressed to it by the FAO Conference on Food Trade beyond the Year 2000: Science-based Decisions, Harmonization, Equivalence and Mutual Recognition (para. 42)
- **adopted** the Strategic Framework, including the Strategic Vision Statement (para. 68), and agreed that the draft Medium-Term Plan should be revised by the Secretariat in the light of the Strategic Framework, the Commission's discussion and the written comments received, and should incorporate the elements of the Chairperson's Action Plan agreed to by the Commission. In this regard, the Commission:
 - **agreed** that its work should take due account of international regulatory initiatives and developments (para. 51);
 - **decided** that a decision on the holding of annual meetings of the Commission beginning in 2004 and on the related issue of the future of the Executive Committee would not be taken until the 25th Session of the Commission in 2003 (para. 55);
- **requested** FAO and WHO to convene a consultation to review the status and procedures of the expert bodies and to develop recommendations for consideration by the Directors-General on additional ways to improve the quality, quantity and timeliness of scientific advice to the Commission (para. 61);
- **agreed in principle** that FAO and WHO should establish clear rules and procedures for the establishment and functioning of a trust fund for consideration in the first instance by the Executive Committee in 2002 and the 25th Session of the Commission in 2003 to ensure its complete transparency and avoidance of bias and influence, to report on its implementation and to indicate envisioned sources of funding (para. 65);
- **agreed** that the activities envisaged in the Medium Term Plan should include cost estimates to determine whether the objectives could be achieved within available resources (paras. 68-69);
- **confirmed** its initial mandate to the Codex Committee on General Principles to complete the principles for risk analysis within Codex as a high priority and recommended that relevant Codex Committees should continue to develop and document the application of risk analysis in their work (paras. 75 and 85);
- **adopted** the position, in regard to the consideration of precaution, that "When there is evidence that a risk to human health exists but scientific data are insufficient or incomplete, the Commission should not proceed to elaborate a standard but should consider elaborating a related text, such as a code of practice, provided that such a text would be supported by the available scientific evidence" (para. 83);

- as a quorum had not been attained, decided to defer discussions of proposed amendments to the Procedural Manual of the Codex Alimentarius Commission, including the membership of Regional Economic Integration Organizations, until the next session and to request the Committee on General Principles to consider the amendments concerning the Membership of Regional Economic Integration Organizations thoroughly in order to clarify relevant issues and facilitate the debate at the next session (paras. 86-88);
- adopted Criteria for the Consideration of Other Factors Referred to in the Second Statement of Principle on the Role of Science related to “other legitimate factors” in the Codex Decision Making Process and the Extent to Which Other Factors are Taken into Account (para. 98);
- adopted 41 new or revised Codex standards, guidelines and related texts including a maximum level for aflatoxin M₁ in milk an amendment to the General Standard for the Labelling of Prepackaged Foods: Labelling of Foods Obtained Through Certain Techniques of Genetic Modification/Engineering: Allergens; and, preliminarily adopted Principles for the Risk Analysis of Foods Derived from Modern Biotechnology and a Guideline for the Conduct of Food Safety Assessment of Foods Derived from Recombinant-DNA Plants (paras. 99-207);
- agreed to undertake the elaboration of a Guideline for the Conduct of Food Safety Assessment of Recombinant-DNA Microorganisms in Food (para. 208);
- agreed to the abolition of the Codex Committee on Soups and Broths and to adjourn *sine die* the Codex Committee on Natural Mineral Waters (paras. 212-214);
- decided to reactivate the Codex Committee on Meat Hygiene and agreed to rename it as Codex Committee on Meat and Poultry Hygiene (paras. 9 and 215); and
- requested the Directors-General to convene an extraordinary session of the Executive Committee at an early date to consider the unfinished matters on its agenda, so that progress at Committee level would not be impeded (para. 216).

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INTRODUCTION

1. The Codex Alimentarius Commission held its Twenty-fourth Session at the International Conference Centre, Geneva, from 2 to 7 July. Mr. Thomas J. Billy (USA), Chairperson of the Commission, presided. The Session was attended by 366 delegates, alternates and advisors from 86 Member countries and one non-Member country, and 112 representatives from 56 international governmental and non-governmental organizations including UN agencies. A list of participants is given in Appendix I to this report.

2. The Session was opened by Dr. Gro Harlem Brundtland, Director-General, WHO and by Mr. Hartwig de Haen, Assistant Director-General, Economic and Social Department, FAO respectively.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA (AGENDA ITEM 1)¹

3. The Commission adopted the Provisional Agenda as its Agenda for the Session without amendment.

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

4. The Commission re-elected Mr. Thomas Billy (USA) as its Chairperson to serve at the present session until the end of the Twenty-fifth session. The Commission also re-elected Mr. David B. Nhari (Zimbabwe), Mr. Stuart Slorach (Sweden), and Mr. Gonzalo Ríos (Chile) as Vice-Chairpersons of the Commission for the same period.

5. In accordance with Rule II.4 (a) and (b) of the Commission's Rules of Procedure, the following Members of the Commission were appointed as Regional Coordinators:

Africa: Uganda

Asia: Malaysia

Latin America and the Caribbean: Dominican Republic

Europe: Slovak Republic

Near East: Egypt

North America and South-West Pacific: Canada

REPORT OF THE CHAIRPERSON ON THE FORTY-SEVENTH AND FORTY-EIGHTH SESSIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (AGENDA ITEM 3)

6. The reports of the 47th and 48th Sessions of the Executive Committee were provided in accordance with Rule III.5 of the Commission's Rules of Procedure. The Commission noted that many matters had been resolved in both sessions or were included for discussion under the present Agenda.

7. The 47th Session of the Executive Committee welcomed the decision of the World Health Assembly concerning increased involvement and support of WHO in the work of the Codex Alimentarius Commission and its committees. The Commission was informed that many of the recommendations of the *FAO Conference on World Food Trade Beyond 2000: Science-based Decisions, Harmonization, Equivalence and Mutual Recognition* had been incorporated into the draft Medium-Term Plan; prepared by a small group consisting of the Chairperson and Vice-Chairpersons convened at the request of the Executive Committee.

¹ ALINORM 01/1

8. The Commission noted that the 48th Session of the Executive Committee had had an extensive discussion on the Financial Situation of the Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme for 2000/01 and 2002/03. It also noted that the Executive Committee had modified the Draft Strategic Framework based on comments received and agreed to submit the Revised Draft Strategic Framework² to the Commission for adoption.

9. The Commission endorsed reactivation of the Codex Committee on Meat Hygiene and agreed that the mandate of the Committee should be extended to include poultry. It agreed to amend the Committee's terms of reference accordingly, and renamed the Committee the Codex Committee on Meat and Poultry Hygiene.

REPORT OF THE FINANCIAL SITUATION OF THE JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME FOR 2000/01 AND 2002/2003³ (AGENDA ITEM 4)

10. The report was submitted by the Secretariat on behalf of the Directors-General as required by Rule XI.1 of the Commission's Rules of Procedure. The Commission also noted the discussions of the Executive Committee on this matter (ALINORM 01/4, paras 5-11).

11. The Secretariat noted that for the biennium 1998/99 there had been an under-expenditure of US\$75,000 (2%) in the Joint Budget, which was carried forward into the current biennium. A surplus of US\$56,000 in the FAO-only Budget in the same biennium was returned to FAO. The Secretariat further noted that there had been a major re-alignment of the proposed budget for 2002/03. The FAO-only budget had been abolished and the additional FAO-only contribution covering additional documentation expenses would now be made directly to the Joint Budget. As a consequence, the level of the FAO-only budget had been reduced and the funding for expert consultations and direct country support had been transferred from the Codex Budget to the FAO Regular Programme which in itself had been substantially increased. Likewise the WHO Food Safety Programme Regular budget support for expert consultations and regional work had been increased significantly in 2000/01, an increase which will be continued in 2002/03. The overall level of the budget for the operations of the Secretariat in 2002-03 was at the same level as the current biennium.

12. The Commission noted the extrabudgetary support provided to the Secretariat through the FAO Associate Expert Programme and the support of the Governments of Japan, France and the Republic of Korea for the funding of additional professional staff, also through the WHO Food Safety Programme.

13. Several of the Delegations of Members where English was not the official language drew attention to the problems in the quality and timeliness of the translation of Codex documents and believed that due to these problems many countries were unable to meet the requested deadlines or to participate effectively at Codex meetings. It was recommended that specific provisions should be made within the budget to ensure the timely and accurate provisions of working documents in the languages of the Commission and that the Secretariat should assume responsibility for the quality of translations provided by host government translators.

14. The Arabic-speaking Delegations at the Session welcomed the use of the Arabic language in the Commission for the first time, but requested that documentation in Arabic be made available on an equivalent basis with the other official languages, including in the Codex Committees. The Delegation of China expressed the wish that many more documents for the Commission would in future be available in Chinese.

15. Many delegations while supporting the current and proposed Codex budgets noted the vulnerability of the process due to the increased workload on the limited Codex Secretariat and stated that an increase in the permanent professional Codex staff was necessary. It was noted that the Executive Committee had previously called upon the FAO and WHO to give consideration to increasing the number of permanent professional staff to carry out its duties.⁴ The joint nature of the Programme was also noted and several delegations were of the view that the contributions of the parent organizations should be more balanced.

² ALINORM 01/4, Appendix II

³ ALINORM 01/5

⁴ ALINORM 01/3, para. 16

16. Both FAO and WHO acknowledged the need for continued support to the Codex Secretariat and Codex work in general. The budgetary constraints of the parent organizations were mentioned, and the need for new thinking in the general functioning of the Codex system and ways to support the Secretariat further was stressed.

17. The Commission endorsed the views of the Executive Committee that the opportunity existed to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of Codex, and also endorsed the request to the Secretariat to prepare a detailed budget for its existing programmes, identify changes in resources that were implied in the Strategic Framework, the draft Medium-Term Plan and the Chairperson's Action Plan, and to take such detailed programming into account in the preparation of future budgetary planning.

18. The Commission expressed its appreciation to FAO and WHO for the significant shifts in resources in their respective budgets towards the areas of food safety and consumer protection, in particular the support to the scientific expert bodies that advise Codex and the strengthening of Codex and food control-related activities in developing countries. It also expressed its appreciation to the Codex Secretariat for its professional and dedicated work.

REPORT BY THE SECRETARIAT ON RELATIONS BETWEEN THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS (AGENDA ITEM 5A)⁵

United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) and the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD): International Standards for Fresh Fruits and Vegetables

19. At its 47th Session, the Executive Committee noted the proposal being discussed by the OECD Scheme “that one single international grade standards setting body” be established in relation to commercial quality standards for fresh fruits and vegetables and requested to be kept informed of developments in this area. An informal meeting of the Codex, OECD and UNECE Secretariats had been held in Paris on 20 April 2001⁶ and had outlined suggestions to minimize duplication of work between the three organizations. The conclusions of this meeting were reported in the Working paper before the Commission.

20. The representative of the UNECE Secretariat stressed the need to avoid any duplication of work between the UN/ECE Specialized Section on Standardization of Fresh Fruits and Vegetables and the Codex Committee on Fresh Fruits and Vegetables. He supported the proposal to circulate UN/ECE standards for comments at Step 3 of the Codex procedure when the Committee decided to elaborate a Codex Standard for which there was already an UN/ECE Standard.

21. The Delegation of Belgium, speaking on behalf of the European Community, stated that the Terms of Reference of the Committee on Fresh Fruits and Vegetables clearly established measures to avoid overlapping or duplication of work between the two bodies concerned, but that recent developments in the Committee on Fresh Fruits and Vegetables indicated that the Committee had not been making proper use of these measures. The Delegation called for a wider debate on these issues, with a view to progressing towards a satisfactory and consensual solution on the basis of the recommendation of the 48th session of the Executive Committee to take account of the experience and expertise of specialized bodies working in this field and ensure that the countries most concerned in individual standards were fully involved in their preparation⁷. This view was supported by several other delegations who also referred to the participation of countries beyond the region of Europe in the work of the UN/ECE and stressed the need to rationalize resources by using the experience and expertise of the UN/ECE.

⁵ ALINORM 01/8-Part I, CAC/LIM 2 (comments from the European Community)

⁶ ALINORM 01/8-Part I para. 6

⁷ ALINORM 01/4 para. 14

22. The Delegation of Malaysia, supported by many delegations⁸, expressed its concern about the conclusions of the informal meeting especially in regard to the direct circulation of UN/ECE standards at Step 3 and the amendment of footnote 17 to the Terms of Reference of the Committee. It was noted that UN/ECE standards could be used as a reference for Codex standards when like products were being considered and suggested that fresh produce standards developed by other recognized organizations could be also used as a starting point. However, the Committee on Fresh Fruits and Vegetables remained the lead body in elaborating world-wide grade standards for fresh fruits and vegetables. Many of these Delegations also expressed their disagreement with the introduction of trial periods for recommendations in the work of the Committee on Fresh Fruits and Vegetables or other Codex committees stating that the Codex procedure allowed for the standards to be exhaustively discussed and it adequately provided for their revisions when necessary. It was also stated that this practice might lead to confusion in international trade.

23. The Commission noted that there was no consensus on the conclusions of the informal meeting and therefore, no change would be made to the Terms of Reference of the Committee on Fresh Fruits and Vegetables. It also agreed that this issue need not be included on the agenda of the next session of the Committee since it had been already discussed widely at different sessions of the Commission (including the present Session) and at the Committee on Fresh Fruits and Vegetables. The Commission endorsed the view of the Executive Committee concerning the status of the Committee on Fresh Fruits and Vegetables as the international body responsible for drafting grade standards for these products. It also emphasized the need to draw upon and develop the experience and expertise of specialized bodies working in this field and ensure that the countries most concerned in individual standards were fully involved in their preparation. It also noted that in the final analysis the responsibility for the development and adoption of standards for these products rested with the Commission itself.

United Nations Environment Programme: Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)

24. The Executive Committee at its 47th Session had requested the Secretariat to keep it informed about developments relating to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, adopted in Montreal in January 2000⁹. A number of delegations noted that clear distinction should be made between the mandate of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Codex Alimentarius Commission. The Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety dealt with the potential risk posed by living modified organisms resulting from modern biotechnology to the environment and not with food safety which is the mandate of the Codex Alimentarius Commission. Other delegations stated that the Cartagena Protocol covered issues affecting both human health and environment.

25. Although the Commission welcomed the linkages with the Secretariat of the CBD, it did not endorse the Executive Committee's recommendation that coherence between Codex and texts arising from the Cartagena Protocol dealing with such matters as traceability, labelling and identification of Living Modified Organisms used as food should be ensured.¹⁰

International Institute of Refrigeration (IIR)

26. The Commission noted the decision of the 47th session of the Executive Committee to entrust the preparation of a first draft on the revision of the *Code of Practice for the Processing and Handling of Quick Frozen Foods* to the IIR¹¹ in an attempt to explore ways of collaboration with other recognized intergovernmental organizations engaged in standardization in order to improve and accelerate the elaboration or revision of Codex texts. The Delegation of Thailand and a number of other delegations questioned the lack of inclusiveness in the revision of the text since the membership of the IIR was more limited than that of the Codex Alimentarius Commission, and questioned the procedures used to revise the Code. The Commission also noted the concern of Thailand regarding the status of the revision of the Code.

⁸ Argentina, Australia, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, China, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Egypt, India, Japan, Mexico, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Tanzania, Thailand, Uganda, Uruguay and the United States of America.

⁹ ALINORM 01/3, para. 29

¹⁰ ALINORM 01/4 para. 17

¹¹ ALINORM 01/3 Appendix III

Office International des Epizoöties (OIE)

27. At the invitation of the Chairperson of the Commission, the Director-General of the OIE (Dr. Bernard Vallat) addressed the Commission. Dr. Vallat informed the Commission that 158 countries were currently members of the OIE. In the efforts of improving animal health, prevention of zoonotic diseases and overall consumer protection, areas of common interests between the OIE and the Codex Alimentarius had been identified. He stated that in achieving the objectives of the WTO/SPS Agreement, there was a need to increase coordination and integration between Codex and the OIE to secure the best available scientific and technical advice and to avoid unnecessary duplication of effort.

28. Dr Vallat recommended that a comparison of existing OIE/Codex standards on the same subjects should be conducted to review and harmonize future and existing standards, including consistency of terminology and principles, improving transparency, and enhancing the exchange of information on subjects of mutual interest. He also noted that the existing agreements with the FAO and the WHO predated the establishment of the Codex Alimentarius Commission and that it would be appropriate to consider new arrangements reflecting current needs for cooperation and collaboration.

Office International du Vin et de la Vigne (OIV)

29. The Representative of the OIV informed the Commission that a new international agreement had been signed that would reform and restructure that Organization. One of the objectives of the agreement would be to cooperate with other intergovernmental organizations in their standardization activities.

30. Some Delegations, referring to the agreement between FAO and the OIV of 1948 mentioned by the Representative, stated that it had been impossible to obtain a certified copy of the agreement and questioned the exclusion of provisions concerning food additives in wine and related products from the mandate of the Commission and its Committee on Food Additives and Contaminants. The Commission requested clarification of this issue and confirmed that the establishment of limits and levels of use of food additives in food, including beverages, fell within its own mandate.

Guidelines for Cooperation with other International Intergovernmental Organizations

31. Reference was made to Article I of the Procedural Manual which provided a general framework for cooperation with other international standardization organizations and to the Step 1 of the Uniform Elaboration Procedure which provided for the allocation of work items to bodies other than subsidiary bodies¹². The need for clear guidance on when and how to proceed when assigning work to organizations other than subsidiary bodies of the Commission was raised. The Commission agreed that a document should be developed to provide guidance on cooperation with other International Intergovernmental Organizations on the elaboration of Codex Standards and Related Texts. The Commission decided to entrust the elaboration of these guidelines to the Codex Committee on General Principles.

REPORT BY THE SECRETARIAT ON RELATIONS BETWEEN THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION AND INTERNATIONAL NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS (AGENDA ITEM 5B)¹³

32. Following the adoption of the Principles Concerning the Participation of International Non-Governmental Organizations in the Work of the Codex Alimentarius Commission (1999) and in compliance with these Principles, the Secretariat presented a report on the relations with International Non

¹² Procedural Manual, 11th ed. Page 21.

¹³ ALINORM 01/8 Part II and Addendum I.

Governmental Organizations. The report included the list and membership of the organizations currently admitted as Observers, and the status of applications submitted to date.¹⁴

33. The Commission welcomed the preparation of the report as it contributed to the transparency and openness of the process and agreed that it should be presented to the Commission on a regular basis. It was noted that the complete list of Observers was available on the Codex website. It welcomed the proposal to provide additional information on observer organizations and that this information was being collected by the Secretariat by means of a circular letter.¹⁵

34. The Commission, recalling its earlier decision that meetings of the Commission and its subsidiary bodies should be held in public, noted the importance of facilitating such participation in practice.

CONSIDERATION OF MATTERS ARISING FROM FAO AND WHO CONFERENCES AND GOVERNING BODIES (AGENDA ITEM 6)¹⁶

Matters arising from FAO

35. The Representative of FAO reported that the 30th Session of the FAO Conference (1999) had decided to reinforce the Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme and to increase FAO's technical cooperation for its member countries to facilitate their active involvement in the work of the Codex Alimentarius Commission. He stated that FAO was aware of the problems of developing countries in attaining the necessary capacity to participate effectively in Codex work and reported that in response to this need, FAO had initiated a Global Facility on Food and Agricultural Safety and Quality for the world's Least Developed Countries. The Facility aims at strengthening the developing countries' own food regulatory systems, their competitiveness in international food trade and their preparedness to participate in Codex. It should allow them to establish the necessary institutional framework and infrastructure to improve the safety and quality of their food products. It was FAO's intention that the Facility would involve other interested partners from among UN Agencies, WTO and the World Bank. A meeting of interested parties was being planned for November 2001.

36. The Commission noted with interest the decision of FAO to hold a Pan-European Conference on Food Safety and Quality in February 2002 in Budapest in cooperation with WHO. The Conference had been proposed by the FAO Regional Conference for Europe, Porto, 24-28 July 2000.

37. The Commission also noted with interest the decision of FAO and WHO to convene a Global Forum of Food Safety Regulators in Marrakesh, Morocco, in October 2001, in response to the G-8 request for such meetings.

38. The Delegations of Australia and Canada made reference to the FAO Council deliberation which noted the desirability for WHO to meet its relative share of expenses for Codex of 75 percent FAO and 25 percent WHO and asked for clarification on what measures were being taken by WHO to honour its share. Other delegations asked WHO about an increase of its financial participation in view of its increased involvement.

Matters arising from WHO

39. The Representative of WHO reported that a Resolution on Food Safety had been adopted by the World Health Assembly in May 2001. The Resolution had prioritized food safety as an essential public health function. It was noted that the Global WHO Food Safety Strategy formulated in accordance with the Resolution incorporated a "leap-forward" approach that encouraged developing countries to apply preventative, risk-based approaches throughout the entire food chain in a holistic manner. The holistic approach taken in the Global WHO Food Safety Strategy was welcomed and WHO was encouraged to continue to push forward the thrust of

¹⁴ A number of matters concerning the participation of consumers organizations were raised at this point, including the comments of Consumers International in CAC/LIM-1. The Commission deferred discussion on these until Agenda Item 11. See, however, para. 216.

¹⁵ CL 2001/09

¹⁶ ALINORM 01/7.

its activities to support developing countries in food safety. It was noted that WHO was making substantial contributions in support of the Codex work through providing expertise and extrabudgetary funding for the risk assessments in microbiological risk assessment and biotechnology.

40. The Commission thanked FAO and WHO for their various activities in support of food quality and safety and welcomed the direction to apply preventative approaches.

41. The Representative of WHO, in response to a question posed by Côte d'Ivoire on the relative share of contributions, indicated that the contributions by WHO had been increased to strengthen its Regional arrangements in food safety and its commitments to the Joint FAO/WHO Expert Consultations in the areas of microbiological risk assessments and foods derived from biotechnology. He noted the need to obtain more data on food-borne disease from developing countries and industrialized countries. It was noted that the development of a trust fund was in process to support the participation of developing countries in the work of the Codex.

FAO Conference on International Trade Beyond the Year 2000: Science-based Decisions, Harmonization, Equivalence and Mutual Recognition

42. It was noted that the Melbourne Conference had directed to the Codex Alimentarius Commission certain recommendations. Other recommendations had been directed to FAO and WHO or else to Member governments.¹⁷ The Commission specifically **endorsed** the following recommendations of the Melbourne Conference and requested the Executive Committee to monitor their applications and their incorporation in the Medium-Term Plan as appropriate:

- Recommendation 12: exchange of information about potentially hazardous foodstuffs moving in international trade;
- Recommendation 13: urgency of Codex guidance on the judgement of equivalence;
- Recommendation 14: consideration of the special needs of developing countries;
- Recommendation 16: standards development for food composition, sensory quality and safety;
- Recommendation 17: standards not to be over-prescriptive or unnecessarily stringent;
- Recommendation 18: promote and extend the General Principles of Food Hygiene and HACCP to the whole food chain;
- Recommendation 21: effectiveness of the use of written comments.

43. Several delegations expressed their reservation on para 19 of the document which stated that “the Executive Committee had recognized the need to develop guidelines for determining equivalence of food control systems, covering not only safety but also quality and conformity”. They expressed the opinion that only “essential quality factors” should be addressed and not “quality”, as Codex should refrain from applying overly prescriptive approaches.

44. The Commission noted the importance to “make the largest possible use of information from developing countries in risk assessment for international standard-setting” as stated in the World Health Assembly Resolution and the recommendations of the Melbourne Conference.

45. The Delegation of Mexico expressed its reservation concerning Recommendation 20 of the Conference (holding of Codex Committee meetings in developing countries) since, when such meetings were held in different regions of the world, they offered the opportunity for increased participation of these regions and affected the participation of developing countries from other regions. The Delegation of Mexico referring to Recommendation 21 emphasized the importance of written comments and stated that there were examples where such written comments had not been properly considered by Codex Committees.

¹⁷ Recommendations 1,2,3,5,7,9,10,13,15,19,20 of the Melbourne Conference.

CONSIDERATION OF THE DRAFT STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK, PROPOSED DRAFT MEDIUM-TERM PLAN 2003-2007 AND THE CHAIRPERSON'S ACTION PLAN (AGENDA ITEM 7)¹⁸

46. Between its 47th and 48th Sessions the Executive Committee had developed a structured model consisting of a strategic vision statement; a strategic framework described by objectives; and a detailed medium-term plan described by specific activities. The Executive Committee was of the opinion that the draft Vision Statement and Strategic Framework were suitable for submission to the Commission for adoption¹⁹. The detailed MTP could then be reviewed and developed with the further input of the Regional Coordinating Committees, other Codex Committees, Member governments and international organizations in time for adoption by the Commission in 2003 as planned.

Revised Draft Strategic Framework/Vision Statement

47. The Commission noted that the draft Strategic Framework/Vision Statement was designed to set the overall strategy and approach for the Commission's Medium-Term Plan. It established a drafting group under the Chairmanship of The Philippines to incorporate suggestions made by Members on the Executive Committee's text, with the exception of Objective 3.

48. In regard to the Strategic Vision Statement, the Delegation of Malaysia supported by India and several other delegations, proposed that the words "highest attainable levels of consumer protection, including food safety and quality" be amended to read "an appropriate level of protection including food safety and essential quality".

49. In regard to Objective 3 - *Promoting Seamless Linkages/Interface between Codex and Other Multilateral Regulatory Instruments and Conventions*, many delegations were of the opinion that in view of specific references to the work of the Commission in the WTO Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS Agreement), the Commission should be encouraged to take due account of international regulatory initiatives and developments, but should not be compelled to ensure that its outputs were consistent with relevant international conventions and agreements. It was noted that the broad membership of the Commission ensured the widest possible consideration of *food quality and safety issues related to food standardization and in this regard*, suggested the deletion of specific references to other international bodies under this Objective.

50. Other delegations were of the opinion that ensuring consistency with other relevant international conventions and agreements was important and drew attention to Article 1 of the Statutes which stated, *inter alia*, that the Commission was responsible for "*promoting coordination of all food standards work undertaken by international governmental and non-governmental organizations*". These delegations noted that consistency with other relevant international conventions and agreements was necessary in order to maintain the credibility of the international system in general.

51. The Commission agreed that its work should take due account of international regulatory initiatives and developments. However, in view of the reasons cited above, it deleted the phrase from Objective 3 that it should "*ensure that its outputs are consistent with relevant international conventions and agreements*". The Commission also agreed that in order to avoid limiting the relevant organizations with which it should collaborate, the specific listing of organizations in Objective 3 should be removed. The Title of the Objective was amended to reflect this.

52. The Delegation of Uruguay, supported by other delegations proposed that a specific reference be included in Objective 6 - *Promoting Maximum Application of Codex Standards* to indicate that it was the responsibility of governments to apply Codex standards and therefore promote harmonization.

¹⁸ ALINORM 01/6, ALINORM 01/6-Add. 1 and 3, Commission/CAC/LIM 1 and ALINORM 01/4

¹⁹ ALINORM 01/4 paras. 20-34.

53. The drafting group proposed minor amendments to take into account the special needs of developing countries; risk communication; and to encourage greater participation at the national and international level. It also proposed amendments to align the text with the Statutes of the Codex Alimentarius Commission. The revised text resulting from these changes was submitted to the Commission for adoption (see para. 68 below).

Chairperson's Action Plan

54. The Commission noted that the Chairperson's Action Plan, including the six desired outcomes contained therein (see below), was elaborated to assist in the implementation of the MTP. It was noted that the Action Plan would be incorporated into the Medium-Term Plan.

IMPROVED EFFICIENCY AND SPEED OF THE CODEX PROCESS AND CONSENSUS BUILDING

55. Many delegations supported the holding of annual meetings of the Commission beginning in 2004. On the other hand, many other delegations stated that the holding of annual meetings would have serious implications for their ability to continue to participate effectively, primarily because of problems of cost and infrastructure. It was therefore **decided** that a decision on this issue and on the related issue of the future of the Executive Committee would not be taken until the 25th Session of the Commission in 2003. The Commission recognized that means to correct resource constraints on developing country participation and on the Secretariat's ability to service annual meetings would be important factors on the Commission's decision in this regard. The Delegation of Chile also pointed out that the future of the Regional Coordinating Committees should be addressed in this regard.

56. In relation to the proposed conversion of most Commodity Committees to *ad hoc* Task Forces, the Commission agreed that the *Criteria for the Establishment of Work Priorities*, if properly applied, were sufficient to assist in the adjournment or abolition of Codex committees and noted that the Criteria gave preference to the establishment of Task Forces when new work was required.

57. In regard to the Chairperson's Coordination and Advisory Group to facilitate more efficient consideration and finalization of draft standards, the Commission noted that Chairpersons of Codex Committees and Task Forces had been meeting on an informal basis in the margins of some Codex meetings. The Commission agreed that this group should continue to meet, as required, on an informal basis to provide a coordinating role but without the power to take decisions or make recommendations to the Commission.

FURTHER STRENGTHENED SCIENTIFIC SUPPORT AND SCIENCE-BASED DECISION-MAKING

58. The Commission noted that recent changes had led to the improved identification and selection of experts and temporary advisors for expert groups and consultations and that detailed information on the selection process was contained on the websites of both organizations. It was noted that such experts were required to complete and attest to declarations of detailed interest in this regard to avoid conflict of interest.

59. The Commission welcomed these developments and a planning meeting in November 2001 which would examine, among other issues, increased coordination between the JECFA, JMPR, and the other expert groups devoted to microbiological contamination and biotechnology on matters including selection and establishment of a roster of experts for such bodies, including increased transparency in the process.

60. Several delegations, including The Netherlands speaking as the Member responsible for appointing the Chairperson of the Codex Committee on Pesticide Residues, and observers expressed their concerns that current working arrangements for expert bodies, developed decades ago, increasingly did not meet the requirements of the Commission. They stressed that these structures needed to be reviewed urgently to keep pace with the needs and the expectations of Member countries, the Commission and the public.

61. The Commission **requested** FAO and WHO to circulate a letter of information on the improvements already made. It requested FAO and WHO to convene a consultation to review the status and procedures of the expert bodies and to develop recommendations for consideration by the Directors-General on additional ways to improve the quality, quantity and timeliness of scientific advice to the Commission. It was recommended that such a consultation include the Chairpersons of the relevant Codex Committees and appropriate outside experts drawn from the scientific community and all interested groups including those representing industry and consumers.

62. The Delegation of Egypt requested FAO and WHO to ensure that there would be adequate regional representation of experts and temporary advisors with a view to encouraging Member countries in all regions to adopt decisions developed on a scientific basis.

INCREASED PARTICIPATION OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

63. The Action Plan also suggested that Codex host country governments should voluntarily provide developing country governments the opportunity to serve as co-hosts and to identify individuals from their countries to serve as vice-chairpersons for Codex committees. The proposal also encouraged that developing countries should have increased opportunities to convene meetings periodically in their own countries.

64. It was noted that the concept of a vice-chairmanship position for developing country members should not result in an obligation, nor result in permanently relegating such countries to vice-chair positions. Several developing countries expressed concern that the proposal to establish a system of vice-chairs would create a second class status for developing countries and it had not been specified specifically what would be the advantage for developing countries. However, the proposal to convene meetings in developing countries was welcomed.

FAO/WHO TRUST FUND

65. In reaction to the Chairperson's recommendation to establish an FAO/WHO Trust Fund to support developing country participation in Codex Commission and subsidiary body meetings, the Commission **agreed in principle** that FAO and WHO should establish clear rules and procedures for the establishment and functioning of a trust fund for consideration in the first instance by the Executive Committee in 2002 and the 25th Session of the Commission in 2003 to ensure its complete transparency and avoidance of bias and influence, to report on its implementation and to indicate envisioned sources of funding. Such examination should include considerations of the links between the proposed trust fund and the "Food and Agricultural Safety Facility" announced by FAO and supported by WHO.

66. It was suggested that the proposed FAO/WHO Joint Trust Fund might also be used for the financing of representative consumer organizations in Codex meetings, especially those of developing countries, and this proposal received some support. Some delegations expressed concern that the representation of developing countries was being placed on the same level as that of international nongovernmental organizations. They also expressed their desire that the trust fund be managed effectively to ensure that there would be no discrimination among developing countries. It was agreed that capacity-building in developing countries for their effective participation in the work of Codex should receive the highest priority, considering also the other capacity-building initiatives provided through the FAO Global Facility on Food and Agricultural Safety and Quality.

INCREASED SUPPORT FROM WHO AND FAO

67. The Commission recalled its earlier discussions concerning the level of financial support to the Codex programme under item 4 above.

Status of the Draft Medium-Term Plan 2003-2007, Draft Strategic Statement and Chairperson's Action Plan

68. The Commission **adopted** the draft Strategic Framework, including the Strategic Vision Statement (see Appendix II).

69. It **agreed** that the draft Medium-Term Plan should be revised by the Secretariat in the light of the Strategic Framework, the present discussion and the written comments received, and should incorporate the elements of the Chairperson's Action Plan agreed to by the Commission. It **agreed** that the activities envisaged in the MTP should include cost estimates to determine whether the objectives could be achieved within available resources. The revised draft Medium-Term Plan would then be circulated for the input of Codex Coordinating Committees, other Codex Committees, Member governments and international organizations for further consideration and finalization at the 25th Session of the Commission.

70. The Delegation of Bolivia and other delegations stated that priority should be given to the implementation of points 2 and 4 of the Chairperson's Action Plan.

RISK ANALYSIS POLICIES OF THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION (AGENDA ITEM 8)²⁰

71. The Secretariat presented a progress report on risk analysis in the work of Codex and recalled that the Action Plan adopted in 1997 requested the Committee on General Principles to develop working principles for inclusion in the Procedural Manual. However, the Committee had not been able to finalize the Working Principles and had asked the advice of the Commission on two issues: the Scope; and the action to be taken when scientific data were insufficient.

72. The Delegation of India recalled that its paper concerning uniform application of risk analysis in the elaboration of standards had been discussed in the Committee on General Principles and should be considered further in relation to the working principles by all Codex Committees.²¹

73. Several delegations proposed that the initial mandate of the Committee to develop risk analysis principles within Codex should be adhered to, as the extension of the Scope to cover guidance to governments had created some problems and prevented further progress, especially as regards the application of precaution. Several other delegations expressed the view that the mandate of the Commission was to provide advice to governments concerning risk analysis and that this advice was especially important for developing countries.

74. Reference was made to the Medium Term Plan 1998-2002 which stated that “Specific guidance on the application of risk analysis principles should be provided to Codex Committees on one hand and to Member Governments on the other: the former guidance to be included in the Procedural Manual, the latter in the Codex Alimentarius itself”²².

75. The Commission **confirmed** its initial mandate to the Committee on General Principles to complete the principles for risk analysis within Codex as a high priority, with a view to their adoption in 2003. It also agreed that the Committee should develop guidance to governments subsequently or in parallel, as appropriate in view of its programme of work.

76. The Commission **recommended** that a Working Group should be organized by the host country (France) well in advance of the meeting, in order to facilitate discussion of a revised draft of the working principles at its 17th Session. The Delegation of Malaysia, supported by some other delegations expressed the view that the Working Group as well as the electronic consultation held prior to the Committee’s 16th Session had not proved to be very effective. They also expressed some reservations concerning the holding of a working group meeting well in advance of the Committee’s next session in view of the difficulty for developing countries to attend. The Delegation of France stated that it would wish to have assurances that there would be a possibility for such a working group to make progress.

77. The Commission discussed whether the Commission should elaborate standards or related texts when evidence of a risk to human health existed and scientific data were insufficient. In this regard, the Commission recalled that the FAO Conference on International Food Trade beyond 2000 (Melbourne, 1999) had called upon all parties to recognize that precaution has been and should remain an essential element of risk analysis in the formulation of national and international standards, and had agreed that the Codex Alimentarius Commission was the most appropriate forum to discuss this issue.

78. Several delegations expressed the view that the “precautionary principle” was not a principle of international law and should not be mentioned as such in the framework of Codex.

79. Referring to the recommendations of the Melbourne Conference, several delegations supported consideration of precaution in Codex in order to provide guidance and to governments and to prevent its mis-use as an unjustified barrier to trade.

²⁰ ALINORM 01/9, CAC/LIM 1 (comments of Consumers International), CAC/LIM 11 (comments of Argentina)

²¹ CX/FAC 01/4; ALINORM 01/33A, paras. 76-83.

²² ALINORM 99/37, Appendix II.

80. In the view of several delegations, the Commission should not elaborate “standards and related texts” when data were insufficient, as Codex recommendations represented a reference at the international level and should be based on adequate scientific evidence. The situation was different at the national level, as governments had the possibility to take provisional measures to protect their population, as recognized under the SPS Agreement. Several other delegations indicated that precaution was already applied in Codex work, and that the Commission had adopted codes of practice and other recommendations when scientific data did not allow the establishment of a standard. In the view of these delegations, Codex should therefore make every effort to develop recommendations to protect consumers’ health even when scientific evidence was insufficient.

81. In view of the above discussion, the Chairperson proposed that the Commission should take the following position:

“When there is evidence that a risk to human health exists but scientific data are insufficient or incomplete, the Commission should not proceed to elaborate a standard but should consider elaborating a related text, such as a code of practice, provided that such a text would be supported by the available scientific evidence.”

82. Many delegations supported this text as a compromise reflecting the need for a scientific basis while allowing for flexibility in the elaboration of “related texts”. Other delegations expressed the view that this position would prevent Codex reacting efficiently in addressing risks to human health.

83. The Chairperson indicated that there was no consensus but a majority of member countries had expressed themselves in favour of this proposal. On this basis the Commission **adopted** the above position and noted the reservations of the following countries: Austria, Belgium, Croatia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Portugal, Spain, Sudan, Sweden, Switzerland.

84. The Delegation of the United Kingdom expressed its disagreement with the manner in which the decision was made as it was essential to take decisions by consensus at the level of the Commission.

85. The Commission also recommended that relevant Codex Committees should continue to develop and document the application of risk analysis in their work. It was agreed that the risk analysis policies developed by the Committees would be presented in a single document to the next session of the Commission.

CONSIDERATION OF PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE PROCEDURAL MANUAL OF THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION (AGENDA ITEM 9)²³

Proposed Amendments to the Rules of Procedure (Rule VI.4 Voting and Procedures)

86. As the quorum specified in Rule IV.6 for the amendment of the Rules of Procedure was not attained, the Commission was unable to adopt the proposed amendment and agreed that it would be considered again at its next session.

Proposed Amendments to the Rules of Procedure – Membership of Regional Integration Organizations

87. The Commission recalled that the Committee on General Principles had not reached a decision on the proposals made by the European Community concerning the amendment to the Rules of Procedure to allow the participation of Regional Integration Organizations as Members. Revised proposals had been subsequently put forward after further consultation between the Legal Counsels of FAO, WHO and the European Commission.

88. As the quorum was not constituted, the Commission **decided** to defer the discussion of the proposed amendments until the next session and to request the Committee on General Principles to consider them thoroughly in order to clarify relevant issues and facilitate the debate at the next session.

²³ ALINORM 01/10, ALINORM 01/10–Add. 1 (comments of Sweden); ALINORM 01/10–Add.2; (CAC/LIM 12–additional proposals concerning EC membership), CAC/CAC/LIM 10 (Information note from the EC); CAC/LIM-6 (Comments of Malaysia).

Other Sections

PRINCIPLES FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF CODEX METHODS OF ANALYSIS

89. The Commission **agreed** to add a new sub-section on *General Criteria for the Selection of Methods of Analysis Using the Criteria Approach* as proposed by the Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling.

90. The Commission also considered the proposal for a new section on *Guidelines and Working Instructions to Aid the Implementation of the Criteria Approach*. The Delegation of Sweden, referring to its written comments and supported by some delegations, proposed to simplify the text to make it more suitable for inclusion in the Procedural Manual. Other delegations indicated that in view of the highly technical nature of the document, more time was required to consider the amendments proposed and the specialized Committee should review them further. The Commission **agreed** that the revised text should be referred back to Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling for further consideration.

RELATIONS BETWEEN COMMODITY COMMITTEES AND GENERAL COMMITTEES

91. The Commission **agreed** to amend the section on “Normal Practice” to reflect the criteria approach as proposed.

TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE CODEX COMMITTEE ON FOOD HYGIENE

92. The Commission **adopted** the revised Terms of Reference as amended by the Committee on General Principles.

STATEMENTS OF PRINCIPLE ON THE ROLE OF SCIENCE IN THE CODEX DECISION-MAKING PROCESS AND THE EXTENT TO WHICH OTHER FACTORS ARE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT: CRITERIA

93. Many delegations and observers expressed their support for the adoption of the criteria as this represented a significant progress and completed the mandate given by the Commission to the Committee on General Principles in 1997 in order to clarify the *Statements of Principle*.

94. The Commission discussed whether paragraph 7 referring to the recommendations of other international organizations should be retained. Many delegations and some observers proposed to delete this reference and stressed that the work of the Commission should be carried out according to its own mandate and objectives. Although coordination with other organizations was necessary, Codex was the recognized reference under WTO as regards food safety and should not therefore depend on the decisions of other organizations which might have different mandates and membership. It was also pointed out that consistency between the decisions taken in different international organizations was the responsibility of member countries through coordination at the national level.

95. Other delegations and the observer from the International Association of Consumer Food Organizations supported the inclusion of this paragraph as Codex texts should be consistent with the agreements of other international organizations, especially in view of their status as a reference in international trade; this was essential to ensure the credibility of international organizations and consumer confidence.

96. Recognizing that there was no consensus on the inclusion of a reference to other organizations, the Commission **agreed** to delete paragraph 7.

97. The Commission discussed the need for a reference to the World Trade Organization and the WTO SPS and TBT Agreements in paragraph 9 concerning barriers to trade and **agreed** that the relevant text should be retained as a footnote.

98. The Commission **adopted** the other paragraphs without change and noted that the amended Criteria would be included in the Appendix to the Procedural Manual after the *Statements of Principle*.

CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT STANDARDS AND RELATED TEXTS (AGENDA ITEM 10)

General Considerations

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

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

FOOD HYGIENE

Draft Code of Practice for Bottled/Packaged Drinking Waters (Other Than Natural Mineral Waters)²⁴

100. The Commission **adopted** the Draft Code at Step 8.

Draft Code of Hygienic Practice for the Transport of Food in Bulk and Semi-Packaged Food²⁵

101. The Commission amended the last sentence of the Introduction to clarify that the Code was not applicable to, and did not take precedence over, other Codex commodity-specific codes already in existence for such commodities in bulk, for example the Recommended International Code of Practice For the Storage and Transport of Edible Oils and Fats in Bulk (CAC/RCP 36-1987 Rev.1-1999). The Commission also deleted a reference regarding the food transported directly from the field to the market (Section 2.1) and requested the Committee on Food Hygiene to consider the implications of this provision in relation to foods moving into international trade with the view to amending the Code if necessary. The Commission adopted the Draft Code at Step 8 as amended.

SUGARS AND HONEY

Draft Revised Standard for Honey²⁶

102. The Commission amended the revised draft standard by extending the Scope, Description and Labelling provisions of the Standard to honey produced by all honey-producing bees, not only *Apis mellifera*. It requested the Committee to continue to work on the standard to allow the identification of honey according to the species of bee as well as floral, topographical origins and the country of origin, including reference to the moisture content of these honeys. The Commission **adopted** the Draft Revised Standard at Step 8 with these amendments. The Delegations of Greece, Italy and Spain expressed their reservations regarding the broadening of the Scope to cover all species of honey-producing bees.

²⁴ ALINORM 01/13, Appendix II; CAC/LIM 3 (Comments of USA).

²⁵ ALINORM 01/13A, Appendix III; ALINORM 01/21, Part 1- Add. 2 (Comments of India, Malaysia); CAC/LIM 3 (Comments of USA).

²⁶ ALINORM 01/25, Appendix II; ALINORM 01/21, Part 1 Add.2 (Comments of Italy, Poland, Spain); CAC/LIM 4 (Comments of Uganda); CAC/LIM 6 (Comments of China); CAC/LIM 9 (Comments of India); CAC/LIM 11 (Comments of APIMONDIA); CRD 1 (Comments of Switzerland)

Proposed Draft Amendment for the Standard on Sugars²⁷

103. The Commission noted that the reference to ICUMSA GS 2/3-5 for the determination of invert sugar in soft sugars and brown sugar was not correct and should be substituted by ICUMSA GS 1/3/7-3. It also decided to delete the methods for determination of arsenic and lead in the sugar standard, as there were no provisions for those contaminants.

104. The Commission **adopted** the Proposed Draft Amendments at Steps 5 and 8 with the omission of Steps 6 and 7 as proposed. The Commission requested the Committee on Sugars to examine whether the change in method of analysis for determination of colour may require a change in the specification of colour especially in plantation or mill white sugar.

105. The Delegation of India supported by several delegations was of the view that the revision of colour specifications was not necessary. The Delegation of Mexico requested that it be noted that there had been a lack of consideration of its written comments by the Committee.

MILK AND MILK PRODUCTS***Draft Group Standard for Unripened Cheese Including Fresh Cheese***²⁸

106. The Commission noted the concern on use of the food additive, pimaricin, in the standard. The representative of the JECFA clarified that at its recent meeting, the evaluation of this additive had resulted in the same recommendations.

107. The Commission **adopted** the Draft Group Standard with pimaricin temporarily endorsed for surface/rind treatments only. The delegations of Switzerland, Spain, Germany and Egypt expressed their reservation on retaining pimaricin in the standard.

Proposed Draft Revised Standard for Edible Casein Products²⁹

108. The Commission **deleted** the draft maximum level of Lead in accordance with its previous decisions concerning levels of Lead in milk and milk products (see para. 120-121 below) and **adopted** the Draft Revised Standard at Steps 5 and 8.

Proposed Draft Amendment to the Codex General Standard for Cheese (Description)³⁰

109. The Commission **adopted** the Draft Amendment at Steps 5 and 8 and was informed that the issue of the minimum protein level would be discussed further at the next session of the Committee on Milk and Milk Products.

Proposed Draft Amendment to the Codex Group Standard for Cheeses in Brine (Sampling)³¹

110. The Commission **adopted** the Draft Revised Standard at Steps 5 and 8.

FOOD ADDITIVES AND CONTAMINANTS***Codex General Standard for Food Additives: Draft Guidelines for the Development of Maximum Levels for the Use of Additives with Numerical Acceptable Daily Intakes (Annex A)***³²

111. The Commission **adopted** the text as proposed.

²⁷ ALINORM 01/25, Appendix III, ALINORM 01/21, Part 1-Add.2 (Comments of Czech Republic, Poland, Comité Européen des Fabricants du Sucre (CEFS); CAC/LIM 13 (Comments of the European Community).

²⁸ ALINORM 01/11, Appendix II; ALINORM 01/21, Part I – Add.2 (Comments of Cuba).

²⁹ ALINORM 01/11, Appendix III.

³⁰ ALINORM 01/11, Appendix IV.

³¹ ALINORM 01/11, Appendix V.

³² ALINORM 01/12, Appendix II; ALINORM 01/21, Part I – Add. 3 (comments of Canada)

Codex General Standard for Food Additives: Proposed Draft and Draft Food Additive Provisions in Table 1³³

112. In view of the recommendation of the 57th the JECFA meeting to establish a temporary ADI for Quillaia Extract, the Commission returned the provisions for the use of this additive to Step 7 for further consideration by the Committee on Food Additives and Contaminants. The use of Stannous Chloride in category 14.1.2.1 (Canned or bottled (pasteurized) fruit juice) was returned to Step 7 as the additive was not currently used in the manufacture of fruit juices.

113. The Commission **adopted** the provisions for the use of EDTAs in category 14.2 (alcoholic beverages, including alcohol-free and low-alcoholic counterparts). It noted the views of those countries that had recommended the deletion of these provisions in order to align the standard with the standards of the OIV wine, but noted that the use of EDTAs was based on a thorough safety evaluation and was used in other countries not members of the OIV. The Commission proposed that these provisions be discussed further by the Committee on Food Additives and Contaminants.

114. The Commission noted that the use of Pimaricin in Category 1.6 (Cheese) at a level of 40 mg/kg was based on the qualification that it was used for surface treatment only and was equivalent to 2 mg/dm² surface application to a maximum depth of 5 mm. However, as the provisions for the use of Pimaricin in sliced, cut shredded and grated products in the Draft Group Standard for Unripened Cheese, including Fresh Cheese were only temporarily endorsed by the Committee on Food Additives and Contaminants pending reevaluation by the JECFA, the Commission **agreed** that the provision in the Codex General Standard for Food Additives should remain as temporarily endorsed.

115. The Commission **adopted** the other provisions as proposed at Step 8, with the omission of Steps 6 and 7 for some proposals as recommended by the Committee.

Draft Maximum Level for Patulin in Apple Juice and Apple Juice Ingredients in Other Beverages³⁴

116. The delegation of Belgium, speaking on behalf of the European Community, noted that recent exposure assessments indicated that although the lifetime exposure to patulin is below the PMTDI, the exposure of children to patulin through the consumption of apple juice was in the range of, or even exceeded, the PMTDI for a considerable period during childhood. Because of this concern, the EC had initiated a study to evaluate the dietary intake of patulin. It was noted that the results of the study were expected to become available in the beginning of 2002 and therefore, it was suggested that adoption of the draft maximum level be delayed. Many other delegations supported this view and also noted that the reduction of patulin in apple juice was easily achievable through Good Manufacturing Practice by the removal or trimming of affected apples.

117. Many other delegations supported the adoption of the draft maximum level as the JECFA had determined that the level was protective of both adults and children, and in the interest of setting limits for a contaminant which was a serious health concern. These delegations supported the recommendation of the Chairperson of the Committee on Food Additives and Contaminants that, after adoption, the level should be reviewed further by the JECFA and the Committee on Food Additives and Contaminants in light of new data that would be made available and reconsidered at the next session of the Commission. It was also noted that the Committee on Food Additives and Contaminants was in the process of elaborating a Code of Practice for the prevention of contamination by patulin that would help to address the reduction of contamination in apple juice through preventative measures at the production level.

118. As a consensus could not be reached, the Commission **returned** the draft maximum level to Step 6 for further consideration by the Committee on Food Additives and Contaminants. The delegations of Mexico and the United States objected to this decision, observing that the proposed level was responsive to public health needs.

³³ ALINORM 01/12, Appendix III and ALINORM 01/12A Appendix II; ALINORM 01/21, Part I-Add. 3 (comments of Spain), CAC/LIM-3 (comments of EC), CAC/LIM-4 (comments of Brazil), CAC/LIM-11 (comments of Indonesia), .

³⁴ ALINORM 01/12, Appendix X; ALINORM 01/21, Part I-Add. 2 (comments of EC), Part I-Add. 3 (comments of Canada and France), CAC/LIM-1 (comments of Consumers International).

Draft Maximum Levels for Lead³⁵

119. Several delegations were of the opinion that the reduction of the level for Lead in cocoa butter from 0.5 mg/kg to 0.1 mg/kg was not adequately justified and would create barriers to trade without any significant reduction of health risk. Other delegations were of the opinion that the lower levels were easily achievable with the application of good agricultural practices. As there was no consensus, the Commission **adopted** the level of 0.1 mg/kg for lead in vegetable oils, excluding cocoa butter, with the understanding that the level did not apply to lead in cocoa butter. The Commission agreed that there was a need for getting reliable scientific data from Governments and other interested organizations in order to justify any level lower than 0.5 mg/kg in cocoa butter. The Delegation of Singapore stated that the burden of proof to justify a change in an existing standard laid with the parties requesting the change.

120. The Commission **adopted** the remaining levels for Lead at Step 8 as proposed by the Committee.

121. Several delegations felt that the level of 0.02 mg/kg for Lead in milk was too low, and that the footnote indicating “that for dairy products, an appropriate concentration factor should apply” did not support the elaboration of a level of 0.1 mg/kg for milk fat. Other delegations felt that lower levels were necessary to protect sensitive individuals, and especially children, from a contaminant with severe public health implications. The Commission **adopted** the levels for lead in milk (0.02 mg/kg) and milk fat (0.1 mg/kg) as proposed, and requested the Committee on Food Additives and Contaminants to re-evaluate the levels.

122. The Delegation of India expressed its reservation at the fixing of these levels on the grounds that: (a) there was no JECFA evaluation; and (b) there was no IDF standard which was claimed to be the basis on which the level had been recommended. Similarly the Delegation stated that the level of Lead adopted for fruits was more stringent than the level evaluated as safe by the JECFA, and that the level was not based on global data.

123. The Representative of the OIV requested that special consideration be given to levels of Lead in wines that had been stored for long periods of time.

124. The Commission agreed that the Committee on Food Additives and Contaminants should develop a Code of Practice on the prevention and reduction of lead contamination in food and recommended that the FAO guidelines on lead-soldered cans could be useful in this regard.³⁶

125. The Commission noted the request of Thailand to the Committee on Food Additives and Contaminants for the Committee to give priority to the development of principles for exposure assessment of contaminants and toxins so as to provide advice to the JECFA.

Draft Amendments to the Codex International Numbering System for Food Additives³⁷

126. The Commission **adopted** the changes as proposed.

Draft Maximum Level for Aflatoxin M₁ in Milk³⁸

127. The delegation of Belgium, speaking on behalf of the European Community, objected to the level of 0.5 µg/kg because in the case of genotoxic carcinogens, exposure at any level might pose a health risk to consumers, in particular children, and that the level should therefore be as low as reasonably achievable. Other delegations supported the level of 0.5 µg/kg as proposed, especially in view of the determination of the JECFA that with worst-case assumptions, the additional risks for liver cancer predicted with the use of the proposed

³⁵ ALINORM 01/12, Appendix XI; ALINORM 01/21, Part 1-Add. 2 (comments of Australia), Part 1-Add. 3 (comments of Canada and Malaysia), CAC/LIM-11 (comments of India and Indonesia).

³⁶ *Guidelines for Can Manufacturers and Food Canners*: FAO Food and Nutrition Paper No. 36, FAO, Rome, 1986.

³⁷ ALINORM 01/12A, Appendix IX

³⁸ ALINORM 01/12, Appendix X; ALINORM 01/21, Part 1-Add. 2 (comments of EC), Part 1-Add. 3 (comments of Malaysia), CAC/LIM-1 (comments of Consumers International), CAC/LIM-4 (comments of Brazil and Uganda), CAC/LIM-9 (comments of ICGMA), CAC/LIM-11 (comments of Indonesia).

maximum levels of aflatoxin M₁ of 0.05 and 0.5 µg/kg were very small.³⁹ The Delegation of Bolivia stated that if the lower level would be fixed, it would create unjustified barriers to trade without affecting the risks to consumers' health.

128. The Commission could not reach a consensus on this issue.

129. In view of the importance of establishing a level for the health protection of consumers, and in consideration that the higher level provided an adequate level of protection as determined by the Committee on Food Additives and Contaminants, the Commission **adopted** the maximum level of 0.5 µg/kg in milk. It was agreed that data supporting the lower level, if and when available, could be examined by the Committee on Food Additives and Contaminants at a future meeting if necessary. The member states of the EU, as well as the delegations of Cyprus, Estonia, Ghana, Hungary, Nigeria, Norway, Poland, South Africa, Swaziland and Switzerland expressed their reservations on this decision. The Representative of Consumers International also expressed the concern of that organization at the decision taken.

Draft Code of Practice for Source Directed Measures to Reduce Contamination of Food With Chemicals⁴⁰

130. The Commission **adopted** the Draft Code with an amendment to paragraph 3 of the Introduction concerning the role of the Commission in notifying other international organizations of potential or actual food contamination problems.

131. The delegations of Malaysia, Thailand, Peru and The Philippines objected to the statement at the end of paragraph 4 that “When fishing waters or agricultural land become heavily polluted due to local emissions, it may to necessary to blacklist the areas concerned ...”. However, the Commission noted that this recommendation was under the control of local or national authorities only, and retained the sentence as proposed.

Draft Maximum Level for Lead in Fruit Juices⁴¹

132. The Commission **adopted** the draft maximum level as proposed.

Draft Guideline Level for Cadmium in Cereals, Pulses and Legumes⁴²

133. The Commission **adopted** the level proposed as a *maximum* level.

Draft Revision of the Codex Standard for Food Grade Salt: Packaging, Transportation and Storage⁴³

134. The Commission **adopted** the draft revision as proposed.

Proposed Draft Amendments to the Codex General Standard for Food Additives: Annex to Table 3 (Food Categories or Individual Food Items Excluded from the General Conditions of Table 3)⁴⁴

135. The Commission noted that the Annex to Table 3 was already contained in Volume 1A of the Codex Alimentarius (General Requirements), and that the 33rd Session of the Codex Committee on Food Additives and Contaminants had only forwarded amendments to the existing Annex. However, in considering the proposed amendments, it noted that development of the Annex to Table 3 and that of the relevant provisions of Tables 1 and 2 should be coordinated and simultaneous. It also noted that food categories 6.4.1 (Fresh pastas and noodles and like products) and 6.4.2 (Pre-cooked or dried pastas and noodles and like products (only dried products) and other food categories were being further considered by the CCFAC. The Commission **adopted** all proposed revisions to the Annex to Table 3 at **Step 5 only**.

³⁹ Report of the 56th Meeting of the Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Food Additives, February 2001, WHO Technical Report Series, WHO, Geneva (in press).

⁴⁰ ALINORM 01/12A, Appendix XIII, CAC/LIM-4 (comments of Brazil).

⁴¹ ALINORM 01/12A, Appendix XIV

⁴² ALINORM 01/12A, Appendix XV, CAC/LIM-3 (comments of Australia).

⁴³ ALINORM 01/12 A, Appendix XVII

⁴⁴ ALINORM 01/12A, Appendix VI; CAC/LIM-4 (comments of Japan); CAC/LIM-11 (Comments of Indonesia).

136. The Commission recalled that the Committee on Food Additives and Contaminants should actively continue the work begun at its 33rd Session (March, 2001) on the linkages between the General Standard for Food Additives and the Codex Commodity standards including the adaptation of the food categorization system in the General Standard.

Proposed Draft Codex Advisory Specifications for the Identity and Purity of Food Additives⁴⁵

137. The Commission **adopted** the proposed draft Codex Advisory Specifications at Steps 5 and 8 with the omission of Steps 6 and 7.

Proposed Draft Revised Sampling Plan for Peanuts Intended for Further Processing⁴⁶

138. The Commission **adopted** the proposed draft revised Sampling Plan as proposed, with the understanding that paragraph 1 of the Introduction would be revised to indicate that the maximum level was 15 µg/kg for total aflatoxins.

Proposed Draft Revisions to the Codex International Numbering System for Food Additives⁴⁷

139. The Commission **adopted** the draft revisions to the Codex International Numbering System as proposed at Step 5 of the Accelerated Procedure.

Codex General Standard for Food Additives: Proposed Draft Amendments to Table 3 (Additives with an Acceptable Daily Intake of “Not Specified”)⁴⁸

140. The Commission **adopted** the proposed draft Amendments as proposed at Step 5 of the Accelerated Procedure.

RESIDUES OF VETERINARY DRUGS IN FOODS

Draft Maximum Residue Limits for Veterinary Drugs⁴⁹

141. The Commission **adopted** the draft maximum residue limits for danofloxacin, gentamicin, imidicarb and sarafloxacin as proposed. In response to concerns expressed concerning the approval and use of danofloxacin and sarafloxacin with respect to antimicrobial resistance, the Commission was informed that the general issue of antimicrobial resistance and the use of antimicrobials in animal production was currently under consideration in the Committee.

Proposed Draft Maximum Residue Limits and Proposed Draft Revised Maximum Residue Limits for Veterinary Drugs⁵⁰

142. The Commission **adopted** the proposed draft and proposed draft revised maximum residue limits at Steps 5 and 8 with the omission of Steps 6 and 7.

FOOD IMPORT AND EXPORT INSPECTION AND CERTIFICATION SYSTEMS

Draft Guidelines for Generic Official Certificate Formats and the Production and Issuance of Certificates⁵¹

143. The Committee **adopted** the draft Guidelines as proposed.

⁴⁵ ALINORM 01/12, Appendix IX and ALINORM 01/12A, Appendix VIII; ALINORM 01/21, Part 1-Add. 3 (comments from Canada)

⁴⁶ ALINORM 01/12A, Appendix XI; CAC/LIM-11 (comments from India).

⁴⁷ ALINORM 01/12, Appendix VII

⁴⁸ ALINORM 01/12A, Appendix V

⁴⁹ ALINORM 01/31, Appendix II

⁵⁰ ALINORM 01/31, Appendix III, ALINORM 01/21, Part 1-Add. 2 (comments of Thailand)

⁵¹ ALINORM 01/30A, Appendix II.

PESTICIDE RESIDUES***Draft and Draft Revised Maximum Residue Limits for Pesticides***⁵²

144. The Commission **adopted** the Draft and Draft Revised MRLs at Step 8 noting the reservations of the Delegations of Germany and the United States and the concerns of the Observer from Consumers International on the MRLs for ethephon in view of concerns regarding the acute reference dose, particularly in the case of children.

Extraneous Maximum Residue Limit for DDT

145. The Commission was unable to reach a consensus on proposals to establish the Extraneous Maximum Residue Limit (EMRL) for DDT for meat at either 3 mg/kg or 5 mg/kg as proposed by the Committee on Pesticide Residues. A majority of the Members of the Commission who expressed an opinion favoured a lower EMRL of 1 mg/kg. However, since such a limit represented a significant amendment⁵³ of the proposals of the Committee on Pesticide Residues, the Commission decided to retain the current temporary EMRL of 5 mg/kg and agreed that the proposal to lower the EMRL to 1 mg/kg should be referred to the Committee for further consideration.

Proposed Draft and Proposed Draft Residue Limits for Pesticides⁵⁴

146. The Commission **adopted** the MRL for ethephon for dried grapes at **Step 5 only**. It amended the MRL for citrus fruit to 0.5 mg/kg for pyroxyfen (200) following the decision of the Committee and **adopted** the remaining Draft and Draft Revised MRLs at Steps 5 and 8 with the omission of Steps 6 and 7.

Proposed Draft Amendments to the Codex Classification of Foods and Animal Feeds⁵⁵

147. The Commission **adopted** the Proposed Draft Amendments at Step 5 of the Accelerated Procedure as presented.

Other matters

148. The Commission noted the information regarding the document *Tobacco Company Strategies to Undermine Tobacco Control Activities of the World Health Organization, Report of the Committee of Experts on Tobacco Industry Documents* which had been commissioned by the Director-General of WHO. The report indicated that the Tobacco Industry, through a WHO Temporary Advisor who was receiving fees from the tobacco industry at that time, had attempted to influence unduly the conclusions of the 1993 JMPR on the toxicological evaluations of ethylenbisdithiocarbamates (EBDCs) and ethylthiourea (ETU). The Commission took note of the thorough review of this case by the 2000 JMPR and the 33rd Session of the Committee on Pesticide Residues (April 2001). The 2000 JMPR had concluded that the 1993 evaluations were valid. The 33rd Session of the Committee was informed that an independent review conducted since also confirmed the conclusion of the 1993 JMPR and had decided that no further action was required concerning the Codex Maximum Residue Limits for dithiocarbamates, **adopted** by the Commission at its 23rd Session (July 1999); however new data on these substances would be evaluated as they became available.

149. The Commission also noted that the 2000 JMPR had recommended a range of enhanced transparency measures on which WHO was taking action and that the Organization had already introduced revised procedures for declaration of interest.

⁵² ALINORM 01/24, Appendix II; ALINORM 01/24A, Appendix II; CAC/LIM 1 (Comments of Consumers International)

⁵³ *Guide to the Consideration of Standards at Step 8 of the Procedure for the Elaboration of Codex Standards including Consideration of Statements relating to Economic Impact*: Procedural Manual of the Codex Alimentarius Commission, 11th ed., 1999, FAO/WHO, Rome.

⁵⁴ ALINORM 01/24, Appendix III, ALINORM 01/24A, Appendix III; ALINORM 01/21, Part I-Add.3 (Comments of Germany); CAC/LIM 1 (Comments of Consumers International).

⁵⁵ ALINORM 01/24A, Appendix IV, CAC/LIM 13 (Comments of Argentina).

FOOD LABELLING⁵⁶***Draft Guidelines for the Production, Processing, Labelling and Marketing of Organically Produced Foods : 1) Livestock and Livestock Products and 2) Beekeeping and Additives***

150. The Commission **adopted** the Draft Guidelines as proposed by the Committee.

151. The Delegation of China pointed out that the section on veterinary drugs for livestock required further clarification as to the substances which were actually allowed in an organic production system and the definition of relevant limits. The Commission noted that this could be addressed as part of the regular review of the Guidelines.

Draft Amendment to the General Standard for the Labelling of Prepackaged Foods: Section 4.2.2 Labelling of Foods obtained through Certain Techniques of Genetic Modification/Genetic Engineering (Declaration of Allergens)

152. The Commission **adopted** the amendment as proposed by the Committee.

Draft Amendment to the General Standard for the Labelling of Prepackaged Foods/Draft Recommendations for the Labelling of Foods obtained through Certain Techniques of Genetic Modification/Genetic Engineering: Definitions

153. The Chairperson of the Committee recalled that there had been extensive debate on the use of the terms “modern biotechnology” and “genetically modified/engineered” and the Committee had agreed to include both definitions as a compromise, with the understanding that this did not prejudice the decision which might be taken on labelling requirements. Several delegations including that of Japan supported the recommendations of the Committee.

154. Some delegations and observers expressed the view that the reference to “modern biotechnology” should be deleted as it was not accepted by consumers. Several delegations and the Observer from Consumers International indicated that although they did not support its use for labelling purposes, they could accept its inclusion in the definitions following the compromise reached in the Committee.

155. The Observer from the Biotechnology Industry Association proposed to delete the definition of “genetically modified/engineered” which was not scientifically based and to retain only the definition of “modern biotechnology” as it was consistent with the Cartagena Protocol and the definitions under consideration by the *ad hoc* Intergovernmental Task Force on Foods Derived from Biotechnology.

156. Some delegations pointed out that the definitions should not be advanced further as the recommendations concerning labelling were still at Step 3 and a number of controversial issues remained to be solved. It was also noted that the definition of genetically modified foods currently used in the *Guidelines for the Production, Processing, Labelling and Marketing of Organically Produced Foods* was different.

157. The Commission **agreed** to return the Draft Amendment to Step 6 for further comments and consideration by the Committee on Food Labelling.

Proposed Draft Amendment to the Guidelines for the Production, Processing, Labelling and Marketing of Organically Produced Foods (Table 1: Substances Used in Soil Fertilizing and Conditioning)

158. The Commission **adopted** the Proposed Draft Amendment at Step 5 of the Accelerated Procedure.

⁵⁶ ALINORM 01/22, Appendix II; ALINORM 01/22A, Appendix II; CAC/CAC/LIM 1 (comments of Consumers International); CAC/CAC/LIM 6 (comments of China, United States), CAC/CAC/LIM 9 (ICGMA)

FISH AND FISHERY PRODUCTS⁵⁷**Draft Standard for Crackers from Marine and Freshwater Fish, Crustacean and Molluscan Shellfish**

159. The Delegation of Spain expressed the view that fish crackers should not be presented as generic products and that the species of fish used should be mentioned in the name of the food and the list of ingredients, in order to provide adequate information to consumers. The Chairperson of the Committee on Fish and Fishery Products recalled that the Committee had agreed that the crackers covered by the standard were not single ingredient products, as several fish species could be used in their preparation, the name “fish cracker” corresponded to their composition and did not mislead the consumer.

160. The Commission **adopted** the Draft Standard as proposed by the Committee.

Proposed Draft Amendment to the Standard for Sardine and Sardine Type Products

161. The Delegation of Norway as the Member responsible for appointing the Chairperson of the Committee on Fish and Fishery Products, recalled that the 21st Session of the Commission had requested that the Accelerated Procedure should generally be used for the inclusion of additional species, and especially to consider *Clupea bentincki*, as proposed by Chile. In application of its specific procedure, the Committee on Fish and Fishery Products had designated three independent laboratories and interested countries had been invited to provide samples. In view of the results, the Committee had agreed to propose the inclusion of this species in the Standard. As no consensus had been reached in the 23rd Session of the Commission, the Committee had considered this question again at its 24th Session and confirmed its earlier conclusion, considering that there were no new factors. The Commission also noted that the Committee had initiated a review of its current procedure.

162. The Delegation of Chile stressed that the procedure for the inclusion of species had been followed and that its results should be recognized; no new element had been brought forward in the last session of the Committee on Fish and Fishery Products and there was no justification for further delaying the adoption of the amendment until a new procedure was developed. The Delegation pointed out that *Clupea bentincki* was generally recognized as a sardine type product, including in the FAO classification and that objections raised to its inclusion were not based on scientific data and created unjustified barriers to trade related to economic interests; all this provided credibility for the objectives of the Commission and its standards-setting procedures.

163. The Delegation of Morocco expressed its objection to the amendment as the procedure had not been followed adequately since no samples from Morocco had been examined, and as only *Sardina pilchardus* should be presented as sardine on the market. The name of products should not be determined by their presentation, as was the case for most “sardine type” species included in the standard, and the Committee should review the current procedure before including any new species. The Delegation pointed out that unfair competition from such products seriously affected the economic interest of Morocco as an exporting country and it could not accept the inclusion of an additional species in the Standard.

164. Due to lack of time the Commission adjourned the debate on this question and no conclusion was reached.

NUTRITION AND FOODS FOR SPECIAL DIETARY USES**Guidelines for the Use of Nutrition Claims: Draft Table of Conditions for Nutrient Content (Part B)**⁵⁸

165. The Commission **adopted** the Draft Table at Step 8 as presented.

⁵⁷ ALINORM 01/18, ALINORM 01/21 Part I–Add.2 (comments of Spain)

⁵⁸ ALINORM 01/26, Appendix II; ALINORM 01/21, Part 1&Add.2 (Comments of New Zealand).

PROCESSED FRUITS AND VEGETABLES⁵⁹**Draft Revised Codex Standard for Applesauce⁶⁰**

166. The Commission **adopted** the Draft Revised Codex Standard for Applesauce at Step 8 as amended by the 29th Session of the Codex Committee on Food Labelling⁶¹. The Commission noted that the correct Spanish translation of applesauce was “puré de manzana” and therefore, it agreed to refer to “puree (puré)” throughout the Spanish text.

Draft Codex Standard for Canned Pears⁶²

167. The Commission **adopted** the Draft Codex Standard for Canned Pears at Step 8 as amended by the 29th Session of the Codex Committee on Food Labelling⁶³. A number of delegations⁶⁴ expressed their concern as regards the use of artificial colours in this product since they were not allowed in their national legislation. It was pointed out that the addition of colours could pose a health risk and had the potential to deceive consumers since their use could mask poor quality of the product.

168. The Commission noted that colours were only allowed to be used in special holiday packs for canned pears intended for selling on special festivity occasions and that the labelling provisions of the Standard took adequately care of this particular case. Moreover, these additives had been evaluated as being safe for use in foods by the Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Food Additives and was endorsed by the 33rd Session of the Codex Committee on Food Additives and Contaminants⁶⁵. It was also noted that an international standard should be flexible enough to reflect manufacturing practices in the various regions of the world.

Draft Codex Standard for Kimchi⁶⁶

169. The Commission **adopted** the Draft Codex Standard for Kimchi at Step 8 as proposed.

FRESH FRUITS AND VEGETABLES⁶⁷**Draft Codex Standard for Tannia⁶⁸****Draft Revised Codex Standard for Papaya⁶⁹****Draft Codex Standard for Cape Gooseberry⁷⁰**

170. The Commission **adopted** the Draft Codex Standards for Tannia, Papaya and Cape Gooseberry at Step 8 as proposed.

⁵⁹ CAC/LIM 13 (comments from Argentina).

⁶⁰ ALINORM 01/27 Appendix II

⁶¹ ALINORM 01-22A paras. 14-16

⁶² ALINORM 01/27 Appendix III; ALINORM 01/21 Part I-Add. 3 (Comments of the Republic of Korea; CAC/LIM-6 (Comments of China).

⁶³ ALINORM 01/22A paras. 17 and 18

⁶⁴ China, Egypt, Nigeria, Greece, Saudi Arabia, Singapore and Sudan.

⁶⁵ ALINORM 01/12A para. 42

⁶⁶ ALINORM 01/27 Appendix IV; ALINORM 01/21 Part I-Add.2 (Comments from Republic of Korea)

⁶⁷ CAC/LIM 3 (comments from the European Community); CAC/LIM 11 (comments from Thailand) and CAC/LIM 13 (comments from Argentina).

⁶⁸ ALINORM 01/35 Appendix II

⁶⁹ ALINORM 01/35 Appendix III

⁷⁰ ALINORM 01/35 Appendix V

Draft Codex Standard for Asparagus⁷¹

171. The Commission **adopted** the Draft Codex Standard for Asparagus at Step 8 with the following amendments:

- Section 2 - Minimum Requirements was amended to read “*free of damage caused by unsuitable washing **or soaking***” since the excessive soaking of asparagus might result in a fraudulent increase of weight and loss of quality due to the absorption of excess water.
- Section 3.2 Sizing by Diameter was amended to refer to one single point of measurement for the diameter of asparagus by stating that “*The diameter of the shoots shall be measured 2.5 cm from the cut end*” since the coexistence of two different ways of measuring the diameter of asparagus could cause confusion in international trade.

Draft Minimum Juice Content for the Codex Standard for Limes⁷²

172. The Commission **adopted** the Draft Minimum Juice Content for the Draft Codex Standard for Limes at Step 8 as proposed.

NATURAL MINERAL WATER AND RELATED PRODUCTS***Amendment to the Codex Standard for Natural Mineral Waters (CODEX STAN 108-1981, Rev. 1 1997)-Health Related Limits for Certain Substances***⁷³

173. The Delegation of China informed the Commission that many natural mineral waters present in several regions of China were naturally rich in Selenium in a range of concentrations from 0.01 mg/l to 0.05 mg/l and that Selenium was an essential nutrient to human life, whose upper level is 0.4 mg/l per day for an adult. While recognizing the WHO Guidelines on Drinking Water on Health Related Limits, the Delegation of China expressed its reservation on the proposed level of Selenium of 0.01 mg/l proposed in the Draft Standard.

174. Noting the concern expressed by China, the Commission **adopted** the amendment at Step 8.

Proposed Draft General Standard for Bottled/Packaged Drinking Waters (Other than Natural Mineral Waters)⁷⁴

175. The Delegation of India expressed concern that there was a lack of clarity on technical matters regarding several sections on definitions, permissible treatments, and additions of minerals to Bottled/Packaged Drinking Waters. It also questioned the coherence of the draft standard with definitions in the Draft Code of Hygienic Practice for Bottled/Packaged Waters (Other Than Natural Mineral Waters).

176. The Commission **adopted** the Draft Standard at Step 5 and 8 by omitting Step 6 and 7. The Delegation of India expressed its reservation on this decision.

COCOA PRODUCTS AND CHOCOLATE***Draft Revised Codex Standard for Cocoa Butter***⁷⁵

177. The Commission agreed to exclude the use of hexane as a processing aid in press cocoa butter as this was inconsistent with normal practice. Noting its earlier decision concerning the level of lead in Cocoa Butter (see paras. 119-120), the Commission **adopted** the Draft Standard at Step 8 as amended.

⁷¹ ALINORM 01/35 Appendix IV

⁷² ALINORM 01/35 App. VI

⁷³ ALINORM 01/20, Appendix III; comments submitted in response to CL 2000/45-NMW from China (CAC/LIM 6).

⁷⁴ ALINORM 01/20, Appendix II; comments submitted in response to CL 2000/45-NMW from India (CAC/LIM 11).

⁷⁵ ALINORM 01/14, Appendix II; comments submitted in response to CL 2000/46-CPC from Brazil, Malaysia, Poland, Portugal, Spain, USA (ALINORM 01/21 Part I Add. 2), Malaysia and CAOBISCO (ALINORM 01/21 Part I Add. 3), India (CAC/LIM-11) and the European Cocoa Association (CAC/LIM-9).

Draft Revised Codex Standard for Cocoa (Cacao) Mass (cocoa/chocolate liquor) and Cocoa Cake⁷⁶

178. The Commission agreed to amend Section 3.2 fixing the Cocoa Shell and Germ content to “not more than 4.5% calculated on an alkali free basis” on the basis of comments presented by the Chairperson of the Committee. The Commission also amended Section 8.3 by aligning the method for the determination of lead to the method recommended in other Codex standards for cocoa products that is to say “According to AOAC 934.07”.

179. For consistency with the decision taken on the level of lead in Cocoa butter (See paras. 119-120), the Commission agreed that there was a need for reliable scientific data from Governments and other interested organizations in order to justify any lower level than 2 mg/kg.

180. The Commission **adopted** the Draft Standard at Step 8 as amended.

Draft Revised Codex Standard for Cocoa Powders (Cocoas) and Dry Mixtures of Cocoa and Sugars⁷⁷

181. The Observer of IOCCC underlined the need for clarification on levels of additives regarding the nature of final products. The Commission recalled that the Committee on Cocoa Products and Chocolate tried to establish a distinction between products that were intended for further use and those sold to the consumer directly. The Commission agreed to insert an additional mention to “final cocoa products” in enlarging provisions for the use of additives to all cases present in international food trade.

182. Consistency with the decision taken on the level of lead in Cocoa Butter (See paras. 119-120 above), the Commission agreed that there was also a need for getting reliable scientific data from Governments and other interested organizations in order to justify any lower level than 2 mg/kg in cocoa powders and dry mixtures of cocoa and sugars.

183. The Commission **adopted** the Draft Standard at Step 8 as amended.

FOOD IMPORT AND EXPORT INSPECTION AND CERTIFICATION SYSTEMS***Draft Guidelines for Generic Official Certificate Formats and the Production and Issuance of Certificates***⁷⁸

184. The Commission **adopted** the draft Guidelines as proposed.

Proposed Draft Guidelines on the Judgement of Equivalence of Sanitary Measures Associated with Food Inspection and Certification Systems⁷⁹

185. The Commission noted that the intention of the Guidelines was to assist countries, and especially developing countries, in the application of provisions concerning equivalence in the WTO SPS Agreement, insofar as food import and export inspection and certifications systems were concerned. The Executive Committee had accorded high priority to this work. The Delegation of Argentina initiated the debate by expressing its reservations concerning the procedure followed to advance the Guideline as well as to the current content of the text, detailed corrections concerning which were contained in the comments provided in CAC/LIM-13. It stated that for these reasons, Argentina opposed the adoption of the Guidelines at Step 8. The representative of the WTO noted that one of the concerns raised by developing countries in the SPS Committee was the difficulties faced in having the equivalence of their exported products recognized in terms of health protection, and they have stressed the need for clear guidance in this area. It was noted that such guidance was urgently needed to expand developing country export markets.

⁷⁶ ALINORM 01/14, Appendix III; comments submitted in response to CL 2000/46-CPC from Brazil, Malaysia, Poland, Portugal, Spain, USA, CAOBISCO (ALINORM 01/21 Part I Add. 3) and the European Cocoa Association (CAC/LIM-9).

⁷⁷ ALINORM 01/14, Appendix IV; comments submitted in response to CL 2000/46-CPC from Brazil, Malaysia, Poland, Portugal, Spain, USA, CAOBISCO (ALINORM 01/21 Part I Add. 3) and the European Cocoa Association (CAC/LIM-9)

⁷⁸ ALINORM 01/30A, Appendix II

⁷⁹ ALINORM 01/30A, Appendix III

186. Several delegations were of the view that more time was needed to scrutinize the document in detail through consultation with governments and other interested parties and therefore, suggested that the Guidelines be adopted at Step 5 only. It was also suggested that the document should be considered in parallel with the CCFICS Guidelines on the Judgement of Technical Regulations Associated with Food Inspection and Certification Systems. It was noted that further consideration was required in the Scope section as well as in the definition for the equivalence of sanitary measures. Discrepancies between the English and Spanish/French versions were also noted.

187. In view of the above concerns, the Commission **adopted** the Guidelines at **Step 5 only** so that they could be further considered by the CCFICS.

188. The Observer from Consumers International recommended that to facilitate consensus on the Guidelines, the Committee on Food Import and Export Inspection and Certification Systems should hold a workshop to agree on what types of information was to be reviewed towards the making of a judgement of equivalence.

STREET FOODS⁸⁰

Draft Revised (Regional) Code of Hygienic Practice for the Preparation and Sale of Street Foods⁸¹

189. The Commission adopted the Draft Revised Code of Hygienic Practice for the Preparation and Sale of Street Foods at Step 8 as proposed by the FAO/WHO Regional Coordinating Committee for Latin America and the Caribbean.

SOUPS AND BROTHS⁸²

Draft Revised Codex Standard for Bouillons and Consommés⁸³

190. The Commission **adopted** the Draft Revised Codex Standard for Bouillons and Consommés at Step 8 as proposed. The Delegation of Mexico expressed its reservation in stating that not all of its written comments had been taken into account.

VEGETABLE PROTEINS

Draft Codex Standard for Wheat Protein products Including Wheat Gluten⁸⁴

191. The Delegation of Canada recalled that, as initially proposed by the Observer from the European Starch Industry (AAC) and as approved by the Commission, the standard had been revised by correspondence on the basis of the comments received.

192. The Commission discussed section 8.2 *Instructions for Use* which does not allow the use of wheat gluten for technological reasons for foods which are gluten-free by nature. Several delegations and the Observer from AAC pointed out that allergenicity and intolerance were adequately addressed by the provisions of the amended General Standard for the Labelling of Prepackaged Foods, but that such prohibition was not justified in a standard for a particular product. It was noted that the issues related to the presence of allergens could be further considered from a general perspective if required.

193. Several delegations and observers including the Observer from Association of European Coeliac Societies (AOECS) pointed out that labelling in such cases was not a satisfactory instrument and supported the inclusion of this provision in view of the limited availability of gluten-free foods for coeliacs, which would be further reduced by the use of gluten as coatings or processing aids. The Observer from the AOECS expressed concern at the use of wheat gluten and wheat protein products because this restricted the choice of gluten-free foods available to coeliacs. The Observer urgently requested that food gluten-free by nature be kept gluten-free.

⁸⁰ ALINORM 01/21 Part I-Add. 3 (Comments of Cuba).

⁸¹ ALINORM 01/36 Appendix II

⁸² ALINORM 01/21 Part I-Add. 3 (Comments of Poland and Thailand) and CAC/LIM-13 (comments of Argentina).

⁸³ ALINORM 01/29A Appendix I

⁸⁴ ALINORM 01/37A, Annex 1; ALINORM 01/21 Part 1-Add.3; CAC/LIM-3.

194. The Commission agreed that wheat gluten and wheat protein products should not be used when it was not possible to inform the consumer of their presence through adequate labelling; however, this should not prevent the use of these products as ingredients in composite prepackaged foods when they could be declared in the labelling. The Commission agreed to transfer the third sentence of the *Instructions for Use* to the *Scope* with a footnote to the effect that “This does not preclude the use of these products as ingredients in composite prepackaged foods provided that they are properly labelled as ingredients”.

195. The Commission noted the reservations of the Delegations of the United States and Uganda on this section and **adopted** the Standard at Step 8.

METHODS OF ANALYSIS AND SAMPLING⁸⁵

Harmonized IUPAC Guidelines for the Use of Recovery Information in Analytical Measurement

196. The Commission **adopted** the IUPAC guidelines by reference for the purposes of Codex.

General Codex Methods for the Detection of Irradiated Foods

197. The Delegation of Hungary recalled that the Committee had considered five methods proposed by the EC in relation to the provisions of the General Standard for the Labelling of Prepackaged Foods concerning irradiated foods.

198. The Committee noted the written comments of the Chair of ICGFI expressing concern at the procedure followed for the endorsement of these methods, the lack of international validation and the potential barriers to trade that would result for developing countries. The Secretariat confirmed that under its Terms of Reference, the Committee could consider general methods of analysis without referring them to other Codex committees and recalled that the adoption of these methods in Codex had been supported by the Representative of FAO/IAEA in the Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling.

199. The Delegation of Brazil expressed its concern that the methods proposed would not be easily applicable in developing countries and might therefore create problems in trade. The Observer from the EC pointed out that the five CEN methods had been validated at the international level, as appeared from the comprehensive bibliography provided in CAC/LIM 7. The Commission also noted that the FAO/IAEA Joint Division on Nuclear Techniques in Agriculture had participated in the initial development of these methods.

200. The Commission **adopted** the five methods proposed as general Codex methods and encouraged the Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling to give further consideration to validated methods that would be suitable for use in developing countries.

General Codex Methods for Contaminants

201. The Commission **adopted** the General Methods.

FATS AND OILS⁸⁶

Proposed Draft Amendments to the Standard for Named Vegetable Oils

202. The Commission **adopted** the Proposed Draft Amendments as proposed by the Committee.

Proposed Draft Amendments to the Code of Practice for the Transport of Edible Fats and Oils in Bulk (List of Acceptable Previous Cargoes and List of Immediate Previous Banned Cargoes)

203. The Delegation of the United States, supported by another delegation, expressed the view that the list of acceptable cargoes should not be adopted at Step 8 as it had not been developed on the basis of clearly defined criteria and supporting documentation. The Committee should therefore define criteria and procedures for the evaluation of the substances to be included as acceptable previous cargoes. The Commission also noted that a number of written comments proposing amendments to the List had been submitted.

⁸⁵ ALINORM 01/23, CAC/CAC/LIM 6 (Comments of ICGFI), CAC/CAC/LIM 7 (bibliography)

⁸⁶ ALINORM 01/17; ALINORM 01/21/Part 1– Add 2 (Comments of Canada, Poland) and Add. 3 (Malaysia); CAC/LIM 4 (Comments of Brazil), CAC/LIM-9 (Comments of ICGMA).

204. The Commission **adopted** the Proposed Draft List of Acceptable Previous Cargoes at **Step 5 only** in order to allow for further comments at Step 6 and consideration of the issues raised.

205. As there was consensus on the Proposed Draft List of Banned Immediate Previous Cargoes, the Commission **adopted** it at Step 8 with the omission of Steps 6 and 7, as proposed by the Committee.

Texts Proposed for Revocation

Residue Limits for Pesticides⁸⁷

206. The Commission **revoked** obsolete MRLs as proposed.

Vinegar

207. The Commission **revoked** the European Regional Standard for Vinegar on the advice of the Regional Coordinating Committee for Europe.⁸⁸

MATTERS ARISING FROM REPORTS OF CODEX COMMITTEES AND TASK FORCES (AGENDA ITEM 11)

Codex *ad hoc* Intergovernmental Task Force on Foods Derived from Biotechnology

Preliminary Report of the Ad Hoc Intergovernmental Task Force on Foods Derived from Biotechnology⁸⁹

208. The Chairperson of the Task Force (Dr Hiroshi Yoshikura, Japan) presented the Preliminary Report of the Task Force in accordance with the time frame set out in the Task Force's terms of reference. He called upon the Commission to consider adopting the "Proposed Draft Principles for the Risk Analysis of Foods Derived from Modern Biotechnology" and the "Proposed Draft Guideline for the Conduct of Food Safety Assessment of Foods Derived from Recombinant-DNA Plants" at Step 5 and to approve new work on the elaboration of the "Proposed Draft Guideline for the Conduct of Food Safety Assessment of Recombinant-DNA Microorganisms".

209. The Commission commended the work of the Task Force. It noted the Preliminary Report and **adopted** the two draft texts at Step 5, and advanced them to Step 6. The Commission approved the new work on microorganisms.

Codex *ad hoc* Intergovernmental Task Force on Animal Feeding⁹⁰

210. The Delegation of Denmark presented the Interim Report of the Task Force as required under the Task Force's Terms of Reference on behalf of its Chairperson, Mr Mogens Larsen. The Commission was informed that a final Draft Code would be proposed for adoption at its next session. The Commission noted the results of the work undertaken by the Task Force on Animal Feeding in developing a Draft Code of Practice on Good Animal Feeding.

211. The Commission thanked the Delegation of Denmark and endorsed the interim report. The Commission also decided to circulate the Interim Report to Member countries and Observers.

⁸⁷ ALINORM 01/24, Appendix VI; ALINORM 01/24A, Appendix VI; CAC/LIM 13 (Comments of Argentina).

⁸⁸ CODEX STAN 162-1987; ALINORM 01/19, para. 44.

⁸⁹ ALINORM 01/34A, Appendix V

⁹⁰ ALINORM 01/38; ALINORM 01/38A ; CAC/LIM 14

DESIGNATION OF HOST GOVERNMENTS CODEX COMMITTEES AND *AD HOC* TASK FORCES (AGENDA 12A)⁹¹

212. In accordance with the rule IX.10 of the Rules of Procedures, the Commission confirmed the chairmanship of the Codex Committees and the task forces hosted by Member governments as listed in Appendix VI.

213. The Commission agreed to the abolition of the Committee on Soups and Broths as suggested by the Host Government, Switzerland.

214. The Commission also agreed to adjourn *sine die* the Codex Committee on Natural Mineral Waters, as suggested by the Host Government, Switzerland in accordance with the decision of the Committee at its last session, and recognized that any future concern could be still addressed by correspondence if deemed necessary.

215. The Commission decided to reactivate the Codex Committee on Meat Hygiene and agreed to rename it as Codex Committee on Meat and Poultry Hygiene, following earlier discussion (See para. 9, above). The Commission confirmed that New Zealand would be the Host Government of this Committee.

OTHER BUSINESS AND FUTURE WORK (AGENDA ITEM 13)

Future Work

216. The Commission was unable to complete its review of Proposed Draft Standards submitted to it for consideration at Step 5, matters referred to it by Codex Committees, and proposals for the elaboration of new standards and related texts. It requested the Directors-General to convene an extraordinary session of the Executive Committee at an early date to consider these matters on its behalf, so that progress at Committee level would not be impeded.

AVE ATQUE VALE

217. The Commission noted the retirement of Mr. John Race (Norway), former Vice-Chairperson of the Commission and former Chairperson of the Codex Committee on Fish and Fishery Products, after 30 years of contribution to the work of the Codex Alimentarius. The Commission expressed its sincere appreciation for the work and devotion of Mr. Race to the goals of the Codex Alimentarius and wished him good health and long life in the years to come.

⁹¹ ALINORM 01/16 Part I

APPENDIX I

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CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK

STRATEGIC VISION STATEMENT

The Codex Alimentarius Commission envisages a world afforded the highest attainable levels of consumer protection, including food safety and quality. To this end, the Commission will develop internationally agreed standards and related texts for use in domestic regulation and international trade in food that are based on scientific principles and fulfil the objectives of consumer health protection and fair practices in food trade.

INTRODUCTION

1. This document sets out the strategic priorities for the Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC) and provides the basis for the elaboration of the Medium Term Plan for the period 2003-2007. The strategic vision and goals for Codex underpin the high priority attached to food safety by its parent organizations, the FAO and the WHO. The FAO Strategic framework for 2000-2015 accords high priority to promoting policy and regulatory frameworks for food at the international and national levels. Similarly the 53rd Session of the World Health Assembly recognized the need to highlight health considerations in international food trade and acknowledged the importance of the CAC for assuring the highest levels of consumer health protection. The resolution also urged WHO to work towards integrating food safety as one of its essential public health functions with the goal of developing sustainable, integrated food safety systems for the reduction of health risk along the entire food chain. The fundamental mandate of the CAC is to develop international standards and norms for consumer health protection and fair practices in the food trade.
2. The CAC has always operated in an environment of change and technological advancement. The growth in world food trade, advances in modern communication and increasing mobility of populations are all contributing to elevating the profile and significance of food safety and regulation. There is growing international concern related to a perceived emergence/increase in food-borne diseases. Consumers around the world are becoming more aware than ever about food safety issues and are seeking ever-greater assurances about the safety and quality of foods they eat. Innovation and the development of new processes (including modern biotechnology) are leading to the development of new products with specific medical, nutritional and functional attributes. In its endeavour to promote food safety and quality, the CAC needs to consider opportunities for strengthening partnerships with all stakeholders, in particular consumers and their representative organizations, at the global and national levels. A further development is the growing interest in organic foods, which are likely to capture a significant share of the international market in the future. It is also likely that developing countries will account for an increasing proportion of global food and agricultural trade. These developments, while exciting, also present new challenges (both safety and non safety) for the CAC and national governments.
3. The new recognition and status that Codex standards, guidelines and other recommendations acquired under the WTO Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (the SPS Agreement) also brought new challenges and responsibilities including the need to ensure that its standards and related texts are based on scientific principles and meet the needs and mandate of the organization. The WTO Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade is also of great relevance given the significance of the provisions pertaining to product description, labelling, packaging and quality descriptors for consumer information and fair practices in trade.

Although quality provisions are fundamentally driven by the market, the CAC has an important role in ensuring that provisions relating to quality are sound and based on the criteria of essentiality and do not constitute disguised barriers to trade.

4. These developments have generated renewed interest in the work of the CAC and have resulted in a substantial growth in membership of the organization with developing countries now accounting for a majority of total membership. Given the importance that the WTO attaches to international harmonization, there is now an even greater imperative for CAC and its members to ensure that the Organization maintains its pre-eminent status as the internationally recognized body for food standards and its norms are applied to the widest extent possible by all members as a basis for domestic regulation and international trade.

DECISION-MAKING BASED ON SCIENTIFIC EVIDENCE

5. The scientific basis of decision-making by the CAC is spelt out in the Statements of Principle on the Role of Science in the Codex Decision-Making and the Extent to which Other Factors are Taken into Account⁹². The CAC does not undertake scientific evaluations *per se* but relies on the opinions of scientific expert Committees or Consultations convened by FAO and WHO on specific issues. These expert bodies such as the Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committees on Food Additives, the Joint FAO/WHO Meetings on Pesticide Residues and the Joint FAO/WHO Expert Meeting on Microbiological Risk Assessments are independent of the CAC and its subsidiary bodies and do not fall within the scope of the present Strategic Framework. The mandates, functions, composition and agendas of these bodies are established by FAO and WHO. Although the independence of the expert bodies is critical to the objectivity of their opinions, meetings of these bodies normally take into account the advice of the CAC as indicated in Article 1 of the Commission's Statutes. There is considerable synergy between the scientific panels of FAO and WHO and the intergovernmental bodies of the CAC in order to take decisions based on scientific evidence.

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES AND PRIORITIES

6. The fundamental objective of the Codex Alimentarius Commission is to establish sound internationally agreed guidelines for national food control systems based on the criteria of consumer health protection and fair practices in trade and taking into account the needs and special concerns of all countries. All of the objectives listed below are considered to be equally important to the overall achievement of the strategic vision.

Objective 1: Promoting Sound Regulatory Framework

7. In many countries, effective food control is undermined by the existence of fragmented legislation, multiple jurisdictions and weaknesses in surveillance, monitoring and enforcement. Sound national food control and regulatory systems are essential to assuring the health and safety of domestic population as well as assuring the safety and quality of foods entering international trade. While the establishment of regulatory framework is fundamentally a national responsibility, the CAC and its parent bodies, the FAO and WHO, have a strong interest in promoting national regulatory systems that are based on international principles and guidelines and address all components of the food chain. The development of sound food control and regulatory infrastructure including human resources is particularly important for developing countries as they seek to achieve higher levels of food safety and nutrition and will require high level political and policy commitment as highlighted in the report of the 1999 Melbourne Conference on International Food Trade Beyond 2000.⁹³ An effective food control system is critical in enabling all countries to assure the safety of their foods entering international trade

⁹² Codex Alimentarius Commission, Procedural Manual, Eleventh Edition, p.180.

⁹³ Report of the Conference on International Food Trade beyond 2000: Science based Decisions, Harmonization, Equivalence and Mutual Recognition, Melbourne, Australia, 11-15 October, 1999, Appendix 1, p.29.

and to ensure that imported foods conform to national requirements. Successful negotiation of bilateral mutual recognition and/or equivalence also depends on the ability of countries to assure each other of the integrity of national regulatory systems.

8. The priorities for the CAC in the development of international standards and related texts will be to:
 - provide essential guidance for member countries through the continued development of international standards and guidelines relating to food safety and hygiene, nutrition, labelling and import/export inspection and certification systems and for the practical application of the concepts of equivalence and mutual recognition ; and
 - promote the development of national food control systems based on international principles and criteria for the reduction of health risk along the entire food chain.

Objective 2: Promoting Widest and Consistent Application of Scientific Principles and Risk Analysis

9. The CAC will promote and further strengthen its capacity to include health considerations in its standards and guidelines through the widest possible application of risk analysis based on Codex principles. Risk analysis as it applies to food, is an emerging discipline and will require ongoing and sustained inputs from the Commission, its parent organizations and national governments to promote conceptual development and application at the international and national levels. Risk Communication will be vital to this process. The early implementation of the CAC Action Plan on Risk Analysis by the Commission and member governments is essential to:
 - promoting the consistent application of risk analysis principles throughout all of the work of Codex system;
 - achieve strengthened international capacity for risk assessment including those related to microbiological hazards and dealing with emerging pathogens;
 - improving understanding of risk analysis concepts, principles and application at the national level especially for developing countries through targeted technical assistance and cooperation,
 - promoting greater transparency of the whole risk analysis process;
 - improving understanding of how precaution and scientific uncertainty are factored and taken into account in the risk analysis process;
 - strengthening risk communication; and
 - promoting the collection of data from developing countries and from all regions of the world so that the risk analysis is based on global conditions and requirements.
10. The CAC will also need to accord high priority to ongoing development of concepts and principles and the establishment of sound working principles for the application of risk analysis both at international and national levels. It should also promote better understanding of risk analysis through technical assistance programmes. A strengthened expert scientific evaluation structure for addressing chemical, microbiological hazards and emerging pathogens will also be critical to support and underpin the Codex standards development processes.
11. Consistent with the Statements of Principle, adopted by CAC in 1995, the Commission will need to have due regard, where appropriate, to other legitimate factors relevant to health protection of consumers and for the promotion of fair practices in food trade when developing standards and guidelines. International consensus on the scope and application of other legitimate factors in Codex decision making will be essential for their sound and consistent application right across the Codex system.

Objective 3: Promoting Linkages/ between Codex and other Multilateral Regulatory Instruments and Conventions

12. The CAC does not and cannot operate in isolation. It needs to work closely with other relevant international standards setting and regulatory bodies to promote close cooperation and dialogue on matters of common interest. As the WTO-recognized international body for establishing food safety standards the Commission has a clear obligation to establish international food standards for the protection of consumers' health and ensuring fair practices in food trade, and these standards may be used by Member countries in both domestic regulation and international trade. At the same time the Commission needs to interact closely with related international bodies. and take due account of international regulatory initiatives and developments thereby promoting coordination of all food standards work undertaken by international governmental and non-governmental organizations. Such cooperation is also important to minimize duplication of effort. Food safety and issues such as biotechnology are of global interest and are the subjects of debate and discussion in a number of multilateral institutions. The CAC has, by virtue of its lead role in international food standards, a strategic interest in working closely with relevant multilateral institutions and conventions to provide its technical input and expertise and contribute to building international consensus on contemporary food standards and regulatory policy matters.

Objective 4: Enhance Capacity to Respond Effectively and Expeditiously to New Issues, Concerns and Developments in the Food Sector

13. With the rapid development of technology and emergence of food safety as a major issue of public policy, there is a need to enhance the capacity of Codex to respond to members' needs in a way that maintains confidence in its ability as the international organization for food standards. There are a number of important considerations in this context. A major issue for Codex is the length of time it takes to establish standards. Codex processes are too protracted and are not responsive to current expectations and public policy imperatives. Governments around the world are having to grapple with significant regulatory challenges and Codex, as the global food standards setting body, needs to be able to respond effectively and expeditiously through the development of internationally harmonized solutions to food safety and international trade matters. A refocusing of the manner in which the Commission and its subsidiary bodies produce outcomes must be a strategic priority. The key functions of a refocused Commission would be to:
 - provide strategic oversight, direction and cross coordination of the work programmes of all subsidiary bodies;
 - initiate new work and adopt standards and related texts against defined time frames;
 - provide a forum for discussion of selected contemporary food safety and regulatory policy issues;
 - make appropriate use of information technologies; and
 - promote consensus-based decision-making.
14. At the subsidiary body level, major improvements can be achieved through the establishment of time-limited procedures and through a review of the current step procedure. Timely development of standards will also require improved alignment of the timing and frequency of meetings of commodity and general subject committees.
15. As noted in the introductory sections, the parent bodies of the Commission accord high priority to food safety and international standards development programmes. Host governments also provide significant financial support. Ultimately, however, the ability of Codex to fulfil its mandate and respond to the growing needs and expectations of its members will depend on the availability of additional resources. Codex meetings and related activities already represent a heavy workload and further intensification of work will require additional financial and human resources.

Objective 5: Promoting Maximum Membership and Participation

16. Full participation by all Codex Members and other interested parties in the work of the CAC and its subsidiary bodies is now more important than ever. The participation of all members and relevant intergovernmental and non governmental organizations is critical to sound decision-making and ensuring that Codex standards and related texts take account of the full range of interest and viewpoints. Since the early nineties there has been a significant increase in the membership of Codex with developing countries now constituting a significant proportion of total membership. Notwithstanding this growth in membership many countries are still faced with serious financial and human resource constraints to effective participation in Codex activities. Achieving the objective of maximum participation will require specific and ongoing action to address the following:
- **Resource constraints-** Early action is required to facilitate the effective participation of developing countries in Codex standards development activities, including financial assistance from extrabudgetary resources where possible;
 - **Capacity building** -There is a continuing need to invest in capacity building programmes, especially in developing countries aimed at strengthening national Codex administrative and consultative structures (e.g., Codex Contact Point and National Codex Committee) and provide for enhancing national capacity for technical analysis and participation in international standards development activities by all interest groups. This requires bilateral or multilateral technical assistance and should include training.
17. In addition to actions to promote participation of member countries, the CAC also needs to continue its efforts to promote and facilitate the participation of consumers and public interest groups in its processes at the international level and encourage governments to take action at the national level. Given the strong public interest in food safety and regulatory issues, the involvement and input of consumers and non governmental groups at the international and national levels is essential to build public confidence in international standards and assure the strong public input, acceptance and support for Codex standards, guidelines and recommendations as a basis for domestic regulation and trade.

Objective 6: Promoting Maximum Application of Codex Standards

18. As the pre-eminent international standards setting body for food, the CAC has a clear and strategic interest in promoting the maximum use of its standards both for domestic regulation and international trade. International harmonization based on Codex standards, guidelines and recommendations is essential to promoting a global approach to consumer health protection (including systems for the reduction of food-borne risks) and minimizing the negative effects of technical regulations on international trade. This will require sustained commitment and effort in the following key directions:
- The Statements of Principle on the Role of Science in the Codex Decision-Making and the Extent to which Other Factors are Taken into Account⁹⁴ which provide the essential criteria for decision making in Codex, will require strong support and commitment by all countries if the statements are to become operationally effective both at international and national levels;
 - Codex must continue to promote the application of sound science and the principles of risk analysis on a consistent basis throughout its work as envisaged in the Commission's *Action Plan on Risk Analysis*⁹⁵;
 - Codex processes must be inclusive and transparent and provide for participation and input from all interested groups both at the national and international level. This is particularly

⁹⁴ Codex Alimentarius Commission, Procedural Manual, Eleventh Edition, p.180.

⁹⁵ Codex Alimentarius Commission, Report of 23rd session, Rome, 28 June-3 July 1999, p.10-11.

important given the interest and concern among Codex members to assure that Codex processes take due account of scientific uncertainties and the element of precaution. Transparency of the criteria and process of risk assessment and decision making will be paramount to achieving this objective;

- The Commission must complete the strategic shift, first signaled at the 1991 FAO/WHO International Conference on Food Standards, Chemicals in Food and Food Trade, towards performance-based standards and guidelines for broad application across a range of commodities and focus on provisions essential for health protection of consumers and for the promotion of fair practices in food trade;
- Codex must ensure that its standards and guidelines reflect the needs and special concerns of the developing world without compromising on the health of consumers;
- Codex decisions should be based on consensus to the maximum extent possible;
- The Codex Alimentarius Commission, whilst acknowledging that food safety standards cannot be compromised, should, when elaborating and deciding upon Codex standards and any related texts, take into consideration the special needs of developing countries including infrastructure, resources, technical and legal capabilities. Codex standards and related texts should not have the effect of creating unnecessary, unjustified or discriminatory obstacles to the exports of developing countries; and
- Codex standards for food quality and safety, including labelling aspects, should be carefully prepared to ensure that they are not over-prescriptive and not more restrictive than necessary.

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE STRATEGIC VISION AND OBJECTIVES

19. The strategic objectives described in this document will require a plan of action and implementation strategy. These matters will be addressed within the framework of the Medium Term Plan for 2003-2007.

APPENDIX III

AMENDMENTS TO THE PROCEDURAL MANUAL

**AMENDMENT TO THE GUIDELINES FOR THE INCLUSION OF SPECIFIC PROVISIONS IN
CODEX STANDARDS AND RELATED TEXTS****Principles for the Establishment of Codex Methods of Analysis**

Add the following new subsection at the end of *General Criteria for the Selection of Methods of Analysis*:

a) General Criteria for the Selection of Methods of Analysis using the Criteria Approach

In the case of Codex Type III methods, method criteria may be identified and values quantified for incorporation into the appropriate Codex commodity standard. Method criteria which are developed will include the criteria in section Methods of Analysis, paragraph (c) above together with other appropriate criteria, e.g., recovery factors.

**AMENDMENT TO THE RELATIONS BETWEEN COMMODITY COMMITTEES AND GENERAL
COMMITTEES - METHODS OF ANALYSIS AND SAMPLING**

Add the following new paragraphs at the end of the section “*Normal Practice*”:

The Codex Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling will assess the actual analytical performance of the method which has been determined in its validation. This will take account of the appropriate precision characteristics obtained in collaborative trials which may have been carried out on the method together with results from other development work carried out during the course of the method development. The set of criteria that are developed will form part of the report of the endorsement by the Codex Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling and will be inserted in the appropriate Codex Commodity Standard.

In addition, the Codex Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling will identify numeric values for the criteria for which it would wish such methods to comply.

**AMENDMENT TO SECTION III OF THE PROCEDURAL MANUAL:
SUBSIDIARY BODIES UNDER RULE IX.1 (b)(i)**

Amendment to the Terms of Reference of the Codex Committee on Food Hygiene:

Add the following new Terms of Reference:

- (f) to suggest and prioritize areas where there is a need for microbiological risk assessment at the international level and to develop questions to be addressed by the risk assessors;
- (g) to consider microbiological risk management matters in relation to food hygiene and in relation to the risk assessment of FAO and WHO.

**AMENDMENT TO THE STATEMENTS OF PRINCIPLE ON THE ROLE OF SCIENCE IN THE
CODEX DECISION-MAKING PROCESS AND THE EXTENT TO WHICH OTHER FACTORS ARE
TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT**

Add the following text immediately following the Fourth Statement of Principle:

**Criteria for the Consideration of the Other Factors Referred to in the Second Statement
of Principle**

- when health and safety matters are concerned, the Statements of Principle Concerning the Role of Science and the Statements of Principle Relating to the Role of Food Safety Risk Assessment should be followed;
- other legitimate factors relevant for health protection and fair trade practices may be identified in the risk management process, and risk managers should indicate how these factors affect the selection of risk management options and the development of standards, guidelines and related texts;
- consideration of other factors should not affect the scientific basis of risk analysis; in this process, the separation between risk assessment and risk management should be respected, in order to ensure the scientific integrity of the risk assessment;
- it should be recognized that some legitimate concerns of governments when establishing their national legislation are not generally applicable or relevant world-wide;⁹⁶
- only those other factors which can be accepted on a world-wide basis, or on a regional basis in the case of regional standards and related texts, should be taken into account in the framework of Codex;
- the consideration of specific other factors in the development of risk management recommendations of the Codex Alimentarius Commission and its subsidiary bodies should be clearly documented, including the rationale for their integration, on a case-by-case basis;
- the feasibility of risk management options due to the nature and particular constraints of the production or processing methods, transport and storage, especially in developing countries, may be considered; concerns related to economic interests and trade issues in general should be substantiated by quantifiable data;
- the integration of other legitimate factors in risk management should not create unjustified barriers to trade⁹⁷; particular attention should be given to the impact on developing countries of the inclusion of such other factors.

⁹⁶ Confusion should be avoided between justification of national measures under the SPS and TBT Agreements and their validity at the international level.

⁹⁷ According to the WTO principles, and taking into account the particular provisions of the SPS and TBT Agreements.

APPENDIX IV

**LIST OF STANDARDS AND RELATED TEXTS ADOPTED OR REVOKED BY THE
TWENTY-FOURTH SESSION OF THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION**

Part 1. Standards and Related Texts Adopted as Final Texts

STANDARD AND RELATED TEXTS	REFERENCE	STATUS
Draft Code of Hygienic Practice for Bottled/Packaged Drinking Waters (Other than Natural Mineral Waters)	ALINORM 01/13, Appendix II	Adopted
Draft Code of Hygienic Practice for the Transport of Food in Bulk and Semi-Packed Food	ALINORM 01/13, Appendix III	Adopted with amendments (see para 101)
Draft Revised Standard for Honey ⁹⁸	ALINORM 01/25, Appendix II	Adopted with amendments (see para 102)
Draft Group Standard for Unripened Cheese Including Fresh Cheese	ALINORM 01/11, Appendix II	Adopted with modification (Pimaricin Temporary Endorsed) (see paras 106-107)
Codex General Standard for Food Additives: Draft Guidelines for the Development of Maximum Levels for the Use of Food Additives with Numerical Acceptable Daily Intakes (Annex A)	ALINORM 01/12, Appendix II	Adopted
Codex General Standard for Food Additives: Draft Additions to Table 1	ALINORM 01/12, Appendix III	Adopted with amendments (see paras 112-115)
Codex General Standard for Food Additives: Draft Additions to Table 1	ALINORM 01/12A, Appendix II	Adopted
Draft Maximum Levels for Lead	ALINORM 01/12, Appendix XI	Adopted with amendments, ML for vegetable oils does not apply to cocoa butter (see paras 119-120)
Draft Amendments to the Codex International Numbering System for Food Additives	ALINORM 01/12A, Appendix IX	Adopted
Draft Maximum Level for Aflatoxin M ₁ in Milk	ALINORM 01/12A, Appendix X	Adopted
Draft Code of Practice for Source Directed Measures to Reduce Contamination of Foods with Chemicals	ALINORM 01/12A, Appendix XIII	Adopted with amendments (see para 130)
Draft Maximum Level for Lead in Fruit Juices	ALINORM 01/12A, Appendix XIV	Adopted

⁹⁸ Revised text: Existing text to be revoked.

STANDARD AND RELATED TEXTS	REFERENCE	STATUS
Draft Guideline Level for Cadmium in Cereals, Pulses and Legumes	ALINORM 01/12A, Appendix XV	Adopted as maximum levels
Draft Revision of the Codex Standard for Food Grade Salt: Packaging, Transportation and Storage	ALINORM 01/12A, Appendix XVII	Adopted
Draft Maximum Residue Limits for Veterinary Drugs	ALINORM 01/31, Appendix II	Adopted
Draft and Draft Revised Maximum Residue Limits for Pesticides	ALINORM 01/24, Appendix II	Adopted
Draft and Draft Revised Maximum Residue Limits for Pesticides	ALINORM 01/24A, Appendix II	Adopted except EMRL for DDT
Codex Guidelines for the Production, Processing, Labelling and Marketing of Organically Produced Foods: Draft Provisions concerning Livestock Production	ALINORM 01/22, Appendix II	Adopted
Draft Guidelines for the Production, Processing, Labelling and Marketing of Organically Produced Foods (Beekeeping and additives for Livestock Production)	ALINORM 01/22A, Appendix II	Adopted
Draft Amendment to the General Standard for the Labelling of Prepackaged Foods: Labelling of Foods Obtained Through Certain Techniques of Genetic Modification/Genetic Engineering: allergens	ALINORM 01/22, Appendix III	Adopted
Draft Standard for Crackers from Marine and Freshwater Fish, Crustaceans and Molluscan Shellfish	ALINORM 01/18, Appendix II	Adopted
Guidelines for the Use of Nutrition Claims: Draft Table of Conditions for Nutrient Contents (Part B)	ALINORM 01/26, Appendix II	Adopted
Draft Revised Codex Standard for Canned Applesauce ⁹⁹	ALINORM 01/27, Appendix II	Adopted with editorial amendments to the Spanish version
Draft Revised Codex Standard for Canned Pears ⁹⁹	ALINORM 01/27, Appendix III	Adopted
Draft Codex Standard for Kimchi	ALINORM 01/27, Appendix IV	Adopted
Draft Codex Standard for Tannia	ALINORM 01/35, Appendix II	Adopted
Draft Revised Codex Standard for Papaya ⁹⁹	ALINORM 01/35, Appendix III	Adopted
Draft Codex Standard for Asparagus	ALINORM 01/35, Appendix IV	Adopted with amendments (see para 171)

⁹⁹ Revised text: Existing text to be revoked.

STANDARD AND RELATED TEXTS	REFERENCE	STATUS
Draft Codex Standard for Cape Gooseberry	ALINORM 01/35, Appendix V	Adopted
Draft Minimum Juice Content Provision in the Codex Standard for Limes	ALINORM 01/35, Appendix VI	Adopted
Amendment to the Codex Standard for Natural Mineral Waters (CODEX STAN 108-1981, Rev.1 1997) - Health Related Limits for Certain Substances	ALINORM 01/20, Appendix III	Adopted
Draft Revised Standard for Cocoa Butter ⁹⁹	ALINORM 01/14, Appendix II	Adopted with amendments (exception on level for lead) (see para 177)
Draft Revised Standard for Cocoa (Cacao) Mass (Cocoa/Chocolate Liquor) and Cocoa Cake ⁹⁹	ALINORM 01/14, Appendix III	Adopted with amendments (exception on level for lead) (see paras 178-179)
Draft Revised Standard for Cocoa Powders (Cocoas) and Dry Mixtures of Cocoa and Sugars ⁹⁹	ALINORM 01/14, Appendix IV	Adopted with amendments (exception on level for lead) (see paras 181-183)
Draft Guidelines for Generic Official Certificate Formats and the Production and Issuance of Certificates	ALINORM 01/30A, Appendix II	Adopted
Draft Revised Code of Hygienic Practice for the Preparation and Sale of Street Foods ⁹⁹	ALINORM 01/36, Appendix II	Adopted
Draft Revised Codex Standard for Bouillons and Consommés ⁹⁹	ALINORM 01/29A, Appendix 1	Adopted
Draft Revised Codex Standard for Wheat Protein Products ⁹⁹	ALINORM 01/37A, Annex I	Adopted with amendments (see paras 191-195)
IUPAC Guidelines for the Use of Recovery Information in Analytical Measurement (Adoption by reference)	ALINORM 01/23, Appendix III	Adopted
General Codex Methods for the Detection of Irradiated Foods	ALINORM 01/23, Appendix IV Part III	Adopted (see also paras 197-200)
General Codex Methods for Contaminants	ALINORM 01/23, Appendix IV Part III	Adopted

Part 2. Standards and Related Texts Adopted as Final Texts with Recommendations to Omit Step 6 and 7

STANDARD AND RELATED TEXTS	REFERENCE	STATUS
Proposed Draft Amendment for the Standard for Sugars	ALINORM 01/25, Appendix III	Adopted at Step 5/8 (see also paras 103-105)
Proposed Draft Revised Standard for Edible Casein Products	ALINORM 01/11, Appendix III	Adopted at Step 5/8 with amendments (exception on level for lead)
Proposed Draft Amendment to the Codex General Standard for Cheese (Description)	ALINORM 01/11, Appendix IV	Adopted at Step 5/8
Proposed Draft Amendment to the Codex Group Standard for Cheeses in Brine (Sampling)	ALINORM 01/11, Appendix V	Adopted at Step 5/8
Codex General Standard for Food Additives: Draft Additions to Table 1	ALINORM 01/12, Appendix III	Adopted at Step 5/8
Proposed Draft Amendments to the Codex General Standard for Food Additives: Annex to Table 3 (Food Categories or Individual Food Items Excluded from the General Conditions)	ALINORM 01/12A, Appendix VI	Adopted at Step 5 only
Proposed Draft Codex Advisory Specifications for the Identity and Purity of Food Additives	ALINORM 01/12, Appendix IX and ALINORM 01/12A, Appendix VIII	Adopted at Step 5/8
Proposed Draft Revised Sampling Plan for Peanuts Intended for Further Processing	ALINORM 01/12A, Appendix XI	Adopted at Step 5/8 with editorial amendments
Proposed Draft Amendments to the Standard for Named Vegetable Oils	ALINORM 01/17, Appendix II	Adopted at Step 5/8
Proposed Draft List of Acceptable Previous Cargoes and Banned Immediate Previous Cargoes for inclusion in the Code of Practice for the Storage and Transport of Fats and Oils in Bulk	ALINORM 01/17, Appendix III	Adopted Draft List of Acceptable Previous Cargoes at Step 5 only and List of Banned Immediate Previous Cargoes at Step 5/8
Proposed Draft Maximum Residue Limits and Proposed Draft Revised Maximum Residue Limits for Veterinary Drugs	ALINORM 01/31, Appendix III	Adopted at Step 5/8
Proposed Draft and Proposed Draft Revised Maximum Residue Limits for Pesticides	ALINORM 01/24, Appendix III	Adopted at Step 5/8
Proposed Draft and Proposed Draft Revised Maximum Residue Limits for Pesticides	ALINORM 01/24A, Appendix III	Adopted at Step 5/8 except for Ethephon (Step 5)
Proposed Draft General Standard for Bottled/Packaged Drinking Waters (Other Than Natural Mineral Waters)	ALINORM 01/20, Appendix II	Adopted at Step 5/8
Proposed Draft Guidelines on the Judgement of Equivalence of Sanitary Measures Associated with Food Inspection and Certification Systems	ALINORM 01/30A, Appendix III	Adopted at Step 5 only

Part 3. Draft Standards and Related Texts Adopted at Step 5 by Accelerated Procedure

STANDARD AND RELATED TEXTS	REFERENCE	STATUS
Draft Revisions to the Codex International Numbering System for Food Additives	ALINORM 01/12, Appendix VII	Adopted
Proposed Draft Amendments to the Codex General Standard for Food Additives: Table 3 (Additives with an Acceptable Daily Intake of “Not Specified”)	ALINORM 01/12A, Appendix V	Adopted
Proposed Draft amendment to the Guidelines for the Production, Processing, Labelling and Marketing of Organically Produced Foods (Table 1: Substances used in Soil Fertilizing and Conditioning)	ALINORM 01/22A, Appendix III	Adopted
Proposed Draft Amendments to the Codex Classification of Foods and Animal Feeds	ALINORM 01/24A, Appendix IV	Adopted

Part 4. Draft Standards and Related Texts Adopted at Step 5

STANDARD AND RELATED TEXTS	REFERENCE	STATUS
Proposed Draft Principles for the Risk Analysis of Foods Derived from Modern Biotechnology	ALINORM 01/34A, Appendix II	Adopted
Proposed Draft Guideline for the Conduct of Food Safety Assessment of Foods Derived from Recombinant-DNA Plants	ALINORM 01/34A, Appendix III	Adopted

Part 5. Texts Abolished/Revoked

STANDARD AND RELATED TEXTS	REFERENCE	RELATED COMMITTEE
Codex Maximum Residue Limits for Pesticides- Recommended for Revocation	ALINORM 01/24, Appendix VI	CCPR
Codex Maximum Residue Limits for Pesticides- Recommended for Revocation	ALINORM 01/24A, Appendix VI	CCPR
Regional Standard for Vinegar (CODEX STAN 162-1987)	ALINORM 01/19, para 44	CCEURO

APPENDIX V

APPROVED NEW WORK

STANDARDS AND RELATED TEXTS	RESPONSIBLE COMMITTEE OR TASK FORCE	NOTES
Guidelines for Cooperation in the Drafting of Standards and Related Texts with other International Intergovernmental Organizations	Codex Committee on General Principles	para. 31
Code of Practice on the Reduction of Lead Contamination in Food	Codex Committee on Food Additives and Contaminants	para. 124
Proposed Draft Guideline for the Conduct of Food Safety Assessment of Recombinant-DNA Microorganisms in Food	Codex ad hoc Intergovernmental Task Force on Foods Derived From Biotechnology	para. 209

APPENDIX VI

**CONFIRMATION OF CHAIRMANSHIP OF CODEX COMMITTEES
AND *AD HOC* INTERGOVERNMENTAL TASK FORCES**

Code	Subsidiary Body	Host	Status
CX 703	Codex Committee on Milk and Milk Products	New Zealand	Active
CX 708	Codex Committee on Cocoa Products and Chocolate	Switzerland	Active
CX 709	Codex Committee on Fats and Oils	United Kingdom	Active
CX 710	Codex Committee on Sugars	United Kingdom	<i>Sine die</i>
CX 711	Codex Committee on Food Additives and Contaminants	The Netherlands	Active
CX 712	Codex Committee on Food Hygiene	United States of America	Active
CX 713	Codex Committee on Processed Fruits and Vegetables	United States of America	Active
CX 714	Codex Committee on Food Labelling	Canada	Active
CX 715	Codex Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling	Hungary	Active
CX 716	Codex Committee on General Principles	France	Active
CX 718	Codex Committee on Pesticide Residues	The Netherlands	Active
CX 719	Codex Committee on Natural Mineral Waters	Switzerland	<i>Sine die</i>
CX 720	Codex Committee on Nutrition and Foods for Special Dietary Uses	Germany	Active
CX 722	Codex Committee on Fish and Fishery Products	Norway	Active
CX 723	Codex Committee on Meat and Poultry Hygiene	New Zealand	Active
CX 728	Codex Committee on Vegetable Proteins	Canada	<i>Sine die</i>
CX 729	Codex Committee on Cereals, Pulses and Legumes	United States of America	<i>Sine die</i>
CX 730	Codex Committee on Residues of Veterinary Drugs in Foods	United States of America	Active
CX 731	Codex Committee on Fresh Fruits and Vegetables	Mexico	Active
CX 733	Codex Committee on Food Import and Export Certification and Inspection Systems	Australia	Active
CX 801	<i>ad hoc</i> Codex Intergovernmental Task Force on Fruit and Vegetable Juices	Brazil	Active
CX 802	<i>ad hoc</i> Codex Intergovernmental Task Force on Foods Derived from Biotechnology	Japan	Active
CX 803	<i>ad hoc</i> Codex Intergovernmental Task Force on Animal Feeding	Denmark	Active

APPENDIX VII

PROVISIONAL AGENDA

Item	Subject Matter	Document
1.	Adoption of the Agenda	ALINORM 01/1
2.	Election of Officers of the Commission and appointment of Regional Coordinators	ALINORM 01/2
3.	Report by the Chairperson on the Forty-seventh and Forty-eighth Sessions of the Executive Committee	ALINORM 01/3 ALINORM 01/4
4.	Report on the financial situation of the Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme for 2000/01 and 2002/03	ALINORM 01/5
5.	Report by the Secretariat on relations between the Codex Alimentarius Commission and: -	ALINORM 01/8
	(a) Other international intergovernmental organizations	Part I
	(b) International non-governmental organizations	Part II
6.	Consideration of matters arising from FAO and WHO Conferences and Governing Bodies	ALINORM 01/7
7.	Consideration of the Draft Strategic Framework, Proposed Draft Medium-Term Plan 2003-2007 and Chairperson's Action Plan	ALINORM 01/6
8.	Risk analysis policies of the Codex Alimentarius Commission	ALINORM 01/9
9.	Consideration of proposed amendments to the Procedural Manual of the Codex Alimentarius Commission	ALINORM 01/10
10.	Consideration of Codex standards and related texts	ALINORM 01/21
	a) Draft standards and related texts at Step 8 or equivalent	Part I
	b) Proposed draft standards and related texts at Step 5	Part II
	c) Proposals to elaborate new standards and/or related texts	Part III
11.	Matters arising from reports of Codex Committees and Task Forces	ALINORM 01/21 Part IV
12.	Codex Committees and <i>ad hoc</i> Task Forces	ALINORM 01/16
	a) Designation of Host Governments	Part I
	b) Proposed schedule of Codex Sessions 2002-2003	Part II
13.	Other business	
14.	Adoption of report	

APPENDIX VIII

LIST OF DOCUMENTS AND WORKING PAPERS

Document	Subject	Agenda Item(s)
ALINORM 01/1	Provisional Agenda	1
ALINORM 01/2	Election of Officers of the Commission and Appointment of Regional Coordinators	2
ALINORM 01/3	Report: 47th Session of the Executive Committee of the Codex Alimentarius Commission	3
ALINORM 01/4	Report: 48th Session of the Executive Committee of the Codex Alimentarius Commission (Conference Room Document)	3
ALINORM 01/5	Financial and Budgetary Matters	4
ALINORM 01/6	Consideration of the Draft Strategic Framework, Proposed Draft Medium-Term Plan 2003-2007 and Chairperson's Action Plan	7
ALINORM 01/6 Add.1	Consideration of the Draft Strategic Framework, Proposed Draft Medium-Term Plan 2003-2007 and Chairperson's Action Plan	7
ALINORM 01/6 Add.3	Consideration of the Draft Strategic Framework, Proposed Draft Medium-Term Plan 2003-2007 and Chairperson's Action Plan – Government Comments	7
ALINORM 01/7	Consideration of Matters arising from FAO and WHO Conferences and Governing Bodies	6
ALINORM 01/8 Part I	Relations between the Codex Alimentarius Commission and Other International Intergovernmental Organizations	5
ALINORM 01/8 Part II	Report by the Secretariat on Relations between the Codex Alimentarius Commission and International Nongovernmental Organizations	5
ALINORM 01/9	Risk Analysis Policies of the Codex Alimentarius Commission	8
ALINORM 01/10	Consideration of Amendments to the Procedural Manual of the Codex Alimentarius Commission	9
ALINORM 01/10 Add.1	Consideration of Proposed Amendments to the Procedural Manual of the Codex Alimentarius Commission – Government Comments	9
ALINORM 01/11	Report: Codex Committee on Milk and Milk Products, 4th Session	10, 11
ALINORM 01/12	Report: Codex Committee on Food Additives and Contaminants, 32nd Session	10, 11
ALINORM 01/12A	Report: Codex Committee on Food Additives and Contaminants, 33rd Session	10, 11
ALINORM 01/13	Report: Codex Committee on Food Hygiene, 32nd Session	10, 11
ALINORM 01/13A	Report: Codex Committee on Food Hygiene, 33rd Session	10, 11

Document	Subject	Agenda Item(s)
ALINORM 01/14	Report: Codex Committee on Cocoa Products and Chocolate, 18th Session	10, 11
ALINORM 01/14 Corrigendum	Corrigendum to the Report of the 18 th Session of the Codex Committee on Cocoa Products and Chocolate	10,11
ALINORM 01/15	Report: Codex Regional Coordinating Committee for Asia, 12th Session	2, 10, 11
ALINORM 01/16 Part I	Designation of Host Governments for Codex Committees and ad hoc Intergovernmental Task Forces	12(a)
ALINORM 01/16 Part II	Proposed Schedule of Codex Sessions 2001-2003	12(b)
ALINORM 01/16 Part II – Rev. 1	Proposed Schedule of Codex Sessions 2001-2003 Revised List of Sessions (11 June 2001) (English only)	12(b)
ALINORM 01/17	Report: Codex Committee on Fats and Oils, 17th Session	10, 11
ALINORM 01/18	Report: Codex Committee on Fish and Fishery Products, 24th Session	10, 11
ALINORM 01/19	Report: Codex Regional Coordinating Committee for Europe, 22nd Session	2, 11
ALINORM 01/20	Report: Codex Committee on Natural Mineral Waters, 7th Session	10, 11
ALINORM 01/21 Part I	Consideration of Draft Standards and Related Texts at Step 8 or equivalent	10
ALINORM 01/21 Part I Add.2	Consideration of Standards and Related Texts at Step 8 or equivalent – Government Comments at Step 8	10(a)
ALINORM 01/21 Part I Add.3	Consideration of Standards and Related Texts at Step 8 or equivalent (Original language only) – Government Comments at Step 8	10(a)
ALINORM 01/21 Part II	Consideration of Draft Standards and Related Texts at Step 5	10
ALINORM 01/21 Part II Add.2	Consideration of Standards and Related Texts at Step 5	10(b)
ALINORM 01/21 Part II Add.3	Consideration of Standards and Related Texts at Step 5 (original language only) – Government Comments at Step 5	10(b)
ALINORM 01/21 Part III	Consideration of Proposals to elaborate New Standards or Related Texts - Proposals to Elaborate New Standards and/or Related Texts	10
ALINORM 01/21 Part IV	Matters arising from Reports of Codex Committees and Task Forces	11
ALINORM 01/21 Part IV Add.1	Matters arising from Codex Committees and Task Forces: Traceability	11
ALINORM 01/21 Part IV Add.2	Matters arising from Reports of Codex Committees and Task Forces	11

Document	Subject	Agenda Item(s)
ALINORM 01/21 Part IV Add.3	Matters arising from Reports of Codex Committees and Task Forces	11
ALINORM 01/21 Part IV Add.4	Matters arising from Reports of Codex Committees and Task Forces: Codex Committee on Nutrition and Foods for Special Dietary Uses (ALINORM 01/26) – Note from the WHO Secretariat	11
ALINORM 01/21-Suppl.1	Cumulative Lists of Standards and Related Texts submitted to the Commission under Item 10 of the Provisional Agenda	10(a), 10(b), 10(c)
ALINORM 01/22	Report: Codex Committee on Food Labelling, 28th Session	10, 11
ALINORM 01/22A	Report: Codex Committee on Food Labelling, 29th Session	10, 11
ALINORM 01/23	Report: Codex Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling, 23rd Session	10, 11
ALINORM 01/24	Report: Codex Committee on Pesticide Residues, 32nd Session	10, 11
ALINORM 01/24A	Report: Codex Committee on Pesticide Residues, 33rd Session	10, 11
ALINORM 01/25	Report: Codex Committee on Sugars, 7th Session	10, 11
ALINORM 01/26	Report: Codex Committee on Nutrition and Foods for Special Dietary Uses, 22nd Session	10, 11
ALINORM 01/27	Report: Codex Committee on Processed Fruits and Vegetables, 20th Session	10, 11
ALINORM 01/27 Add.1	Report of the Work Accomplished by the International Institute of Refrigeration on the Revision of the Code of Practice for the Processing and Handling of Quick Frozen Foods	10, 11
ALINORM 01/28	Report: Codex Regional Coordinating Committee for Africa, 14th Session	2, 7, 11
ALINORM 01/29	Report: Codex Committee on Soups and Broths	10,11
ALINORM 01/29A	Report: Codex Committee on Soups and Broths	10,11
ALINORM 01/30	Report: Codex Committee on Food Import and Export Inspection and Certification Systems, 8th Session	10, 11
ALINORM 01/30A	Report: Codex Committee on Food Import and Export Inspection and Certification Systems, 9th Session	10, 11
ALINORM 01/31	Report: Codex Committee on Residues of Veterinary Drugs in Foods, 12th Session	10, 11
ALINORM 01/32	Report: Codex Regional Coordinating Committee for North America and the South-West Pacific, 6th Session	2, 7, 11
ALINORM 01/33	Report: Codex Committee on General Principles, 15th Session	8, 9, 11
ALINORM 01/33 Corr. E only	Report: Codex Committee on General Principles, 15th Session	8, 9, 11
ALINORM 01/33A	Report: Codex Committee on General Principles, 16th Session	8, 9, 11
ALINORM 01/34	Report: First Session of the Codex Ad Hoc Intergovernmental Task Force on Foods Derived from Biotechnology	10,11
ALINORM 01/34A	Report: Second Session of the Codex Ad Hoc Intergovernmental Task Force on Foods Derived from Biotechnology	10,11

Document	Subject	Agenda Item(s)
ALINORM 01/35	Report: Codex Committee on Fresh Fruits and Vegetables, 9th Session	10, 11
ALINORM 01/36	Report: Codex Regional Coordinating Committee for Latin America and the Caribbean, 12th Session	2, 7, 11
ALINORM 01/37	Report: Codex Committee on Vegetable Proteins	10,11
ALINORM 01/37A	Report: Codex Committee on Vegetable Proteins	10,11
ALINORM/ 01/38	Report: Ad Hoc Intergovernmental Codex Task Force on Animal Feeding, 1st Session	10,11
ALINORM 01/38A	Report: Ad Hoc Intergovernmental Codex Task Force on Animal Feeding, 2nd Session	10,11
ALINORM 01/39	Report: Ad Hoc Codex Intergovernmental Codex Task Force on Fruits and Vegetable Juices, 1st Session	10,11
ALINORM 01/40	Report: Codex Regional Coordinating Committee for Near East, 1st Session	2,10,11
CAC 24/INF-1	Provisional List of Documents	1
CAC 24/INF-3	A note on the Webcasting of the 33 rd Session of the Codex Committee on Food Hygiene	
		Limited Distribution¹⁰⁰
CAC/LIM-1 (<i>E only</i>)	Comments Submitted by the Consumers International	5b, 7, 8, 9, 10
CAC/LIM-2 (<i>E only</i>)	European Community Position	5
CAC/LIM 3 <i>Orig Lang</i>	Government Comments at Step 8 and 5	10
CAC/LIM-4 <i>Orig Lang</i>	Consideration of Standards and Related Texts Government Comments at Step 8	10
CAC/LIM-5 <i>ALINORM 01/8, Part II – Add.1 (E only)</i>	Report by the Secretariat on Relations between the Codex Alimentarius Commission and International Non-Governmental Organizations Addendum: Up-dated lists	5b
CAC/LIM-6 (<i>Original Language</i>)	Comments submitted by: (i) The International Consultative Group on Food Irradiation (ICGFI) (ii) Italy (iii) USA (iv) Malaysia (v) China	10
CAC/LIM-7 (<i>E only</i>)		10

¹⁰⁰ Documents distributed at the Session. These documents are available on request or may be downloaded from our website at <http://www.codexalimentarius.net>

Document	Subject	Agenda Item(s)
CAC/LIM-8 <i>(ALINORM 01/21, Part I, Addendum 4)</i> <i>(E only)</i>	Consideration of Codex Standards and Related Texts Status of Endorsement of Standards Submitted at Step 8	10(a)
CAC/LIM-9 <i>(Original language)</i>	Comments submitted by: i) ICGMA ii) India iii) European Cocoa Association	7, 9, 10
CAC/LIM-10 <i>(Original language)</i>	Information Note submitted by the European Community	9
CAC/LIM-11 <i>(Original language)</i>	Comments submitted by: i) European Community ii) Thailand iii) Indonesia iv) India v) Argentina vi) APIMONDIA	8, 9, 11
CAC/LIM-12 <i>E,F</i> <i>ALINORM 01/10 Add.2</i>	Consideration of Proposed Amendments to the Procedural Manual of the Codex Alimentarius Commission Membership in the Codex Alimentarius Commission of Regional Economic Integration Organizations	9
CAC/LIM-13 <i>(Original language)</i>	Comments submitted by: i) Argentina ii) India iii) European Community	
CAC/LIM-14 <i>(Original language)</i>	Interim Report of the Ad-Hoc Task Force on Animal Feeding	11
CAC/LIM-15 <i>(A,C,E,F,S)</i>	Revised Draft Strategic Framework	

APPENDIX IX

MEMBERSHIP OF THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION

AFRICA

1. Angola
2. Benin
3. Botswana
4. Burkina Faso
5. Burundi
6. Cameroon
7. Cape Verde
8. Central African Republic
9. Chad
10. Congo, Republic of
11. Côte d'Ivoire
12. Democratic Republic of the Congo
13. Equatorial Guinea
14. Eritrea
15. Ethiopia
16. Gabon
17. Gambia
18. Ghana
19. Guinea
20. Guinea Bissau
21. Kenya
22. Lesotho
23. Liberia
24. Madagascar
25. Malawi
26. Mauritius
27. Morocco
28. Mozambique
29. Namibia
30. Niger
31. Nigeria
32. Rwanda
33. Senegal
34. Seychelles

35. Sierra Leone
36. South Africa
37. Swaziland
38. Togo
39. Uganda
40. United Republic of Tanzania
41. Zambia
42. Zimbabwe

ASIA

43. Bangladesh
44. Brunei Darussalam
45. Bhutan
46. Cambodia
47. China
48. Democratic People's Republic of Korea
49. India
50. Indonesia
51. Japan
52. Lao People's Democratic Republic
53. Malaysia
54. Mongolia
55. Myanmar
56. Nepal
57. Pakistan
58. Philippines
59. Republic of Korea
60. Singapore
61. Sri Lanka
62. Thailand
63. Viet Nam

EUROPE

64. Albania
65. Armenia
66. Austria
67. Belgium

- | | |
|--|---------------------------------|
| 68. Bulgaria | 108. Bolivia |
| 69. Croatia | 109. Brazil |
| 70. Cyprus | 110. Chile |
| 71. Czech Republic | 111. Colombia |
| 72. Denmark | 112. Costa Rica |
| 73. Estonia | 113. Cuba |
| 74. Finland | 114. Dominica |
| 75. France | 115. Dominican Republic |
| 76. Georgia | 116. Ecuador |
| 77. Germany | 117. El Salvador |
| 78. Greece | 118. Grenada |
| 79. Hungary | 119. Guatemala |
| 80. Iceland | 120. Guyana |
| 81. Ireland | 121. Haiti |
| 82. Israel | 122. Honduras |
| 83. Italy | 123. Jamaica |
| 84. Latvia | 124. Mexico |
| 85. Lithuania | 125. Nicaragua |
| 86. Luxembourg | 126. Panama |
| 87. Malta | 127. Paraguay |
| 88. Netherlands | 128. Peru |
| 89. Norway | 129. Saint Kitts and Nevis |
| 90. Poland | 130. Saint Lucia |
| 91. Portugal | 131. Suriname |
| 92. Republic of Moldova | 132. Trinidad and Tobago |
| 93. Romania | 133. Uruguay |
| 94. Russian Federation | 134. Venezuela |
| 95. Slovak Republic | |
| 96. Slovenia | <i>NEAR EAST</i> |
| 97. Spain | 135. Algeria |
| 98. Sweden | 136. Bahrain |
| 99. Switzerland | 137. Egypt |
| 100. The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia | 138. Iran (Islamic Republic of) |
| 101. Turkey | 139. Iraq |
| 102. United Kingdom | 140. Jordan |
| 103. Yugoslavia | 141. Kuwait |
| | 142. Lebanon |
| <i>LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN</i> | 143. Libyan Arab Jamahiriya |
| 104. Antigua and Barbuda | 144. Mauritania |
| 105. Argentina | 145. Oman |
| 106. Barbados | 146. Qatar |
| 107. Belize | 147. Saudi Arabia |

- 148. Sudan
- 149. Syrian Arab Republic
- 150. Tunisia
- 151. United Arab Emirates
- 152. Yemen

NORTH AMERICA

- 153. Canada
- 154. United States of America

SOUTH-WEST PACIFIC

- 155. Australia
- 156. Cook Islands
- 157. Fiji
- 158. Kiribati
- 159. Micronesia, Federated States of
- 160. New Zealand
- 161. Papua New Guinea
- 162. Samoa
- 163. Solomon Islands
- 164. Tonga
- 165. Vanuatu