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Agenda Item 2

ALINORM 70/3
September 1969

JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME
CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION
Seventh Session, Rome, 7-17 April 1970

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Report of the Fourteenth Session, Rome, 17-19 September 1969

Introduction

1. The Executive Committee held its Fourteenth Session at FAO Headquarters, Rome, from 17-19 September 1969. The Committee was presided over by the Chairman of the Codex Alimentarius Commission, Mr. J.H.V. Davies (United Kingdom), and in the presence of the three Vice-chairmen, Mr. I.H. Smith (Australia), Mr. E. Mortensen (Denmark) and Professor Dr. O. Högl (Switzerland). The following representatives from the geographic locations mentioned were present: for Africa, Dr. N.A. de Heer from Ghana; for Asia, Mr. K. Ando from Japan; for Europe, Mr. J. Serwatowski from Poland; for Latin America, Mr. J.C. Vignaud from Argentina; for North America, Mr. G.R. Grange from the U.S.A.; for South-West Pacific, Mr. N. R. Woods from New Zealand. The Secretariat consisted of Dr. C. Ag the (WHO), Mr. G.O. Kermode and Mr. H.J. McNally (FAO).

2. The Chairman of the Commission informed the Executive Committee of the recent sudden death of Mr. H.V. Dempsey (Canada), a former Vice-Chairman of the Commission. The Executive Committee paid tribute to the excellent work which had been done by Mr. Dempsey, both as Vice-Chairman and leader of the Canadian delegation during his many years with the Codex Alimentarius, and expressed their condolences to his family and to the Canadian Government. The Chairman said he thought it would be fitting to pay tribute to Mr. Dempsey at the Seventh Session of the Commission.

Adoption of the Agenda

3. The Committee adopted the provisional agenda with a slight rearrangement of the order of items.

Arrangements for the Fifth Session of the Codex Committee on Food Labelling and the Fifteenth Session of the Executive Committee

4. The Executive Committee was informed that the Commission's recommendation to hold the Fifth Session of the Codex Committee on Food Labelling in Rome immediately prior to the Seventh Session of the Commission had been communicated

to the Canadian authorities. The Canadian authorities had indicated their agreement to the recommendation and said that it would be possible for the business of the Committee to be completed in a one-day session, provided that the agenda was restricted to labelling provisions in Codex Commodity Standards requiring to be considered for endorsement by the Committee. The Executive Committee concluded that the most practical arrangement would be for the Codex Committee on Food Labelling to meet on Monday, 6 April 1970, and for the plenary session of the Commission to be suspended some time in the afternoon of Wednesday, 8 April in order to enable the Committee to adopt its report. In the light of the foregoing arrangements, the Executive Committee agreed to hold its Fifteenth Session on Friday, 3 April 1970, subject to any unforeseen circumstances which might require modification of this arrangement.

Possible Programme of Work for the next Ten Years

5. The Commission, at its Sixth Session, agreed that it would discuss, at its next session, future work for the next ten years. With a view to facilitating the Commission's deliberations on this subject, the Secretariat prepared a paper (EXEC/69/5-14th S.) for consideration by the Executive Committee, so that the Executive Committee's preliminary views on the matter might be available to the Commission. Governments had been invited to put forward proposals as to possible future work for the next ten years, but no replies had as yet been received.

6. It was recalled in the paper that the Fourteenth Session of the FAO Conference had urged that the Commission should carefully examine its work priorities and endeavour to complete some of the work in hand before embarking on new subjects or establishing any further subsidiary bodies. The paper indicated those sectors of the Commission's activities where work had been completed or was nearing completion.

7. The paper divided the possible programme of work for the next ten years under two main headings: (a) continuation of existing work of subsidiary bodies, and (b) possible new subjects for commodity standards. It was pointed out that continuation of existing work meant work which was within the terms of reference of the subsidiary body concerned, and that work not within the terms of reference of the subsidiary body concerned would be regarded as new work coming under (b) above. The Executive Committee noted that some of the continuing work, such as work on the development of standards and codes of practice would come to an end within a determined period, whereas the continuation of work referred to in para. 6(d) of the paper, relating mainly to endorsement of provisions on food additives, food hygiene, methods of analysis and sampling and food labelling was long-term. It was recalled that all proposals for additional work, including work within the terms of reference of a subsidiary body of the Commission, would have to be justified by reference to the justification criteria laid down by the Commission.

8. The Executive Committee had before it the following proposals of the Secretariat as to possible new subjects for commodity standards:

- (i) soups and broths - canned, dehydrated, etc.
- (ii) baby foods
- (iii) cereal products, i.e. flour, pasta, rice and rice products, biscuits, oatmeal, etc.
- (iv) egg products
- (v) corn products (breakfast cereals, starches, corn flour, etc.)
- (vi) cassava products (tapioca)

- (vii) pulses
- (viii) copra products
- (ix) salad dressings and sauces
- (x) alcoholic beverages - beer, spirits, wines, liqueurs
- (xi) soft drinks
- (xii) stimulant beverages - coffee, tea, camomile - including soluble solids
- (xiii) spices, herbs and condiments
- (xiv) basic common ingredients to foods - salt, yeast, agar-agar, etc.

9. The Executive Committee noted that the list was not in any order of priority and that if any of these commodities were to be considered further they would need to be examined against the justification criteria laid down by the Commission for embarking on new work. It was further pointed out that edible ices should have been included in the list and that baby foods came within the terms of reference of the Codex Committee on Foods for Special Dietary Uses and should therefore come under the heading of continuation of existing work. Soups and broths would, of course, be considered by the Commission at its next session.

10. The Executive Committee agreed that other tuber products than those of the cassava root should be considered for possible standardization and the item should be described as "semi-tropical and tropical tubers and tuber products" for example yams and plantars. It was further agreed that cereal products, corn products and semi-tropical and tropical tubers and tuber products should be grouped together. Modified starches were already under consideration by the Codex Committee on Food Additives.

11. The Executive Committee considered that the following commodities should eventually become the subject of Secretariat papers, dealing with them in the light of the justification criteria laid down by the Commission, in the following order of priority.

- (a) cereal products, corn products, semi-tropical and tropical tubers and tuber products
- (b) alcoholic beverages - beer, spirits, wines, liqueurs
- (c) stimulant beverages - coffee, tea, camomile, including soluble solids
- (d) pulses

The Executive Committee agreed that in addition to the justification criteria, work already done by other international organizations in the above fields should be covered in the Secretariat papers.

12. The Executive Committee agreed that raw grains other than grains intended for direct consumption should not be included. It was agreed that in the paper on alcoholic beverages particular reference should be made to the Council of Europe's proposed convention on wines and spirits and also to the work of the International Wine Office and the recently formed FAO Study Group on Wine and Vine Products. As regards stimulant beverages, the Executive Committee agreed that the Secretariat paper should include information on the work in hand by ISO/TC 34, so as to avoid any possible risk of duplication. As regards pulses, the Executive Committee thought it would be desirable for the Secretariat paper to draw a distinction between the raw material, semi-processed and processed products, including textured products, in order to facilitate consideration by the Commission as to which of these products might possibly be the subject of Codex standards.

13. As regards egg products the Executive Committee noted that the essential features to be covered were hygiene and food additive requirements. It was noted that a

code of hygienic practice was being elaborated for eggs and egg products. The Executive Committee agreed that the Secretariat should take no action on this subject at this time. As regards eggs in shell, the Executive Committee noted that world trade in shell eggs had declined substantially in recent years, but there was still a significant international trade within regions and that, therefore, if it were decided at some stage to elaborate standards for eggs in shell it might be appropriate to do so on a regional basis.

14. As regards copra products, the Executive Committee requested the Secretariat to consult with the Commodities Division of FAO and, if necessary, with interested governments in order to present more information on this subject to a future session of the Commission, in particular information on the types of copra products entering international trade. The Executive Committee noted that coconut oil fell within the terms of reference of the Codex Committee on Fats and Oils, and could be considered by that Committee if Member Countries thought it necessary. This was equally true of other vegetable oils that Member Countries thought right to be dealt with.

15. The Executive Committee noted that tree nuts and ground nuts had been omitted from the list of possible new subjects for commodity standards and that a code of hygienic practice was being developed for tree nuts. The Executive Committee considered that it might be desirable to develop also a code of hygienic practice for ground nuts. The Executive Committee considered that salad dressings and sauces were matters of low priority and no action needed to be taken regarding these commodities at this time.

16. The Executive Committee considered that some time in the future it might be necessary to consider common definitions, labelling and additive requirements for soft drinks.

17. The Executive Committee further noted that since the consideration of this subject by the Commission there had been a significant development in the production of fruit drinks and beverages which in some countries might be regarded as soft drinks and in other countries as high fruit or juice content beverages. The latter type of product was under consideration by the Joint ECE/Codex Alimentarius Group of Experts on Standardization of Fruit Juices.

18. The Executive Committee noted that ISO/TC 34 was preparing specifications for pices, herbs and condiments including test procedures. The Executive Committee requested the Secretariat to enquire of the ISO/TC 34 whether the Codex Alimentarius Commission could be of any assistance in this work.

19. The Executive Committee requested the Secretariat to examine in more detail the subject of basic ingredients, such as salt, yeast, agar-agar, etc. and to bring this subject before the Executive Committee again at a later stage.

20. The Executive Committee requested the Secretariat to prepare a paper for the Commission on the possible programme of work for the next ten years embodying the recommendations of the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee noted that the Commission would have before it at its next session Secretariat papers dealing with the question of standards for soups and broths and for edible ices.

Grade Standards for Primary Food Products moving in International Trade

21. The Executive Committee discussed the question of whether it would be desirable and practicable to undertake the elaboration at some stage in the future of international grade standards for primary food products. Some Members of the

Executive Committee pointed out that because it would be extremely difficult to reach international agreement on organoleptic criteria differentiating between various quality grades, the elaboration of such standards would be a much more difficult undertaking than the elaboration of the current Codex standards. The Executive Committee noted that changes to the Format for Codex Commodity Standards would be necessary before such standards could be elaborated. Furthermore, since it would probably be the intention to make such standards applicable only to foodstuffs moving in international trade and not on the domestic level, the existing methods of acceptance, which were designed to suit standards intended to apply both to international and domestic trade, would not be suitable.

22. The Executive Committee, therefore, made no attempt, at this stage, to judge the merits of recommending embarking upon the elaboration of grade standards. The Executive Committee agreed that if the merits of this subject were to be discussed by the Commission, a comprehensive working paper would have to be provided for the Commission. The Executive Committee agreed that the question of embarking upon grade standards should be placed on the agenda of the Executive Committee in two years' time. Some Members of the Executive Committee considered that this question would become more significant when, as was hoped, a greater number of developing countries became Members of the Commission.

Regional Standards for Foods of particular interest to Asia, Africa and Latin America

23. The Executive Committee noted that papers on food standards needs of Africa, Asia and Latin America which had been submitted by the Secretariat to the Commission would be reviewed at the next session of the Commission in the light of comments received from the governments of the regions concerned. It was noted that it would be up to the countries themselves in the regions concerned to put forward proposals for regional standards of interest to them to the Commission.

24. The Executive Committee thought that further efforts should be made to bring the work of the Commission to the attention of the non-member countries of Africa, Asia and Latin America. The Executive Committee also noted that one of the means by which the work of the Commission could be made more widely known in these regions would be through the medium of FAO Regional Conferences.

Intensification of the work in the field of pesticide residues

25. The Executive Committee agreed that it would be desirable to intensify the work on pesticide residues but saw no immediate prospect of achieving this in view of the existing heavy workload on the FAO/WHO Expert Committees and Codex Committee and of the need to proceed on the basis of adequate scientific data.

Amendment or revision of standards and codes of practice

26. The Executive Committee considered that the Commission should bear in mind that work would arise in due course concerning the possible amendment and revision of standards and codes of practice. The Executive Committee further recommended that this item be not restricted to codes of hygienic practice but should be broader and relate to codes of practice generally.

Meat Hygiene

27. The Executive Committee had for consideration document EXEC/69/4 containing the recommendation of the 52nd Session of the FAO Council on meat hygiene, and document CCP 69/15 containing the Report of the First Ad Hoc Consultation on Meat

and Poultry. Document EXEC/69/4 outlined the work already in hand by the various subsidiary bodies of the Commission concerning the hygienic aspects of meat, poultry and processed meat products. It also contained details of work proposed by the Fourth Session of the Codex Committee on Meat and Meat Products concerning the preparation of a Code of Hygienic Practice for Meat. A first draft of such a Code was to be prepared by a Drafting Group drawn from some of the delegations participating in the work of the Codex Committee. The Executive Committee was further informed that the FAO Secretariat had written to the authorities of the Federal Republic of Germany seeking their views concerning the possibility of convening the Fifth Session of the Codex Committee on Meat and Meat Products in the early part of 1970 to consider as a matter of urgency the subject of meat hygiene. Discussions were taking place among the interested authorities in the Federal Republic of Germany but a preliminary opinion had been given by the Secretariat of the Codex Committee that it would be possible for a meeting of the Committee to be convened to discuss solely the subject of meat hygiene, and that such a meeting could be held exceptionally in a more accessible place than Kulmbach. The representative of Latin America expressed the interest of Argentina in being represented on the Drafting Group set up by the Codex Committee on Meat and Meat Products to prepare a first draft of a code of hygienic practice for meat. The Executive Committee agreed that the Secretariat should communicate with the Coordinator of the Drafting Group conveying the desire of Argentina to participate in the work of the Group, once Argentina had suggested the name of an expert.

28. The Executive Committee considered various ways of dealing with the subject of meat hygiene and concluded that it would be best to deal with it under the Codex procedure in the Codex Committee on Meat and Meat Products. This would give the best prospect of elaborating internationally acceptable standards or codes of hygienic practice. The Executive Committee considered that the Drafting Group should, in preparing their first draft, take account of related work done by the International Office of Epizootics (OIE), OECD and other international organizations. The Executive Committee also considered that the draft should be a detailed one rather than one merely setting out general principles to be followed, since it was usually matters of detail which gave rise to differences of opinion between importing and exporting countries and these differences tended to be reflected in the very detailed provisions in national legislations. The Executive Committee recommended that the Fifth Session of the Codex Committee on Meat and Meat Products should be convened, if possible in June 1970, since the Drafting Group would not be able to complete its work in time to permit an earlier meeting. The Executive Committee recommended that this session should be devoted solely to the subject of meat hygiene, it being understood that questions of animal quarantine would not come within the scope of meat hygiene, and that consideration of other items of the Committee's programme of work could be delayed until the 1971 session of the Committee. The Executive Committee was of the opinion that the subject of meat hygiene would probably lead to a greatly increased participation in the number of countries attending the Committee's session and in the size of delegations. The Executive Committee also considered that it would be essential for the Committee to work in English, French and Spanish, owing to the widespread interest in the subject.

29. The Executive Committee recommended that the Secretariat of the Commission should approach the Coordinator of the Drafting Group to see whether FAO/WHO could offer facilities to assist and expedite the work of the Drafting Group. The Secretariat was also requested to confirm the composition of the Drafting Group and to assist the Secretariat of the Codex Committee on Meat and Meat Products in obtaining the information necessary for the work of the Drafting Group. FAO/WHO were requested to

consider what assistance might be given to the authorities of the Federal Republic of Germany concerning the location of and facilities for the meeting.

30. Arising out of the discussion on meat hygiene, the Executive Committee was of the opinion that it would be desirable to amend the terms of reference of the Codex Committee on Meat and Meat Products to reflect the earlier decisions of the Commission that meat hygiene fell within its terms of reference. It was agreed that this matter should be put before the Commission at its Seventh Session. The Executive Committee also considered that, in view of the proposed arrangements for the examination of the subject of meat hygiene and the increased workload likely to fall upon the Codex Committee on Meat and Meat Products, it might be desirable for the Sub-Committee on Processed Meat Products and Consumer Packaged Meat to be established as a committee in its own right. This would also reduce some of the difficulties which governments encountered under the present arrangements in having to send experts on processed meat products to sessions of both the Sub-Committee and the Main Committee. The Executive Committee requested the Chairman to obtain the opinion of Denmark and the Federal Republic of Germany on this proposal, so that the matter could be considered by the Seventh Session of the Commission.

Information on Budget for 1970/71

31. The Executive Committee was informed that the proposed budget of the Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme for 1970/71 had been considered by the FAO Council and was to be submitted without amendment for approval by the Fifteenth Session of the FAO Conference meeting in November 1969. The 22nd World Health Assembly met in July 1969 and had approved the WHO contribution to the joint costs of the Programme in respect of 1970. The World Health Assembly would consider the WHO contribution for 1971 at its 23rd Session in 1970.

32. The Executive Committee enquired whether the recent FAO re-organization had had any repercussions on the organization and budget of the Food Standards Programme. The Executive Committee was informed that the reorganization had been confined to the main structure of the Organization and had not specifically affected the Food Standards Programme as this was a joint activity with WHO. In view of the heavy workload, diverse activities of the Programme, tight time schedule for documents and meetings, and the need for the closest possible integration of activities, the Executive Committee wondered whether any re-organization within FAO might be achieved to facilitate the progress of the Programme. The Secretariat expressed the opinion that this was an internal matter which would have to be taken up with the Director-General. The Executive Committee offered to look into this matter, if it would be of any assistance to the Director-General.

Uniform system of references for Codex documents

33. The Executive Committee considered a proposal for the uniform numbering of Codex documents, prepared by the Secretariat. The Executive Committee decided to recommend the adoption of the proposed system of references to the Commission, as set out in Appendix I. The Executive Committee considered that the proposed system of references should be regarded as an interpretation of paragraph 9(e) of the Guidelines concerning the need to assign consecutive reference numbers in a suitable series to all the documents of Codex Committees. The Executive Committee recommended that the system of references should be implemented by Codex Committee Chairmen as soon as practicable.

The Idea of a General Standard

34. The Executive Committee considered a request of the Secretariat for further guidance on the Commission's wishes in respect of a comprehensive paper on the subject of 'The Idea of a General Standard'. The Executive Committee was of the opinion that the Commission merely-wished the Secretariat to make a compilation of the comments received from governments and to add them to the basic document containing the proposals in respect of a general standard. The Executive Committee also thought that the consolidated paper to be prepared by the Secretariat should include reference to the discussions on this subject at the Third Session of the Codex Committee on General Principles.

Procedure for the nomination and election of the Executive Committee at the Seventh Session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission

35. The Executive Committee had before it for consideration an Explanatory Note on the Voting Procedure for the Election of Officers of the Codex Alimentarius Commission (document ALINORM 70/33). The Executive Committee noted that in accordance with the Rules of Procedure of the Commission and of FAO, no specific nomination procedure had been formalized for use by the Commission. The Executive Committee agreed to recommend to the Commission that it should proceed generally along the lines followed at its Fifth Session. The Executive Committee specifically recommended that nomination forms should not be distributed in advance of the session but should be available to Members of the Commission on request from the election officer appointed by the Director-General of FAO. The Executive Committee further recommended that only nomination forms returned to the election officer could be regarded as being valid. The Chairman of the Commission would need to appoint tellers for the conduct of the ballot and would also announce at the opening of the session the closing time for nominations for Chairman of the Commission. The Executive Committee recommended that the closing time for nomination of Chairman should be at the adjournment of the Commission's session in the afternoon of Wednesday 8 April, and should a ballot be necessary this should be held at noon on Thursday 9 April (see para. 4 of this Report). After the election of the Chairman, the Chairman of the Commission would then proceed with the nominations and election of Vice-Chairmen, and finally, with the nominations and election of other members of the Executive Committee representing the geographic locations. The Executive Committee also considered that it should be brought to the attention of Members of the Commission that nominations for officers of the Commission and members of the Executive Committee did not require to be seconded by another Member of the Commission. The Executive Committee agreed that document ALINORM 70/33 should be issued as soon as possible to Members of the Commission.

Provisional agenda and timetable for the Seventh Session of the commission

36. The Executive Committee examined a draft provisional agenda, prepared by the Secretariat, for the Seventh Session of the Commission. The draft agenda had been drawn up indicating what would be the maximum possible number of standards which would require to be considered by the Commission at Steps 8 and 5, if the standards progressed through Steps 4 and 7 in the various subsidiary bodies of the Commission.

37. Concerning the draft agenda, the Executive Committee considered that it would not be necessary to have as a separate item on the agenda the uniform system of references for Codex documents. The Executive Committee considered that this matter could be dealt with during the Commission's consideration of the reports of the Executive Committee.

38. The Executive Committee further recommended that the item concerning the election of officers of the Commission and members of the Executive Committee should be sub-divided into (a) election of Chairman, (b) election of Vice-Chairmen, and (c) election of members of the Executive Committee representing geographic locations. It was further agreed that this item should become item 4 on the provisional agenda on the understanding that the item would be taken in accordance with the timetable adopted for the elections throughout the session.

39. Concerning standards at Step 5, the Executive Committee considered that anti-caking agents could not for procedural reasons be at Step 5 for the next session and should therefore be deleted from the agenda. It might however be necessary to include an item concerning Specifications of Identity and Purity for Food Additives which might reach Step 5. The Executive Committee further concluded that it would be necessary to add a new item immediately following the standards at Step 5 entitled "Consideration of the Need for a Standard for Powdered Dextrose".

40. Concerning the reports and confirmation of the chairmanship of the Codex Committees, the Executive Committee recommended that revised terms of reference as proposed in paragraph 30 of this Report for the Codex Committee on Meat and Meat Products should be considered in conjunction with the Report of the Commission.

41. The Executive Committee concluded that the item on future work of the Commission should contain three sub-items:

- (a) soups and broths
- (b) edible ices
- (c) ten-year programme

42. The Executive Committee approved the draft agenda, recognizing that it would be subject to alteration in the light of developments arising from progress of work and proposals of governments.

43. The Executive Committee noted that the proposed draft timetable for the Seventh Session of the Commission would need to be amended lightly in the light of the amendments which it had proposed to the draft agenda.

Progress report on the use of the Spanish language at Codex Committee sessions

44. As requested by the Commission at its Sixth Session, the Secretariat had written to the authorities in countries responsible for chairing Codex Committees asking them to investigate with the greatest care the possibility of their Committees working in English, French and Spanish. To-date replies or interim replies had been received from four countries only. In general, these countries were of the opinion that it was desirable in principle to provide for the use of Spanish, but that there might be some serious practical difficulties in doing so.

45. The Executive Committee recognized the importance of Spanish as a language in the work of the Codex Alimentarius and stressed the importance of host governments giving this question their full and earnest consideration. The Executive Committee noted that the report of the Directors-General on Rule XII would be made in the light of the replies from the countries chairing Codex Committees and also in the light of the official and working languages of the two Organizations. The Legal Office of WHO had already supplied the Secretariat with information concerning the implementation of the use of Spanish and Russian within WHO following certain resolutions and recommendations of the World Health Assembly. The Executive Committee thought that any proposals of the

Directors-General to amend the Rules of Procedure of the Commission concerning languages would need to be circulated to Members of the Commission well in advance of the next session. The Executive Committee expressed the hope that Members of the Commission would comment on any amendments proposed by the Directors-General to the Rules of Procedure rather than put forward alternative amendments of the rule for consideration by the Commission.

46. The Executive Committee considered that it would be desirable for the Secretariat paper on this subject to be circulated to Members of the Executive Committee for comment prior to finalization and issue to Members of the Commission as a working document. The next session of the Executive Committee would examine any proposed amendments to the Rules of Procedure and make known its observations on these to the Commission.

Progress Report on the FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Food Additives

47. The Executive Committee considered a progress report on the Expert Committee on Food Additives, and expressed its appreciation of the fact that all the food additives on the heavy agenda had been considered by the Experts. However, the Executive Committee regretted the delay in editing and translation which would make it impossible to distribute the report of the Expert Committee before or even at the meeting of the Codex Committee on Food Additives. This was a rather serious matter as some standards which had been advanced to Step 9 of the Procedure for the Elaboration of Codex Standards by the Sixth Session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission could not be sent to Governments for acceptance until the Expert Committee and Codex Committee on Food Additives had considered the additive provisions in the standards. The Executive Committee noted that, in view of this situation, the Directors-General of FAO and WHO had authorized the distribution of tables containing the essential conclusions of the Expert Committee on Food Additives to the next session of the Codex Committee on Food Additives. The Executive Committee thought that it would be more desirable to have the tables distributed to participants before the meeting. The Secretariat was therefore requested to take steps to see whether this could be done.

48. In view of the fact that reports of the Expert Committee were needed as working documents at meetings of the Codex Committee on Food Additives, the Secretariat was requested to examine possible ways of ensuring that these could be sent out before meetings of the Codex Committee on Food Additives. The Executive Committee considered that this might be one of the matters for consideration by the Director-General referred to in paragraph 32.

Governing paragraph for the FAO/WHO Committee of Government Experts on the Code of Principles concerning Milk and Milk Products

49. At its Sixth Session, the Commission had requested the Secretariat to seek government comments for submission to the current session of the Executive Committee on the following specific points:

- (a) Should the Committee have full competence for all questions concerning milk and milk products, in view of the fact that the Milk and Milk Products Committee, although enjoying a special status vis-à-vis other subsidiary bodies of the Commission was still a subsidiary body of the Commission. If it should ought full competence to be taken to refer only to the technical content of the standards?
- (b) As all decisions of the Committee, whether on standards or not, are subject to review by the Commission at the request of a Member of the Commission, is it

appropriate or desirable to refer to such decisions as "final decisions"?

(c) Should the Milk Committee or the Commission deal with acceptances?

In seeking these comments, the Secretariat also drew the attention of governments to the views expressed by the Twelfth Session of the Milk Committee on the Governing Paragraph. From the eight replies received to date, the majority appeared to be of the view that full competence referred to in (a) above ought to relate to the technical content only of standards elaborated by the Milk Committee. Most governments seemed to think that the word 'final' in relation to decisions taken by the Milk Committee should either be deleted or qualified to indicate that the Commission had the right to review decisions of the Committee.

50. As regards the question of whether the Milk Committee or the Commission should deal with acceptances of standards elaborated by the Milk Committee, the Executive Committee considered that in principle the question of dealing with acceptances should not be a matter for any individual committee but rather one which ought to be dealt with by the Commission. It was the general view that this principle should apply to standards elaborated by the Milk Committee. If this were done, it would be necessary to amend Step 8 of the Procedure for the Elaboration of Milk and Milk Products Standards to make it clear that such standards would be published when the Commission, and not the Committee, thought it appropriate. Where a question relating to acceptances concerned a technical point of a standard, the Commission would, in all probability, seek the views of the appropriate commodity committee.

51. The Executive Committee noted that the Milk Committee at its last session had agreed that the standards which it had adopted should be put into the Codex format. This would also include more detailed provisions concerning labelling and food additives which might, in the opinion of the Committee, require the standards to be submitted to governments for re-acceptance. The Executive Committee also noted that recent standards adopted by the Milk Committee and future standards would be in line with the Codex format as far as possible.

52. The Executive Committee noted that it was important to establish whether or not acceptance by governments of standards for milk products should have the same meaning as for other food products. Some Members of the Executive Committee considered that no changes should be made in the acceptance of the standards for milk products until practical experience had been obtained of the Codex acceptance procedure. Other Members expressed the view that the meaning of acceptance should be identical for all food products, but that any changes in the acceptance procedure for milk standards should be undertaken over a period. The Executive Committee expressed the view that the Code of Principles for Milk and Milk Products was not a standard and was not therefore affected by any discussion of acceptance procedure for milk product standards. It was pointed out that the solution of the problems of the relation between the Commission and the Milk Committee would be greatly expedited if Member Governments ensured that their Delegates at the two bodies received similar instructions.

53. The Executive Committee recognized that it would be important to make a firm recommendation to the Commission in the light of government replies so that the problem of the Governing Paragraph could be resolved at the next session of the Commission.

Other business

54. A) Definition of pesticide residues

The Executive Committee noted that this item had been placed rather low on the agenda of the next session of the Codex Committee on Pesticide Residues. The Executive Committee wished to draw to the attention of the Codex Committee on Pesticide Residues the need to come to a decision on this definition in order that the Commission might complete at its next session the work on all the definitions at present proposed for inclusion in the Codex Alimentarius.

B) Revision of terms of reference of Codex Committee on Food Labelling

The Executive Committee noted that the Codex Committee on Food Labelling and the Commission had considered it desirable for the terms of reference of the Committee to include other matters related to labelling, such as claims and advertizing. In view of the restricted duration of the next session of the Codex Committee and the priority needed to be given to the endorsement of labelling provisions in Codex standards, the Executive Committee agreed that the Codex Committee on Food Labelling should not be asked to consider the form of the amendment to its terms of reference, but that the matter should be dealt with by the Commission in accordance with paragraph 79 of the Report of the Commission's Sixth Session.

C) Proposed addition to terms of reference of the Codex Committee on Food Hygiene

The Chairman drew the Executive Committee's attention to the amendment proposed by the Codex Committee on Food Hygiene to its terms of reference as contained in the Report of its Sixth Session. The Chairman considered that there might be certain difficulties if the question of references by the Committee was dealt with as a fifth point of the present terms of reference rather than as a separate statement. He considered also that the points involved might in some respects be more clearly expressed. He wondered whether it would be proper to allow such wide powers of reference to one Committee which were not granted to other Codex Committees. He suggested that a text on the following lines might be more appropriate:

"The Committee will refer, where necessary, specific food hygiene problems, including, in particular, microbiological methodology and sampling, for consideration to FAO and/or WHO, to bodies set up by them and to other appropriate organizations approved by the Directors-General of FAO and WHO in respect of such reference."

It was agreed that the Secretariat should look into the points raised by the Chairman and produce a paper with a text, revised as necessary, for consideration at the next session of the Executive Committee and subsequently by the Seventh Session of the Commission.

D) Programme of work of the Milk Committee

The Executive Committee considered that the Commission might wish to look into the question of the programme of work of the Committee of Government Experts on the Code of Principles concerning Milk and Milk Products when considering the report of the 12th session of the Committee at its next session. The Executive Committee requested that the report of the 12th session should be made available to all Members of the Commission for this purpose. Some Members of the Executive Committee expressed the view that there was an urgent need to look into the question of

the work programme of the Committee, for example the multiplicity of standards being developed by the Committee for cheeses with similar characteristics.

E) Question of desirability of setting up subcommittees during Commission's sessions

The question of the desirability of having formal subcommittees during the sessions of the Commission was considered by the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee concluded that this would not in practice prove to be a satisfactory working arrangement as a large part of the business of the Commission was referred to it by subsidiary bodies and to try to deal with these matters in subcommittees would probably result in a repetition of discussions in the subcommittee taking place in the plenary. The establishment of formal subcommittees also created difficulties for the smaller delegations. On the other hand, the Executive Committee was of the opinion that ad hoc drafting groups could often be of assistance in expediting the work of the Commission.

F) Standards for acceptance by Governments

The Executive Committee enquired what was the current position regarding the issue of Step 9 standards to Governments for acceptance. The Executive Committee was informed that most of the Step 9 standards would be available in English, French and Spanish for distribution to Member Governments for acceptance within the next few weeks. The Executive Committee considered that it would be important for the Organizations to approach governments at the highest level and that an approach from the Directors-General at a ministerial level might have certain advantage in promoting the acceptance of Codex standards.

REFERENCING OF CODEX DOCUMENTS

1. The series of references set out in paragraph 2 hereunder for the various Codex Committees have been recommended by the Executive Committee for adoption by the Seventh Session of the Commission. This system of referencing Codex documents is to be regarded as an interpretation of that portion of paragraph 9(e) of the Guidelines for Codex Committees concerning the need to assign consecutive reference numbers in suitable series to all documents of Codex Committees. The other information required in paragraph 9(e) of the Guidelines, which reads as follows, should also be given:

"9 (e) Committee chairmen should assign consecutive reference numbers in suitable series to all documents of Codex Committees. The reference number should appear at the top right-hand corner of the first page together with a statement of the language in which the document was prepared and the date of its preparation. A clear statement should be made of the provenance (origin or author country) of the paper immediately under the title. The text should be divided into numbered paragraphs."

- 2.
- | | CODEX/SUBJECT + YEAR OF
CODE SESSION /CONSECUTIVE
REFERENCE NUMBER OF
DOCUMENTS |
|--|--|
| Codex Alimentarius Commission working documents and reports | - CX/ALINORM 69/1, 2, 3, etc. |
| Executive Committee (identified also by session number following the year) | - CX/EXEC 69/15/1, 2, 3, etc. |
| Coordinating Committee for Europe | - CX/EURO 69/1, 2, 3, etc. |
| Committee of Government Experts on the Code of Principles concerning Milk and Milk Products | - CX/MDS 69/1, 2, 3, etc. |
| <u>General Subject Codex Committees</u> | |
| Food Additives | - CX/FA 69/1, 2, 3, etc. |
| Pesticide Residues | - CX/PR 69/1,2,3, etc. |
| Methods of Analysis and Sampling | - CX/MAS 69/1, 2, 3, etc. |
| Food Labelling | - CX/FL 69/1, 2, 3, etc. |
| Food Hygiene | - CX/FH 69/1, 2, 3, etc. |
| General Principles | - CX/GP 69/1, 2, 3, etc. |

Codex Commodity Committees

| | |
|--|-------------------------------------|
| Cocoa Products and Chocolate | - CX/CPC 69/1, 2, 3, etc. |
| Sugars | - CX/S 69/1, 2, 3, etc. |
| Processed Fruits and Vegetables | - CX/PFV 69/1, 2, 3, etc. |
| Fats and Oils | - CX/FO 69/1, 2, 3, etc. |
| Fish and Fishery Products | - CX/FFP 69/1, 2, 3, etc. |
| Meat and Meat Products | - CX/MMP 69/1, 2, 3, etc. |
| Sub-Corn. I on Cutting Methods and Cuts of Carcasses | - CX/MMP-SC I/CMCC 69/1, 2, 3, etc. |
| Sub-Corn. IV on Processed Meat Products | - CX/MMP-SC IV/PMP 69/1, 2, 3, etc. |
| Foods for Special Dietary Uses | - CX/FSDU 69/1, 2, 3, etc. |
| ECE/Codex Group of Experts on Fruit Juices | - CX/FJ 69/1, 2, 3, etc. |
| ECE/Codex Group of Experts on Quick Frozen Foods | - CX/QFF 69/1, 2, 3, etc. |

NOTE

It will be seen from the above that, in referencing Codex documents, CX, which stands for Codex, should appear first, followed by the subject code reference, followed by the year in which the session will be held (i.e. not necessarily the year in which the document is prepared), and finally followed by the consecutive number of the document.