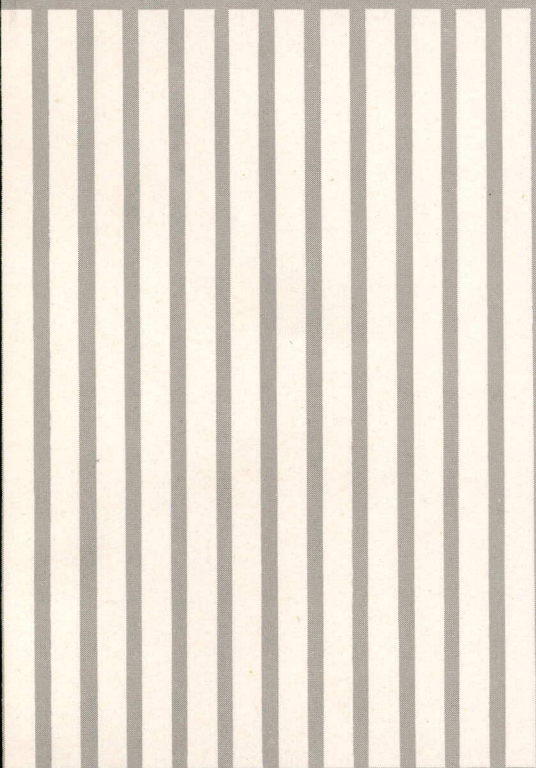


Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme

# CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION

REPORT OF THE EIGHTEENTH SESSION  
Geneva, 3-12 July 1989



FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION

Rome 1989



N<sup>o</sup> ALINORM 89/40

**ALINORM 89/40**

**REPORT OF THE EIGHTEENTH SESSION  
OF THE  
JOINT FAO/WHO CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION  
Geneva, 3 - 12 July 1989**

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

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**WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION**

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**Rome 1989**

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**APPENDICES**

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**JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME**  
**REPORT OF THE EIGHTEENTH SESSION**  
**OF THE**  
**JOINT FAO/WHO CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION**  
**Geneva, 3-12 July 1989**

**INTRODUCTION**

1. The 18th Session of the Joint FAO/WHO Codex Alimentarius Commission was held at the International Conference Centre, Geneva, from 3 to 12 July 1989. The Session was attended by 281 participants including the representatives and observers of 56 countries and observers from 29 international organizations (see Appendix 1 for List of Participants).
2. The Commission was presided over by its Chairman, Dr. E.R. Mendez, Mexico, and for certain items of the Agenda by Dr. N. Tape, Canada, and Professor F.G. Winarno, Indonesia, two of its Vice-Chairmen. The Joint Secretaries were Dr. A.W. Randell, FAO, and Dr. F. Käferstein, WHO.
3. The Session was opened by the Director-General of WHO, Dr. H. Nakajima, the text of whose address is contained in Appendix 2 to this Report. The response of the Chairman is contained in Appendix 3.

**ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND TIMETABLE (Agenda Item 1)**

4. The Commission adopted the Provisional Agenda ALINORM 89/1 and Addendum 1 as the Agenda for its Session with a slight change in the order of discussion of certain items.

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

5. During the Session, the Commission re-elected Dr. E.R. Mendez, Mexico, as Chairman of the Commission to serve from the end of the 18th Session to the end of the 19th Session. The Commission also elected Dr. C. Kane, Senegal; Dr. N. Tape, Canada; and Prof. F.G. Winarno, Indonesia, as Vice-Chairmen of the Commission to serve from the end of the 18th Session to the end of the 19th Session.

Appointment of Regional Coordinators

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

Africa - Mr. Tawfic Zagloul (Egypt)

Asia - Dr. Pakdee Pothisiri (Thailand)

Europe - Dr. Herbert Woidich (Austria)

Latin America and the Caribbean - Lic. María Eugenia Chacón Moroux (Costa Rica)

North America and South West Pacific - Dr. Lester Crawford (USA)

#### **IN MEMORIAM**

7. The Commission observed one minute's silence in memory of its former friends and colleagues who had passed away since its previous session:<sup>1</sup>

- Prof. G. Weill (France), former Chairman of the Commission, 1971-72, and Vice-Chairman
- Dr. Alfredo Dovat (Uruguay), former Coordinator for the Region of Latin America and the Caribbean
- Dr. Mrs. Anne Brincker (Denmark), former Vice-Chairman of the Commission and Chairman of the Codex Committee on Processed Meat and Poultry Products
- Dr. Bob Weik (USA), Member of the US Delegation on many occasions, and former Chairman of the Joint FAO/WHO Committee of Government Experts on the Code of Principles concerning Milk and Milk Products
- Dr. Donald Houston (USA), Leader of the US Delegation and a strong supporter of the Commission and its work.

#### **REPORT BY THE CHAIRMAN ON THE 35th and 36th SESSIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (Agenda Item 2)**

8. In introducing the reports of the 35th and 36th Sessions of the Executive Committee contained in documents ALINORM 89/3 and ALINORM 89/4, respectively, the Chairman indicated that all items considered by the Executive Committee should be dealt with by the Commission under the agenda items relating to the matters concerned.

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

9. The Chairman informed the Commission that following the 17th Session, the Deputy Director-General of FAO had contacted all non-members of the Commission informing them of the benefits of membership and inviting them to join the Commission. At the same time the Director-General of WHO transmitted the 40th World Health Assembly's Resolution on the Commission inviting member states which had not yet done so to join. As a result eight countries have joined the Commission: Antigua and Barbuda; Equatorial Guinea; German Democratic

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<sup>1</sup> The Secretariat regrets to note the sudden passing away of Dr. J.C. Jaisani, a member of the Indian delegation, during his return to India from the Commission's session.

Republic; Honduras; Papua New Guinea; Rwanda; Viet Nam; Yemen Arab Republic. The total membership of the Commission was now 137 countries and is set out in Appendix 4 to this Report.

10. The Commission expressed its appreciation for the efforts of the parent organization and requested that these efforts be continued so as to increase the membership of the Commission.

#### **REPORT OF THE REVISED PUBLICATION OF THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS AND ON DISTRIBUTION ARRANGEMENTS (Agenda Item 5)**

11. The Commission had before it ALINORM 89/2, a paper prepared by the Secretariat on the basis of discussions which took place during the 35th Session of the Executive Committee (ALINORM 89/3, paras. 13-17). The paper described the presentation of the revised Codex Alimentarius in loose-leaf international A-4 format in 14 volumes together with a new abridged version containing the substantive contents of the Codex Alimentarius in a single volume.

12. The Commission noted that the revised publications would be distributed through the world-wide sales networks of FAO and WHO as had been recommended by the 36th Session of the Executive Committee, ALINORM 89/4 paras. 7-10. A sufficient number of copies would be distributed without charge to Codex Contact Points and Ministries of Agriculture and Health and libraries which have reciprocal arrangements with FAO and WHO. The Commission welcomed these proposals.

13. The Commission was also informed that the Secretariat was actively seeking ways in which the Codex Alimentarius would become available in a computerized form possibly through readily accessible data bases, and by title through the FAO World Agricultural Information Centre, WAICENT. A small expert group would be invited to advise on techniques available for storage and retrieval of Codex texts in this manner.

14. The delegation of Sweden, referring to the discussions of the Executive Committee concerning the issuance of the Codex Alimentarius as a sales document, drew attention to the need to assure that Codex Standards should be widely available, if necessary through the use of photocopies, or, in future, through the use of electronic data transfer. The Delegation of the United Kingdom requested that the problems which might be encountered in this regard should be carefully studied and that Contact Points should be consulted concerning their distribution needs.

#### **PROGRESS REPORT ON ACCEPTANCES OF CODEX STANDARDS AND CODEX MAXIMUM LIMITS FOR PESTICIDE RESIDUE LEVELS AND ON ACTION TAKEN IN MEMBER COUNTRIES CONCERNING THEIR IMPLEMENTATION (Agenda Item 6)**

15. The Commission had before it ALINORM 89/3 containing detailed information on replies received since the 17th Session up to shortly before the current session of the Commission. It was noted that this document was based on replies received from Argentina, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Cuba, Finland, Iran, Madagascar, Malaysia, New Zealand, Portugal, Switzerland, Thailand and USA. In addition, the Commission was informed that Cuba had notified its position of full acceptance for four Codex Standards and free circulation for one other Codex Standard.

16. The delegation of Argentina stated that a number of Codex Standards had been considered and used such as those of Sugars, Processed Meat and Poultry Products, Fish and Fishery Products, Labelling, Cocoa, Fruit Juices, Fats and Oils and Methods of Analysis and Sampling. A significant number of Recommended International Codes of Hygienic and/or Technological Practice were also adopted as guidelines in the country.

17. The Delegation of Thailand stated that Codex Standards served as guidelines for its food industry and it had accepted, with specified deviation, the General Standard for Irradiated Foods. The recommended Codes of Hygienic Practice were also implemented in this country.

18. The Delegation of Brazil stated that the Codex Standards were being studied in Brazil. Limited acceptance had been given to 23 Codex Standards and full acceptance to 28 Codex Standards. The Delegation stated that 40 Codex Maximum Limits for Pesticide Residues had been accepted. Implementation of the Codes for Canned Fish and Frozen Fish were also adopted.

19. The Delegation of Switzerland stated that the list of acceptances referenced in document ALINORM 89/5 should be considered in the context of Point 4.B of the Procedural Manual, which provided for free distribution of products within the country's territorial jurisdiction.

20. The Delegation of Iran provided details on the acceptance of many Codex Standards and of proposed levels for radionuclide contamination of foods. The Delegation also noted that it was currently considering recommendations for Maximum Residue Levels for Veterinary Drugs.

21. The Commission expressed its appreciation for the information provided and stressed that countries should continue to give favourable consideration to notifying the Secretariat that products in conformity with Codex standards will be permitted free entry into and distribution within their territorial jurisdictions. If this presented a problem then the Secretariat would take up the matter at its intersecretariat discussions with economic groupings, such as the EEC and the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance (CMEA) and maintain its efforts to have Codex standards accepted by individual countries.

#### **REPORT ON THE FINANCIAL SITUATION OF THE JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME FOR 1988/89 AND 1990/91 (Agenda Item 7)**

22. The Commission received a report on the budgets of the Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme for the biennia 1986/87, 1988/89 and 1990/91 (ALINORM 89/6 and paras. 3-6, ALINORM 89/4).

23. In introducing the report, the Chief of the Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme indicated that the Codex budget continued to be maintained on a "zero growth" basis, although a small additional amount (US\$ 10 000) had been provided by FAO for the 1990/91 biennium to cover the cost of new computer services. During the 1986/87 biennium unexpected fluctuations in the Italian lira/US dollar exchange rate had created budgetary problems but the resulting deficit of \$ 250 000 was paid from an extraordinary contribution from FAO. However, the budget for 1988/89 would enable the Programme to proceed satisfactorily throughout the biennium. In addition, tighter control

of Codex documentation and printing costs would make it possible to publish all Codex standards and other final texts delayed since 1986/87.

24. The cost sharing arrangements between FAO and WHO had not changed and still reflected a contribution by FAO of 75 percent and by WHO of 25 percent to the Joint FAO/WHO Standards Programme budget. However, additional costs met by FAO covering documents and contractual services, reflected an actual cost sharing at a level which resulted in FAO paying 83 percent and WHO 17 percent of total Codex costs. Some countries attending the June 1989 FAO Council Session had expressed the view that the share borne by FAO was unduly heavy, calling for a more equitable sharing of Codex costs.

25. The Commission noted the 1988/89 and 1990/91 budgets of the Programme and also noted the high cost of documentation. It expressed its appreciation to FAO for its strong financial support of the Programme and to the Secretariat for its efforts in carrying out the work of the Commission within the available budgetary provision. The Commission looked forward to the issue of the revised version of the Codex Alimentarius. It urged Chairmen of Codex committees to economize with reports, circulars and other documents, in order to allow more resources for the publication of final texts.

#### **REPORT ON ACTIVITIES WITHIN FAO AND WHO RELEVANT TO THE WORK OF THE COMMISSION (Agenda Item 8)**

26. The Commission had before it document ALINORM 89/7 which reported very extensively on Joint FAO/WHO Activities; FAO Activities; and WHO Activities separately.

#### **REPORT ON JOINT FAO/WHO ACTIVITIES**

##### Joint Meeting on Pesticide Residues (JMPR)

27. Two Joint FAO/WHO Meetings on Pesticide Residues have been held since the Seventeenth Session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission. These were held in September 1987 and September 1988. Forty-five pesticides were included on the agenda for toxicological evaluation and/or maximum residue levels for various commodities in 1987, and 42 pesticides were evaluated in 1988. The recommendations of JMPR are used by FAO and WHO Member States in the establishment of national regulations and by the Codex Committee on Pesticide Residues in establishing Codex MRLs.

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

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

- the 33rd Meeting held in Geneva, March 1988, to evaluate food additives;
- the 34th Meeting also held in Geneva, February 1989, to evaluate veterinary drug residues in food;

- the 35th Meeting held in Rome, June 1989, to evaluate food additives.

29. The two meetings devoted to food additives (33rd and 35th) evaluated a total of 34 substances including antioxidants, colours, emulsifiers, flavouring agents and various miscellaneous additives which included solvents and processing aids. These meetings also evaluated nine food contaminants including metals, a plasticizer, a mycotoxin (patulin) and two environmental contaminants (methyl mercury and polychlorinated biphenyls). In addition, the specifications for purity and identity for a total of 18 food additives were revised.

30. The Commission was informed that the 34th Meeting of JECFA was devoted exclusively to the safety evaluation of veterinary drug residues in foods. This was the second such meeting and a total of 10 drug substances was considered. These included 4 nitroimidazoles, an anthelmintic, 2 sulfonamides, a growth promoter (trenbolone acetate) and 2 trypanosides. Acceptable Daily Intake (ADI) levels could be established for only 4 drug substances. Of these, 3 were given a recommended Maximum Residue Level (MRL). There was insufficient information to establish an MRL for the fourth substance given an ADI.

31. The Commission was advised that much of the difficulty in the safety evaluation of veterinary drug residues was due to characterizing and determining the bioavailability of "bound residues". These represent non-extractable residues with varying toxicological significance.

32. In addition to the regular JECFA reports, the Commission was informed that an additional publication had been issued recently as a result of a JECFA Meeting. This was FAO Food and Nutrition Paper Number 45 entitled "Exposure of Infants and Children to Lead" which was initially a working paper prepared for the 30th meeting of JECFA, but was considered of sufficient interest and importance to be published as a separate document.

33. The Commission was advised that FAO was consolidating all current JECFA specifications into one volume. This was being done with the support of the Japan Food Additives Association which had provided a food additives expert to review, edit and assemble the combined volume. This effort would include updating the present FAO/WHO food additives data system. The JECFA Secretariat had kept a record of corrections presented at previous CCFAC meetings, and these would be included in the final consolidated volume. No firm decision had been made concerning whether the combined volume would be in bound or loose-leaf binder format.

34. The Commission was further advised that FAO was updating and revising the Guide to JECFA Specifications (FAO Food and Nutrition Paper Number 5) which was last revised in 1983.

35. Finally, the Commission was informed that two JECFA meetings had been planned for 1990. These were the 36th meeting on veterinary drug residues in foods, scheduled for Rome in February 1990; and the 37th meeting on food additives scheduled for Geneva in June 1990.

### Joint FAO/WHO Contamination Monitoring Programme

36. The Joint FAO/WHO Food Contamination Monitoring Programme had been established under the Global Environmental Monitoring System (GEMS) of the United Nations Environment Programme to coordinate and stimulate monitoring activities at national, regional and global levels for the early detection and control of pollution in the environment. A description of the Programme's activities was contained in ALINORM 89/7. The Commission was informed of the work on monitoring levels of certain pesticides, PCBs, heavy metals and aflatoxins. It was noted in particular that the data collected under the programme were available to the subsidiary bodies of the Commission for use in establishing maximum levels of contaminants in commodity standards. The Commission was informed of the valuable assistance provided by the Governments of Sweden and the United Kingdom and WHO's International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) in Lyon, France, in the provision of support of the laboratory quality assurance aspects of the programme. It was pointed out that the results of these studies to date indicate that large differences exist between laboratories with regard to analytical capability. As a result, training and other assistance was being provided to improve on the quality of the data produced. The Commission was advised that a joint FAO/WHO/UNEP review meeting was to be held in late July 1989 to review the joint programme and determine the future role of the programme. The Commission recommended that this review meeting be informed of the Commission's concern about the quality of data being generated by the Joint Programme and that urgent action be taken under the Programme to improve the quality of data submitted by countries.

### Second Joint FAO/WHO/UNEP International Conference on Mycotoxins, Bangkok, Thailand, 28 September to 2 October 1987

37. The Commission was informed of the results of the Second Joint FAO/WHO/UNEP International Conference on Mycotoxins and the recommendations made. The Conference in particular, supported the work of the Codex Alimentarius leading to international harmonization of approaches to regulatory control measures. The Conference adopted 16 specific recommendations addressed to the prevention of mycotoxin development, monitoring and control of mycotoxin contamination, training, information and research. The report of the Conference had been widely distributed among countries and provided policy makers with a basis for decision-making in respect of the control of mycotoxin in foods.

### Joint FAO/WHO Regional Workshops

38. The Commission was informed concerning the holding of Joint FAO/WHO Regional Workshops in Indonesia, Egypt, Costa Rica and Mexico, and which included the topics of food safety, control of food export and imports, and food legislation and standardization.

### Joint FAO/WHO Expert Consultation on Recommended Allowances of Nutrients for Food Labelling Purposes

39. The Commission was informed that the Consultation had been organized in response to the request of the Commission at its 17th Session. The Consultation was held in Helsinki, Finland, in September 1988, and was made possible by the support of the Ministry of Trade and Industry of

Finland. The Consultation reviewed the current recommended intakes of nutrients established at national and international levels and discussed available data on RDI/RDAs as well as the Reference RDAs of the Codex Guidelines on Nutrition Labelling. The Consultation recommended that a "Nutrient Reference Value" be used for nutrition labelling to clearly indicate to consumers that the references served only as a standard for comparison of nutrient content of foods and did not relate to individual nutrient needs. The Consultation had established a list of 15 nutrients with their respective Nutrient Reference Values. The Consultation report had been published and presented to both the 16th Session of the Codex Committee on Nutrition and Foods for Special Dietary Uses, and the 20th Session of the Codex Committee on Food Labelling.

40. The Commission expressed its appreciation and support to FAO and WHO for the joint efforts being taken to support national food control activities. The Commission noted with keen interest the joint activities of the two organizations and requested to be kept fully informed on these issues.

Joint FAO/IAEA/WHO/ITC(UNCTAD/GATT) International Conference on the Acceptance, Control of and Trade in Irradiated Food, Geneva, 12-16 December 1988

41. The Commission was informed that the Conference proceedings had been published by IAEA, on behalf of the sponsoring Organizations, in June 1989. The proceedings contained the following: (i) opening statements made by, or on behalf of, the executive heads of the four sponsoring organizations, (ii) opening speeches made by the Chairman of the Codex Alimentarius Commission and by the Chairman of the International Consultative Group on Food Irradiation, (iii) the keynote papers presented at the Conference together with the discussions that followed them, (iv) the Document on Food Irradiation being the "outcome" of the Conference in English, French, Spanish and Russian, and (v) the list of participants.

42. In addition, the Commission was informed that WHO, under cover of a Note Verbale (C.L. 13-1989) of 20 June 1989, had distributed to its Member States a document containing questions raised by the International Organization of Consumer Unions (IOCU) regarding the safety of irradiated food, together with an authoritative WHO reply to these questions (document No. WHO/EHE/FOS/89.1).

43. The Commission requested WHO to distribute this document to all Codex Contact Points.

#### REPORT ON FAO ACTIVITIES

44. The Commission was informed of specific activities relating to cooperation with member governments, particularly those of developing countries, which were described in detail in Part B of ALINORM 89/7 and which were carried out by the FAO Food Control and Consumer Protection Group in the Food Quality and Standards Service.

Food Control Assistance to Developing Countries including promotion of coherent national food quality control systems and the organization of national food control strategy workshops remained high priority. Increased attention was being paid to programmes dealing with export and import



certification of food and agriculture products and where applicable Codex Standards were being recommended.

Food Contamination Surveys and Training in Food Contamination Control were carried out within the overall efforts to strengthen food control systems in developing countries. They also supported the activities of the FAO/WHO Food Contamination Monitoring Programme. Regional activities had been supplemented by additional activities in specific developing countries.

Training continued to receive high priority. A regional network of training centres has been established in the Asian Region to strengthen various food laboratory and inspection activities. Establishment of a similar network of training centres in Latin America was planned in the near future. The countries of Canada, Federal Republic of Germany, the Netherlands, Sweden and the USA were cited for their excellent cooperation and assistance in providing training to individuals from FAO projects.

Food Control laboratories in several countries had received assistance in strengthening their national capabilities and programme. An Asian regional workshop on laboratory management was held in late 1988 in Bangkok.

Street Foods - FAO has continued supporting activities to determine the types and levels of contaminants found in street foods which in some countries was the major source of food intake for some of the populations. Work to improve the conditions under which these foods were being sold was being undertaken. The problems appear to be national rather than international. Regional workshops have been held so as to coordinate the activities on a regional basis. An Expert Consultation on Street Foods was held in Indonesia in late 1988 and the report was made available to the Commission delegates. Follow-up activities are planned so as to improve the quality and safety of these foods.

45. The Delegations of India and Indonesia expressed their appreciation for the training activities conducted by FAO in the context of the regional network of training centres for food control. The Delegation of China also expressed its appreciation to FAO for the training activities offered, and welcomed the possibility for the establishment of further training centres by FAO or other international bodies. The Delegation stressed the importance of training in the field of import and export inspection of food commodities.

#### Radionuclides

46. The Commission was informed about the Regional Training Programmes for analysis of foods for determination of radionuclide contamination. An Asian Regional Workshop was held in early 1989, and similar programmes were scheduled in late 1989 in Kuwait for the countries of the Middle East, in 1990 in Mexico for the Latin American countries, and Ghana for the countries of Africa.

#### Mycotoxins

47. As a follow-up to the 2nd International Conference on Mycotoxins, sub-regional training workshops on aflatoxin analysis had been held in Malawi and Trinidad. A similar workshop was

scheduled to be held in late 1989 in Francophone Africa. The Commission was informed concerning the establishment of a network of training institutions utilizing existing institutes in Asia for mycotoxin control. The joint FAO/UNEP/UNEP/COM project was scheduled to commence in mid-1990 and is to include training centres in India, the Philippines, Thailand and the USSR, and would concentrate on sampling and analysis for aflatoxin, providing advice and guidance regarding prevention of mycotoxins and analytical methodology for mycotoxins other than aflatoxins.

#### International Code of Conduct on the Distribution and Use of Pesticides

48. The Commission was informed of the work of FAO in promoting the International Code of Conduct on the Distribution and Use of Pesticides and especially the provision of prior consent which is being actively pursued. Dissemination of the Code was widely made and regional and sub-regional workshops arranged to harmonize potential registration requirements.

#### Export Control

49. The Commission was informed of the assistance being provided to upgrade national food export programmes. Workshops were held in Asia, Africa and Latin America to discuss problems associated with the exports of foods. In addition, Finland had provided funds to FAO to assist in conducting a global review of problems associated with food imports. An international meeting on food export/import problems was planned to be held in late 1990 at FAO, Rome, to harmonize national activities.

#### Publications

50. The Commission was informed regarding recent FAO publications which included a food sampling manual, the Report of the 1988 Expert Consultation on Street Foods, and a manual on Management of Food Control Programmes prepared under the Regional Project Network of Training Centres for Food Inspectors in Asia. The Commission was advised that work was proceeding on the preparation of a Manual on Quality Assurance for the Food Control Laboratory with publication planned for mid-1990.

#### **WHO ACTIVITIES**

51. The Commission was informed that WHO's work included in ALINORM 89/7 would only refer to global and interregional activities and not to country level and regional activities which were the responsibility of WHO's six Regional Offices. The country level and regional activities would be reported on by the responsible regional staff to the Regional Coordinating Committees.

52. Concerning health education in food safety, the Commission learned of an interregional seminar on this topic for Muslim countries of Africa and Asia to be convened in Amman, Jordan, in 1990.

53. The Commission was also informed that the report on the WHO Consultation on Health Surveillance and Management Procedures for Food Handling Personnel would be available in 1-2 months as part of WHO's Technical Report Series. This consultation had concluded that routine

medical and laboratory examination was very costly but ineffective in preventing food contamination and thus food-borne diseases, and governments and industry were advised to discontinue this practice. Instead, it was recommended to adopt more cost-effective measures such as health education, staff self-reporting of illness, implementation of HACCP and strengthening of food-borne disease surveillance. Since these recommendations would have consequences for several Codex Codes of Hygienic Practice, the Codex Committee on Food Hygiene would be thoroughly briefed on the outcome of this Consultation.

54. Concerning the exchange of information on drugs, a plea was made to the participants to inform WHO's Pharmaceutical Programme on regulatory decisions, at the national level, regarding safety and efficacy of veterinary drugs and other relevant information. This information would then be published in WHO's Pharmaceuticals Newsletter and/or in other relevant WHO journals which were regularly distributed to public health authorities of WHO Member States.

#### Activities of the Joint FAO/IAEA/WHO International Consultative Group on Food Irradiation (ICGFI)

55. The Commission learned that the ICGFI Consultation on Microbiological Criteria for Foods to be Irradiated had recommended, for several food commodities, microbiological guidelines as indicators of Good Manufacturing Practice (GMP), regardless of whether these foods were intended to be irradiated or processed in any other way. The report on this consultation would be available from WHO in late 1989, and the Codex Committee on Food Hygiene would also receive an extensive report on this consultation.

56. The Commission congratulated FAO and WHO for their work in strengthening national food control infrastructures, including the emphasis placed on training, and requested that this work continue to receive high priority.

#### **REPORT OF ACTIVITIES OF OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS (Agenda Item 9)**

57. The Commission had before it document ALINORM 89/8 containing a summary of activities of the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) and the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UN/ECE).

#### ISO activities of interest to the Commission

58. The Representative of the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) drew the attention of the Commission to Section II of document ALINORM 89/8 which contained a short summary of the work of ISO/TC 34 "Agricultural Food Products" and referred to the existing cooperation between the sub-committees of ISO/TC 34 and the Codex Alimentarius Commission. He reminded the Commission that the policy adopted by ISO in the field of agricultural products had been recognized by the Commission as a basis of its cooperation with ISO.

59. The Commission noted that the ISO Central Secretariat had, in response to requests by ISO member bodies and international organizations, published a selective list of ISO standards for food technology. This list, published in both English and French, included the reference numbers and

titles of about 450 ISO standards covering various aspects such as terminology, methods of analysis and sampling, and in a few cases also specifications.

#### United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UN/ECE)

60. The observer from the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UN/ECE) brought to the attention of the Commission the work recently completed by the Group of Experts on Coordination of Standardization for Fresh Fruit and Vegetables, on the harmonization of its standards with the revised standard layout for UN/ECE standards, and the active role taken by the Group in discussing in depth the various aspects of the work of the Codex Committee on Tropical Fresh Fruits and Vegetables, and expressing its views to the relevant Codex Committees. The attention of the Commission was also drawn to the establishment of a new group of experts on standardization of porcine and bovine meat which is expected to begin work in 1990 to harmonize national standards for porcine carcasses and port cuts, and extend it later to bovine meat.

61. Many delegations expressed concern about the duplication of work on food standardization by the UN/ECE and cited as examples the work on tropical fruits and vegetables and harmonization of national standards for porcine and bovine carcasses and cuts. The Commission expressed the view that duplication of work on food standards by Regional bodies should be avoided. The Secretariat informed the Commission of the steps it was taking to avoid duplication and cited as an example its efforts to elicit comments from all Codex Contact Points on the draft standard on mangoes elaborated by OECD.

62. The Delegation of Tanzania drew attention to the work of the International Organization for Standardization which had considered commercial standards for cashew nuts and noted that similar work was presently being undertaken by UN/ECE. In its view, the position of UN/ECE, which is of a very limited membership of countries in Europe, could prove unfair to many developing countries which have a significant interest in cashew nuts.

#### International Trade Centre (ITC/UNCTAD/GATT)

63. The Representative of the International Trade Centre reported briefly on the work of the Centre. The Commission noted that the International Trade Centre was not a food standardization body but supported food standardization work by cooperating with different bodies active in food standardization, dissemination of information on food standards and creation of awareness among the countries on the need for food standardization. It also noted that the Trade Centre has established a system for quality inspection of foods.

#### European Committee for Standardization (CEN)

64. The delegation of Norway drew the attention of the Commission to the work on elaboration of standards on fruit juices by the European Committee for Standardization (CEN). The observer from EEC stated that the standards on fruit juices originally envisaged by the European Committee for Standardization encompass (i) Standards of Identity and (ii) Methods of Analysis. However, CEN had since agreed not to proceed with work on standards of identity. The observer expressed the view that there would be no incompatibility between the activities of the EEC, CEN and the

UNECE/Codex Group of Experts on Fruit Juices. He also expressed the view that there was no cause for alarm with regard to activities undertaken by CEN on standardization of fruit juices.

**PROGRESS REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CODE OF ETHICS FOR INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN FOOD (Agenda Item 10)**

65. The Secretariat introduced document ALINORM 89/9 which contained a summary report of the statements made by governments in regard to the implementation of the Code of Ethics for International Trade in Food (CAC/RCP 20-1979, Rev. 1 1985) both at previous sessions of the Commission and also at sessions of the Coordinating Committees.

66. The Commission noted that the Secretariat was taking active interest in promoting the Code of Ethics. Several communications had been sent to member nations of FAO and WHO during the past few years, the last one being Communication G/CX 2, March 1988, urging implementation of the Code by governments, especially by governments of exporting countries, and all those concerned with international trade in food.

67. The Delegation of the United States of America informed the Commission of its fullest support to the principles contained in the Code of Ethics for International Trade in Food and had encouraged other countries to accept the Code.

68. The Delegation of Hungary stated that the current Hungarian Food Act fulfilled all the principles and requirements of the Code of Ethics and that there were no clauses in the Code which could cause problems in trade. Based on the proposal of the Group of Experts who reviewed the Hungarian Food Act, all the interested ministries of Hungary conveyed their approval to accept the Code of Ethics for International Trade in Food. The Commission noted that a formal communication would shortly be sent to this effect.

69. The Delegation of India recognized the importance of the Code of Ethics in maintaining the quality of food moving in international trade and in establishing good trade relationships among all the trading countries. Using the Code of Ethics for International Trade in Food as the basis, the industrial sector in India has developed a national code for control of trade in food within the country, which would go a long way in improving not only food trade but the ethical aspects involved in the production and marketing of quality food.

70. The Delegation of Algeria stated that the principles contained in the Code of Ethics were taken into consideration in the 1989 Algerian Law on General Rules relating to the Protection of Consumers, and related texts for its application. In its view, such a Code constituted only a moral obligation for the countries which adopted it and did not guarantee the quality of the food moving in trade. This guarantee can be provided only by the strengthening of national legislation and food control systems. The delegation expressed a wish that all Codex Commodity Standards should contain in the same document: (i) Compositional requirements; (ii) List of defects; (iii) Possible adulterants; (iv) Inspection methods (critical points to be checked); (v) Sampling methods, and (vi) Analytical methods. This could then be used as an easy reference and would prove useful to many of the developing countries.

71. The Delegation of Switzerland also stressed the need for the setting up of an infrastructure in all countries for the control of the Code of Ethics for International Trade in Food.

72. The Commission noted the importance of the Code of Ethics in export and import trade and stressed the need for all countries to set up the required infrastructure for the control of the Code. It asked the Secretariat to continue to monitor implementation of the Code and to report on further progress to its next session.

**RELATIONS WITH GATT AND ITS COMMITTEE ON TECHNICAL BARRIERS TO TRADE AND NEGOTIATING GROUP ON AGRICULTURE (Agenda Item 11)**

73. The Secretariat introduced ALINORM 89/10, concerning Relations with GATT and its Committee on Technical Barriers to Trade (Part A) and the Negotiating Group on Agriculture (Part B). The Commission welcomed the participation of representatives from the GATT Agriculture Division and the Technical and Other Barriers to Trade Division during its deliberations.

74. The Commission noted that the working paper summarized the current status of the ongoing relationship between the Commission and GATT, and included discussions concerning this issue during the 9th Session of the Codex Committee on General Principles (paras. 18-30, ALINORM 89/33). The Commission also noted discussions concerning this issue at the 36th Session of the Executive Committee (paras. 25 to 29, ALINORM 89/4).

75. The Secretariat informed the Commission of its attendance at the GATT Committee on Technical Barriers to Trade meetings in September 1988 and May 1989 as well as the Uruguay Round Negotiating Group on Agriculture, Working Group on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Regulations and Barriers meeting in November 1988, where information was presented concerning the general activities of Codex, including reports on current GATT/Codex cooperation. In its presentation to the Committee on Technical Barriers to Trade, the Observer from the Codex secretariat had stressed the importance of the avoidance of duplication of effort with the Committee and had noted that the procedures established for the exchange of notifications would be continued so as to keep national Codex Contact Points and parties to the TBT Agreement informed of standardization activities within Codex and at the national level. Following the presentation of the document ALINORM 89/10 to the Committee at its meeting on 16 June 1989, the delegation of the European Economic Community had stated that there was need for further careful consideration of this document and that this delegation reserved its position with respect to it.

76. The Secretariat also informed the Commission of activities of GATT which had endorsed the harmonization of national sanitary and phytosanitary regulations as a long-term goal through a work programme embodying seven objectives (Annex III, ALINORM 89/10). The Secretariat especially noted objective number 2, which seeks to ensure that measures taken to protect human, animal or plant, life or health are consistent with sound scientific evidence and use suitable principles of equivalency as well as objective number 6, concerning the need for technical assistance for developing countries regarding sanitary and phytosanitary measures. The Commission was informed that the implementation of these objectives, although endorsed in principle, were still subject to development within GATT.

77. The Secretariat assured the Commission that attendance as observers at each other's meetings to facilitate the exchange of information would continue in the future.

78. The GATT representatives informed the Commission that GATT was not a standards setting body, but facilitated international trade through a set of rules and forums for dispute settlement. It was noted that the current GATT agricultural negotiations were meant to tighten loopholes in disciplines on agricultural trade, and a Working Group on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Regulations and Barriers had been established to reduce the use of sanitary and phytosanitary regulations as unnecessary barriers to trade. In discussing the seven objectives of the working group, it was indicated that the objectives would encourage GATT member countries to use internationally accepted standards and would allow GATT to seek the expert advice and assistance of international organizations such as Codex in agricultural dispute situations.

79. The Commission was also informed that the Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade, which entered into force in 1980, had 38 members. It was the only inter-governmental agreement that addressed matters regarding the prevention of technical obstacles to trade.

80. The Agreement also promoted the use of international standards by parties as a basis for their national standards and encouraged the participation of Parties in international standardization activities. The Agreement included procedures for dissemination of information and notifications.

81. The GATT representative explained that the dispute settlement procedures under the Agreement provided for consultations, investigation by the Committee and the establishment of a panel and/or a technical expert group. The Agreement also included provisions which allowed the Committee to have recourse to appropriate advice and assistance from competent bodies and experts during dispute settlement procedures. It was indicated further that negotiations were currently being held in the Uruguay Round in order to improve, clarify and expand the Agreement in the area of testing, inspection and approval procedures; transparency; second level obligations; processes and production methods.

82. The Delegation of the United States supported all four proposals of the Codex Committee on General Principles (CCGP), for continuing and strengthening the relationship between Codex and GATT, as they were consistent with current Uruguay Round negotiations concerning the harmonization of sanitary and phytosanitary measures making use of the work of Codex, the International Office of Epizootics and the International Plant Protection Convention. The Delegations of Argentina, Australia, Canada, Malaysia and New Zealand also supported the adoption of all four CCGP proposals, as they could assist in the elimination of unnecessary sanitary and phytosanitary barriers to trade.

83. The support of technical bodies in the elimination of arbitrary barriers to trade in the fields of health and consumer protection was also felt to be desirable, as was the increased visibility of Codex as a result of its relationship with GATT.

84. The Delegations of Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Federal Republic of Germany, India, Ireland, Japan, Netherlands, Norway, Singapore, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and Thailand, and the observer from IOCU, supported the efforts towards strengthened cooperation and

coordination with GATT as well as the first three proposals of CCGP. Support for the fourth proposal of CCGP concerning the amendment of the Codex Procedural Manual to include a reference to GATT was felt to be premature, as the long-term objectives of the GATT Working Group had yet to be finalized. The Delegation of France also stated that the Procedural Manual already contained provisions for interaction with international organizations and did not prevent Codex/GATT collaboration. The significance and recognition of consumers in the development of national regulations was also stressed by the Delegation of the United Kingdom and supported by several of these Delegations. It was, however, pointed out by the Delegations of Norway and Spain that the interests of consumers were already taken into account by Codex and national governments, and in turn would be also by GATT if GATT were to recognize the work of Codex. The importance of maintaining the optional and flexible characteristics of Codex standards was pointed out as an integral part of any Codex/GATT agreement. The Delegation of Egypt also indicated that the dietary intake and habits of consumers should be considered in addition to safety aspects, and also stated that whereas the primary objective of GATT was the improvement of trade, the improvement of public health was one of the major objectives of the Codex Alimentarius Commission. The Delegation of Switzerland also emphasized the importance of coordination between Codex national delegates and national GATT representatives in the harmonization process. The Delegation of the Federal Republic of Germany also suggested the dissemination of reports concerning relevant GATT deliberations to Codex Contact Points, especially in view of the complexity of issues involved.

85. The Commission expressed its support concerning cooperative efforts with GATT, and noted that the mechanisms of this relationship were subject to further development. It was also stressed that consumer concerns were always taken into account by the Commission and GATT through the participation of national representatives. The Commission also emphasized that the flexibility of Codex standards should be maintained, unless changed by the Commission through the revision of acceptance procedures or by other means. The Secretariat indicated that information on progress in the GATT negotiations would be circulated to Codex Contact Points, and also highlighted the importance of communication between GATT and Codex representatives.

86. The GATT representatives agreed that the objectives of the GATT Working Group were subject to further study and that the mechanisms for cooperation between GATT and Codex were under development. The Commission was also assured that GATT would not be judging Codex Standards, nor be creating international standards during any of its deliberations.

87. The Commission thanked the GATT representatives for attending and participating at the Session, and agreed to the need to avoid duplication of work with GATT, while emphasizing Codex goals of consumer protection, health and the facilitation of trade. It was further agreed that the flexibility of Codex standards would also be maintained. The Commission also noted that the Uruguay Round discussions agreed with the principles and objectives of Codex, and that the cooperation between Codex and GATT would benefit both organizations.

88. The Committee adopted the following recommendations of the Codex Committee on General Principles:

1) The Commission should continue to assure that possible areas of conflict are harmonized and duplication of effort is avoided with the GATT Committee on Technical Barriers to Trade.



2) The CAC Secretariat should make every effort, in collaboration with the GATT Secretariat, to ensure the participation of the CAC Secretariat at sessions of the GATT Committee on Technical Barriers to Trade and of the GATT Secretariat at sessions of CAC when matters of mutual concern are under consideration.

3) The existing notification mechanism for the exchange of information should be examined for possible revision and use by the Codex Alimentarius Commission.

89. It further agreed that the proposal to amend the Elaboration Procedures to make specific reference to GATT would continue to be kept under review and would be examined by the next session of the Codex Committee on General Principles.

#### **CONSIDERATION OF PROPOSALS FOR ACTION IN RELATION TO RADIONUCLIDE CONTAMINATION OF FOODS (Agenda Item 12)**

90. The Commission had before it document ALINORM 89/11, prepared jointly by FAO and WHO following the recommendations of the 21st Session of the Codex Committee on Food Additives and Contaminants, and Conference Room Document LIM 3 containing the written comments of Austria, Canada and the United Kingdom. The paper was introduced by Dr. P. Waight (WHO) who drew the Commission's attention to the extremely conservative assumption contained in the methodology used in deriving the recommended guideline levels, the simplicity of their use and application, and their flexibility in that they could be used in any accident situation with any mixture of contaminating radionuclides.

91. All of the delegations which spoke expressed their appreciation to FAO and WHO for the rapid response to the wish expressed at its 17th Session for quick action to be taken jointly by the Organizations in preparing proposals for the Commission's consideration.

92. The Delegation of India expressed its view that limits for radionuclides contamination should take into account factors such as national food consumption habits, nutritional status, and the difficulties of analytical determination of the level of contamination especially in developing countries. The Delegation also stated that the basic level of intervention, 5 milliSieverts, was high and preferred the use of a basic level of 1 milliSievert. In addition, the Delegation stated that the levels used should take into account trade in skim milk powder, butter and butter oil, cereals and meat products individually; provide for additivity between all isotopes; and that the isotopes in each class should be listed individually. The Delegation also stated that limits should be established for normal years as well.

93. The Delegation of Singapore stated that the levels seemed to have been derived exclusively in the interest of international trade, and that health and safety seemed not to be taken into account. The delegation added that the basis of 5 milliSieverts for calculation was too high, and that a risk of  $10^{-4}$  was not acceptable.

94. The opinions of these two Delegations were shared by the Delegations of Argentina, Brazil, Malaysia and Thailand.

95. The Delegations of Belgium, Canada, Finland, Hungary, Norway, Poland, Sweden and Switzerland generally supported the proposals contained in the document. Several of these Delegations expressed the view that there was a need to define the emergency period during which the guideline levels would apply and also to establish levels for non-accident situations, a view which was also shared by some of the delegations which did not support the proposals. The Delegations of Finland, Sweden and Norway expressed minor reservations concerning the establishment of separate levels of milk and infant foods. The Delegation of Belgium noted that the levels proposed were compatible with similar levels proposed for adoption by the EEC. The Delegation of Canada drew attention to its written comments which it stated could be useful as a technical annex to aid in the interpretation of the proposed levels. The Delegation of Austria, although supporting the basis of 5 milliSieverts, stated that it could not support the levels derived from this basis.

96. The Delegation of Japan, whilst not opposing the adoption of the proposals, drew attention to the procedures followed in that country, whereby the dose from radionuclide contamination from food was calculated on the basis of a distribution of one-third of the total reference dose taking into consideration other sources of contamination such as air and water.

97. The Observer of the EEC drew attention to the maximum limits established within the framework of the EEC for foods and animal feeds for use after a nuclear accident or in any other radiological emergency. The emergency limits which would be adopted by the EEC would remain in effect for a certain period following an accident, during which time the situation could be evaluated more completely. Notwithstanding this approach, the permitted levels adopted by the EEC following the Chernobyl accident would remain in force until the end of 1989.

98. The Chairman of the Codex Committee on Food Additives and Contaminants provided the Commission with a summary of the discussion which took place at the Committee's 21st session, and stated that the proposals recommended by the Committee represented a carefully agreed compromise between the many points of view of the delegation present.

99. The Delegation of the United Kingdom expressed its dissatisfaction with the proposed levels, stating that they were unrealistically conservative. It further stated that it would prefer higher levels similar to those under consideration by the EEC.

100. In reply to many of the questions raised, the representative of WHO (Dr. Waight) stated that the proposed levels were indeed based on health and safety criteria, but represented the use of very conservative assumptions to assure their acceptability for use in international trade. He stated that intervention levels calculated on a public health basis alone would be many times higher. Referring to the question of additivity, Dr. Waight stressed that the very conservative approach used meant that the principle of additivity was insignificant, and that using these levels, the average dose to the population was likely to be less than 0.1 milliSievert.

101. The Secretariat noted that the guideline level had not been defined, and proposed that the following definition, taken with appropriate amendments from Appendix X of ALINORM 89/12A should be adopted by the Commission as an interim measure for the purpose of these Guideline levels:

"Guideline levels are intended for use in regulating foods moving in international trade. When the Guideline levels are exceeded, governments should decide whether and under what circumstances, the food should be distributed within their territory or jurisdiction."

#### Status of the Proposed Guideline Levels

102. The Commission noted the views of the delegations which were not in favour of adopting the proposed Guideline levels, but nevertheless adopted them as Codex Guideline Levels for Use in International Trade following Accidental Nuclear Contamination of Food and noted that the Guideline levels would remain applicable for one year following a nuclear accident. It also adopted, as an interim measure, the definition of Guideline level as proposed by the Secretariat. Noting the views of the 36th Session of the Executive Committee, it also agreed that the question of applying dilution factors and the treatment of minor dietary components (ALINORM 89/11, paras. 29 and 30) should remain under review. It also recommended the relevant international organizations (FAO, WHO, IAEA) to continue to work together in developing methods of sampling and analysis which would meet the requirements of food control authorities, especially in developing countries. Finally, the Commission congratulated FAO and WHO for their efforts in preparing the detailed proposals put before it.

#### **ESTABLISHMENT OF A NEW REGIONAL CODEX COORDINATING COMMITTEE (Agenda Item 13)**

103. The Commission had before it the three basic documents pertinent to this item: ALINORM 89/37, a formal paper describing the background to the establishment of the new Coordinating Committee for North America and South West Pacific, ALINORM 89/33, the report of the Codex Committee on General Principles, and ALINORM 89/4 (Annex II), the report of the 36th Session of the Executive Committee.

104. At the 17th Session of the Commission, the Delegation of the USA had proposed that consideration be given to establishing a new Codex Coordinating Committee for North America. The matter was referred to the 35th Session of the Executive Committee which proposed that all countries not currently members of one of the established Coordinating Committees should be contacted to determine whether or not a single new Coordinating Committee for the Regions of North America and the South-West Pacific should be established, and that an administrative and financial statement should be prepared by the Secretariat on the basis of the replies received. The Secretariat informed the Commission that four of the six countries of the region had replied positively to the proposed establishment of the new Coordinating Committee. The new Committee would cause no administrative or financial problems since the hosting country would cover organizational expenses; staff inputs and travel expenses should be equal to those for other coordinating committees, and publication costs would be minimal since working documents would be prepared only in one language. The Secretariat then referred to the general harmonized terms of reference for the Codex Committee on General Principles and suggested that the terms of reference of the new Committee be discussed under the corresponding agenda item 20.

105. The Delegations of the Netherlands, the United Kingdom and Indonesia welcomed the idea of the Coordinating Committee for North America and the South West Pacific.

106. The Commission decided to establish a new Codex Coordinating Committee for North America and the South West Pacific. The Australian Delegation expressed its appreciation of the support given to the new Committee which would increase the interest in the region for the work of the Codex Alimentarius Commission and would help the food trade. The Delegation proposed Dr. Lester Crawford, USA, as the Coordinator of the newly created Committee. Dr. Crawford expressed his gratitude for the nomination and his willingness to take up the assignment. The Delegation of New Zealand thanked the Commission for the endorsement of the new Committee which would bring together far flung countries but which have many common interests. The Canadian Delegation noted that the new Committee would be very useful in promoting and coordinating Codex work in the region.

107. The Commission decided to appoint Dr. Lester Crawford (USA) as the Coordinator of the newly established Committee and asked him to submit, in consultation with countries present at the session a proposal for the place and date of the first session of the Committee.

#### **FORMAL ADOPTION BY THE COMMISSION OF REPORTS OF ITS SUBSIDIARY BODIES (Agenda Item 14)**

108. In introducing the working paper for this item, ALINORM 89/38, and the Report of the 35th Session of the Executive Committee (ALINORM 89/3), the Secretariat summarized the status of reporting and adoption of documents of the subsidiary bodies of the CAC. This problem was raised by the Delegations of Norway and the United Kingdom during the discussion of future work at the 17th Session of the Commission. The Executive Committee at its 35th Session noted that in addition to standards and codes of practice, the subsidiary bodies of the Commission had prepared other documents, such as guidelines which were not elaborated through the Codex step procedures. The Executive Committee felt that close scrutiny was necessary on these types of texts (ALINORM 89/3 para. 31-34). It also recommended that decisions and recommendations of these bodies addressed to FAO, WHO and other organizations should be reviewed and endorsed by the Commission.

109. The Commission was asked to endorse the recommendations of the Executive Committee that:

- guidelines and other text of a non-mandatory nature should be elaborated through the Step Procedure unless there is justification for not doing so;
- all such work should be approved by the Commission (or in the interim by the Executive Committee) at an early stage;
- all conclusions or recommendations which Committees may wish to address to FAO, WHO or member governments should be subject to the Commission's review and endorsement.

110. The Delegation of Norway expressed its great satisfaction with the paper presented to the Commission, and stated its support for the recommendations of the Executive Committee on that subject. The Delegation of the United Kingdom congratulated the Secretariat and the Executive

Committee on the very satisfactory solution presented to the Commission and expressed its full support to the recommendations of the Executive Committee.

111. The Commission endorsed the recommendations of the Executive Committee on that subject.

#### **IMPLICATIONS OF BIOTECHNOLOGY ON INTERNATIONAL FOOD STANDARDS AND CODES OF PRACTICE (Agenda Item 15)**

112. The Commission had for its consideration document ALINORM 89/39, a paper prepared on this topic for the Secretariat by Drs. J. Maryanski and D. Berkowitz (USA). The paper had been prepared at the request of the 35th Session of the Executive Committee (ALINORM 89/3, paras. 59, 60) and had been briefly discussed at the Executive Committee's 36th Session.

113. Dr. Maryanski introduced the paper, and drew attention to its principal conclusions: that safety evaluations of foods prepared with the aid of biotechnology should concentrate on the finished product rather than on the process used; that changes to existing foods through the use of transgenic techniques were likely to be incremental and that therefore the safety assessment should focus on the inserted traits and their stability in the food product rather than on the product *per se*; and finally, that the applications of new biotechnology could be evaluated under the existing Codex system as are other foods, food additives, food ingredients, pesticide and veterinary drug residues and animal feeds.

114. Many delegations expressed their appreciation of the document and its timely presentation to the Commission. The document was considered to provide an excellent basis for future debate in this area. The Delegation of Belgium, supported by that of the United Kingdom, however, drew attention to the problem of the assessment of novel foods, which were described as foods not necessarily produced by biotechnology but which could also be produced through these processes. The Delegation of Switzerland drew attention to a contradiction in the paper which left a doubt as to whether only the final product or also the process of its elaboration should be subject to evaluation. In discussing novel foods, these delegations stated that there should be a separate type of evaluation in which a novel food should be examined to determine whether or not it was appropriate for food use, and whether or not it should be considered as a food ingredient or an additive. There were already established procedures for the evaluation of food additives by JECFA, and parallel arrangements for novel foods and novel food ingredients might be required.

115. These delegations believed that an ad hoc evaluation procedure may be justified, on a case-by-case basis, to determine the type of evaluation which would be necessary. It was also noted that nutritional evaluation should be identified in the document as an important aspect of the safety assessment. The Delegation of Denmark pointed out that, in the case of plant products, consideration should be given not only to the inserted genes but also to the interaction between the product of the inserted gene and the metabolism of the plant.

116. The Delegation of Sweden also drew attention to an area of application which had not been included in the paper, namely, the use of biotechnology in methods of analysis of foodstuffs. Several other delegations, including that of Iraq, drew attention to the use of biotechnologies in the preparation of feedstuffs, such as single cell protein and related foods. The Commission agreed with

the points raised by the paper and by the comments of delegates, indicated that further study of the paper and its implications was needed and that the paper should be circulated to Codex Contact Points for comment. The paper should also be brought to the attention of JECFA and JMPR for their comments. These comments would be considered by the Codex Committee on Food Additives and Contaminants and the Codex Committees on Pesticide Residues and Residues of Veterinary Drugs in Foods as appropriate. The Commission also agreed that the matter should be retained on the agenda of its next session.

117. The Commission was informed that WHO, together with FAO, were considering the convening of a Joint Expert Consultation on the Safety Evaluation of Foods Prepared through Biotechnological Techniques. A planning meeting to prepare for this expert consultation would be held in Washington, D.C., towards the end of 1989. Several delegations welcomed this approach and requested that the report of the expert consultation would also be sent to governments for comments and that these comments should also be referred to the appropriate Codex committees. The Delegation of France informed the Commission that there was available a series of documents in French on terminology used in relation to biotechnology which would be useful for specialists in the field and also for those persons wishing to understand or to translate documents on this subject.

118. In conclusion, the Delegation of Belgium expressed its disappointment that novel foods had been excluded from the topic under discussion as such foods were becoming ever more important.

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

119. The Commission had before it the Report of the Eighth Session of the Coordinating Committee for Africa (ALINORM 89/28) which had been held in Cairo, Egypt, from 29 November to 3 December 1988.

120. The report was introduced by Mr. Tawfic Zagloul Mourad Aballa, Coordinator for Africa, drawing attention to all matters discussed at the Session and to the status of work of the Committee. Mr. Zagloul thanked the FAO and the WHO personnel attending the Session for their assistance.

#### Consideration at Step 8 of the Draft African Regional Standards for Whole and Decorticated Pearl Millet Grains and Pearl Millet Flour (Appendices III and IV, ALINORM 89/28)

121. The Commission noted that the section on hygiene included in these standards differed from that endorsed by the Codex Committee on Food Hygiene and agreed that the endorsed text be inserted in the draft standards. It also agreed that the methods of analysis and sampling which were still pending endorsement should be referred to the Codex Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling. Concerning the method for the analysis of crude fibre, the Commission noted that the ISO method proposed was intended for verifying a quality criterion (e.g. presence of husk and other such matter) and was not related to the issue of "dietary fibre" discussed by the Codex Committee on Nutrition and Foods for Special Dietary Uses.

### Status of the Standards

122. The Commission adopted the two standards at Step 8 of the procedure as Codex Regional African Standards.

### Consideration at Step 5 of the Proposed Draft African Regional Standards for Edible Cassava Flour and Grated Desiccated Coconut (Appendices V and VI ALINORM 89/28)

123. The Commission noted that the situation in respect of the section on hygiene was the same as with the standards for pearl millet grains and flour, and also noted that some sections still required endorsement by the appropriate committees.

124. Regarding grated desiccated coconut, the Commission was informed that trade outside Africa in this commodity was significant. Several delegations representing importing and exporting countries expressed the opinion that the standard be further elaborated as a world-wide standard.

### Status of the Standards

125. The Commission advanced the two draft standards to Step 6 of the procedure. However, the Commission agreed that the Draft Standard for Grated Desiccated Coconut should be elaborated as a world-wide standard by the Codex Committee on Processed Fruits and Vegetables in accordance with the procedure for developing standards where Codex Committees had adjourned sine die.

### Amendment of the Codex African Regional Standard for Gari

126. The Commission noted that the Coordinating Committee had (a) recommended a practical sampling procedure based on the Codex Sampling Instructions, to replace the methods included in the Standard; (b) recommended the deletion of the method for the determination of extraneous vegetable matter (EVM), since the provision in the standard did not specify a limit for this defect, and (c) revised the section on labelling on the basis of the Codex General Standard for the Labelling of Prepackaged Foods.

127. The Commission adopted the proposed changes to the section on sampling and labelling as consequential changes reflecting the corresponding sections in the standards for pearl millet grain and flour adopted at the current session. It also agreed to delete the method for EVM.

### Collaboration between the African Regional Organization for Standardization (ARSO) and Codex

128. The Commission was informed that the Coordinating Committee had discussed ways of cooperation between ARSO and Codex in order to promote food standards work in Africa and avoid duplication of work. The Secretariat had been requested to arrange a bilateral meeting in order to discuss and resolve the question of collaboration.

129. The Chief of the Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme informed the Commission of the outcome of such a meeting while attending the ARSO conference in Nairobi held during early 1989. He expressed the opinion that the continued activities of ARSO in the field of food standards

could cause difficulties in the future. However, at the present stage, ARSO standards reflected Codex standards and differed only in format. ARSO had been provided with full Codex documentation and the Codex Secretariat was awaiting a response from ARSO concerning the question of collaboration, including collaboration in the field of training of technical personnel in food inspection and control.

#### Appointment of Coordinator for Africa

130. The Commission re-appointed Mr. Tawfic Zagloul Mourad Aballa of Egypt as Coordinator for Africa to serve from the end of the 18th to the end of the 19th Session. The Delegation of Egypt indicated that Egypt would be willing to host the 9th Session of the Coordinating Committee for Africa.

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

131. The Commission had before it the Report of the Sixth Session of the Coordinating Committee for Asia (ALINORM 89/15) which had been held in Denpasar, Indonesia, from 26 January - 1 February 1988.

132. The Report was introduced by Professor F.G. Winarno from Indonesia, who had chaired the Session. He emphasized the interest of the countries of the Codex Region of Asia, in the work of the Coordinating Committee and reviewed the topics which had been dealt with by the Committee.

133. The main topics discussed by the Coordinating Committee for Asia were: (a) review of acceptances of Codex Standards, (b) status of the existing food control infrastructures in the region, and ways and means to develop a strategy for increasing awareness at a high level of the need to strengthen the infrastructures in the interest of increasing food availability and promoting food exports, (c) regional food export and import, certification and inspection programmes, (d) the role of the Committee in promoting the integration of food safety into primary health care delivery systems, (e) report on Codex activities generally and on those aspects of Codex work of particular interest to the region, including work in the area of international standards for coffee and pesticide residues in food.

134. The Commission noted that the Committee had requested the Codex Secretariat to gather the views of the countries in the Codex Region of Asia on benefits, trade implications and problems accrued by them through acceptance of Codex Standards by a circular letter, and prepare a document containing such views as well as views of the Secretariat for discussion at its next session. The Commission also noted that the Committee unanimously expressed its appreciation and continued support for the training network concept and recommended that such projects containing the training concept be extended and expanded so that more people could be trained.

135. The Committee considered that the current Joint FAO/WHO activities in the field of food safety and food control were very important for the countries of the region, and proposed that the various proposals for integrating food safety into primary health care delivery systems should be acted upon. The Committee endorsed the concept that in designing export/import food control



programmes, countries should utilize, where possible, existing institutions and personnel so as to reduce financial burdens.

Other matters arising from the report of the 6th Session of the Committee

i) International Standards for Coffee

136. The Commission was informed of the discussions on the subject at the 6th Session of the Codex Coordinating Committee for Asia (ALINORM 89/15, paras. 200-203). It noted that the proposals of the Coordinating Committee were considered by the 35th and 36th Sessions of the Executive Committee. The 35th Session of the Executive Committee expressed the view that, since standards for coffee were currently being handled by ISO, it was essential to clarify that there would be no duplication of effort (ALINORM 89/3, para. 39). The 36th Session of the Executive Committee was of the opinion that the elaboration of standards for coffee and coffee products met the criteria of the Commission and that the Commission should consider either (i) the establishment of a Codex Commodity Committee which could be entrusted with the work on elaboration of standards for coffee and coffee products, or (ii) assigning the work to an existing subsidiary body.

137. The Commission noted that ISO had recognized the need for the establishment of an internationally acceptable system for defect scoring and had agreed to continue the standardization work in this respect in reference to green coffee and green decaffeinated coffee, keeping it informed of the progress, and through its Technical Committee ISO TC/34, cooperate with the Commission on work related to standardization of coffee and coffee products.

138. The Delegation of Switzerland informed the Commission that its Government would be prepared to host a Codex Committee on Coffee and Coffee Products if agreement was reached by the Commission to set up such a committee.

139. The proposal for elaboration of standards for coffee and coffee products was supported by the delegations of Cameroun and Brazil. Other delegations, however, expressed the view that elaboration of world-wide standards for coffee and coffee products was not necessary since the preparation and consumption of coffee differed significantly with the geographic region and that the International Coffee Organization and related organizations might be active in the standardization of coffee and coffee products.

140. The Commission asked the Secretariat to prepare a paper on current status of international standards for coffee for discussion at its next session, and to send a circular letter to governments asking their opinion on the need for the elaboration of standards for coffee and coffee products.

ii) Amendments to the Standards for Palm Oil and Palm Kernel Oil

141. The Commission discussed this under Agenda Item 36 (see paras. 519-520).

iii) Elaboration of Standards for Palm Olein and Palm Steerin

142. The Commission discussed this under Agenda Item 36 (see paras. 521-522).

### Estimation and Identification of Individual Fats in Mixtures of Oils

143. The Delegation of Egypt drew the attention of the Committee to its country's urgent need to develop Codex methods for estimation and identification of individual oils or fats in mixtures of oils. The Commission noted that the Codex Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling and the Codex Committee on Fats and Oils had considered this matter in detail, but that they had not been able to identify methods of analysis for this purpose. It, however, expressed the view that the matter was important and should be pursued.

### Code of Practice for Street Foods

144. The Delegation of China stated that a Code of Practice for Street Foods applicable to the Asian Region should be elaborated. The Commission noted that the 36th Session of the Executive Committee recommended that the core elements presently under elaboration in the different regional Codes of Practice for Street Foods should be examined by the Codex Committee on Food Hygiene and that individual Coordinating Committees should add to this core material the information that was specifically relevant to regional practice. It also noted that elaboration of Code of Practice for Street Foods will be an agenda item for consideration by the next session of the Coordinating Committee for Asia.

### Appointment of Coordinator for Asia

145. The Commission was informed that the Coordinating Committee for Asia had unanimously nominated Dr. Pakdee Pothisiri (Thailand) for appointment as Coordinator for Asia by the Commission at its 18th Session, and that this nomination had the support of the Thai authorities.

146. In accordance with Rule II.4(b) of the rules of procedure of the Commission and on the unanimous proposal of the Coordinating Committee for Asia, the Commission appointed Dr. Pakdee Pothisiri (Thailand) as Coordinator for Asia from the end of the 18th Session to the end of the 19th Session of the Commission.

147. The Commission was informed by the Delegation of Thailand, that the Government of Thailand had officially agreed to host the Seventh Session of the Coordinating Committee for Asia in Chiangmai, Thailand, in February 1990.

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

148. The Commission had before it ALINORM 89/19, the Report of the 16th Session of the Committee. The Report was introduced by Professor Herbert Woidich, the Coordinator for Europe and the Chairman of the Committee.

149. Professor Woidich informed the Commission of the most important points and activities which included the elaboration of regional standards.

### Consideration at Step 8 of the Draft European Regional Standard for Mayonnaise

150. The Coordinator informed the Commission that the Committee, after a lengthy and detailed discussion, had arrived at the final elaboration of this standard while giving specific consideration to certain sections regarding methods of analysis and food additives.

151. The Delegation of Canada stated that it could not support the adoption of the Standard at Step 8 by the Commission, since these products were not traded exclusively or almost exclusively within the European Region. This position was supported by the delegation of the United States which stated its concern regarding the negative trading effects of regional standards if these products were not limited to a particular region. These products represent an important part of United States exports.

152. The Commission recalled that the procedure for the elaboration of regional Codex standards defined that when a draft standard was submitted to the Commission with a view towards adoption as a Codex Regional Standard, all members may present their comments, take part in the debate and propose amendments, but only the majority of members of the region concerned attending the Session could decide to amend and adopt the draft.

153. The Commission also recalled that it had requested the Secretariat to prepare a paper explaining the possibility of enlarging the scope and territorial application of its regional standards, and noted that the Procedural Manual recognized that regionally elaborated Codex standards could be applied outside the region for which they were intended, and in this case could be converted into world-wide standards by a process of review by the full membership of the Commission.

### Status of the Standard

154. The Commission adopted the Regional European Standard for Mayonnaise at Step 8 of the Procedure.

### Consideration at Step 5 of the Proposed Amendments to the Codex Regional European Standard for Natural Mineral Waters - Methods of Microbiological and Chemical Analysis

155. The Coordinator informed the Commission that the working group for microbiological and chemical methods for natural mineral waters should have prepared a final text on methods of analysis, based on the Second Progress Report on the collaborative study organized by GESEM (ALINORM 87/19, Appendix VI), taking into consideration all available government comments and information received. The final revised text was not produced, and for this reason it was impossible to submit the paper on Methods on Analysis to the Commission at Step 5. The Commission was also informed that a meeting on this matter had been organized by GESEM in Geneva, but the final text of methods of analysis was not yet available. The Coordinator proposed that GESEM should make the final text of the Methods of Analysis available to the Codex Secretariat in September to allow for comments from governments and interested international organizations before the 17th Session of the Coordinating Committee for Europe. These methods would then be submitted to the Commission in 1991 at Step 5.

156. This proposed procedure was accepted by the Commission, and the representative of GESEM confirmed that the final revised text of microbiological and chemical methods of analysis should be sent to the Codex Secretariat at the end of September.

Other matters arising from the Report of the 16th Session of the Committee

157. The Coordinator informed the Commission that the Committee had discussed the problems related to the dissemination of misleading information concerning the use of food additives, and on the basis of government comments, and of a draft proposal provided by the Government of Belgium. The statement adopted by the Committee concerning the work of Codex on food additives was transmitted to the Codex Committee on Food Additives and Contaminants (see also paras. 291-293 below).

158. The Coordinator referred to the Commission the revised labelling sections as adopted for natural mineral waters and fresh fungus "chanterelle", with the request for adoption by the Commission. In this regard, the Delegation of Spain expressed its opposition to the section on Additional Labelling Requirements for natural mineral waters which, in its opinion, lead to confusion, since in Spanish legislation there was a clear distinction between natural mineral water and spring water.

159. The Commission agreed with the proposals presented by the Coordinator for Europe.

Appointment of Coordinator for Europe

160. On the proposal of the Coordinating Committee for Europe, the Commission re-appointed Professor H. Woidich (Austria) as Coordinator for Europe, to serve a second term from the end of the 18th Session to the end of the 19th Session of the Commission.

161. The Commission was informed by the Delegation of Austria that the Government of Austria had officially agreed to host the Seventeenth Session of the Coordinating Committee for Europe in Vienna from 28 May to 1 June 1990.

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

162. For this agenda item the Commission had before it two main documents: ALINORM 89/36, the Report of the 6th Session of the Codex Coordinating Committee for Latin America and the Caribbean, and ALINORM 89/4, the Report of the 36th Session of the Executive Committee.

163. In presenting the documents, the Secretariat highlighted the main topics of the Session which was held on 20-26 February 1989 in San José, Costa Rica.

- The Session was attended by delegations from 17 countries of the Region: Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Barbados, Brazil, Colombia, Cuba, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Guatemala, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Peru, Dominican Republic, Trinidad and Tobago, and many observers. The Session was opened by the President of the Republic of

Costa Rica, Dr. Oscar Arias Sanchez, who pointed out the role of Codex in the development of the economies of, and the cooperation between, the countries of the Region.

- A second extended and improved draft of a Code of Hygienic Practice for Street-Vended Foods was discussed and adopted for circulation.
- The Committee decided to redraft and update the World Standard for Raw Sugar.
- Great support was expressed for the strengthening of export/import food control and consumer protection programmes. The Committee adopted the recommendations of an FAO/PAHO Workshop on that subject held immediately before the Session.
- Real efforts had been made since the 5th Session of the Committee in harmonizing regional standards with those of Codex. Work in this area continued, with the involvement of the coordinating Secretariat, the two Regional Organizations (ICAITI and COPANT) and Member Countries.
- The communication between the national Codex Committee of the Region was an important feature. A paper on Guidelines on Establishing National Codex Committees prepared by an FAO Consultant received wide support and was approved as a basis for a similar document to be adapted to the situation in the Region. On the initiative of the Regional Coordinator Lic. Maria Eugenia Chacón, a programme for sharing information between the national Codex Committees of the Region had been started.

#### Improvement of the Working Mechanism of the Codex Alimentarius Commission

164. As a follow-up on the decisions of the Commission on that matter at its 17th Session, the Committee was informed about the information provided by the Secretariat in the form of Summary of Conclusions and Recommendations and the Summary Status of Work which now accompany every Report of the Committees. The Committee did not agree with this format and requested the Secretariat to summarize the status of work and distribute it to Codex Contact Points as a separate document.

165. Since, in the opinion of the Secretariat, this would mean a duplication of work, and since the present system provides flexibility and a sure way of constant updating, the matter was referred to the Executive Committee. At its 36th Session, the Executive Committee noted that a "Work Programme" on the model of ISO was not appropriate to the Codex Programme, and agreed that only if there appeared to be a widespread problem in understanding the status of work by the existing arrangements, would there be need for further action.

166. The Delegation of Cuba pointed out that the decision of the Executive Committee at its 36th session to request the opinions of other Regional Coordinating Committees on the proposed "Work Programme" would be taken up by the CCLAC.

167. The Commission noted the comments of CCLAC and agreed with the decision of the Executive Committee.

### World-wide Specification for Rice

168. The Committee supported the decision of the Codex Committee on Cereals, Pulses and Legumes that a world-wide Codex Standard for Rice should be prepared using the ISO specification as a base. The Committee decided to inform the Commission and the CCCPL.

169. The Delegation of Thailand recalled the decision taken at the 6th Session of the Coordinating Committee for Asia that there was no need for the elaboration of a separate Codex standard. The observer from ISO also raised the issue of duplication of efforts and pointed out that ISO would be willing to receive inputs from other organizations, including the Commission.

170. The Delegation of Cuba, supported by the Delegation of Brazil, stressed that the central agreement at both CCCLP and CCLAC had been that the ISO specification was not complete and that the Codex Standard would be more comprehensive.

### Proposed Draft Standard for Raw Sugar (at Step 3)

171. The Commission had agreed at its 17th Session that Steps 1, 2 and 3 of the elaboration of a World-wide Standard for Raw Sugar would commence under the auspices of the Codex Coordinating Committee for Latin America and the Caribbean, and that the Secretariat of the Codex Committee on Sugars would continue working on the proposed draft standard at Step 4 of the procedure. At its 6th Session, the Committee agreed to retain the draft at Step 3, to have a new updated draft prepared by Cuba in consultation with the Codex Committee on Sugar.

172. The Executive Committee at its 36th Session confirmed that the principal responsibility for elaborating this standard should rest with the World-wide Committee on Sugars. It agreed that the present draft standard should be returned to Step 2, redrafted and recirculated at Step 3 as the Coordinating Committee had proposed.

173. The Commission decided to refer the comments and views of the coordinating committees on the Rice Standard for consideration by the CCCPL and agreed with the decision of the Executive Committee concerning the Draft Standard for Raw Sugar.

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

174. The CCLAC considered a second draft of the Code completely revised by the delegation of Peru on the basis of discussions which took place at a World-wide FAO Expert Consultation organized in Indonesia in December 1988. The Committee decided to circulate the revised draft Code for comments at Step 3.

175. The Executive Committee at its 36th Session noted that both the Coordinating Committee for Latin America and the Caribbean and the Coordinating Committee for Asia had initiated work in this area. Noting that certain core elements of the Code would be common to similar codes prepared by other regional Coordinating Committees, the Executive Committee recommended that these core elements should be examined by the Codex Committee on Food Hygiene and that the

individual coordinating committees should add to this core material the information that was specifically relevant to regional practices.

176. The Commission decided (a) that the proposed draft Code should be circulated at Step 3, (b) that the Codex Committee on Food Hygiene should be responsible for elaborating common core elements of a Code of Hygienic Practice for Street-Vended Foods and coordinating the work on the regional versions of this Code.

177. The Commission noted the recommendations adopted by the Committee concerning the strengthening of import/export food control and consumer protection systems that might be useful for other Coordinating Committees in their work.

178. The Commission took note that the future work of the Committee would include:

- follow-up on the Proposed Standard for Raw Sugar at Step 3 (Cuba in consultation with the UK Secretariat for the Codex Committee on Sugars);
- Proposed Draft Code of Practice for Street-Vended Foods at Step 3 (Peru) (see also the report of the 36th Executive Committee);
- Guidelines for the Establishment of National Codex Committees (Cuba in cooperation with the Secretariat);
- Report on the progress of measures taken to harmonize regional food standards and Codex Standards (Cuba, COPANT, ICAITI and the Regional Coordinator).

179. The Commission agreed to refer for consideration by the corresponding Codex Committees the following proposals for elaboration of world-wide standards:

- live lobsters/langoustines (CCFFP)
- fresh-frozen gonads of the sea-urchin (CCFFP)
- sausages, cooked and uncooked (CCPMPP)
- review of maximum residue limits for pesticides in tropical products (CCPR)
- establishment of microbiological specifications and sampling plans for non-stable meat products thermally treated before packaging (CCPMPP)

Governments proposing new work were urged to provide relevant background material and justification to the appropriate Committees so that the criteria for the initiation of new standards could be established.

#### Appointment of Coordinator

180. The Commission noted the nomination of Lic. María Eugenia Chacón Moroux of Costa Rica by the Coordinating Committee, suspended Rule II.4(a), and appointed Lic. Chacón as Coordinator for the Region of Latin America and the Caribbean to serve until the end of the Nineteenth Session of the Commission.

## **CODEX COMMITTEE ON GENERAL PRINCIPLES (Agenda Item 20)**

181. The report of the Ninth Session of the Codex Committee on General Principles (ALINORM 89/33) was introduced by the Committee's Chairman, Prof. J.J. Bernier (France).

### Composition of the Executive Committee (paras. 13-17, ALINORM 89/33)

182. The Commission recalled that it had, at its previous session, requested the Committee on General Principles to examine the composition and procedures of the Executive Committee, particularly with regard to regional representation (para 149, ALINORM 87/39). The CCGP, in studying the question, had concluded that there was no need to change the Rules of Procedure, but indicated that the practices of the CCEXEC had evolved, especially over recent years, such that its members which were the Representatives of geographical regions were more frequently accompanied by advisors at the Executive Committee's sessions. This was seen as a positive trend allowing more senior officials to take part in the Executive Committee's work.

183. The Commission concurred with this point of view and adopted the following understanding in respect of Rule III. 1, recommended to it by the Committee:

- (i) Except for the Chairman and the three Vice-Chairmen, the six further members of the Executive Committee elected by the Commission to represent the geographic locations are countries not individuals.
- (ii) The delegate of a Member may be accompanied by not more than two advisors from the same geographic location.
- (iii) Regional Coordinators shall be invited to attend meetings of the Executive Committee as observers.
- (iv) Only members or, with the permission of the Chairman, observers, may take part in the discussions.

184. The Commission expressed its appreciation for the advice of the CCGP and agreed that the matter had been effectively resolved.

### Matters Relating to the Acceptance of Codex Standards and Maximum Residue Limits

#### - Guidelines for the Acceptance of Codex Standards (ALINORM 89/33, Appendix III)

185. The Commission recalled that the Guidelines had been endorsed at its Seventeenth Session, but at that time the Commission also agreed that they should be sent to governments for comments and resubmitted to the present session of the Commission for adoption (paras. 142-143, ALINORM 87/39). The Committee on General Principles had made some minor changes, but more importantly it stated that Sections (b) through (d) of the section dealing with methods of analysis seemed to be



overly restrictive. A footnote had been included to explain this, and to say that this section was subject to review by the Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling.

186. The Commission adopted the revised Guidelines for the Acceptance of Codex Standards for publication in the Procedural Manual.

- Acceptance of Standards by Regional Economic Groupings (ALINORM 89/33, Appendix II)

187. The Commission was informed that the Committee on General Principles had agreed on a text to be included in the Procedural Manual in the sections dealing with the Elaboration of Codex Standards, where follow-up procedures in relation to acceptance were described. The proposal of the Committee would allow regional economic groupings to accept in those cases where competence to accept had been transferred to them by their Member States.

188. The Observer from the EEC noted that the proposal as contained in document LIM. 8 before the Commission was a more precise statement of the Committee's intention and expressed his Organization's strong support for the proposals. He stated that this would strengthen the impact of Codex standards and be of great benefit to world trade to which the European Community was very much committed. The Observer hoped to be able to notify the acceptance of some 30 Codex standards under the provisions contained in the proposals.

189. The Commission adopted the following texts for inclusion in the Procedural Manual, replacing the former corresponding texts:

The two last sentences in paragraph 1 of the Introduction to the Procedure for the Elaboration of Codex Standards and Codes of Practice, Codex Maximum Limits for Pesticide Residues to read as follows:

"The Codex Standard is published and is sent for acceptance to governments. It is also sent to international organizations to which competence in the matter has been transferred by their Member States. Details of acceptances are published periodically by the Commission's Secretariat".

The second sentence of the first paragraph of "Subsequent Procedure Concerning Publication and Acceptance of Codex Standards" to read as follows:

"Members of the Commission and international organizations to which competence in the matter has been transferred by their Member States notify the Secretariat of the acceptance of the Codex standards in accordance with the acceptance procedure laid down in paragraph 4, paragraph 5, or in paragraph 6 of the General Principles of the Codex Alimentarius, whichever is appropriate."

The second paragraph of "Subsequent Procedure Concerning Publication and Acceptance of Codex Standards" to read as follows:

"The Secretariat publishes periodically details of notifications received from governments and from international organizations to which competence in the matter has been transferred by their Member States with respect to the acceptance or otherwise of Codex Standards and in addition to this information in an appendix for each Codex Standard:

- (a) listing the countries in which products conforming with such standards may be freely distributed, and
- (b) where applicable, stating in detail all specified deviations which may have been declared in respect to the acceptance."

- Procedures for Accelerated Elaboration of Standards and other Codex Texts (paras. 51-55, ALINORM 89/33)

190. The Commission recalled that the Executive Committee had, at its 34th Session (para. 28, ALINORM 87/4), asked the Committee on General Principles to determine what, if any, new procedures should be established or changes needed to be made, so that the Commission could respond to requests for guidance on standards or guidelines in an emergency situation.

191. The Committee had concluded that the Commission was not well-suited to providing immediate emergency advice, and that joint or coordinated expert advice from FAO and WHO was the essential starting point, following which the Executive Committee could take appropriate action. The Committee prepared the following Statement of Policy which the Commission adopted for future guidance should the need arise;

"Unforeseen emergency situations which may adversely affect health or international trade in foods are, by their very nature, unpredictable. However, FAO and WHO should respond with appropriate advice in the event of such emergencies. Both Organizations should act together to convene expert consultations, if necessary, to provide such advice and to disseminate quickly this information to member countries and interested international organizations.

At the request of any Member of the FAO/WHO Codex Alimentarius Commission for information or assistance concerning an emergency situation, the FAO/WHO Codex Secretariat will seek the opinion of Members of the Codex Executive Committee as to the appropriate action needed; this could include rapid dissemination of available information or calling an expert consultation, and initiating discussions within the Codex framework."

192. The Delegation of Poland stated that it was opposed to the accelerated procedures as proposed, and stated its preference for the presently-used procedures.

- Types of Acceptance for Maximum Limits for Pesticide Residues (paras. 88-94, ALINORM 89/33)

193. The Commission was informed that the Codex Committee on Pesticide Residues at its 20th Session (para 29, ALINORM 89/24), had considered a report on acceptances of Codex Maximum Residue Limits and noted that the notification of "free entry" to be granted to foods in conformity

with the MRL's was being increasingly favoured by countries which responded. The Committee had agreed that a re-orientation of the different types of acceptance was timely, and the matter was taken up by the Ninth Session of the Codex Committee on General Principles. This Committee had recommended that the forms of acceptance for maximum limits for pesticide residues should be limited to the following:

Full acceptance as currently defined; and

Free distribution, meaning that the country concerned undertakes that the products conforming to Codex MRL's may be freely distributed within its territorial jurisdiction insofar as matters covered by the MRL's are concerned.

194. In response to a question from the Delegation of Thailand, the Secretariat explained that a declaration of free distribution obliged countries to permit the entry of commodities in conformity with the MRL, provided that they met all other requirements of the national food law. The decision to indicate acceptance under these conditions rested with the country concerned following an examination of its own national food law provisions and the Codex MRL's.

195. The Committee also recommended that the use of Limited and Target acceptance in respect of MRL's be discontinued, and that the Procedural Manual should be amended accordingly. The Delegation of India stated that this recommendation could pose problems, as Indian MRL's tended to be more stringent than those of Codex.

196. The Commission adopted these recommendations of the Committee, and concurred with the Committee that declarations of non-acceptance contained valuable information for the use of governments and the Codex Committee on Pesticide Residues and therefore requested the Secretariat to continue to invite governments to provide such information even if they could not accept the MRL. The Commission also agreed that the same procedures should apply to the acceptance of Codex MRL's for residues of veterinary drugs in foods.

#### Status of Codex Regional Standards and their Application (para. 48, ALINORM 89/33)

197. The Commission welcomed the recommendation of the Committee that a paper should be prepared, for the Commission's next session, outlining the possibility of enlarging the territorial scope and application of the regional standards adopted by the Commission.

#### Terms of Reference of Regional Coordinating Committees (paras. 44-50, ALINORM 89/33)

198. The Commission concurred with the views of the Committee that the terms of reference of Coordinating Committees should be aligned and that they should also include the mandate "to promote the acceptance of Codex standards and maximum residue limits by countries of the region". It also agreed with the Executive Committee's proposals to align point (b) of the existing terms of reference.

199. The Delegations of Austria and Sweden noted the special situation within Europe, where the original idea of a Codex Alimentarius Europeus had pre-dated the establishment of the Commission,

and the long legal traditions which would mean that adapting to a uniform system would be difficult. These Delegations stated that they would have difficulties in accepting point (d) of the proposed Terms of Reference.

200. The Commission, noting the opinions of several other delegations, agreed to adopt the following common terms of reference applicable to all Regional Coordinating Committees.

#### Functions

- (a) defines the problems and needs of the region(s) concerning food standards and food control
- (b) promotes within the committee contacts for the mutual exchange of information on proposed regulatory initiatives and problems arising from food control and stimulates the strengthening of food control infrastructures
- (c) recommends to the Commission the development of world-wide standards for products of interest to the region(s) including products considered by the committee to have an international market potential in the future
- (d) develops regional standards for food products moving exclusively or almost exclusively in intra-regional trade
- (e) draws the attention of the Commission to any aspects of the Commission's work of particular significance to the region(s)
- (f) promotes coordination of all regional food standards work undertaken by international governmental and non-governmental organizations within the region(s)
- (g) exercises a general coordinating role for the region(s) and such other functions as may be entrusted to it by the Commission
- (h) promotes the acceptance of Codex standards and maximum limits for residues by member countries.

#### Procedures for the Elaboration of Standards for Tropical Fresh Fruit and Vegetables (ALINORM 89/33, paras 56-73)

201. Prof. Bernier reported that the Codex Committee on General Principles had discussed in detail various aspects of procedures for the elaboration of Codex Standards for Tropical Fresh Fruits and Vegetables.

202. The Representative of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) drew attention to the work of the UNECE in harmonizing commercial quality standards for perishable produce. He noted that trade in such commodities, previously only between neighbouring countries, was now world-wide, with 80 per cent of the trade being absorbed by the countries of the UNECE

region (Europe, USA and Canada). He stated that commercial operators were concerned at the possibility of having more than one standard applicable to each type of product, and that this could inhibit trade.

203. The Representative presented a number of proposals for additional activities relating to the development of rapid and transportable measuring devices for use by inspectors to check the quality characteristics of fruits and vegetables, such as acidity, or sugar content, and suggested that this should be the main work of the Codex Alimentarius Commission in this regard. He also proposed the use of Codex funds to ensure the participation of the Mexican Secretariat of the Codex Committee on Tropical Fresh Fruits and Vegetables at meetings of the UNECE, and the role of the Mexican Secretariat in organizing regional training courses on inspection procedures.

204. The Delegation of Switzerland supported the views of the Representative of the UNECE and drew attention to the two different forms of acceptance in the standards under preparation by Codex and UNECE. The Delegation called for close cooperation between the two groups. The Delegation of Poland also called for close cooperation, and drew attention to the need to avoid duplication.

205. The Chief of the Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme pointed out that the role of the Codex Committee on Tropical Fresh Fruits and Vegetables had been discussed over a long period of time, and that it had been approved and was now in progress. He also pointed out that the use of the Programme's resources for the types of activities proposed by the Representative of the UNECE was not possible, although FAO, through its Regular Programme continued to sponsor training activities and the development of inspection programmes in many countries. He also drew attention to the fact that the Rules of Procedure of the Commission prevented the use of the Programme's funds for the travel of national delegations. Finally, he pointed out that the Programme had ensured the widest possible distribution of relevant UNECE and OECD draft standards and related documents in order to ensure that all countries would be informed of the work of these two bodies, and encouraged active UNECE participation in the work of the Codex Committee on Tropical Fresh Fruits and Vegetables.

206. The Delegation of the USA expressed its concern at the work of a regional organization in preparing standards which were intended for international application. The Delegation stated that standards should be developed with the participation of both importing and exporting countries and that the global Codex Alimentarius Commission was the appropriate forum for this. The Delegation furthermore stated that the role of the Commission was to facilitate trade as well as to protect health and consumers and required the coordinated work of government departments for agriculture, health, industry, trade, standards, all of which were represented in Codex delegations, working closely with consumers and the food industry.

207. The Delegation of Cuba expressed its opposition to the resolution of the 43rd Session of the UNECE specifically the part where the Commission was requested to ensure "that standards for fruits and vegetables considered as "exclusively" tropical be established without mention, either in the definition nor in any chapter of the standards, of this fact." This request had been noted, but not agreed to, by the Codex Committee on General Principles.

208. The Commission noted the points raised in the above discussion and agreed to refer them to the Codex Committee on Tropical Fresh Fruits and Vegetables.

Endorsement of Matters Arising from the Third Session of the Codex Committee on Residues of Veterinary Drugs in Foods (CCRVDF)

209. The Commission noted that matters for endorsement arising from the CCRVDF Session were discussed at the Ninth Session of the Codex Committee on General Principles (CCGP), (paragraphs 74-87, ALINORM 89/3), and at the 36th Executive Committee Session (para. 36 ALINORM 89/4).

Proposed Definitions for "Maximum Residue Level" (MRL) and "Good Practices in the Use of Veterinary Drugs" (GPVD)

210. The Commission noted that the definition for MRL had been considered by the Second and Third Sessions of the CCRVDF, as well as at the recent sessions of the CCGP and the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee had agreed that the different approaches used by the Codex Committee on Pesticide Residues and the CCRVDF in establishing maximum residue limits was justified, and recommended that the two different definitions be maintained. The Executive Committee had also noted the difference in terminology (maximum residue level/maximum residue limit) between the two committees, and agreed that the same acronym for these terms (i.e. MRL) might possibly lead to confusion.

211. The Delegation of the Netherlands expressed the opinion that the methodology for the determination of residue levels should be coordinated between CCRVDF and CCPR, and that the CCRVDF definition should take good veterinary practice into account. The Delegations of Sweden and New Zealand stated that the different approaches used in establishing these limits were acceptable, but could not accept the use of identical acronyms. The use of the previous term proposed by CCRVDF, "Acceptable Residue Level", was also suggested by the Delegation of New Zealand.

212. The Delegations of Iraq, Nigeria, Singapore and Belgium also expressed support for the use of the same terms (i.e. limits) for pesticide and veterinary drug residues in order to prevent confusion. The Delegation of Switzerland noted that different methodology made no difference to consumers, as the CCRVDF and consumers would only be concerned with establishing "maximums" for purposes of regulatory control. The Delegation of Denmark proposed that the question be referred back to the CCRVDF, or at least discussed within the context of the Agenda Item dedicated to the reports of that Committee.

213. The Delegation of the United States summarized the history of this issue, and noted that the 17th Commission Session rejected use of the term "Acceptable Residue Level" and had decided to propose a definition different from that promulgated by CCPR only after detailed discussion on methodology. The United States suggested the terms "Maximum Residue Limit for Pesticides" (MRLP) and "Maximum Residue Limit for Veterinary Drugs" (MRLVD) as a compromise solution. The Delegations of New Zealand, Norway, Thailand, Canada and the United Kingdom supported this suggestion.

214. The Commission decided to adopt the proposed definition for "maximum residue level" (Appendix III, ALINORM 89/31A) with the understanding that the name of the definition will be changed to read "Maximum Residue Limit for Veterinary Drugs". The Commission also adopted the proposed definition for "Good Practices in the Use of Veterinary Drugs", (Appendix III, ALINORM 89/31A).

Proposed Procedure for the Elaboration of Codex Maximum Residue Limits for Veterinary Drugs

215. The Commission decided to adopt the elaboration procedures as proposed (Appendix IVA, ALINORM 89/31A), with the understanding that Steps 6 and 7 may be omitted on the basis of a two-thirds majority of votes cast in the Commission.

Proposed Procedure for the Elaboration of Codex Maximum Residue Limits for Veterinary Drugs - Introductory Section

216. The Commission adopted the elaboration procedures - introductory section as proposed (Appendix IVB, ALINORM 89/31A), with the understanding that steps 6 and 7 may be omitted on the basis of a two-thirds majority of votes cast in the Commission. The Commission also noted that this Section had previously been revised (see paras. 187-189) with regard to the acceptance of standards by regional economic groupings.

Proposed Procedure for the Acceptance of Codex Maximum Residue Limits for Veterinary Drugs

217. The Commission agreed to endorse the acceptance procedures as proposed (Appendix V, ALINORM 89/31), with the understanding that the changes adopted by the Commission regarding the types of acceptance for maximum limits for pesticide residues (see paras. 193-196) would also be applied to the acceptance procedures for veterinary drug residues.

Strengthening the Activities of the Codex Alimentarius Commission to Coordinate Work on Food Standards Undertaken by Other International Organizations (ALINORM 89/33, paras. 98-102)

218. The Commission adopted the following recommendations of the Codex Committee on General Principles:

- to encourage regional standardizing bodies which find it necessary to work in the field of foods to adopt international Codex standards and to modify existing standards to bring them into conformity with Codex standards;
- to authorize the Secretariat to enter into agreements with such standardizing bodies so as to allow them to publish Codex standards as joint standards, provided that the texts are identical;
- to request all international and regional standardizing bodies to notify the Secretariat of all activities related to the elaboration of food standards, so that this information could be summarized and transmitted to Codex Contact Points on a regular basis.

### Confirmation of Chairmanship

219. In accordance with Rule IX.10, the Commission confirmed that the Government of France should continue as Chairman and host government of the Codex Committee on General Principles.

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

220. The Commission had before it the reports of the 20th and 21st Sessions of the Codex Committee on Pesticide Residues (ALINORM 89/24 and 24A and Addenda)

221. The reports were introduced by the new Chairman of the Committee, Dr J. van der Kolk, who took over chairmanship of the Committee from the 21st Session. The Commission accepted the suggestion to deal with general issues first (see also ALINORM 89/21).

### The Work of the Committee and Health Protection

222. The Commission was informed that the Committee had stated firmly that its work in recommending maximum residue limits (MRLs) took fully into account questions relating to health (paras 6-7, 10 ALINORM 89/24). For example, over the years, results of national and international monitoring programmes placed before the Committee had indicated that actual residue intakes were significantly below ADIs. The Guidelines for Predicting Dietary Intake of Pesticide Residues developed by UNEP/FAO/WHO Food Contamination Monitoring Programme and WHO's collaboration in providing estimates of pesticide residue intakes were intended to provide additional assurance concerning safety to consumers. The seminar on good agricultural practice (GAP) held prior to the 20th Session of the Committee, had resulted in new proposed Codex definitions of Good Agricultural Practice and Maximum Residue Limit embodying health considerations. Furthermore, the Committee had initiated a review of all pesticides evaluated ten or more years ago.

223. The Delegation of Finland welcomed these activities which served to take health questions better into account, and hoped that they could continue.

224. The Commission agreed with the views of the Committee that Codex MRLs represented safe limits and that health considerations played an important role in setting MRLs. It stressed the need for providing estimates of residue intake on the basis of the Guidelines in collaboration with FAO and WHO.

### Classification of Foods and Animal Feeds

225. The Commission noted that the Committee had finalized the above Classification in consultation with the Joint FAO/WHO Meeting on Pesticide Residues (JMPR) as an essential reference document which should be published. The Committee had expressed the view that the Classification might also be useful to other Codex Committees in dealing with contaminants or residues of veterinary drugs (para 57, ALINORM 89/24; paras 72-76, ALINORM 89/24A).

226. The Commission noted the purpose and function of the Classification in defining food and feed commodities and classes of such commodities and in providing instructions on the setting and



application of MRLs to commodities. It agreed that the Classification should be published as part of the revised Codex Alimentarius.

#### Methods of Sampling for Determination of Pesticide Residues

227. On the recommendation of the 20th Session of the CCPR (para 216, ALINORM 89/24), the Commission adopted the following changes to the Recommended Method of Sampling included in Part VI of the Codex Alimentarius Volume XIII.

In the paragraph dealing with taking of 'primary sample' - replace the phrase 'as far as possible' with 'as far as practicable';

In the definition of 'lot' - add the following footnote: "The identification of a lot would be greatly facilitated by the use of farmer and packer codes".

228. The Commission also advanced the Draft Method of Sampling for the Determination of Pesticide Residues in Meat and Poultry Products (App. II, ALINORM 89/24A) to Step 6 of the Procedure. The opinion was expressed that the sampling plans might also be suitable for other committees dealing with contaminants and residues in animal products.

#### Guidelines for Predicting Dietary Intakes of Pesticide Residues

229. The Commission was informed that the "Guidelines for Predicting Dietary Intake of Pesticide Residues" had been published by WHO in English and that the French and Spanish versions would be available later in 1989. (see also para 222 above). It agreed that no further publication as a Codex document was necessary (para 243, ALINORM 89/24A and para 48, ALINORM 89/3).

#### Industrial and Environmental Contaminants

230. The Commission noted that the CCPR had agreed to continue to provide advice on methods of analysis and, possibly, monitoring data to the Codex Committee on Food Additives and Contaminants, to which responsibility for all environmental contaminants had been transferred by the Commission (paras. 260-261, ALINORM 89/24).

#### Definitions of 'Good Agricultural Practice' (GAP) and 'Maximum Residue Limit' (MRL)

231. The Commission recalled its conclusions concerning the question of consumer safety in relation to setting Codex MRLs (see paras. 222-224 above), and also its conclusions concerning the definition of maximum residue limit for veterinary drug residues in food (see para. 214 above). It endorsed the definitions proposed by the CCPR for inclusion in the Codex Alimentarius (see paras. 69-71, ALINORM 89/24A).

#### Recommendations concerning Pesticide Residue Problems in Developing Countries

232. In introducing this item the Chairman of the CCPR indicated that often appropriate information on residues from developing countries were either not generated or, if available, not

supplied to the Joint Meeting on Pesticide Residues. The purpose of the recommendations included in paras. 252-268 and Appendix IV, ALINORM 89/24A were intended to redress this situation and to encourage discussions on pesticide residue questions in Codex Coordinating Committees and other appropriate regional meetings. The Netherlands intended to continue providing Spanish interpretation at sessions of the Committee. The Chairman of the Commission noted that FAO and other UN Agencies and International Organizations had many programmes aimed at providing technical assistance to developing countries in the field of pesticides and their residues.

233. The Commission noted the recommendations of the CCPR contained in Appendix IV, ALINORM 89/24A and also noted the multitude of programmes providing technical assistance to developing countries mentioned above. It encouraged discussion of pesticide residue problems together with other issues related to food control by Codex Coordinating Committees.

#### Recommendations for Methods of Analysis

234. The Commission noted that the Committee had prepared an up-dated list of methods of residue analysis and authorized its publication as a Codex document.

235. The Delegation of China referred to para 211 of the report of the 20th Session of the Committee (ALINORM 89/24) in which reference was made to the need for simple, rapid, multiresidue methods. The Chief of the Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme informed the Commission of a project in China in which, among others, appropriate simplified residue methods would be developed in cooperation with interested bodies, including industry. A consultation was also being planned on this subject.

236. The Delegation of China also referred to a previous request that Codex MRLs for low-fat meat products (eg. rabbit meat) should be expressed on a whole product, rather than fat basis. The Secretariat pointed out that the Codex Classification of Foods and Feeds reflected the suggestion of China. However, the Codex document dealing with the portion of commodities to which Codex MRLs applied (Vol. XIII of the Codex Alimentarius) had to be brought into line with the Classification. Furthermore, existing Codex MRLs for meat products expressed on a fat basis had not been reviewed in relation to lean meat products.

#### Collaboration between Codex Committee on Pesticide Residues (CCPR) and Joint Meeting on Pesticide Residues (JMPR)

237. The Chairman of the CCPR stressed the importance of this collaboration which facilitated the work of the CCPR considerably. He thanked FAO and WHO for their continued support of the Joint Meeting on Pesticide Residues.

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

238. The Commission had before it draft MRLs at Steps 5 and 8 of the procedure, including uncontroversial MRLs at Step 5 where the CCPR had recommended the omission of Steps 6 and 7 (ALINORM 89/24 - Add 1 and Add 3; ALINORM 89/24A - Add 1). The Commission also had

before it comments from some Governments included in ALINORM 89/32 - Part V and in Conference Room Documents LIM 1 and LIM 15.

239. The Chairman of the CCPR indicated that the nature of the comments received were not such as to prevent advancing the MRLs in the Codex Procedure, but that they should be referred to the CCPR and JMPR for information.

240. The Delegation of France was of the opinion that those draft MRLs which were based on data older than ten years should be reconsidered. The Chairman of the CCPR recalled that a review of pesticides evaluated ten or more years ago was in progress in collaboration with the JMPR.

#### Status of Draft MRLs

241. The Commission (a) adopted MRLs at Step 8 as Codex MRLs; (b) agreed to the omission of Steps 6 and 7 where this had been recommended by the CCPR for proposed Draft MRLs at Step 5 and adopted them at Step 8 as Codex MRLs; and (c) Advanced Proposed Draft MRLs at Step 5 to Step 6 of the Procedure as Draft MRLs.

#### Proposed substantive and non-substantive Amendments to Codex Maximum Residue Limits

242. The Commission had before it proposed amendments to Codex MRLs contained in ALINORM 89/24 - Add 2 and in ALINORM 89/24A (identified by means of notes). A correction was made to document ALINORM 89/24 - Add 2 by adding carbaryl to paragraph 1.

243. The Commission noted that all changes were non-substantial except for the withdrawal of the MRLs for chlordimeform as a result of the withdrawal of the ADI of this pesticide by the JMPR. It adopted the proposed amendments and agreed to withdraw all Codex MRLs for chlordimeform. On the suggestion of the Chairman of the Codex Committee on Pesticide Residues, it also agreed to change the commodity description 'chicory' to 'chicory leaves' for thiometon.

#### Other Business

244. The Delegation of Switzerland was of the opinion that the Codex Committee on Pesticide Residues should examine modern trends in agriculture involving minimal use of pesticides. The Chairman of the Commission expressed the view that a paper might be prepared for the Committee on the subject of integrated pest management insofar as residues are concerned. The Chairman of the Committee stated that Good Practices in Agriculture were continuously changing, and that the Committee would not be in a position to influence practices in individual countries. The Committee could only consider changing or withdrawing MRLs in the light of changes in Good Agricultural Practices. The Delegate from Austria indicated that the question of current practices in the use of pesticides would be discussed by the Coordinating Committee for Europe in relation to the question of 'organically produced foods' (para 111, ALINORM 89/19). A report would be submitted to the next session of the Commission.

245. The Commission noted that the Committee would continue to monitor changes in Good Agricultural Practices as part of its ongoing review and would consider any reports on the subject from governments and various organization on this subject.

#### Confirmation of Chairmanship

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

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

247. The Commission had before it working papers ALINORM 89/31 and 89/31A, which summarized matters of interest arising from the second and third sessions of CCRVDF. These reports were introduced by the Committee's Chairman, Dr. Gerald B. Guest (USA).

248. The Commission reconfirmed its adoption of the definitions for "Maximum Residue Limits for Veterinary Drugs" (MRLVD) and "Good Practice in the Use of Veterinary Drugs" (GPVD), (see paras. 210-214 above). The Commission also reconfirmed the adoption of both the elaboration procedures (see paras. 215-216 above) and the acceptance procedure (see para. 217 above) for the establishment of maximum residue limits for veterinary drugs. The Chairman of the Committee thanked the Commission for its efforts and cooperation in approving these items.

#### Consideration of Recommended Maximum Residue Limits for Veterinary Drugs at Step 5 (paras. 66-81 and Appendix V, ALINORM 89/31A)

249. The Chairman of CCRVDF indicated that the Committee, at its third session, had agreed to advance the recommended MRLs for Chloramphenicol, Estradiol 17-beta, Progesterone, Testosterone, and Zeranol to Step 5 of the Codex Procedure for consideration by the Commission. The Commission noted that no action was required concerning trenbolone acetate, as it was re-evaluated at the 34th JECFA Session and was currently being circulated for comments at Step 3.

250. The Commission also noted that the member states of the EEC present at the third session of the CCRVDF did not find it appropriate to examine further in the Codex system recommendations for proposed draft Codex MRLs for residues resulting from the use of those substances used for fattening purposes. The Committee had noted the position of the EEC member states, but had also recognized the use of these substances in other Codex member countries and therefore, decided to advance the MRLs to Step 5 for the Commission's consideration.

251. The Delegations of Tanzania and France sought clarification concerning the significance of the ADI and MRL evaluation of "not allocated" for Chloramphenicol. The WHO Joint Secretary of JECFA noted that these levels were established as not allocated because it was not possible to give an assurance that residues of this substance would be safe for sensitive subjects who could develop aplastic anaemia. However, it was recognized that new and relevant data could be considered in the future. The Delegation of Norway was also reassured that CCRVDF concerns regarding the use of the term "unnecessary" when establishing MRLs was thoroughly discussed at the 34th JECFA Session,

where it was decided that the current footnote explaining the definition of this term was thought to be appropriate for clarification purposes.

252. The Commission also agreed with the Delegation of Nigeria, who stressed the importance of providing training to developing countries in the establishment of methods for the determination and detection of these residues. The Delegation also drew attention to the interaction of residues of pharmacologically-active substances in foods with the same or similar substances being taken by humans for therapeutic or prophylactic purposes. It was noted that these were important ongoing activities of FAO, WHO and the Committee.

253. The Committee adopted the proposed recommended maximum residue limits as submitted by the Committee at Step 5 of the Codex procedure.

#### Confirmation of the Chairmanship of the Committee

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

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

255. The Chairman of the Codex Committee on Food Labelling, Mr. R.H. McKay (Canada), introduced the report of the Twentieth Session of the Committee (ALINORM 89/22) which had been held in Ottawa, in April 1989.

#### Consideration of the Draft Revised General Guidelines on Claims at Step 5 (ALINORM 89/22, Appendix V)

256. The Chairman of the Committee recalled that in the Committee's discussion of this topic, attention had been drawn to the Commission's decision at its 16th and 18th sessions that there was no need to initiate work on a Code of Practice on Advertising. The Commission had, however, concurred with the opinion of the Legal Counsels of FAO and WHO that problems related to advertising could be discussed by the Committee.

257. The Delegation of the United States reaffirmed its opinion that references to advertising should not be included in the Guidelines on Claims, as the opinion of the Legal Counsels did not extend to the Committee the authority to elaborate standards or other texts related to advertising.

#### Status of the Draft Revised Guidelines

258. The Commission adopted the Draft Revised Guidelines at Step 5.

Proposed Amendment, at Step 5, of Section 5.2.1 (Irradiated Foods) of the General Labelling Standard and Section 7.2 (Irradiated Food Additives) of the General Standard for the Labelling of Food Additives when Sold as Such (ALINORM 89/22, paras. 15-24)

259. The Commission was informed that the Committee had debated, at considerable length, proposals to amend the General Standard for the Labelling of Prepackaged Foods (CODEX STAN 1-1985) to provide for the use of clear text to indicate whether or not a food had been irradiated, and the optional additional use of a logo if desired. The Committee had advanced the Amendment to Step 5 and had proposed the omission of Steps 6 and 7.

260. The Delegation of India stated that the use of a logo or symbol should be compulsory in the labelling of irradiated foods.

261. The Delegation of the Federal Republic of Germany, supported by those of Austria, Denmark and Sweden, and the Representative of IOCU, stated that the amendment required further discussion, especially in the light of Section 4.2.1.3 of the General Standard which allowed that the ingredients of composite foods need not be specifically listed where the composite food itself was an ingredient of the final food at a level less than 25 per cent. The Representative of IOCU stated that this section required reexamination, not only in relation to irradiated foods. The Delegation of the United Kingdom expressed the view that the proposed amendment represented a pragmatic solution to a long-standing problem. Contrary to this view, the Delegation of the Federal Republic of Germany expressed the view that the "25 per cent rule" did not provide full information and therefore could mislead the consumer.

#### Status of the Proposed Draft Amendments

262. The Commission adopted the Draft Amendments at Step 5 only.

#### Proposed Draft List of Class Titles for Food Additives (ALINORM 89/22, paras. 9-11)

263. The Committee had proposed that the List of Class Titles for Food Additives, prepared at the 21st Session of the Codex Committee on Food Additives and Contaminants should be used to replace the present list contained in Section 4.2.2.3 of the General Standard.

264. The Commission approved the initiation of the amendment procedure as requested by the Committee.

#### Proposals Concerning the Endorsement of Labelling Provisions in Codex Standards (ALINORM 89/22, paras. 25-30)

265. The Committee had recommended that the proposals of the Executive Committee (ALINORM 89/3, para. 29) to simplify and facilitate the endorsement procedures used by the Committee, should be adopted by the Commission. These procedures requested Commodity Committees to:

- (a) incorporate, by reference, the general texts adopted by the Commission in relation to food labelling and food hygiene into Codex standards, and consider only requests for exemptions or exclusions on an ad hoc basis;
- (b) establish comprehensive, general texts which also could be incorporated by reference in other areas, in preference to endorsing provisions on an individual basis;

- (c) make exclusions or exemptions to the general requirements only where adequately justified.

266. The Commission approved the revised endorsement procedures.

Proposals for Amendments to the Codex Guidelines on Labelling Provisions in Codex Standards (ALINORM 89/22, Appendix IV)

267. The Committee had agreed that most sections of the current Guidelines repeated those contained in the General Standard and in only a few cases provided additional relevant guidance to the Codex Committees. The Committee agreed to withdraw the majority of current labelling guidelines and to retain relevant sections for inclusion into the section of the Procedural Manual addressing relations between other Codex Committees and CCFL. This proposal was intended to replace the current "Guidelines on Food Labelling" in the Procedural Manual. The proposal had been transmitted to the Ninth Session of the Codex Committee on General Principles, which had noted these proposals (paras. 103-104 of ALINORM 89/33) and had agreed that the revision of the Procedural Manual section dealing with relations between Codex Commodity Committees and General Subject Committees should also include a reference to the Codex Committee on Nutrition and Foods for Special Dietary Uses in regard to endorsement.

268. The Commission adopted the amended Procedural Manual Section concerning "Relations Between Commodity Committees and General Committees", and agreed that they should include a reference to the CCNFSDU.

Proposed Draft Standard for Labelling of and Claims for Low-Energy and Reduced-Energy Foods

269. The Commission endorsed the decision of the Executive Committee (paras. 37 and 38, ALINORM 89/4) with respect to the Proposed Draft Standard for the Labelling of and Claims for Low-Energy and Reduced-Energy Foods, which stated that the Codex Committee on Food Labelling should be entrusted with the future elaboration of this standard and emphasized that the CCFL held the primary responsibility for consideration of nutritional claims. It also stated that the Committee on Nutrition and Foods for Special Dietary Uses should retain the responsibility of advising the CCFL on what levels for reduction or increase of a nutritional component should qualify for the use of an appropriate nutrient descriptor.

Endorsement of Labelling Provisions in Codex Standards

270. The Commission noted, with approval, the endorsement of the Labelling Provisions of 42 Standards by the Committee, in conformity with the revised procedures for endorsement.

Recommended Nutrient Reference Values for Labelling Purposes (ALINORM 89/22, paras. 84-95, Appendix VI)

271. The Committee had received the report of the Joint FAO/WHO Expert Consultation on Recommended Dietary Intakes for Labelling Purposes, which had been held in Helsinki in September

1988 (see para. 39 above). The Committee had agreed with the principal conclusions of this report, and had also agreed to amend Section 3.3.4 of the Codex Guidelines on Nutrition Labelling to include the Nutrient Reference Values recommended by the consultation. The Commission noted that this Section had not been finalized at the time when the Guidelines were adopted, but remained under review.

272. Several Delegations including those of Belgium, Federal Republic of Germany, New Zealand and the United Kingdom, were of the opinion that amendment of the Guidelines to incorporate the Nutrient Reference Values was premature, as Governments had not had time to comment fully on the Expert Consultation's report. Other delegations, including those of Denmark, Finland and Switzerland, supported the amendment of the Guidelines as proposed, stating that it was always the intention of the Commission to keep Section 3.3.4 up-to-date by use of the most recent FAO/WHO recommended values, and strongly supported the inclusion of the Nutrient Reference Values in the Guidelines.

273. The Commission, noting that governments had been invited to comment on the report of the Expert Consultation, decided on the one hand to send a Circular Letter to Governments to determine their views on the recommendations of the Expert Consultation, and on the other hand agreed to refer the matter back to the Committee for further consideration.

#### Confirmation of Chairmanship of the Committee

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

275. Following the intervention of several delegations, the Delegation of Canada undertook to examine the possibility of convening a full session of the Committee in the period between the present session of the Commission and the Commission's 19th Session. The Delegation of Canada stated that it would advise the Secretariat as soon as possible of the date and venue of the Committee's next session.

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

276. The Commission had before it the reports of the 20th and 21st Sessions of the Codex Committee on Food Additives and Contaminants (ALINORM 89/12 and 89/12A). The reports were introduced by Mr. Feberwee (Netherlands), Chairman of the Committee.

277. Mr. Feberwee informed the Commission that the Committee in addition to endorsement of provisions for food additives and contaminants in commodity standards was carrying out work on the following subjects:

- Food Additive Intake
- International Numbering System of Food Additives
- Specifications for Food Additives
- Consideration of Processing Aids
- Industrial and Environmental Contaminants in Food



- Migrants from Packaging Materials
- Radionuclide Contamination of Food

and introduced the matters arising from the two reports of the Codex Committee on Food Additives and Contaminants that were of interest to the Commission.

Consideration at Steps 5 and 8 of Draft Guidelines for Simple Evaluation of Food Additive Intake (ALINORM 89/12A, Appendix IV)

278. The Committee at its 21st Session had finalized the text of the Guidelines for Simple Evaluation of Food Additive Intake. The Guidelines which proposed the use of food consumption data as the basis for determining food additive intake, were prepared in response to requests from governments for simple and inexpensive methods for estimating intakes of food additives.

279. The Commission noted that the Committee did not follow the Codex Step Procedure while elaborating the guidelines. The text had however been submitted twice to governments for their comments and the 21st Session of CCFAC considered these as comments at Step 3 and advanced the guidelines to Step 5 with a recommendation for omission of Steps 6 and 7.

Status of the Guidelines

280. The Commission adopted the Guidelines for Simple Evaluation of Food Additive Intake at Step 8 as an advisory text and expressed the view that the Guidelines would prove useful to all Member Countries for estimations of food additive intake among their populations.

Consideration at Step 5 of Proposed Draft Guideline Levels for Vinylchloride Monomer and Acrylonitrile in Foods and Food Packaging Material and for Methyl Mercury in Fish (ALINORM 89/12A, Appendix X)

Draft Guideline Levels for Vinylchloride Monomer (VCM) and Acrylonitrile (ACN) in Foods and Food Packaging Materials

281. The Delegation of USA informed the Commission that while it had no opposition for the advancement of the guideline levels for VCM and ACN in the Codex Step Procedure, it would not be in a position to accept the guideline levels without suitable sampling plans and validated methods of analysis.

282. The Commission noted that methods for estimation of VCM in packaging material and in food and accepted by the European Economic Community were available in the EEC Directive 80/766/CEE and 81/432/CEE and that the Committee was seeking information on sampling plans as well as alternate methodology for estimation of migrants (ALINORM 89/12A, para. 138) by a circular letter.

### Status of the Guideline Levels

283. The Commission adopted the draft guideline levels for VCM and ACN in food and food packaging materials at Step 5 and advanced them to Step 6.

### Draft Guideline Levels for Methyl Mercury in Fish

284. The Commission recalled the discussions it had had on the subject at its 17th Session (ALINORM 87/39, paras. 223-224) and noted that the 35th Session of the Executive Committee proposed that guideline levels for total methyl mercury rather than for total mercury in fish should be elaborated (ALINORM 89/3, para. 43).

285. The Committee at its 21st Session noted that most of the mercury in fish was present in the organic form and proposed the same guideline levels that it had proposed at its 19th Session, i.e. 0.5 mg/kg methyl mercury for fish in general and 1.0 mg/kg methyl mercury for predatory fish and advanced the guideline levels to Step 5 of the Codex Procedure (ALINORM 89/12A, para. 134).

286. The Delegation of the USA informed the Commission of the need for a review of the practicality and the scientific basis of the guideline levels by the Codex Committee on Fish and Fishery Products (CCFFP). The Chairman of CCFFP reminded the Commission of the views of the Committee as contained in ALINORM 87/18 (paras 263-270) and ALINORM 89/18 (paras. 18-22) and expressed his view that it would be desirable for CCFFP to consider whether there was a need to establish guideline levels for methyl mercury in fish.

### Status of the Guideline Levels

287. The Commission adopted the draft guideline levels for Methyl Mercury in Fish at Step 5 and advanced them to Step 6 and agreed that these should be reviewed by the Codex Committee on Fish and Fishery Products at its next session.

### Consideration at Step 5 of Draft Specifications of Identity and Purity of Food Additives

#### Status of Specifications

288. The Commission adopted the Specifications of Identity and Purity of Food Additives in Categories I and II of Appendix VII to ALINORM 89/12 as advisory texts not subject to acceptance.

#### Publication of JECFA/Codex Specifications

289. The Chief of the Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme informed the Commission that efforts were being made to avoid duplication of work and the expense of publishing two different sets of specifications. He informed the Commission that efforts were presently underway which would bring together all JECFA specifications into one single publication. It was proposed to have this publication in a loose leaf format which is expected to be available for circulation before the end of 1990. All JECFA Specifications which have been adopted by the Commission as Codex advisory specifications will be so indicated in the publication. Comments from governments and industry as

well as from the Codex Committee on Food Additives and Contaminants would be considered by JECFA expeditiously while undertaking revision of specifications which had not been adopted by the CAC. By following such a procedure it was hoped that over the next few years all JECFA specifications would be adopted as Codex Advisory Specifications.

290. The Chairman of CCFAC appreciated the very constructive proposals put forward by the Chief of the Joint Food Standards Programme and proposed that these should be discussed further at the next session of the Codex Committee on Food Additives and Contaminants.

#### Other Matters Arising from the Reports of the 20th and 21st Sessions of the Committee

##### Statement on the Use of Food Additives in Food (ALINORM 89/12A, Appendix II)

291. The Commission recalled the discussions on the subject at its 17th Session, at which it requested the Coordinating Committee for Europe to study the various documentation on misleading information on food additives submitted by several governments and to consider a coordinated approach (ALINORM 87/39, paras. 199-201). The Committee at its 21st Session, revised the statement prepared by the Coordinating Committee for Europe and agreed that member governments would be free to use it as an official statement from the Commission, following its adoption.

292. The Delegation of the USA brought the attention of the Commission to (e) of the General Principles for the Use of Food Additives contained in the statement and took the position that the justification for the use of a food additive needed only to be based on justification of technological need and the establishment of its safety. The Delegation of Belgium stated that this was, in fact, already provided for in the General Principles for the Use of Food Additives.

293. The WHO Joint Secretary proposed the addition to the text under General Principles for the Use of Food Additives of (e) "to maintain the safety of food by inhibiting the growth of bacteria or other organisms that may cause disease."

##### Status of Statement on the use of Food Additives in Food

294. The Commission adopted the statement on the use of Food Additives in Food with the modifications as proposed by WHO. It agreed that member governments would be free to use it and could interpret or modify the text to suit their national legislation. It stated that every government has the right to modify the text to suit its legislation.

##### International Numbering System (ALINORM 89/12A, Appendix VI)

295. The Committee, at its 21st Session, agreed to bring to the attention of the Commission the progress that it had made in developing an International Numbering System, the purpose of which was to provide internationally agreed numbers that could be used on food labels to identify food additives in compliance with the Codex General Standard for the Labelling of Prepackaged Foods (CODEX STAN 1-1985). Columns 1 and 2 of the system were final and Column 3 which referred to the technical functions of the food additive was still subject to review. The list will be an open

one and proposals for inclusion of further food additives into the system will be considered. A foreword to the system which would also contain definition for functional classes would be prepared.

296. The Delegation of USA informed the Commission that the numbering system should include food additives approved for use by all countries and that the flexibility of the system should be maintained. In its view the numbering system should not become a barrier to trade under any circumstances.

#### Status of the International Numbering System

297. The Commission adopted the International Numbering System as a Codex Advisory Text noting that the text would be an open one and proposals for inclusion of further food additives into the system would continue to be considered.

#### Inventory of Processing Aids (ALINORM 89/12A, Appendix VIII)

##### Status of the Inventory of Processing Aids

298. The Commission adopted the current Inventory of Processing Aids as a Codex Advisory Text bearing in mind that additions to the Inventory would always be possible.

#### Sampling Plans for Mercury, Cadmium and Lead (ALINORM 89/12, para. 125)

299. The Committee, at its 20th Session, considered that the composite sampling plan adopted for pesticide residues (CAC/PR 5-1984) was appropriate for the environmental contaminants, Mercury, Cadmium and Lead. The Committee agreed to submit the above sampling plan to the Commission for adoption.

##### Status of the Sampling Plans for Mercury, Cadmium and Lead

300. The Commission adopted the sampling plans for Mercury, Cadmium and Lead, pending its endorsement by the Codex Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling.

#### Guideline Levels for Aflatoxin B1 in Peanuts (ALINORM 89/12A, Appendix IX)

301. The Committee at its 21st Session, had proposed Guideline Levels for aflatoxin B1 (5 µg/kg) for peanuts for human consumption.

302. Many delegations held the view that while establishing guideline levels for aflatoxins, consideration should be given to the agricultural practices and storage conditions prevailing, especially in the developing countries. They expressed the view that if the guideline levels are too low, it would result in loss of food supply and proposed an increase in the guideline levels for aflatoxin. An equal number of delegations referred to their national tolerances which were lower than the proposed guideline levels and expressed the view that the guideline levels should not be increased especially in view of consumer protection.

303. The Commission also noted the request of the 22nd Session of the Intergovernmental Group on Oilseeds, Oils and Fats held at FAO Headquarters in Rome, 20-23 March 1989 and asked the Committee to hasten its work to establish guideline levels for aflatoxin in food and feed.

Status of the Guideline Levels

304. The Commission agreed with the action of the Committee to submit the guideline levels for aflatoxin B1 for peanuts for human consumption to the governments for comments at Step 3 and stated that the member governments would have many occasions to express their views on the guideline levels while advancing them through the Codex Step procedure.

Guideline Levels for Aflatoxins in Feed (ALINORM 89/12, Appendix VIII)

305. The Committee at its 20th Session proposed guideline levels for aflatoxins in feed.

Status of the Guideline Levels

306. The Commission agreed with the action of the Committee to submit the guideline levels for feed to the governments for comments at Step 3.

Guideline Levels for Cadmium and Lead in Food (ALINORM 89/12A, Appendix IX)

307. The Committee, at its 21st Session, proposed guideline levels for cadmium and lead in food.

Status of Guideline Levels

308. The Commission agreed with the action of the Committee to submit the guideline levels for cadmium and lead in food to the governments for comments at Step 3.

Consideration of New Foods and Other Foods of Biotechnological Origin (ALINORM 89/12A, paras. 155-159)

309. The Committee, at its 21st Session, considered how it should deal with new foods and other foods of biotechnological origin and agreed to seek the advice of the Commission on how to proceed in this area.

310. The Commission discussed the subject under Agenda Item 15 (see paras. 112-118).

Proposals for General Provisions for the Use of Food Additives in Standardized and Non-Standardized Foods (ALINORM 89/12A, Appendix III)

311. Dr. W.H.B. Denner, as a Codex Consultant, introduced his paper (CX/FAC 89/16) which contained recommendations (Recommendations 1, 2, 3, and 7) presented to the Commission for consideration (ALINORM 89/12A Appendix III). He felt that the Codex vision of the free circulation of safe and properly labelled foods was not being fully achieved as judged by the relatively low number of acceptances of Codex Standards. There seemed to be a paradox in that Member

Nations who drew up the standards were not apparently prepared to accept them after adoption by the Commission. Hopefully, the special conference included in Recommendation 1 would provide an opportunity to resolve these issues for the future. Recommendation 2 would greatly assist the Codex Secretariat in finding the best way forward.

312. He urged Member Nations to accept Recommendation 3 in order to ensure that everyone was working from a common safety evaluation. Furthermore, Codex should ensure that more, good, varied, safe and wholesome food should be available to more people in more countries. This would require greater recognition of technological needs of individual countries (Recommendation 7). In conclusion Dr. Denner stressed that his paper was a genuine and constructive attempt to improve the operation of Codex.

313. The Commission expressed its high appreciation of Dr. Denner's outstanding and thought-provoking paper.

314. Many delegations stated that they would be unable to support Recommendations 3 and 7 contained in Dr. Denner's paper and put forward before the Commission for adoption. They stated that in their opinion the text of Recommendation 7 as presently worded proposes the liberalization of regulation of additives to promote freer trade and could not be reconciled with the current Codex general principles for the use of food additives in food. On the other hand, the Delegation of the United Kingdom stated that there had to be a flexible approach by all concerned to this issue, if solutions to the problem were ever to be found.

315. There was unanimous support from the delegations for the convening of an international food standards conference as contained in Recommendation 1, at an early date. In the view of the delegations that participated in the discussions, the conference should not only deal with the future of the Codex Food Standards Programme in respect of compositional food standards but should also take into account: i) changing attitudes towards compositional food standards, ii) changing food technology, and iii) changing consumer expectations but also deal with novel foods, philosophy of consumer protection and review of definition of technological need<sup>1</sup>.

316. The Commission noted that Codex should meet the new challenges and that this could be achieved to a large extent by convening an international food standards conference. The Commission

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<sup>1</sup> The Commission later decided that such a Conference should also consider the matter of risk assessment and risk management associated with contamination of food; see para. 530.

accepted Recommendations 1 and 2 contained in CX/FAC 89/16<sup>1</sup> and recommended to FAO and WHO to initiate negotiations with Member Nations with a view to obtaining additional resources for a considerable expansion of the role of JECFA and a major acceleration in the rate of safety evaluations made by the Committee each year. In this respect the Delegation of Egypt informed the Commission that JECFA should in the coming years adapt itself to meet more fully the needs of Codex member nations and proposed that this could be attained by i) a more representative, and therefore larger, Committee, ii) a wider scope of studies, evaluating more additives and contaminants in the world market, which would mean that the Committee may need to meet more often; iii) using existing scientific facilities in developing countries and encouraging them to carry out evaluation studies; iv) taking into account differences in nutritional status, the changing attitude to nutritional requirements, consumption patterns, compositional food standards and health profiles.

#### Confirmation of Chairmanship

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

#### CODEX COMMITTEE ON FOOD HYGIENE (Agenda Item 25)

318. The Chairman of the Codex Committee on Food Hygiene, Dr. D.L. Archer introduced the working papers for this Agenda Item (ALINORM 89/13 the Report of the 23rd Session of the Committee and ALINORM 89/32 Part I-FH containing Government comments on draft codes and amendments at Step 8) and presented the Report.

#### Revised Draft Code of Hygienic Practice for Low Acid and Acidified Low Acid Canned Foods at Step 8 (ALINORM 89/13, Appendix IV)

319. Dr. Archer informed the Commission that the Delegations of France, Canada and Spain had provided new versions of the draft in French and Spanish which accurately reflect the meaning of the original English version.

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<sup>1</sup> These recommendations are as follows:

##### Recommendation 1 (to FAO)

FAO should arrange for the Commission at its next Session to consider the future of the Codex Food Standards Programme in respect of compositional food standards taking into account:

- (i) changing attitudes towards compositional food standards
- (ii) changing food technology
- (iii) changing consumer expectations

it may be that a special conference should be convened to allow a more wide-ranging debate outside the constraints of a formal Commission session.

##### Recommendation 2 (to governments)

All Member Nations should give comprehensive and constructive responses to requests for comments from FAO. Codex will serve Member Nations best if FAO is in a position to understand fully the various national positions. It is particularly important to identify changes in national food policies or shifts in government thinking so that FAO can plan ahead accordingly.

Status of the Revised Code of Hygienic Practice

320. The Commission adopted the revised draft Code at Step 8.

Amendments to the Recommended International Code of Hygienic Practice for Dried Milk - Definition of Pasteurization (ALINORM 89/13 App.VIII)

321. The Delegation of Denmark referring to the comments in ALINORM 89/32 Part I-FH pointed out that the proposal of the USA concerning heat resistant spores of pathogenic microflora and competitive microflora could lead to misinterpretation, and stated that the Delegation supports the original amendment to the definition as given in Appendix VIII to ALINORM 89/13. The Chairman of the Committee on Food Hygiene stressed the difficulties of defining pasteurization which had been discussed at length both by the Committee on Food Hygiene and IDF. The Delegation of New Zealand agreed with Dr. Archer and stated that the definitions as proposed by the Committee and the USA were equally acceptable to it.

Status of the Amendment

322. The Commission adopted the amendments to the definition of pasteurization as contained in ALINORM 89/13 Appendix VIII at Step 8 with the detailed references supplied by IDF in their written comments, as an editorial amendment.

Draft Guidelines for the Salvage of Canned Foods Exposed to Adverse Conditions (ALINORM 89/13 Appendix V) (Step 5)

323. The Commission adopted the Guidelines at Step 5 and advanced them to Step 6 of the procedure.

Proposed Draft Code of Hygienic Practice for Pre-Cooked and Cooked Foods in Mass Catering (Step 5) (ALINORM 89/13 Appendix IV)

324. The Secretariat recalled that the Code had been prepared by the Delegation of Belgium and discussed over two sessions of the Committee. At the 23rd Session it was decided that the Code is in sufficiently good form to be proposed for clearance by the Commission. The Commission endorsed the proposal of the Committee on Food Hygiene to move the draft Code to Step 5.

Guideline Procedures to Establish Causes of Microbiological Spoilage in Canned Foods (ALINORM 89/13 Appendix VI)

325. The Executive Committee at its 35th Session (ALINORM 89/3 page 45) approved the proposal of the Committee to elaborate this Guideline through the Codex procedure at Step 3. The Delegation of the United States of America supported the elaboration of the Guideline and suggested that the Committee on Food Hygiene consider starting work on a new Code on thermally processed food containers other than metallic.



326. The Commission endorsed the decision of the Executive Committee concerning the elaboration of the Guideline, and requested the Committee on Food Hygiene to consider the proposal of the Delegation of the United States.

Proposed Draft [Code/Guidelines] of Hygienic Practice for the Preservation of Raw Milk by Use of the Lactoperoxidase System [where refrigeration is virtually impossible]. Comments at Step 3 (ALINORM 89/13, paras. 78-79)

327. The Executive Committee at its 35th Session recommended a timetable for further review of the Code/Guidelines by the Committee on Food Hygiene in 1989 (24th Session), 1991 (25th Session) and by the Milk Committee in 1990 with a view to presenting the document for adoption by the Commission at its 19th Session in mid 1991. The Commission noted that the Steering Group established by the Milk Committee to act on its behalf between sessions had examined the proposed draft Code in May 1989 and had agreed with the proposals of the Executive Committee for the joint elaboration of the Code by both the Committee on Food Hygiene and Milk Committee.

328. The Delegation of India noted that paragraph 77 of the Report of the 23rd Session of the Committee on Food Hygiene be corrected since it implied that the lactoperoxidase method had been introduced in India, which the Delegation confirmed is not correct.

329. The Commission endorsed the recommendations of the Executive Committee concerning the further elaboration of the Code/Guidelines with the possible input of the IDF to speed up the adoption of the document. It also noted the statement of India that the lactoperoxidase process had not been implemented in the country.

Draft Code of Hygienic Practice for Aseptic Food Processing and Packaging Systems (ALINORM 89/13 Appendix VII)

330. The Commission endorsed the submission of this Code to Governments and interested International Organizations for their comments at Step 3.

Proposed Draft Code of Hygienic Practice for Spices and Condiments

331. Introducing the item Dr. Archer pointed out that such a Code had been discussed by the Committee several times and that some countries still consider that the elaboration of a Code of Hygienic Practice for Spices and Herbs would be useful. A proposed draft would be presented at the 24th Session of the CCFH in October 1989. This draft was based on a document initiated in one of the ISO Technical Committees. The Commission was requested to approve the elaboration of a Code within the CCFH. The Delegation of Denmark stressed the need for serious consideration of such a Code.

332. The Observer from ISO informed the Commission that although responsibility for the elaboration of Codes of Hygienic Practice was with the Codex Committee on Food Hygiene at the request of member bodies of ISO Subcommittee 7 of Technical Committee 34, had elaborated a Code of Hygienic

Practice for Spices. The Observer stated that ISO would continue to cooperate in the further elaboration of the Code.

333. The Commission approved the elaboration of a Code within the Codex Committee on Food Hygiene.

Confirmation of Chairmanship

334. The Commission confirmed under Rule IX.10 that the Codex Committee on Food Hygiene should continue to be under the Chairmanship of the Government of the USA.

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

335. The Commission had before it the report of the 16th Session of the Codex Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling (ALINORM 89/23).

336. The report was introduced by Dr I. Olah (Hungary). He informed the Commission that the Codex Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling at its eighteenth session endorsed several sampling plans included in draft Codex standards and several methods of analysis for sugars and mayonnaise.

337. The Committee reconsidered several methods of endorsement which had been postponed or not previously considered and reviewed methods elaborated by the Codex Committee on Nutrition and Foods for Special Dietary Uses.

338. Dr Olah emphasized the interest of all Codex Commodity Committee in the work of the CCMAS and reviewed the topics which had been dealt with by the Committee. The CCMAS agreed that the needs of Codex for methods of analysis should be studied and priorities determined, decided to develop guidelines for the classification of Codex methods of analysis and considered the report of the Inter-Agency Meeting (IAM).

Matters Arising from the Report of the 16th Session of the Committee  
Codex Guidelines on Sampling (ALINORM 89/23 Appendix II)

339. The CCMAS analysed the task of Codex Committees in the elaboration of sampling plans and other recommendations related to sampling and considered that the General Principles required the development of detailed sampling procedures and that this appeared to be potentially very extensive for the various Codex Standards. The Committee agreed that a single document on sampling should be developed rather than including sampling provisions in individual Codex standards.

340. The list of contents of the proposed Codex Guidelines on Sampling, included in Appendix II of ALINORM 89/23 was agreed by the Committee and the Commission was requested by Dr Olah to give consideration to the approach which involved the development of a single advisory Codex document on sampling.

341. The Commission agreed to the advisory nature of the Codex document and approved the development of Codex Guidelines on Sampling.

#### Sampling for Net Contents in Packages

342. The Committee decided that the International Recommendations on Sampling for Net Contents in Packages prepared by the International Organization for Legal Metrology represented a good basis for discussions on the control of net contents in lots moving in international trade.

343. Dr Olah submitted the OIML sampling plans to the Commission with the request to approve its circulation to governments and International Organizations for comments in accordance with an appropriate procedure.

344. The Commission agreed with the recommendation of the Committee.

#### Sampling Plan for Food Grade Salt

345. After some technical and editorial changes, the Committee endorsed the sampling plan for food grade salt for the determination of essential composition and quality factors in Section 3 of the Standard and requested the Commission to adopt this sampling plan for incorporation in the Codex Standard for Food Grade Salt or in a general Codex publication on sampling.

346. The Commission adopted the proposed sampling plan for Food Grade Salt.

#### General Methods of Analysis for Contaminants

347. The Committee considered the suggestion that it was timely to review the Codex general methods for contaminants and decided that the general methods so far adopted by the Commission be circulated for comments and that the methods be reviewed at the next session. The Commission was invited to endorse this procedure.

348. The Commission agreed with the views of the Committee and approved the proposed procedure.

#### Confirmation of Chairmanship

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

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

350. The Commission had before it the report of the 16th Session of the Codex Committee on Nutrition and Foods for Special Dietary Uses (ALINORM 89/26). The report of the Committee was introduced by its Chairman Dr G. Pahlke (Federal Republic of Germany), who outlined the work of the Committee. The conclusions of the Committee are summarized in ALINORM 89/26.

Draft Guidelines on Formulated Supplementary Foods for Older Infants and Young Children (ALINORM 89/26, Appendix III)

351. The Commission noted that the Committee had had detailed discussion on the guidelines and had considered them ready for adoption. The use of local technology and local ingredients in developing countries had been taken into consideration. The written comments received from Thailand (LIM 2) suggested that reference to phosphorus should be maintained in the Guidelines in order to ensure that consumers in developing countries receive adequate amounts of this element. This was supported by the Delegation of Italy. However, the Committee had considered that phosphorus intake in all countries was usually adequate.

352. The Delegation of Switzerland, supported by several delegations, suggested that the Guidelines should be returned for a further round of comments as they had been extensively changed during the last session. The Delegations of Norway and Italy suggested that "older infant" should be defined as an infant from its 6th month of age.

Status of the Guidelines

353. The Commission returned the Guidelines to Step 6 of the Procedure for another round of comments.

Proposed Draft Standard for the Labelling of and Claims for Foods for Special Medical Purposes (ALINORM 89/26 Appendix IV)

354. The Chairman of the Committee informed the Commission that the labelling of these foods represented a complex problem. The standards was intended to cover very special products intended for sick persons. In some countries these products were considered to be medicines. The Committee had therefore recommended that these special dietary products be used only under medical supervision.

Status of the Standard

355. The Commission advanced the draft standard to Step 6 of the Procedure.

Proposed Draft Standard for Nutritionally Complete Formula Foods for Use in Weight Control Diets (ALINORM 89/26 Appendix V)

356. The Delegation of the Netherlands expressed the opinion that work should also be done on very low calorie products and drew attention to the decision of the Committee that a working paper should be prepared on the subject by The Netherlands. It might, therefore, be premature to advance the draft standard in the Codex procedure. The Commission was informed that the Committee's intention was to develop a separate standard for such products and that, therefore, the standard under discussion need not be held up. This was supported by the Delegations of the Federal Republic of Germany and France. The Delegation of the United Kingdom was of the opinion that

the section on food additives was far too general and should be either deleted or more specific provisions for food additives should be included.

#### Status of the Standard

357. The Commission advanced the draft standard to Step 6 of the Procedure.

#### Amendment of the Labelling Sections of the Codex Standards for Canned Baby Foods, Cereal-based Foods for Infants and Children and Follow-up Formula (CODEX STAN 73-1981, 74-1981 and 156-1987) (ALINORM 89/26, Appendix VIII, para. A)

358. The Commission agreed to add a requirement in these standards that these products should not be presented as breast-milk substitutes and adopted at Step 8 of the Procedure the following new section:

#### "Additional Requirements"

The products covered by this Standard are not breast-milk substitutes and shall not be presented as such".

#### Amendment of the General Principles for the Addition of Essential Nutrients to Foods (Appendix V ALINORM 87/26)

359. The Commission recalled that, at its last session, it had requested the Committee to define "nutrient density" for inclusion in the General Principles, which had been developed outside the Codex procedure. The Commission was informed that the Committee had dealt with this subject and had also discussed new definitions for inclusion in the General Principles dealing with "fortification or enrichment" and "standardization". As no agreement could be reached on the new definitions, the Committee had recommended that they be developed further in accordance with the Codex Procedure.

360. The Delegation of France was of the opinion that all of the definitions including "nutrient density", should be developed according to the Codex procedure and be submitted to governments at Step 3.

361. The Commission adopted the definition for nutrient density and agreed to submit the other definitions to governments at Step 3 (see Appendix VIII B. and C. (1)).

#### Amendment of the Maximum Level of Use for Cocoa in the Codex Standard for Processed Cereal-based Foods for Infants and Children (CODEX STAN 74-1981)

362. The Commission noted that expression of the maximum level for cocoa on a dry basis would lead to varying levels of cocoa in the ready-to-eat product, depending on whether the food had been diluted with water or milk. It therefore, agreed that it would be better to express the maximum level on the ready-to-eat product and referred the proposed amendment to governments at Step 3 of the Procedure (see Appendix V C. (2), ALINORM 89/26).

## Other Matters Arising from the 16th Session of the Committee

### Table-top Sweeteners

363. The Commission considered a request by the Committee to consider whether the elaboration of a Codex standard for table-top sweeteners would fall within its terms of reference. Governments had also been requested to indicate their opinion of this subject (CL 1988/56-NFSDU) (para 174-176 ALINORM 89/26). The Commission noted that written comments had been received from the Federal Republic of Germany, USA, Denmark and Thailand (ALINORM 89/32 - Part IV and ADD.1 and LIM 2). Replies had been negative.

364. The Delegation of the United Kingdom was of the opinion that there was no need to develop a standard for these products, but if work by Codex on table-top sweeteners was to be done, this should be the task of the Codex Committee on Food Additives and Contaminants. The Delegation of Sweden indicated that it agreed with the written comments of Denmark, i.e. that no Codex Standard should be developed but that the question of labelling and the use of artificial sweeteners should be considered. The Delegation of Italy was of the opinion that this question should be once more considered by the Codex Committee on Nutrition and Foods for Special Dietary Uses.

365. The Commission decided that there was no need to consider the standardization of table-top sweeteners.

### Review of Methods of Analysis

366. The Commission was informed that the Committee had essentially completed the review of methods of analysis in Codex standards elaborated by it (paras 178-187 and Appendix VII ALINORM 89/26). As regards the method for the determination of "dietary fibre", the Committee would discuss this matter at a future session in the light of developments. However, the Committee did adopt a method for the determination of fibre for the purpose of calculating the energy content of certain special dietary foods. This was not to be confused with the analysis "dietary fibre" for the purposes of labelling. The Commission also noted that the methods of analysis proposed by the Committee had been, for the most part, endorsed by the Codex Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling (Part II, Appendix IV, ALINORM 89/23).

367. The Commission agreed that the revised methods of analysis be included in the appropriate part of the Codex Alimentarius.

### Criteria for Amendment of Advisory Lists of Mineral Salts and Vitamin Compounds

368. The Commission agreed to make slight amendments to the above informal criteria document as suggested by the Committee (para. 193, ALINORM 89/26). The purpose of the amendments was to indicate that biological activity of the vitamins and minerals need not derive exclusively from added substances and that such vitamin salts and mineral compounds be in conformity with internationally recognized specifications of identity and purity.

### Vitamin and Mineral Supplements

369. The Commission was informed that the Committee had considered the need for standardization of these products (para 37, ALINORM 89/26). However, the Committee had doubts as to whether vitamin or mineral supplements would fall within the terms of reference of the Commission and had requested the Commission to consider this matter. The Chairman of the Committee indicated that in some countries these products were considered foods, while in others they were considered to be pharmaceutical preparations. Furthermore, depending on composition and other factors, these products could be either regarded as foods or pharmaceuticals. In any case they were nutrient preparations serving a special dietary purpose.

370. Opinion was divided concerning the need to develop Codex standards for these products. Some delegations considered that trade in these products was considerable and that Codex standards or guidelines should be developed to control them. Other delegations were of the opinion that there was no need, at this time, to work in this area. The point was made that a clear definition should be developed as to which products were foods and which products were to be considered pharmaceuticals.

371. The Commission agreed that the Secretariat should send a circular to governments seeking their views on whether or not work on vitamin and mineral supplements should be undertaken and to provide appropriate information so that distinction could be made between products which are foods and those which are pharmaceuticals or medicines. The Codex Committee on Nutrition and Foods for Special Dietary Uses was requested to consider information received and advise the Commission accordingly, without initiating the standardization of the products.

### Confirmation of Chairmanship

372. The Commission confirmed under Rule IX.10 that the Codex Committee on Nutrition and Foods for Special Dietary Uses should continue under the Chairmanship of the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany. The delegation of the Federal Republic of Germany indicated that Spanish interpretation would again be provided at the next Session and urged Spanish speaking countries to attend. The delegation expressed its thanks to the Secretariat for its assistance.

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

373. The report of the 18th Session of the Group of Experts (ALINORM 89/14) was presented by the Secretariat on behalf of Prof. W. Pilnik (The Netherlands), Chairman of the Joint Group of Experts.

### Consideration at Step 8 of the Draft General Standard for Fruit Nectars Preserved exclusively by Physical Means

374. The Commission noted that this was a general standard aimed at providing for any fruit nectars which were not covered by individual Codex standards. It also noted that the standard provided for the compulsory addition of sugars and for the optional addition of lemon or lime juice.

375. The Delegation of Thailand re-stated its comment as contained in ALINORM 89/32 that in certain nectars where the fruit had high acidity or strong flavour the minimum fruit content could be less than 25% and the actual level governed by Good Manufacturing Practice. The Commission noted that this comment had previously been discussed by the Group of Experts which were of the opinion that such products would need to be considered as fruit juice beverages. The Delegation of Iraq referring to all of the standards under discussion indicated that the level of tin was too high and should be reduced to 150 mg per kg. This comment was supported by the delegation of Poland which referred similarly to the level of copper.

376. The delegations of Hungary, Norway and Sweden stated their opinions that the addition of sugars to these products should be optional and not mandatory. The Observer from the EEC pointed out that the mandatory addition of sugars was not necessary when nectars were produced from fruits with a very sweet or pronounced taste. The Observer also pointed out that reference to lemon or lime juice in the labelling should be as an ingredient and not in association with the name of the food.

#### Status of the General Standard for Fruit Nectars Preserved Exclusively by Physical Means

377. The Commission adopted the Standard at Step 8 of the procedure.

#### Consideration at Step 8 of the Draft General Standard for Fruit Juices Preserved Exclusively by Physical Means

378. The Delegation of Iraq expressed the opinion that the ethanol content in the standard should be reduced to 3 g per kg equivalent to the level in the General Standard for Fruit Nectars. The Secretariat stated that ethanol was present in the fruit juice due to natural fermentation during processing and handling before the preservation treatment, and that as nectars were diluted fruit juices (with water and sugar added), the level of ethanol in nectars was reduced corresponding to the dilution. The delegations of Switzerland and Sweden expressed their reservations concerning the addition of sugars to fruit juices for sweetening purposes especially the level of 200 g per kg for highly acidic fruit juices. The Observer from the EEC informed the Commission that within the EEC the presence of sugars had to be declared quantitatively near the name of the food.

#### Status of the Draft General Standard for Fruit Juices Preserved Exclusively by Physical Means

379. The Commission adopted the Draft Standard at Step 8 of the procedure.

#### Consideration at Step 5 of the Proposed Draft General Standard for Vegetable Juices

380. The Commission adopted the Draft General Standard at Step 5 of the procedure and advanced it to Step 6.



### Consideration of Guidelines for Mixed Fruit Juices and Guidelines for Mixed Fruit Nectars

381. The Commission adopted both guidelines at Step 5 of the procedure in accordance with its decision that guidelines should be elaborated in accordance with the step procedure unless there was adequate justification for not doing so.

### Methods of Analysis for Fruit Juices

382. The Commission noted that the Joint Group of Experts had prepared a revised updated evaluation of the methods of analysis for Codex standards for fruit juices, concentrated fruit juices and fruit nectars.

383. The Commission endorsed the revised general methods and noted that the methods for ethanol and lead had not yet been endorsed by the Codex Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling.

384. The Commission supported the opinion of the Delegation of Tanzania that efforts should be continued to elaborate methods for the determination of fruit content as an essential part of quality control procedures for fruit juices. It noted however that such methods did not appear to be immediately available.

### Revision of Labelling Provisions in Codex Standards for Fruit Juices and Fruit Nectars

385. The Commission noted that the Group of Experts had recommended that the labelling provisions in the individual Codex standards for fruit juices and fruit nectars should be aligned with the similar provisions in the draft general standards for fruit juices and fruit nectars.

386. The Commission endorsed these amendments as being consequential to the adoption of the general standards.

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

387. The report of the First Session of the Codex Committee on Tropical Fresh Fruits and Vegetables (ALINORM 89/35, Parts I and II) was introduced by the Committee's Chairman, Lic. Javier Cuellar Hernandez (Mexico). The Commission noted that several matters arising from the CCTFFV Session were also discussed at the Ninth Session of the Codex Committee on General Principles (paras. 56-73, ALINORM 89/33).

388. The Secretariat of the UNECE Group of Experts on Coordination of Standardization of Fresh Fruits and Vegetables presented an oral statement to the Commission which was adopted at the Group's Thirty-fifth Session (Geneva, 3-6 July 1989). The Commission noted that the statement will be officially forwarded as a comment to the CCTFFV.

### Format for Standards for Tropical Fresh Fruits and Vegetables

389. The Commission agreed with the recommendation of the CCGP (paras. 57-60, ALINORM 89/33) and decided to refer issues concerning standard format back to CCTFFV with a request that the Codex format should be respected in regard to those matters not dealing exclusively with commercial quality, and the detailed format of the UNECE should be considered as a basis for the description of the section on quality characteristics.

### Elaboration Procedures

390. The Commission confirmed the opinion of the CCGP, in that the current Codex Procedures for the Elaboration of Worldwide Codex Standards did not need amendment, as they provided an adequate process for collaboration with interested international organizations (paras. 67-69, ALINORM 89/33). However, the Commission also agreed that the following provisions relating to the role of the UNECE Working Party on Standardization of Perishable Produce be included as a note to the procedures:

- A. The UNECE Working Party on Perishable Produce:
  - 1. may recommend that a world-wide Codex standard for tropical fresh fruits and vegetables should be elaborated and submit its recommendation either to the CCTFFV for consideration or to the Commission for approval;
  - 2. may prepare "proposed draft standards" for tropical fresh fruits or vegetables at the request of the CCTFFV or of the Commission for distribution by the Codex Secretariat at Step 3 of the Codex Procedure, and for further action by the CCTFFV;
  - 3. may wish to consider "proposed draft standards" and "draft standards" for tropical fresh fruits and vegetables and transmit comments on them to CCTFFV at Steps 3 and 6 of the Codex Procedure; and
  - 4. may perform specific tasks in relation to the elaboration of standards for tropical fresh fruits and vegetables at the request of CCTFFV.
- B. Codex "proposed draft standards" and "draft standards" for tropical fresh fruits and vegetables at Steps 3 and 6 of the Codex Procedure should be submitted to the UNECE Secretariat for obtaining comments.

### Acceptance Procedures (Point of Application)

391. The Commission noted the opinion of the CCGP concerning the point of application (i.e.; export, import) and acceptance procedures for tropical fresh fruit and vegetable standards (paras. 61-66, ALINORM 89/33) and agreed that it was unnecessary to amend the current Acceptance Procedures for Worldwide Codex Standards. However, the Commission also agreed with the opinion of CCGP in that governments, when indicating the acceptance of a Codex standard for tropical fresh

fruits or vegetables, should notify the Commission which provisions of the standard would be accepted for application at the point of import, and which provisions would be accepted for application at the point of export.

#### Collaboration with the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)

392. The Commission noted that the CCGP (para 70, ALINORM 89/33) had welcomed the proposals of the CCTFFV concerning its collaboration with the OECD Scheme for the Application of International Standards for Fruit and Vegetables (paras. 39-41, ALINORM 89/35, Part I):

#### Collaboration with the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE)

393. The Commission noted that it had discussed the following Resolution adopted by the 43rd Session of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe in paras. 207-208 above:

1. that the list of fresh fruits and vegetables which will be standardized by the new Codex Committee be established in agreement with the other standardizing intergovernmental organizations;
2. that the intergovernmental organizations involved in standardization, work in close relation so as to maintain a high methodological homogeneity in the elaboration of standards;
3. that the standards for fruits and vegetables considered as "exclusively" tropical be established without mention, neither in the definition nor in any other chapter of the standard, of this fact.

394. The Commission, while noting that it had agreed to include a note relating to the role of the UNECE Working Party on Standardization of Perishable Produce in the Elaboration Procedures for Worldwide Codex Standards (paras. 390 above), decided to adopt the opinion of the CCGP (paras. 70-73, ALINORM 89/33) regarding the UNECE resolution. As a result, the Commission only endorsed point number two of the above resolution, and decided that no further action was needed concerning this matter.

#### Definition of "Tropical Zone"

395. The Commission noted that the CCTFFV adopted the following definition of "tropical zone", as outlined in paras. 13-16 of ALINORM 89/35 - Part I:

**Tropical Zone:** for the purposes and guidance of the Codex Alimentarius Commission, tropical fruits and vegetables are those that are cultivated in areas between the Tropic of Cancer and the Tropic of Capricorn, and/or in areas with similar natural climatic conditions.

396. The Delegation of Switzerland recommended that the definition should focus on defining "tropical fresh fruits and vegetables" which are cultivated in tropical zones, in order to more fully conform to the Committee's programme of work. The Delegation of the United Kingdom, with

support from the Delegation of New Zealand, recommended that the definition refer to fruits and vegetables whose origin is in the tropics, as temperate crops are often grown in tropical areas. The Delegation of Finland could not justify the need for a definition of tropical zone, as the Committee's work was already defined through the establishment of a priority list.

397. The Delegation of Cuba reassured the Commission that an expert working group developed this definition at the CCTFFV Session only after careful deliberation and consideration of various issues. The delegations of Mexico, Brazil and Kenya supported this view and recommended adoption of the existing definition. The Delegation of Singapore, while recalling the opinion of Switzerland, encouraged the adoption of a definition entitled "Tropical Fresh Fruits and Vegetables".

398. The Commission agreed to adopt the definition as forwarded by CCTFFV, with the understanding that the definition is changed to read "Tropical Fresh Fruits and Vegetables".

#### Establishment of Worldwide Codex Standards for Pineapple, Papaya and Mango

399. The Commission noted that the CCTFFV had circulated proposed draft worldwide Codex standards for pineapple, papaya and mango as contained in appendices V, VI, and VII, respectively of ALINORM 89/35 - Part II, (CL 1988/49-TFFV).

400. The Commission was also informed that a UNECE Recommended Standard for Mangoes, which has been used on a trial basis for over two years, was only recently officially communicated to the Codex Secretariat through the OECD Secretariat and is currently being circulated to Codex Contact Points for information, (CL 1989/23-TFFV).

401. The Delegation of Iraq suggested the comparison of Codex and UNECE standards for mangoes in order to develop a Codex worldwide standard based on international participation and trade. The delegations of India, Cuba, Mexico and Argentina supported this view. The Delegation of Tanzania also noted that the conversion of the UNECE standard into a Codex standard would more accurately reflect the needs of producing rather than consuming countries. The Delegation of the United States, with support of the Delegation of Australia, noted that the discrepancies between these standards and organizations must be addressed in order to eliminate duplicative efforts and to develop a standard based on the widest possible participation and acceptance.

402. The delegations of Egypt and Singapore noted that the Commission and its subsidiary bodies could easily take the views of other international organizations into account, as well as advice from the Codex Regional Coordinating Committees. The Delegation of Finland also noted the relevance of the Commission's earlier decision (para 218 above), in which it decided to adopt the proposals of the CCGP regarding the strengthening of Codex activities to coordinate work of other international and regional organizations. The Delegation requested the Codex Secretariat to develop an agreement with international and regional standards setting bodies in order to encourage the adoption of Codex standards.

403. The Delegation of Poland expressed its opinion against the elaboration of Codex standards for any products which were under development by other international organizations, as it created duplication of work, was a waste of resources and could possibly create trade barriers.

404. The Commission concluded and agreed that the Codex Committee on Tropical Fresh Fruits and Vegetables should continue the elaboration of worldwide Codex standards for pineapple, papaya and mango. It also encouraged the Committee to consider the assistance and advice of the Regional Coordinating Committees when developing these standards. The Codex Secretariat was also requested to work with other international and regional standards setting bodies on these issues, as proposed by the CCGP.

#### Confirmation of Chairmanship

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

#### **CODEX COMMITTEE ON FISH AND FISHERY PRODUCTS (Agenda Item 30)**

406. The Commission had before it ALINORM 89/18, the Report of the 18th Session of the Committee. Mr. John Race, the Chairman of the CCFFP, informed the Commission that good progress had been made on several matters as reflected by the fact that three important Standards and one Code of Practice were before the Commission for consideration at Step 8.

407. The Commission was informed that the Committee had discussed the guidelines for mercury in fish. In this connection, reference was made to the statement by JECFA, when evaluating methylmercury contamination of foods, that fish was a nutritious food and that any recommendations that implied that changes were needed to culturally entrenched dietary habits should be based on compelling arguments, and must not overlook possible implications. The Chairman of the CCFFP also raised the question of risk assessment in connection with contamination of food, and the management and alleviation of possible health risks and suggested that further in-depth discussion of these matters was desirable (see also para. 530).

408. The Commission was also informed that the Committee was currently undertaking the elaboration of a proposed Code of Practice for Aquaculture by means of a Circular Letter (CL 1989/13 FFP) and a questionnaire prepared by the FAO Fisheries Department. The replies will be considered at the next session of the CCFFP. It was underlined that the Committee was very dependent on the assistance of the FAO Fisheries Department when elaborating Codes of Practice for fish and fishery products and urged that FAO give high priority to this work. The Commission expressed its full appreciation to the FAO Fisheries Department in giving assistance to the Committee on the elaboration of Codes of Practice for fish and fishery products, and looked forward to continuing this cooperation.

409. The Chairman of the Committee informed the Commission of current and future work regarding the proposed draft standards for Quick Frozen Squid and Dried Shark Fins and important items such as the review of methods of analysis and guidelines on inspection techniques.

Consideration at Step 8 of the Draft Standard for Quick Frozen Blocks of Fish Fillet, Minced Fish Flesh and Mixtures of Fillets and Minced Fish Flesh

410. The Commission was informed that comments had been received from three countries i.e. Denmark, Mexico and the Netherlands, recorded in ALINORM 89/32 Part III.

411. The Delegation of the Netherlands expressed its objection to the development of a Codex standard for raw materials, and the Delegation of France, supported by the Delegations of Switzerland, Poland, Federal Republic of Germany and Belgium expressed reservations on the use of polyphosphates. The Delegation of France requested that methods for the estimation of added water absorbed in the quick-freezing process should be included in the standard. The Delegation of the Federal Republic of Germany referred to its earlier comments in respect to the defect tables included in the standard and reconfirmed its reservations in this regard.

412. At the request of the Federal Republic of Germany, the Chairman informed the Commission that the Committee had extensively discussed the need to introduce date marking requirements and had decided for all quick frozen products not to introduce date marking, but to include the storage instruction provisions, considering that the quality of quick frozen foods depends more on the initial product quality, processing, packaging and the temperature of storage.

413. The Observer of the EEC stated that the EEC had adopted rules for the date marking of all quick-frozen foods, including fish, which specified the use of the date of minimum durability.

Status of the Standard

414. The Commission adopted the Draft Standard for Quick Frozen Blocks of Fish Fillet, Minced Fish Flesh and Mixtures of Fillets and Minced Fish Flesh at Step 8 of the Procedure.

Consideration at Step 8 of the Draft Standard for Quick Frozen Fish Sticks (Fish Fingers) and Fish Portions Breaded or in Batter

415. The Chairman of the Committee informed the Commission that at its 21st Session the CCFAC had endorsed the provisions proposed for food additives, and that comments had been received from Denmark.

416. The Delegation of Sweden, supported by the Delegations of Austria, Denmark and the Federal Republic of Germany expressed reservations on section 4.3.4 on the use of colours for bread coating or batter. The Delegation of France proposed to increase the minimum requirements for fish to 60% from the currently included 50%. The Commission noted that these comments had been taken into account by the Committee during earlier discussions.

Status of the Standard

417. The Commission adopted the Draft Standard for Quick Frozen Fish Portions Breaded or in Batter at Step 8 of the Procedure.

Consideration at Step 8 of the Draft Standard for Dried Salted Fish (Klippfish) of the Gadidae Fish Family

418. The Commission was informed that the CCFAC had endorsed the provisions proposed for food additives, and that no comments had been received.

Status of the Standard

419. The Commission adopted the Draft Standard for Dried Salted Fish (Klippfish) of the Gadidae Fish Family at Step 8 of the Procedure.

Consideration at Step 8 of the Draft Code of Practice for Cephalopods

420. The Chairman of the Committee informed the Commission that comments had been received from Mexico and Thailand. The Government of Mexico had submitted several editorial comments to the Spanish version which were accepted by the Commission. However, a comment by Mexico on Section 5.4.4.3 was considered to be possibly of a substantive nature, and this was not adopted. Mexico was requested to submit the comments to the CCFPP for consideration at its next session. The position of Thailand concerning the fate of unused ice was considered to have relevance for several Codes of Practice for Fish and Fishery Products, and it was therefore agreed to refer this to the CCFPP, and, if agreed to, the proposed amendment would be introduced into all the relevant Codes.

Status of the Code

421. The Commission adopted the Code of Practice at Step 8 of the Procedure.

Consideration at Step 5 of the Proposed Draft General Standard for Quick Frozen Fish Fillets

422. The Chairman of the Committee informed the Commission that this General Standard was being elaborated as a result of efforts to combine the existing four standards for Quick Frozen Fillets of various species, referred to the favourable comments of Denmark and requested the Commission to advance it to Step 6 of the Procedure.

423. The Delegation of the United States, supported by the Netherlands stated that it did not object to approval by the Commission for advancing the Proposed Draft General Standard but believed that the CCFPP should re-examine the standard and consider:

- broadening the scope to other species
- simplifying the level of detail in the standard
- revising the defects table and retaining only those defects related to safety, public health and fraudulent practices, and
- include simple product test methods.

### Status of the Draft Standard

424. The Commission adopted the Standard at Step 5, advanced it to Step 6 of the Procedure, and requested the Committee to take into account the comments made.

### Consideration of Proposed Draft Amendments to the Recommended International Code of Practice for Salted Fish (CAC/RCP 26-1979)

425. The Committee had decided to propose the amendment of the Codes of Practice for Salted Fish by introducing recommended specifications for the salt to be used for salting fish into Section 5.4.2 instead of including such specifications in an annex to the Standard for Dried Salted Fish (Klippfish) of the Gadideae family.

### Status of Proposed Draft Amendments

426. The Commission adopted the amendments to the Recommended International Code of Practice for Salted Fish as in ALINORM 89/18, Appendix VII at Step 8 of the Procedure.

### Proposed Draft Amendment to the Codex Standard for Sardines and Sardine Type Products

427. The Chairman of the Committee informed the Commission that studies had been carried out to fulfil the four conditions of the procedure for the incorporation of additional species of fish in a Codex Standard. The Committee agreed that Opisthonema oglinum should be included in Section 2.1(a) of the Codex Standard for Sardines and Sardine-Type Products. The Commission was informed that the studies had been carried out by three laboratories in the Federal Republic of Germany, Finland and the United Kingdom. According to the procedure adopted by the Commission in 1979, the incorporation of the new species in the Standard, fulfilling the four conditions of the procedure, would be submitted to the Commission for immediate endorsement and incorporation into the Standard.

428. The Delegation of France, supported by the Delegations of Spain, Portugal and the United Kingdom, expressed reservations about the proposed inclusion of Opisthonema oglinum in the Codex Standard.

### Status of the Proposed Amendment

429. The Commission adopted the amendment under its procedure for amending Codex texts.

### Revision of Labelling Provisions for Fish and Fishery Products

430. The Commission was informed that the proposal of the final amended labelling sections of the Codex Standard for Fish and Fishery Products had been endorsed by the Codex Committee on Food Labelling. In discussing this item the Commission was informed that the CCFFP had agreed not to include a requirement for drained weight in CODEX STAN 70-1981 - Canned Tuna and Bonito in Water or Oil, and this decision is clearly indicated in ALINORM 89/18 para. 46.



Apparently an error had been made in Appendix XII on this point and it was this incorrect provision that had been endorsed.

431. The Commission agreed to adopt all the labelling provisions except the drained weight provision in the Standard for Canned Tuna and Bonito in Water or Oil. This specific matter would be discussed by CCFL in the light of information to be supplied by CCFFP.

Additional Item concerning Supplement 1 of the Recommended International Code of Practice for Shrimps and Prawns (CAC/RCP 17-1978)

432. The Delegation of the United States brought to the attention of the Commission the fact that Supplement 1 to the Recommended Code of Practice for Shrimps and Prawns should be changed to inform the user that the "microbiological criteria" contained in the Supplement applied only to cooked frozen shrimps and prawns. The Supplement as currently written made no distinction about the forms of presentation to which the criteria apply, and thus the criteria could be misapplied to all forms of presentation referred to in the Codex Standard for Quick Frozen Shrimps and Prawns.

433. The Commission adopted the amendment as an editorial correction.

434. The Delegation of Sweden referred to the statement on risk assessment made by the Chairman of the CCFFP (para. 407) and suggested that a discussion on risk assessment related to food safety be included as an item for the next session of the Commission. It was suggested that risks related to chemical as well as microbiological contamination should be discussed.

Confirmation of Chairmanship of the Committee

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

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

436. The Report of the Fourteenth Session of the Codex Committee on Processed Meat and Poultry Products (ALINORM 89/16) was presented by the Chairman of the Committee, Dr Bent Simonsen (Denmark).

Consideration at Step 5 of Annex D to the International Code of Hygienic Practice for Processed Meat Products (paras. 40-51, ALINORM 89/16)

437. The Commission noted that the CCPMPP was currently elaborating Annex D to the subject Code (CAC-RCP 13 - 1976, Rev. 1) entitled "Preservation of Shelf-Stable Cured Meat Products in Consumer Size Hermetically Sealed Containers", (Appendix II, ALINORM 89/16). The 14th Session of the CCPMPP advanced Annex D to Step 5 for the Commission's consideration.

438. The Commission agreed to adopt Annex D at Step 5 of the Codex procedure.

Consideration at Step 5 of the Revision of Codex Standards for Processed Meat and Poultry Products (Paras 81-173, ALINORM 89/16)

439. The Commission noted that CCPMPP was currently revising the Codex standards for Canned Corned Beef, Luncheon Meat, Cooked Cured Ham, Cooked Cured Pork Shoulder and Cooked Cured Chopped Meat (Appendices V, VI, VII, VIII, IX, respectively, ALINORM 89/16). The CCPMPP advanced the standards to Step 5 of the Codex procedure for the Commission's consideration. The Commission, while noting the extensive revisions made to these standards, agreed to their adoption at Step 5 of the Codex procedure.

Consideration at Step 8 of Draft Guidelines for the Use of Standardized Non-Meat Protein Products in Processed Meat and Poultry Products (paras. 62-80, ALINORM 89/16)

440. The Commission noted that the draft guidelines (App IV, ALINORM 89/16) were being forwarded for consideration at Step 8. The Commission also had before it written comments concerning this issue from the Governments of Denmark (ALINORM 89/32 - Part VII) and Thailand (LIM 13). The Commission was also informed that further discussion of this item would take place under Agenda Item 33 (Codex Committee on Vegetable Proteins).

441. The Commission noted that document ALINORM 89/32 - Part VII contained a proposed definition for non-meat protein products from the Government of Denmark for insertion into the draft guidelines. The Chairman of the CCPMPP indicated that the definition might be construed to exclude fish proteins as currently drafted, and emphasized that this was not the intent.

442. The Commission was also informed that the Codex Committee on Vegetable Proteins had requested the CCPMPP to introduce a paragraph into the guidelines concerning the need for nutritional equivalency for a meat product containing vegetable proteins as compared with a similar product with no substitution. The Chairman of CCPMPP, while recognizing the significance and implications for the meat industry in this area, recommended that the request be discussed further at the next CCPMPP Session, and that the Guidelines be returned to Step 6. He also indicated that the CCVP had recommended the reintroduction of a paragraph concerning the name of the food into the guidelines, as this paragraph was removed at the last CCPMPP Session.

Status of the Guidelines

443. The Commission agreed to return the Guidelines to Step 6 of the Codex procedure for further consideration.

Draft Guide for the Microbiological Quality of Spices and Herbs used in Processed Meat and Poultry Products

444. The Commission noted that the CCPMPP had agreed to elaborate the subject draft guide (App. III, ALINORM 89/16). The Delegation of the United Kingdom, while not objecting to the elaboration of such a guide, requested the Committee to consider the work of the International Spice Group in order to avoid duplication of efforts.

445. The Commission agreed to the continued elaboration of the Guide for submission to governments for comment at Step 3.

Proposal to Change the Name of the Committee in Spanish

446. The Commission agreed to change the Spanish title of the Committee to read as "El Comité del Codex sobre Productos Carnicos Elaborados" in order to provide a more accurate translation.

Confirmation of Chairmanship of the Committee

447. The Commission, while noting that the Committee may wish to adjourn sine die at its next Session in October 1990, agreed to confirm under Rule IX.10 that the Codex Committee on Processed Meat and Poultry Products should continue under the Chairmanship of the Government of Denmark.

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

448. The Commission had before it ALINORM 89/29, the Report of the 6th Session of the Committee. In introducing the Report, the Chairman of the Committee, Mr. Steven Tanner informed the Commission that good progress had been made on the draft standards under discussion and several of these standards were being submitted to the Commission for adoption at Steps 5 and 8.

449. The Commission noted that the Committee, in view of the increasing expansion of world trade in oats, agreed to consider the need for elaboration of a world-wide standard for oats at its next Session on the basis of a working paper to be prepared by the Delegation of the USA assisted by the Delegation of Australia. It also noted that the Committee agreed to review the ISO Specification for Wheat before considering whether a separate Codex Standard for Wheat should be elaborated.

Consideration at Step 8 of the Draft Standard for Certain Pulses (ALINORM 89/29, Appendix II)

450. Mr. Tanner pointed out that the Standard which had been returned by the Commission to Step 6 of the Procedure at its last (17th) Session had been thoroughly discussed by the Committee at its 6th Session. The Committee, in order to meet the wide range of proposals for maximum moisture content, proposed two maximum moisture levels to meet different climatic conditions and marketing practices. He informed the Committee that the various sections requiring endorsement had been endorsed by the respective committees.

451. The Commission was informed that Step 8 comments and proposals for amendments to the Standard had been submitted and were available in LIM 12 and in a paper presented by the International Pulse Trade and Industry Confederation.

452. Referring to the comments submitted to the Commission, the Chairman of the Committee stated that the section on defects was amended at the 6th Session of the Committee and that the Committee had taken into consideration the comments of the International Pulse Trade and Industry Confederation and that the Section on defects would not need further amendments. Argentina had,

in LIM 12, affirmed its national position and the comments of Argentina would not call for amendments of the world-wide standard. The Chairman of the Committee proposed that the Standard be adopted at Step 8 of the Procedure.

453. The Delegations of UK, India, Australia and Iraq expressed reservation for the moisture content as contained in 3.2.1.1 of the Standard. In their view the moisture levels were high and the figures were vague as regards their suitability at the point of application. The Delegation of Poland expressed reservation for clause 3.4.1 Foreign Matter, 4. Contaminants and 5.2.2 Hygiene. In its view tolerances should be established for heavy metals and the presence of mycotoxins should not be allowed to any extent.

454. To a question raised by the Delegation of Norway as regards the scientific basis for the footnote to clause 4. Contaminants, the Commission deleted the words "pending finalization of levels of heavy metal contaminants" from the footnote.

455. The Delegation of France brought the attention of the Commission to certain errors in terminology in Section 2.2 and 3.4.3. The Commission also noted the comment of the Delegation of Brazil that there was an error in the Spanish text in clause 3.4.1 where 0.01% of dead insects should read as 0.1%.

#### Status of the Standard for Certain Pulses

456. The Commission adopted the Draft Standard for Certain Pulses at Step 8 and asked the Codex secretariat to correct the errors in terminology in the French and Spanish text and to inform UNECE that the Codex Standard for Certain Pulses had been adopted.

#### Consideration at Step 8 of the Draft Standard for Sorghum Grains (ALINORM 89/29, Appendix III)

457. The Commission noted that the Committee had made some minor changes to Section 2. Description, and Sections 3.3 and 3.4 Definitions and Tolerances for Defects, reduced the maximum moisture content from 15% to 14.5%, the ash content from 1.6 to 1.5% on dry weight basis and the fat content from 4.7% to 4.0% and advanced the Standard to Step 8.

#### Status of the Standard for Sorghum Grains

458. The Commission noted that the Step 8 Comments as contained in LIM 12 had already been discussed by the Committee at its earlier sessions and adopted the Standard for Sorghum Grains at Step 8.

#### Consideration at Step 8 of the Draft Standard for Sorghum Flour (ALINORM 89/29, Appendix IV)

459. The Commission noted that the Committee had decided to specify a provision of 0.3% for tannin content on a dry basis which was the same as for decorticated sorghum grains, agreed to delete the provision for degree of extraction since there was no methodology available to determine extraction rate of sorghum flour and advanced the Standard to Step 8.

Status of the Standard for Sorghum Flour

460. The Commission noted that the Step 8 comments as contained in LIM 12 had already been discussed by the Committee at its earlier sessions and adopted the Standard for Sorghum Flour at Step 8.

Consideration at Step 5 of the Draft Standard for Durum Wheat Semolina and Durum Wheat (ALINORM 89/29, Appendix V)

461. The Commission noted that Step 5 comments were received from the Federal Republic of Germany (ALINORM 89/32 - Part VI-CPL) and from Thailand. Since these comments were of a technical nature, the Commission agreed that they should be considered by the Committee at its next session. It adopted the Draft Standard for Durum Wheat Semolina and Durum Wheat at Step 5 and advanced it to Step 6 of the Codex Procedure.

Sampling Plans Cited in the Standards for Maize, Maize Grits and Maize Meal (ALINORM 89/29, para. 16)

462. The Commission noted that the Committee had accepted that the sampling plans should exclude aflatoxins from the methods cited. The Committee had agreed to refer this to the Commission with a request to amend the reference to sampling plans included in the Standards accordingly. Sampling for aflatoxins was considered as a separate issue.

463. The Commission approved the proposed amendment.

Consideration of Food Additive Provisions in the Standard for Wheat Flour (ALINORM 89/29, paras. 18-23)

464. The Commission noted that provisions for chlorine, chlorine dioxide, benzoyl peroxide, azodicarbonamide, potassium bromate, have not been endorsed by the Codex Committee on Food Additives and Contaminants. It also noted that the Committee on Cereals, Pulses and Legumes, at its 6th Session, had endorsed the statement of technological justification contained in CX/FAC 88/10-Part II and requested that this statement be re-submitted to the Committee on Food Additives and Contaminants. Noting that this matter had been under consideration over a number of sessions of both committees; that the additives in question had been evaluated and cleared by JECFA; and that in its opinion adequate technological justification had been provided, the Committee saw no impediment to the endorsement of the provisions by the Committee on Food Additives and Contaminants provided that the Standard clearly indicated that there would be certain restrictions on their use and countries would be able to indicate specified deviations from the Standard. In the event that CCFAC would be unable to endorse these provisions, the Committee requested the Executive Committee and the Commission to consider the matter in order to complete the standard for wheat flour.

465. The Commission noted that the subject was considered by the 36th Session of the Executive Committee (ALINORM 89/4, paras. 40-41) which recommended that the Commission endorse all the food additive provisions for wheat flour, which have not yet been endorsed by CCFAC.

466. The Delegation of the Federal Republic of Germany was unable to agree with the recommendation of the Executive Committee. In its view the need for bleaching agents in wheat flour was not technologically justified. The use of bleaching agents with its attached risk especially in staple foods should be viewed with caution especially in relation to the protection of health to the consumer. The views of the Federal Republic of Germany were shared by Egypt, France, Austria, Portugal, Spain, Nigeria and Belgium. All these Delegations supported the action of the Codex Committee on Food Additives and Contaminants.

467. The Delegation of the UK brought the attention of the Commission to the fact that there was a principle involved which should be discussed. The real expertise on technological justification of the food additive in commodity standards lay with the Commodity Committee and not with CCFAC. The CCFAC is charged with examining, for the purpose of endorsement, the additive sections of the standard, the purpose of that examination and endorsement being essentially one of food safety. JECFA had evaluated all the treatment agents under consideration and given toxicological clearance for their use in food. In addition, the Committee on Cereals, Pulses and Legumes had restricted their use to flours for certain specific uses. The Delegation supported the views of the Executive Committee that all the food additive provisions should be endorsed. The views of the UK were shared by the USA and the Netherlands, although the Delegation of the Netherlands expressed itself against the use of these agents in such an important substance as wheat flour.

468. The Delegation of Switzerland informed the Commission that the difference in the views expressed above by the countries was due to a large extent to the differences in food habits and proposed that all the food additives in wheat flour should be endorsed. Those countries that were unable to accept certain food additive provisions could then accept the standard with specific deviations.

469. The Commission agreed with the views of the 36th Session of the Executive Committee and endorsed all those food additives in wheat flour which were not endorsed by CCFAC. The Delegation of Egypt expressed reservation on the decision of the Commission.

Amendment to Increase the Fat Acidity in the Codex Standard for Wheat Flour from 30 mg to 50 mg KOH/100 g (ALINORM 89/29, para. 32)

470. The Committee advanced to Step 5 the amendment to increase the fat acidity in wheat flour from 30 mg to 50 mg KOH/100 g in white flours of extraction rates of 75% or less. The Committee, however, noted that there was no method for determination of extraction rates of wheat flour.

471. The Commission referred the Step 5 comments received from Brazil and Thailand to the Committee, adopted the amendment at Step 5 and advanced it to Step 6. While advancing the amendment to Step 6, the Commission noted that the limits of fat acidity should apply only to white flours of extraction rates up to 75%.

Guideline Levels for Contaminants in Cereals, Pulses and Legumes (ALINORM 89/29, paras. 33-38)

472. The Committee had proposed Guideline Levels for Arsenic, Cadmium, Mercury and Lead in Cereals, Pulses and Legumes.

473. The Delegation of Norway asked the Commission whether guideline levels for contaminants were set on the basis of levels found in food or on health risk to the consumer. The Commission noted that the subject was reviewed by the CCFAC which, through its Working Group on intake, monitors the contaminant intake and health protection of the consumer.

474. The Commission agreed to the proposal of the Committee for the submission of the guideline levels for certain contaminants in cereals, pulses and legumes to the governments for comments at Step 3.

Elaboration of a World-Wide Standard for Rice including Milled Rice (ALINORM 89/29, paras. 114-115)

475. The Commission noted that the Committee was of the opinion that an appropriate world-wide standard for rice, including milled rice would indeed facilitate world trade and agreed to request its approval to elaborate such a standard. It also noted that the Delegation of the United States assisted by the Delegations of France and the Netherlands, agreed to prepare a first draft proposal which would take into account the ISO Specification for Rice (ISO-7301), for discussion at the Committee's next session.

476. The Delegation of Thailand reaffirmed its reservation for the elaboration of a separate Codex Standard for Rice including Milled Rice. In its view, the ISO specification for rice would suffice.

477. The Commission noted that the elaboration of a separate Codex Standard for Rice including Milled Rice was supported both by the Coordinating Committee for Africa and the Coordinating Committee for Latin America and the Caribbean and approved the elaboration of a world-wide standard for rice including milled rice.

Confirmation of Chairmanship of the Committee

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

**CODEX COMMITTEE ON VEGETABLE PROTEINS (Agenda Item 33)**

479. The Commission had before it ALINORM 89/30, the Report of the Fifth Session of the Committee which was introduced by Mr. B. Smith (Canada).

Update of the Report on Vegetable Protein Production and Utilization (ALINORM 89/30, paras. 9 - 13)

480. The Commission noted that the Committee had expressed appreciation to the U.S. Delegation, particularly to Dr. W. Wolf, for updating this report. It had noted that the report would need constant updating because of the dynamic trends in the utilization of vegetable proteins in foods. Several delegations agreed to provide additional information which could be incorporated in the document, including the use of proteins from tubers.

481. The Commission expressed appreciation to the Canadian Secretariat of the Codex Committee on Vegetable Proteins which agreed to prepare the updated text and make it available to the Codex Secretariat for distribution to interested parties.

Protein Quality Measurement (ALINORM 89/30, Para 20)

482. The Commission noted that the Committee had agreed that the protein digestibility corrected amino acid score method was the best available for routine evaluation of protein quality of vegetable protein products. However, because the methodology used to measure protein quality had broad implications beyond the purview of the CCVP, it recognized the need for the wider scientific community to address issues such as amino acid methodology, protein digestibility, amino acid bioavailability, and correlations in humans. It accordingly recommended that a Joint FAO/WHO Expert Consultation should be held in order to review the method. The Commission was informed that external funding from the USA would be available to support the Joint FAO/WHO Expert Consultation, and that the Consultation was tentatively scheduled to be held in Washington D.C. from 4 to 6 December 1989.

483. The Commission noted that comments would be later sought on the Expert Consultation's report from member governments and from the Codex Committee on Nutrition and Foods for Special Dietary Uses.

484. The Commission expressed appreciation to the Delegation of the U.S.A. for providing funds to convene the Expert Consultation.

Quantitative differentiation of Vegetable and Animal Protein (ALINORM 89/30, paras 33-37)

485. The Commission noted that Enzyme-Immuno Assays would be the best approach for effective differentiation of vegetable and animal proteins. However, no practical and tested method had yet emerged. It also noted that the Netherlands Delegation had agreed to continue their monitoring of this methodology and had accepted the Committee's request to prepare a further update report by January 1991, in time for the 19th Session of the Commission. The Delegations of the U.S.A. and Canada and the Observer from Euvepro agreed to assist the Netherlands with this assignment. The Commission expressed appreciation to the Delegations of the Netherlands, U.S.A. and Canada and Observer from Euvepro for undertaking this task.



Consideration at Step 8 of the Draft Guidelines for the Utilization of Vegetable Protein Products  
(ALINORM 89/30, Appendix II)

486. The Commission noted that the Committee had replaced the term "Nutritional Adequacy" by "Nutritional Equivalence", on the understanding that this had been proposed by the Codex Committee on Nutrition and Foods for Special Dietary Uses, made the consequential changes to the Guidelines and had advanced the text to Step 8.

487. The Delegation of the U.K. stated its view that the Committee had given too much weight to an opinion expressed by a working party of CCFNSDU which was not adopted by that Committee itself, and that nutritional equivalence was not the same as nutritional adequacy. The Delegation preferred the use of the term "nutritional adequacy" which had been initially used in the guidelines. The concept of nutritional equivalence was almost impossible to achieve, and this would cause severe difficulties for trade in these products which were otherwise safe. The Delegation of Denmark, introducing Conference Room Document LIM 5, informed the Commission that inclusion of the concept of nutritional equivalence in the guidelines was a substantial change to the guidelines and that the new concept would need to be sent to governments for comments before undertaking further consideration of the guidelines. In its view, introduction of the concept of nutritional equivalence of vegetable protein products in partial or complete substitution of the animal protein in food would create major difficulties for food manufacturers. The views of the United Kingdom and Denmark were supported by the Delegations of the Netherlands, Belgium and USA, and the Observer from EUVEPRO.

488. The Commission agreed to delete the definition of nutritional equivalence from the existing text of the guidelines, reinstate the definition for nutritional adequacy and substitute the term "nutritional equivalence" by "nutritional adequacy" in the text.

489. The Delegations of France, Norway and the Federal Republic of Germany expressed reservation to the wording in clause 7.5(iii). In their view the wording "unless properly qualified" should be deleted from the text. The Commission did not delete these words from the text.

490. Referring to Annex I of the Guidelines "Proposed Draft Guidelines for testing safety and nutritional quality of Vegetable Protein Products", the Delegation of Belgium supported by Switzerland proposed that it should be withdrawn since in their view vegetable proteins could be classed under novel foods which would be later addressed by the International Conference on Food Standards. The Commission noted that the Annex had been elaborated on the basis of PAG Guidelines and expressed the view that retention of the annex would be useful. The Guidelines contained in the Annex which were restricted to new vegetable proteins could be reexamined later in the study.

Status of the Guidelines

491. With the changes agreed to as noted above, the Commission adopted the Draft Guidelines for the utilization of Vegetable Protein Products at Step 8.

Consideration at Step 8 of the Draft General Standard for Vegetable Protein Products (ALINORM 89/30, Appendix III)

Consideration at Step 8 of the Draft General Standard for Soy Protein Products (ALINORM 89/30, Appendix IV)

492. The Commission considered both the General Standard for Vegetable Protein Products and for Soy Protein Products together.

493. The Commission noted that the Committee had completed its work on the General Standard as well as the Soy Standard. With respect to the section on Food Additives, the Committee had agreed to a text which stated that "During the course of manufacturing Vegetable Protein Products, several classes of processing aids, as compiled in the advisory inventory of the Codex Alimentarius Commission may be used". With regard to contaminants, the Committee had agreed not to establish maximum levels on the basis of the meagre information available on this subject. The Committee had deleted the provision for trypsin inhibitor since it agreed not to set limits for the parameter in primary soy protein products. The Committee advanced both the standards to Step 8.

494. Several delegations expressed concern on the list of processing aids proposed for use. In some countries some of the processing aids listed were considered as food additives. Also certain chemicals could be used both as processing aids and food additives. In their view the food additives which would require to be labelled should be separately listed. The Commission agreed with the views of the delegations with regard to processing aids but accepted the text without change since in its view this was the best compromise that could be achieved. It agreed to include a footnote to the Section 4. Food Additives in both the standards "To be reviewed by the Codex Committee on Vegetable Proteins", and requested the Committee to specify which substances are used exclusively as food additives for later inclusion in the standard by means of an appropriate amendment .

495. The delegation of Poland expressed reservation with regard to Section 5 on contaminants and Section 6.3 Hygiene dealing with microbiological aspects. In its view tolerances for heavy metals should be established.

Status of the Standards

496. The Commission adopted the Draft General Standard for Vegetable Protein Products and Draft Standard for Soy Protein Products at Step 8.

Adjournment of the Committee Sine Die

497. Mr. Smith gave an outline of the work and history of the Codex Committee on Vegetable Proteins. He expressed the view that the Committee had been very productive and had contributed to international standardization of Vegetable Proteins. It had agreed at its last session that its major work assignments had now been completed and that it should be adjourned sine die. The Committee would however, be willing to continue to serve as a contact point for those seeking information on vegetable proteins.

498. The Commission expressed its appreciation to the Committee and to the Government of Canada for the valuable work on Vegetable Proteins and concurred that the Committee be adjourned sine die.

Confirmation of Chairmanship of the Committee

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

**CODEX COMMITTEE ON SUGARS (Agenda Item 34)**

500. Matters of interest arising from the Codex Committee on Sugars, which the Commission noted has adjourned sine die, were presented by Mr. Charles Cockbill of the United Kingdom on behalf of the Secretariat of the Committee.

Methods of Analysis Provisions in Codex Standards for Sugars  
(ALINORM 89/27 - Part A)

501. The Commission noted that a Revised Methods of Analysis document (CX/S 88/MAS) was distributed for comment under Circular Letter CL 1988/9 - MAS of March 1988: Comments received concerning this issue were reviewed at the 16th Session of the Codex Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling, where it was decided to forward the comments to ICUMSA, ISO and IFG for input. The CCMAS, while recommending temporary endorsement of the methods elaborated in this document, emphasized the need for ISO and ICUMSA to conduct collaborative studies prior to the CCMAS final endorsement.

502. The Commission agreed with this procedure.

Codex Sugar Standard Contaminant Levels (ALINORM 89/27 - Part B)

503. The Commission noted that the 19th Session of the Codex Committee on Food Additives and Contaminants had temporarily endorsed maximum levels of lead in all sugars at 1.0 mg/kg, except for fructose (0.5 mg/kg). The Commission was informed that the proposed limits would be circulated for comment at Step 3.

504. The Delegation of Poland stated that a lead limit of 1.0 mg/kg was too high, as their national authorities had established a level of 0.5 mg/kg.

505. The Commission, while noting that the proposed limits will be subjected to circulation and comment, decided to endorse the above procedure.

High Fructose Glucose Syrup (ALINORM 89/27 - Add. 1)

506. The Commission was invited to consider a proposal of the Secretariat of the Codex Committee on Sugars regarding the need to elaborate a Codex Standard for High Fructose Glucose Syrup.

507. The Delegation of the United States questioned the need for such a standard in view of the minor amounts moving in international trade and the insignificance of a standard in terms of its manufacture and sale. The Delegation of Canada supported this opinion, and noted that most Canadian production of this product is consumed domestically.

508. The Delegation of Belgium, while noting the comments of Canada and the USA, supported the elaboration of such a standard in view of its significance in European trade.

509. The Commission, noting the lack of adequate support for the elaboration of this standard, decided not to elaborate such a standard at this time.

#### Proposed Draft Standard for Raw Sugar

510. The Commission noted that this issue was discussed under the Codex Coordinating Committee for Latin America and the Caribbean (Agenda Item 19).

#### Endorsement of Labelling Provisions for Sugar

511. The Commission noted that the 20th Session of the Codex Committee on Food Labelling endorsed all labelling provisions for sugar standards as outlined in ALINORM 89/21, part 34(b).

#### Confirmation of Chairmanship of the Committee

512. The Commission confirmed under Rule IX.10 that the Codex Committee on Sugars should continue under the Chairmanship of the United Kingdom. It noted that the Committee remained adjourned sine die.

### **CODEX COMMITTEE ON PROCESSED FRUITS AND VEGETABLES (Agenda Item 35)**

#### Confirmation of Chairmanship of the Committee

513. The Commission confirmed under Rule IX.10 that the Codex Committee on Processed Fruits and Vegetables should continue under the Chairmanship of the United States of America. It noted that although the Committee remained adjourned sine die, it would be responsible for the future elaboration of the Draft Standard for Grated Desiccated Coconut (see paras. 124-125 above).

### **CODEX COMMITTEE ON FATS AND OILS (Agenda Item 36)**

514. The report of the Codex Committee on Fats and Oils (ALINORM 89/17) was presented by the Chairman of the Committee, Dr. W.H.B. Denner (United Kingdom). Dr. Denner noted that the Committee had adjourned sine die following its 13th Session, and had continued its work by correspondence.

Consideration at Step 8 of Amendments to Codex Standards for Individual Fats and Oils to include Fatty Acid Ranges as determined by Gas-Liquid Chromatography

515. The Commission recalled that it had advanced the amendment to Step 6 only at its previous session in view of objections from some delegations to its adoption at Step 8 with the omission of Steps. Further comments had been requested from governments, and amendments had been proposed to that ranges for palm oil, palm kernel oil, coconut oil, cottonseed oil, low erucic acid rape seed oil, and sesame seed oil. The Secretariat of the Committee in analyzing the replies received was of the opinion that the compromise achieved at the Committee's 13th Session could not be improved upon, and proposed the adoption of the amendments at Step 8. The Secretariat of the Committee confirmed that the footnote explaining the use of the fatty acid ranges had been accidentally omitted from ALINORM 89/17 and should be reinstated.

516. The Delegation of Thailand, referring to its previous comments stated that it was unable to agree with the fatty acid ranges proposed for coconut oil, palm oil, palm kernel oil and sesame seed oil.

Status of the Draft Amendments

517. The Commission adopted the proposed amended fatty acid ranges as contained in Annex 1 of ALINORM 89/17 at Step 8 noting that several factors including seed variety and climatic conditions contributed towards the variable nature of the fatty acid composition of most edible oils and any proposed identity criteria based on fatty acid ranges must be a compromise between the need to cover all samples of whatever origin, and the ability to assess the authenticity of an oil. In the view of the Commission, the proposed amendments were a satisfactory compromise.

Proposed draft amendments to the standards for Palm Oil and Palm Kernel Oil (ALINORM 89/15, Appendix V)

518. The Commission noted that the Codex Coordinating Committee for Asia, at its 6th Session, (ALINORM 89/15, paras 215-217) proposed that the current Codex Standards for Palm Oil (CODEX-STAN 125-1981) and Palm Kernel Oil (CODEX-STAN 126-1981) which were elaborated by the Codex Committee on Fats and Oils during 1979 be amended in view of the development of new technologies followed for the production of the oils, and identification and adoption of new methods of analysis suitable for palm oil, palm kernel oil and their products. The Executive Committee at its 35th Session, had approved the initiation of the amendment procedure for the Standards for Palm Oil and Palm Kernel Oil, and asked the UK Secretariat of the Committee on Fats and Oils to take appropriate action (ALINORM 89/3, para 40).

519. The Commission approved the action taken by the Executive Committee.

Elaboration of Standards for Palm Olein and Palm Stearin

520. In view of the considerable international trade in palm olein and palm stearin, the Codex Coordinating Committee for Asia, at its 6th Session, (ALINORM 89/15, paras 218-220) proposed that Codex should undertake to elaborate international standards for palm olein and palm stearin. The

Executive Committee, at its 35th Session, took note of the justification provided by the Government of Malaysia, but requested the Secretariat of the Codex Committee on Fats and Oils to determine whether or not palm olein and palm stearin were already covered by the General Standard for Fats and Oils. The UK Secretariat had since expressed the view that palm olein and palm stearin were not covered by the General Standard for Fats and Oils.

521. The Commission endorsed the elaboration of a Standard for Palm Olein only, and requested the Secretariat of the Committee to determine by means of a Circular Letter, whether there was sufficient international trade in palm stearin for food use to justify the elaboration of such a standard.

#### Confirmation of Chairmanship

522. The Commission confirmed under Rule IX.10 that the Codex Committee on Fats and Oils should continue under the Chairmanship of the United Kingdom. It noted that the Committee remained adjourned sine die.

#### **CODEX COMMITTEE ON MEAT HYGIENE (Agenda Item 37)**

523. The Delegation of New Zealand informed the Commission of its wish to reconvene the Committee to revise the four codes of practice elaborated by it in the period 1973-1982, in order for them to reflect modern inspection techniques and other developments in meat hygiene. This was also seen by the Delegation as providing tangible support to the Multilateral Uruguay Round of Trade Negotiations within GATT to lessen barriers to international trade. The Delegation indicated that the Committee's 6th session would probably be held in London possibly in October 1990.

524. The Commission agreed with the proposal to reconvene the Committee.

#### Confirmation of Chairmanship

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

#### **CODEX COMMITTEE ON COCOA PRODUCTS AND CHOCOLATE (Agenda Item 38)**

#### Confirmation of Chairmanship of the Committee

526. The Commission confirmed under Rule IX.10 that the Codex Committee on Cocoa Products and Chocolate should continue under the Chairmanship of Switzerland. It noted that the Committee remained adjourned sine die.

## **CODEX COMMITTEE ON SOUPS AND BROTHS (Agenda Item 39)**

### Confirmation of Chairmanship of the Committee

527. The Commission confirmed under Rule IX.10 that the Codex Committee on Soups and Broths should continue under the Chairmanship of Switzerland. It noted that the Committee remained adjourned sine die.

## **CODEX COMMITTEE ON EDIBLE ICES (Agenda Item 40)**

528. The Commission confirmed under Rule IX.10 that the Codex Committee on Edible Ices should continue under the Chairmanship of Sweden. It noted that the Committee remained adjourned sine die.

## **CODEX COMMITTEE ON NATURAL MINERAL WATERS (Agenda Item 41)**

529. The Commission confirmed under Rule IX.10 that the Codex Committee on Natural Mineral Waters should continue under the Chairmanship of Switzerland. It noted that the Committee remained adjourned sine die.

## **FUTURE WORK (Item 42)**

530. The Secretariat noted that the major items identified during the present session included future work on novel foods; a paper on the risk assessment of the presence of contaminants in food; and the convening of an inter-governmental food standards conference. The Chief of the Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme referred to the inter-governmental conferences already planned on food additives and on import and exports food control programmes. He proposed that a single, comprehensive conference should be convened, in the next biennium after the 19th Session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission in which these and other matters could be discussed. The Commission welcomed this proposal.

531. The Delegation of Hungary requested the Commission to consider the reconvening of the Joint ECE/Codex Alimentarius Group of Experts on the Standardization of Quick Frozen Foods and proposed that standards for quick frozen green asparagus, quick frozen spinach leaves and quick frozen bell peppers, as well as a code of practice on the transport of quick frozen foods could be considered. The delegation also proposed that definitions were needed for reformed and restructured meat products and meat by-products.

532. The Delegation of Switzerland drew attention to the greater concern being expressed world-wide at the state of the environment, and warned that such concerns if not approached in a uniform manner could result in the creation of non-tariff barriers to the food trade. The delegation recommended that the Commission give greater attention to environmental matters in the future.

**PROVISIONAL TIMETABLE OF CODEX SESSIONS 1990-1991 (Agenda Item 43)**

533. The Commission had before it the Provisional Timetable (ALINORM 89/25). It was noted that during the course of the Commission's present session it had been agreed that consideration be given to the holding of a full session of the Codex Committee on Food Labelling in early 1991, and a meeting of the Codex Committee on Meat Hygiene. The Secretariat undertook to contact host governments about the possibility of holding this latter session in conjunction with the scheduled meetings of the Codex Committee on Processed Meat and Poultry Products and the Codex Committee on Residues of Veterinary Drugs in Foods, in October 1990.

534. The Commission requested the Secretariat to take the appropriate steps to ensure that the meetings of the Codex Committee on Fish and Fishery Products and the Milk Committee currently both scheduled for 11-15 June 1989 did not coincide, and recommended holding the 22nd Session of the Milk Committee from 25 to 29 June 1990.

535. The Commission noted that the 7th Session of the Coordinating Committee for Asia would be held in Chiang Mai, Thailand, from 5 to 12 February 1990, and the 17th Session of the Coordinating Committee for Europe from 28 May to 1 June 1990 in Vienna.

**OTHER BUSINESS (Agenda Item 44)**

536. There was no other business.



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**ALINORM 89/40**  
**Appendix II**

**Opening Remarks by Dr. Hiroshi Nakajima**  
**Director-General, World Health Organization**

Mr. Chairman,  
Dear Colleagues,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

On my own behalf and that of the Director-General of FAO I extend to you a very warm welcome to Geneva.

This session is different from others in that, for the first time in the 28-year history of your Commission, it is presided over by a chairman from a developing country. Mr. Mendez, I wish you every success your important task of steering the Commission through its agenda and to a successful conclusion.

This session is also the first I have had the honour and pleasure of opening. I should like to take this opportunity to confirm the World Health Assembly's continued recognition of the importance of WHO's cooperation with FAO in supporting the aims of the Codex Alimentarius Commission, particularly from the standpoint of protecting consumers against possible health hazards in food.

I welcome the eight new Members who have joined your Commission since the last session in 1987, namely Antigua and Barbuda, Equatorial Guinea, the German Democratic Republic, Honduras, Papua New Guinea, Rwanda, Viet Nam, and Yemen. 138 countries are now Members of the Commission. The constantly increasing participation of developing countries in the Commission's work is most encouraging. I can only hope that other developing countries will, in due course, also find it beneficial to join the Commission and thereby profit from its work. You may recall that, in a resolution adopted in 1987, the World Health Assembly called on all Member States of WHO to make all appropriate efforts to adopt Codex standards, and to fully utilize the recommendations of the Commission for the promotion of food safety and the international food trade.

The availability of internationally agreed food standards, maximum residue limits for pesticides, veterinary drugs, and other chemicals in food, as well as of codes of hygienic and technological practice, are in themselves highly important contributions to public health. Your Commission, Mr. Chairman, deserves the highest recognition from the global community for these achievements. However, it does not appear that the availability of these internationally agreed standards and codes has been able to reverse a very worrying trend of increasing morbidity rates associated with food consumption. In almost all countries where statistics on foodborne diseases are available, and I would point out that the number of such countries is still too few, we can observe



an increase in the incidence of such diseases. We have reason to believe that this trend is also occurring in many other countries.

It is thus obvious that neither the industrialized, nor the developing, countries have so far found an answer to the pressing public health and economic problems posed by contaminated foods. May I remind you that WHO regards illness due to contaminated foods as one of the most widespread health problems in the contemporary world, and an important cause of reduced economic productivity. This is even more surprising when one realizes that many of the current disease outbreaks are due not to lack of scientific knowledge and technologies but rather to failure to apply well-known principles and technologies. Your Commission, Ladies and Gentlemen, has been responsible for drawing up many of these principles and technologies.

Why should this be so, given the sophisticated food safety laws, standards, and enforcement mechanisms operating in industrialized countries? A poor food safety record in these countries is certainly no encouragement to the developing world to strengthen their food safety laws and control mechanisms. Both developing and industrialized countries, however, must recognize that the formal food safety infrastructure cannot by itself prevent foodborne illnesses, particularly those caused by microbiologically contaminated foods that are responsible for almost all cases. In today's rapidly modernizing world, the close links that earlier prevailed between mankind and its food supply are now being reversed, as forces such as urbanization or cash-cropping replace traditional subsistence farming or pastoral lifestyles. The economic resources at the command of people are frequently insufficient for them to have access to a safe and hygienic environment for food, and new food habits resulting from changes in lifestyle may be incompatible with traditional food safety measures. The result is an increasing burden of foodborne disease.

A new approach to food safety is urgently needed. In WHO's view this new approach can be found by integrating food safety into primary health care systems, through education and information that focuses on the factors responsible for food contamination and for the survival and growth of foodborne pathogens.

Mr. Chairman, I realize, of course, that your Commission has only limited opportunities to help in integrating food safety into primary health care systems, but I am encouraged by the fact that the Codex Regional Committees are indeed dealing with this topic. As with all problems where a new approach has to be found, a great deal of promotional work has to be done, and through your Coordinating Committees the Commission can contribute even in this area which is, a priori, not your responsibility. I make this point to remind all our Member States that the health-related elements in food standards, and other health-related recommendations, are important prerequisites for food safety, but that, in order to prevent foodborne disease, people have to know how to avoid contamination by, and the growth and survival of, foodborne pathogens. This calls for a concerted effort on the part of those concerned, namely governments, industry and trade, and consumers. Each of these three partners shares responsibility for food safety, and close and coordinated cooperation is necessary before we can expect the situation as regards foodborne diseases to improve.

I should like to touch briefly on one other topic. Development in health is closely related to economic development. For many countries -in particular the developing countries - food export is an important component of their economy. One of the functions of internationally agreed food

standards and codes is to facilitate international trade in food. It is encouraging to see, Mr. Chairman, that your Commission has re-established the existing agreement for cooperation between the GATT Committee on Technical Barriers to Trade and the Codex Alimentarius Commission. It is to be hoped that this renewed relationship, which I note is being considered by this Session of the Commission, will result in improved trading opportunities for all Members, with resulting benefits for economic development.

I should like to close by paying tribute, on behalf of both FAO and WHO, to those governments that have continued to so generously act as host to meetings of your Commission's subsidiary bodies. We owe these governments a deep debt of gratitude. I should also like to express my sincere appreciation to the Geneva Cantonal authorities for their generosity in making available the excellent conference facilities in which this session is being held.

Finally, I should like to wish all of you a very pleasant stay in Geneva, and trust that your deliberations will be enlightening and useful.

Thank you for your attention.

**Reply by the Chairman of the Codex Alimentarius Commission  
to the Opening Address by the Director-General of WHO**

Mr. Director-General,

1. On behalf of the Members of the Commission, and the delegates, advisors and observers who are present here today, it is my pleasure to thank you sincerely for opening our Eighteenth Session and for transmitting to the Commission the kind words of support of the World Health Assembly. I also thank you very much for your kind words to me as the Commission's first Chairman from a developing country, and I can say that I am deeply aware of both the honour and the responsibility which this status implies.
2. Developing countries, Mr. Director-General, have come to play an increasingly important role in the work of the Commission. In addition to most active participation in commodity and horizontal subject Codex Committees, they have shown their enthusiasm for the Commission's work through the activities of the Regional Coordinating Committees; 46 member countries have attended the three regional meetings for Asia, Africa and Latin America and the Caribbean held in this biennium. As a result of the mutual exchange of experiences, national inter-ministerial Codex Alimentarius Committees have been formed in a number of countries with the dual aims of strengthening participation in Codex work and coordination of national infrastructures for food control and import/export inspection.
3. At this point Mr. Director-General I would like to mention a most important fact, that in the last Codex Alimentarius Coordinating Committee for Latin America and the Caribbean which I was able to attend, Dr. Oscar Arias, President of Costa Rica and Nobel Prize Winner for Peace made the opening speech at the session, emphasizing the great importance of the programme, and its benefit to mankind. Also I was able to participate in a workshop of the Brazilian Government on Codex Alimentarius, held in Brasilia in May. This conference was attended by the Ministers of Agriculture, Health, Commerce and Foreign Affairs again sharing their interest in the programme work. One year ago the opening session of the Committee on Tropical Fruits and Vegetables was held in Mexico, the Minister of Commerce attended it and some of the working sessions as well.
4. All this Mr. Director-General again shows that the interest is a continuously growing matter not only in developed countries but also in developing ones since they are making good use of the Codex Guidelines and Standards in their national laws and regulations. We still have to make a strong effort to promote the knowledge of Codex work and its benefits nationally and internationally promoting better health and even commerce amongst nations.
5. As you have pointed out, Sir, the Codex Alimentarius Commission is responsible for making recommendations to protect the consumers' health and to promote international trade. In undertaking the first of these, the Commission has examined both acute health problems, those

caused principally through microbiological contamination, and potential chronic effects of chemicals and contaminants in food; whether they be food additives, or residues of pesticides or veterinary medicines, or environmental contaminants such as mycotoxins or heavy metals. From the Commission's very early days, emphasis has been placed on the microbiological safety of food, and the first edition of the General Principles of Food Hygiene was adopted by the Commission more than twenty years ago, and it has been up-dated twice since then. The effective application of this Code, and related commodity-specific codes, rests with national authorities. Too often the detailed knowledge and infrastructure needed for applying these Codes is lacking, and it is fortunate that countries can turn to FAO and WHO for practical assistance in training or in the development of programmes to incorporate Codex work into the national food legislation and strengthen its application at all levels of the food chain. The effective application of the General Principles of Food Hygiene will not only benefit consumers generally, but should also ensure the safety of food for the tourist industry, which as you rightly point out is already a major source of revenue for many countries.

6. In international trade, Mr. Director-General real or potential health concerns lead directly to trade problems. Foods may be detained at borders because of the presence of pesticide residues, mycotoxins, non-approved additives, microbial contamination often Salmonella, filth, or even because of inadequate or inappropriate labelling. The Codex Commission is designed to address all of these concerns by arriving at agreements on what levels, if any, of residues or contaminants may be allowed, what additives are permitted and where, and what information must appear on labels. I am pleased, Sir, that the 42nd World Health Assembly has recognized the Commission's work on microbiological and hygiene standards for foods of animal origin, as this work will continue to develop as microbiological contamination of food continues to result in trade difficulties.

7. I am pleased Mr. Director-General, that you have mentioned the cooperation between the Commission and the GATT. The current developments underway within the Uruguay Round of Multilateral Trade Negotiations offer the exciting prospect of the Codex standards being used as the basis for the harmonization of national regulations as a long-term objective under GATT. This would mean that the exporting countries would be able to compete more equitably for markets, without artificial barriers to trade established on different interpretations of health and safety requirements for foods. It also will mean a greater commitment on the part of the exporting countries to ensure that their manufacturing processes meet the requirements of the Codex Codes of Practice and that their export inspection services are able to certify, with confidence, that the requirements of the Codex standards are met. Assistance in this area will be needed by many countries, and it is worthwhile to recognize that in the FAO-sponsored workshops which have been held in association with the Regional Coordinating Committees in Asia, Africa and Latin America and the Caribbean have addressed the problems of import and export inspection as their major theme.

8. Mr. Director-General, these developments within GATT and the new emphasis on food exports are important for developing countries, which see increased trade in foods as a major option for tackling their problems of external debt. Improved agricultural output in developing countries has made food surpluses available for export, even from countries which only a few years ago required very large quantities of food aid to combat the effects of drought. Of special interest are the agricultural and horticultural products which bring a high return based on the quality and

presentation of the goods. I am pleased that the Commission continues to work in this area, even to take new initiatives to facilitate this trade.

9. Returning, Mr. Director-General, to one of the main themes of your opening address, the real application of Codex Standards and Codes at the developing country level, both in the interests of protecting the consumers' health and in facilitating trade, must remain a priority of both FAO and WHO. It is encouraging to see the number of technical assistance projects which address this need. It is even more encouraging to see that the number of projects and their scope seems to be increasing, and that more people are being trained in this area than ever before. I would hope that even more developing countries take advantage of the opportunities available to strengthen their food control programmes so as to be able to really use the Codex standards to their best effect and to benefit from improved trade opportunities.

10. In closing, Mr. Director-General, I should like to join you in thanking those governments who so generously contribute to the Codex Programme by continuing to host the Commission's subsidiary bodies. It is significant, that so many countries accept this burden, as a way of supporting the Commission's work. I am pleased to say that my own country has sufficient confidence in the Commission to contribute to its success directly in this way.

11. Thank you, Sir, for your kind words of welcome and encouragement. We have a great deal of work to do this week and next and we shall be able to undertake it in a strong sense of appreciation of your personal support.

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Appendix IV

MEMBER COUNTRIES OF THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION

1. Algeria
2. Antigua and Barbuda
3. Argentina
4. Australia
5. Austria
6. Bahrain
7. Bangladesh
8. Barbados
9. Belgium
10. Benin
11. Bolivia
12. Botswana
13. Brazil
14. Bulgaria
15. Burkina Faso
16. Burundi
17. Cameroon
18. Canada
19. Cape Verde
20. Central African Republic
21. Chad
22. Chile
23. China
24. Colombia
25. Congo
26. Costa Rica
27. Cote d'Ivoire
28. Cuba
29. Cyprus
30. Czechoslovakia
31. Democratic Kampuchea
32. Democratic People's Rep. of Korea
33. Denmark
34. Dominican Republic
35. Ecuador
36. Egypt
37. El Salvador
38. Equatorial Guinea
39. Ethiopia
40. Fiji
41. Finland
42. France
43. Gabon
44. Gambia
45. German Democratic Republic
46. Germany, Fed. Rep. of
47. Ghana
48. Greece
49. Grenada
50. Guatemala
51. Guinea
52. Guinea Bissau
53. Guyana
54. Haiti
55. Honduras
56. Hungary
57. Iceland
58. India
59. Indonesia
60. Iraq
61. Ireland
62. Islamic Rep. of Iran
63. Israel
64. Italy
65. Jamaica
66. Japan
67. Jordan
68. Kenya
69. Kuwait
70. Lebanon
71. Lesotho
72. Liberia
73. Libya
74. Luxembourg
75. Madagascar
76. Malawi
77. Malaysia
78. Malta
79. Mauritius
80. Mexico
81. Morocco
82. Mozambique
83. Myanmar, Union of
84. Nepal
85. Netherlands
86. New Zealand
87. Nicaragua
88. Nigeria
89. Norway
90. Oman, Sultante of
91. Pakistan
92. Panama
93. Papua New Guinea
94. Paraguay
95. Peru
96. Philippines
97. Poland

98. Portugal
99. Qatar
100. Republic of Korea
101. Romania
102. Rwanda
103. Samoa
104. Santa Lucia
105. Saudi Arabia
106. Senegal
107. Seychelles
108. Sierra Leone
109. Singapore
110. Spain
111. Sri Lanka
112. Sudan
113. Suriname
114. Swaziland
115. Sweden
116. Switzerland
117. Syria
118. Tanzania
119. Thailand
120. Togo
121. Trinidad and  
Tobago
122. Tunisia
123. Turkey
124. Uganda
125. Union of Soviet  
Socialist  
Republics
126. United Arab  
Emirates
127. United Kingdom
128. United States of  
America
129. Uruguay
130. Venezuela
131. Viet Nam
132. Yemen Arab  
Republic
133. Yemen, People's  
Dem. Rep. of
134. Yugoslavia
135. Zaire
136. Zambia
137. Zimbabwe

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