

JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME

CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION

Twenty-sixth Session, FAO Headquarters, Rome, 30 June – 7 July 2003

Report

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Commission:

- a) Adopted amendments to the Rules of Procedure concerning the membership of Regional Economic Integration Organizations, and on consensus;
- b) Adopted 59 new or revised Codex standards or related texts, including Principles and Guidelines for the food safety assessment of foods derived from biotechnology;
- c) Adopted Principles for Food Safety Risk Analysis to be used in the Codex framework;
- d) Approved most of the proposals submitted by the Secretariat for the implementation of the recommendations of the Joint FAO/WHO Evaluation of Codex Alimentarius, enacting some immediately and requesting the Codex Committee on General Principles to act in special session to draft the Rules required to implement others. In this regard the Commission agreed to:-
 - Meet annually for the next two years, but that in future each session of the Commission would decide the interval between meetings;
 - Request the Executive Committee to meet on a six-monthly basis;
 - Review the structures and mandates of all Codex committees by 2004;
 - Enlarge the Executive Committee by appointing the Regional Coordinators (currently observers) as Members;
 - Establish the Executive Committee as the body responsible for standards management;
 - Develop improved processes for standards management and monitoring;
 - Consider the admission of observers in Executive Committee meetings;
 - Review the principles governing observer participation in Codex; and
 - Strengthen cooperation with OIE.
- e) Welcomed progress made on the FAO/WHO Trust Fund for Participation of Developing Countries in Codex Standard Setting Procedures and expressed the hope that it would soon become operational;
- f) Note the need for timely scientific advice from FAO and WHO on a wide range of issues, but also noted that the Commission (through its Executive Committee) needed to prioritize the requests for such advice;
- g) Expressed appreciation to FAO and WHO for their positive responses in budgetary terms to the outcome of the FAO/WHO Evaluation of Codex, but stated that more was required to strengthen and improve the seniority of the Codex Secretariat;
- h) Elected the following officers and Members of the Executive Committee:
 - **Chairperson:** Stuart Slorach (Sweden)
 - **Vicechairpersons:** Paul Mayers (Canada), Claude Mosha (Tanzania), Hiroshi Yoshikura (Japan)
 - **Executive Committee:** Cameroon, Philippines, Mexico, Belgium, Egypt, USA, Australia
 - **Regional Coordinators:** Morocco, Republic of Korea, Slovak Republic, Argentina, Jordan, Samoa¹

¹ For the Regions of North America and the South-West Pacific, jointly.

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INTRODUCTION

1. The Codex Alimentarius Commission held its Twenty-sixth Session at FAO Headquarters, Rome, Italy, from 30 June to 7 July 2003. Mr. Thomas J. Billy (USA), Chairperson of the Commission presided, assisted by the Vice-Chairpersons Dr. David Nhari (Zimbabwe), Mr. Gonzalo Riós (Chile) and Dr. Stuart Slorach (Sweden). The Session was attended by 481 delegates, alternates and advisors from 124 Member countries, and 77 representatives from 48 international governmental and non-governmental organizations including UN agencies. A list of participants, including the Secretariat, is given in Appendix I to this report.

2. The Session was opened by Mr. David Harcharik, Deputy-Director General of FAO and Dr. Gro Harlem Brundtland, Director-General of WHO (by video), respectively.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA (Agenda Item 1)²

3. The Commission **adopted** the Provisional Agenda as its Agenda for the Session with inclusion of matters raised by the Delegation of Thailand on “risk analysis for substances with no ADI/or MRL” and by the Delegation of India on “the issue of reduction of the limit of analytical methodology” under Agenda Item 19 Other Business.

4. In response to a request from the Delegation of Sudan to include consideration of effects on cultivation and industry of sugar production in developing countries of the Report of the *FAO/WHO Expert Consultation on Diet, Nutrition and the Prevention of Chronic Diseases*³, the Commission noted that both FAO and WHO would be holding special sessions of their respective governing bodies to study the recommendations of this report. In the event that FAO and WHO would recommend work to be undertaken by the Commission, this would be placed on the Commission’s agenda at an appropriate future session.

REPORT BY THE CHAIRPERSON ON THE FORTY-NINTH, FIFTIETH AND FIFTY-SECOND SESSIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (Agenda Item 2)⁴

5. The reports of the 49th, 50th and 52nd Sessions of the Executive Committee were provided in accordance with Rule III.5 of the Commission’s Rules of Procedure. The Commission noted that the outcome of the 51st (Extraordinary) Session of the Executive Committee had been reported to the 25th (Extraordinary) Session of the Commission in February 2003.

6. The Commission noted that the 49th Session of the Executive Committee had been convened to complete the unfinished business of the 24th Session of the Commission. It also noted that the recommendations of the 50th Session of the Executive Committee covered a variety of matters by the relevant Codex Committees or were included for discussion under the present Agenda.

7. The Commission was informed that the 52nd Session of the Executive Committee had provided advice to the Commission on the following matters:

- Risk Analysis Policies of the Codex Alimentarius Commission
- Joint FAO/WHO Evaluation of the Codex Alimentarius and Other FAO /WHO Work on Food Standards
- FAO/WHO Trust Fund for participation of developing countries in Codex standard-setting procedures
- Financial and budgetary matters 2002/2003 and proposed budget 2004/2005

² ALINORM 03/26/1; ALINORM 03/26/1A; ALINORM 03/26/1B; CAC/26 LIM.14.

³ Diet, Nutrition and the Prevention of Chronic Diseases: Report of an FAO/WHO Expert Consultation, WHO Technical Report Series 916, WHO, Geneva, 2003.

⁴ ALINORM 03/3; ALINORM 03/3A; ALINORM 03/4 respectively.

- Proposed schedule of Codex meetings 2003-2005.

REPORTS OF FAO/WHO (CODEX) REGIONAL COORDINATING COMMITTEES (Agenda Item 3)⁵

8. The Regional Coordinators presented the reports of the respective regional Coordinating Committees. In general, the Regional Coordinating Committees welcomed the information received on the progress of the joint FAO/WHO evaluation of the Codex Alimentarius and also the work taken to establish the trust fund to enable participation in Codex by developing countries and countries in transition. It was noted that all of the Regional Coordinating Committees had provided input into the draft Medium-Term Plan, but that the further development of the Medium-Term Plan had been suspended pending the implementation of the recommendations arising from the Evaluation. All of the Regional Coordinating Committees had been invited to provide input for consideration by the Secretariat in the preparation of its working paper on product tracing/traceability that was subsequently submitted to the Committee on General Principles in April 2003.

9. The Delegation of Uganda reported that the Coordinating Committee for Africa had noted work on the development of Guidelines for Raw Milk Preservation Using the Lactoperoxidase System, reported that the Committee had finalized the draft Regional Guidelines for National Codex Contact Points and National Codex Committees for adoption at Step 8 at the current Commission session and highlighted the need for capacity building for countries in the region.

10. The Delegation of Malaysia drew attention to the recommendation of the Coordinating Committee for Asia that FAO/WHO be requested to convene an expert consultation on functional foods and that experts from the region be invited to participate (see also para 223).

11. The Delegation of the Dominican Republic, presenting the report of the Coordinating Committee for Latin America and the Caribbean reported that the Committee had held a number of regional workshops that had resulted in the approval of a strategic plan and the establishment of a website for the region. The Committee was also in the process of elaborating a regional Code of Practice for food safety in tourist areas.

12. The Delegation of Canada, noted that the Regional Coordinating Committee for North America and the South-west Pacific was also in the process of developing a strategic plan for the countries of these Regions.

13. The Delegation of Egypt noted that the Regional Coordinating Committee for the Near East had embarked on a programme of developing standards of particular interest to countries of the Region.

14. The Delegation of the Slovak Republic noted that the Regional Coordinating Committee for Europe had discussed in detail the follow-up to the FAO/WHO Pan-European Conference on Food Safety, the role of consumers in Codex processes and support for capacity building for countries of the Region that were either developing countries or countries in economic transition.

AMENDMENTS TO THE PROCEDURAL MANUAL (Agenda Item 4)⁶

Proposed Amendments to the Rules of Procedure

15. The Commission determined that the quorum specified in Rule IV.6 for the amendment of the Rules of Procedure had been constituted.

Clarification of Rule VI.4 (Voting and Procedures)

16. The Commission recalled that the 15th Session of the Committee on General Principles had proposed an amendment to clarify the procedures and facilitate consensus. The 24th Session of the Commission had not been able to adopt the amendment proposed due to the absence of a quorum⁷.

⁵ ALINORM 03/28; ALINORM 03/15; ALINORM 03/19; ALINORM 03/36; ALINORM 03/40; ALINORM 03/32.

⁶ ALINORM 03/26/5; ALINORM 03/26/5-Add.1 (comments of Brazil, EC, ICGMA), CAC/26 LIM.17 (comments of The United States of America).

⁷ ALINORM 01/41, para. 86.

17. In accordance with Rules VI.7 and XIII.1 of the Commission's Rules of Procedure and Rule XII.7 of the General Rules of FAO, the Commission proceeded to a roll-call vote on the amendment with the following results:

Votes in favour: Armenia, Australia, Austria, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belgium, Botswana, Brazil, Cambodia, Canada, China, Colombia, Congo (Republic of), Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Czech Republic, DPR Korea, Denmark, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Guatemala, Guinea, Haiti, Hungary, Iceland, Indonesia, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Republic of Korea, Kuwait, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malaysia, Mali, Mauritius, Mexico, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Norway, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Romania, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Singapore, Syria, Slovak Republic, South Africa, Spain, Sudan, Sweden, Thailand, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, United Kingdom, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, United States of America, Venezuela, Vietnam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Votes against: Greece

Abstaining: Algeria, India, Switzerland

Tally: 88 votes cast, 87 in favour, 1 against, 3 abstentions (majority required 59)

Result: The amendment was adopted

18. The Delegations of Angola, Argentina, Bolivia, Cameroon, Chile, Costa Rica, Gabon, Ghana, Malta, Nigeria and Swaziland later expressed their opinion in favour of the outcome of the vote.

Proposed Amendments to the Rules of Procedure concerning the Membership of Regional Economic Integration Organizations

19. The 24th Session of the Commission had decided to defer the discussion of the proposed amendments as the quorum was not constituted and also decided to request the Committee on General Principles to consider them thoroughly in order to clarify certain relevant issues⁸. The amendments had also been considered by the FAO Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters. The 18th Session of the Committee on General Principles had discussed this matter in detail and considered an amendment proposed by the Delegation of the United States to delete the clause allowing Member States of a Regional Organization to develop or support the position of the Member Organization in the Commission and its subsidiary bodies.

20. The Delegation of the United States, referring to its earlier proposal and to its written comments, stressed the need to clarify the application of mixed competence between the European Community and its member states, and reasserted its earlier position that only the Regional Organization should participate in debates concerning questions within its competence.

21. Several delegations however expressed the view that the member states of a Regional Organization should have the possibility to intervene to support the position of that Organization from a technical point of view. They pointed out that it was essential to retain the diversity of the debate, and that this would also facilitate discussions in order to reach consensus. Some delegations referred to regional economic integration in their regions and noted that the Membership of Regional Economic Integrations Organizations in Codex might also facilitate such integration in the future.

22. In accordance with Rules VI.7 and XIII.1 of the Commission's Rules of Procedure and Rule XII.7 of the General Rules of FAO, the Commission proceeded to a roll-call vote on the amendment with the following results.

⁸ ALINORM 01/41, paras. 87-88.

Votes in favour: Argentina, Austria, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belgium, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Congo (Republic of), Cuba, Czech Republic, DPR Korea, Denmark, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Guinea, Haiti, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Republic of Korea, Kuwait, Lesotho, Madagascar, Mali, Mauritius, Mexico, Morocco, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Pakistan, Panama, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Slovak Republic, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, United Kingdom, United Republic of Tanzania, Vietnam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Votes against: Antigua and Barbuda, Costa Rica, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Kenya, Malaysia, Paraguay, Qatar, Senegal, Singapore, United States of America, Venezuela

Abstaining: Algeria, Angola, Armenia, Australia, Cameroon, China, Georgia, Guatemala, Mozambique, Namibia, Norway, Sudan, United Arab Emirates

Tally: 85 votes cast, 73 in favour, 12 against, 13 abstentions (majority required 57)

Result: The amendment was adopted

23. The Delegation of Côte d'Ivoire later expressed its opinion in favour of the outcome of the vote.

24. The Commission noted that amendments and additions to the Rules of Procedure enter into force only after their approval by the Directors-General (Rule XIII.1). The Rules as adopted by the Commission are presented in Appendix II to the present report.

Proposals to amend other sections of the Manual

Principles for the Establishment of Methods of Analysis

25. The Commission **adopted** the amendment to the *General Criteria for the Selection of Methods of Analysis using the Criteria Approach*.

26. The Commission **adopted** the amendment to the *Principles for the Establishment of Methods of Analysis* with the insertion of a new section addressing *Working Instructions for the Implementation of the Criteria Approach in Codex*, with the correction of an editorial error.

Name and Terms of Reference of the Committee on Meat and Poultry Hygiene

27. The Commission **adopted** the revised terms of reference of the Committee as proposed and agreed that its name should read "*Codex Committee on Meat Hygiene*".

Measures to Facilitate Consensus

28. The Commission recalled that the 49th (Extraordinary) Session of the Executive Committee had endorsed the proposals of the Committee on General Principles in order to facilitate consensus and had recommended their adoption by the Commission.

29. The Delegation of Japan, while supporting the current proposals, expressed the view that the consideration of written comments should also be addressed in the recommendations. The Commission agreed that the Committee on General Principles should consider the opportunity of developing an additional recommendation in this respect at its next regular session.

30. The Commission **adopted** the *Measures to Facilitate Consensus* for inclusion in the Procedural Manual as a general decision of the Commission.

31. The amendments to the Procedural Manual as adopted by the Commission are presented in Appendix III to this report.

CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT STANDARDS AND RELATED TEXTS (AGENDA ITEM 5)⁹

General Considerations

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

33. The Delegations of Jordan and the United Arab Emirates expressed the need for draft standards submitted to the Commission for adoption to be presented in all languages of the Commission.

Matters pending from previous sessions of the Commission

Draft MRLs for Bovine Somatotropin¹⁰

34. The 23rd Session of the Commission had decided to hold the draft MRLs for Bovine Somatotropin at Step 8. The Commission noted that no requests had been received to change the status of the standard and therefore agreed to continue to hold the draft standard at Step 8.

Proposed Draft Amendment to the Standard for Canned Sardines and Sardine-Type Products (Clupea benticki)¹¹

35. The Chairman of the Committee on Fish and Fishery Products, recalled that the 21st Session of the Commission had requested that the Accelerated Procedure should generally be used for the inclusion of additional species in relevant standards¹², and this had been applied to consider *Clupea benticki*, as proposed by Chile. In application of its specific procedure, the Committee on Fish and Fishery Products had agreed to propose the inclusion of this species in the Standard for Sardines and Sardine-Type Products. No consensus had been reached in the 23rd and 24th Sessions of the Commission. The Commission was advised that the Committee had initiated a review of its current procedure for inclusion of additional species in standards.

36. The Delegation of Morocco expressed its objection to the amendment as the procedure had not been followed adequately since no criteria had been defined prior to examination by laboratories and Morocco had not participated in the process. The Delegation indicated that the current list of sardine-type products was based only on the mode of preparation, including species that were not taxonomically related to sardines, and that this created considerable confusion for consumers as to the nature of the product. The delegation therefore stressed the need for the Committee to review the current procedure by defining the scientific evaluation criteria before including any new species in the standard. This position was supported by many delegations.

37. The Delegation of Chile stressed that the current procedure for the inclusion of species had been followed, as the samples had been examined by three authorized laboratories from European countries, that its results should be accepted; and that there was no justification to delay further the process and the amendment should be adopted. This position was supported by several delegations.

38. The Delegation of Italy, speaking on behalf of the Member States of the European Union, supported the revision of the procedure for the inclusion of new species in Codex standards in order to ensure that scientific criteria were applied in the process. The Delegation of Spain and others pointed out that the common name of

⁹ ALINORM 03/26/7; ALINORM 03/26/7: Add.1; ALINORM 03/26/7: Add.2.

¹⁰ ALINORM 95/31; Appendix II, ALINORM 97/37, paras. 64-69.

¹¹ ALINORM 01/18; Appendix III, para15, ALINORM 01/41, paras. 161-164.

¹² ALINORM 95/37, para. 62.

species should be based on taxonomic criteria and that this was not the case in the present Standard; the revision of the procedure should ensure that the inclusion of species was based on scientific criteria and not on the presentation of the product.

39. The Commission, recognizing that there was no consensus, **agreed** to return the Proposed Draft Amendment to the Standard for Canned Sardine and Sardine Type Products to the Committee on Fish and Fishery Products at Step 3, and **recommended** that the Committee continue its work on the revision of the procedure for the inclusion of new species. The Delegation of Chile expressed its reservation on this decision.

Animal Feeding

Proposed Draft Code of Practice on Good Animal Feeding¹³

40. The Delegation of the United States presented proposals for amendments to the text of the remaining controversial issues of the proposed draft Code of Practice on Good Animal Feeding¹⁴, namely: the definition of a “feed additive”; the labelling of feeds containing foods derived from biotechnology; and the requirements for traceability/product tracing of animal feeds and feed ingredients. Many countries supported the final adoption of the Code with these proposed changes, while others were of the opinion that these issues, in particular labelling and traceability/product tracing, deserved a further examination by an additional meeting of the Task Force.

41. Noting the lack of consensus on these controversial issues, the Commission **adopted** the proposed draft Code on Good Animal Feeding at Step 5 and advanced the text to Step 8 (with the omission of Steps 6 and 7), with the exception of the definition of “feed additive” and paragraphs 11, 12 and 13 that were advanced to Step 6 only for further consideration by an additional session of the *ad hoc* Task Force on Animal Feeding. The Commission agreed that the Task Force would not consider any other issues. The text that had been advanced to Step 8 **was held** at that Step by the Commission pending finalization of the outstanding issues.

Cocoa Products and Chocolate

Draft Standard for Chocolate and Chocolate Products¹⁵

42. The Commission **adopted** the Draft Standard at Step 8 with the understanding that the translation into the Spanish language of various parts of the standard would be revised before publishing. It also agreed that Section 6.1 related to methods on the Determination of Centre and Coating of Filled Chocolate and endorsed by the Codex Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling provided analytical traceability in relation to the basic chemical principles. The Commission noted that carnauba wax had been proposed as a food additive at the level of 500 mg/kg instead of GMP, and decided to refer this proposal to the Codex Committee on Food Additives and Contaminants for consideration.

Food Additives and Contaminants

Draft Code of Practice on the Prevention and Reduction of Patulin Contamination in Apple Juice and Apple Juice Ingredients in Other Beverages¹⁶

Draft Maximum Levels for Patulin in Apple Juice and Apple Juice Ingredients in Other Beverages¹⁷

¹³ ALINORM 03/38A, Appendix II; ALINORM 03/26/7A (Comments of Argentina, Australia, Canada, Chile, Philippines, Thailand; United States, Uruguay, the European Community, Biotechnology Industry Organization, The European Association for Bioindustries, Fédération européenne des fabricants d’aliments composés, International Council of Grocery Manufacturers Association, International Federation for Animal Health, International Feed Industry Federation, Institute of Food Technologists); ALINORM 03/26/7A: Add. 1 (Comments of Costa Rica, Ecuador, Japan, New Zealand, CropLife International); CAC/26 LIM. 3 (Comments of El Salvador, Indonesia), CAC/26 LIM.5 (comments of France), CAC/26 LIM.8 (comments of the European Community in French and Spanish texts).

¹⁴ CAC/26 LIM.16 (Comments of the United States of America).

¹⁵ ALINORM 03/14, Appendix II; ALINORM 03/26/7A (comments of Brazil, Cuba, Cote D’Ivoire, Spain, Association of the Chocolate, Bisquit and Confectionery Industries of the EU).

¹⁶ ALINORM 03/12A; Appendix IX, para123; ALINORM 03/26/7A (comments of the International Council of Grocery Manufacturers Association); CAC/26 LIM.3 (comments of the European Community and Indonesia)

43. The Commission noted that the Committee on Food Additives and Contaminants had discussed the development of the proposed maximum level of 50 µg/kg of patulin with a view to establishing a lower level of 25 µg/kg in the future based on the application of the Code of Practice which was aimed at achieving lower patulin levels. The Commission supported the decision of the Committee to continue to collect data on the levels of patulin in apple juice and apple juice ingredients for other beverages with the aim of reconsidering a possible reduction of the maximum level once the code of practice had been implemented (after four years).

44. The Commission **adopted** the Code of Practice and the Maximum Levels for Patulin at Step 8.

Draft Maximum Levels for Ochratoxin A in Raw Wheat, Barley and Rye and Derived Products¹⁸

45. The Delegation of India drew the attention of the Commission to the evaluation of the 56th Session of JECFA, which had concluded that the difference in health risk between the proposed maximum level of 5 µg/kg and a limit of 20 µg/kg was negligible and that a maximum level of 20 µg/kg could be adequate in terms of public health and safety. The Delegation, supported by many delegations, stated that the proposed maximum level was too low and should be returned to the Committee on Food Additives and Contaminants for further consideration.

46. The Delegation of Greece speaking on behalf of the member countries of the European Union, and supported by other delegations, stated that the level of 5 µg/kg, as proposed, was consistent with the ALARA principle and should be adopted for Raw Wheat, Barley and Rye but not to derived products, which were of little or no importance in international trade.

47. The Commission concluded that there was a lack of consensus on the adoption of the standard both regarding the appropriate maximum level and the inclusion, or exclusion, of the reference to derived products. The Commission **returned** the standard to Step 6 for further work by the Committee.

General Standard for Irradiated Foods: Draft Revision¹⁹

48. The Delegation of Germany expressed its objection to the absence of a maximum limit of 10 kGy and stressed the need for further research on the health effects of radiolytic products especially those formed following the irradiation of fatty foods.

49. In contrast, the Delegation of the United States of America stated that doses of up to 30 kGy were necessary in some cases such as to kill micro-organisms on spices, and that the revised standard provided adequate controls to limit higher-dose irradiation to cases where it was needed and where it would not affect either wholesomeness or safety of the food. Many delegations spoke in support of the General Standard.

50. The Commission **adopted** the revised standard. The Delegations of Austria, Denmark, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Mexico, Poland, Spain and Sudan expressed their reservations to this decision.

Foods Derived from Biotechnology²⁰

51. The Delegation of Japan, on behalf of the Chairperson of the Task Force, presented three texts that were sent by the Task Force to the Commission for adoption at Step 8 and one text at both Steps 5 and 8. The Delegation also expressed its appreciation to the host governments of the working groups established under the Task Force and FAO/WHO Expert Consultations.

52. The Commission **adopted** the “Draft Principles for the Risk Analysis of Foods Derived from Modern Biotechnology” and “Draft Guideline for the Conduct of Food Safety Assessment of Foods Derived from Recombinant-DNA Plants” and “Draft Guideline for the Conduct of Food Safety Assessment of Recombinant-

¹⁷ ALINORM 03/12, Appendix X, para 118; ALINORM 03/26/7A (comments of the International Council of Grocery Manufacturers Association); CAC/26 LIM.3 (comments of the European Community and Indonesia)

¹⁸ ALINORM 03/12; Appendix IX, para 114; CAC/26 LIM.3 (comments of the European Community and Indonesia)

¹⁹ ALINORM 03/12A, Appendix V; para 78, ALINORM 03/26/7A (comments of the International Council of Grocery Manufacturers Association, IUMS)

²⁰ ALINORM 03/34 Appendix II, III, IV; ALINORM 03/34A Appendix II; CAC/LIM.5 (Comments from France).

DNA Microorganisms” at Step 8 and the “Proposed Draft Annex on Possible Allergenicity Assessment” at Steps 5 and 8, with modifications of translation of French and Spanish texts as proposed by France and Spain.

53. The Commission expressed its gratitude to the Chairperson of the Task Force, the Government of Japan as a host country for the contributions to successful conclusions of the Task Force.

Fish And Fishery Products²¹

Draft Standard for Boiled Dried Salted Anchovies

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

Draft Code of Practice for Fish and Fishery Products²²

55. The Commission **adopted** the Draft Code of Practice with the amendments proposed by the Committee on Food Hygiene when it had endorsed the hygiene provisions.

Fresh Fruits and Vegetables

Draft Revised Provisions: Section 3 – Provisions concerning Sizing and Section 6.2.4 – Commercial Identification of the Codex Standards for Limes, Pummelos and Grapefruits²³

56. The Commission **adopted** the draft revised provisions: Section 3 – Provisions concerning Sizing and Section 6.2.4 – Commercial Identification of the Codex Standards for Limes, Pummelos and Grapefruits at Step 8. In taking this decision, the Commission recommended the necessary follow-up on this issue by the Codex Committee on Fresh Fruits and Vegetables. It noted the request by the Delegation of Indonesia to amend the size scale for pummelos, but also noted that any change at this stage might create interference in international trade.

Draft Codex Standard for Pitahayas²⁴

57. The Commission **adopted** the draft Codex Standard for Pitahayas at Step 8.

Draft Codex Standard for Sweet Cassava²⁵

58. The Commission **adopted** the draft Codex Standard for Sweet Cassava at Step 8.

Food Hygiene

Draft Code of Hygienic Practice for Fresh Fruits and Vegetables²⁶

59. The Delegation of India suggested amendments to the wording in Section 3.2.3 related to “personnel health” by deleting the reference to indirect contact of personnel with fresh fruits and vegetables. The Commission **adopted** the Draft Guidelines at Step 8 with this amendment. The Delegations of Canada and Finland expressed their reservations regarding this amendment.

Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point System and Guidelines for its Application: Draft Revision²⁷

60. The Commission **adopted** the revised Guidelines at Step 8 as proposed. In doing so, it noted the importance of the document on the “*Obstacles to the Application of the HACCP, Particularly in Small and Less*

²¹ ALINORM 03/18, Appendices II and III.

²² General sections and fresh/frozen/minced fish; canned fish; frozen surimi at Steps 5 and 8.

²³ ALINORM 03/35 Appendix IV; CAC/26 LIM.3 (Comments of Indonesia).

²⁴ ALINORM 03/35 Appendix III; CAC/26 LIM.3 (Comments of Indonesia).

²⁵ ALINORM 03/35 Appendix II; CAC/26 LIM.3 (Comments of Indonesia).

²⁶ ALINORM 03/13, Appendix II; ALINORM 03/26/7A (comments of Argentina, Peru, The United States of America, International Council of Grocery Manufacturers Association).

²⁷ ALINORM 03/13A, Appendix II; ALINORM 03/26/7A (comments of Egypt, The United States of America and International Council of Grocery Manufacturers Association).

Developed Businesses and Approaches to Overcome Them” being developed by FAO and WHO for future reference in the guidelines. The Commission encouraged the FAO and WHO to finalize plans for a project that will produce a report for government policy makers and small and/or less developed business based on above paper as soon as possible and agreed to report on the progress made on this project at the next session of the Commission.

Food Import and Export Inspection and Certification Systems

Draft Guidelines for Food Import Control Systems²⁸

61. The Commission considered a proposal from the Delegation of Paraguay to the effect that the phrase “a reasonable interval” in paragraph 35 of the Guidelines was open to misinterpretation and should be clarified by the inclusion of a reference to “a previously agreed interval or period of time”. Several delegations noted that the text as proposed by the Committee on Food Import and Export Inspection and Certification Systems was consistent with the text of the WTO SPS Agreement, and also noted that the Committee would consider the development of an interpretation of the meaning of “a reasonable interval”, as new work. The Delegation of Switzerland also stressed the need for the term “Control Systems”, as used in the guidelines, to be defined, as indicated in the EU comment, but that this should not hold up adoption of the Guidelines.

62. The Commission **adopted** the Guideline at Step 8.

Draft Guidelines for the Judgment of Equivalence of Sanitary Measures Associated with Food Inspection and Certification Systems²⁹

63. The observer from the WTO drew the attention of the Commission to parallel work being undertaken within the WTO Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures and stressed the importance of finalizing these Guidelines in order to assist countries in implementing the equivalence provisions of the SPS Agreement. The Delegation of Switzerland noted that, in its opinion, the definition of sanitary measures went beyond the Codex mandate.

64. The Delegation of The Republic of Korea stated that the Section of the Guidelines dealing with the *Procedure for the Determination of Equivalence* did not contain sufficient information to enable the implementation of the Guidelines to the control of food trade and required further elaboration. The Delegation of Peru stated that it considered that the Section dealing with the General Principles for the Determination of Equivalence was subjective and required further clarification.

65. The Commission **adopted** the Guidelines as proposed and noted that the matters raised by the Delegations of Korea and Peru would be further considered by the Committee at its next meeting.

Food Labelling³⁰

Draft Amendment to the Guidelines for the Production Processing Labelling and Marketing of Organically Produced Foods: Section 5 - Criteria

66. The Commission noted the comments of the Delegation of the Philippines that the “exceptional circumstances” for the use of chemical substances should be better defined. The Commission **adopted** the Draft Amendment as proposed.

²⁸ ALINORM 03/30; Appendix II, paras 9-30; ALINORM 03/26/7A (comments of Chile, Mexico, Spain, the European Community and International Council of Grocery Manufacturers Association); CAC/26 .LIM.2 (revised Spanish text).

²⁹ ALINORM 03/30A; Appendix II, paras 8-16; ALINORM 03/26/7A (comments of Brazil, Switzerland, Colombia and International Council of Grocery Manufacturers Association).

³⁰ ALINORM 03/22A, Appendices II to V; ALINORM 03/26/7A- Add. 1 (comments of Denmark, South Africa, The United States of America, International Council of Grocery Manufacturers Association, International Special Dietary Foods Industries); CAC/LIM.18 (Comments of The United States of America) .

Draft Amendment to the General Standard for the Labelling of Prepackaged Foods: Class Names

67. The Commission **adopted** the Draft Amendment as proposed.

Draft Amendment to the Guidelines on Nutrition Labelling

68. The Delegation of Malaysia expressed the view that the declaration of trans-fatty acids should be required in order to provide adequate information to consumers on a complete listing of all fatty acids when such claims are made regarding the amount and types of fatty acids, and cholesterol, and to ensure consistency with the Table of Conditions for Nutrient Contents in the Guidelines for Use of Nutrition Claims that referred to trans-fatty acids in relation to the claims for saturated fat and cholesterol. The Delegation stated that it could not support the adoption of the draft amendment if this declaration was not included. This position was supported by several delegations.

69. Several other delegations pointed out that trans fatty acids should be defined in order to allow further consideration of labelling requirements and that current scientific evidence did not justify their declaration in all cases. These delegations supported the adoption of the draft amendment proposed by the Committee and also supported further work on this issue in the light of the advice that would be provided by the Committee on Nutrition and Foods for Special Dietary Uses.

70. The Chair of the Committee on Food Labelling indicated that the Committee had discussed this question extensively and that, in view of the different views expressed by member countries, it had reached a consensus allowing the declaration of trans-fatty acids “according to national legislation”. The Committee had agreed to consider this question further when it received advice from the Committee on Nutrition and Foods for Special Dietary Uses on the definition of trans-fatty acids.

71. The Delegation of Italy, speaking on behalf of the Member States of the European Union, proposed to include a note to the effect that “the labelling of trans-fatty acids will come into force only after these have been defined by the Committee on Nutrition and Foods for Special Dietary Uses, as requested by the 31st Session of the Committee on Food Labelling”. The Delegation also proposed to include a similar footnote to the section on vitamins and minerals (3.2.6.2) to indicate that the declaration of vitamins and minerals was subject to further review following advice from the that Committee. The Commission however agreed to retain the current text.

72. The Commission **adopted** the Draft Amendment as proposed and requested the Committee to continue its work on trans-fatty acids in cooperation with the Committee on Nutrition and Foods for Special Dietary Uses, and asked FAO and WHO to provide advice on the available scientific data, as required, in order to facilitate the resolution of this complex issue.

73. The Delegations of Malaysia, Singapore, Nigeria, Kenya, Indonesia, Tanzania, Swaziland and Sudan expressed their reservations on the adoption of the draft amendment.

Draft Guidelines for Use of Nutrition and Health Claims

74. The Chair of the Committee indicated that there had been large support and two objections in the Committee for the inclusion of “advertising” in the Scope, and noted that if this created difficulties for some countries, it might be deleted and further considered in the Committee. The Chair pointed out that all other sections of the Guidelines reflected the consensus in the Committee as a result of considerable work in recent years.

75. The Delegation of the United States supported the adoption of the Guidelines without the reference to “advertising”, as it would fundamentally change the scope of the Guidelines, and identified the need for a definition for the term advertising. This position was supported by several delegations.

76. The Delegation of Brazil expressed the view that it was essential for the Guidelines to address advertising in relation to nutrition and health claims and that the text should not be adopted if this reference was deleted. The Delegation pointed out that advertising was included in the terms of reference of the Committee and that a reference to advertising was already included in the Standard for the Labelling of and Claims for Prepackaged Foods for Special Dietary Uses.

77. Several delegations supported the extension of the scope to advertising as it was closely related to labelling and should follow the same principles in order to prevent consumer confusion. Some of these delegations indicated that as a compromise, they could accept its deletion at this stage in order to allow the adoption of the Guidelines, that would provide an important reference to facilitate regulation of health claims at the national level. These delegations also pointed out that if the reference to advertising was deleted at this stage, work on advertising should proceed in the Committee in view of the importance of this issue.

78. The Delegations of India, Singapore and Indonesia expressed their opposition to the development of guidelines for health claims in the framework of Codex as their view was that health claims should not generally be allowed. The Delegation of Malaysia, supported by the Delegation of the Philippines, expressed the view that the Guidelines should not be finalized until criteria for the scientific basis of health claims had been developed by the Committee on Nutrition and Foods for Special Dietary Uses.

79. Some observers expressed the view that the mandate of the Committee was to include provisions on health claims in the Guidelines, not to expand their scope, and that the reference to advertising had been inserted without due consideration of all its implications. Consequently they supported the adoption of the Guidelines with the deletion of the provision on advertising. Some other observers expressed their general concerns with the use of health claims and highlighted the particular problems related to foods for infants and children. They stressed the need to retain the provisions on advertising if the Guidelines were adopted because advertising should be consistent with labelling and should not be used to mislead the consumer.

80. The Commission, recognizing that there was no consensus on substantial issues, agreed to **return** the Draft Guidelines for Use of Nutrition and Health Claims to Step 6 for further comments and consideration by the Committee. The Commission also requested the Committee to consider the development of a definition of advertising as related to health and nutrition claims.

Fats and Oils

Draft Revision of the Standard for Olive Oils and Olive Pomace Oils³¹

81. The Delegations of Australia and New Zealand welcomed the adoption of the standard at Step 8 except for the level of linolenic acid 1.0% in the Section 3.9 of the Standard, which these countries requested should be returned to the Committee for further consideration. The delegations stated that the natural conditions in their countries contributed to the increased levels of linolenic acid, which made it difficult to accept reduction of the level from 1.5% in the present standard to 1.0% in the proposed standard. The delegations stressed the importance of taking into consideration natural and geographical variations in establishing a Codex standard and proposed to wait for the outcome of global data survey conducted by the International Olive Oil Council (IOOC). This position was supported by other countries which had similar issues with respect to their domestically produced products and also by countries which emphasized the importance that Codex standards should include variations representing international trades or wide range of production situations.

82. On the other hand, there were many countries that requested adoption of the revision as proposed by the Committee on Fats and Oils, since it fitted within the objective of ensuring fair practices in the food trade. These delegations stated that the proposed revision, especially the level of linolenic acid, was a result of lengthy and difficult negotiations in the Committee and therefore should not be altered. It was also pointed out that the level of linolenic acid should be strictly managed since it can be an indicator for the quality and nature of the oils. Other countries stressed the need for the survey to be undertaken by the IOOC to take into account regional conditions, production and processing methods, and to be statistically sound.

83. Finally as a compromise, the Commission **agreed to adopt** the Proposed Revision at Step 8 without any figure in the column of C18:3(linolenic acid) in Section 3.9 with footnote "Pending the results of IOOC survey and further consideration by the Committee on Fats and Oils, national limits may remain in place". The Commission also agreed that the secretariat would work with the Chair of the Committee and the IOOC to develop a Circular Letter advising members of the importance of submitting data for the survey. The Commission noted that the Section on Methods and Analysis would be included in the standard only after its endorsement by the Committee for Methods of Analysis and Sampling.

³¹

ALINORM 03/17 Appendix II.

84. The Commission noted the request from the Delegation of Iran to make clear specification of the “solvents” and clear descriptions as to “physical treatment” in the standard.

Proposed Draft Amendment of the Standard for Named Vegetable Oils³²

85. The Commission **adopted** the Proposed Draft Amendment of the Standard for Named Vegetable Oils at Steps 5 and 8 without amendment.

Fruit and Vegetable Juices

Proposed Draft Codex General Standard for Fruit Juices and Nectars³³

86. The Delegation of Brazil introduced the document as Host Government of the Task Force. The Delegation expressed its support to the adoption of the proposed draft Standard at Steps 5 and 8 while indicating that some minor adjustments were needed to improve the clarity and coherence of the text in particular sections 3.1.2(d), 4.8 and 5 as contained in CAC/26 LIM.3.

87. The Delegation of Spain, supported by a number of delegations, indicated that in Section 7.1.2.7 it would be more appropriate to refer to “sugars or syrups, including honey and/or sugars derived from fruits as listed in Sections 3.1.2 (a) and (b)” and to delete the reference to “authorized carbohydrate sweeteners”. The Delegation also noted that the column on minimum Brix levels could be better listed by botanical name (genus/specie) as opposed to common name of the fruit for easy of reference. The Delegation of New Zealand requested the inclusion of sodium and potassium caseinates in the list of processing aids.

88. The Commission noted that those sections of the Standard subject to endorsement (food additives/processing aids, food labelling and methods of analysis and sampling) were still to be endorsed by the relevant Codex committees. Some delegations pointed out that the endorsement process should take account of the decisions agreed upon by the Task Force as amendments to these sections might generate additional discussions on matters already compromised. The Commission also noted that the endorsement process allowed the relevant Committees to introduce amendments if appropriate and that this exercise was done in consultation with the concerned commodity committee/task force when necessary. In this regard, the Commission agreed to forward the proposed amendment to Section 7.1.2.7 to the Codex Committee on Food Labelling for its consideration.

89. In view of the above discussion, the Commission **decided** to adopt the main text of the proposed draft Codex General Standard for Fruit Juices and Nectars at Step 5 and advance it to Step 7 for further consideration by the Task Force without the need for obtaining further comments. The Commission noted that there was no objection to the amendments noted in paragraphs 83 and 84 and amended the text accordingly. However, the Commission agreed that further comments were necessary for the development of the Brix levels for six important fruit juices, as specified in Appendix III of ALINORM 03/39A, and agreed that these should be advanced only to Step 6. The Commission noted the important progress and decisions made on the major sections of the Standard and noted that the Task Force would have the opportunity to finalize the text at its next session so that a single Standard could be presented for final adoption by the Codex Alimentarius Commission.

Methods of Analysis and Sampling

³⁴

Harmonized IUPAC Guidelines for Single-Laboratory Validation.

90. The Commission **endorsed** the position of the Committee and agreed that the preferred approach should always be collaborative studies and only where it was not possible suggested to use single-laboratory validation.

³² ALINORM 03/17 Appendix III.

³³ ALINORM 03/39A, Appendix II; CAC/LIM.3 (comments of Brazil, Canada, New Zealand, Poland, Russian Federation and The United States of America).

³⁴ ALINORM 03/23, Appendices III and VI (Parts F and G); ALINORM 03/26/7A (comments of Brazil, United States).

91. The Commission **adopted** the IUPAC Guidelines by reference for the purpose of Codex. The Commission noted that they became Codex Guidelines and would be included in the Codex Alimentarius as they provided guidance to governments.

General Methods of Analysis for the Detection of Irradiated Foods

92. The Commission **adopted** the methods as proposed by the Committee.

General Methods for Additives and Contaminants

93. The Commission **adopted** the methods as endorsed by the Committee.

Milk and Milk Products

Draft Revised Standard for Cream and Prepared Creams³⁵

94. The Commission agreed that the term “physical separation” in the description of Cream (Section 2.1) was meant to distinguish from solvent/chemical extraction and it encompassed both mechanical and natural (gravity/sedimentation) separation methods and decided to add this interpretation as a footnote to the Standard.

95. With this interpretation and some minor editorial changes, the Commission **adopted** the draft revised Standard for Cream and Cream Products at Step 8, as proposed by the Committee on Milk and Milk Products.

Draft Revised Standard for Fermented Milks³⁶

96. The Commission noted that the labelling provisions for heat treated fermented milks specifically differentiated these products from yoghurt and other fermented milk products with living microorganisms. It further noted that the 31st Session of the Codex Committee on Food Labelling after a long discussion had endorsed the labelling provisions of the standard without any amendments. The Commission recognized that the labelling provisions allowed for certain flexibility in permitting the use of national legislation. In this regard, it noted that although there was a remote possibility that a country under its national legislation could allow the sale and distribution in its territory of a product called “heat treated yoghurt”, this standard would not allow such a product to enter into the international trade unless similarly allowed by the national legislation of the importing country.

97. In view of the above, the Commission **adopted** the revised draft Standard for Fermented Milks at Step 8, as proposed by the Committee on Milk and Milk Products with some minor editorial changes, while noting the following:

- a) The Delegation of Tunisia expressed its reservation as it felt that fermented milk products should be clearly differentiated from heat treated fermented milk products. It also noted the importance of identifying the animal origin of the gelatin used in these products.
- b) The Delegation of Spain expressed its reservation with regard to Section 7.1.2 of the Standard, as it was of the opinion that in addition to the generic name (heat treated fermented milks) it would be necessary to include the names: yoghurt, kefir, kumis, when there was no legislation in the country of destination and when these names are accepted in the country of origin, in order to inform the consumer better.
- c) The Delegation of Greece expressed its reservation with regard to the draft revised Standard for Fermented Milks, in order to protect the health of consumer and assure fair practice in food trade. The Delegation stated that i) in the Standard there was not a clear definition of “Yoghurt”; ii) only products which have viable, active and abundant microorganisms (*Lactobacillus bulgaricus* and *Streptococcus thermophilus*) could be named as Yoghurt. Heat treated fermented products can be named otherwise (e.g. heat treated fermented milks); iii) the raw material used for the production

³⁵ ALINORM 03/11, Appendix II; ALINORM 03/26/7A (Comments of Czech Republic, Egypt, Iran, Mexico, Poland, and United States); ALINORM 03/26/7A: Add. 1 (Comments of Germany).

³⁶ ALINORM 03/11, Appendix III; ALINORM 03/26/7A (Comments of Cuba, Czech Republic, Egypt, Iran, Mexico, New Zealand, Poland, Russian Federation, Spain, United States, the International Council of Grocery Manufacturers Associations); CAC/26 LIM.3 (comments of Indonesia), CAC/26 LIM.15 (Comments of Mexico).

of Yoghurt, must only be with milk according to its official definition, other products obtained from milk, could not be used as raw materials for the production of yoghurt.

98. In addition, the Commission **recommended** that the Codex Committee on Milk and Milk Products consider new work on Fermented Milk Drinks (see also para. 141).

Draft Revised Standard for Whey Powders³⁷

99. The Commission noted that the 34th Session of the Committee on Food Additives and Contaminants had not endorsed the provision of benzoyl peroxide as its proposed use in the standard was scheduled for JECFA evaluation in 2004. In recognizing the historical importance of the use of this substance in whey powders, the Commission agreed to include the following footnote in Section 4 - Food Additives.

“Benzoyl peroxide will be included in the standard subject to satisfactory evaluation by JECFA in 2004.”

100. The Commission **adopted** the draft revised standard for Whey Powders at Step 8 as proposed by the Codex Committee on Milk and Milk Products with the above footnote and a few editorial changes, especially in the Spanish version.

Proposed Draft Amendment to the Codex General Standard for Cheese: Appendix³⁸

101. Recognizing that the presence of wheat gluten and wheat protein products in cheese coatings can adversely affect the health of celiac patients, the Commission agreed to add a reference to the Codex Standard for Wheat Protein Products including Wheat Gluten in relation to the ingredients of cheese coatings. For this purpose the Commission added the following footnote to the first bullet point of Section “Cheese coating”.

“Wheat gluten or wheat protein products should not be used for technological reasons e.g. coating or processing aids for foods which are gluten-free by nature - Codex Standard for Wheat Protein Products including Wheat Gluten (CODEX STAN 163-1987, Rev. 1-2001).”

102. The Commission **adopted** the proposed draft Amendment to the Codex General Standard for Cheese: Appendix at Steps 5 and 8, with the omission of Step 6 and 7, with the above addition.

Meat and Poultry Hygiene

Draft General Principles of Meat Hygiene³⁹

103. The Commission **adopted** the Draft General Principles at Step 8.

Processed Fruits and Vegetables

Draft Codex Standard for Bamboo Shoots⁴⁰

104. The Commission **adopted** the draft Codex Standard for Bamboo Shoots at Step 8 with two amendments in Section 9 – Methods of Analysis and Sampling namely:

- a) The level of drained and net weight was changed to “50%” for consistency with provisions in Section 8.1.2 and,
- b) The pH level was referred to Section 2.1(b) listing the different types of bamboo shoots and their respective pH value(s).

³⁷ ALINORM 03/11, Appendix IV; ALINORM 03/26/7A (Comments of Czech Republic, Egypt, Iran, Poland, and The United States of America); ALINORM 03/26/7A: Add. 1 (Comments of Germany); CAC/26 LIM. 3 (Comments of Indonesia).

³⁸ ALINORM 03/11, Appendix VI; ALINORM 03/26/7A (Comments of The United States of America).

³⁹ ALINORM 03/16A, Appendix II; ALINORM 03/26/7A: Add. 1 (Comments of Thailand).

⁴⁰ ALINORM 03/27, Appendix II; CAC/26 LIM.3 (Comments from Thailand).

Draft Codex Standard for Canned Stone Fruits⁴¹

105. The Commission **adopted** the draft Codex Standard for Canned Stone Fruits at Step 8.

Draft Codex Guidelines for Packing Media for Canned Fruits⁴²

106. The Commission **adopted** the draft Codex Guidelines for Packing Media for Canned Fruits at Step 8 as proposed by the Codex Committee on Processed Fruits with an amendment in the Spanish version of the text to refer to “Líquidos de Cobertura” instead of “Medios de Cobertura”.

Draft Codex Standard for Aqueous Coconut Products – Coconut Milk and Coconut Cream⁴³

107. The Commission **adopted** the draft Codex Standard for Aqueous Coconut Products – Coconut Milk and Coconut Cream.

Pesticide Residues

Draft Maximum Residue Limits for Pesticides (MRLs)⁴⁴

108. The Commission noted the proposal by the Delegation of France and **returned to Step 6** the draft MRLs for amitrole (079) and carbendazim (072) in order to clarify problems with method of determination and draft MRLs for piperonyl butoxide (062) in order to clarify the nature of its use and **adopted** all other draft MRLs at Step 8 and Steps 5/8 as proposed.

Draft Extraneous Maximum Residue Limits (DDT in Poultry Meat)⁴⁵

109. The Commission **adopted** the draft Extraneous Maximum Residue Limit for DDT in poultry meat at Step 8.

Draft Guidelines on Good Laboratory Practice in Pesticide Residue Analysis⁴⁶

110. The Commission **adopted** the draft Guidelines at Step 8.

Recommended Methods of Analysis for Pesticide Residues: Proposed Draft Amendments to the Introduction Section⁴⁷

111. The Commission **adopted** the proposed draft amendments at Steps 5 and 8.

Residues of Veterinary Drugs in Foods

Draft Maximum Residue Limits for Veterinary Drugs^{48, 49}

112. The Commission **returned** the draft temporary MRLs for phoxim in cattle tissues and cow’s milk to Step 6 pending JECFA re-evaluation, as recommended by 14th Sessions of the Committee on Residues of Veterinary Drugs in Foods.

113. The Commission **adopted** all the other draft MRLs at Step 8, with the following changes recommended by the 14th Session of the Committee on Residues of Veterinary Drugs in Foods:

⁴¹ ALINORM 03/27, Appendix III.

⁴² ALINORM 03/27, Appendix IV.

⁴³ ALINORM 03/27, Appendix V; CAC/26 LIM.3 (Comments from Thailand).

⁴⁴ ALINORM 03/24, Appendix II; ALINORM 03/24A, Appendix III and Appendix IV.

⁴⁵ ALINORM 03/24A, para. 140.

⁴⁶ ALINORM 03/24A, Appendix III.

⁴⁷ ALINORM 03/24A, Appendix V.

⁴⁸ ALINORM 03/31A, Appendix II; ALINORM 03/26/7A: (Comments of The United States of America and the European Community); CAC/26 LIM. 3 (Comments of Egypt).

⁴⁹ ALINORM 03/31, Appendix II; ALINORM 03/26/7A (Comments of the European Community).

- a) Full MRL for oxytetracycline in fish tissues;
- b) Full MRLs for phoxim in pig, sheep and goat tissues.

114. The Commission noted the reservation made by the Delegation of Italy, speaking on behalf of the Member States of the European Union, regarding the MRLs for tetracycline(s), cyfluthrin and porcine somatotropin.

*Draft Amendments to the Glossary of Terms and Definitions*⁵⁰

115. The Commission **adopted** the draft amendments to the Glossary of Terms and Definitions at Step 5 of the Accelerated Procedure.

Proposed Draft Maximum Residue Limits for Veterinary Drugs^{51, 52}

116. Following the recommendations of the 13th and 14th Sessions of the Committee on Residues of Veterinary Drugs in Foods, the Commission:

- a) Withdrew the proposed temporary MRLs for lincomycin in cattle and sheep tissues;
- b) Advanced the proposed draft temporary MRLs for cyhalothrin only to Step 6, pending further re-consideration by JECFA.
- c) Commission **adopted** the other proposed draft MRLs at Steps 5 and 8⁵³.

117. The Commission noted the reservation made by Delegation of Italy, speaking on behalf of Member countries of the European Union, regarding the MRL for ivermectin in cow's milk.

CONSIDERATION OF PROPOSED DRAFT STANDARDS AT STEP 5 (Agenda Item 6)⁵⁴

General Considerations

118. The results of the Commission's consideration of these proposed draft standards and related texts are presented in tabular form in Appendix VI of the present report. The following paragraphs of this report provide additional information concerning the discussions that took place on certain items or contain additional decisions taken by the Commission in regard to the adoption of certain texts.

Cereals, Pulses and Legumes

*Proposed Draft Standard for Instant Noodles*⁵⁵

119. The Commission recalled that this standard had been proposed by the Regional Coordinating Committee for Asia, and that based on the decision of the 47th Session of the Executive Committee⁵⁶ the completion of the Standard would be undertaken by the Committee on Cereals, Pulses and Legumes by correspondence. The Coordinating Committee for Asia decided to forward the Proposed Draft Standard for Instant Noodles to Step 5, however, member countries could not achieve consensus, especially on the inclusion of "Peroxide Value" proposed by Japan.

⁵⁰ ALINORM 03/31A, Appendix VI; ALINORM 03/26/7A (Comments of the European Community).

⁵¹ ALINORM 03/31A, Appendix III; ALINORM 03/26/7A (Comments of The United States of America and the European Community); CAC/26 LIM. 3 (Comments of Egypt).

⁵² ALINORM 03/31, Appendix III; ALINORM 03/26/7A (Comments of the European Community).

⁵³ The Commission based its decisions on Ivermectin in cow milk and Lincomycin in pig and chicken tissue and in cow milk on the the recommendations of the 14th Session of the Committee (ALINORM 03/31A; paras. 19 and 29 respectively).

⁵⁴ ALINORM 03/26/8; ALINORM 03/26/8A; ALINORM 03/26/8A:Add.1; CAC/26 LIM.4 (comments of Poland, the European Community, The United States of America and Egypt), CAC/26 LIM.10 (comments of Indonesia).

⁵⁵ ALINORM 03/15 Appendix II; ALINORM 03/26/8A: Add.1(Japan); CAC/26 LIM.10 (comments of Indonesia).

⁵⁶ ALINORM 01/3, Appendix III.

120. The Delegation of Japan stressed the importance of the inclusion of Peroxide Value for the purpose of quality control and protection of consumer health and requested consideration of peroxide value by the Committee on Food Additives and Contaminants and JECFA before the standard could be advanced to Step 8. The delegation also announced that Japan had started a new study of peroxide value and the results would be publicized by the end of March 2004. The Delegation of Indonesia strongly supported the adoption at Step 5 and proposed additional technical comments including the list of food additives. The Delegation of France, while supporting the draft proposed standard, raised its concern over the issue raised by Japan on peroxide value.

121. The Commission **adopted** the Proposed Draft Standard for Instant Noodles at Step 5 and forwarded it to the Committee on Cereals, Pulses and Legumes for further consideration by correspondence including technical comments submitted by Indonesia. The Commission also asked the Committee on Food Additives and Contaminants to consider “peroxide value”.

Food Additives and Contaminants⁵⁷

122. The Commission **adopted** at Step 5 and advanced to Step 6 all standards and texts as proposed by the Committee on Food Additives and Contaminants at its 34th and 35th sessions except the proposed draft Maximum Levels for Cadmium in Various Commodities. The Commission made a number of observations on the proposals.

Proposed draft amendments to the Food Category System for the General Standard for Food Additives

123. The Commission noted that technical comments from Greece, regarding the description of ouzo in the proposed draft Category Descriptor for Food Category 14.2.6 *Distilled Spirituous Beverages Containing More Than 15% Alcohol*, should be submitted to the Committee for consideration at its next meeting.

Advisory Text on the Principles for Exposure Assessment of Contaminants and Toxins in Foods

124. The Commission noted the expectation of the Committee, expressed in the report of the 35th Session that the text “would eventually be included in the Codex Alimentarius Commission Procedural Manual as advice to Codex Committees and as an Annex to the General Standard for Contaminants and Toxins in Foods”. The Commission noted that the text could not be included in both documents and advised the Committee to clarify whether the text was intended to be included either in the Procedural Manual, for the advice of the Commission, or in the standard, for the advice of member countries (and by implication the Commission).

Maximum Levels for Cadmium in various Commodities⁵⁸

125. The Delegation of Japan expressed its opinion that the proposed draft maximum levels (ML) for cadmium, which had been recommended by the 35th Session of Committee on Food Additives and Contaminants, had not been fully based on exposure assessment and risk assessment. Japan advised the Commission that it had submitted data on cadmium for consideration at the 61st meeting of JECFA, which was held in June 2003. The Delegation of Japan proposed that the Commission return the MLs to the Committee at Step 3 to enable consideration of these MLs together with the MLs currently at Step 3, taking into consideration the 61st JECFA’s risk assessment and to request the Committee to clarify to what food commodities each ML applies. The Delegation of Mexico asked that the review also take into account MLs for mollusc flesh.

126. The Commission **returned** the proposed draft maximum levels for cadmium to Step 3 and asked the Committee to accelerate its work to move revised draft maximum levels to Step 8 as soon as practicable.

Fish and Fishery Products⁵⁹

Proposed Draft Model Certificate for Fish and Fishery Products

127. The Commission **adopted** the Proposed Draft Model Certificate at Step 5 as proposed and noted that this referred only to the Sanitary Certificate for fish and fishery products.

⁵⁷ ALINORM 03/12A; ALINORM 03/26/8A (comments of Australia and Japan).

⁵⁸ ALINORM 03/26/8A (comments from Japan).

⁵⁹ ALINORM 03/18, Appendices V and VI, ALINORM 03/26/8A-Add.1 (comments of Iran and The United States of America).

Proposed Draft Amendment to the Standard for Quick Frozen Lobsters

128. The Commission **adopted** the Proposed Draft Amendment at Step 5 as proposed.

Fresh Fruits and Vegetables

Proposed Draft Codex Standard for Table Grapes⁶⁰

129. The Commission **adopted** the proposed draft Codex Standard for Table Grapes at Step 5 as proposed. The Delegation of Australia advised that it would be submitting data to support the inclusion of Australian varieties in the Standard for consideration at the 11th Session of the Committee in September 2003.

Fruit and Vegetable Juices

Proposed Draft Minimum Brix Level for Reconstituted Juice and Reconstituted Purée and Minimum Juice and/or Purée Content for Fruit Nectars (% v/v)⁶¹

130. The Commission **adopted** the Proposed Draft Minimum Brix Levels for Reconstituted Juice and Reconstituted Purée and Minimum Juice and/or Purée Content for Fruit Nectars (% v/v) – grape, guava, mandarine/tangerine, mango, passion fruit and tamarind (Indian date) juice, at Step 5 (See also para. 89 above).

Food Labelling⁶²

Proposed Draft Amendment to the Guidelines for the Production, Processing, Marketing and Labelling of Organically Produced Foods - Annex 2 (Permitted Substances for the Production of Organic Foods)

131. The Delegation of the Republic of Korea expressed its reservation on the inclusion of 303 Potassium Ascorbate in meat products (Table 3). The Commission noted the comments submitted by Denmark, Poland and the European Community concerning a number of substances proposed for inclusion in the Guidelines, and agreed that the Committee should take all comments into account when considering the text at Step 7. The Commission also recalled that the lists of substances were intended to be indicative and not prescriptive (ALINORM 03/22A para 83).

132. The Commission **adopted** the Proposed Draft Amendment at Step 5 as proposed. It was noted that comments at Step 6 would be requested on all substances included in Annex 2 and the structure of the Table.

Methods of Analysis and Sampling⁶³

Proposed Draft General Guidelines on Sampling

Proposed Draft Guidelines on Measurement Uncertainty

133. The Commission **adopted** both Proposed Draft Guidelines at Step 5 as proposed.

Meat and Poultry Hygiene

Proposed Draft Code of Hygienic Practice for Meat⁶⁴

134. The Commission **adopted** the proposed draft Code of Practice for Meat at Step 5 as proposed. It noted the reservations by the European Union, concerning veterinary ante- and post-mortem inspection, expressed at the last session of the Committee and by the Delegation of Iran on the definition of meat.

⁶⁰ ALINORM 03/35, Appendix VI.

⁶¹ ALINORM 03/39A, Appendix III.

⁶² ALINORM 03/22A, Appendix VI; ALINORM 03/26/8A-Add.1 (comments of Denmark); CAC/26 LIM.4 (comments of Poland and the European Community).

⁶³ ALINORM 03/23, Appendices III and IV; ALINORM 03/26/8A-Add.1 (comments of Brazil and The United States of America).

⁶⁴ ALINORM 03/16A, Appendix III.

Pesticide Residues

Proposed Draft Maximum Limits for Pesticide Residues⁶⁵

135. The Commission **advanced** the Proposed Draft Maximum Residue Limits to Step 6.

Residues of Veterinary Drugs in Foods

Proposed Draft Maximum Residue Limits for Veterinary Drugs⁶⁶

136. The Commission **adopted** the proposed draft Maximum Residue Limits for Veterinary Drug at Step 5. The Delegation of Italy, speaking on behalf of the member countries of the European Union, said that their agreement for further advancement of cefuroxime would depend on the outcome of further evaluation and discussion by JECFA and Committee on Residues of Veterinary Drugs in Foods.

WITHDRAWAL OR REVOCATION OF EXISTING CODEX STANDARDS AND RELATED TEXTS (Agenda Item 7)⁶⁷

137. The Commission **approved** the withdrawal from the *Codex Alimentarius* of previously adopted standards as summarized in Appendix VII. It noted that several existing standards had been replaced by new standards adopted at the present session; these obsolete standards were also withdrawn as indicated in Appendix VII.

PROPOSALS TO ELABORATE NEW STANDARDS AND RELATED TEXTS (Agenda Item 8)⁶⁸

138. The Commission **approved** proposals for new work as summarized in Appendix VIII of the present report. The following paragraphs provide additional information concerning the discussions or decisions taken by the Commission.

139. The Delegation of the United States expressed the view that the work on the development of a Code of Practice for the safe use of active chlorine by the Codex Committee on Food Additives and Contaminants should take into account the public health benefit of the use of active chlorine as means of controlling of pathogens. It was noted that risk assessment on the use of chlorine compounds and/or its reaction by-products should be performed jointly by JECFA and JEMRA or alternatively by a joint FAO/WHO expert consultation and that there would also be a need for expert advice concerning the use of chlorine for food hygiene purposes. The Commission agreed to commence the new work with the understanding that recommendations on the safe use of active chlorine would require close collaboration with other Codex committees such as the Committee on Food Hygiene.

140. The Commission noted a proposal to develop guidelines on HACCP in relation to animal feeding with a view to annexing them to the Code of Practice on Good Animal Feeding. It was noted that application of HACCP in feed section would ensure food safety throughout the food chain. However, the Commission was of the view that the Terms of Reference of the ad hoc Intergovernmental Codex Task Force on Animal Feeding were very specific and as a matter of principle in relation to the establishment of ad hoc Task Forces, such Terms of Reference should not be amended.

141. The Commission noted that the Committee on Milk and Milk Products in undertaking work on fermented milk drinks, would need to decide whether this should be taken up as an addition to the current standard or as a new standard.

⁶⁵ ALINORM 03/24A, Appendix V.

⁶⁶ ALINORM 03/31A, Appendix II; ALINORM 03/26/8A: (Comments of The United States of America and the European Community); CAC/26 LIM.4 (Comments of Egypt).

⁶⁷ ALINORM 03/26/9.

⁶⁸ ALINORM 03/26/10.

RISK ANALYSIS POLICIES OF THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION (Agenda Item 9)⁶⁹

Draft Working Principles for Risk Analysis for Application in the Framework of the Codex Alimentarius

142. The Commission recalled the main elements of the Action Plan adopted by the 22nd Session of the Commission (1997)⁷⁰, and considered the Draft Working Principles for Risk Analysis for Application in the Framework of the Codex Alimentarius that had been developed as part of the Action Plan by the Committee on General Principles.

143. The Delegation of Italy, speaking on behalf of the Member States of the European Union, expressed the view that paragraph 10 addressing the situation when scientific data were insufficient entailed a review of current food safety standards. The delegation also supported the further development of risk analysis principles intended for application by governments, currently under discussion in the Committee on General Principles.

144. Other delegations pointed out that the adoption of these recommendations did not imply a systematic review of all current standards but that a review should be carried out when required for a specific standard. The Commission endorsed the view of the Executive Committee that existing standards may be reassessed on a case-by-case basis and noted that member countries could always propose the revision of a standard when new scientific data became available.

145. The Commission noted that the recommendation of the Action Plan referred to an introductory narrative on risk analysis and identification of the responsibilities of Committees. The Commission however agreed with the recommendation of the Executive Committee that an introduction was not necessary as the Principles were sufficiently clear as an independent document.

146. The Commission **adopted** the Working Principles for Risk Analysis for Application in the Framework of the Codex Alimentarius and the Definitions related to risk analysis as contained in Appendix IV to this report.

Other Matters related to Risk Analysis

147. The Commission requested that relevant Codex Committees develop or complete specific guidelines on risk analysis in their respective areas, for inclusion in the Procedural Manual, as recommended in the Action Plan mentioned above. The Commission noted that these texts would be submitted to the Committee on General Principles in order to ensure coordination of work and consistency with the overarching Working Principles.

148. The Delegation of Sudan, supported by the Delegation of Nigeria, indicated that the current provisions for Gum Arabic should be revised in the light of the Working Principles. The Commission noted that Gum Arabic was not currently under discussion in the Commission or Codex Committees and noted that the Delegation of Sudan could raise this issue in the Committee on Food Additives and Contaminants and propose a revision of the evaluation of Gum Arabic in the light of new data.

⁶⁹ ALINORM 03/26/6, ALINORM 03/33A Appendix IV.

⁷⁰ ALINORM 97/37, paras. 160-167.

JOINT FAO/WHO EVALUATION OF THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS AND OTHER FAO AND WHO WORK ON FOOD STANDARDS (Agenda Item 10)⁷¹

General Aspects

149. The Commission recalled that at the 25th (Extraordinary) Session of the Commission, the Secretariat was requested to obtain comments from governments and interested international organizations on the report, and to prepare options and strategies for consideration by the 26th Session of the Commission. In doing so, the Commission also noted the consideration of the Evaluation Report by FAO and WHO Governing Bodies⁷².

Proposal No.1: Annual meetings of the Commission

150. A majority of delegations were in favour in principle of holding annual meetings, in order to enhance the speed and efficiency of Codex work. Many delegations emphasized the importance and relevance of the FAO/WHO Trust Fund for Participation in Codex (or of obtaining other resources) in addressing the additional costs and burden of work which would be incurred by Member countries and stated that the holding of annual sessions should be conditional on the availability of these resources and the need for more frequent sessions. In taking a systems approach to its work, the Commission **decided** that each session would consider the timing for the following session and the general nature of the agenda in order to achieve the appropriate balance between standards issues, general direction of work and policy matters, and taking into account the resources available for adequate participation.

Proposal No.2: Implementation of the Evaluation

151. The Commission **decided** that the responsibility for following up and monitoring progress in the implementation of the recommendations from the Evaluation Report would be entrusted to the Executive Committee. Twice-yearly sessions of the Committee would be scheduled in order to absorb the additional workload, and provision had been made in the Codex budget to provide support for members from countries experiencing financial difficulties in attending.

Proposal No.3: Priorities for implementation

152. The Commission **concluded** that all four priorities were of equal importance, and that the ranking was made on the grounds of speed of potential progress. It was noted that in all cases where processes for standards management were reviewed, the standard-setting needs of developing countries should be recognized and appropriate capacity-building activities by FAO, WHO and other international organizations should be promoted (e.g. to facilitate access to Internet). The Commission decided that the priorities should be:

- a) Processes for standards management, with due regard to the special needs of developing countries.
- b) Functions and composition of the Executive Committee, including the participation of observers in the Executive Committee and Executive Committee procedures.
- c) Review of the Committee structures and mandates (including Regional Committees).
- d) Review of Rules and Procedures including guidelines for Codex Committees.

Proposal No.4: Acceptable level(s) of protection

153. The Commission **decided** to take no further action at this stage, with the understanding that the issue might be considered again in the future if required.

⁷¹ ALINORM 03/26/11 + Addenda 1-6, ALINORM 03/25/5 para. 25 (Report of the 25th (extraordinary) session of CAC, ALINORM 03/4 (Report of the 52nd session of the Executive Committee), CL 2003/8-GEN, CAC/26 INF/2, CAC/26 INF/3 (comments from Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, China, Cuba, European Community, Hungary, India, Japan, Malaysia, New Zealand, Norway, Republic of Korea, United States; OIE; Consumers International, the European Food Law Association, the International Co-operative Alliance, the International Dairy Federation, the International Federation of Fruit Juice Producers, the International Soft Drinks Council and the International Union of Microbiological Societies, CAC/26 INF/8 (comments from Egypt, Poland, Switzerland and the Biotechnology Industry Organization), CAC/26 LIM.10 (comments from Indonesia).

⁷² ALINORM 03/26/11 Addendum 6.

Review of Codex Committee Structure and Mandates of Codex Committees and Task Forces, including Regional Committees⁷³

Proposal No.5: Review of the mandates of Codex Committees and Task Forces

Proposal No.6: Review of the Regional Coordinating Committees

154. The Commission **decided** that all the Committees and Task Forces would be reviewed together, based on the proposals set out in the working paper, bearing in mind the objective of reducing the number of meetings while also keeping them short and focused. The key role of Regional Coordinating Committees was recognized, as well as the importance of ensuring that Codex Committee chairs were able to provide input to the review process. The Delegation of India supported by other delegations strongly recommended that annual meetings of the regional Committees be held and that the review should examine their role in contributing to the standards setting process. The Commission endorsed the recommendation made by the Executive Committee concerning the selection of consultants that would be entrusted with the review (ALINORM 03/4, paragraph 23), and stressed the critical importance of transparency in the process.

Review of the Functions of the Executive Committee⁷⁴

Proposal No. 7: Strategic and Managerial Functions

Proposal No. 8: Budgetary, Planning and Programming Functions

155. The Commission **decided** that the Executive Committee should work together with the Secretariat for both activities. The need to consider the development of performance measures for both itself and the Executive Committee at a future session was noted.

Proposal No. 9: Executive Committee

156. The Commission **decided** to retain the Executive Committee as a Strategic and Standards Management Body, on the basis of the support expressed by majority of countries. A few delegations preferred retaining it as a Strategic Management Body only, expressing a concern not to overburden the Executive Committee.

Proposal No. 10: Additional functions of the Executive Committee

157. The Commission **decided** that the Rules of Procedure should be amended to remove the obsolete functions of the Executive Committee.

Proposal No. 11: Executive Committee Membership

a) Enlarged Executive Committee

158. The Commission **decided** that the Executive Committee should be enlarged by appointing the Regional Coordinators as Members. A number of countries questioned the effectiveness of an enlarged committee as a strategic management body and it was noted that the respective roles of the regional coordinators and the regional members may require clarification. The Commission deferred a discussion of the presence of observers to its discussion of Proposal 12.

b) Restricted participation in the Executive Committee

The Commission did not achieve a consensus on the proposal to limit participation in meetings of the Executive Committee to one delegate representing the Members.

c) Establishment of a Sub-Committee on Programming, Budget and Planning

159. The Commission **decided** that the Executive Committee should have the flexibility to establish sub-committees from among its members. It was noted that any proposed new body would be subject to analysis of costs and that there would only be a limited number. It was noted that a sub-committee could be established for programming, budget and planning.

⁷³ ALINORM 03/26/11 Addendum 1.

⁷⁴ ALINORM 03/26/11 Addendum 2.

d) *Funding the participation of members of the Executive Committee*

160. The Commission decided that budget of the Codex Alimentarius Commission (not the FAO/WHO Trust Fund) should make provisions for the funding of the participation of members of the Executive Committee at its meetings. A number of countries considered that this should be limited to members from developing countries.

Proposal No. 12: Participation of observers in the Executive Committee

161. A majority of members of the Commission agreed to the participation of Members of the Commission that are not members of the Executive Committee and recognized international organizations as observers in Executive Committee meetings with limited clearly defined rights to address the Committee. A few members expressed in principle objections to the presence of observers at Executive Committee meetings. It was also **decided** by the Commission that the exact modalities of this participation needed further elaboration and consultation with FAO and WHO (See also Proposal No.28, paras. 175-175, below). A number of delegations noted options available for web casting of meetings of the Executive Committee.

Improved Processes for Standards Management⁷⁵

Proposal No. 13: Strategic Planning

162. The Commission **decided** that the Secretariat should work with the Executive Committee in the preparation of strategic planning documents. It was noted that the strategic planning process in the Executive Committee should consider the special needs of developing countries.

Proposals Nos. 14 and 15: - Critical review of proposals to undertake work and monitoring progress of standards development

163. The Commission **decided** to endorse the critical review process, including the preparation of project documents for major standards, as proposed as well as the closely related proposal to revise the Criteria for the Establishment of Work Priorities (Proposal 38) in order to ensure the relevance of Codex standards at the international level.

Proposal No. 16: - Standards Management Responsibility

164. The Commission recalled that there had been no support for the establishment of a Standards Management Committee at the 25th Session of the Commission. The current session did not support the establishment of such a Committee and **decided** that the Executive Committee be the body to undertake the critical review of new work. The Commission did not favour the replacement of the Executive Committee with an Executive Board.

Proposal No. 17: - Time-bound decision-making

165. The Commission **decided** that the body responsible for standards management (i.e. the Executive Committee) should review the status of development of draft standards at the end of a specified time-frame, normally not more than five years, and report its findings to the Commission. The time-frame could be less than five years, where this was appropriate or had been established during the critical review process for new work (See Proposals 14 and 15, above.)

Proposal No.18: Simplified procedures for standards development

166. The Commission considered that removal of the two-thirds majority requirement for the accelerated procedure would not simplify the procedure as accelerated standards should be adopted by consensus. The Commission did not reach a consensus on the use of a 5-Step procedure as the norm and **decided** to retain the 8-Step process, with the existing mechanisms to accelerate the process when necessary.

⁷⁵

ALINORM 03/26/11 Addendum 3.

Proposal No. 19: Use of facilitators***Proposal No.20: Establishment of electronic working groups******Proposal No.21: Establishment of physical working groups***

167. The Commission agreed in principle to all three proposals but **decided** that the modalities would require clarification by the body responsible for reviewing the Procedural Manual. With respect to electronic working groups, the Commission noted that these were an avenue for exchanging views and not for decision making. Physical working groups should be ad hoc, open to all members, take account the problems of developing country participation and only be established where there is consensus in the Committee to do so and other strategies have been considered.

Proposal No.22 – Adoption of Standards

168. The Commission **decided** that adoption of standards with a limited amendment should be allowed, provided that the draft standard had been forwarded to the Commission on the basis of consensus, based on the recommendation of the Executive Committee.

Review of the Rules of Procedure and Other Procedural Matters⁷⁶***Proposal No.23: Responsibility for the Procedural Review***

169. On the basis of the views expressed by a clear majority of members and noting that only France had offered to host the meetings, the Commission decided that the procedural review would be undertaken by the Codex Committee on General Principles, at special sessions and under a limited time-frame. The Commission agreed that the Committee would need clear instructions, terms of reference from the Commission and support from the Codex Secretariat.

Proposal No.24: - Amendment of the Codex Mandate

170. The Commission **decided** that the current Codex Mandate as expressed in Article 1 of the Statutes of the Commission, should be retained but that it might be discussed in the future.

Proposal No.25: - Revision of the Rules and working procedures governing the Executive Committee to enhance overall management***Proposal No.26: - Subsequent revision of the Rules and working procedures of the Executive Committee***

171. The Commission **decided** to request the Committee on General Principles when reviewing the Procedural Manual to:

- draft amendments and additions to the Rules of Procedure as described in Proposal 25 as a matter of priority, for adoption by the Commission in 2004⁷⁷, and
- draft amendments and additions to the Rules of Procedure dealing with the remaining issues contained in ALINORM 03/26/11: Part 2 for adoption by the Commission in 2005.

172. The Commission noted that Proposals No.25 and No.26 were not mutually incompatible and that the most desirable outcome would be a comprehensive set of amendments that could be adopted in 2004.

Proposal No.27: Right to address the Chair

173. The Commission **decided** to ask the Committee on General Principles to consider a new Rule, based on a comparable Rule of the World Health Assembly⁷⁸ to the effect that “In plenary meetings of the Commission, the chief delegate may designate another delegate who shall have the right to speak and vote in the name of his

⁷⁶ ALINORM 03/26/11 Addendum 4.

⁷⁷ Amendments to the Rules of Procedure once adopted by the Commission, come into force only after their approval by the Directors-General of FAO and WHO.

⁷⁸ Rule 19 of the Rules of Procedure of the World Health Assembly.

or her delegation on any question. Moreover, upon the request of the chief delegate or any delegate so designated the Chairperson may allow an adviser to speak on any particular point”.

Proposal No.28: Observer Organizations

174. The Commission **decided** to:

- request FAO and WHO to prepare a report on the status of the current international organizations in “Observer Status” with the Commission and submit the report to the Commission’s next Regular Session;
- request FAO and WHO Legal Counsels and the Secretariat to prepare a preliminary paper on Rule VII.5 for consideration by the Committee on General Principles.

175. The Commission also requested the Committee on General Principles to:

- revise Rule VII.5 on the basis of the paper to be presented by the Legal Counsels of FAO and WHO, and submit its proposals to the Commission in 2004, if possible; and
- revise the Principles Concerning the Participation of International Non-Governmental Organizations in the Work of the Codex Alimentarius Commission and to complete the guidelines on the relations between the Commission and international intergovernmental organizations in a manner that is consistent with the revised Rule VII.5, by 2005.

Proposal No.29: Chairpersons of Codex Committees and Task Forces

176. The Commission decided to maintain the *status quo* in regard to the appointment of chairpersons by host countries, but also decided to request the Committee on General Principles to develop criteria for the appointment of chairpersons.

Proposal No.30: Revision of Rule XI.4

177. The Commission decided to ask the Committee on General Principles to submit a proposal to the Commission by 2004 to revise Rule XI.4 to remove the possible impediments to the participation of recipients of funding from the FAO/WHO Trust Fund for the Participation of Developing Countries and Countries in Codex Standard Setting Procedures in the Work of the Codex Alimentarius Commission. It also requested that the revised Rule should take into account the Commission’s decision concerning funding of participation of Members of the Executive Committee from the Codex budget.

Proposal No.31: - Separation of advice to Host Governments and advice on the conduct of meetings

Proposal No.32: - Co-chairmanship

Proposal No.33: - Criteria for the selection of chairpersons

Proposal No.34: - Determination of consensus

Proposal No.35: - Conduct of meetings: Reports

178. The Commission **agreed in principle** to all of the proposals except Proposal 32 and referred the work to the Committee on General Principles, requesting it to develop appropriate guidelines and explore further the question of co-chairpersons. The Commission also agreed to the proposal contained in paragraph 31 of document ALINORM 03/26/11 Addendum 4 to instruct the Committee on General Principles regarding the current Uniform Procedure for the Elaboration of Codex Standards and Related Texts, by 2006.

179. It was noted that the advice on the conduct of meetings should include advice to Chairpersons on the participation of Regional Economic Integration Organizations. In addition, the value of consulting with the Chairpersons of committees and task forces in the preparation of this advice was recognized. The Commission recommended that the advice to host governments should include arrangements for holding Codex sessions in developing countries. Some delegations considered vice-chairing arrangements should be considered as an alternative to co-chairmanship, although this was not accepted by other delegations.

Proposal No.36 – Conduct of meetings: Country groupings

180. The Commission **asked** the Committee on General Principles to examine this issue by 2006.

Proposal No.37 – Relations with OIE

181. The Commission endorsed the recommendation of the Evaluation Team and Panel (Recommendation 8) that Codex and OIE should intensify their collaboration to minimize overlaps and avoid gaps in standard setting, so as to ensure a farm-to-fork approach to the safety of foods of animal origin.

Proposal No.38 – Criteria for the establishment of work priorities

182. The Commission **requested** the Committee on General Principles to redraft the *Criteria for Work Priorities* to reflect the current priorities of the Commission and in a manner that would provide explicit judgment tools for assessing work proposals against priorities.

Implementation of Other Recommendations⁷⁹

183. The Commission noted that the document ALINORM 03/26/11 Add.5 covered recommendations which had been addressed to FAO and WHO. The Commission was referred to document ALINORM 03/26/11 Add. 6 containing resolution WHA56.23 of the World Health Assembly (May 2003) and an extract of the report of the Eighty-Ninth Session of FAO's Programme Committee (May 2003), and noted with satisfaction that both parent organizations had responded positively to these recommendations, and that steps had already been taken towards their implementation. It thus requested FAO and WHO to complete the implementation of the recommendations aimed at strengthening the Codex Secretariat and their joint scientific advice and capacity building activities, as quickly as possible.

FAO/WHO TRUST FUND FOR PARTICIPATION OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES IN CODEX STANDARD-SETTING PROCEDURES (Agenda Item 11)⁸⁰

184. The second progress report of the FAO/WHO Consultative Group for the FAO/WHO Project and Fund for Participation in Codex was presented to the Commission by Dr Wim van Eck, Chairman of the Group. The Group had reviewed all the comments made by the Commission at its 25th Session and at an informal meeting held with interested parties on that occasion, and had revised the criteria for eligibility in that light, attempting to balance the sometimes conflicting wishes of both potential donor and potential recipient countries. He clarified that the activities targeted in Output level III did not relate to the Joint scientific bodies (i.e. JECFA, JMPR and JEMRA), but to ensuring that developing countries were able to participate in the elaboration of Codex standards.

185. The high level of interest in the objectives of the Project and Fund on the part of the Commission was illustrated by the large number of delegations which took the floor to express their views on the proposed criteria for eligibility and indicative distribution of financial resources. The list of eligible countries was the object of lengthy debate, as the World Bank list was not found satisfactory by a number of delegations, who felt that it did not adequately capture the reality of their current situation and appeared to discriminate against some countries. Other delegations were of the opinion that the Trust Fund should essentially be for the benefit of the least developed countries.

186. The efforts made by the Consultative Group to refine the criteria and provide regular reports were generally appreciated, and the need for a minimum threshold acknowledged. Thanks were expressed to those donors who had already made contributions, and it was recognized that only by having sufficient funding could the needs of all countries be met, without obliging difficult choices to be made among potential recipients. Several potential donor countries expressed their desire to contribute, and to undertake appropriate steps with their relevant national authorities.

⁷⁹ ALINORM 03/26/11 Addendum 5.

⁸⁰ ALINORM 03/26/12.

187. The issue of private sector funding was raised, with some delegations supporting the need to obtain funding from private philanthropic foundations whose activities did not represent a conflict of interest with the objectives of Codex. There was however strong opposition to this approach from several nongovernmental organizations. In that connection it was hoped that sufficient government funding would be forthcoming to avoid the need to resort to any private sector contributions. Dr van Eck reported that the WHO Committee on Private Sector Collaboration has made the following recommendation, which was endorsed by WHO Senior Management:

“The Committee agreed that it would not recommend at this stage any company funding for the Trust Fund. It was necessary to determine the extent of government support for the Fund and only then address whether any means could be considered for some relatively minor percentage of total assets to be of company origin.”

188. In answering the points raised by Member countries, Dr van Eck on behalf of the Consultative Group undertook to try to identify acceptable solutions to determine which countries should be eligible for funding, although no clear-cut solution was currently available. The Group would continue its work in a way that was flexible, pragmatic and in line with the goal and objectives of the Project and Fund and of Codex. Now that the views of the Commission and interested parties had been heard, the Consultative Group could take these into account and proceed with the next steps in finalizing a call for applications which could be issued as soon as the minimum operational threshold of US\$500 000 was reached.

189. The Commission welcomed the progress made and expressed the hope that the Trust Fund would achieve the desirable threshold before the end of 2003, so that it would be operational by the time of the next Session of the Commission.

OTHER MATTERS ARISING FROM FAO/WHO AND FROM OIE (Agenda Item 12)

Address by the Director General of the OIE

190. Dr. Bernard Vallat, Director General of the OIE, in his address to the Commission highlighted the importance of a strengthened collaboration among the OIE, Codex and IPPC (the “three sisters” organizations recognized by the WTO/SPS Agreement) and the need to mutually take into account their normative work.

191. He informed the Commission of the establishment in May 2002 of an OIE Working Group on Animal Production Food Safety, which included experts from the Codex Alimentarius Commission and the Codex Secretariat. The Working Group had a mandate to elaborate international standards on microbiological and chemical hazards existing in the animal production chain, to identify gaps and duplication in OIE and Codex texts and to ensure their harmonization and to strengthen the collaboration between the two organizations.

Matters arising from FAO and WHO⁸¹

Scientific Advice⁸²

192. The Commission welcomed the progress made by FAO and WHO in the preparation of the Consultative Study on the Provision of Scientific Advice and expressed appreciation on the progress already made. The Commission indicated the need to involve in the process all stakeholders and the importance to ensure adequate interaction between risk assessors and risk managers. It was suggested that the process should also consider mechanisms to avoid duplication of efforts.

193. The Commission noted the efforts of FAO and WHO in improving transparency in the selection of experts and in working procedures and the enhanced timeliness and quality of scientific advice provided to Codex.

194. The Commission acknowledged the large amount of requests for scientific advice raised through the Codex system. It recognized the need for Codex to prioritize its requests in coordination with the Secretariats of

⁸¹ ALINORM 03/26/13; CAC/26 INF/4.

⁸² CAC/26 INF/4.

the FAO/WHO Scientific Committees and of the *ad hoc* Expert Consultations, considering also the needs of scientific advice of developing countries.

195. The Commission noted the need for Member Countries to provide appropriate data, experts and other necessary resources to facilitate the timely provision of the advice requested. It stressed the importance of considering data from developing countries. In this regard it pointed out that FAO/WHO should help developing countries to generate data required to set international standards. It welcomed the resolution of the World Health Assembly in this regard and the efforts already made by FAO and WHO.

Capacity Building⁸³

196. The Commission noted the report of FAO/WHO on capacity building activities, in particular: the Joint FAO/WHO/OIE/WTO/WB Standards and Trade Development Facility; the Global and Regional Fora of Food Safety Regulators; FAO and WHO capacity building activities to strengthen food control system at regional and national level; the International Portal on Food Safety, Animal and Plant Health; the preparation of manuals, guidelines and training materials on support of capacity building activities; and, the increasing language coverage of existing technical publications.

Other matters

197. In response to a request of information from the Delegation of Japan on the Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS), the WHO Representative said that the scientific information currently available did not demonstrate any specific food safety problem related to the SARS virus.

MATTERS ARISING FROM REPORTS OF CODEX COMMITTEES AND TASK FORCES (Agenda Item 13)⁸⁴

Committee on Food Additives and Contaminants⁸⁵

198. The Commission **adopted** the recommendation of the Committee on Food Additives and Contaminants to revise the footnote to the maximum level for lead in milk⁸⁶ to read “a concentration factor applies to partially or wholly dehydrated milk”.

Codex Committee on Pesticide Residues

Establishment of Interim MRLs⁸⁷

199. The Commission discussed the proposal of the Committee to test a pilot project to use national MRLs as Interim (Step 8) Codex MRLs for limited period of time until the JMPR review became available. The proposed procedure required the Committee to notify the Commission about the proposed Interim MRLs, however it did not require the adoption of these MRLs itself; however the Commission could reject such Interim MRLs if required.

200. The Commission noted the views of the Secretariat that the SPS Agreement referred to “the standards, guidelines and recommendations established by the Codex Alimentarius Commission” but not to texts established by the Commission’s subsidiary bodies. Moreover, the Commission noted that under the Rules of Procedure subsidiary bodies prepared draft standards for submission to the Commission, but could not establish standards, interim or otherwise, themselves.

201. The Commission approved work on the pilot project with the understanding that the Proposed Interim (Step 8) MRLs would be submitted for the adoption by the Commission. The Commission drew the attention of

⁸³ CAC/26 INF/5; CAC/26 INF/6.

⁸⁴ ALINORM 03/26/14.

⁸⁵ ALINORM 03/12A para 148.

⁸⁶ CODEX STAN 230-2001.

⁸⁷ ALINORM 03/24A, paras. 176-186; CAC/26 LIM.12 (Comments of The United States of America).

the Committee to the need for scientific integrity and consistency with Principles for Risk Analysis for the Application in the Framework of the Codex Alimentarius. It also noted that national data requirements for the proposed Interim MRLs should meet criteria for the submission of data for JMPR and that procedural questions that might arise from this process should be considered carefully.

Reduction of an Extraneous Burden from the work of the JMPR

202. The Commission noted an excessive workload of JMPR and in order to streamline its work agreed to propose to the JMPR to restrict its review of environmental fate to those areas specifically related to the estimation of dietary exposure and the estimation of MRLs.

Codex Committee on Residues of Veterinary Drugs in Foods⁸⁸

203. The Commission **revised** the Codex Maximum Residues Limit of Dihydrostreptomycin/Streptomycin in cow's milk as a full MRL as recommended by the 14th Session of the Committee on Residues of Veterinary Drugs in Foods.

Codex Committee on Processed Fruits and Vegetables

Proposed Draft Revised Code of Practice for the Processing and Handling of Quick Frozen Foods⁸⁹

203. The Commission noted the request of advice of the Committee as to best way to consider the above Code taking into account the relevance of the document for its work. The Commission agreed that there was a need for such Code and had an exchange of views on the available options to move forward the document in the Codex Step Procedure.

204. The Commission recognized the dual nature of the Code covering food safety and quality issues of quick frozen foods and considered that a joint meeting of the interested committees, including the Committee on Food Hygiene and the Committee on Processed Fruits and Vegetables might be convened to address the matter.

205. The Commission **agreed** that US Secretariat assisted by the Codex Secretariat would revise the Code in light of the comments submitted while considering whether the scope of the Code applied to quick frozen foods in general or only to certain food categories (e.g. quick frozen fruits and vegetables). The revised Code would be then circulated for comments and consideration by a joint meeting of the Committees on Food Hygiene and Processed Fruits and Vegetables that would be convened to develop the Code through the Codex Step Procedure.

Proposed Draft Codex Standard for Ginseng⁹⁰

Proposal to develop Codex Standards for Fermented Soybean Paste (doenjang) and Hot Pepper Fermented Soybean Paste (Gochujang)⁹¹

206. The Commission noted that the 21st Session of the Codex Committee on Processed Fruits and Vegetables discontinued work on the elaboration of a Codex Standard for Ginseng and sought the advice of the Commission as to which Codex Committee might have the expertise to undertake the consideration of this product.

207. The Commission recalled that at its 22nd Session⁹² it had agreed that "standardization of potentially harmful herbs and botanical preparations sold as foods was a matter for national authorities to address, ... and deleted this topic from the Commission's programme of work." However, the Commission noted that the 49th Session of the Executive Committee (Geneva, September 2001) had entrusted the elaboration of a Codex Standard for Ginseng inclusive to all varieties as new work for the Codex Committee on Processed Fruits and Vegetables.

⁸⁸ ALINORM 03/31A, para. 25.

⁸⁹ ALINORM 03/27, paras. 75-88.

⁹⁰ ALINORM 03/27, paras. 75-88; CAC/26 LIM.9 (Comments from the Republic of Korea).

⁹¹ ALINORM 03/27, paras. 102-108; CAC/26 LIM.9 (Comments from the Republic of Korea).

⁹² ALINORM 97/37, para. 151.

208. The Delegation of the Republic of Korea, supported by a number of delegations, proposed that the Standard be developed by the Codex Coordinating Committee for Asia. The Delegation indicated that the Standard would cover those aspects of ginseng related to food only.

209. Some delegations expressed concern on the development of an international Codex Standard for Ginseng as this product was not regulated as a food in their national legislations. Other delegations stressed that standardization of ginseng should be restricted to its use as a food and should not involve any medicinal claims. A number of delegations indicated that ginseng was a commodity grown in countries outside the Asian region and therefore, an international standard inclusive to all varieties was necessary. These delegations also indicated that the development of an inclusive worldwide standard would take into account the concern of all Codex member countries.

210. The Commission **agreed** that the Republic of Korea should prepare a project document on purposes of the Standard, its importance, the main aspects to be covered and the time-line envisaged for its development for the next Session of the Executive Committee. It was **agreed** that a similar document should also be prepared for fermented soybean paste (doenjang) and hot pepper fermented soybean paste (gochujang). This decision was taken as part of the reviewed functions of the Executive Committee as standard management body agreed upon by the present Session of the Commission. The Commission further **agreed** that, subject to approval of the Executive Committee, work on the standardization of these products should be entrusted to the Codex Coordinating Committee for Asia and finalization by the Codex Committee on Processed Fruits and Vegetables. The Delegation of Singapore expressed its reservation on the decision for ginseng. The Commission also noted the concerns of IADSA about this decision.

Committee on Food Import and Export Inspection and Certification Systems⁹³

211. The Commission approved the recommendation of the Committee Food Import and Export Inspection and Certification Systems to discontinue work on the elaboration of the proposed draft guidelines for the utilization and promotion of Quality Assurance Systems to meet Requirements in Relation to Food.

Committee on Fats and Oils⁹⁴

212. The Commission considered the request from the Committee on Fats and Oils to elaborate evaluation criteria for substances to be included in the List of Acceptable Previous Cargoes as well as to evaluate the substances proposed in the current List at Step 4. The Commission was of the opinion that the elaboration of criteria was a risk management procedure that should be conducted by the Committee rather than as a risk assessment procedure by JECFA. The Delegations of the United States and Canada objected to this opinion since, according to these delegations, the Committee had insufficient competence to manage the list due to lack of clear procedure for amending the list, and that the list could not be revised in a timely manner. The Commission **requested** FAO and WHO to convene an expert consultation in order to assist the Committee to develop risk management principles which would include evaluation criteria for inclusion of the substances in lists of acceptable cargoes. The Secretariat of JECFA expressed the view that JECFA could provide technical advice to the Committee on risk assessment and evaluation of substances.

Ad Hoc Codex Intergovernmental Task Force on Fruit and Vegetable Juices

*Codex General Standard for Vegetable Juices (CODEX-STAN 179-1991)*⁹⁵

213. The Commission **agreed** with the recommendation of the Ad Hoc Codex Intergovernmental Task Force on Fruit and Vegetable Juices to discontinue work on the revision of the Codex General Standard for Vegetable Juices. In taking this decision, the Commission further **agreed** to withdraw the Standard from the Codex Alimentarius.

⁹³ ALINORM 03/30A para 20.

⁹⁴ ALINORM 03/17, ALINORM 03/26/14.

⁹⁵ ALINORM 03/39A, paras. 90-92; CAC/26 LIM.11 (Comments from the United States of America).

Codex Committee on Food Labelling⁹⁶

Country of Origin Labelling

214. The Commission recalled that the 49th (Extraordinary) Session of the Executive Committee had not approved new work on an amendment to the General Standard for the Labelling of Prepackaged Foods concerning the labelling of country of origin but suggested that further discussion on this question was appropriate. The Committee on Food Labelling, following discussions held at its 30th and 31st Sessions, had agreed to discontinue consideration of this issue due to lack of consensus.

215. Many delegations and observers that spoke expressed their support for continued work on country of origin labelling in order to clarify existing provisions and to prevent consumer confusion. The Delegation of France noted that such work would not necessarily lead to the revision of the General Standard but might lead to the development of guidelines to facilitate its interpretation.

216. Several other delegations that spoke opposed new work in this area as the current provisions adequately addressed the need for consumer information. They also expressed concern with a duplication of the work undertaken by WTO and the World Customs Organization (WCO) on rules of origin. One delegation pointed out that the WTO Rules of Origin were related to tariff issues, whereas Codex work on food labelling addressed the need for consumer information.

217. The Commission, recognizing that there was no consensus, **agreed** to ask the Committee on Food Labelling to continue the discussion on country of origin labelling. It also requested the Committee to report to the next session of the Commission when there would be a final decision taken regarding the approval of new work.

Codex Committee on Fish and Fishery Products⁹⁷

Proposed Draft Standard for Live and Processed Bivalve Molluscs

218. The Commission recalled that the Committee had asked FAO and WHO to provide scientific advice on biotoxins in conjunction with its work on the Proposed Draft Standard for Live and Processed Bivalve Molluscs.

219. The Commission **agreed** that risk assessment of biotoxins, although it could be covered by JECFA, would be more adequately addressed by a specific expert consultation in view of its specificity. The Commission recalled that several requests for scientific advice had been formulated, and that they would be subject to the availability of funds and the appropriate expertise and data. The Commission therefore **agreed** that this request should be considered by the Executive Committee, that would review and prioritize all requests for scientific advice.

Codex Committee on Food Hygiene

Expert Consultation on Enterobacter Genus⁹⁸

220. The Commission noted the necessity to address concerns with pathogens that may be present in infant formula and **agreed** that an expert consultation on the Enterobacter genus, including *Enterobacter sakazakii*, and *Clostridium botulinum* should be added to the list of requests for scientific advice from FAO and WHO for consideration and prioritization by the Executive Committee.

Guidelines for the Preservation of Raw Milk by Use of the Lactoperoxidase System (CAC/GL 13-1991)⁹⁹

221. The Commission recalled the request to examine the use of Lactoperoxidase system for the preservation of raw milk for products intended for international trade originating from the Committee on Milk and Milk

⁹⁶ ALINORM 03/22A, paras. 114-119.

⁹⁷ ALINORM 03/18, para. 92.

⁹⁸ ALINORM 03/13A, paras 167-173.

⁹⁹ ALINORM 03/13, paras 9-12.

Products¹⁰⁰ and the request of an expert FAO group to examine amendments to the Guidelines. The Commission noted clarification provided by the Codex Committee on Food Hygiene (ALINORM 03/13A, paras. 9-12) and **endorsed** its views as follows:

- the system should continue to be restricted to use in countries where appropriate refrigeration facilities were not available and not for international trade purposes;
- microbiological data were not clear in order to determine how effective this system was for the control of food borne pathogens and what the microbiological consequences would be of its long-term use;
- concluded that the current restrictions excluding the use of the lactoperoxidase system for products intended for international trade should continue to be applied;
- there was no need for the revision of the existing Guidelines and that a JECFA review was not needed.

222. The Commission also noted that future consideration of this matter would depend on the availability of adequate microbiological and chemical risk assessments of process.

FAO/WHO Coordinating Committee for Asia¹⁰¹

Expert Consultation on Functional Foods

223. The Commission **agreed** to request FAO and WHO to hold an Expert Consultation on Functional Foods in the list of the requests for scientific advice. It noted that this request would also be considered by the Executive Committee when prioritizing the requests for expert advice.

Asian Forum of Food Safety Regulators

224. The Commission noted the report from the Delegation of FAO on the preparatory process of the Asian Forum of Food Safety Regulators that would be held in Malaysia in 2004 as noted under the Agenda Item 12.

FAO/WHO (Codex) Regional Coordinating Committee for Europe

Regional Standard for Mayonnaise¹⁰²

225. The Commission **agreed** that work on the revision of the Regional Standard for Mayonnaise should be discontinued and that the Standard should be withdrawn from the Codex Alimentarius.

FAO/WHO Regional (Codex) Coordinating Committee for Africa

African Conference on Food Safety¹⁰³

226. The Commission noted that the Forums/Conferences on Food Safety for food safety regulators were or are being organized in certain regions of the world and supported the idea of holding such events in Africa and other regions, subject availability of funding.

FAO/WHO Regional (Codex) Committee for the Near East

227. The Commission noted that the Committee had commenced work on Guidelines for Codex Contact Points and National Codex Committee for the Near East (See Appendix VIII).

¹⁰⁰ ALINORM 03/11, paras 11-13.

¹⁰¹ ALINORM 03/15, ALINORM 03/26/14.

¹⁰² ALINORM 03/19, para 9.

¹⁰³ ALINORM 03/28, para. 52.

Reports from ad hoc Intergovernmental (Codex) Task Forces

Animal Feeding

228. The Commission noted the report of the Chairperson of the ad hoc Codex Intergovernmental Task Force on Animal Feeding¹⁰⁴.

Foods derived from Biotechnology¹⁰⁵

229. The Chairman of the Ad Hoc Intergovernmental Task Force on Foods derived from Biotechnology reported the outline of the activities and outcome of the Task Force. Several delegations expressed their appreciation to Japan and stressed the importance to continue work on safety assessment of foods derived from biotechnology in Codex.

230. The Commission considered the proposal to establish a new Task Force on Foods Derived from Biotechnology and requested Japan to submit a proposal on the new Task Force including Terms of Reference for consideration at the next session. Such a proposal would be formulated in consultation with the Codex Secretariat as appropriate, taking account of the need and priority expressed by Codex Member Countries, including the suggestions made at the 4th session of the Ad Hoc Task Force. It was also suggested that the proposed Terms of Reference should be based on the criteria for the establishment of the subsidiary body with precise terms of reference, project proposal and time frame. Some delegations emphasized the need to have the necessary science available before initiating work on any particular topic. The Representative of WHO referred to the importance of scientific inputs by joint FAO/WHO expert consultations in this area.

Fruit and Vegetable Juices¹⁰⁶

231. The Delegation of Brazil informed the Commission on the work carried out since the establishment of the Task Force in 2000. It was noted that the Task Force would need to meet one more session to finalize the minimum Brix levels for certain fruit juices to complete its work.

REPORT ON THE FINANCIAL SITUATION OF THE JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME FOR 2002/03 AND 2004/05 (Agenda Item 14)¹⁰⁷

232. The Commission noted the Secretariat's report on the budget and expenditures for 2000/2001 and on the budget for the current biennium 2002/2003. It also noted that the expenditures associated with the FAO/WHO Evaluation of Codex and Other FAO and WHO Work on Food Standards amounted to US\$ 682,000 of which US\$ 100,000 came from the Codex budget, the remainder being funded directly by FAO and WHO.

233. The Commission noted that the budget proposals for 2004/05 proposals represented a net increase in the Codex Budget of around 23% as a response to the Evaluation. The main features of the increase were:

- Secretary post remains at D-1;
- An additional P-5 officer in the Codex Secretariat from the Codex budget plus an additional P-5 officer seconded from WHO;
- Up-grade of the current P-2 Food Standards Officer to P-3;
- No Standards Management Committee;
- Funding for annual meetings of the Commission and six-monthly meetings of the Executive Committee together with funding for the participation of members of the Executive Committee to its meetings;
- Increased Non-Staff human resources for consultants/facilitators and legal review of texts.

¹⁰⁴ CAC/26 LIM.7.

¹⁰⁵ CAC/26 INF/9 (comments of ICFO), CAC/26 LIM.6.

¹⁰⁶ CAC/LIM.13 (Report of the Chairperson of the Ad Hoc Codex Intergovernmental Task Force on Fruit and Vegetable Juices).

¹⁰⁷ ALINORM 03/26/15.

234. The Commission also noted that significant additional resources had been allocated to the Codex-related work of risk assessment activities carried out by JECFA, JMPR, JEMRA and *ad hoc* FAO and WHO expert bodies, as well as for capacity building. It was noted that the above proposals required final confirmation by the Thirty-second session of FAO Conference in November/December 2003.

235. The Commission further noted that the World Health Assembly had called upon WHO to reallocate resources for its activities related to the setting of food standards based on the Codex Alimentarius with special attention to least developed countries and that the budget adopted by the Assembly in May 2003 provided for increased resources also in the area of risk assessment.

236. The Commission expressed its appreciation to FAO and WHO for their positive response to the Evaluation Report, but noted that there should be continued support for the Codex and Codex-related work in the parent Organizations also in the future, and that the further strengthening of the Codex Secretariat, including the number of professional officers as well as the seniority of its staff, needed to be addressed.

PROPOSED SCHEDULE OF CODEX SESSIONS 2003 – 2005 (Agenda Item 15)¹⁰⁸

237. The Commission noted the tentative nature of the schedule and agreed to include additional sessions for the Ad Hoc Codex Intergovernmental Task Force on Animal Feeding (May 2004) and the Ad Hoc Codex Intergovernmental Task Force on Fruit and Vegetable Juices (October 2004). The Delegation of Argentina proposed to change the date of the Codex Coordinating Committee for Latin America and the Caribbean (e.g. September 2004). The Delegation of Chile pointed out that, when planning Codex sessions, meetings held by other international organizations should also be taken into account.

238. The Commission noted that the Schedule provided for meetings of the Commission in both 2004 and 2005; meetings of the Executive Committee on a six-monthly basis; and additional meetings of the Committee on General Principles. While recognizing that such a schedule was necessary in the short term to implement the results of the Evaluation, several delegations stated that it may be more appropriate for the Commission to meet at eighteen-month intervals, taking into account the resource implications of developing countries.

239. The Commission **endorsed** the proposed Schedule of Codex Sessions 2003-2005 on the understanding that it might be subject to amendments as necessary. In doing so, the Commission noted the need to consider longer period of time between the end of scheduled sessions of Codex Committees and the meetings of the Commission itself. The Commission further noted the benefits of organizing Codex meetings in countries, especially developing ones, different from the host countries of the Codex committees/task forces.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS OF THE COMMISSION AND ELECTION OF MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (Agenda Item 16)¹⁰⁹

240. The Commission **elected** the following persons to hold office from the end of its present Session to the end of the next regular session of the Commission (or its Twenty-seventh Session):

Chairperson: Dr. Stuart SLORACH (Sweden)

Vice-Chairpersons: Dr. Claude J.S. MOSHA (United Republic of Tanzania)

Dr. Hiroshi YOSHIKURA (Japan)

Dr. Paul MAYERS (Canada)

¹⁰⁸ ALINORM 03/26/16.

¹⁰⁹ ALINORM 03/26/2.

241. The following Members of the Executive Committee were **elected** on a regional basis for the period from the end of the current session to the end of the second succeeding regular session of the Commission:

Africa: Cameroon
 Asia: Philippines
 Latin America and the Caribbean: Mexico
 Europe: Belgium
 Near East: Egypt
 North America : United States of America
 South-West Pacific: Australia

APPOINTMENT OF REGIONAL COORDINATORS (Agenda Item 17)¹¹⁰

242. In accordance with Rule II.4 (a) and (b) of the Commission's Rules of Procedure, the following Members of the Commission were **appointed** as Regional Coordinators to hold office from the end of the current session to the end of the second succeeding regular session of the Commission.

Africa: Morocco
 Asia: Republic of Korea
 Europe: Slovak Republic
 Latin America and the Caribbean: Argentina
 Near East: Jordan
 North America and South-West Pacific: Samoa

DESIGNATION OF COUNTRIES RESPONSIBLE FOR APPOINTING CHAIRPERSONS OF CODEX COMMITTEES AND TASK FORCES (Agenda Item 18)¹¹¹

243. The Commission **confirmed** the designation of Host Governments as listed in Appendix IX. It confirmed the dissolution of the *ad hoc* Intergovernmental Task Force on Food Derived from Biotechnology which had completed its work and congratulated Japan for the extraordinary work accomplished.

244. It noted the suggestion of the Delegation of Japan to explore if any countries, preferably in Asia, Africa and South America regions, would be interested in hosting Codex Committees adjourned sine die in view of a better sharing of responsibilities among Codex Member Countries. This would lead to an increased participation and would facilitate capacity building of developing countries in Codex. The Commission noted that this could be taken into account during the review of Codex Committee structures and mandates (see para. 154).

OTHER BUSINESS (Agenda Item 19)

Proposal for Risk Analysis on Substances with No ADI and /or MRL¹¹²

245. The Delegation of Thailand informed the Commission of difficulties in international trade, particularly for developing countries, arising from the presence of residues of substances for which, for reasons other than safety, there is no ADI and/or MRL and proposed that the Commission recommend that a Joint FAO/WHO Consultation should be convened with the following objectives:

- To study the lessons learnt from interruption of trade caused by the presence of traces of certain veterinary drugs.

¹¹⁰ ALINORM 03/26/17.

¹¹¹ ALINORM 03/26/17.

¹¹² CAC/26 LIM.14.

- To analyze the scientific and regulatory questions that are not answered in the current JECFA/Codex set up.
- To recommend actions and follow-up to Codex, FAO and WHO.

246. The Delegation of India drew the attention of the Commission to the report of the Coordinating Committee for Asia¹¹³ which had discussed the problems for developing countries arising from continuous changes in methods of analysis resulting in lowered limits of detection and provided two examples of the difficulties: the testing of antibiotic residues and the limits applied to nitrofurans in egg products.

247. The Commission was informed that FAO was proposing to convene two meetings to discuss the issue in consultation with its partners (WHO and OIE), the exact nature of the meetings being subject to discussion:

- a) to examine regulatory issues, including zero tolerance and *de minimis* limits; and
- b) a scientific inquiry into risks associated with substances at the limit of detection or *de minimis* levels.

248. It was proposed that both meetings would be funded from external resources and be held in late 2003 or early 2004.

249. The Commission noted that the work proposed by Thailand would be followed up and the proposed FAO technical consultations (and possibly and expert consultation) will provide advice to Codex on this issue. The examples raised by India would be forwarded as case studies for the consultations.

¹¹³

APPENDIX 1

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LISTE DES PARTICIPANTS
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APPENDIX II

**AMENDMENTS TO THE RULES OF PROCEDURE OF THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS
COMMISSION¹**

CLARIFICATION OF RULE VI.4 (VOTING AND PROCEDURES)

Amend Rule VI.4 as follows (inclusion underlined):

Subject to the provisions of paragraph 5 of this Rule and paragraph 2 of Rule X, any Member of the Commission may request a roll-call vote, in which case the vote of each Member shall be recorded.

MEMBERSHIP OF REGIONAL ECONOMIC INTEGRATION ORGANIZATIONS

Add a new Rule 1.3 to the Rules of Procedure, and re-number current Rule 1.3 as Rule 1.4:

“Membership shall also comprise regional economic integration organizations members of either FAO or WHO that notify the Director-General of FAO or WHO of their desire to be considered Members of the Commission”.

Add a new Rule to the Rules of Procedure after Rule I to read as follows:

“Rule II - Member Organizations

1. A Member Organization shall exercise membership rights on an alternative basis with its Member States that are Members of the Commission in the areas of their respective competence.
2. A Member Organization shall have the right to participate in matters within its competence in any meetings of the Commission or its subsidiary bodies in which any of its Member States is entitled to participate. This is without prejudice to the possibility for the Member States to develop or support the position of the Member Organization in areas within its competence.
3. A Member Organization may exercise on matters within its competence, in any meetings of the Commission or any subsidiary body of the Commission in which it is entitled to participate in accordance with paragraph 2, a number of votes equal to the number of its Member States which are entitled to vote in such meetings and present at the time the vote is taken. Whenever a Member Organization exercises its right to vote, its Member States shall not exercise theirs, and conversely.
4. A Member Organization shall not be eligible for election or designation, nor to hold office in the Commission or any subsidiary body. A Member Organization shall not participate in voting for any elective places in the Commission and its subsidiary bodies.
5. Before any meeting of the Commission or a subsidiary body of the Commission in which a Member Organization is entitled to participate, the Member Organization or its Member States shall indicate in writing which, as between the Member Organization and its Member States, has competence in respect of any specific question to be considered in the meeting and which, as between the Member Organization and its Member States, shall exercise the right to vote in respect of each particular agenda

¹ Amendments to the Rules of Procedure of the Codex Alimentarius Commission come into force upon approval of the Directors-General of FAO and WHO, subject to such confirmation as may be prescribed by the procedures of the two Organizations (Rule XIII.1).

item. Nothing in this paragraph shall prevent a Member Organization or its Member States from making a single declaration in the Commission and each subsidiary body in which a Member Organization is entitled to participate for the purposes of this paragraph, which declaration shall remain in force for questions and agenda items to be considered at all subsequent meetings, subject to such exceptions or modifications as may be indicated before any individual meeting.

6. Any Member of the Commission may request a Member Organization or its Member States to provide information as to which, as between the Member Organization and its Member States, has competence in respect of any specific question. The Member Organization or the Member States concerned shall provide this information on such request.

7. In cases where an agenda item covers both matters in respect of which competence has been transferred to the Member Organization and matters which lie within the competence of its Member States, both the Member Organization and its Member States may participate in the discussions. In such cases the meeting, in arriving at its decisions,² shall take into account only the intervention of the party which has the right to vote.³

8. For the purpose of determining a quorum, as specified in paragraph 6 of Rule IV, the delegation of a Member Organization shall be counted for a number equal to the number of its Member States which are entitled to participate in the meeting and are present at the time the quorum is sought, to the extent that it is entitled to vote under the relevant agenda item.”

Renumber the subsequent Rules accordingly.

² The word ‘decisions’ should be understood to mean both voting and situations where a decision is taken by consensus.

³ The above is without prejudice to the question of whether or not the views of the party not having the right to vote shall be reflected in the report of the meeting. Where the views of the party not having the right to vote are reflected in the report, the fact that they are the views of the party not having the right to vote shall also be reflected in the report.

AMENDMENTS TO THE PROCEDURAL MANUAL

AMENDMENTS TO THE GUIDELINES FOR THE INCLUSION OF SPECIFIC PROVISIONS IN CODEX STANDARDS AND RELATED TEXTS**1. AMENDMENT TO THE GENERAL CRITERIA FOR THE SELECTION OF METHODS OF ANALYSIS USING THE CRITERIA APPROACH**

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

2. WORKING INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CRITERIA APPROACH IN CODEX

(for inclusion at the end of the *Principles for the Establishment of Codex Methods of Analysis* after the above *General Criteria*)

Any Codex Commodity Committee may continue to propose an appropriate method of analysis for determining the chemical entity, or develop a set of criteria to which a method used for the determination must comply. In some cases a Codex Commodity Committee may find it easier to recommend a specific method and request the Codex Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling (CCMAS) to “convert” that method into appropriate criteria. The Criteria will then be considered by the CCMAS for endorsement and will, after the endorsement, form part of the commodity standard replacing the recommended method of analysis. If a Codex Commodity Committee wishes to develop the criteria by itself rather than allowing the CCMAS to do so, it should follow instructions given for the development of specific criteria as outlined below. These criteria must be approved for the determination in question.

However, the primary responsibility for supplying methods of analysis and criteria resides with the Commodity Committee. If the Commodity Committee fails to provide a method of analysis or criteria despite numerous requests, then the CCMAS may supply an appropriate method and “convert” that method into appropriate criteria.

The minimum “approved” Codex analytical characteristics will include the following numeric criteria as well as the general criteria for methods laid down in the Analytical Terminology for Codex Use (see page 66):

- precision (within and between laboratories, but generated from collaborative trial data rather than measurement uncertainty considerations)
- recovery
- selectivity (interference effects etc.)
- applicability (matrix, concentration range and preference given to 'general' methods)
- detection/determination limits if appropriate for the determination being considered
- linearity

CCMAS will generate the data corresponding to the above criteria.

Conversion of Specific Methods of Analysis to Method Criteria by the CCMAS

When a Codex Commodity Committee submits a Type II or Type III method to CCMAS for endorsement, it should also submit information on the criteria listed below to enable the CCMAS to convert it into suitable generalized analytical characteristics:

- accuracy
- applicability (matrix, concentration range and preference given to 'general' methods)
- detection limit
- determination limit
- precision; repeatability intra-laboratory (within laboratory), reproducibility inter-laboratory (within laboratory and between laboratories), but generated from collaborative trial data rather than measurement uncertainty considerations
- recovery
- selectivity
- sensitivity
- linearity

These terms are defined in the Analytical Terminology for Codex Use (see page 66), as are other terms of importance.

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

In addition, the CCMAS will identify numeric values for the criteria for which it would wish such methods to comply.

Assessment of the Acceptability of the Precision Characteristics of a Method of Analysis

The calculated repeatability and reproducibility values can be compared with existing methods and a comparison made. If these are satisfactory then the method can be used as a validated method. If there is no method with which to compare the precision parameters then theoretical repeatability and reproducibility values can be calculated from the Horwitz equation. (M. Thompson, *Analyst*, 2000, **125**, 385-386).

Additions to ANALYTICAL TERMINOLOGY FOR CODEX USE⁴

Terms to Be Used in the Criteria Approach

a) *Detection Limit*

The detection limit is conventionally defined as field blank + 3σ , where σ is the standard deviation of the field blank value signal (IUPAC definition).

However, an alternative definition which overcomes most of the objections to the above approach (i.e. the high variability at the limit of measurement can never be overcome) is to base it on the rounded value of the reproducibility relative standard deviation when it goes out of control (where $3\sigma_R = 100\%$; $\sigma_R = 33\%$, rounded to 50% because of the high variability). Such a value is directly related to the analyte and to the measurement system and is not based on the local measurement system.

⁴ These Definitions are proposed on an interim basis: they are subject to modification as a result of further harmonization.

b) *Determination limit*

As for detection limit except that 6σ or 10σ is required rather than 3σ .

However, an alternative definition that corresponds to that proposed for the detection limit is to use $\sigma_R = 25\%$. This value does not differ much from that assigned to the detection limit because the upper limit of the detection limit merges indistinguishably into the lower limit of the determination limit.

c) *Recovery*

Proportion of the amount of analyte present or added to the test material which is extracted and presented for measurement.

d) *Selectivity*

Selectivity is the extent to which a method can determine particular analyte(s) in mixtures or matrices without interferences from other components.

Selectivity is the recommended term in analytical chemistry to express the extent to which a particular method can determine analyte(s) in the presence of interferences from other components. Selectivity can be graded. The use of the term specificity for the same concept is to be discouraged as this often leads to confusion.

e) *Linearity*

The ability of a method of analysis, within a certain range, to provide an instrumental response or results proportional to the quantity of analyte to be determined in the laboratory sample. This proportionality is expressed by an a priori defined mathematical expression. The linearity limits are the experimental limits of concentrations between which a linear calibration model can be applied with a known confidence level (generally taken to be equal to 1%).

**ADDITION TO APPENDIX TO THE PROCEDURAL MANUAL: GENERAL DECISIONS OF
THE COMMISSION
MEASURES TO FACILITATE CONSENSUS**

The Codex Alimentarius Commission, desiring that every effort should be made to reach agreement on the adoption or amendment of standards by consensus, recommends the following measures to facilitate consensus:

- Refraining from submitting proposals in the step process where the scientific basis is not well established on current data and, where necessary, carry out further studies in order to clarify controversial issues;
- Providing for thorough discussions and documentation of the issues at meetings of the committees concerned;
- Organizing informal meetings of the parties concerned where disagreements arise, provided that the objectives of any such meetings are clearly defined by the Committee concerned and that participation is open to all interest delegations and observers in order to preserve transparency;
- Redefining, where possible, the scope of the subject matter being considered for the elaboration of standards in order to cut out issues on which consensus could not be reached;
- Providing that matters are not progressed from step to step until all relevant concerns are taken into account and adequate compromises worked out;

- Emphasizing to Committees and their Chairpersons that matters should not be passed on to the Commission until such time as consensus has been achieved at the technical level;
 - Facilitating the increased involvement and participation of developing countries.
-

TERMS OF REFERENCE OF CODEX COMMITTEES AND TASK FORCES

Amend the name and terms of reference of the Codex Committee on Meat and poultry Hygiene to read as follows:

CODEX COMMITTEE ON MEAT HYGIENE (CX-723)

To elaborate world-wide standards and/or codes of practice as appropriate for meat hygiene.

APPENDIX IV

**WORKING PRINCIPLES FOR RISK ANALYSIS FOR APPLICATION IN THE
FRAMEWORK OF THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS**

SCOPE

- 1) These principles for risk analysis are intended for application in the framework of the Codex Alimentarius.
- 2) The objective of these Working Principles is to provide guidance to the Codex Alimentarius Commission and the joint FAO/WHO expert bodies and consultations, so that food safety and health aspects of Codex standards and related texts are based on risk analysis.
- 3) Within the framework of the Codex Alimentarius Commission and its procedures, the responsibility for providing advice on risk management lies with the Commission and its subsidiary bodies (risk managers), while the responsibility for risk assessment lies primarily with the joint FAO/WHO expert bodies and consultations (risk assessors).

RISK ANALYSIS - GENERAL ASPECTS

- 4) The risk analysis used in Codex should be:
 - applied consistently;
 - open, transparent and documented;
 - conducted in accordance with both the *Statements of Principle Concerning the Role of Science in the Codex Decision-Making Process and the Extent to Which Other Factors are Taken into Account* and the *Statements of Principle Relating to the Role of Food Safety Risk Assessment*; and
 - evaluated and reviewed as appropriate in the light of newly generated scientific data.
- 5) The risk analysis should follow a structured approach comprising the three distinct but closely linked components of risk analysis (risk assessment, risk management and risk communication) as defined by the Codex Alimentarius Commission¹, each component being integral to the overall risk analysis.
- 6) The three components of risk analysis should be documented fully and systematically in a transparent manner. While respecting legitimate concerns to preserve confidentiality, documentation should be accessible to all interested parties².
- 7) Effective communication and consultation with all interested parties should be ensured throughout the risk analysis.
- 8) The three components of risk analysis should be applied within an overarching framework for management of food related risks to human health.
- 9) There should be a functional separation of risk assessment and risk management, in order to ensure the scientific integrity of the risk assessment, to avoid confusion over the functions to be performed by risk assessors and risk managers and to reduce any conflict of interest. However, it is recognized that risk analysis is an iterative process, and interaction between risk managers and risk assessors is essential for practical application.

¹ See *Definitions of Risk Analysis Terms Related to Food Safety*, page 43-44 12th Edition Codex Alimentarius Commission Procedural Manual.

² For the purpose of the present document, the term “interested parties” refers to “risk assessors, risk managers, consumers, industry, the academic community and, as appropriate, other relevant parties and their representative organizations” (see definition of “Risk Communication”)

10) When there is evidence that a risk to human health exists but scientific data are insufficient or incomplete, the Codex Alimentarius Commission should not proceed to elaborate a standard but should consider elaborating a related text, such as a code of practice, provided that such a text would be supported by the available scientific evidence.³

11) Precaution is an inherent element of risk analysis. Many sources of uncertainty exist in the process of risk assessment and risk management of food related hazards to human health. The degree of uncertainty and variability in the available scientific information should be explicitly considered in the risk analysis. Where there is sufficient scientific evidence to allow Codex to proceed to elaborate a standard or related text, the assumptions used for the risk assessment and the risk management options selected should reflect the degree of uncertainty and the characteristics of the hazard.

12) The needs and situations of developing countries should be specifically identified and taken into account by the responsible bodies in the different stages of the risk analysis.

RISK ASSESSMENT POLICY

13) Determination of risk assessment policy should be included as a specific component of risk management.

14) Risk assessment policy should be established by risk managers in advance of risk assessment, in consultation with risk assessors and all other interested parties. This procedure aims at ensuring that the risk assessment is systematic, complete, unbiased and transparent.

15) The mandate given by risk managers to risk assessors should be as clear as possible.

16) Where necessary, risk managers should ask risk assessors to evaluate the potential changes in risk resulting from different risk management options.

RISK ASSESSMENT⁴

17) The scope and purpose of the particular risk assessment being carried out should be clearly stated and in accordance with risk assessment policy. The output form and possible alternative outputs of the risk assessment should be defined

18) Experts responsible for risk assessment should be selected in a transparent manner on the basis of their expertise, experience, and their independence with regard to the interests involved. The procedures used to select these experts should be documented including a public declaration of any potential conflict of interest. This declaration should also identify and detail their individual expertise, experience and independence. Expert bodies and consultations should ensure effective participation of experts from different parts of the world, including experts from developing countries.

19) Risk assessment should be conducted in accordance with the *Statements of Principle Relating to the Role of Food Safety Risk Assessment* and should incorporate the four steps of the risk assessment, i.e. hazard identification, hazard characterization, exposure assessment and risk characterization.

20) Risk assessment should be based on all available scientific data. It should use available quantitative information to the greatest extent possible. Risk assessment may also take into account qualitative information.

21) Risk assessment should take into account relevant production, storage and handling practices used throughout the food chain including traditional practices, methods of analysis, sampling and inspection and the prevalence of specific adverse health effects.

22) Risk assessment should seek and incorporate relevant data from different parts of the world, including that from developing countries. These data should particularly include epidemiological surveillance data, analytical and exposure data. Where relevant data are not available from developing countries, the Commission should request that FAO/WHO initiate time-bound studies for this purpose. The conduct of the risk assessment should not be

³ Statement adopted by the 24th Session of the Commission (ALINORM 01/41, paras. 81-83)

⁴ Reference is made to the *Statements of Principle Relating to the Role of Food Safety Risk Assessment*

inappropriately delayed pending receipt of these data; however, the risk assessment should be reconsidered when such data are available.

23) Constraints, uncertainties and assumptions having an impact on the risk assessment should be explicitly considered at each step in the risk assessment and documented in a transparent manner. Expression of uncertainty or variability in risk estimates may be qualitative or quantitative, but should be quantified to the extent that is scientifically achievable.

24) Risk assessments should be based on realistic exposure scenarios, with consideration of different situations being defined by risk assessment policy. They should include consideration of susceptible and high-risk population groups. Acute, chronic (including long-term), cumulative and/or combined adverse health effects should be taken into account in carrying out risk assessment, where relevant.

25) The report of the risk assessment should indicate any constraints, uncertainties, assumptions and their impact on the risk assessment. Minority opinions should also be recorded. The responsibility for resolving the impact of uncertainty on the risk management decision lies with the risk manager, not the risk assessors.

26) The conclusion of the risk assessment including a risk estimate, if available, should be presented in a readily understandable and useful form to risk managers and made available to other risk assessors and interested parties so that they can review the assessment.

RISK MANAGEMENT

27) While recognizing the dual purposes of the Codex Alimentarius are protecting the health of consumers and ensuring fair practices in the food trade, Codex decisions and recommendations on risk management should have as their primary objective the protection of the health of consumers. Unjustified differences in the level of consumer health protection to address similar risks in different situations should be avoided.

28) Risk management should follow a structured approach including preliminary risk management activities⁵, evaluation of risk management options, monitoring and review of the decision taken. The decisions should be based on risk assessment, and taking into account, where appropriate, other legitimate factors relevant for the health protection of consumers and for the promotion of fair practices in food trade, in accordance with the *Criteria for the Consideration of the Other Factors Referred to in the Second Statement of Principles*⁶.

29) The Codex Alimentarius Commission and its subsidiary bodies, acting as risk managers in the context of these Working Principles, should ensure that the conclusion of the risk assessment is presented before making final proposals or decisions on the available risk management options, in particular in the setting of standards or maximum levels, bearing in mind the guidance given in paragraph 10.

30) In achieving agreed outcomes, risk management should take into account relevant production, storage and handling practices used throughout the food chain including traditional practices, methods of analysis, sampling and inspection, feasibility of enforcement and compliance, and the prevalence of specific adverse health effects.

31) The risk management process should be transparent, consistent and fully documented. Codex decisions and recommendations on risk management should be documented, and where appropriate clearly identified in individual Codex standards and related texts so as to facilitate a wider understanding of the risk management process by all interested parties.

32) The outcome of the preliminary risk management activities and the risk assessment should be combined with the evaluation of available risk management options in order to reach a decision on management of the risk.

⁵ For the purpose of these Principles, preliminary risk management activities are taken to include: identification of a food safety problem; establishment of a risk profile; ranking of the hazard for risk assessment and risk management priority; establishment of risk assessment policy for the conduct of the risk assessment; commissioning of the risk assessment; and consideration of the result of the risk assessment.

⁶ These criteria have been adopted by the 24th Session of the Commission (see Procedural Manual 12th Edition - Appendix, page 165)

33) Risk management options should be assessed in terms of the scope and purpose of risk analysis and the level of consumer health protection they achieve. The option of not taking any action should also be considered.

34) In order to avoid unjustified trade barriers, risk management should ensure transparency and consistency in the decision-making process in all cases. Examination of the full range of risk management options should, as far as possible, take into account an assessment of their potential advantages and disadvantages. When making a choice among different risk management options, which are equally effective in protecting the health of the consumer, the Commission and its subsidiary bodies should seek and take into consideration the potential impact of such measures on trade among its Member countries and select measures that are no more trade-restrictive than necessary.

35) Risk management should take into account the economic consequences and the feasibility of risk management options. Risk management should also recognize the need for alternative options in the establishment of standards, guidelines and other recommendations, consistent with the protection of consumers' health. In taking these elements into consideration, the Commission and its subsidiary bodies should give particular attention to the circumstances of developing countries.

36) Risk management should be a continuing process that takes into account all newly generated data in the evaluation and review of risk management decisions. Food standards and related texts should be reviewed regularly and updated as necessary to reflect new scientific knowledge and other information relevant to risk analysis.

RISK COMMUNICATION

37) Risk communication should :

- i) promote awareness and understanding of the specific issues under consideration during the risk analysis ;
- ii) promote consistency and transparency in formulating risk management options/recommendations;
- iii) provide a sound basis for understanding the risk management decisions proposed;
- iv) improve the overall effectiveness and efficiency of the risk analysis ;
- v) strengthen the working relationships among participants;
- vi) foster public understanding of the process, so as to enhance trust and confidence in the safety of the food supply;
- vii) promote the appropriate involvement of all interested parties; and
- viii) exchange information in relation to the concerns of interested parties about the risks associated with food.

38) Risk analysis should include clear, interactive and documented communication, amongst risk assessors (Joint FAO/WHO expert bodies and consultations) and risk managers (Codex Alimentarius Commission and its subsidiary bodies), and reciprocal communication with member countries and all interested parties in all aspects of the process.

39) Risk communication should be more than the dissemination of information. Its major function should be to ensure that all information and opinion required for effective risk management is incorporated into the decision making process.

40) Risk communication involving interested parties should include a transparent explanation of the risk assessment policy and of the assessment of risk, including the uncertainty. The need for specific standards or related texts and the procedures followed to determine them, including how the uncertainty was dealt with, should also be clearly explained. It should indicate any constraints, uncertainties, assumptions and their impact on the risk analysis, and minority opinions that had been expressed in the course of the risk assessment (see para.25).

41) The guidance on risk communication in this document is addressed to all those involved in carrying out risk analysis within the framework of Codex Alimentarius. However, it is also of importance for this work to be made as transparent and accessible as possible to those not directly engaged in the process and other interested parties while respecting legitimate concerns to preserve confidentiality (See para. 6).

ANNEX 1

DEFINITIONS***Definitions included in the Procedural Manual***

Hazard: A biological, chemical or physical agent in, or condition of, food with the potential to cause an adverse health effect.

Risk: A function of the probability of an adverse health effect and the severity of that effect, consequential to a hazard(s) in food.

Risk Analysis: A process consisting of three components: risk assessment, risk management and risk communication.

Risk Assessment: A scientifically based process consisting of the following steps: (i) hazard identification, (ii) hazard characterization, (iii) exposure assessment, and (iv) risk characterization.

Hazard Identification: The identification of biological, chemical, and physical agents capable of causing adverse health effects and which may be present in a particular food or group of foods.

Hazard Characterization: The qualitative and/or quantitative evaluation of the nature of the adverse health effects associated with biological, chemical and physical agents, which may be present in food. For chemical agents, a dose-response assessment should be performed. For biological or physical agents, a dose-response assessment should be performed if the data are obtainable.

Dose-Response Assessment: The determination of the relationship between the magnitude of exposure (dose) to a chemical, biological or physical agent and the severity and/or frequency of associated adverse health effects (response).

Exposure Assessment: The qualitative and/or quantitative evaluation of the likely intake of biological, chemical, and physical agents via food as well as exposures from other sources if relevant.

Risk Characterization: The qualitative and/or quantitative estimation, including attendant uncertainties, of the probability of occurrence and severity of known or potential adverse health effects in a given population based on hazard identification, hazard characterization and exposure assessment.

Risk Management: The process, distinct from risk assessment of weighing policy alternatives, in consultation with all interested parties, considering risk assessment and other factors relevant for the health protection of consumers and for the promotion of fair trade practices, and, if needed, selecting appropriate prevention and control options.

Risk Communication: The interactive exchange of information and opinions throughout the risk analysis process concerning risk, risk-related factors and risk perceptions, among risk assessors, risk managers, consumers, industry, the academic community and other interested parties, including the explanation of risk assessment findings and the basis of risk management decisions.

Other Definitions

Risk Assessment Policy: Documented guidelines on the choice of options and associated judgements for their application at appropriate decision points in the risk assessment such that the scientific integrity of the process is maintained.

Risk profile: The description of the food safety problem and its context

Risk estimate: The quantitative estimation of risk resulting from risk characterization.

APPENDIX V

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

Part 1. Standards and Related Texts Adopted at Step 8 as Final Texts

STANDARD AND RELATED TEXTS	REFERENCE	STATUS
African Regional Guidelines for National Codex Contact Points and National Codex Committees	ALINORM 03/28; Appendix II, para. 25	Adopted
Standard for Chocolate and Chocolate Products ⁷	ALINORM 03/14; Appendix II	Adopted (see para. 42)
Codex General Standard for Food Additives: Revisions to the Annex to Table 3	ALINORM 03/12A; Appendix III, para. 56	Adopted
International Numbering System for Food Additives: Amendments	ALINORM 03/12A; Appendix VII, para(s) 96, 99	Adopted
Codex General Standard for Food Additives: Amendments to Annexes and Tables	ALINORM 03/12; Appendix II, para. 61	Adopted
Code of Practice on the Prevention and Reduction of Patulin Contamination in Apple Juice and Apple Juice Ingredients in Other Beverages	ALINORM 03/12A; Appendix IX, para. 123	Adopted (see para. 44)
Maximum Levels for Patulin in Apple Juice and Apple Juice Ingredients in Other Beverages	ALINORM 03/12; Appendix X, para. 118	Adopted (see para. 40)
Code of Practice for the Prevention (Reduction) of Mycotoxin Contamination in Cereals, including Annexes on Ochratoxin A, Zearalenone, Fumonisin and Tricothecenes	ALINORM 03/12A; Appendix X, para. 127	Adopted
General Standard for Irradiated Foods: Revision ⁸	ALINORM 03/12A; Appendix V, para. 78	Adopted (see para(s) 48-50)
Draft Principles for the Risk Analysis of Foods Derived from Modern Biotechnology	ALINORM 03/34; Appendix II, para. 34	Adopted with editorial amendments to the French and Spanish version (see para. 52)

⁷ Existing standards for Chocolate, Composite and Filled Chocolate, and Cocoa Butter Confectionery to be revoked

⁸ Existing standard to be withdrawn

STANDARD AND RELATED TEXTS	REFERENCE	STATUS
Guideline for the Conduct of Food Safety Assessment of Foods Derived from Recombinant-DNA Plants	ALINORM 03/34; Appendix III, para. 61	Adopted with editorial amendments to the French and Spanish version (see para. 52)
Guideline for the Conduct of Food Safety Assessment of Foods Produced Using Recombinant-DNA Microorganisms	ALINORM 03/34A; Appendix II	Adopted with editorial amendments to the French version (see para. 52)
Standard for Boiled Dried Salted Anchovies	ALINORM 03/18; Appendix III, para. 24	Adopted
Draft Code of Practice for Fish and Fishery Products ⁹	ALINORM 03/18; Appendix II, para(s) 76, 82	Adopted with amendments (see para. 51)
Codex Standards for Limes, Pummelos and Grapefruits: Revised Provisions: Section 3 – Provisions concerning Sizing and Section 6.2.4 – Commercial Identification of the	ALINORM 03/35; Appendix IV, para. 73	Adopted (see para. 52)
Standard for Pitahayas	ALINORM 03/35; Appendix III, para. 41	Adopted
Standard for Sweet Cassava	ALINORM 03/35; Appendix II, para. 32	Adopted
Code of Hygienic Practice for Fresh Fruits and Vegetables	ALINORM 03/13; Appendix II, para. 65	Adopted with amendment (see para. 59)
Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point System and Guidelines for its Application; Revision	ALINORM 03/13A; Appendix II, para. 30	Adopted (see para. 60)
Guidelines for Food Import Control Systems	ALINORM 03/30; Appendix II, para(s) 9-30	Adopted (see para. 61)
Guidelines for the Judgment of Equivalence of Sanitary Measures Associated with Food Inspection and Certification Systems	ALINORM 03/30A; Appendix II, para(s) 8-16	Adopted (see para(s) 63-65)
Guidelines for the Production, Processing, Labelling and Marketing of Organically Produced Foods: Amendment to Section 5: Criteria	ALINORM 03/22A; Appendix V, para. 80	Adopted (see para. 66)
General Standard for the Labelling of Prepackaged Foods: Amendment to Class Names	ALINORM 03/22A; Appendix II, para. 24	Adopted
Guidelines on Nutrition Labelling: Amendment	ALINORM 03/22A; Appendix III, para. 41	Adopted (see para(s) 68-73)

⁹ Existing Codes of Practice for Fresh Fish, Frozen Fish, Minced Fish, and Canned Fish to be revoked.

STANDARD AND RELATED TEXTS	REFERENCE	STATUS
Standard for Olive Oils and Olive Pomace Oils: Revision	ALINORM 03/17; Appendix II, para. 31	Adopted with amendments (see paras 81-84)
Harmonized IUPAC Guidelines for Single-Laboratory Validation of Methods of Analysis	ALINORM 03/23; Appendix III, para. 95	Adopted by reference (see paras 94-95)
General Methods of Analysis for the Detection of Irradiated Foods	ALINORM 03/23; Appendix III, part F	Adopted
General Methods of Analysis for Additives and Contaminants	ALINORM 03/23; Appendix III, part G	Adopted
Standard for Cream and Prepared Creams: Revision ¹⁰	ALINORM 03/11; Appendix II, para. 36	Adopted with editorial amendments (see para(s) 99-100)
Standard for Fermented Milks: Revision ¹¹	ALINORM 03/11; Appendix III, para(s) 61-62	Adopted with editorial amendments (see para(s) 96-98)
Standard for Whey Powders: Revision ¹²	ALINORM 03/11; Appendix IV, para. 74	Adopted with amendments (see paras 99-100)
General Principles of Meat Hygiene	ALINORM 03/16A; Appendix II, para(s) 6-17	Adopted
Standard for Aqueous Coconut Products: Coconut Milk and Coconut Cream	ALINORM 03/27; Appendix V, para. 74	Adopted
Standard for Canned Bamboo Shoots	ALINORM 03/27; Appendix II, para. 25	Adopted with amendments (see para. 104)
Standard for Canned Stone Fruits ¹³	ALINORM 03/27; Appendix III, para. 47	Adopted
Guidelines for Packing Media for Canned Fruits	ALINORM 03/27; Appendix IV, para. 52	Adopted with amendments to the Spanish version (see para. 106)
Maximum Limits for Pesticide Residues	ALINORM 03/24A; Appendix III	Adopted

¹⁰ Revision of the Codex Standard for Cream for Direct Consumption (CODEX STAN A-9-1976). Existed standard to be withdrawn

¹¹ Revision of the Codex Standard for Yoghurt (Yogurt) and Sweetened Yoghurt (Yogurt) and the Codex Standards for Flavoured Yoghurt (Yogurt) and Products Heat-Treated after Fermentation (CODEX STAN A-11(a)-1975 and A-11(b)-1976, respectively). Existed standards to be withdrawn

¹² Existing standard to be withdrawn

¹³ Existing standards for Canned Peaches, Canned Apricots and Canned Plums to be withdrawn

STANDARD AND RELATED TEXTS	REFERENCE	STATUS
Pesticides: Maximum Residue Limits (MRLs)	ALINORM 03/24; Appendix II, para(s) 48-156	Adopted except draft MRLs for amitrole (079), carbendazim (072) piperonyl butoxide (062) (see para. 108)
Extraneous Maximum Residue Limits	ALINORM 03/24A, para(s) 139-140	Adopted (see para. 109)
Guidelines on Good Laboratory Practice in Pesticide Residue Analysis: Revision ¹⁴	ALINORM 03/24A; Appendix II, para(s) 150-153	Adopted
Veterinary Drugs: Maximum Residue Limits	ALINORM 03/31A; Appendix II	Adopted
Veterinary Drugs: Maximum Residue Limits	ALINORM 03/31; Appendix II	Adopted with amendments (see paras 112-114)

¹⁴

Existing text to be withdrawn

Part 2. Standards and Related Texts Adopted at Step 5 and Step 8 as Final Texts with Recommendations to Omit Step 6 and 7

STANDARD AND RELATED TEXTS	REFERENCE	STATUS
International Numbering System for Food Additives: Amendments	ALINORM 03/12; Appendix VII, para. 97	Adopted
International Numbering System for Food Additives: Amendments	ALINORM 03/12A; Appendix VII, para(s) 96, 99	Adopted
Codex General Standard for Food Additives: Amendments to Annexes and Tables	ALINORM 03/12; Appendix II, para. 61	Adopted
Advisory Specifications for the Identity and Purity of Food Additives	ALINORM 03/12; Appendix VI, para(s) 93-95	Adopted
Advisory Specifications for the Identity and Purity of Food Additives	ALINORM 03/12A; Appendix VI, para. 94	Adopted
Recommended International Code of Practice for the Radiation Processing of Food; Revision ¹⁵	ALINORM 03/12; Appendix V, para. 88	Adopted
Annex on the Assessment of Possible Allergenicity of the Draft Guideline for the Conduct of Food Safety Assessment of Foods derived from Recombinant-DNA Plants	ALINORM 03/34; Appendix IV, para. 74	Adopted with editorial amendments to the French and Spanish version (see para. 52)
Standard for Named Vegetable Oils: Amendments (Mid-Oleic Acid Sunflower Oil, Palm Superolein and additional data to Table 3 and 4)	ALINORM 03/17; Appendix III, para(s) 65, 67, 69	Adopted
Codex General Standard for Cheese: Amendment - Appendix on Cheese Rind, Surface and Coating	ALINORM 03/11; Appendix VI	Adopted with amendments (see paras 101-102)
Pesticides: Maximum Residue Limits (MRLs)	ALINORM 03/24; Appendix II, para(s) 48-156	Adopted (see para. 108)
Maximum Limits for Pesticide Residues	ALINORM 03/24A; Appendix IV	Adopted
Recommended Methods of Analysis for Pesticide Residues: Amendments to the Introduction Section	ALINORM 03/24; Appendix V, para. 164	Adopted

¹⁵ Existed text to be withdrawn

STANDARD AND RELATED TEXTS	REFERENCE	STATUS
Veterinary Drugs: Maximum Residue Limits	ALINORM 03/31A; Appendix III	Adopted
Veterinary Drugs: Maximum Residue Limits	ALINORM 03/31; Appendix III	Adopted with amendments (see paras 116-117)

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

STANDARD AND RELATED TEXTS	REFERENCE	STATUS
International Numbering System for Food Additives: Amendments	ALINORM 03/12; Appendix VII, para. 97	Adopted
Glossary of Terms and Definitions for Residues of Veterinary Drugs in Foods: Amendments	ALINORM 03/31; Appendix VI	Adopted

APPENDIX VI

**LIST OF DRAFT STANDARDS AND RELATED TEXTS ADOPTED AT STEP 5
BY THE TWENTY-SIXTH SESSION OF THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS
COMMISSION**

STANDARD AND RELATED TEXTS	REFERENCE	STATUS
Code of Practice on Good Animal Feeding	ALINORM 03/38A; Appendix II	Adopted at Step 5 and advanced to Step 8 (with the omission of Steps 6 and 7), with the exception of the definition of “feed additive” and paragraphs 11, 12 and 13 that were advanced to Step 6 only for further consideration by an additional session of the <i>ad hoc</i> Task Force on Animal Feeding (Para 41).
General Standard for Fruit Juices and Nectars	ALINORM 39A; Appendix II, para(s) 86-88	Adopted (paras 86-89). Main text advanced to Step 7 with amendments. Proposed Draft Minimum Brix Levels for Reconstituted Juice and Reconstituted Purée and Minimum Juice and/or Purée for Fruit Nectar (% v/v) - grape, guava, mandarine/tangerine, mango, passion fruit and tamarind (Indian date) juice (at Step 5) and orange, lemon, lime and pineapple juice (at Step 3) advanced to Step 6
Instant Noodles	ALINORM 03/15; Appendix II, para. 74	Adopted (see paras 119-121)
Risk Analysis Principles	ALINORM 03/12A; Appendix IV, para. 28	Adopted
Food Category System of the General Standard for Food Additives	ALINORM 03/12A; Appendix II, para. 51	Adopted (see para. 123)
Principles for Exposure Assessment of Contaminants and Toxins in Foods	ALINORM 03/12A; Appendix VIII, para. 119	Adopted (see para. 124)
Prevention and Reduction of Aflatoxin Contamination in Peanuts	ALINORM 03/12A; Appendix XI, para. 136	Adopted
Prevention and Reduction of Lead Contamination in Food in Food	ALINORM 03/12A; Appendix XII, para. 152	Adopted
Model Certificate for Fish and Fishery Products	ALINORM 03/18; Appendix V, para. 101	Adopted (see para. 127)

STANDARD AND RELATED TEXTS	REFERENCE	STATUS
Quick Frozen Lobsters (Amendment)	ALINORM 03/18; Appendix VI, para. 115	Adopted
Table Grapes	ALINORM 03/35; Appendix VI, para. 103	Adopted
Code of Hygienic Practice for Milk and Milk Products	ALINORM 03/13A; Appendix III, para. 150	Adopted
General Standard for Fruit Juices and Nectars: Brix Levels for certain products.	ALINORM 39A; Appendix III, para. 88	Adopted (see para. 130)
Guidelines for the Production, Processing, Labelling and Marketing of Organically Produced Foods: - Permitted Substances: Annex 2	ALINORM 03/22A; Appendix VI, para. 98	Adopted (see paras 131-132)
Guidelines on Sampling	ALINORM 03/23; Appendix IV, para. 19	Adopted
Guidelines on Measurement Uncertainty ¹⁶	ALINORM 03/23; Appendix V, para. 52	Adopted
Code of Hygienic Practice for Meat	ALINORM 03/16A; Appendix III, para(s) 18-77	Adopted (see para. 134)
Pesticides: Maximum Residue Limits (MRLs)	ALINORM 03/24A; Appendix V	Adopted
Veterinary Drugs: Maximum Residue Limits	ALINORM 03/31A; Appendix V	Adopted (see para. 136)

¹⁶ This implies a consequential amendment to CAC/GL 27-1997 *Guidelines for the Assessment of the Competence of Testing Laboratories Involved in the Import and Export of Foods*. ISO/IEC Guide 25 has been superseded by ISO/IEC 17025 and the new reference is quoted in the Introduction of the Proposed Draft Guidelines on Measurement Uncertainty (ALINORM 03/23, para 48).

APPENDIX VII

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

Texts Abolished/Revoked

STANDARD OR RELATED TEXT	REFERENCE
Codex Maximum Residue Limits for Pesticides Recommended for Revocation	ALINORM 03/24, Appendix.IV
Codex Maximum Residue Limits Recommended for Revocation	ALINORM 03/24A, Appendix. VI
Codex General Standard for Vegetable Juices (CODEX STAN 179-1991)	ALINORM 03/39A, para(s) 90-92
Codex Regional European Standard for Mayonnaise (CODEX STAN 168-1989)	ALINORM 03/19, para. 9
Codex Standard for Chocolate (CODEX STAN 87-1981)*	ALINORM 03/14, para 67
Codex Standard for Composite and Filled Chocolate (CODEX STAN 142-1983)*	ALINORM 03/14, para 67
Codex Standard for Cocoa Butter Confectionary (CODEX STAN 147-1985)*	ALINORM 03/14, para 67
Codex Standard for Yoghurt (Yogurt) and Sweetened Yoghurt (Yogurt) (CODEX STAN A-11(a)-1975)**	ALINORM 03/11, para 61-62
Codex Standard for Flavoured Yoghurt (Yogurt) and Products Heat-Treated after Fermentation (CODEX STAN A-11(b)-1976)**	ALINORM 03/11, para 61-62
Codex Standard for Canned Apricots (CODEX STAN 129-1981)†	ALINORM 03/27, para 47
Codex Standard for Canned Peaches (CODEX STAN 14-1981)†	ALINORM 03/27, para 47
Codex Standard for Canned Plums (CODEX STAN 59-1981)†	ALINORM 03/27, para 47
Code of Practice for Fresh Fish (CAC/RCP 9-1976)‡	ALINORM 03/18, para 76
Code of Practice for Frozen Fish (CAC/RCP 16-1978)‡	ALINORM 03/18, para 76
Code of Practice for Minced Fish (CAC/RCP 27-1983)‡	ALINORM 03/18, para 76
Code of Practice for Canned Fish (CAC/RCP 10-1976)‡	ALINORM 03/18, para 76

* Replaced by the Codex Standard for Chocolate and Chocolate Products

** Replaced by the Codex Standard for Fermented Milks

† Replaced by the Codex Standard for Canned Stone Fruits

‡ Replaced by the Code of Practice for Fish and Fishery Products

APPENDIX VIII

APPROVED NEW WORK

RESPONSIBLE COMMITTEE	STANDARD AND RELATED TEXTS
CCFAC	Revise the Preamble to the Codex General Standard for Food Additives
CCFAC	Proposed Draft Code of Practice for the Safe Use of Active Chlorine
CCFAC	Revise the Guideline Levels for Radionuclides in Foods following Accidental Nuclear Contamination for Use in International Trade (CAC/GL 5-1989), Including Guideline Levels for Long Term Use
CCFAC	Proposed Draft Maximum Levels for aflatoxins in almonds, hazelnuts and pistachios
CCFAC	Proposed Draft Code of Practice for the Prevention and Reduction of Tin Contamination in Foods
CCFAC	Proposed Draft Maximum Levels for Doexynivalenol
CCFFP	Proposed Draft Standard for Sturgeon Caviar
CCFFP	Proposed Draft Amendments to the Standard for Salted Fish and Dried Salted Fish of the Gadidae Family (sampling and analysis)
CCFFV	Proposed Draft Codex Standard for Rambutan (to be prepared by Thailand for consideration by the 11th Session of the CCFFV)
CCFO	Proposed Draft Amendment to the Standard for Named Vegetable Oils; Amendment of Sesameseed Oil and Inclusion of Rice Bran Oil
CCFO	Proposed Draft Amendment to Table 1 of the Recommended International Code of Practice for the Storage and Transport of Edible Fats and Oils in Bulk with accelerated procedure
CCMAS	Proposed Draft Guidelines for Settling Disputes on Analytical (Test) Results

RESPONSIBLE COMMITTEE	STANDARD AND RELATED TEXTS
CCMAS	Review of Analytical Terminology for Codex Use (Procedural Manual)
CCNEA	Proposed Draft Standard for Tehine
CCNEA	Proposed Draft Guidelines for Codex Contact Points and National Codex Committee for the Near East
CCNFSDU	Proposed Draft recommendations on the Scientific Basis of Health Claims
CCPR	Priority List of Pesticides (new pesticides and pesticides under periodic review)
CCPR	Proposed Draft Guidelines on the Use of Mass Spectrometry (MS) for Identification, Confirmation and Quantitative Determination of Residues
CCPR	Periodic review of the Existing Texts Relating to Methods of Analysis and Sampling for the Determination of Residues for Compliance with MRLs
CCPR	Proposed Draft Guidelines on the Estimation of Uncertainty of Results
CCPR	Proposed Revised Criteria for Prioritization Process of Compounds for Evaluation by JMPR
CCRVDF	Priority List of Veterinary Drugs Requiring Evaluation or Re-evaluation
CCMMP	Fermented Milk Drinks (whether as an amendment to the existing standard for Fermented Milks or as a new standard, to be decided)

APPENDIX IX

**COUNTRIES RESPONSIBLE FOR APPOINTING CHAIRPERSONS
OF CODEX SUBSIDIARY BODIES**

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

Ad hoc Intergovernmental Task Forces established by the 23rd Session of the Commission

CX 801	<i>ad hoc</i> Codex Intergovernmental Task Force on Fruit and Vegetable Juices	Brazil
CX 803	<i>ad hoc</i> Codex Intergovernmental Task Force on Animal Feeding	Denmark
