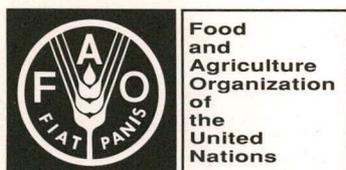
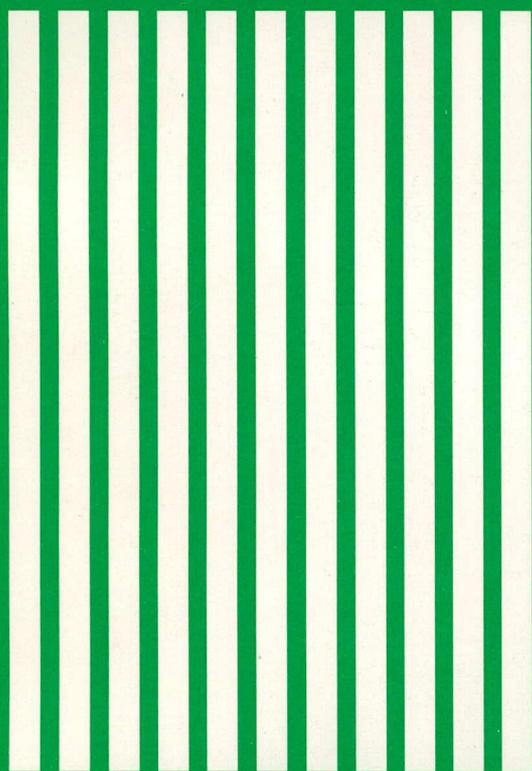


Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme

CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION

REPORT OF THE TWENTY-SECOND SESSION
Geneva, 23-28 June 1997



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REPORT OF THE TWENTY-SECOND SESSION
OF THE
JOINT FAO/WHO CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION
Geneva, 23-28 June 1997

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION

Rome, 1997

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CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION

Twenty-second Session, Geneva, 23-28 June 1997

Summary and Conclusions

The Commission:

- Noted with satisfaction that in the proposed budget for the biennium 1998/1999, US\$ 400 000 had been restored mainly to strengthen the documentation service and provide additional expert support to the Commission, but felt that the implications of the proposed reduction in the overall Codex budget should be carefully evaluated and that the budgetary reduction as currently proposed should not lead to inefficiency in Codex document distribution nor in its other important activity areas (paragraphs 16, 17);
- Raised concern that reducing the duration of Codex sessions would not allow sufficient time for the consideration of the matters in question and limiting the length of Codex meeting reports would make them less useful for understanding how positions were reached (paragraph 18);
- Approved certain amendments to the Procedural Manual of the Codex Alimentarius Commission, including the establishment of an Appendix containing the General Decisions of the Commission, Statements of Principle relating to the Role of Food Safety Risk Assessment, and Definitions of Risk Analysis Terms relating to Food Safety (paragraphs 19-31);
- Adopted maximum residue limits for 45 pesticides and 7 veterinary drugs in various commodities; 6 new or revised Codex standards, amendments and additions to a variety of existing standards including the General Standard for Food Additives; and a variety of other texts including a major revision of the General Principles of Food Hygiene and other codes of practice (paragraphs 32-103 and Appendix II);
- Adopted a variety of draft standards and related texts at Step 5 (paragraphs 104-121 and Appendix III);
- endorsed proposals to elaborate new standards and other texts (paragraphs 122-130 and Appendix IV);
- revoked a number of existing standards considered to be obsolete or not of significance to international trade including over 300 obsolete maximum residue limits for pesticides and the Standard for Edible Ices (paragraphs 131-132);
- abolished the Codex Committee on Edible Ices (paragraph 131);
- requested FAO and WHO to convene an international expert advisory body similar to JECFA and JMPR on the microbiological aspects of food safety to address particularly microbiological risk assessments (paragraph 139);
- requested the Codex Committee on General Principles to consider the application of "other legitimate factors" than science in relation to the adoption of maximum residue limits for bovine and porcine somatotropins (paragraphs 68 and 124), to address the question of improving procedures aimed at obtaining a better consensus of opinion at Commission and Committee session (paragraph 125), and consider the issue of providing special or differential treatment to developing countries in the application of Codex standards (paragraph 126) and to develop guidelines on procedures for granting observer status to non-governmental international organizations (paragraph 159);

- adopted an Action Plan for the development and application of risk analysis principles and guidelines (paragraphs 160-167);
- requested the WTO Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures to clarify how it would differentiate between Codex "standards, guidelines and other recommendations" in relation to the implementation of the SPS Agreement by WTO Members, and discussed other matters relating to follow-up to the Uruguay Round (paragraphs 168-176);
- approved the general direction of the proposed Medium-Term Plan 1998-2002 (paragraphs 177-180);
- expressed concern about possible implications of abolishing committees, adjourned *sine die*, and expressed interest in the "alternative mechanisms", stating that there should be clear rules for their establishment and operation and that such mechanisms should be as inclusive, transparent and responsive as the current system (paragraphs 185-188)

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ALINORM 97/37
July, 97

**Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme
Codex Alimentarius Commission**

**REPORT OF THE TWENTY-SECOND SESSION OF THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION
Geneva, 23 - 28 June 1997**

INTRODUCTION

1. The Codex Alimentarius Commission held its Twenty-second Session in Geneva, from 23 to 28 June 1997. The Session was attended by 444 Delegates and advisors representing 84 Member countries and Observers from 1 Non-Member country, 7 intergovernmental organizations and 36 international non-governmental organizations. A complete list of participants is given in Appendix 1 to this report.

2. The Session was opened by Dr. Hiroshi Nakajima, Director-General of WHO and by Dr. Hartwig de Haen, Assistant Director-General, FAO. The Session was presided over by its Chairperson, Professor Pakdee Pothisiri (Thailand) and by its three Vice-Chairpersons for certain items of the Agenda.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA (Agenda Item 1)¹

3. The Commission adopted the Provisional Agenda as its Agenda for the Session. It agreed to discuss the following matters under "Other Business":

- Review of Codex Subsidiary Bodies
- Problems concerning distribution of working documents.

It also agreed to discuss a draft *Code of Practice for Good Animal Feeding* under Item 8 of the Agenda.

4. The Delegation of India requested that consideration of the Draft Standards for Sugars and Honey and the Maximum Residue Limits emanating from the 29th Session of the Committee on Pesticide Residues be deleted from the Agenda in view of the late arrival of the documents. The Commission, however, decided to discuss these matters under Agenda Item 7, without prejudice to any decision which might be taken on whether or not to discuss them in detail at that time.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS OF THE COMMISSION AND APPOINTMENT OF REGIONAL COORDINATORS (Agenda Item 2)²

5. During the Session the Commission re-elected Prof. P. Pothisiri (Thailand) as its Chairperson to serve from the end of the Twenty-second to the end of the Session. The Commission also elected Mrs María E. Chacón (Costa Rica)³, Mr. Thomas Billy (USA), and re-elected Mr. S. van Hoogstraten (The Netherlands), as Vice-Chairpersons of the Commission for the same period.

6. The following persons were appointed as Regional Coordinators:

¹ ALINORM 97/1

² ALINORM 97/2 and ALINORM 97/2, Addendum 1

³ The Delegation of Uruguay noted that a candidate from Africa, Dr. J.A. Abalaka (Nigeria), had withdrawn in favour of the candidate from Latin America and the Caribbean, in the spirit of facilitating consensus in Codex.

Africa:	Mr. David Nhari (Zimbabwe)
Asia:	Ms. Kanya Sinsakul (Thailand)
Latin America and the Caribbean:	Dr. Galdós Ugarte (Uruguay)
Europe:	Mr. Felipe Mittelbrunn García (Spain)
North America and South-West Pacific:	Mr. Thomas Billy (USA)

7. In view of the election of Mr. Thomas Billy as Vice-Chairperson, the USA resigned as Regional Representative for North America and the Commission elected Canada to fill the vacancy for the remainder of the current term of office.

REPORT BY THE CHAIRPERSON ON THE FORTY-THIRD AND FORTY-FOURTH SESSIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (Agenda Item 3)⁴

8. The reports were provided in accordance with Rule III.5 of the Commission's Rules of Procedure. Except for a revised version of the document on The Application of Risk Analysis Principles in Codex⁵, all items arising from the Executive Committee sessions had been addressed by Codex Committees or were included in the Commission's present Agenda.

REPORTS BY COORDINATORS ON REGIONAL ACTIVITIES (Agenda Item 4)

CODEX COORDINATING COMMITTEE FOR ASIA⁶

9. The Delegation of Japan, on behalf of Dr. Yuzo Hayashi, Coordinator for Asia, presented a brief summary of the activities of the Committee. He highlighted the following:

- identification of standards having a potential major trade impact in the Region;
- the development of Proposed Draft Guidelines for National Codex Contact Points and Codex Committees;
- discussions on micronutrient malnutrition and a need for food fortification regulations; and
- discussions on risk assessment, especially exposure assessment taking into account dietary habits in the region.

10. The Delegation noted that a new regional initiative on food intake surveys led by Japan, was being undertaken in response to the discussions at the Session. The Delegation of India stressed difficulties experienced by developing countries in applying low maximum limits for residues and contaminants.

CODEX COORDINATING COMMITTEE FOR EUROPE⁷

11. The Coordinator for Europe, Dr. Stuart Slorach (Sweden) reported that the Committee had focused its attention on proposals for extending the Acceptance Procedure to all Codex texts; prioritising standards and related texts on the basis of the list drawn up by the SPS Committee;

⁴ ALINORM 97/3 and ALINORM 97/4, respectively.

⁵ See ALINORM 97/9-Revised (CAC/LIM 21), agenda item 10.

⁶ ALINORM 97/15

⁷ ALINORM 97/19

transparency in the decision making process; the importance of consumer participation; harmonisation and regional cooperation as well as technical assistance in food related activities within the European region.

CODEx COORDINATING COMMITTEE FOR AFRICA⁸

12. The Coordinator for Africa, Mr David Nhari (Zimbabwe) pointed out that the Coordinating Committee for Africa had placed emphasis on the following problems of particular importance to the Region: strengthening the food control systems, improving the work of the national Codex structures, and inter-regional coordination. Improving and updating the work of food import/export inspection and certification systems, harmonization of food standards and legislation were also high on the agenda of the Coordinating Committee. Regional Draft Guidelines on the Design of Control Measures of Street Vended Foods were also elaborated by the Committee (see Item 7).

CODEx COORDINATING COMMITTEE FOR LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN⁹

13. Dr. Galdós Ugarte (Uruguay), Coordinator for Latin American and the Caribbean informed the Commission that the Committee had:

- agreed to initiate the revision of the Regional Code of Practice for the Preparation and Sale of Street-Vended Foods and to incorporate the new approach reflected in the revised General Principles of Food Hygiene and the HACCP Guidelines;
- recommended that in view of the importance of the "Four Statements of Principle" they should be included in the General Principles of Codex in the body of the Procedural Manual (see Item 6);
- agreed that the late reception of documents was an obstacle to effective participation in Codex's work and recommended to make a wider use of modern means of communication and to strengthen the Codex Secretariat;
- agreed on the necessity to review the present acceptance procedure and to study a revised system of notification and/or acceptance, which should be simple and the least bureaucratic possible;
- noted the progress of harmonization of food legislation and the extensive use of Codex standards and MRLs as reference in the framework of economic integration organizations and at the national level;
- agreed to continue working on food contamination by Salmonella, as well as food safety in tourist areas;
- agreed that the Draft Regional Guidelines for Codex Contact Points and National Codex Committees prepared by the Coordinating Committee for Asia could not be adopted in the Region;
- endorsed the recommendations of a Workshop on the Harmonization of Food Law.

⁸ ALINORM 97/28

⁹ ALINORM 97/36

CODEx COORDINATING COMMITTEE FOR NORTH AMERICA AND THE SOUTH WEST PACIFIC¹⁰

14. The Delegation of New Zealand, on the behalf of Dr. P. O'Hara, Coordinator for North America and the South West Pacific, reported the results of the Committee's 4th Session. The following issues were highlighted:

- a special focus was given to risk analysis and related aspects, and their impact on Codex;
- efforts to increase the coordination and participation of the countries of the South West Pacific region, with particular reference to facilitating greater participation of the Pacific Island countries;
- closer cooperation between Codex and Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) was strongly supported;
- a working group which was convened to identify Codex Standards and related texts which had a major impact on trade concluded that there was little benefit in continuing this work; and
- problems in the timeliness of distribution of reports and working papers.

Status of Regional Standards and Related Texts

15. The Delegation of the United Kingdom noted the important work underway in relation to the elaboration of regional standards and related texts and stated that the use which might be made of these texts under the WTO Agreements needed to be clarified (See also paras. 45 and 172).

REPORT OF THE FINANCIAL SITUATION OF THE JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME FOR 1996/1997 AND 1998/1999 (Agenda Item 5)¹¹

16. The Commission noted the budget and expenditure for the last and present biennium as well as the estimated magnitude of the host government support for individual Codex Committees. As regards the proposed budget for the next biennium 1998/1999, the Commission noted with satisfaction that US\$ 400 000 had been restored mainly to strengthen the documentation service and provide additional expert support to the Commission, subsequent to the strong support in favour of the Codex programme by Member Countries at the 112th Session of the FAO Council which had met early in June 1997.

17. The Commission however felt that the implications of the proposed reduction in the overall Codex budget should be carefully evaluated and it was stressed that the budgetary reduction as currently proposed should not lead to inefficiency in Codex document distribution nor in its other important activity areas. Delegations expressed concern that the level of the budget, being the minimum necessary to provide adequate support to the Commission should not be further reduced in the final review of the budget-setting process. Several delegations stated that the budgetary implications of the on-going exercise of the review of Codex subsidiary bodies initiated by FAO¹² should be closely examined.

18. The Commission also raised concern that reducing the duration of Codex sessions would not allow sufficient time for the consideration of the matters in question and limiting the length of Codex meeting reports would make them less useful for understanding how positions were reached (especially

¹⁰ ALINORM 97/32

¹¹ ALINORM 97/5 and ALINORM 97/5 Corrigendum.

¹² See Agenda Item 14.

for those of the commodity committees). This might result in false economy and could eventually decrease the transparency and efficiency of the work of Codex.

CONSIDERATION OF AMENDMENTS TO THE PROCEDURAL MANUAL OF THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION (Agenda Item 6)¹³

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE RULES OF PROCEDURE (RULES II AND IX)

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

GUIDELINES FOR CODEX COMMITTEES

Observers

20. The Commission expressed the view that further clarification was needed regarding the definition of "recognized international organizations" as the definition included in the current draft was too broad, and did not adopt the proposed amendment. It agreed to refer this question to the Committee on General Principles with a view to defining the modalities for the participation of international organizations and noted that related issues would be further discussed under Agenda Item 9 (see also para. 159).

Preparation and distribution of papers

21. The Commission expressed its disagreement with the proposal for a deadline for the reproduction of Member and Observer comments. It agreed to defer consideration of the proposed amendment and to consider all issues related to the distribution of documents and comments from an overall perspective under Agenda Item 14 - Other Business (see also paras. 191 - 195).

Guidelines on the Elaboration and/or Revision of Codes of Hygienic Practice for Specific Commodities

22. The Commission recalled that the Committee on Food Hygiene, while discussing the revision of the Codes, had agreed that exclusive stress on food safety could limit their usefulness and that some flexibility was needed to provide guidance on certain non-safety factors such as incipient deterioration in fish and fishery products. It agreed that this should be reflected in a preliminary statement to this section as follows:

The establishment of additional food hygiene requirements for specific food items or food groups should be limited to the extent necessary to meet the defined objectives of individual codes.

23. The Commission adopted the Guidelines with this amendment. It noted the views of the Delegations of Germany and Austria that this statement was not essential and should not be included in the Procedural Manual.

24. The Commission adopted all other amendments to Sections H, J and K of the Procedural Manual proposed. These are included in Appendix II of this report.

General Decisions of the Commission

25. The Commission agreed to include in the Procedural Manual a new Appendix incorporating all general policy decisions of the Commission, which provide essential guidance from the Commission to

¹³ ALINORM 97/33 (Appendices II, III and IV); ALINORM 97/10

its subsidiary bodies and in particular the Four Statements of Principles Concerning the Role of Science in the Codex Decision-Making Process and the Extent to which Other Factors are Taken into Account. The Commission recalled that all such decisions had the same status, irrespective of the section of the Manual which included them:

Statements of Principle relating to the Role of Food Safety Risk Assessment

26. Several delegations proposed to add a fifth principle to reflect the concept that "different processes and procedures may achieve the same objectives", as had been recognized by the Committee on General Principles. Other delegations expressed the view that the inclusion of this principle was premature at this stage as food safety objectives were not clearly defined and that this was an important issue which required further discussion in the Committee on General Principles.

27. The Delegation of India, while not objecting to the principles themselves, stressed the difficulties of developing countries in the application of risk assessment methodology. The Commission noted that the principles under discussion were not directed to governments but were intended to provide orientations for the work of Codex Committees.

28. The Commission adopted the Statements of Principle as currently drafted, with the understanding that the Committee on General Principles would further consider issues related to equivalence and food safety objectives, and recognized that adequate flexibility should exist to take into account the needs of developing countries. It was also agreed that the Statements of Principle would be included in the new Appendix of the Procedural Manual containing general decisions of the Commission (see para. 25 above).

Definitions of Risk Analysis Terms Related to Food Safety

29. Some delegations proposed specific amendments to the current text and expressed the view that some inconsistencies existed between certain definitions. The Commission however recalled that the definitions originated from a Joint FAO/WHO Expert Consultation and had been discussed at the 21st Session of the Commission, the Executive Committee and the Committee on General Principles; the latter Committee proposed the adoption of the definitions on an interim basis.

30. The Commission adopted the definitions as currently drafted, for inclusion in the Definitions Section of the Procedural Manual, with the understanding that they would be subject to regular review and that Member countries would have the opportunity to provide comments for further consideration by the Committee on General Principles.

31. The general decisions and definitions for inclusion in the Procedural Manual are attached as Appendix II to this report.

CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT STANDARDS AND RELATED TEXTS (Agenda Item 7)¹⁴

32. Appendix III to this report contains a list of Draft and Proposed Draft Standards and Related Texts for Specific Commodities adopted by the Commission at Steps 8 and 5 respectively. Decisions of the Commission in regard to the adoption of the texts are tabulated in this Appendix. The remainder of this part of the report contains certain specific observations on the texts under consideration.

¹⁴

ALINORM 97/21, Part I; ALINORM 97/21, Part I, Supplement 1; ALINORM 97/12, Appendix IV; ALINORM 97/25.

FOOD HYGIENE¹⁵

Draft Revised Recommended International Code of Practice: General Principles of Food Hygiene (at Step 8)¹⁶

33. Some delegations noted that reference to rinsing after disinfection should be made in Section 6 of the Code and that supply of both hot and cold water for personal hygiene facilities as mentioned in Section 4.4.4 was not necessary in certain situations. The Commission requested the Committee to consider these proposals as a possible amendment to the Code, but adopted the Draft Revised International Code of Practice at Step 8.

Draft Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point (HACCP) System and Guidelines for its Application (at Step 8)¹⁷

34. Indonesia and some other delegations expressed their concern that difficulties might be encountered in applying the HACCP system in smaller businesses and in developing countries. The Commission was informed that the Committee on Food Hygiene was proposing to initiate new work on a guidance document for the use of HACCP-like systems in small businesses, with special reference to developing countries, to address this concern. It also noted the importance of providing technical assistance to those countries in need, to facilitate the progressive implementation of the HACCP-based system.

Draft Revised Principles for the Establishment and Application of Microbiological Criteria for Foods (at Step 8)¹⁸

35. The Commission adopted the Revised Principles at Step 8.

Additional Remarks

36. The Delegation of India stated that the three aforementioned texts on food hygiene constituted additional quality criteria and should only be applied by commercial partners on a voluntary basis.

37. The Chairperson of the Committee on Food Hygiene pointed out that the three texts referred above all to food safety and that they addressed food safety issues throughout the food chain; they were not exclusive to any one food sector.

FOOD IMPORT AND EXPORT INSPECTION AND CERTIFICATION SYSTEMS

Draft Guidelines for the Exchange of Information between Countries on Rejections of Imported Food¹⁹

38. The Commission amended paragraph 4 of the text to make reference to "appropriate" information being provided to the exporter and included references to WHO in addition to the references to FAO in paragraph 10.

39. The Commission adopted the Guidelines as amended.

¹⁵ ALINORM 97/25, Part 14 (FH); ALINORM 97/25, Part 14 (FH) Add.1 (comments from Mexico).

¹⁶ ALINORM 97/13, Appendix II; ALINORM 97/25, Part 14 (comments from UK).

¹⁷ ALINORM 97/13A, Appendix II; ALINORM 97/25, Part 14 (comments from Hungary and UK); CAC/LIM 31 (Corrigendum in Spanish only - prepared by the Delegation of Spain).

¹⁸ ALINORM 97/13A, Appendix III; ALINORM 97/25, Part 14 (comments from Hungary and UK).

¹⁹ ALINORM 97/30, Appendix II.

Draft Guidelines for the Design, Operation, Assessment and Accreditation of Food Import and Export Inspection and Certification Systems²⁰

40. The Commission was split into two opinions: (1) in favour of adopting the Guidelines without delay; and, (2) in favour of postponing adoption.

41. Delegations supporting the postponed adoption of the Guidelines expressed the opinion that the text required further examination, review and comment by countries to further clarify its long term consequences. Concerns were expressed as to its status under the World Trade Organization (WTO) Agreements on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS) and Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT). It was also noted that the Guidelines did not include a procedure for the determination of equivalence.

42. Delegations supporting the immediate adoption of the Guidelines noted that the text had been discussed and developed over many years and that the text allowed certain flexibility for governments in their efforts to apply these guidelines. In this regard it was also noted that the CCFICS would be examining a discussion paper related to the process of determining equivalence at its next session. Some delegations proposed a different title to avoid any unexpected WTO consequences.

43. The Representative of the WTO clarified that nuances in titles given to Codex texts would probably not be relevant in the application of the SPS and TBT Agreements. Governments applying stricter measures than Codex texts could be called upon to justify the deviations if challenged. The Representative also noted that even in the absence of relevant Codex texts governments could still be requested to provide justification for their national measures under current WTO procedures when international trade disputes arose.

44. As a result of a vote by show of hands, the Commission adopted the Guidelines (46 votes in favour of adoption, 16 votes against adoption and 7 abstentions) as presented.

45. The United States, supported by Chile, India, the Philippines and the United Arab Emirates, stated that it was highly inappropriate for such broad based and significant Guidelines to be adopted before member countries had the opportunity to consider their legal impact on national legislation in the light of the WTO Agreements. Concerns were also raised because the Executive Committee of the Codex Alimentarius Commission had just proposed that the Commission, through the Secretariat, consult with the WTO on the status of Codex guidelines and recommendations under the SPS Agreement, and that the Commission should await the outcome of these discussions before proceeding further.²¹

FOOD LABELLING/NUTRITION AND FOODS FOR SPECIAL DIETARY USES²²

Draft Guidelines on Use of Nutrition Claims

46. The view was expressed that the conditions for the claim "free" did not actually ensure that the food was free from the nutrient.

47. The inclusion of definitions relating to nutrient function claims and healthy diets was also questioned. One delegation expressed its disagreement with the footnote concerning trans-fatty acids in the Table. The Delegation of Spain stated that the section of the Table concerning fibre, protein and certain nutrient reference values required further scientific evaluation.

²⁰ ALINORM 97/30A, Appendix II.

²¹ ALINORM 97/4, paras. 15-18.

²² ALINORM 97/22, Appendix II, ALINORM 97/26, Appendix II, ALINORM 97/25 Part 4, CAC/LIM 14 and 25

48. It was proposed by some delegations and observers that an exception be made to allow a "low fat" claim for products with a naturally high fat content, especially milk products, when a significant reduction in fat content was made; on the basis that commodity committees should be able to establish provisions deviating from general requirements. Several delegations and the Observer from Consumers International were strongly opposed to any such exceptions.

49. The Commission noted that commodity committees had the possibility to propose specific labelling and/or nutrition provisions in commodity standards which might deviate from the general provisions, provided they were submitted with adequate justification to the general committees for endorsement.

50. The Commission adopted the Guidelines for Use of Nutrition Claims (including Part A of the Table) at Step 8 with the understanding that additional work was needed on the expression of claims per serving and further consideration should be given to the issues raised in government comments when finalizing the Table of Conditions.

NUTRITION AND FOODS FOR SPECIAL DIETARY USES²³

Proposed Draft Amendment to the Standard for Infant Formula (Vitamin B₁₂) (Step 5 of the Accelerated Procedure)

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

Proposed Draft Revised Standard for Food Grade Salt (Salt Iodization) (Steps 5 and 8)

52. The Commission noted comments concerning food additives and, while recalling that the additives section had not been changed as the amendment concerned only iodization, agreed that it should be forwarded to the Committee on Additives and Contaminants for further consideration.

53. In reply to a question on salt iodization technology, the Commission noted that relevant information could be found in the report of the FAO Technical Consultation on Food Fortification.²⁴

54. The Commission agreed to omit Steps 6 and 7 of the Procedure and to adopt the Proposed Draft Revised Standard at Step 8.

FOOD LABELLING²⁵

Draft General Guidelines for the Use of the Term "Halal"

55. The Commission adopted the Draft General Guidelines at Step 8 as proposed.

Proposed Draft Amendment to the Labelling Section of the Standard for Quick Frozen Fish Sticks (Fish Fingers), Fish Portions and Fish Fillets, Breaded or in Batter (Step 5 of the Accelerated Procedure)

56. The Commission agreed that the Accelerated Procedure should not be confirmed and that the Proposed Draft Amendment should be considered at Step 5 of the Procedure.²⁶

²³ ALINORM 97/26, Appendices IV and III, ALINORM 97/25 Part 6, CAC/LIM 3 and 13

²⁴ FAO Food and Nutrition Paper No.60

²⁵ ALINORM 97/22, Appendix III; ALINORM 97/22A, Appendix II

²⁶ The Commission subsequently advanced this text to Step 6: see Appendix IV.

FOOD ADDITIVES AND CONTAMINANTS**General Standard for Food Additives: Draft Schedule of Additives Permitted for Use in Foods in General, Unless Otherwise Specified, in Accordance with Good Manufacturing Practice²⁷**

57. The Commission adopted the above Appendix at Step 8 with the understanding that the Schedule be kept under constant review by the Committee on Food Additives and Contaminants to ensure that the information was always based on the latest scientific data.

58. Because of the late receipt of the draft, the Delegation of India objected to the adoption of the Appendix.

Food Categories or Individual Food Items Where the Use of Food Additives with Good Manufacturing Practice Limitations on Use are Not Allowed or Restricted²⁸

59. The Commission adopted the Annex at Step 8 on an interim basis, noting that a number of countries had not had the opportunity to review the proposal in detail. It requested the Committee on Food Additives and Contaminants to review the Annex at its next session in light of comments and report its findings to the Commission.

60. Because of the late receipt of the draft, the Delegation of India objected to the adoption of the Annex.

METHODS OF ANALYSIS AND SAMPLING²⁹**Proposed Draft Guidelines for the Assessment of the Competence of Testing Laboratories Involved in the Import and Export Control of Foods**

61. The Commission adopted the Proposed Draft Guidelines with deletion of reference to "determining equivalency" pending the development of the definition of "equivalency" by the relevant Codex Committee.

PESTICIDE RESIDUES³⁰**Maximum Residue Limits and Extraneous Maximum Residue Limits**

62. The Commission adopted the limits as presented at Step 8 of the Procedure, omitting Steps 6 and 7 where necessary. The Delegation of Germany expressed general reservations on the adoption of MRLs/EMRLs.

63. The Commission requested FAO and WHO to publish the Reports and Evaluations of the Joint FAO/WHO Meetings on Pesticide Residues (JMPR) in a timely manner in order not to hinder deliberations of MRLs; and urged better coordination on the elaboration of MRLs for compounds used both as pesticides and veterinary drugs. The Delegation of the United Kingdom requested an examination of potential implications of large variability of residue levels in certain commodities to intake, especially in relation to extreme consumers, stating, however, that even high level residues did not necessarily imply greater health risk.

²⁷ ALINORM 97/12A, Appendix IV

²⁸ ALINORM 97/12A, Annex to Appendix IV.

²⁹ ALINORM 97/23, paras. 37-40 & Appendix II; ALINORM 97/23A, paras. 20-24 & Appendix II; ALINORM 97/21, Part I, Table 1; ALINORM 97/21, Part I Supplement 1, Table 2; ALINORM 97/25 Part 2; and CAC/LIM 7.

³⁰ ALINORM 97/24, Annex II; ALINORM 97/24A, Annex II; and CAC/LIM 25.

RESIDUES OF VETERINARY DRUGS IN FOODS

Draft Maximum Residue Limits for Bovine Somatotropin (BST)³¹

64. The 21st Session of the Commission had adjourned debate on the adoption of maximum residue limits for bovine somatotropin until the present Session.³²

65. The Commission was split into two opinions: (1) in favour of adopting the draft MRLs at Step 8 without delay; and, (2) in favour of postponing their adoption.

66. Delegations favouring the adoption of the MRLs without delay stated that the Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Food Additives and Contaminants (JECFA) and the Committee on Residues of Veterinary Drugs in Foods (CCRVDF) had performed a thorough scientific evaluation of the compound and, as additional scientific information had not been provided, a re-evaluation was unnecessary. It was stressed that if new scientific data became available, the JECFA and CCRVDF, as opposed to the Commission, were the appropriate bodies to undertake a new evaluation of the compound. It was noted that BST was used in several countries and that the adoption of the MRLs would confirm the work of JECFA and the CCRVDF while preventing the application of non tariff barriers to international trade.

67. Delegations and the Observer from Consumers International in favour of postponing the adoption of MRLs for BST stressed that new information had become available indicating that the administration of BST could reduce livestock immune defences which could make those animals more susceptible to viral and bacterial infection and an increased incidence of mastitis. This might lead to increased use of antibiotics. Other safety concerns were raised by the Observer from Consumers International. It was noted by the Delegation of the Netherlands expressing the views within the European Union, supported by other delegations and the Observer from Consumers International that the use of BST was opposed by consumers and had no benefit for them, and would not improve milk quality or safety. The importance of taking other legitimate factors than sound scientific analysis and evidence as stated in the Statements of Principle on the Role of Science into consideration was also emphasized.

68. The Delegation of the Netherlands expressing the views within the European Union, presented a proposal to suspend the consideration of the adoption of the MRLs for BST pending the re-evaluation of scientific data by JECFA and the CCRVDF and the examination of the application of the "other legitimate factors" in relation to BST by the Committee on General Principles.

69. A roll-call vote was called with the following results:

Countries in favour of the proposal:

Austria; Belgium; Burundi; Cameroon; Croatia; Cyprus; Denmark; Egypt; Estonia; Finland; France; Germany; Greece; Hungary; India; Ireland; Italy; Kenya; Lebanon; Lithuania; Luxembourg; Mozambique; Netherlands; Norway; Poland; Portugal; Romania; Saudi Arabia; Singapore; Slovak Republic; Spain; Sudan; Sweden; Switzerland; Turkey; Uganda; United Arab Emirates; United Kingdom.

³¹ ALINORM 95/31, Appendix II; comments from Consumers International (ALINORM 97/25-Part 10) and from the European Community (CAC/LIM 17).

³² ALINORM 95/37, paras. 47-48.

Countries opposed to the proposal:

Australia; Canada; Chile; Costa Rica; Dominican Republic; Guatemala; Honduras; Indonesia; Japan; Malaysia; Mexico; New Zealand; Nicaragua; Nigeria; Pakistan; Philippines; Republic of Korea; South Africa; Thailand; United States of America; Viet Nam.

Countries abstaining:

Algeria; Argentina; Bolivia; Botswana; Brazil; China; Cuba; El Salvador; Morocco; Peru; Russian Federation; Tunisia; Zimbabwe.

Tally: 38 votes in favour; 21 votes against; 13 abstentions.

Result: The motion passed.

70. The Chairperson of the Committee on Residues of Veterinary Drugs in Foods requested those delegations and observers who indicated that new information existed relevant to the protection of public health resulting from the use of BST in dairy cows to submit such information to the JECFA Secretariat by 30 September 1997 so that such information could be evaluated by the 50th JECFA session in February 1998.

Draft and Proposed Draft Maximum Residue Limits for Veterinary Drugs at Steps 8 and 5/8, respectively³³

71. The draft and proposed draft MRLs for diminazine, doramectin, levamisole, moxidectin, oxytetracycline (only), spiramycin and triclabendazole were adopted at Step 8. The Commission approved the MRL for spiramycin in cattle milk at 200 µg/litre, based on the advice of JECFA.

72. The MRLs for carazolol were returned to Step 7 because of concerns that the concentration of residues at the injection site may exceed the Acceptable Daily Intake.

COORDINATING COMMITTEE FOR AFRICA**Draft Guidelines for the Design of Control Measures for Street Vended Foods in Africa³⁴**

73. Some delegations questioned the title of the guidelines, especially the use of the term "design". The Commission clarified the term in explaining that those guidelines could be understood as a help in designing a national system of control.

74. Concerning the geographic scope of application of these guidelines, the Commission amended the Scope Section of the Guidelines to indicate that they were intended for use in the African Region.

75. The Guidelines were adopted by the Commission, with the amendment as noted above. The Coordinating Committee for Africa was requested to review this text in order to ensure conformity with the revised General Principles of Food Hygiene adopted by the Commission, so that inconsistency between the two texts would be avoided.

FATS AND OILS³⁵**Draft Revised Standard for Named Animal Fats**

76. Several countries stated that the proposed peroxide value (5 meq/kg) should be replaced with 10 meq/kg as the lower value had been arrived at without scientific justification and would adversely

³³ ALINORM 97/31A, Appendices II and IV; comments from the Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Food Additives (CAC/LIM 5).

³⁴ ALINORM 97/28, Appendix II

³⁵ ALINORM 97/17, Appendices II, III and IV; ALINORM 97725 - Part 8, CAC/LIM 2

affect the economic interest of producing countries. It was also proposed to delete the reference to a temperature of 60°C for Premier Jus as this value was not adequate from a safety point of view and such quality requirements should not be included in the standards.

77. The use of colours, BHT, and TBHQ was objected to, but the Commission noted that all provisions for additives in the revised draft standards for fats and oils had been endorsed by the Committee on Food Additives and Contaminants.

78. The Commission returned the Draft Standard to Step 6 for government comments and for further consideration by the Committee on Fats and Oils.

Draft Revised Standard for Fats and Oils not Covered by Individual Standards

79. The Commission noted that similar objections were made concerning peroxide value and additives as in the case of Animal Fats and agreed to return the Draft Standard to Step 6.

Draft Revised Recommended Code of Practice for the Storage and Transport of Fats and Oils in Bulk

80. Several delegations objected to the adoption of the Code as they felt that a number of issues were not addressed, in particular the possibility that installations may diverge from its provisions and the reference to minimum requirements. They also expressed concern that the use of Thermal Heating Fluids was not generally allowed, which represented a serious problem to many exporting countries.

81. Other delegations pointed out that thermal heating fluids were not allowed in their countries and they had accepted a compromise in the Committee on Fats and Oils in order to facilitate international trade, with the understanding that further discussion could take place later in the Committee on this issue.

82. Although several countries supported the adoption of the Code with an amendment to delete the section concerning thermal heating fluids, other countries opposed it as they felt that in view of the implications for international trade and the economic interests of developing countries further discussion was needed on the text as a whole. The Commission agreed to return the Draft Revised Recommended Code of Practice for the Storage and Transport of Fats and Oils in Bulk at Step 6 for further comments and consideration by the Committee.

FRESH FRUITS AND VEGETABLES³⁶

Bananas

83. The Commission adopted the Standard at Step 8 as proposed. The Delegation of Spain stated that the drafting of the text should be improved in order to avoid incompatibilities, especially relating to Section 1 and the Annex of this Standard. Other delegations questioned the sizing provisions of the Standard, especially in relation to small fruit varieties.

Mangosteens

84. The Commission adopted the Standard at Step 8 as proposed.

NATURAL MINERAL WATERS

Draft Revised Standard for Natural Mineral Waters³⁷

85. The Delegation of Switzerland, as Host Government for the Committee, reported on the main issues discussed at the 5th Session of the Codex Committee on Natural Mineral Waters held in Thun,

³⁶ ALINORM 97/35

³⁷ ALINORM 97/20

October 1996. It was reported that the Committee had recommended to the Commission the adoption of the Draft Standard for Natural Mineral Water at Step 8 of the Procedure. Furthermore, the Committee had proposed to the Commission the development of a general standard applicable to bottled or packaged waters other than "natural mineral waters". The Revised Draft Standard had been forwarded to the Commission for adoption after an intense discussion by the Codex Committee on Natural Mineral Waters.

86. The Commission was split into two opinions: (1) in favour of adopting this standard at Step 8; and (2) in favour of returning it to the Codex Committee on Natural Mineral Waters at Step 6.

87. Many delegations favouring the adoption of the Draft Revised Standard stated that the provisions of the standard were in conformity of the long history of production of natural mineral waters in Europe. They emphasized that the European Regional Standard had existed for several years and that it had been decided at the 19th Session of the Commission to convert it to a world-wide one; the draft had proceeded through all of the regular Steps of the Elaboration Procedures. It was pointed out that specific requirements to protect microbiological purity of the products had to be met including the bottling at the emergence of the source without transportation. Under these conditions the use of antimicrobial treatment was not necessary. These requirements indicated that "natural mineral water" was a specific product. They had no objection to the development of a standard for bottled or packaged waters excluding natural mineral water. Some delegations favoured the adoption of the Standard with the understanding that the provisions concerning health requirements should still be considered by the Codex Committee on Food Additives and Contaminants.

88. Japan and other delegations opposed to the adoption of the Draft Revised Standard stated that they did so because the draft standard did not permit antimicrobial treatments and transportation of water in bulk containers which are required to ensure Codex aims taking into consideration various conditions in the world. The Delegation of Japan also stated that there was no consensus at the 5th Session of the Codex Committee on Natural Mineral Waters. Several delegation asked the denomination "natural" should be deleted and that natural mineral waters should be incorporated into a standard encompassing a larger category of bottled water. It was also mentioned that the draft standard did not contain a reference to minimum and/or maximum levels of total dissolved mineral content. Several delegations were opposed to the adoption of the standard because of the process by which the revision was undertaken. All of these delegations proposed to return the draft revised standard to Step 6.

89. A roll-call vote was called for the adoption of the Draft Revised Standard by one Delegation and Japan proposed the use of a secret ballot. The Commission decided, by show of hands, (in favour of the secret ballot - 22, roll-call - 39 countries), to resolve the matter by roll-call vote. The Delegation of Egypt emphasized that on matters such as the one under discussion, issues should be resolved by consensus rather than by a voting procedure.

90. Result of the roll-call vote was:

Countries in favour of adoption

Austria, Belgium, Burundi, Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cyprus, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Mozambique, Netherlands, Norway, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Tunisia, Turkey, United Kingdom, Uruguay

Countries opposed to the adoption

Argentina, Australia, Botswana, Brazil, Canada, Chile, China, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Egypt, Guatemala, India, Indonesia, Japan, Kenya, Malaysia, Mexico, Morocco,

New Zealand, Nigeria, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, South Africa, Thailand, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United States of America, Viet Nam

Countries abstaining

Algeria, Cuba, El Salvador, Lebanon, Mauritius, Nicaragua, Senegal, Sudan, Swaziland, Zimbabwe

Tally: 33 votes in favour of adoption of the Standard; 31 votes against; 10 abstentions.

Result: The Standard was adopted at Step 8.

91. The delegation of the United States of America pointed out that it was regrettable that such a decision has been taken by voting and made a statement: "With respect to the decision of the Commission, the US cannot support this Commission action because we object to several provisions of the adopted standard. The standard ignores public health protection by prohibiting any antimicrobial treatments and creates a barrier to international trade by including unnecessary and inappropriately restrictive requirements which are contrary to the General Principles of Codex Alimentarius, adopted by the Commission to protect public health and facilitate international trade".

92. The Delegations of Australia, Botswana, Brazil, Canada, China, Egypt, Guatemala, Indonesia, Japan, Mexico, Nigeria, Philippines, South Africa, Thailand, Uganda also expressed their reservation to this decision.

93. Several delegations expressed concern at the means by which the Commission had reached a conclusion on this matter and stressed that the Commission should try by all appropriate means to attempt to take such important decisions on the basis of consensus.

94. Several delegations raised their concern that the Health-Related Limits for Certain Substances contain in the Standard had not been reviewed by the Codex Committee on Food Additives and Contaminants. It was also noted that the Spanish and French versions of the Table on Microbiological Requirements needed to be aligned with the English version.

95. The Commission noted that many countries favoured the timely development of a standard for bottled/package waters other than natural mineral water (see Item 8). The Commission noted that the Committee on Natural Mineral Waters had now completed the task assigned to it by the 19th Session of the Commission, and decided to allocate the elaboration of the proposed draft standard for bottled/package waters other than natural mineral water as defined in the adopted Standard for Natural Mineral Water to this Committee in accordance with its powers under Step 1 of the Codex Elaboration Procedure.

MILK AND MILK PRODUCTS

Draft Revised Standards for Butter, Milk-fat Products, Evaporated Milks, Sweetened Condensed Milks, Milk and Cream Powders, Cheese, and Whey Cheese and Draft Standard for Cheeses in Brine³⁸

96. In his presentation of the Draft Standards, the Delegation of New Zealand representing the Chairperson of the Codex Committee on Milk and Milk Products, stated that the existing standards were not suitable for the new trading environment and needed updating. It was noted that the labelling provisions had not been endorsed by the relevant committee. It was also noted that the hygiene provisions were consistent with the recommendations as contained in the Procedural Manual. It was

³⁸ ALINORM 97/11, Appendices II-IX; ALINORM 97/11, Part I, Table 1; ALINORM 97/25, Part 3-1; ALINORM 97/25, Part 3-2; CAC/LIM 9; CAC/LIM 27; and CAC/LIM28.

further noted that the 29th session of the Committee on Food Hygiene considered the issue of pasteurization or alternative measures but decided to forward the common hygiene provisions to the Commission without making further additions to them. The Delegation proposed adoption of the Draft Standards for Butter, Milk-fat Products, Evaporated Milks, Sweetened Condensed Milks, and Milk and Cream Powders and to return to Step 5 the Draft Standards for Cheese, Whey Cheese, and Cheeses in Brine, which involved more contentious issues on hygiene and labelling. The Delegation stated that the provisions relating to food hygiene and food labelling could be dealt with in a horizontal manner taking into consideration the work which would be initiated by the Committee on Food Hygiene on the Code of Hygienic Practice for Milk and Milk Products and the Committee on Milk and Milk Products in relation to the review of the Code of Principles concerning Milk and Milk Products.

97. The Commission discussed whether or not to include reference to "pasteurization or alternative measures which provide equivalent consumer protection" in the hygiene provisions of the standards under discussion. Several countries reported that in their countries milk needed to be pasteurized except for manufacturing cheeses of certain ripeness. The Delegation of France and other delegations were, however, strongly opposed to the inclusion of reference to pasteurization in these standards.

98. In light of the widely divergent opinions on this matter and recognizing the need for further deliberations on the food labelling provisions, the Commission decided to return all Draft Standards to Step 6 with a view towards considering them at the next Session of the Commission awaiting developments of the relevant issues by the Committees on Food Hygiene, Food Labelling and Milk and Milk Products

99. Several delegations and observers expressed disappointment. Sharing the view of the Delegation of New Zealand, they stated that the decision was not consistent with other decisions made at this Session, and stressed the need for greater cooperation between the various Codex Committees to facilitate each other's work. The Commission urged the Committees on Food Hygiene and Food Labelling to give high priority to the finalization of the relevant provisions. The Chairperson of the Committee on Food Hygiene undertook to give high priority to progressing the hygiene issues relating to these standards.

SUGARS (AND HONEY)

Draft Revised Standards for Sugar³⁹ and Honey^{40,41}

100. The Commission recalled that at its 21st Session it had agreed that further revision by the Host Government (United Kingdom) would be carried out through correspondence⁴².

101. The Commission noted that although the Draft Revised Standard for Sugar was a substantial improvement over the old ones there still remained a number of problems with both the sugar and honey standards and agreed to return the draft standards (to Step 6) for a new round of comments.

102. The Commission recognized that there were serious problems related to handling comments through correspondence and concurred that the revision should, if necessary, be addressed through a meeting of the Committee on Sugars or an alternative meeting with the understanding that all interested parties should participate in order to resolve the technical issues before submitting the revised standard to the next Session of the Commission.

³⁹ ALINORM 97/27 App. I

⁴⁰ ALINORM 97/27 App. II

⁴¹ CAC/LIM 10 (ALINORM 97/25 Part 15(S)-Add.1) Government Comments

⁴² ALINORM 95/37 para. 82

103. The Commission noted the statement of the Host Government (UK) that they could not guarantee the convening of a meeting of the Committee on Sugars before the next Session of the Commission and agreed to discuss alternative hosting arrangements under Agenda Item 13.

PROPOSED DRAFT STANDARDS AND RELATED TEXTS AT STEP 5

FISH AND FISHERY PRODUCTS

Proposed Draft Guidelines for the Sensory Evaluation of Fish and Shellfish⁴³

104. The Commission recommended that the sensory evaluation of cephalopods should be considered in view of their importance in trade. The Commission adopted the Proposed Draft Guidelines at Step 5.

MILK AND MILK PRODUCTS

Proposed Draft Revised Code of Principles Concerning Milk and Milk Products⁴⁴

105. The Commission noted that the Committee on General Principles had considered the Proposed Draft Revised Code of Principles and had recommended that it be redrafted in the form of a standard, with the deletion of the general provisions (viz.; Preamble, Article 1 & Article 8) covered by other general Codex texts. With regard to Article 8, the Committee on General Principles had recommended its deletion unless the Committee on Milk and Milk Products could demonstrate that there were specific reasons for its inclusion. This recommendation would not affect the status of the Proposed Draft Code, forwarded for adoption at Step 5.

106. It was pointed out that there was an immediate need for an updated version of the Code to include more modern definitions of milk and milk products to facilitate fair trade.

107. The Commission decided to adopt the Proposed Draft Code at Step 6 with the understanding that the recommendations of the Committee on General Principles would be taken into consideration during the further elaboration and that the Code would be submitted to the Committee on Food Labelling for endorsement of the relevant provisions.

NUTRITION AND FOODS FOR SPECIAL DIETARY USES⁴⁵

Proposed Draft Standard for Gluten-Free Foods

108. The view was expressed that the level of gluten of 200 ppm proposed for some types of gluten-free foods did not adequately protect sensitive consumers and that the value of 20ppm should be generally applied to all such foods. The problems related to the methods of analysis for the detection of gluten were also stressed.

109. The Commission adopted the Proposed Draft Standard for Gluten-Free Foods at Step 5, while recommending that all relevant comments be taken into account when finalizing the standard.

Proposed Draft Guidelines for Vitamin and Mineral Supplements

110. The Delegations of Canada and the United States, supported by Australia and Japan, expressed their objection to the development of the Guidelines in the framework of Codex as this matter should be left to national authorities to regulate, in view of the wide differences between countries concerning the regulatory status and consumption habits of vitamin and mineral supplements. The development of international guidelines in this area would negatively affect the right of consumers to use these

⁴³ ALINORM 97/18, Appendix II; ALINORM 97/25 - Part 7

⁴⁴ ALINORM 97/11, paras. 7-20; ALINORM 97/21, Part I, Table 4; ALINORM 97/25, Part 3-2.

⁴⁵ ALINORM 97/26, Appendices V and VI, ALINORM 97/25 / Part 6, CAC/LIM 13 and 25

products, and there was no scientific basis for such restriction. It was also pointed out that many sections of the text were in square brackets and there may not be sufficient consensus at this stage to advance it to Step 6.

111. Several delegations pointed out that these products were traded internationally and their unregulated development posed a problem to control authorities, it was therefore essential that work on this issue should continue within the Committee on Nutrition and Foods for Special Dietary Uses.

112. The Commission agreed to return the Proposed Draft Guidelines for Vitamin and Mineral Supplements to Step 3 for further comments and consideration by the Committee, including a fundamental reconsideration of the need for the Guidelines.

RESIDUES OF VETERINARY DRUGS IN FOODS

Proposed Draft Maximum Residue Limits for Veterinary Drugs⁴⁶

113. The Commission adopted the proposed draft maximum residue limits as presented, with the understanding that the Committees on Residues of Veterinary Drugs in Foods and on Pesticide Residues and the Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committees on Food Additives and on Pesticide Residues would co-ordinate their efforts when evaluating compounds administered as both veterinary drugs and pesticides (e.g., abamectin, cypermethrin, alpha-cypermethrin).

FOOD ADDITIVES AND CONTAMINANTS

Proposed Draft Schedules of Food Additives (Antioxidants, Preservatives, Stabilizers, Thickeners and Sweeteners) Specifically Permitted in Foods⁴⁷

114. The Commission adopted the proposed draft Schedules of Food Additives Specifically Permitted for Use in Foods as presented. The Delegations of Denmark, France, Norway and Sweden noted the importance of the consideration of technological justification and need when establishing maximum levels for food additives.

Proposed Draft Maximum Levels for Lead⁴⁸

115. The Commission adopted the proposed draft levels as presented. The Commission noted the importance of taking account of source directed measures, good agricultural and manufacturing practice, and methods of analysis when elaborating maximum levels for lead in foods. It was stated that in efforts to reduce lead levels in foods, particular emphasis should be placed on susceptible populations such as infants, children and women of child-bearing age.

PESTICIDE RESIDUES

Proposed Draft Maximum Residue Limits for Pesticides (MRLs)⁴⁹

116. The Observer from the EU, supported by the Delegation of Spain, expressed concerns about the MRL for fenthion in virgin olive oil at 3 mg/kg, stating that this high level could lead to acute intake risks and requested that acute dietary exposure assessment be carried out. The Observer also stated that animal transfer studies were needed for parathion-methyl to estimate residue levels in animal products arising from residues in or on feedingstuffs.

⁴⁶ ALINORM 97/31A, Appendix V.

⁴⁷ ALINORM 97/12A, Appendix V.

⁴⁸ ALINORM 97/12A, Appendix X.

⁴⁹ ALINORM 97/24A, ANNEX II; ALINORM 97/21, Part I Supplement I, Table 2; and CAC/LIM 25.

117. The Commission noted that the Committee on Pesticide Residues was aware of these problems; that an acute reference dose had been recommended for fenthion by the JMPR and that the matter regarding animal transfer studies had been referred to the JMPR.

118. The Commission adopted the MRLs with the understanding that the above comments be taken into account in further deliberation of the relevant MRLs.

FOOD LABELLING

Proposed Draft Amendment to the General Standard for the Labelling of Prepackaged Foods (Recommendations for the Labelling of Foods that can Cause Hypersensitivity)⁵⁰

119. In reply to a question on the inclusion of additional substances in the list of foods that can cause hypersensitivity, the Commission noted that the Committee on Food Labelling had recognized that further scientific advice was required in order to determine the foods to be included in the list and the criteria to do so. The Committee had therefore recommended that the Commission ask FAO and WHO to consider urgently how this issue should be better addressed in order to evaluate available scientific data on hypersensitivity.

120. The Commission was informed that the WHO Secretary of JECFA had agreed in principle that it would be possible to address this issue in the framework of JECFA, and that the Commission would be kept informed of how such new work would be carried out. The Commission expressed its appreciation to FAO and WHO for taking action to address this important and urgent issue.

121. The Commission adopted the Proposed Draft Amendment to the General Standard at Step 5 as proposed.

CONSIDERATION OF PROPOSALS TO ELABORATE STANDARDS AND/OR RELATED TEXTS AND OTHER MATTERS ARISING FROM REPORTS OF CODEX COMMITTEES (Agenda Item 8)⁵¹

PROPOSALS TO ELABORATE NEW STANDARDS AND RELATED TEXTS⁵²

122. The Commission agreed that in the matter of "Sports" or "Energy" drinks, the primary problem might relate to the claims being made for such products and assigned the work to the Committee on Food Labelling. It noted that certain aspects of the composition of these products would be taken up by the Committee on Food Additives and Contaminants in the context of the General Standard for Food Additives, and that elements relating to nutrition might need to be considered by the Committee on Nutrition and Foods for Special Dietary Uses. It requested the Committee on Food Labelling to coordinate its work with these Committees as required.

123. A proposal on the elaboration of guidelines for the determination of equivalence was withdrawn from the list in view of the preparatory studies which were being undertaken by the Committee on Food Import and Export Inspection and Certification Systems to establish whether or not to make a firm proposal in this area.

124. The Commission noted the proposal to elaborate Maximum Residue Limits for Porcine Somatotropin (PST). Without prejudice to the timely scientific evaluation of this substance by JECFA, the Commission requested that the matter be taken up by the Committee on Residues of Veterinary Drugs in Foods concurrently with the discussion by the Committee on General Principles of the matter

⁵⁰ ALINORM 97/22, Appendix IV.

⁵¹ ALINORM 97/21, Part II

⁵² Proposals were summarized in Appendix I of ALINORM 97/21, Part II.

of Bovine Somatotropins (BST) and PST as a related substance within the context of the four 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.

125. The Commission agreed with a proposal that the Committee on General Principles should address the question of improving procedures aimed at obtaining a better consensus of opinion at Commission and Committee sessions. The Delegation of Chile noted that such a matter was closely linked to the need to guarantee effective participation of the full membership of the Commission. It was noted that the Chairpersons of Codex Committees, in an informal meeting, had agreed to meet again immediately before the Committee on General Principles in an effort to facilitate discussion on these, and related, matters.

126. The Commission agreed that the Committee on General Principles should consider the issue of providing special or differential treatment to developing countries in the application of Codex standards and make recommendations as appropriate.

127. The Commission agreed to request the Committee on Fish and Fishery Products to give consideration to the elaboration of standards for tropical fresh water fish and fishery products.

128. The Commission requested the Committee on Soups and Broths to commence work revising the Standard for Bouillons and Consommés.

129. The Commission noted the outcome of the FAO Consultation on Animal Feeding and Food Safety, and agreed to consider the Draft Code of Practice on Good Animal Feeding. It assigned this work to the Committees on Food Hygiene, Food Additives and Contaminants, Pesticide Residues, and Residues of Veterinary Drugs in Foods, with the co-ordinating role to be taken by the Executive Committee.

130. The list of approved new work is contained in Appendix IV to this report.

REVOCATION OF EXISTING STANDARDS AND PROPOSALS FOR DELETION OF WORK ITEMS⁵³

Revocation of the Standard for Edible Ices and Abolition of the Codex Committee on Edible Ices

131. The Commission agreed to revoke the Standard for Edible Ices, recognizing that it was not needed for international trade, and to abolish formally the Committee on Edible Ices. The Commission expressed its appreciation to the government of Sweden for hosting the Committee since its creation and for its work on the revision of the standard.

Guidelines on the Inclusion of Provisions on Nutritional Quality in Food Standards and Other Texts

132. The Commission concurred with the proposal of the Committee on Nutrition and Foods for Special Dietary Uses to formally withdraw the Guidelines currently included in the Procedural Manual.

Revocation of Certain Obsolete Maximum Residue Limits for Pesticides

133. The Commission revoked certain obsolete MRLs as proposed by the Committee on Pesticide Residues following its regular review of MRLs.

⁵³ ALINORM 97/21, Part II, Appendix II

Discontinuation of Work on Dioxins and Other Contaminants

134. The Observer from Consumers International expressed opposition to the discontinuation of work on PCB's, dioxins, polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons, and hydrogen cyanide.

Standard for Specified Vegetable Fat Products and Standard for Specified Mixed Animal and Vegetable Fat Products

135. The Commission concurred with the proposal of the Committee on Fats and Oils to revoke both standards as these products were not traded internationally.

Individual Cheese Standards

136. The Commission agreed to revoke the following individual standards:

- Individual Cheese Standard for Danablu (C-2)
- Individual Cheese Standard for Gruyere (C-10)
- Individual Cheese Standard for Gudbrandsdalsost (C-19)
- Individual Cheese Standard for Norvegia (C-23)
- Individual Cheese Standard for Esrom (C-26).

The Commission deleted Danablu and Adelost from the General Standard for Blue-Veined Cheeses (C-32). The Delegation of France pointed out that Blue Cheese should not be deleted from the General Standard for Blue-Veined Cheeses as proposed. The Commission agreed that the Committee on Milk and Milk Products should consider this question at its next session.

OTHER MATTERS ARISING FROM REPORTS OF CODEX COMMITTEES

CODEX COMMITTEE ON GENERAL PRINCIPLES

Review of the Status of Codes, Guidelines and Related Texts⁵⁵

137. The review of the Status of Codes, Guidelines and Related Texts had been discussed at the 12th Session of the Committee on General Principles⁵⁶ on the basis of a request made by the 43rd Session of the Executive Committee⁵⁷ for the Secretariat to undertake an analysis of all texts other than standards with a view to clarifying the status of these texts under the WTO Agreements.

138. Proposals arising from the Committee on General Principles concerning the status of Codex Advisory Texts were discussed under this item and also under Item 11 (see paras. 168-172 for further discussion).

CODEX COMMITTEE ON FOOD HYGIENE

Microbiological Aspects of Food Safety⁵⁸

139. The Commission requested FAO and WHO to convene an international expert advisory body similar to JECFA and JMPR on the microbiological aspects of food safety to address particularly microbiological risk assessments.

⁵⁵ ALINORM 97/7

⁵⁶ ALINORM 97/33, paras. 25-32.

⁵⁷ ALINORM 97/3, paras. 51-52.

⁵⁸ ALINORM 97/13A, para. 53.

CODEX COMMITTEE ON FOOD IMPORT AND EXPORT INSPECTION AND CERTIFICATION SYSTEMS**Guidelines and Criteria for a Generic Official Certificate Format⁵⁹**

140. In view of the diverse opinions expressed, the 5th Session of the Committee on Food Import and Export Inspection and Certification Systems had appended proposed draft Criteria for a Generic Certificate for the Export of Food and Food Products and the Model Certificate to its report in order to facilitate Commission discussions as to the need for further consideration by CCFICS of this matter from the different perspective of Codex commodity committees.

141. In view of the difficulty in developing a generic certificate applicable to a broad range of agricultural commodities, the Commission agreed that the Committee should not undertake the elaboration of such a document *per se*. However, the Commission requested the Committee to consider a discussion paper addressing general guidelines and criteria for official certificates and to present a proposal for future work to the next session of the Executive Committee.

Guidelines on Food Import Control Systems⁶⁰

142. The Commission requested Mexico, in collaboration with the Secretariat, to revise its discussion paper on the development of guidelines for food import control systems for consideration at the next session of the Committee on Food Import and Export Inspection and Certification Systems.

CODEX COMMITTEE ON FOOD LABELLING**Foods That Can Cause Hypersensitivity⁶¹**

143. See paras. 119 - 121.

CODEX COMMITTEE ON METHODS OF ANALYSIS AND SAMPLING**Analytical Terminology for Codex Use⁶²**

144. The Commission endorsed the list of Analytical Terminology for Codex Use with the deletion of the last sentence of Note 1 in the definition of "Laboratory-Performance (Proficiency) Study" to improve the technical accuracy. The list would be contained in the Procedural Manual.

Other Matters⁶³

145. The Commission approved the amended Terms of Reference of the Committee. It agreed to the abolition of the CAC/RM Numbering System as recommended by the Committee⁶⁴. The Commission also confirmed the endorsement of methods of analysis for food additives and contaminants and a number of commodity standards.

⁵⁹ ALINORM 97/30A, paras. 35-39 and Appendix III.

⁶⁰ ALINORM 97/30A, paras. 40-44.

⁶¹ ALINORM 97/22a, paras. 44-45; and ALINORM 97/21, Part II, Section 3.4.1.

⁶² ALINORM 97/23A, paras. 27-28 & Appendix III; ALINORM 97/21, Part II, Section 3.5.1; and CAC/LIM 8.

⁶³ ALINORM 97/23A, paras. 55, 44, 45-47 & Appendices IV & V; ALINORM 97/23, paras. 51-55 & Appendix IV; ALINORM 97/21, Part II, Sections 3.5.2-4; and CAC/LIM 8.

⁶⁴ ALINORM 97/23A, para. 44.

CODEX COMMITTEE ON PESTICIDE RESIDUES

Periodic Review Procedure⁶⁵

146. The Commission endorsed the Procedure to be included as an annex to the relevant Codex Alimentarius volume.

Response to Matters Referred by the Commission⁶⁶

147. The Commission concurred to the Committee's opinion that the elaboration of MRLs for honey, low-fat meat and fish was of low priority. The Delegation of Germany stated that residues of pesticides in fish was a growing problem, especially in relation to increasing amount of organochlorine compounds in water. The Commission requested the Committee to monitor the gravity of the problem for necessary action.

CODEX COMMITTEE ON RESIDUES OF VETERINARY DRUGS IN FOODS

Methods Validation for Food Control Purposes⁶⁷

148. The Commission noted that FAO was planning to hold a joint FAO/IAEA Expert Consultation on Methods Validation for Food Control Purposes later this year.

Risk Assessment in the Codex Committee on Residues of Veterinary Drugs in Foods⁶⁸

149. The Commission noted the activities on risk assessment in the Committee as contained in ALINORM 97/21, Part I, section 3.7.2. The Chairperson of the Committee added that the Committee's deliberation on this issue was still at its early stage and a substantial time would be needed to clearly separate risk assessment and risk management components of its work, which had been combined at present. He invited delegations to send comments on the paper to the Delegation of France as soon as possible.

NUTRITION AND FOODS FOR SPECIAL DIETARY USES

Terms of Reference of the Committee on Nutrition and Foods for Special Dietary Uses⁶⁹

150. The Commission approved the amended Terms of Reference as proposed, noting that they reflected the emphasis on the horizontal aspects of the Committee's work.

Potentially Harmful Herbs and Botanical Preparations sold as Foods

151. The Commission concurred with the view of the Committee on Nutrition and Foods for Special Dietary Uses that no further action was needed concerning these products as this was a matter for national authorities to address, especially as regulations and practices in this area greatly differed from one country to another. The matter was deleted from the Commission's Work Programme.

⁶⁵ ALINORM 97/24, Appendix III; and ALINORM 97/21, Part II, Section 3.6.1.

⁶⁶ ALINORM 97/24, paras. 8 & 10; ALINORM 97/24A, paras 5-7; and ALINORM 97/21, Part II, Section 3.6.2.

⁶⁷ ALINORM 97/31A, para. 60; ALINORM 97/23A, para. 18; ALINORM 97/24A, para. 88; ALINORM 97/21, Part II, section 3.7.1.

⁶⁸ ALINORM 97/31A, paras. 11-12; ALINORM 97/21, Part II, section 3.7.2.

⁶⁹ ALINORM 97/26, para. 6

FATS AND OILS

Draft Standard for Mayonnaise

152. The Commission considered a question of the Committee on Fats and Oils on the need to convert the Regional European Standard into a world-wide standard. It agreed to discontinue this work.

FOOD INSPECTION AND CERTIFICATION SYSTEMS

153. The Observer from CIAA, noting the discontinuation of work on the application of ISO 9000, indicated that this system was widely used in European industry and could also be used by control services. The Observer offered to make a presentation on this subject at the next session of the Committee on Food Import and Export Inspection and Certification Systems. Many delegations reasserted their objections to further work on such Guidelines as it was not within the mandate of a Codex Committee to endorse a system intended for voluntary application in the industry.

154. The Chairperson of the Committee recalled that it had been agreed to discontinue work on the Guidelines as no consensus could be reached but that an information document was being circulated by France on this matter. The Commission confirmed that this work was deleted from its Programme.

INVOLVEMENT OF NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS IN THE WORK OF THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION (Agenda Item 9)⁷⁰

155. The 21st Session of the Commission had agreed, among other recommendations, that a paper on consumer involvement in Codex should be considered at its present session.⁷¹ The 43rd Session of the Executive Committee had agreed that the paper should be strengthened to include references to developing country Members and other interest groups' involvement in Codex work.⁷² The 44th Session of the Executive Committee had supported the recommendations contained in a paper prepared by the Secretariat as contained in ALINORM 97/8.

156. The Observer of Consumers International supported most of the recommendations included in ALINORM 97/8. It particularly supported the convening of seminars and workshops, especially in developing countries, to explain the activities of the Commission and offered through its offices in developing countries to support this. The Observer recommended improvement of transparency through the involvement of independent NGO consumer organizations and the strengthening of NGO participation in National Codex Committees and in national delegations to Codex meetings; the inclusion of consumer representatives as observers in the Executive Committee and JECFA, JMPR and other FAO/WHO expert consultations; the continued dissemination of Codex publications on the Internet and the possible establishment of a trust fund to improve consumer participation in Codex activities. The Observer from the European Food Law Association supported the statement of Consumers International and suggested that the Committee on General Principles review Rule VII of the Rules of Procedure of the Codex Alimentarius Commission.

157. The Commission noted a proposal raised at the 44th Session of the Executive Committee concerning the selection process for *ad hoc* expert consultations.⁷³

158. Many delegations and the Observer from the European Community supported the strengthening of consumer participation in Codex work with the possibility to submit suggestions for experts for

⁷⁰ ALINORM 97/8 and Addendum (Selection of Criteria for Experts of Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committees).

⁷¹ ALINORM 95/37, para. 90.

⁷² ALINORM 97/3, para. 41.

⁷³ ALINORM 97/4, para. 9.

expert bodies through established FAO and WHO procedures. Some delegations suggested that the timetables and lists of experts selected to participate in expert meetings should be widely disseminated through the Internet and by other means. The Delegations of the United Kingdom and Norway stated that the role of consumers was different from that of industry bodies. In view of the changing status of Codex documents, it was important to avoid any perception of Codex being unduly influenced by commercial interests. Other delegations stated that the role to be played by all INGOs, including consumer organizations, should be fully considered. It was suggested to widely share experience on successful cases of NGO participation in Codex work at the national, regional and international levels.

159. The Commission reached the following conclusions:

- The Committee on General Principles should develop guidelines on the procedures for granting observer status to international non-governmental organizations, outlining the rights and obligations of such organizations based on the applicable policies and rules of FAO and WHO, for inclusion in the Procedural Manual;
- Governments should be encouraged to facilitate the participation of NGOs, particularly independent consumer NGOs in National Codex Committees, especially in developing countries, in preparing for Codex meetings, formulating national positions on Codex issues and in participating in Codex work in general;
- FAO and WHO should be encouraged to consider the participation of qualified experts, put forward by INGOs, in expert consultations and meetings on the basis of FAO/WHO rules and procedures, subject to the final approval of the Directors-General of the organizations;
- The Secretariat should continue to draw the attention of potential donors to trust funds through extra-budgetary means to facilitate the participation of INGOs and developing countries in Codex meetings, while ensuring that Codex work is not placed under undue influences; and
- A paper should be prepared by the Secretariat in consultation with independent non-governmental consumers' organizations on enhancing the role of such organizations in the Codex process for consideration at the next session of the Commission.

THE APPLICATION OF RISK ANALYSIS PRINCIPLES IN CODEX (Agenda Item 10)⁷⁴

160. The Commission noted that since its 20th Session it had been considering matters regarding risk analysis in Codex. So far in the area of risk analysis, expert consultations had been held on the application of risk analysis to food standard issues, risk management and food safety, and food consumption and exposure assessment of chemicals. At present risk analysis was considered to be an integral part of the decision-making process of Codex. The Commission recalled that it agreed earlier in this Session to include risk analysis definitions in the Procedural Manual⁷⁵.

161. The original paper, ALINORM 97/9, had been prepared with an objective to develop an action plan to be taken by Codex to apply risk analysis more consistently and uniformly with a particular emphasis on risk management. The paper included the recommendations made by the Joint Expert Consultation on Risk Management and Food Safety⁷⁶ for consideration by the Commission. The Executive Committee held immediately before this Session, after considering ALINORM 97/9,

⁷⁴ CAC/LIM 21 (ALINORM 97/9-Rev. 1); and ALINORM 97/4, paras. 10-14.

⁷⁵ See paras. 29-31.

⁷⁶ Annex 1 of CAC/LIM 21.

amended the proposed action plan for Codex-wide development and application of risk analysis principles and guidelines. Based on this decision, CAC/LIM 21 was subsequently published.

ACTION PLAN FOR CODEX-WIDE DEVELOPMENT AND APPLICATION OF RISK ANALYSIS PRINCIPLES AND GUIDELINES

162. The Commission focused its discussions on the proposed action plan as amended by the Executive Committee⁷⁷. The Commission unanimously agreed on the importance of risk analysis in Codex work and to show positive responses to the recommendations in the paper. However, some delegations stated that due to the late availability of the original and amended papers, there needed to be sufficient time provided to consider thoroughly both the content of the paper and its implications.

163. In developing a strategy and action plan for development and application of risk analysis principles and guidelines in all Codex activities where appropriate, the Codex Alimentarius Commission:

- took note of recommendations 2 to 6 addressed to it by the Joint FAO/WHO Expert Consultation on Risk Management, and requested the relevant Codex Committees to consider the recommendations and to propose action as necessary;
- welcomed recommendations 7⁷⁸, 9 and 11 of the Expert Consultation addressed to FAO and WHO and, in particular, commended recommendation 9 to provide assistance to developing countries in the application of risk management, and noted recommendation 8;
- noted that it might not be possible or appropriate to apply risk management policies based on a single risk management strategy for the different classes of hazards which needed to be addressed: different policies might need to be applied under the same generic principles to the management of different classes of hazards⁷⁹.

Action Plan

164. The Commission will:

- (i) Circulate the proposed Definitions for ***Risk assessment policy*** and ***Risk profile*** to governments, Codex committees and interested international organizations for comment, and request the Codex Committee on General Principles to consider these comments with a view to making firm recommendations for adoption of these definitions to the 23rd Session of the Commission;
- (ii) Request the Codex Committee on General Principles to elaborate integrated principles for risk management and risk assessment policy setting, risk communication and documentation for inclusion in the Procedural Manual. Proposed “working principles” are contained in Annex 2 to ALINORM 97/9 - Rev. 1;
- (iii) Once principles have been established, prepare specific guidelines as required to aid in the uniform application of the principles. The Codex Committee on General

⁷⁷ ALINORM 97/4, para. 14; and CAC/LIM 21, para. 32.

⁷⁸ Concerning Recommendation 7, see paragraph 139.

⁷⁹ It was explained that different risk management policies had been applied within the Codex system, e.g., ADI-based models representing notional “zero-risk” policies for chemicals; microbiological criteria representing notional “zero-risk” for specific pathogens in cooked foods; ALARA policies for non-threshold chemical contaminants such as genotoxic carcinogens and some environmental contaminants; and ALARA policies for risks associated with biological hazards in raw foods.

Principles should be requested to co-ordinate this exercise and all relevant Codex Committees should be involved;⁸⁰

- (iv) As the principles and guidelines have been established, include them in the Procedural Manual, with the addition of an introductory narrative on risk analysis in the Codex system and identification of the responsibilities of Committees in implementation of the principles and guidelines;
- (v) Recognise that the judgement of equivalence of food control systems in different countries is a critical issue, and that Codex principles and guidelines associated with determination of equivalence will facilitate this process;
- (vi) Until such time as the principles are adopted by the Commission, request JECFA, JMPR and other advisory bodies and Codex Committees to continue evaluating and improving the application of the elements of risk assessment and risk management that they have prioritised for attention;
- (vii) Encourage further development of qualitative risk assessment approaches so as to achieve early improvements in elaboration of food standards.

Discussion on Matters other than the Action Plan

165. The Commission agreed that the Codex Working Principles for Risk Analysis would be elaborated through the step-wise procedure, with the possibility of omission of steps should the Committee on General Principles so recommend.

166. As regards the recommendation on maximum accessibility of published documents, the Delegation of the United States stated that in addition to make all process of risk analysis transparent, it was extremely important that results of risk assessment be published to be available for others to obtain information and/or to confirm their own evaluations. The Observer from the Consumers International also expressed interest in reference to interactive communication with consumers in the Proposed Codex Working Principles. The Observer from Consumers International commended the reference to interactive communication with consumers in all aspects of the risk analysis process in the Proposed Working Principles for Risk Analysis but noted inconsistencies in the application of this principle by Codex and stressed the need for Codex to address risk management as a democratic policy-making process in which openness, transparency and effective participation are central.

167. It was requested that assistance of FAO and WHO to developing countries in the application of risk management be extended to the risk assessment area. The Delegation of India supported by some other delegations strongly expressed the view that the risk analysis needs of the developing countries should be specifically identified and addressed, and that adequate and flexibility should be provided where appropriate to meet any special needs of developing countries.

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This would include requiring that Codex Committees involved in any aspect of risk analysis formally describe their implementation of the Codex principles and guidelines, using a standardised summary format, for publication in their respective reports and recommend that advisory bodies such as JECFA and JMPR do the same. It would also require that that Codex Committees develop standards using these principles and guidelines as a checklist, and in doing so adhere closely to their documented risk assessment/risk management policies.

MATTERS RELATING TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE WTO AGREEMENTS ON THE APPLICATION OF SANITARY AND PHYTOSANITARY MEASURES AND THE AGREEMENT ON TECHNICAL BARRIERS TO TRADE (Agenda Item 11)⁸¹**REVIEW OF THE STATUS OF CODEX TEXTS UNDER THE WTO AGREEMENTS**

168. The Representative of WTO reminded the Commission that the Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT Agreement) allowed WTO Members to deviate from international standards for various reasons when Members considered that the international standards were inappropriate to their circumstances. The Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS Agreement), on the other hand, made specific reference to Codex texts without providing any clear distinction between standards, guidelines and recommendations. The Representative also expressed a view that those Codex texts that were meant to apply only within a geographic region would not be particularly relevant outside that region and that other Codex texts or provisions not intended for application by governments but by commercial partners would not be relevant under the SPS Agreement either. Neither would guidelines intended for the working procedures of the Codex Alimentarius Commission and its subsidiary bodies. The Representative however noted that these issues could formally be clarified through two possible ways: either in the form of decisions by WTO Panels resulting from individual dispute cases or by requesting clarification from the SPS Committee.

169. Several delegations stressed that the Commission should preserve its right and authority to pursue its work based upon its own priorities. It was also stated that the Commission should be able to differentiate between different categories of texts, such as standards, guidelines and recommendations, on the basis of the statutory objectives of Codex. The Delegation of the United States and others recommended that the Committee on General Principles initiate work on the type and nature of Codex texts in relation to their intended use by Governments.

170. In regard to the opportunity of deleting those Codex texts not intended to be applied by governments for the purpose of protecting the health of consumers or for ensuring fair practice in the food trade, one delegation noted that the elaboration of such texts should be discouraged in future.

171. The Commission recognized the views expressed in paragraph 9 of the ALINORM 97/7 and endorsed the following recommendations:

- *In view of the confusion created by the use of the term "advisory" and as the term cannot be defined satisfactorily and the SPS and TBT Agreements do not appear to distinguish between mandatory and advisory texts, its use within the Codex framework should be discouraged, as well as the use of the term "mandatory";*
- *All Codex texts specific to the control of food moving in international trade should be elaborated with the same degree of rigour and scientific justification where appropriate as Codex standards;*
- *Codex standards or any other texts which establish quality criteria for products additional to essential quality factors should clearly indicate that such criteria are intended for voluntary application by commercial partners, as follows: "This text is intended for voluntary application by commercial partners and not for application by governments".*
- *The degree of explanatory material contained in Codex texts should be adequate for the interpretation of the text; and*

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ALINORM 97/7; ALINORM 97/4, paragraphs 15-20.

- *That Codex Committees review the codes, guidelines and related texts under their responsibility in order to determine to what extent they should be redrafted as standards.*

172. The Commission also concurred with the view of the Executive Committee⁸² and decided to request the SPS Committee through the Secretariat to clarify how the SPS Committee would differentiate "standards, guidelines and other recommendations" in relation to the implementation of the SPS Agreement by WTO Members.

173. The Representative of the WTO expressed concern that insufficient understanding of the WTO Agreements was apparently hampering the adoption of Codex standards and guidelines at a time when WTO Members, and especially developing countries, had an immediate need for Codex texts to assist them to fulfil their obligations under the WTO. The Representative urged increased involvement of all Commission members in the work of the WTO, in particular, through their participation in the work of the SPS Committee.

ACCEPTANCE PROCEDURE FOR CODEX STANDARDS IN THE PERSPECTIVE OF THE WTO SPS AND TBT AGREEMENTS

174. The Commission decided to proceed with a revision of the acceptance procedures rather than abolishing them and requested the Committee on General Principles to expedite its work along the previously proposed lines.

175. It was suggested that the revision of the acceptance procedures should be considered in conjunction with the revision of the elaboration procedures. It was pointed out that the Committee on General Principles might need to meet more frequently in view of the amount and urgency of its task.

IDENTIFICATION OF THOSE STANDARDS, GUIDELINES AND RECOMMENDATIONS HAVING A MAJOR TRADE IMPACT AND THE EXTENT TO WHICH THESE STANDARDS ARE USED BY MEMBER COUNTRIES

176. The Commission endorsed the recommendations contained in paragraph 25 of the working document and agreed to discontinue the exercise of identifying Codex texts of major trade impact.

CONSIDERATION OF THE DRAFT MEDIUM-TERM PLAN FOR 1998 TO 2002 (Agenda Item 12)⁸³

177. The Commission noted the progress towards achieving the current medium-term objectives (1993-1998). It endorsed the general directions indicated in the Medium-Term Plan 1998-2002 and the proposals of the Secretariat to transmit the outline of the plan to Member Governments for comment, finalization by the Executive Committee at its 45th Session, and approval by the Commission at its 23rd Session in 1999.

178. In endorsing the general direction of the Medium-Term Plan, the Commission requested that consideration should be given to the development of standards or related texts in areas concerning foods derived from biotechnology or traits introduced into foods from biotechnology, where this was scientifically justified. It also requested that reference be made to the needs of developing countries in the acceptance and application of Codex Standards, the problems of small and medium-scale industries in meeting these standards, and the special conditions which might apply in developing countries which would have an impact on the elaboration of standards. The Commission also requested that the issues of transparency and the increased involvement of international non-governmental organizations, especially those representing consumers' interests should be reflected in the plan. The Commission

⁸² ALINORM 97/4, paragraph 15.

⁸³ ALINORM 97/6; CAC/LIM 6 (ALINORM 97/6 - Add.1)

stated that allowance should be made for the continuation of work on commodity-specific standards, as required.

179. The Commission agreed that consideration should be given to a re-examination of the Terms of Reference of the Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling to remove the restrictions which prevented it from acting as a fully horizontal committee.

180. It was noted that the detailed list of work items would be updated by including the decisions of the present session of the Commission.

DESIGNATION OF HOST GOVERNMENTS FOR CODEX COMMITTEES (Agenda Item 13)⁸⁴

CONFIRMATION OF CHAIRMANSHIP OF CODEX COMMITTEES

181. In accordance with the Rule IX. 10 of the Rules of Procedure, the Commission confirmed the chairmanship of the Codex Committees hosted by Member governments as presented in Appendix V.

182. The United Kingdom, as host government for the Codex Committee on Sugars, stated that this Committee had been adjourned *sine die*. However, it had been given certain work to perform by correspondence. The United Kingdom would attempt to complete this work by correspondence, supplemented by small *ad hoc* discussion groups if appropriate. Should it be necessary to reconvene the Committee, the Government of the United Kingdom would then have to confirm whether or not it would be able to continue to act as host government.

183. The Delegations of Argentina, India and others requested that Committee be reactivated and Argentina offered to be the host country if the United Kingdom would be unable to continue in that role.

184. The Delegation of Cuba informed the Commission that discussions had been held with the Government of Canada in relation to Cuba's wish to host the 27th Session of the Committee on Food Labelling in Havana 1999.

OTHER BUSINESS (Agenda Item 14)

REVIEW OF CODEX SUBSIDIARY BODIES⁸⁵

185. The Commission had been requested by the 112th FAO Council⁸⁶ to review its subsidiary body structure. It had been suggested that, for reasons of cost-reduction and efficiency, Codex eliminate a number of committees adjourned *sine die* and move to more flexible structure, using inter-governmental task forces to handle specific issues. The Executive Committee at its 44th Session also considered this matter and expressed some concerns on these suggestions⁸⁷.

186. The Commission expressed concern about possible implications of abolishing committees adjourned *sine die* as it was felt that this was contrary to the recognized increasing importance of Codex work, for example in WTO. It was pointed out that these committees represented no cost to the Programme and, where necessary, could be revived for a specific task.

187. The Commission also expressed interest in the "alternative mechanisms" but stated that there should be clear rules for their establishment and operation. It emphasised that, if they were to be

84 ALINORM 97/16

85 ALINORM 97/16-Add.1.

86 2-7 June 1997.

87 ALINORM 97/4, paras. 23-

implemented, they should be as inclusive, transparent and responsive as the current system and use the same Codex stepwise elaboration procedure.

188. The Commission agreed to bring the following to the attention of FAO Council:

The Commission:

- was appreciative and attentive of FAO's concerns and suggestions;
- was carrying out only the work it need to do so, and in the most cost-effective way;
- wished to stress its increasingly important role in the light of WTO's SPS and TBT Agreements;
- wished to point out to FAO Council that the Codex Committees adjourned *sine die* did not cost FAO but rather were playing an important role of monitoring developments in the relevant areas and would revive when necessary;
- noted that the Committee on Edible Ices had been abolished at the present session;
- had requested guidance on rules for establishment and operation of ad hoc task forces;
- stressed that such task forces would have to have the same attributes of inclusiveness, transparency, cost efficiency and responsiveness as the current arrangement;
- expressed concern at the recommendation to reduce further the length of Commission Sessions in view of the increasing importance and workload of the Commission.

189. Regarding the suggestion of FAO regarding the broadening of the mandate of the Codex Committee on Natural Mineral Waters to include soft drinks, the Delegation of the United States expressed the strongest reservations on this suggestion. The Delegation further stated that a standard for bottled water was to be accelerated following the adoption of the Standard on Natural Mineral Waters at Step 8. The Delegation of the United States stated that it would object if Switzerland were not to hold a meeting for two years to develop a draft standard on bottled waters, especially in light of the interest expressed by 31 countries in this standard, and volunteered to join other countries in preparing a draft for consideration at a meeting next year.

190. Delegation of Switzerland reported that it had committed itself to proceeding with the work on a standard on packaged waters other than natural mineral waters and assured the Commission that Switzerland would proceed as rapidly as possible with this work. Currently Switzerland was creating an informal working group with all interested countries, including the Delegation of the United States which had already contacted, and would request them to send in as quickly as possible their regulations, comments and proposals, after which Switzerland would prepare a draft, circulate it for comments and then hold a session of the Committee on Natural Mineral Waters in 1998.

DISTRIBUTION OF DOCUMENTS

191. The Secretariat informed the Commission that the deadline for distribution of working documents was normally two months, however some Committees had been held shortly before the Commission and the planning might need to be reconsidered in this respect; working documents had been made available on Internet and this practice would continue; transmission of documents via electronic mail to the FAO Representatives at the national and regional level would also contribute to ensure their availability in time to Member countries; similarly, documents could be distributed through the Permanent Representatives of Member countries to FAO for distribution to Contact Points. The Secretariat also expressed its appreciation to the host countries of Committees for their important contribution to the translation and distribution of documents.

192. Several delegations expressed their support for continued use of Internet to facilitate the diffusion of documents. The Representative of WHO indicated that it would explore the possibilities of facilitating the distribution of Codex documents to the national health authorities using the electronic facilities in WHO offices in the countries.

193. The Delegation of Spain, supported by the Delegations of Argentina, Peru, Cuba and Costa Rica, recognized that significant efforts had been made to improve distribution; however, specific difficulties existed concerning documents in Spanish, which were circulated much later than those in English and they proposed that the papers should be available on Internet in the three languages; in many cases, translation itself was also a problem as it did not correspond to the terminology actually used in Spanish-speaking countries.

194. The Delegation of China, supported by the Delegation of Japan, stressed that it needed enough time to ensure its national translation of documents, and suggested that Codex papers be translated into all FAO and WHO official languages.

195. The Secretariat recognized the difficulties inherent to the reduction in translation services in French and Spanish and the increased volume of documentation, and indicated that additional means of ensuring timely translation were being considered. The use of other languages, however, would not be feasible in view of the very high costs to the Codex Programme, as had appeared in an earlier study⁸⁸.

OTHER MATTERS

196. The Delegation of Nigeria recalled that specific consideration had been given in recent years to cooperation with the African Regional Standardization Organization (ARSO) and that this should be pursued in view of its importance to the Region. The Secretariat indicated that continued cooperation was evidenced by the regular attendance of ARSO at the meetings of the Coordinating Committee for Africa, and that it was also entitled to participate in the Commission.

197. The Delegation of Botswana proposed that the Southern African Development Community (SADC), which was promoting food security and food safety issues in the sub-region, be invited to attend the Commission and this was agreed.

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Appendix/Annexe/Apéndice I

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Figuran en primar lugar los Jefes de las delegaciones; los Supleantes y Asesores aparacen par orden alfabético.

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APPENDIX II

**AMENDMENTS TO THE PROCEDURAL MANUAL OF THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS
COMMISSION**

**GUIDELINES FOR THE INCLUSION OF SPECIFIC PROVISIONS IN CODEX STANDARDS
AND RELATED TEXTS (SECTION H)**

PRINCIPLES FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT AND APPLICATION OF MICROBIOLOGICAL CRITERIA TO FOODS

Deleted

**GUIDELINES FOR THE USE OF CODEX COMMITTEES ON THE INCLUSION OF PROVISIONS ON
NUTRITIONAL QUALITY IN FOOD STANDARDS AND OTHER CODEX TEXTS**

Deleted

**GUIDELINES ON THE ELABORATION AND/OR REVISION OF CODES OF HYGIENIC PRACTICE FOR
SPECIFIC COMMODITIES**

- (a) The establishment of additional food hygiene requirements for specific food items or food groups should be limited to the extent necessary to meet the defined objectives of individual codes.
- (b) Codex Codes of Hygienic Practice should serve the primary purpose of providing advice to governments on the application of food hygiene provisions within the framework of national and international requirements.
- (c) The Revised Recommended International Code of Practice - General Principles of Food Hygiene (including the Guidelines for the Application of the Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point (HACCP) System) and the Revised Principles for the Establishment and Application of Microbiological Criteria for Foods are the base documents in the field of food hygiene.
- (d) All Codex Codes of Hygienic Practice applicable to specific food items or food groups shall refer to the General Principles of Food Hygiene and shall only contain material additional to the General Principles which is necessary to take into account the particular requirements of the specific food item or food group.
- (e) Provisions in Codex Codes of Hygienic Practice should be drafted in a sufficiently clear and transparent manner such that extended explanatory material is not required for their interpretation.
- (f) The above considerations should also apply to Codex Codes of Practice which contain provisions relating to food hygiene.

CRITERIA FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF WORK PRIORITIES AND FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF SUBSIDIARY BODIES OF THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION (SECTION J)

NEW WORK TO BE UNDERTAKEN BY EXISTING SUBSIDIARY BODIES

1. When a Codex Committee proposes to elaborate a standard, code of practice or related text within its terms of reference, it should first consider the priorities established by the Commission in the Medium-Term Plan of Work, any specific relevant strategic project currently being undertaken by the Commission and the prospect of completing the work within a reasonable period of time. It should also assess the proposal against the criteria set out in paragraph 4, below.
2. If the proposal falls in an area outside the Committee's terms of reference the proposal should be reported to the Commission in writing together with proposals for such amendments to the Committee's terms of reference as may be required.

NEW WORK WHICH MAY REQUIRE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A NEW SUBSIDIARY BODY

3. When a Member wishes to propose the elaboration of a standard, code of practice or related text in an area not covered by the terms of reference of any existing subsidiary body, it should accompany its proposal with a written statement to the Commission referring to the Commission's Medium-Term Objectives and containing, as far as practicable, the information required by the appropriate section of paragraph 4, below.

RELATIONS BETWEEN COMMODITY COMMITTEES AND GENERAL SUBJECT COMMITTEES (SECTION K)⁸⁹

FOOD ADDITIVES AND CONTAMINANTS

- 1) Third paragraph (p.114)
 - In preparing working papers for the Codex Committee on Food Additives and Contaminants, the Secretariat should make a report to the Committee concerning the endorsement of provisions for food additives (including processing aids), **on the basis of the General Principles for the Use of Food Additives. Provisions for food additives should indicate the INS number, the ADI, technological justification, proposed level, and whether the additive was previously endorsed (or temporarily endorsed)**
 - Sections (i), (ii) and (iii) (pages 114-115): deleted and integrated into the General Principles for the Use of Food Additives.
- 2) First paragraph p.115 "When commodity standards are sent to governments for comments at Step 3, they should contain a statement that the provisions "in respect of food additives **and contaminants** are subject to endorsement by the Codex Committee on Food Additives and Contaminants **and to incorporation into the General Standard for Food Additives or the General Standard for Contaminants and Toxins in Food**
- 3) Second paragraph and Sections (i) to (v) on page 115-116: delete and replace with
 - (i) **When establishing provisions for food additives, Codex committees should follow the General Principles for the Use of Food Additives and the Preamble of the General Standard for Food Additives. Full explanation should be provided for any departure from the above recommendations.**

⁸⁹ New texts appears in bold in this section

- (ii) When an active commodity committee exists, proposals for the use of additives in any commodity standard under consideration should be prepared by the committee concerned, and forwarded to the Codex Committee on Food Additives and Contaminants for endorsement. When the Codex Committee on Food Additives and Contaminants decides not to endorse specific additives provisions (use of the additive, or level in the end-product), the reason should be clearly stated. The section under consideration should be referred back to the Committee concerned if further information is needed, or for information if the Codex Committee on Food Additives and Contaminants decides to amend the provision.**
- (iii) When no active commodity committee exists, proposals for new additive provisions or amendment of existing provisions, should be forwarded directly by member countries to the Codex Committee on Food Additives and Contaminants.**

DEFINITIONS FOR THE PURPOSES OF THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS**DEFINITIONS OF RISK ANALYSIS TERMS RELATED TO FOOD SAFETY⁹⁰**

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 of weighing policy alternatives in the light of the results of risk assessment and, if required, selecting and implementing appropriate control options, including regulatory measures.

RISK COMMUNICATION: The interactive exchange of information and opinions concerning risk among risk assessors, risk managers, consumers and other interested parties.

⁹⁰

These Definitions are proposed on an interim basis: they are subject to modification in the light of developments in the science of risk analysis and as a result of efforts to harmonize similar definitions across various disciplines

**APPENDIX TO THE PROCEDURAL MANUAL:
GENERAL DECISIONS OF THE COMMISSION**

**A. 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 RELATING TO THE ROLE OF FOOD
SAFETY RISK ASSESSMENT**

1. The food standards, guidelines and other recommendations of Codex Alimentarius shall be based on the principle of sound scientific analysis and evidence, involving a thorough review of all relevant information, in order that the standards assure the quality and safety of the food supply.
2. When elaborating and deciding upon food standards Codex Alimentarius will have regard, where appropriate, to other legitimate factors relevant for the health protection of consumers and for the promotion of fair practices in food trade.
3. In this regard it is noted that food labelling plays an important role in furthering both of these objectives.
4. When the situation arises that members of Codex agree on the necessary level of protection of public health but hold differing views about other considerations, members may abstain from acceptance of the relevant standard without necessarily preventing the decision by Codex.

**B. STATEMENTS OF PRINCIPLE RELATING TO THE ROLE OF FOOD SAFETY RISK
ASSESSMENT**

1. Health and safety aspects of Codex decisions and recommendations should be based on a risk assessment, as appropriate to the circumstances.
2. Food safety risk assessment should be soundly based on science, should incorporate the four steps of the risk assessment process, and should be documented in a transparent manner.
3. There should be a functional separation of risk assessment and risk management, while recognizing that some interactions are essential for a pragmatic approach.
4. Risk assessments should use available quantitative information to the greatest extent possible and risk characterizations should be presented in a readily understandable and useful form.

Appendix III

LIST OF STANDARDS AND RELATED TEXTS ADOPTED BY THE 22ND SESSION OF THE
CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION ¹

PART I. STANDARDS AND RELATED TEXTS ADOPTED AT STEP 8

STANDARD AND RELATED TEXTS	REFERENCE	Status
Methods of Analysis for the Determination of Food Additives and Contaminants in Foods	ALINORM 97/12 Appendix IV	Adopted
Codex Advisory Specifications	ALINORM 97/12, Appendix V and ALINORM 97/12A, Appendix VI	Adopted
Amendments to the International Numbering System	ALINORM 97/12, paras. 52-54	Adopted
Draft Annexes I, II, and III of the General Standard for Contaminants and Toxins in Foods	ALINORM 97/12, Appendix VI	Adopted
Draft Revised Preamble to the Codex General Standard for Food Additives	ALINORM 97/12A, Appendix III	Adopted
<u>General Standard for Food Additives: Proposed Draft Schedule of Additives permitted for Use in Food in General, unless otherwise specified, in accordance with Good Manufacturing Practice and Annex on Food Categories or Individual Food Items where the use of Additives with GMP Limitations are not allowed or restricted</u>	ALINORM 97/12A, Appendix IV and Annex	Adopted
<u>General Standard for Contaminants and Toxins in Foods: Annotated List of Contaminants and Toxins and Food Categorization System (Annexes IV and V)</u>	ALINORM 97/12A, Appendix VII	Adopted
Draft Code of Practice for the Reduction of Aflatoxin B ₁ in Raw Materials and Supplemental Feedingstuffs for Milk-Producing Animals	ALINORM 97/12A, Appendix IX	Adopted
Draft Revised Recommended International Code of Practice - General Principles of Food Hygiene	ALINORM 97/13, Appendix II	Adopted with editorial changes, especially in the Spanish version

STANDARD AND RELATED TEXTS	REFERENCE	Status
Draft Revised Guidelines for the Application of the Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point (HACCP) System	ALINORM 97/13A, Appendix II	Adopted with editorial changes, especially in the Spanish version
Draft Revised Principles for the Establishment and Application of Microbiological Criteria for Foods	ALINORM 97/13A, Appendix III	Adopted
Draft Revised Standard for Natural Mineral Waters	ALINORM 97/20, Appendix II	Adopted
Draft Guidelines for Use of Nutrition Claims including Table of Conditions for Claims for Nutrient Contents	ALINORM 97/22, Appendix II ALINORM 97/26, Appendix II	Adopted
Draft General Guidelines for use of the Term "Halal"	ALINORM 97/22, Appendix III	Adopted
IUPAC/ISO/AOAC Harmonized Guidelines for Internal Quality Control in Analytical Chemistry Laboratories	ALINORM 97/23, para. 40	Adopted
Draft Maximum Residue Limits and Extraneous Maximum Residue Limits for Pesticides	ALINORM 97/24, Annex II, ALINORM 97/24A, Annex II	Adopted
Draft Guidelines for the Design of Control Measures for Street-Vended Foods in Africa	ALINORM 97/28, Appendix II	Adopted with an editorial change
Draft Guidelines for the Exchange of Information between countries on rejections of imported food	ALINORM 97/30, Appendix II	Adopted with amendments
Draft Guidelines for the Design, Operation, Assessment and Accreditation of Food Import and Export Inspection and Certification Systems	ALINORM 97/30A, Appendix II	Adopted
Draft Maximum Residue Limits for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Diminazine • Doramectin • Levamisole • Moxidectin • Spiramycin • Triclabendazole 	ALINORM 97/31A, Appendix II	Adopted MRL for Spiramycin in cattle milk raised to 200µg/litre
Amendments to Methods of Analysis for Previously Adopted Maximum Residue Limits for Veterinary Drugs	ALINORM 97/31A, Appendix VIII	Adopted

STANDARD AND RELATED TEXTS	REFERENCE	Status
Draft Codex Standard for Mangosteens	ALINORM 97/35, Appendix II	Adopted
Draft Codex Standard for Bananas	ALINORM 97/35, Appendix III	Adopted
Proposed Draft Guidelines for the Assessment of the Competence of Testing Laboratories involved in the Import and Export Control of Foods	ALINORM 97/23A, Appendix II	Adopted at Steps 5 & 8 with omission of Steps 6 & 7
Proposed Draft Maximum Residue Limits and Extraneous Maximum Residue Limits for Pesticides	ALINORM 97/24, Annex II, ALINORM 97/24A, Annex II	Adopted at Steps 5 & 8 with omission of Steps 6 & 7
Proposed Draft Revised Standard for Food Grade Salt	ALINORM 97/26, para. 32 and Appendix III	Adopted at Steps 5 & 8 with omission of Steps 6 & 7
Proposed Draft Maximum Residue Limits for: • Oxytetracycline	ALINORM 97/31A. Appendix IV	Adopted at Steps 5 & 8 with omission of Steps 6 & 7
Draft Amendment to the Standard for Infant Formula. Vitamin B ₁₂	ALINORM 97/26, para. 94 and Appendix IV	Adopted at Step 5 of the Accelerated Procedure

PART II. DRAFT STANDARDS AND RELATED TEXTS ADOPTED AT STEP 5

STANDARD AND RELATED TEXTS	REFERENCE	NOTES
Proposed Draft Revised Code of Principles concerning Milk and Milk Products	ALINORM 97/11 and Appendix X	Adopted at Step 5 and advanced to Step 6
<u>General Standard for Food Additives:</u> Proposed Draft Schedules of Food Additives specifically Permitted in Foods	ALINORM 97/12A, Appendix V	Adopted at Step 5 and advanced to Step 6
Proposed Draft Maximum Levels for Lead	ALINORM 97/12A, Appendix X	Adopted at Step 5 and advanced to Step 6
Proposed Draft Guidelines for the Sensory Evaluation of Fish and Shellfish	ALINORM 97/18, Appendix II	Adopted at Step 5 and advanced to Step 6
<u>General Standard for the Labelling of Pre-packaged Foods:</u> Proposed Draft amendment (Foods that can cause hypersensitivity)	ALINORM 97/22A Appendix IV	Adopted at Step 5 and advanced to Step 6
Proposed Draft Maximum Residue Limits for Pesticides (MRLs)	ALINORM 97/24A, Annex II	Adopted at Step 5 and advanced to Step 6
Proposed Draft Revised Methods of Sampling for the Determination of Pesticide Residues for Compliance with MRLs	ALINORM 97/24A, Appendix II	Adopted at Step 5 and advanced to Step 6
Proposed Draft Revised Standard for Gluten-Free Foods	ALINORM 97/26, para. 41 and Appendix V	Adopted at Step 5 and advanced to Step 6
Proposed Draft Maximum Residue Limits for Veterinary Drugs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Abamectin • Azaperone • Chlorotetracycline/Oxytetracycline/Tetracycline • Cypermethrin • α-Cypermethrin • Dexamethasone • Diclazuril • Dihydrostreptomycin/Streptomycin • Febantel/Febendazole/ Oxyfendazole • Gentamicin • Neomycin • Spectinomycin 	ALINORM 97/31A, Appendix V	Adopted at Step 5 and advanced to Step 6

STANDARD AND RELATED TEXTS	REFERENCE	NOTES
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Thiamphenicol• Tilmicosin		
Proposed Draft Amendment to the Labelling Section of the Standard for Quick Frozen Fish Sticks (Fish Fingers), Fish Portions and Fish Fillets, Breaded or in Batter	ALINORM 97/22A, paragraph 50 and Appendix II	Adopted at Step 5 - normal procedure

Appendix IV

APPROVED NEW WORK

STANDARD AND RELATED TEXTS	RESPONSIBLE COMMITTEE	NOTES
Standard for Chocolate and Chocolate Products (Combined Standard Covering Previous Standards for Chocolate, Cocoa Butter Confectionery and for Composite and Filled Chocolate)	CCCPC	
Draft Code of Practice on Good Animal Feeding	CCEXEC; CCFH; CCFAC; CCPR; CCRVDF	
Code of Practice on Source Directed Measures to Reduce Contamination of Foodstuffs	CCFAC	
Fresh Water and Tropical Fish Products	CCFFP	
Code of Hygienic Practice for Milk and Milk Products	CCFH	
Hygienic Recycling of Processing Water in Food Processing Plants	CCFH	
Application of Microbiological Risk Evaluation to International Trade	CCFH	
Revision of the Standard Wording for Food Hygiene Provisions (Procedural Manual)	CCFH	
Risk-Based Guidance for the Use of HACCP-Like Systems in Small Businesses, with Special Reference to Developing Countries	CCFH	
Management of Microbiological Hazards for Foods in International Trade	CCFH	
Model Export Certificate for Dairy Products	CCFICS; CCMMP	
Revision of the Guidelines on Nutrition Labelling	CCFL	
Definition of the Claim "Vegetarian"	CCFL	
"Sports Drinks" and "Energy Drinks"	CCFL	
Improved procedures for obtaining consensus	CCGP	
Special or Differential Treatment for Developing Countries in the Application of Codex Standards	CCGP	
Revision of the Code of Hygienic Practice for the Preparation and Sale of Street - Vended Foods	CCLAC	
Intra-Laboratory Method Validation	CCMAS	
Standard for Dairy Spreads	CCMMP	
Standard for Mozzarella	CCMMP	
General Standard for Bottled/Packaged Waters Other Than Natural Mineral Waters	CCNMW	

STANDARD AND RELATED TEXTS	RESPONSIBLE COMMITTEE	NOTES
Revised Maximum Residue Limits for certain pesticides (priority list) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Abamectin (177) • Clethodim (187) • Dinocap (087) • Disulfoton (074) • Glyphosate (158) • Glufosinate-ammonium (175) • Hexythiazox (176) • Kresoxim-methyl • Myclobutenil (181) • Tebuconazol (176) 	CCPR	
National Regulatory Practices to Facilitate the Use of Codex Maximum Residue Limits for Pesticides	CCPR	
Bouillons and Consommés (revision of the standard)	CCSB	
Maximum Residue Limits for Certain Veterinary Drugs (priority list) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cyfluthrin • Danofloxacin • Eprinomectin • Fluazuron • Imidocarb • Nicarbazin • Porcine somatotropin (PST) • Procaine penicillin • Sarafloxacin • Deltamethrin • Doramectin • Metrifonate • Permethrin • Phoxim • Temephos 	CCRVDF	Without prejudice to the timely scientific evaluation of this substance by JECFA, the Commission requested that the matter be taken up by the Committee on Residues of Veterinary Drugs in Foods concurrently with the discussion by the Committee on General Principles of the matter of Bovine Somatotropins (BST) and PST as a related substance, within the context of the four 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

Appendix V

CONFIRMATION OF CHAIRMANSHIP OF CODEX COMMITTEES

Committee	Chairmanship
Codex Committee on General Principles	France
Codex Committee on Food Additives and Contaminants	The Netherlands
Codex Committee on Food Hygiene	United States of America
Codex Committee on Food Labelling	Canada
Codex Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling	Hungary
Codex Committee on Pesticides Residues	The Netherlands
Codex Committee on Residues of Veterinary Drugs in Food	United States of America
Codex Committee on Food Import and Export Inspection and Certification Systems	Australia
Codex Committee on Nutrition and Food for Special Dietary Uses	Germany
Codex Committee on Cocoa Products and Chocolate	Switzerland
Codex Committee on Sugars	United Kingdom
Codex Committee on Processed Fruits and Vegetables	United States of America
Codex Committee on Fats and Oils	United Kingdom
Codex Committee on Meat Hygiene	New Zealand
Codex Committee on Processed Meat and Poultry Products	Denmark
Codex Committee on Fish and Fishery Products	Norway
Codex Committee on Soups and Broths	Switzerland
Codex Committee on Cereals, Pulses and Legumes	United States of America
Codex Committee on Vegetable Proteins	Canada
Codex Committee on Fresh Fruits and Vegetables	Mexico
Codex Committee on Milk and Milk Products	New Zealand
Codex Committee on Natural Mineral Waters	Switzerland

**MEMBERS OF THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION
(1 JULY 1997)**

Albania	Dominica	Lesotho	Samoa
Algeria	Dominican Republic	Liberia	Saudi Arabia
Angola	Ecuador	Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	Senegal
Antigua and Barbuda	Egypt	Lithuania	Seychelles
Argentina	El Salvador	Luxembourg	Sierra Leone
Armenia	Equatorial Guinea	Madagascar	Singapore
Australia	Eritrea	Malawi	Slovak Republic
Austria	Estonia	Malaysia	Slovenia
Bahrain	Ethiopia	Malta	South Africa
Bangladesh	Fiji	Mauritania	Spain
Barbados	Finland	Mauritius	Sri Lanka
Belgium	France	Mexico	Sudan
Belize	Gabon	Micronesia, Federated States of	Suriname
Benin	Gambia	Mongolia	Swaziland
Bolivia	Germany	Morocco	Sweden
Botswana	Ghana	Mozambique	Switzerland
Brazil	Greece	Myanmar	Syrian Arab Republic
Bulgaria	Grenada	Nepal	Thailand
Burkina Faso	Guatemala	Netherlands	The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia
Burundi	Guinea	New Zealand	Togo
Cambodia	Guinea Bissau	Nicaragua	Trinidad and Tobago
Cameroon	Guyana	Niger	Tunisia
Canada	Haiti	Nigeria	Turkey
Cape Verde	Honduras	Norway	Uganda
Central African Republic	Hungary	Oman	United Arab Emirates
Chad	Iceland	Pakistan	United Kingdom
Chile	India	Panama	United Republic of Tanzania
China	Indonesia	Papua New Guinea	United States of America
Colombia	Iran (Islamic Republic of)	Paraguay	Uruguay
Congo, Democratic Republic of	Iraq	Peru	Vanuatu
Congo, Republic of	Ireland	Philippines	Venezuela
Costa Rica	Israel	Poland	Viet Nam
Côte d'Ivoire	Italy	Portugal	Yemen
Croatia	Jamaica	Qatar	Yugoslavia
Cuba	Japan	Republic of Korea	Zambia
Cyprus	Jordan	Romania	Zimbabwe
Czech Republic	Kenya	Russian Federation	
Democratic People's Republic of Korea	Kiribati	Rwanda	
Denmark	Kuwait	Saint Kitts and Nevis	
	Laos	Saint Lucia	
	Latvia		
	Lebanon		

The Codex Alimentarius Commission is the body that since 1962 has been responsible for the implementation of the Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme. The programme has the stated aims of protecting the health of consumers and ensuring fair practices in the food trade. At 1 July 1997, the Codex Alimentarius Commission had 157 member countries representing over 98 percent of the world's consumers. Its twenty-second session, held in Geneva from 23 to 28 June 1997, was attended by 444 participants representing 86 member countries as well as observers from one non-member country, seven intergovernmental organizations and 36 international non-governmental organizations (NGOs). This report is the formal record of the commission's decisions. It highlights the commission's recommendations on implementation of an action plan for the Codex Alimentarius-wide development and application of risk analysis principles and guidelines; on the commission's relationships with NGOs; and on the continuing implementation of Codex standards, guidelines and other recommendations within the context of the Uruguay Round agreements. The commission adopted a wide range of new or revised standards and codes of practice, most notably in the areas of food additives and food hygiene. The commission's decisions in relation to bovine somatotropin (BST), natural mineral waters and the need for standards for potentially dangerous herbs and spices used as foods are also recorded.

