

JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME

CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION

Twenty-seventh Session,

Centre International de Conférences de Genève

Geneva, Switzerland, 28 June – 3 July 2004

Report

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Commission:

- a) Adopted amendments to several sections of the Procedural Manual, including amendments to *Procedures for the Elaboration of Codex Standards and Related Texts* and to *Definitions for the Purpose of the Codex Alimentarius* but could not consider amendments to the Rules of Procedure due to the absence of the quorum required;
- b) Adopted 19 new or revised Codex standards or related texts, including the *Code of Practice for Good Animal Feeding* and the *Standard for Oranges*;
- c) Approved a number of new work proposals, including the re-establishment of the *Ad Hoc* Intergovernmental Task Force on Foods Derived from Biotechnology;
- d) Expressed its appreciation to FAO and WHO for their effort to maintain the adequate budgetary level for Codex and requested the parent organizations to continue to assign a high priority to Codex;
- e) Agreed that a new Strategic Plan should cover the period 2008-2013 and, once adopted, be renewed every two years on a rolling basis;
- f) Approved the procedures for the review of the Committee structure and mandates of Codex Committees and Task Forces;
- g) Deferred the decision on whether to start the elaboration of a standard on Parmesan cheese to its 28th session, did not approve the discontinuation of work on the revision of the *Standard for Canned Sardines and Sardine-type Products* and returned the matter to the Committee on Fish and Fishery Products, and referred the issue on the revision of country-of-origin labelling back to the Committee on Food Labelling;
- h) Agreed, in regard to its relations with other international organizations, that:-
 - FAO and WHO initiate discussion with OIE on how to foster and oversee the relations between Codex and OIE; and
 - the Secretariat maintain its contacts with ISO and report to the Executive Committee and the Commission on ISO's activities of relevance to Codex work;
- i) Welcomed that the FAO/WHO Trust Fund for Enhanced Participation in Codex had become operational, expressed its appreciation to the donor countries, and requested that the criteria used in the distribution of funds be kept under review;
- j) Expressed its appreciation to FAO and WHO for their efforts to improve the scientific advice provided to the Commission, agreed to further consider how to address the issue of antimicrobial resistance at its 28th session, and noted the capacity building activities provided by FAO and WHO;
- k) Elected the following Officers of the Commission:
 - **Chairperson:** Stuart Slorach (Sweden)
 - **Vice-chairpersons:** Paul Mayers (Canada), Claude Mosha (Tanzania), Hiroshi Yoshikura (Japan)

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INTRODUCTION

1. The Codex Alimentarius Commission held its Twenty-seventh Session at the International Conference Centre, Geneva, Switzerland from 28 June to 3 July 2004. Dr Stuart Slorach (Sweden), Chairperson of the Commission presided, assisted by the Vice-Chairpersons Dr Claude J. S. Mosha (Tanzania), Dr Hiroshi Yoshikura (Japan) and Dr Paul Mayers (Canada). The Session was attended by 337 delegates, alternates and advisors from 89 Members, and 65 representatives from 37 international governmental and non-governmental organizations including UN agencies. A list of participants, including the Secretariat, is given in Appendix I to this report.

2. The Session was opened by Mr Hartwig de Haen, Assistant Director-General, FAO and Mr Denis Aitken, Assistant Director-General and Director of the Office of the Director-General, WHO, respectively.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA (Agenda Item 1)¹

3. The Commission **adopted** the Provisional Agenda as its Agenda for the Session with the understanding that item 15 “FAO/WHO Project and Trust Fund for Enhanced Participation in Codex” be discussed immediately following Agenda Item 8 “Financial and Budgetary Matters”.

4. The Commission noted the division of competence between the European Community and its Member States, presented by the Delegation of the European Community as LIM.3 and LIM.25, according to Rule II.5 of the Rules of Procedure.

REPORT BY THE CHAIRPERSON ON THE 53rd AND 54th SESSIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (Agenda Item 2)²

5. In accordance with Rule IV.5 of the Rules of Procedure, the Chairperson reported to the Commission on the outcome of the 53rd and 54th Sessions of the Executive Committee, as follows.

6. The 53rd Session of the Executive Committee had considered strategic and managerial matters; budgetary, planning and programming matters, including cost savings measures; priority setting for the provision of scientific advice; matters related to the FAO/WHO Trust Fund; and matters referred from Codex Committees and Task Forces.

7. The 54th Session of the Executive Committee had noted that the budgetary and financial situation had improved since the 53rd Session and had considered the need for further cost savings measures, and it had been informed about the operation of the FAO/WHO Trust Fund on Enhanced Participation in Codex. The Executive Committee had considered and provided advice to the Commission on the following matters: proposals for new work, including the possible future work for the Task Force on Foods Derived from Biotechnology and the Task Force on Animal Feeding; proposals for discontinuation of work; matters referred from Codex Committees and Task Forces; cooperation with international organizations; and matters related to scientific advice.

8. The Commission noted that many of the recommendations of the Executive Committee would be considered by the Commission under the relevant agenda items.

¹ ALINORM 04/27/1; ALINORM 04/27/1A; ALINORM 04/27/1B; LIM.3 and LIM.25 (Division of Competence between the European Community and its Member States)

² ALINORM 04/27/3; ALINORM 04/27/4

AMENDMENTS TO THE PROCEDURAL MANUAL (Agenda Item 3)³

Proposed Amendments to the Rules of Procedure

Proposed Amendments concerning the enlargement of the Executive Committee, the functions of the Executive Committee and matters related to budget and expenses

Proposed Amendments to Rules VIII.5 - Observers

9. As the quorum specified in Rule V.6 of the Rules of Procedure was not constituted, the Commission was unable to adopt the proposed amendments and agreed that their consideration should be deferred to its next session.

Proposals to Amend Other Sections of the Procedural Manual

Amendments to the Procedures for the Elaboration of Codex Standards and Related Texts

10. The Delegation of India, referring to its written comments, proposed some amendments to take into account more specifically the needs of developing countries. Under Part 2. Critical Review, the Delegation also proposed to take the decision to entrust work to a Committee other than the one to which it had been originally entrusted “on the basis of the recommendation of the said Committee”; and to delete the requirement to ensure that draft standards “are technically and legally sound” (paragraph 7) as technical aspects should be addressed by the Committee concerned. The Delegation also proposed that monitoring should apply only to the progress in developing standards; and that the critical review should not be applied at Steps 5 and 8, but only to new work. The Delegation of Singapore proposed to amend paragraph 2 to reflect that the Commission should take its decision “taking into account” the critical review. These proposals were supported by several other delegations.

11. The Delegation of India proposed to refer to consensus instead of a two-third majority throughout the text. Other delegations supported the current text and pointed out that there was no definition of consensus in the framework of Codex. The Commission also noted that the requirement for a two-third majority already existed in the current Elaboration Procedure and that such a major change would require consideration in the Committee on General Principles.

12. Some delegations proposed to return the text for further consideration by the Committee on General Principles as a number of significant changes had been proposed. Several other delegations stressed the need to adopt the amendment to the Elaboration Procedure concerning the Critical Review as this was the essential to allow the Executive Committee to carry out its standard management functions, following the decision of the 26th Session of the Commission in this respect.

13. After some discussion, the Commission **agreed to amend** paragraph 2 of the Critical Review to refer to “taking into account” a critical review; and paragraph 7 to delete the requirement for ensuring that draft standards are “technically and legally sound”. With this amendment, the Commission **adopted** the amendments to the Procedures for the Elaboration of Codex Standards and Related Texts as proposed (see Appendix II to this report). The Commission also agreed to refer to the Committee on General Principles the other comments made by India.

Draft Criteria for the appointment of Chairpersons

Draft Guidelines to Host Governments of Codex Committees and ad hoc Intergovernmental Task Forces

Draft Guidelines on the Conduct of Meetings of Codex Committees and ad hoc Intergovernmental Task Forces

Draft Guidelines to Chairpersons of Codex Committees and ad hoc Intergovernmental Task Forces

14. The Commission **adopted** the texts as proposed by the Committee on General Principles (see Appendix II to this report).

³ ALINORM 04/27/5; ALINORM 04/27/5-Add.1 (Comments of Brazil); LIM 23 (Comments of India)

Matters related to Methods of Analysis and Sampling

General Criteria for the Selection of Single Laboratory Validated Methods of Analysis Principle

Amendments to the Analytical terminology for Codex Use

15. The Commission **adopted** the texts as proposed by the Committee on General Principles (see Appendix II to this report).

Definitions of Risk Analysis Terms related to Food Safety

16. The Commission **adopted** the definitions on an interim basis, for inclusion in the Procedural Manual (see Appendix II to this report), on the understanding that the Committee on General Principles would reconsider these definitions if required in the light of the advice of the Committee on Pesticide Residues, the Committee on Food Additives and Contaminants, the Committee on Residues of Veterinary Drugs in Foods, the Committee on Meat Hygiene, and the Committee on Food Import and Export Inspection and Certification Systems.

Definition of Traceability/Product Tracing

17. The Delegation of India, supported by other delegations, questioned the definition as it did not specify how the stages of production, processing and distribution would be specified and the current text might result in potential barriers to trade, and therefore proposed to add, at the end of the definition, the phrase “as far as possible”.

18. Several delegations supported the current text of the definition as it resulted from substantial discussion in the Committee on General Principles and was necessary to further work on traceability/product tracing in Codex.

19. The Delegation of Mexico, while supporting the adoption of the definition, expressed the view that its application should be deferred until the principles under development in the Committee on Food Import and Export Inspection and Certification Systems (CCFICS) had been finalized. This position was supported by several delegations from the Region of Latin America and the Caribbean.

20. The Commission **adopted** the definition as proposed by the Committee on General Principles (see Appendix II to this report) and **requested** the CCFICS to present a proposal for new work on principles for the application of traceability/product tracing as a matter of priority. The Delegations of Mexico, Argentina, Chile and India maintained the view that the application of the definition should be deferred until the principles under development had been finalized.

DRAFT STANDARDS AND RELATED TEXTS (Agenda Item 4)⁴

21. The results of the Commission’s consideration of the Draft Standards and Related Texts submitted by its subsidiary bodies at Step 8 are presented in tabular form in Appendix III of the present report. The following paragraphs provide additional information on the comments made and the decisions taken on certain items.

Matters pending from previous sessions of the Commission

Draft MRLs for Bovine Somatotropin⁵

22. The Commission noted that no requests had been received to change the status of the standard and therefore agreed to continue to hold the draft standard at Step 8.

⁴ ALINORM 04/27/6; ALINORM 04/27/6A; LIM.4 (Comments of Cuba, Malaysia and South Africa); LIM.18 (Comments of Consumer International); LIM.20 (Comments of the European Community); LIM.22 (Comments of Indonesia); LIM.27 (Comments of Thailand).

⁵ ALINORM 95/31, Appendix II; ALINORM 97/37, paras 64-69; ALINORM 03/41, para. 34.

Draft Code of Practice for Animal Feeding (with the exclusion of the definition of feed additives and paragraphs 11, 12 and 13)⁶

23. The Commission agreed to make a final decision regarding the draft Code when considering the text forwarded by the 5th Session of the Intergovernmental Task Force on Animal Feeding (see the paragraph below).

Animal Feeding

Draft Definition of Feed Additives and paragraphs 11 and 12 of the draft Code of Practice on Good Animal Feeding⁷

24. The Commission **adopted** the entire draft Code of Practice on Good Animal Feeding, including the outstanding issues that were returned to the Task Force for finalization⁸, with an amendment in the Spanish version of paragraph 12 to refer to “efectos adversos posibles” instead of “riesgos posibles”. The Chairperson of the Intergovernmental Task Force on Animal Feeding, hosted by Denmark, expressed the view that the term “other substances” in the footnote of the definition of feed additives did not include antibiotics.

Food Additives and Contaminants

Draft Risk Analysis Principles Applied by the Codex Committee on Food Additives and Contaminants⁹

Draft CCFAC Policy for Exposure Assessment of Contaminants and Toxins in Food or Food Groups¹⁰

25. In noting that the two texts had not been endorsed by the 20th Session of the Committee on General Principles¹¹ (CCGP), the Commission deferred their consideration until its next session pending endorsement by CCGP.

Draft Food Category System of the General Standard on Food Additives¹²

26. The Commission **adopted** the draft Food Category Systems of the General Standard at Step 8 with amendments to the descriptors of food categories 01.3 “*Condensed milk and analogues (plain)*”, 01.3.2 “*Beverage whiteners*”, 01.5.2 “*Milk and cream powder analogues*” and 02.3 “*Fat emulsions of type oil-in-water, including mixed and/or flavoured products based on fat emulsions*” to take account of relevant decisions of the 6th Session of the Committee on Milk and Milk Products (CCMMP) regarding the name of milk products with vegetable fat¹³. It also noted that the descriptor of food category 14.1.2.1 “*Fruit juice*” would be amended according to the clarification of the 4th Session of the Task Force on Fruit and Vegetable Juices on the inclusion of coconut water.

Draft and Proposed Draft Revision to Table 1 of the Codex General Standard for Food Additives¹⁴

27. The Commission **adopted** the Draft and Proposed Draft Revision to Table 1 of the General Standard on Food Additives at Step 8 and Steps 5/8 as proposed. With regard to benzoates in food category 14.1.4, the Commission **adopted** the maximum level on an interim basis with the understanding that a review be conducted by CCFAC within 3 years and that comprehensive information on the levels of use of benzoates in different types of foods and in different parts of the world and the results of intake studies, particularly in children, and other relevant data should be provided to JECFA to facilitate its further assessment.

⁶ ALINORM 03/38A, Appendix II; ALINORM 03/41, para. 41.

⁷ ALINORM 04/27/38, Appendix II.

⁸ ALINORM 04/31, para. 41.

⁹ ALINORM 04/27/12, Appendix II.

¹⁰ ALINORM 04/27/12, Appendix XIV.

¹¹ ALINORM 04/27/33A, paras 27 and 29.

¹² ALINORM 04/27/12, Appendix V.

¹³ ALINORM 04/27/11, paras 23-46.

¹⁴ ALINORM 04/27/12, Appendix VI.

28. In addition to the decision above, following the proposal by the Delegation of Chile, supported by other delegations, the Commission **agreed to request** the Committee on General Principles to clarify the interpretation of the “adoption on an interim basis”.

29. The Commission noted the concern of the Delegation of the European Community about the proposed level of 600 mg/kg for benzoates in water-based flavoured drinks (food category 14.1.4) given the potential to exceed the ADI, particularly in children and that due regard be given to the technological need. The Delegation of Mexico expressed its reservation on the above level for benzoates in food category 14.1.4 as the level applied in its national legislation was 1000 mg/kg.

*Draft Code of Practice for the Prevention and Reduction of Aflatoxin Contamination in Peanuts*¹⁵

*Draft Code of Practice for the Prevention and Reduction of Lead Contamination in Food*¹⁶

*Proposed Draft Specifications for the Identity and Purity of Food Additives (Category I)*¹⁷

*Proposed Draft Amendments to the International Numbering System for Food Additives*¹⁸

30. The Commission **adopted** the above draft and proposed draft texts at Step 8 and Steps 5/8 as proposed by the Committee.

Fish and Fishery Products¹⁹

*Draft Standard for Atlantic Herring and Salted Sprats*²⁰

31. In reply to a question concerning the existence of two maximum levels of histamine, the Commission noted that the level of 10 mg/kg was an indicator of decomposition (quality factor) while the level of 20 mg/kg was related to food safety and included in the Food Hygiene Section, that had been endorsed by the Committee on Food Hygiene. The existence of these two maximum levels of histamine was also consistent with other Codex standards on fish and fishery products.

32. The Commission **adopted** the Draft Standard as proposed.

*Draft Model Certificate for Fish and Fishery Products (Sanitary Certificate)*²¹

33. The Commission noted that Section 5.2.7 Lot Identifier/Date Code referred to “traceability of the product in the event of public health investigations”. The Delegation of Thailand proposed to replace the term “traceability” with “recall”, given that the principles concerning traceability were still under consideration in the Committee on Food Import and Export Inspection and Certification Systems.

34. The Commission agreed to add a reference to product tracing to ensure consistency with the definition adopted at the current session and the terminology used throughout Codex. With this amendment the Commission **adopted** the Draft Model Certificate for Fish and Fishery Product (Sanitary Certificate) as proposed.

*Draft Amendment to the Standard for Quick Frozen Lobsters*²²

35. The Delegation of China proposed to include the freshwater crayfish in the Standard. The Delegation of South Africa proposed to develop a specific standard for freshwater crayfish in view of the specificity of freshwater species.

¹⁵ ALINORM 04/27/12, Appendix XV.

¹⁶ ALINORM 04/27/12, Appendix XVI.

¹⁷ ALINORM 04/27/12, Appendix XI.

¹⁸ ALINORM 04/27/12, Appendix XII.

¹⁹ ALINORM 04/27/18, Appendices II, III, IV and V.

²⁰ ALINORM 04/27/18, Appendix II.

²¹ ALINORM 04/27/18, Appendix III; LIM.27 (Comments from Thailand).

²² ALINORM 04/27/18, Appendix IV.

36. The Commission recalled that the purpose of the Draft Amendment was to include only certain species in the Standard and that the scope could not be amended at this stage. The Commission agreed that the Committee on Fish and Fishery Products might consider the development of provisions applicable to freshwater crayfish.

37. The Commission **adopted** the Draft Amendment to the Standard for Quick Frozen Lobsters as proposed by the Committee.

Proposed Draft Code of Practice for Fish and Fishery Products (sections on Aquaculture and on Quick Frozen Coated Fish Products)²³

38. The Delegation of Thailand, supported by the Delegation of India, expressed the view that the section on Aquaculture should not be adopted at Step 5/8 and required further consideration in view of its importance and possible impact on aquaculture production. The Delegation also proposed to delete the reference to the OIE Codes of Practice in the Preamble.

39. The Delegation of Norway, speaking as the host country for the Committee on Fish and Fishery products, recalled that the section on aquaculture had been developed by consensus in the Committee and that the reference to OIE Codes already existed in other Codex texts.

40. The Delegation of Malaysia proposed to replace the word “fodder” with “formulated feed” in the definition of “Fish Feed” for consistency with the terminology used in the *FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries*.

41. Some delegations proposed to review the provisions on “product tracing” in order to ensure consistency throughout Codex and in the light of the discussions held at the current session.

42. The Commission **adopted** the Proposed Draft Section on Aquaculture at Step 5.

43. The Commission **adopted** the section on Quick Frozen Coated Fish Products at Step 5/8 for inclusion in the *Code of Practice on Fish and Fishery Products* and agreed that it would replace the provisions on fish products in the *Code of Practice for Frozen Battered and/or Breaded Fishery Products (CAC/RCP 35-1985)*, while the provisions of the Code for other fishery products remained unchanged.

Fresh Fruits and Vegetables

Draft Codex Standard for Oranges²⁴

44. The Commission **adopted** the Draft Standard for Oranges at Step 8 as proposed by the Committee.

Food Hygiene

Draft Code of Practice for Milk and Milk Products²⁵

45. The Commission agreed to add the following text to the end of footnote 9 of Appendix II of the draft Code: “The use of the lactoperoxidase system for milk and milk products in international trade will be re-examined by the Committee on Food Hygiene (CCFH) after completion of an expert review by FAO and WHO of available data and considering the FAO Lactoperoxidase Expert Group report about potential risks and benefits of lactoperoxidase system. CCFH will then review the issue in 2006”.

46. With this amendment, the Commission **adopted** the draft Code at Step 8 as proposed and **agreed** to revoke the Code of Hygienic Practice for Dried Milk (CAC/RCP 31-1983).

²³ ALINORM 04/27/18, Appendix V; LIM.27 (Comments from Thailand).

²⁴ ALINORM 04/35, Appendix II and ALINORM 04/27/6A (Comments from Brazil).

²⁵ ALINORM 04/27/13, Appendix III; LIM 4 (Comments from Cuba).

Food Import and Export Inspection and Certification Systems

Proposed Draft Principles and Guidelines for the Exchange of Information in Food Safety Emergency Situations²⁶

47. The Commission amended the proposed draft Principles and Guidelines at Step 5/8 as follows: i) in paragraph 10 the term “a large geographical area” was changed to “a given geographical region”; ii) in paragraph 17 (a) “any” was added to “assumptions”; and, iii) in paragraph 22 “whenever possible” was added after “initial notification of the food safety problem including”. With these amendments and some editorial changes to the Spanish version, the Commission **adopted** the proposed draft General Principles and Guidelines at Steps 5 and 8.

Food Labelling²⁷

Draft Guidelines for Use of Nutrition and Health Claims

48. The Delegation of Malaysia expressed the view that the Draft Guidelines should not be adopted at this stage since the criteria for the scientific basis of health claims, currently under consideration in the Committee on Nutrition and Foods for Special Dietary Uses, had not been finalized.

49. The Delegation of South Africa objected to the adoption of the Draft Guidelines as the Preamble referred to Section 3.4 of the General Guidelines on Claims prohibiting “claims as to the suitability of a food for use in the prevention, alleviation, treatment or cure of disease”, which was not consistent with current scientific evidence. The Delegation therefore proposed to delete this reference and to initiate the revision of the General Guidelines on Claims.

50. Many delegations supported the adoption of the text as proposed as it resulted from extensive detailed discussion in the Committee.

51. The Commission **adopted** the Draft Guidelines as proposed and noted that the Committee on Food Labelling could review the Guidelines in the light of the criteria for the scientific basis of health claims being developed by the Committee on Nutrition and Foods for Special Dietary Uses at a later stage.

52. The Delegation of South Africa expressed its reservation on this decision.

Draft Amendment to the Standard for Quick Frozen Fish Sticks (Fish Fingers), Fish Portions and Fish Fillets, Breaded or in Batter (Labelling Section)

53. The Delegation of South Africa, while not objecting to the amendment, expressed its concern with the methodology for the determination of fish content since no nitrogen conversion factors were defined for several species commonly used in fish sticks, and Good Manufacturing Practices were not defined. The Delegation pointed out that trade problems might arise from different interpretations of the current provisions.

54. The Delegation of Thailand proposed several amendments for clarification purposes and expressed the view that the list of fish species in Table 2 should be revised to include other species of importance in international trade, when additional data became available. The Commission corrected the reference to the routine method AOAC 996.15.

55. The Committee **adopted** the Draft Amendment with the understanding that further consideration could be given to the methodology and that Table 2 (nitrogen factors) could be amended as required in the light of additional data on other fish species.

Draft Amendment to the Guidelines for the Production, Processing, Labelling and Marketing of Organically Produced Foods: Draft Revised Annex 2 – Tables 1 and 2

56. The Commission agreed to amend Table 2: Preparations of Neem to clarify that the need recognized by the certification body or authority applied to “commercial preparations/ products” and to clarify the conditions of use for Extract from Mushrooms (Shiitake fungus) with the addition of “need recognized by the certification

²⁶ ALINORM 04/27/30, Appendix II.

²⁷ ALINORM 04/27/22, Appendices II, III and IV; LIM.27 (Comments from Thailand)

body or authority”, as proposed by the Delegation of India. The Delegation also proposed to delete the entry for “Tobacco tea” as it was excluded from “Natural plant preparations”.

57. The Commission agreed to amend Table 1 to refer to “sorted composted or fermented home refuse” as proposed by the Delegation of Tunisia. The Delegation also proposed to add olive and date palm by-products to the entry for by-products from oil palm, coconut and cocoa. The Commission agreed that these proposals should be put forward in the Committee on Food Labelling.

58. The Commission noted that minor amendments could be made for clarification purposes but proposals for addition or deletion of substances in the lists should be considered by the Committee on Food Labelling.

59. The Commission **adopted** the Draft Revised Annex 2: Tables 1 and 2 with the adopted amendments mentioned above.

Methods of Analysis and Sampling²⁸

Draft General Guidelines on Sampling

60. The Commission **adopted** the Draft General Guidelines as proposed and **agreed** that the editorial comments from Brazil²⁹ should be included in the final version. The Commission **agreed** that the General Guidelines replaced the current Sampling Plans for Prepackaged Foods (AQL 6.5) (CODEX STAN 233-1969).

Draft Guidelines on Measurement Uncertainty

61. The Commission **agreed** to insert a reference to validated methods in the Introduction, as an alternative to collaboratively tested methods that were not always available, as proposed by the Delegation of Brazil.

62. The Delegation of New Zealand, while not objecting to the adoption of the Draft Guidelines, expressed the view that it was not clear how the information on measurement uncertainty would be used, and that barriers to trade might result from misuse or misunderstanding. The Delegation referred to the ongoing discussion in the Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling (CCMAS) on the use of analytical results, and pointed out that matters relating to measurement uncertainty should be considered in relation with other relevant Codex texts. This position was supported by other delegations.

63. The Commission **adopted** the Draft Guidelines with the above amendment. The Commission noted that matters related to measurement uncertainty and the use of analytical results required further consideration in the CCMAS and that the Guidelines on Measurement Uncertainty might be reviewed as a result of further work in this area.

Methods of Analysis for Additives and Contaminants

64. The Commission **adopted** the methods of analysis as proposed, and noted that the adoption of the method for the determination of saccharin in beverages would be considered when provisions for saccharin in beverages had been finalized.

Methods of Analysis for inclusion in the Standard for Olive Oils and Olive Pomace Oils

Methods of Analysis for inclusion in the Standard for Named Vegetable oils (amendment to the current methods)

65. The Commission **adopted** the methods of analysis as proposed by the Committee.

²⁸ ALINORM 04/27/23, Appendices II, III and VI; ALINORM 04/27/6A.

²⁹ ALINORM 04/27/6A

Pesticide Residues³⁰

Draft Maximum Residue Limits for Pesticides at Step 8 and Step 5/8

66. The Commission noted that the MRL for carbaryl (08) for sorghum forage (dry) should be 50 mg/kg instead of 5 mg/kg and that the MRL for fenaminphos (85) for banana should be marked with an asterisk to indicate that this MRL is at or about the limit of determination. With these amendments, the Commission **adopted** the draft MRLs and proposed draft MRLs at Step 8 and Step 5/8 as proposed.

PROPOSED DRAFT STANDARDS AND RELATED TEXTS AT STEP 5 (Agenda Item 5)³¹

67. The results of the Commission's consideration of the Proposed Draft Standards and Related Texts submitted by its subsidiary bodies at Step 5 are presented in tabular form in Appendix IV of the present report. The following paragraphs provide additional information on the comments made and the decisions taken on certain items.

Food Additives and Contaminants

Proposed Draft Maximum Levels for Cadmium in rice: polished; wheat grain; potato; stem and root vegetables; leafy vegetables; and, other vegetables³²

68. The Commission **adopted** the Proposed Draft Maximum Levels for cadmium at Step 5 and advanced them to Step 6 as proposed, with the exception of the proposed draft maximum level for cadmium in polished rice, which was returned to Step 3 for further consideration by the CCFAC, due to the concern that the maximum level proposed could result in intakes exceeding the PTWI in certain populations. In noting that cadmium was scheduled for evaluation by JECFA in February 2005, the Commission **requested** CCFAC to take careful account of the results of this evaluation and encouraged countries to provide information and data to JECFA to facilitate its assessment.

Proposed Draft Code of Practice for the Prevention and Reduction of Aflatoxin Contamination in Tree Nuts³³

69. The Commission **adopted** the Proposed Draft Code of Practice at Step 5 and advanced it to Step 6 as proposed. It noted that the comments of the Delegation of Brazil regarding the inclusion of a section to address the particular aspects of Brazil nuts which were not grown on a farm base but collected in the forest would be referred to and further considered by the Committee on Food Additives and Contaminants at its next session.

Proposed Draft Code of Practice for the Prevention and Reduction of Inorganic Tin Contamination in Canned Foods³⁴

70. The Commission **adopted** the Proposed Draft Code of Practice at Step 5 and advanced it to Step 6 as proposed.

Proposed Draft Guideline Levels for Radionuclides in Food for Use in International Trade³⁵

71. The Commission **adopted** the Proposed Draft Guideline Levels at Step 5 and advanced them to Step 6 as proposed. The Commission noted the reservation of the delegations of Singapore and Malaysia concerning the levels proposed for individual radionuclides that might result in the safe level of 1 mSv being exceeded in the case of nuclear accident thus questioning the scientific assumption used for establishing these levels. In this regard, the Representative of IAEA indicated that these concerns together with the reservation of the European Community concerning the deletion of a category for "infant foods", expressed at the last Session of the

³⁰ ALINORM 04/27/24, Appendices II and III.

³¹ ALINORM 04/27/7; ALINORM 04/27/7A; LIM.5 (Comments of Argentina, Malaysia and Singapore); LIM.18 (Comments of Consumer International); LIM.22 (Comments of Indonesia).

³² ALINORM 04/27/12, Appendix XXIII.

³³ ALINORM 04/27/12, Appendix XX.

³⁴ ALINORM 04/27/12, Appendix XXI.

³⁵ ALINORM 04/27/12, Appendix XXII.

Committee on Food Additives and Contaminants³⁶, would be addressed in its written comments on the revised guideline levels.

Fish and Fishery Products³⁷

Proposed Draft Amendment to the Standard for Salted Fish and Dried Salted Fish of the Gadidae Family (Sampling and Analysis)

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

Fresh Fruits and Vegetables

Proposed Draft Standard for Tomatoes³⁸

73. The Commission adopted the Proposed Draft Standard for Tomatoes at Step 5 and advanced it to Step 6 as proposed by the Committee. In taking this decision, the Commission agreed that technical comments submitted at Step 5 should be referred to the Committee for consideration at its next Session.

Methods of Analysis and Sampling³⁹

Proposed Draft Guidelines for Evaluating Acceptable Methods of Analysis

74. The Commission adopted the Proposed Draft Amendment at Step 5 and noted that the comments from Brazil could be addressed at Step 7 by the Committee.

Milk and Milk Products

Proposed Draft Standard for a Blend of Evaporated Skimmed Milk and Vegetable Fat⁴⁰

Proposed Draft Standard for a Blend of Skimmed Milk and Vegetable Fat in Powdered Form⁴¹

Proposed Draft Standard for a Blend of Sweetened Condensed Milk and Vegetable Fat⁴²

75. The Commission **adopted** the Proposed Draft Standards at Step 5 and advanced them to Step 6 as proposed. In noting that some parts of the texts, in particular on sections on scope, composition and labelling needed further work, the Commission invited the delegations to submit their comments to the Committee. In relation to the above, the Delegation of Malaysia proposed that the Committee on Milk and Milk Products reconsider products for further processing in scope and the use of the word “filled” in labelling. The Delegation of Costa Rica, supported by some delegations, expressed its concern on the Sections regarding “Description” and “Name of the Food” and their relation with the titles of the Proposed Draft Standards.

³⁶ ALINORM 04/27/12, para. 203.

³⁷ ALINORM 04/27/18, Appendix VI

³⁸ ALINORM 04/35, Appendix IV and ALINORM 04/27/7A (Comments from Brazil).

³⁹ ALINORM 04/27/23, Appendix V

⁴⁰ ALINORM 04/27/11, Appendix III.

⁴¹ ALINORM 04/27/11, Appendix IV.

⁴² ALINORM 04/27/11, Appendix V.

*Proposed Draft Revised Standard for Cheddar (C-1)*⁴³

*Proposed Draft Revised Standard for Danbo (C-3)*⁴⁴

*Proposed Draft Revised Standard for Whey Cheeses*⁴⁵

76. The Commission **adopted** the Proposed Draft Revised Standards at Step 5 and advanced them to Step 6 as proposed. The Commission noted the reservation of the Delegation of Switzerland as to the use of antibiotic pimaricin/natamycin as food additive in the production of whey cheeses. The Commission further noted that technical comments would be referred to and considered by the Committee. The Delegation of the European Community mentioned that attention should be paid to horizontal issues having impact on several individual cheese standards.

Nutrition and Foods for Special Dietary Uses

*Proposed Draft Guidelines for Vitamin and Mineral Supplements*⁴⁶

77. The Delegation of India and some other delegations opposed lowering minimum levels of vitamins and minerals in the supplements to 15% of the Recommended Daily Allowances (RDA) and urged that minimum levels should be 33% of the RDA.

78. The Commission **adopted** the Proposed Draft Guidelines at Step 5 with the understanding that comments and concerns of technical nature would be considered by the Committee on Nutrition and Foods for Special Dietary Uses.

*Proposed Draft Revised Standard for Infant Formula [and Formulas for Special Medical Purposes Intended for Infants]*⁴⁷

79. Some delegations proposed that Section 1.1 of the Proposed Draft Revised Standard should include references to the International Code of Marketing of Breastmilk Substitutes and subsequent WHA Resolutions which support and promote exclusive breastfeeding in the first six months of life.

80. The Delegation of India suggested the addition of the words “when it is not possible to exclusively breastfeed the infant for the first six months of life” in Section 1.1. The Delegation further suggested that paragraphs 1.2 and 2.1.1 of the Proposed Draft Standard clarify that the term “first six months” refers to first six months of life.

81. The Representative of WHO recommended that the Committee on Nutrition and Foods for Special Dietary Uses take into account, in further elaboration of the Standard for Infant Formula, the fact that the Global Strategy for infant and young children feeding adopted by the World Health Assembly in May 2002 and related WHA Resolution 55.25 on infant and young child nutrition requested the Codex to be consistent with the WHO policy in the area of infant and young child feeding.

82. The Commission **agreed** with the current approach taken in the revision of the standard, i.e. to have a single Standard with two sections: Section A covering formula for healthy infants and Section B covering formula for special medical purposes.

83. The Commission **adopted** the Section A of the Standard at Step 5 as proposed by the Committee and requested the Committee on Nutrition and Foods for Special Dietary Uses to take into account written comments submitted to the Commission. It also **agreed** that the WHO Global Strategy and the related WHA Resolution

⁴³ ALINORM 04/27/11, Appendix VI.

⁴⁴ ALINORM 04/27/11, Appendix VII.

⁴⁵ ALINORM 04/27/11, Appendix XXII.

⁴⁶ ALINORM 04/27/26, Appendix IV; ALINORM 04/27/7A (Comments from Argentina, China, Iran, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Poland and National Health Federation).

⁴⁷ ALINORM 04/27/26, Appendix V; ALINORM 04/27/7A (Comments from Argentina, Australia, China, Czech Republic, Iran, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Poland, European Network of Childbirth Associations, International Dairy Federation and International Special Dietary Food Industries).

55.25 on infant and young child nutrition should be taken into account in further revision of the Standard. The Delegation of China expressed its reservation to the adoption at Step 5 as too many controversial issues remained unsolved.

Proposed Draft Revised Standard for Cereal-Based Foods for Infants and Young Children⁴⁸

84. The Delegation of India, supported by the Delegation of Egypt, stated that given the fact that the title of the Proposed Draft Revised Standard referred to “cereal-based foods”, cereals should constitute at least 50% of final mixture instead of 25%.

85. The Commission **adopted** the proposed draft revised Standard at Step 5 as proposed by the Committee with the understanding that the written comments submitted to the Commission would be considered by the Committee on Nutrition and Foods for Special Dietary Uses.

Pesticide Residues

Proposed Draft Maximum Residue Limits for Pesticides at Step 5⁴⁹

86. The Commission adopted the Proposed Draft MRLs at Step 5 as proposed.

WITHDRAWAL OR REVOCATION OF EXISTING CODEX STANDARDS AND RELATED TEXTS (Agenda Item 6)⁵⁰

87. The Commission **approved** the withdrawal from the *Codex Alimentarius* of previously adopted texts as summarized in Appendix V to this report. The Commission noted that the Appendix would also include the maximum levels for lead in butter and in milk fat, which were omitted from the list of existing standards and texts withdrawn by its 26th Session⁵¹ (July 2003). In addition, the Commission agreed that the existing CAC/GL 35-1985 Packing Media (Composition and Labelling) should be withdrawn and replaced by the Codex Guidelines for Packing Media for Canned Fruits⁵² (CAC/GL 51-2003) that had been adopted at its 26th Session.

PROPOSALS FOR THE ELABORATION OF NEW STANDARDS AND RELATED TEXTS AND FOR THE DISCONTINUATION OF WORK (Agenda Item 7)⁵³

ELABORATION OF NEW STANDARDS AND RELATED TEXTS

88. The Commission **approved** the elaboration of new standards and related texts as summarized in Appendix VI to this report and made the following observations on the elaboration of the following texts:

Task Force on Biotechnology

Draft Terms of Reference and the Project Proposal for the New Ad Hoc Intergovernmental Task Force on Foods derived from Biotechnology⁵⁴

89. The Commission recalled that at its last Session it discussed the establishment of a new Task Force on Foods derived from Biotechnology and asked Japan to prepare a project document and draft Terms of Reference.

⁴⁸ ALINORM 04/27/26, Appendix VI; ALINORM 04/27/7A (Comments from Argentina, China, Czech Republic, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Poland, International Special Dietary Food Industries and International Wheat Gluten Association); LIM.18 (Comments from Consumers International).

⁴⁹ ALINORM 04/27/24, Appendix IV.

⁵⁰ ALINORM 04/27/8; LIM 8; LIM 10.

⁵¹ ALINORM 03/41, Appendix VII.

⁵² ALINORM 03/41, Appendix V.

⁵³ ALINORM 04/27/9; ALINORM 04/27/4 paras 4-33.

⁵⁴ ALINORM 04/27/09 Appendix I (Project Proposal by Japan); LIM.9 (Comments of Argentina, Australia, Canada, Hungary, Indonesia, Mexico, New Zealand, USA, Venezuela, BIO, Croplife International, 49th Parallel Biotechnology Consortium, Greenpeace International); LIM.11(Comments of the EC)

Noting the view of the 54th Session of the Executive Committee⁵⁵, the Commission agreed to establish a new *Ad Hoc* Intergovernmental Task Force on Foods derived from Biotechnology with the understanding that its final report should be submitted to the Commission in 2009. It also agreed that a Circular Letter be issued to solicit specific proposals for new work and to define priorities and that comments received would be distributed as a working document for the consideration by the first session of the Task Force. The Commission adopted the Terms of Reference with a few amendments (attached as Appendix VIII to this report).

90. The Commission noted the willingness of the delegation of Japan to host the new Task Force subject to confirmation, in coming months, of the availability of funds. The delegation stressed that future work by the new Task Force should be based on the achievement of the previous Task Force.

91. The Commission noted that the issues concerning potential areas for future work including “cloned animals” and “bioactive substances” would be clarified and discussed in the new Task Force.

Coordinating Committee for Asia

Ginseng Products⁵⁶

92. The Commission noted the view of the 54th Session of the Executive Committee that a Codex Standard for Ginseng Products could be initially developed by the Coordinating Committee for Asia although it could not reach a conclusion on the further development of the Standard⁵⁷.

93. The Delegation of Malaysia noted that ginseng products might be considered as “functional food” and in this regard, proposed the holding of a FAO/WHO Expert Consultation on Functional Foods addressing food regulatory issues related to this category of foods which might facilitate the elaboration of the Standard.

94. The Commission approved the new work with the understanding that the Coordinating Committee for Asia would undertake initial work on the elaboration of a Codex Standard inclusive to all varieties of ginseng and applicable to ginseng products consumed as foods and not as medicinal drugs. The decisions as to whether the Standard should be finalized as a regional or international Standard and if the latter was the case, which Committee should finalize the Standard would be taken by the Commission after adoption at Step 5.

Fermented Soybean Paste (Doenjang)⁵⁸

Hot Pepper Fermented Soybean Paste (Gochujang)⁵⁹

95. The Commission noted the recommendation of the 54th Session of the Executive Committee that new work on both Standards should be undertaken by the Coordinating Committee for Asia and, if required, finalized by the Committee on Cereals, Pulses, and Legumes. The question on whether the Standards should be finalized as regional or international Standards could be decided when they reached Step 5⁶⁰.

96. The Commission noted that the two Standards referred to two different products particularly in respect of processing methods and the raw materials involved. However, in view of its previous decision to develop more horizontal standards to cover a wider range of products or group of products as opposed to specific and detailed individual standards, the Commission agreed to request Coordinating Committee for Asia to consider the possibility and implications of broadening the scope to have a single Standard applicable to all fermented soybean paste related-products including the proper titles of the Standards.

97. The Commission entrusted the initial elaboration of both Standards to the Coordinating Committee for Asia and, if required, finalization by the Committee on Cereals, Pulses, and Legumes. However, the decision on

⁵⁵ ALINORM 04/27/4, paras 5 -10

⁵⁶ ALINORM 04/27/9, Appendix II and LIM.26 (revised project document on a proposal for new work for a Codex Standard for Ginseng Products).

⁵⁷ ALINORM 04/27/4, paras 11 – 14.

⁵⁸ ALINORM 04/27/9, Appendix III.

⁵⁹ ALINORM 04/27/9, Appendix IV.

⁶⁰ ALINORM 04/27/4, paras 15 – 17.

whether the texts should be finalized as regional or international Standards would be decided after adoption at Step 5.

Food Import and Export Inspection and Certification Systems

Appendices to the Guidelines on the Judgement of Equivalence of Sanitary Measures Associated with Food Inspection and Certification

98. The Commission agreed that the comments of the 54th Session of the Executive Committee⁶¹ would be taken into account by the Committee in the elaboration of the appendices.

Food Additives and Contaminants

Sampling Plans for Aflatoxins in almonds, brazil nuts, hazelnuts and pistachios

99. The Commission agreed to refer the comments of the 54th Session of the Executive Committee⁶² to the Committee on Food Additives and Contaminants.

Food Labelling

Revision of the Guidelines for the Production, Processing, Labelling and Marketing of Organically Produced Foods

100. The Delegation of the United States expressed the view that the regular review of the *Guidelines* specified in the *Guidelines* themselves was not consistent with the principle of the Critical Review and should be reconsidered. The Delegation also pointed out that the need for the revision of the Guidelines should be reconsidered in the light of the work priorities of the Committee.

101. The Delegation of Ireland, speaking on behalf of the Member States of the European Union present at the session, stated that the revision of the Guidelines would be necessary in the future in order to improve their internal coherence. However, the Delegation proposed to defer it until 2007 as the latest amendments had been adopted in 2003.

102. The Chairperson, referring to the discussions of the Executive Committee, recalled that the general issue of the workload of Codex Committees should be taken into account when considering new work. The Chairperson proposed not to endorse new work on the revision of the Guidelines and to hold this matter at the Commission for further consideration by the 28th Session. The Commission agreed with this proposal.

DISCONTINUATION OF WORK

103. The Commission **approved** the discontinuation of work as summarized in Appendix VII to this report and made the following observations:

Fish and Fishery Products.⁶³

Proposed Draft Amendment to the Standard for Canned Sardines and Sardine-Type products

104. The Commission recalled that the Proposed Draft Amendment had been considered at the 23rd, 24th and 26th sessions of the Commission and that no consensus had been reached. The 26th Session had returned the Proposed Draft to the Committee on Fish and Fishery Products for further consideration. The Committee had recognized that there were no new elements put forward in order to resolve the issue, and had recommended that the Executive Committee discuss whether to discontinue work or to propose other appropriate action. The 54th Session of the Executive Committee had recognized that there was no consensus and that the proposal to discontinue work would require further discussion by the Commission.

⁶¹ ALINORM 04/27/4, paras 18-19.

⁶² ALINORM 04/27/4, para. 22.

⁶³ ALINORM 04/27/18, para. 7; LIM.16 (Comments of Chile); LIM.22 (Comments of Indonesia)

105. The Delegation of Chile opposed discontinuation of work since all the requirements of the current procedure for the inclusion of new species in Codex standards had been followed, and there were no scientific or technical justification to prevent the inclusion of this species in the Standard. The Delegation also stressed the considerable efforts of Chile to provide all relevant information in order to comply with the procedure and the economic impact of the failure to include *Clupea bentincki* in the Standard. This position was supported by several delegations.

106. The Delegation of Morocco supported discontinuation of work as there was no consensus on the amendment to the standard, although it had been considered at several sessions of the Committee and the Commission, and there would be no merit in returning it to the Committee for further discussion. The Delegation stressed the need to revise the procedure for the inclusion of species and the labelling provisions in the current Standard for Canned Sardines and Sardine-Type Products, as they could create substantial confusion on the nature of the products covered by the Standard. This position was supported by several delegations.

107. The Delegation of the European Community supported discontinuation of work on the inclusion of species until such time as the procedure had been revised, and stressed the problems related to the current procedure.

108. Several delegations stressed the need to adhere to the current procedure, as adopted by the Commission, in order to ensure the credibility of the standard-setting process that should be based on clear rules and criteria.

109. The Chairperson proposed to temporarily defer a decision on the Proposed Draft Amendment pending revision of the current procedure for the inclusion of species, and to reconsider this issue at a later date. Several delegations objected to this proposal.

110. The Commission recognized that there was no consensus on the discontinuation of work and **agreed** to return the Proposed Draft Amendment to the Committee on Fish and Fishery Products, where it had been held at Step 4 pending advice from the Commission. The Delegation of Morocco objected to this decision.

FINANCIAL AND BUDGETARY MATTERS (Agenda Item 8)⁶⁴

111. The Secretariat presented the report of the expenditures in the 2002-2003 biennium and the update information on the budget for the current, 2004-2005 biennium. The Secretariat indicated that for the present biennium the financial situation had improved since the 53rd Session of the Executive Committee due to an increase in the budget allocated by the parent organizations, thus allowing Codex to retain the initial programme of work, including the schedule of Codex sessions. However, several cost saving measures still had to be applied to absorb the reductions foreseen in the 2004 allotments.

112. The Representative of FAO informed the Commission that in accordance with the guidance by its governing bodies FAO granted a high priority to Codex in finalising the budget and had significantly increased the funds allocated to Codex and Codex-related activities. He recognised that the host governments of Codex subsidiary bodies were also making valuable contribution to the work of Codex.

113. The Representative of WHO indicated that the World Health Assembly Resolution WHA56.23 on Codex, adopted in 2003, called for a more active role of WHO in Codex process and other related activities. He stressed that Codex should give a higher priority to matters related to public health and that interaction between health and agriculture sectors be strengthened at the national level.

114. The Commission noted that the format for the budget presentation was slightly modified from the 2002-2003 to the 2004-2005 biennium, reflecting the change made in the accounting system of FAO, through which the Codex budget was managed. The Commission also noted that expenditures for interpretation, document translation and printing were included in "FAO Services (Chargeback)" and that "Other Human Resources" comprised consultants and contracts.

115. Several delegations stated that the budgetary and financial report should be accompanied by the indication of corresponding programme activities in order to facilitate understanding and analysis. The

⁶⁴ ALINORM 04/27/10; ALINORM 04/27/4 paras 34-45

Secretariat clarified that the current report was prepared in compliance with Rule XII.1 of the Commission's Rules of Procedure and that the Commission would consider at its 28th session the programme of work for the next biennium together with an estimate of expenditure. The Commission agreed that the Secretariat would examine means to improve the presentation of budgetary information in consultation with the relevant units of FAO.

116. The Representative of FAO, referring to the discussion at the 54th session of the Executive Committee⁶⁵, indicated that information would be provided, in the future, regarding the FAO and WHO budget allocated to Codex-related activities, especially scientific advice requested by Codex as well as that requested by member countries.

117. Several delegations stated that timely distribution of documents in the languages of the Commission was essential for effective participation in Codex. These delegations supported a wider use of electronic distribution of working documents and sections of the Procedural Manual, not only to accelerate document despatch but also to save printing and mailing costs.

118. The Commission **agreed** that the Secretariat would continue to explore possibilities of further cost savings, taking account of the comments made, and would soon issue a Circular Letter to all Codex Contact Points with a view to promoting the use of electronic distribution of documents in contrast to distribution of hard copies.

119. Taking note of the financial report for the biennium 2002-2003 and the updated budgetary information for the biennium 2004-2005, the Commission **expressed its appreciation** to FAO and WHO for their effort to maintain the adequate budgetary level for Codex and requested the parent organizations to continue to assign a high priority to the Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme.

STRATEGIC PLANNING OF THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION (Agenda Item 9)⁶⁶

120. The Secretariat recalled that the amendment to the Elaboration Procedures adopted at the current session included a section on the Strategic Planning Process, in accordance with the decision of its 26th Session of the Commission concerning strategic planning. In reply to a question, the Commission noted that the timeframe of the Strategic Framework (6 years) took into account the medium-term planning of the parent organizations.

Status of the Strategic Framework 2003-2007 and Medium-Term Plan 2003-2007

121. The Commission **endorsed** the decision of the 53rd Session of the Executive Committee to discontinue the elaboration of the Medium-Term Plan, with the understanding that its elements would be used as a basis for a list of programmes/activities to be incorporated into the new Strategic Plan 2008-2013. In the absence of a Medium-Term Plan, the Commission **agreed** that the Executive Committee would exercise its critical review functions, closely coordinate work between different Codex Committees and monitor the progress of standards development in accordance with the current Strategic Framework and the *Criteria for the Establishment of Work Priorities*.

122. The Delegation of Malaysia expressed the view that the current Strategic Framework provided general guidance for Codex activities and should be retained as an overarching framework for Codex activities until 2013, and suggested that a more detailed Strategic Plan could be developed and revised on a rolling basis.

Preparation of the Strategic Plan 2008-2013

123. The Commission **agreed** to initiate the preparation of a new Strategic Plan for the period 2008-2013, and **recommended** that:

⁶⁵ ALINORM 04/27/4, para.44

⁶⁶ ALINORM 04/27/10A

- The Executive Committee, at its next session, discuss the structure and format for a new Strategic Plan covering a six-year period of 2008-2013 as well as the ways to further proceed with the development of the Strategic Plan;
- The Strategic Plan state strategic objectives and priorities of the Commission and incorporate a list of programme areas/planned activities with a clearly defined timetable for each of the activities;
- After requesting the views of Regional Coordinating Committees, the draft Plan be submitted to the Commission for adoption by 2007; and
- The Strategic Plan, once adopted, be renewed every two years on a rolling basis.

Action Plan for Codex-wide Development and Application of risk Analysis Principles and Guidelines

124. The Commission noted that several Committees had developed or were in the process of developing guidance on risk analysis in their respective areas, for inclusion in the Procedural Manual. The Commission **endorsed** the recommendations of the 53rd Session of the Executive Committee and decided to:

- a) request each relevant Codex Committee, when developing or completing specific guidelines on risk analysis, to review and document the mechanism it uses to identify and prioritise proposals for new work, particularly in the light of needs for and availability of scientific advice;
- b) request the Committee on General Principles, when examining specific guidelines submitted by other Committees, to ensure as much consistency as possible between the guideline texts;
- c) request the Committee on General Principles to continue the revision of the Criteria for the Establishment of Work Priorities, especially from the viewpoint of the need for clear prioritisation of requests for scientific advice; and
- d) monitor the progress of all the work mentioned above and take into account its outcome in the development of the next Strategic Plan.

125. The Commission recalled that the Committee on General Principles was considering the revision of the Criteria for the Establishment of Work Priorities, while the Executive Committee was developing new criteria for the prioritization of requests for scientific advice within Codex.

126. The Delegation of Chile expressed the view that procedures or guidelines should be developed to facilitate the review by the Committee on General Principles of the guidelines submitted by other Codex Committees.

ELECTION OF CHAIRPERSON AND VICE-CHAIRPERSONS OF THE COMMISSION (Agenda Item 10)⁶⁷

127. The Commission **elected**, by general consent, the following persons to hold office from the end of its present Session to the end of the next regular Session of the Commission (or its Twenty-eighth Session):

Chairperson:	Dr Stuart SLORACH (Sweden)
Vice-Chairpersons:	Dr Hiroshi YOSHIKURA (Japan)
	Dr Paul MAYERS (Canada)
	Dr Claude J.S. MOSHA (United Republic of Tanzania)

⁶⁷

DESIGNATION OF COUNTRIES RESPONSIBLE FOR APPOINTING THE CHAIRPERSONS OF CODEX COMMITTEES AND *AD HOC* TASK FORCES (Agenda Item 11)⁶⁸

128. The Commission **confirmed** the designation of the Host Governments as listed in the Appendix IX to this report, with the understanding that the new *Ad Hoc* Intergovernmental Task Force on Foods Derived from Biotechnology would be hosted by the Government of Japan pending further confirmation. It also confirmed the dissolution of the *Ad Hoc* Intergovernmental Task Force on Animal Feeding, which had completed its work⁶⁹ and congratulated Denmark for the extraordinary work accomplished.

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE JOINT FAO/WHO EVALUATION OF THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION AND OTHER FAO AND WHO WORK ON FOOD STANDARDS (Agenda Item 12)⁷⁰

General Implementation Status

129. The Delegation of India, referring to earlier discussions in the 26th Session of the Commission and other Codex Committees, expressed the view that the “Appropriate Level of Protection (ALOP)” should be clarified in the framework of Codex.. The Commission recalled its earlier decision⁷¹ to take no further action, with the understanding that the issue might be reconsidered again in the future if required.

130. The Delegation of India further stated that the problems arising from continuous changes in methods of analysis resulting in lowered limits of detection should be addressed and sought to ascertain the progress of this matter. In this regard, the Representative of FAO informed the Commission that a Joint FAO/WHO Technical Workshop on Residues of Substances without ADI/MRL would be convened in August 2004 in Bangkok.

131. The Delegation of Mexico, referring to the discussions held at the 54th Session of the Executive Committee⁷², expressed the view that “consensus” should be defined. The Delegation of France recalled that Proposal 34 (Determination of Consensus) was addressed in the *Guidelines to Chairpersons of Codex Committees and ad hoc Intergovernmental Task Forces* adopted at the current session and that the definition of “consensus” had been discussed in the development of that document. The Commission agreed to ask the Committee on General Principles to consider further the possibility of developing a definition of the term “consensus”.

Review of the Mandates of Codex Committees and Task Forces

132. The Commission **adopted** the following Terms of Reference of the Review:

- a) With the objective of reducing the number of Codex meetings while also keeping them short and focused, the review should concentrate on:
 - adequacy of the current structure of general subject committees to meet member countries’ needs in a flexible and timely manner;
 - adequacy of the current structure of commodity committees to meet member countries’ needs in a flexible and timely manner;
 - areas of overlap and areas where coverage of the subject matter is inadequate, taking into consideration the needs that were not covered or new issues that may arise in the future; and

⁶⁸ ALINORM 04/27/10B

⁶⁹ ALINORM 04/27/38; ALINORM 04/27/3 paras 6-10; ALINORM 04/27/4 paras 48-56; LIM2 (Report of the Chairman of the ad hoc Intergovernmental Task Force on Animal Feeding)

⁷⁰ ALINORM 04/27/10C; LIM.20 (Comments of EC); LIM.23 (Comments of India)

⁷¹ ALINORM 03/41, para. 153

⁷² ALINORM 04/27/4, para. 54.

- relationship between all committees and task forces, particularly the relations between commodity and general subject committees (task forces);
- b) Based on a detailed study of the points above and inputs received from Codex chairs and host governments, and taking full account of the Report of the Evaluation of the Codex Alimentarius and other FAO and WHO Food Standards Work as well as ongoing work on specific subjects at the committee level, recommendations should be formulated for consideration by the Commission. These may include proposals for revision of the existing committee mandates with a view to rationalisation, proposals for redistribution of tasks and responsibilities between committees, and proposals to split or merge committees.
- c) The recommendations to the Commission should also take into account the ability of all members of the Commission to participate in the standards development process, including the sustainability of the subsidiary body structures and their work programmes, especially in the light of the holding of annual sessions of the Commission and the operation of the FAO/WHO Trust Fund for Enhanced Participation in Codex.

133. The Commission agreed that the recruitment of a small team of consultants (three or four) would be initiated after the Commission and that the time frame presented in document ALINORM 04/27/10C would be followed in order that recommendations could be submitted to the 28th Session of the Commission.

134. The Delegation of Chile and the Delegation of Ireland, speaking on behalf of the Member States of the European Union present at the session, expressed the view that member countries should be consulted and involved in the process. The Commission therefore agreed that a Circular Letter would be sent to all Codex Members to ask for their views on the review of the mandates of Committees and Task Forces.

Review of the Regional Coordinating Committees

135. The Commission **agreed** that a Circular Letter would be issued to all Codex members to invite government comments in the following areas:

- Role of Regional Coordinating Committees in furthering the objectives of the Codex Alimentarius Commission;
- Membership of Regional Coordinating Committees, including their current geographic coverage;
- Terms of reference of the Regional Coordinating Committees as set out in the Procedural Manual, including the relevance of developing regional standards;
- Effectiveness of Regional Coordinating Committees in respect of country participation record and of venues and meeting intervals (currently every two years);
- Respective roles of the Regional Coordinator as *ex officio* Chairperson of the Regional Coordinating Committee and the Member(s) of the Executive Committee elected on a geographic basis, particularly within the framework of the Executive Committee; and
- Any other issues.

136. Regional Coordinating Committees, at their forthcoming session, would consider the comments from the governments of their respective Region and forward their view and/or recommendations to the 28th Session of the Commission for its consideration.

MATTERS ARISING FROM REPORTS OF CODEX COMMITTEES AND TASK FORCES (Agenda Item 13)⁷³

Fresh Fruits and Vegetables

*Recommended International Code of Practice for Packaging and Transport of Tropical Fresh Fruits and Vegetables*⁷⁴

137. The Commission **agreed** to amend the Recommended International Code of Practice for Packaging and Transport of Tropical Fresh Fruits and Vegetables (CAC/RCP 44-1995) by deleting the word “tropical” throughout the Code in order to make it applicable to the packaging and transport of all fresh fruits and vegetables⁷⁵.

Food Additives and Contaminants

Codex General Standard for Food Additives (GSFA)

Codex General Standard for Contaminants and Toxins in Foods (GSCTF)

Relation between the GSCTF and Codex Standards

138. The Commission **endorsed** the recommendations of the 54th Session of the Executive Committee concerning the amendments to the GSFA and GSCTF and the relation between the GSCTF and Codex Standards proposed by the CCFAC⁷⁶. It requested the Codex Secretariat to prepare a list of maximum levels for contaminants and toxins contained in Codex commodity standards, which are inconsistent with the GSCTF, so that they could be formally revoked by the Commission.

Food Hygiene

*Antimicrobial Resistance*⁷⁷

139. The Commission agreed to discuss this matter under Agenda Item 16 (see paras 210-219).

Risk Analysis⁷⁸

140. Following the request from the CCFH to clarify the appropriateness of their approach in the area of risk analysis, the Commission **endorsed** the view of the 54th Session of the Executive Committee⁷⁹ that the past and ongoing work by the Committee on Food Hygiene on the Principles and Guidelines for the Conduct of Microbiological Risk Assessment (CAC/GL-30, 1999) and the proposed draft Principles and Guidelines for the Conduct of Microbiological Risk Management addressing issues relevant to both member governments and to the Codex was consistent with the Commission’s expectations.

141. The Commission noted that the decisions of the Committee on Food Import and Export Inspection and Certification Systems, Committee on Meat Hygiene, Committee on Pesticide Residues, Committee on General Principles, and Committee on Milk and Milk Products regarding the need for developing specific guidelines on risk analysis.

OTHER MATTERS

⁷³ ALINORM 04/27/10D; ALINORM 04/27/10D-Add.1; ALINORM 04/27/4 paras 57-88; LIM.6; LIM.13 (Comments of Japan).

⁷⁴ ALINORM 04/27/10D, para. 1.

⁷⁵ ALINORM 04/27/4, para. 58; ALINORM 04/27/35, para. 54

⁷⁶ ALINORM 04/27/4, paras 59-62.

⁷⁷ ALINORM 04/27/30, para. 159

⁷⁸ ALINORM 04/27/13, paras 70-71.

⁷⁹ ALINORM 04/27/4, para. 63.

Food Import and Export Inspection and Certification Systems⁸⁰

142. The Commission noted that the new work of the Committee on Food Import and Export Inspection and Certification Systems on the development of Appendices to the Guidelines on the Judgement of Equivalence of sanitary Measures associated with Food Inspection (see paragraph 98) would contain information to enable the implementation of the Guidelines to facilitate the control of food in trade.

Food Additives and Contaminants

JECFA Priority List (Peroxide Value)⁸¹

143. The Commission noted that the Committee on Food Additives and Contaminants (CCFAC) considered that the peroxide value (PV) for instant noodles was not a question of safety and therefore was not included in the priority list for JECFA evaluation. The CCFAC noted that there were no data proving a positive correlation between peroxide values of foods and food toxicological parameters. The Commission noted that the draft Standard for Instant Noodles, adopted at Step 5 by its 26th Session, had been circulated for comments at Step 6. A revised text was under preparation to take account of the comments received; the revised draft Standard would be circulated for additional comments and consideration for advancement to Step 8 by the Committee on Cereals, Pulses and Legumes while the list of food additives was to be completed and endorsed by CCFAC

144. The Delegation of Japan expressed its concern that the CCFAC reply was not based on a risk assessment and reiterated its proposal to include PV in the draft Standard for Instant Noodles.

145. The Commission **agreed** that the elaboration of the draft Standard should proceed without further delay, with the understanding that the inclusion of a peroxide value could be decided by CCFAC in the future in the light of relevant data to be submitted by the Government of Japan to the CCFAC for consideration.

Milk and Milk Products

Proposal for a New Standard on Parmesan⁸²

146. The Commission noted the clarification provided by the Legal Offices of FAO and WHO in reply to the two questions asked by the 6th Session of the Committee on Milk and Milk Products (CCMMP). It noted the legal advice shown in document LIM.15⁸³. It also noted that the TRIPS Secretariat had also been consulted on aspects of intellectual property protection⁸⁴.

147. The views of the delegations which intervened were split among those against and those in favour of the development of a new Standard on Parmesan cheese.

148. Arguments put forward by delegations opposing included, among others: the need for Codex to work on consensus; the protection of geographical indications and designation of origin for agricultural products and foodstuffs under EC legislation; non-generic nature of the product name; risk of misleading consumers; Objective 3 of the Codex Strategic Framework 2003-2007 “Promoting linkages between Codex and other multilateral regulatory instruments and conventions”; the need to protect traditional and local culture, including geographic and regional products; the need to give priority to the work related to consumer protection in view of

⁸⁰ ALINORM 04/27/30, para. 90

⁸¹ ALINORM 04/27/12, para. 209; ALINORM 04/31, para. 121 and Appendix VI; CL 2003/32-CPL

⁸² ALINORM 04/27/11, paras 120-121; ALINORM 04/27/4 paras 74-78; LIM.15 (Opinion of the Legal Offices of FAO and WHO); LIM.20 (Comments of the European Community); LIM.28 (Comments of Australia, Canada, New Zealand and the United States of America).

⁸³ According to this legal opinion, “the fact that Parmigiano-Reggiano is registered as a Protected Designation of Origin by the European Community would not preclude a majority of the Members of the Codex Alimentarius Commission from deciding to elaborate a Codex standard on Parmesan cheese, if applicable criteria for acceptance of new work have been met” and “there are no requirements to the effect that aspects of intellectual property protection e.g. trademarks, certification marks, geographical indications (GI’s) or PDO’s be considered as criteria to be taken into consideration by Codex when deciding on acceptance of new work or adopting standards” (LIM.15, paras 13 and 19).

⁸⁴ LIM.15, para. 17.

the budget constraint of Codex; the need to give priority to horizontal standards encompassing different products; ongoing work on Geographical Indication (GI) in the World Trade Organization (WTO). Some delegations suggested considering the revision of the Codex Standard on Extra Hard Grating Cheese (CODEX STAN C35-1978) as a compromise solution.

149. Arguments put forward by delegations in favour of the new standard included, among others: the importance for Codex to base work on agreed rules; the compliance of the proposal to develop a Standard on Parmesan with both Codex Criteria for Establishing New Work Priorities and CCMMP criteria for revision of standards; the generic nature of the product name in question; the international practice in which many products with denomination of origin were covered by internationally recognised standards; the fact that intellectual property rights are territorial and therefore the provisions in the EC are not binding for third countries ; that Codex had no mandate on intellectual property issues; that labelling adequately allowed the consumers to make informed choices; that national/regional legislation should not set precedence over Codex work; and that from a legal point of view there was no impediment to the development of the Standard.

150. The majority of delegations who spoke were against the development of a new standard but a large number of delegations were in favour of such development. In view of the lack of consensus and considering that the 7th Session of the CCMMP was tentatively scheduled in April 2006, the Commission **agreed** to defer its decision on the development of a Standard on Parmesan cheese until its 28th Session. Due to its late availability only in English, it was agreed to attach LIM.15 “Opinion of the Legal Offices of FAO and WHO” as an Appendix to the report of the Session (see Appendix X to this report) in order to allow all Members of the Commission to consider this document in detail.

Clarification on time-bound decision-making⁸⁵

151. The Commission **endorsed** the view of the 54th Session of the Executive Committee that a five-year timeframe should be maintained as a general rule, while the standards development process should be monitored on a case-by-case basis⁸⁶.

General Principles

Proposed Draft Code of Ethics for International Trade in Food⁸⁷

152. The Commission recalled that the Committee on General Principles had sought the advice of the Commission to clarify the need to revise the Code of Ethics and its intended scope, particularly with regard to whether it should focus solely on ethical aspects.

153. The Delegation of Brazil noted that it would be difficult to achieve consensus if the Code was to focus only on ethical issues, and recalled that the priority of Codex was the development of science based standards. The Delegation expressed the view that such a Code could lead to disguised forms of barriers to international trade and that many provisions in the Code were covered by other Codex texts or multilateral agreements and therefore questioned the need for further work on the Code.

154. Several delegations supported this position and proposed to discontinue work on the revision of the Code as there were more urgent priorities in the Committee on General Principles and in the framework of Codex.

155. Several delegations and the Observer from Consumers International supported the revision of the Code and stressed its importance, especially for developing countries, in order to prevent the export of food that was unsafe and/or did not meet the food safety requirements of the exporting countries and to protect consumers from health risks and unfair practices. These delegations therefore supported the revision of the Code and its exclusive focus on ethical issues, as other aspects related to international trade were already covered in other Codex texts or the WTO Agreements.

⁸⁵ ALINORM 04/27/11, para. 12.

⁸⁶ ALINORM 04/27/4 para. 79.

⁸⁷ ALINORM 04/27/33A paras 77-78

156. Some delegations pointed out that the existing Code of Ethics adequately covered aspects of ethics in international trade, and that its revision should be discontinued.

157. The Delegation of Canada proposed to seek clarification from the Committee on General Principles on the need and purpose of the Code, its relationship with other Codex texts and multilateral bodies and the extent to which it addresses, in particular, the interests of developing countries. Some delegations supported this proposal as it would facilitate further discussion, while other delegations stated that the questions forwarded by the Committee on General Principles should not be referred back to that Committee without being answered by the Commission.

158. In reply to a question from the Delegation of Morocco on the status of the Code of Ethics under the WTO, the Representative of WTO indicated that all Codex texts could be equally relevant under the SPS Agreement and how a particular text would be interpreted by a WTO panel could be determined only in the framework of a specific trade dispute.

159. After some further discussion, the Commission **agreed** to address the following questions to the Committee on General Principles:

- Whether there is a clear need for a Code of Ethics for International Trade in Food;
- If so, whether the primary problem to be addressed by such a Code is the subsequent export of food, whether imported or produced domestically, that had been found to be unsafe or otherwise does not meet the safety standards of the exporting country;
- Whether the Code has other objectives;
- To what extent other Codex texts, developed since the last revision of the Code in 1985, have addressed the objective(s) of the existing Code. Of particular relevance are the texts developed by the Committee on Food Import and Export Inspection and Certification Systems;
- Whether the texts developed by other multilateral bodies (e.g. FAO, WHO, WTO) have contributed to addressing the problems the Code is meant to resolve; and
- Given the existence of these Codex and other texts, what, if any, aspects of the problem remain unaddressed and whether these aspects were within the mandate of the Committee.

160. The Commission recalled that the Proposed Draft Revised Code had been returned to Step 3 by the Committee on General Principles but had not been circulated for comments pending advice of the Commission. The Commission **agreed** that it should not be circulated at Step 3, pending further discussion in the Committee, and that instead, a Circular Letter would be issued to request comments on these questions, for consideration by the Committee on General Principles at its next regular session.

161. The Commission recognized the importance of this issue for developing countries and noted that the Regional Coordinating Committees could discuss this matter.

162. The Commission noted the view of the Delegation of Chile that the Committee on General Principles should consider whether a Code of Ethics was necessary in relation to the standard-setting procedures of the Commission.

Clarification of the Respective Role of Members of the Executive Committee Elected on a Geographical Basis and of Coordinators

163. The Commission noted that this matter had been covered under Agenda item 12 as part of the *Review of the Regional Coordinating Committees* (see paras 135-136)

Food Labelling

*Country of Origin Labelling*⁸⁸

164. The Commission recalled that the Committee on Food Labelling had sought the guidance of the Commission as consensus could not be reached on the need to undertake new work on country of origin labelling.

165. Many delegations and observers supported new work on country of origin labelling in response to increased consumer demand for such information and pointed out that the current provisions in the *General Standard for the Labelling of Prepackaged Foods* might result in misleading labelling and required clarification. These delegations therefore supported the revision of the current provisions, including consideration of ingredients labelling and a clarification of the meaning of “country of origin” for processed foods.

166. Many other delegations opposed further work on this issue for the following reasons: the current provisions were adequate to provide clear information to consumers; additional information on the origin of ingredients was likely to create confusion for consumers; it would entail huge costs and liability questions for producers and manufacturers; and enforcement of such provisions would create a considerable burden for national authorities, especially in developing countries.

167. Several delegations and Observers stated that country of origin labelling would not provide any benefit to consumers in terms of food safety since it was the responsibility of food safety authorities to ensure that all food placed on the market were safe. Other delegations and Observers pointed out that such information addressed consumer demand for clear information to make informed choices, and could aid in food control by official authorities, especially as regards traceability/product tracing. Some delegations stressed the importance of country of origin information for importing countries.

168. Several delegations proposed a compromise solution limiting the scope of new work on country of origin labelling to misleading claims and to unprocessed foods, in view of the difficulties associated with ingredient labelling for processed foods. The Chairperson of the Committee on Labelling, hosted by Canada, proposed to ask some questions to member countries to clarify if and why the current provisions were inadequate for member countries, and whether there was a problem of interpretation of the current requirements.

169. The Commission considered a proposal to add the following additional question “if these provisions are considered to be inadequate, would additional guidance restricted to prepackaged unprocessed food be the solution”. However, some delegations did not support this proposal, given that the definition of “unprocessed foods” did not exist in Codex as noted by the Delegation of Brazil and would require detailed consideration.

170. After further discussion, the Commission recognized that no conclusion could be reached at this stage on whether or not to undertake new work on country of origin labelling. The Commission **agreed** to forward the following questions for consideration by the Committee on Food Labelling:

- a) whether the current provisions in sections 4.5.1 and 4.5.2 for Country of Origin Labelling contained in the Codex General Standard for the Labelling of Prepackaged Foods were adequate to address Members’ needs with respect to country of origin labelling
- b) whether countries have encountered difficulties with the interpretation of those provisions.

Animal Feeding

*Future Work on Animal Feeding*⁸⁹

171. The Commission **endorsed** the recommendations of the 54th Session of the Executive Committee that a Circular Letter be prepared to request the views of governments on the areas where future work would be desirable so that the Commission at its next Session could determine whether additional work should be required

⁸⁸ ALINORM 04/27/22, paras 110-116

⁸⁹ ALINORM 04/27/38, paras 35-36.

by Codex on animal feeding and if so what mechanisms would be most appropriate. The Commission noted the Denmark had indicated that it would be willing to host the Task Force if it was established.⁹⁰

Recommended International Code of Practice for the Handling and Processing of Quick Frozen Foods⁹¹

172. The Commission **endorsed** the recommendation of the Executive Committee that, in order to proceed with the revision of the Code, Option (b) provided in working document LIM.6 would be most appropriate. The Commission accepted the offer of the United States of America, as host government of the Committees on Food Hygiene and on Processed Fruits and Vegetables, to coordinate the work by correspondence on the quality provisions of the Code until preliminary adoption at Step 5 and finalization as per hygienic/safety provisions by the Committee on Food Hygiene for final adoption at Step 8 by the Commission. A Joint Meeting of the Committee on Food Hygiene and/or the relevant Commodity Committees might be convened to finalize the hygienic provisions as well as those unsolved quality provisions for which it was not possible to reach consensus during the work by correspondence.

RELATIONS BETWEEN THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION (Agenda Item 14)⁹²

A. Relations between the Codex Alimentarius Commission and other international intergovernmental organizations⁹³

173. The Commission was reminded that the amendment to Rule VIII.5 “Observers” proposed by the 20th Session of the Committee on General Principles had not been adopted at the present session due to the absence of quorum (see para. 9). It took note of the status of the draft Guidelines for Cooperation with International Intergovernmental Organization under development in the Committee on General Principles and noted that the 21st Session of the Committee would consider a revised draft prepared by the Secretariat. In this regard, the Commission noted that the Committee on General Principles did not support the elaboration of a joint standard with a cooperating organization⁹⁴.

174. The Representative of WTO drew the attention of the Commission to the report of the WTO Secretariat on the activities of the SPS Committee and other WTO activities relevant to food safety in 2003, including its work related to equivalence.

Relation between Codex and OIE

175. The Commission was informed of the recent revision of Agreements of cooperation between FAO and the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) and between OIE and WHO⁹⁵.

176. The Representative of the OIE, in his address to the Commission, highlighted the importance of a strengthened collaboration between OIE and Codex to address food safety hazards in the food chain, especially in animal production. The Representative was of the opinion that privileged cooperation between the three international standard-setting bodies referred in the SPS Agreement, e.g. Codex, OIE and IPPC, be established to foster work in areas of mutual interest, thereby identifying gaps, avoiding duplication and ensuring consistent and harmonised texts.

177. The Representative informed the Commission of the activities of the OIE Working Group on Animal Production Food Safety, established in 2002, which met in April 2004 for the third time. The Representative underlined the active participation and contribution of OIE in the work of various Codex subsidiary bodies. With

⁹⁰ ALINORM 04/27/04, para. 85.

⁹¹ LIM 6; ALINORM 04/27/4, para. 88.

⁹² ALINORM 04/27/10E; LIM.7 (Corrigendum to ALINORM 04/27/10E); ALINORM 04/27/3 paras 97-104; ALINORM 04/27/4 paras 89-93.

⁹³ INF.8 (WTO submission to the Codex Alimentarius Commission); INF.10 (OIE submission to the Codex Alimentarius Commission).

⁹⁴ ALINORM 04/27/33A, paras 97-109.

⁹⁵ ALINORM 04/27/10G, paras 63-69.

regard to the antimicrobial resistance, the Representative stated that the OIE was supporting the establishment of a joint Codex/OIE Task Force as recommended by the Oslo's Workshop and that OIE rules and procedures already allowed for its creation.

178. The Representatives of FAO and WHO reiterated their support for a strengthened collaboration between Codex and OIE and the Commission noted that discussion on how to foster the cooperation would start between FAO, WHO and OIE on the basis of the revised interagency agreements.

179. Many delegations expressed their support for strengthening cooperation between Codex and OIE. It was pointed out that consistency should be ensured between Codex and OIE texts despite the difference in the mandates of Codex and OIE; that the relation between Codex and OIE should be open and transparent; that a future collaborative body should be a subsidiary body of Codex; whether OIE collaboration should be at the initial drafting stages of standards development noting the importance of the first drafting in terms of the source and manner of its preparation for elaboration of standards and the need for Codex subsidiary bodies to elaborate standards and related texts through the Codex Step Procedure; that there was a need to explore pragmatic way to foster the collaboration while respecting the independence and without modifying the programme of the two organizations; that the cooperation with OIE should be based on legally sound agreement; that the work on the "*Guidelines on Cooperation with International Intergovernmental Organizations*" should be completed before considering particular arrangements between Codex and OIE. The Delegation of China stated that the collaboration between Codex and OIE should be in conformity with the cooperative relations between FAO/WHO and OIE.

180. The Commission concluded the discussion by reiterating its interest for increased cooperation with OIE and suggested that FAO and WHO initiate discussion in accordance with the recommendations of the 53rd Session of the Executive Committee⁹⁶, taking account of the comments made (see the paragraph above). The Commission requested the Committee on General Principles to finalise the Guidelines at an early opportunity and recommended that the collaboration between Codex and OIE be strengthened also at national and regional level.

B. Relations between the Codex Alimentarius Commission and international non-governmental organizations⁹⁷

181. In accordance with Article 6 of the *Principles Concerning the Participation of International Non-Governmental Organizations in the Work of the Codex Alimentarius Commission*, the Secretariat reported to the Commission on the cooperation with NGOs, as presented in ALINORM 04/27/10E and LIM 7.

Relation between Codex and ISO

182. The Commission recalled that the 53rd Session of the Executive Committee had agreed that the Codex Secretariat establish preliminary contact with the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) to obtain information on the current status of food safety work within ISO⁹⁸.

183. The Observer from ISO, while introducing ISO activities (INF.2), recalled the long-standing cooperation between Codex and ISO and pointed out that Codex and ISO activities were complementary. The Observer highlighted the work of ISO in relevant areas, in particular the work of Technical Committee 34, including draft standards on *Food Safety Management Systems – Requirements* (ISO 22000) and on *Traceability Systems in the agricultural food chain – General principles for design and development* (ISO 22518). The Observer indicated that cooperation could be expanded to consider broader areas such as liaison with other ISO Committees, conformity assessment standardization and policy level exchange and coordination. The Commission noted the information on capacity building activities of ISO in developing countries.

⁹⁶ ALINORM 04/27/3, paras 100-104.

⁹⁷ INF.2 (ISO submission to the Codex Alimentarius Commission) ; INF.1

⁹⁸ ALINORM 04/27/3, paras 97-99; ALINORM 04/27/4, para. 92

184. The Delegation of Mexico supported cooperation with ISO in areas of common interest and noted that Codex could benefit from the technical work of ISO in order to facilitate international harmonization of standards.

185. The Delegation of the United States expressed concern with the work undertaken by ISO in areas related to food safety, namely ISO 22000 and ISO 22518, and requested continued contacts between the Codex and ISO Secretariats in order to regularly provide information on ISO activities to the Commission.

186. The Delegation of Canada proposed to distribute ISO documents through the Codex lists of distribution to Codex Contact Points. The Commission however noted that this would create practical difficulties in view of the large quantity of ISO documents and communications, and that information could preferably be exchanged between relevant bodies at the national level.

187. The Commission agreed that the Secretariat should maintain its contacts with ISO and report to the Executive Committee and the Commission on ISO activities of relevance to Codex work.

FAO/WHO TRUST FUND FOR ENHANCED PARTICIPATION IN CODEX (Agenda Item 15)⁹⁹

188. The Commission noted the Fourth Progress Report of the Project and Trust Fund presented by FAO and WHO as the working document and commended the work of the FAO/WHO Consultative Group.

189. The Commission acknowledged that the Trust Fund had become operational since March 2004 after the threshold of US\$ 500,000 was reached and noted, with appreciation, that in addition to the donors listed in Table 1 of the working document, Sweden and Australia were also contributing to the Trust Fund. It encouraged other countries to contribute and recommended that FAO and WHO look into the possibilities to seek funds from other sources, such as Foundations, while ensuring that conflict of interest be avoided.

190. The Commission was informed that the call for applications for 2005 would be issued in July 2004 with 1 October 2004 as deadline, thus allowing countries more time for their internal selection process and that the guidelines for application would be revised to add more clarity and avoid misinterpretation, particularly with regard to the matching requirements.

191. In noting the views of the 54th Session of the Executive Committee¹⁰⁰, the Commission stressed the importance of national coordination and the key role of Codex Contact Points for the successful operation of the Trust Fund and agreed that the submissions for application to the Trust Fund should be channelled exclusively through the Codex Contact Point.

192. Several delegations and observers pointed out that the goal of the Trust Fund was to promote effective participation in Codex and that this required an ability to follow-up and benefit from Codex work to enhance food safety at the national level.

193. The Commission generally supported the use of the Trust Fund for projects other than for travelling to Codex sessions such as participation in training activities, building capacities of new Codex members and the provision of additional funding to a country taking on greater responsibilities at the regional level. It was however stressed that participation in training activities on Codex should not be the primary focus of the Trust Fund, but should rather be covered by the Regular Programme and extra-budgetary resources of FAO and WHO as part of their capacity building activities.

194. The Commission requested that the criteria used in the distribution of funds should be kept under review. Further consideration should be given to ensuring adequate regional representation and the effectiveness of the participation of the beneficiary countries in Codex work.

⁹⁹ ALINORM 04/27/10F; INF.9 (Report of the Administrator of the FAO/WHO Trust Fund); ALINORM 04/27/3 paras 44-54; ALINORM 04/37/4 paras 94-103; LIM.18 (Comments of Consumers International).

¹⁰⁰ ALINORM 04/27/4, paras 94-103.

195 The Assistant Director-General of WHO acknowledged the generous contributions to the Trust Fund, reminding the Commission that the received funds still amounted to one quarter of the anticipated annual contributions to the Fund. The issue of effective participation might lead to further consideration of technical cooperation requirements. Acknowledging the twelve-years life-span of the Trust Fund it would be advisable for the Commission to develop a vision of where it wanted international food safety systems to be by 2015.

196. In general, the Assistant Director-General of WHO reminded the Commission that innovative solutions were needed to address language and documentation issues to avoid increased costs of the Codex programme. She also emphasized the need for Codex to work with other international organizations such as OIE and ISO, achieving greater visibility of the good work of Codex. New approaches could also be considered in this area, for example, through potential use of Codex standards within the ISO certification procedure.

OTHER MATTERS ARISING FROM FAO AND WHO (Agenda Item 16)¹⁰¹

Part I : Matters related to Scientific Advice

A. Progress Report Related to Scientific Advice¹⁰²

197. The Representative of FAO presented a progress report of the FAO/WHO Consultative Process on Provision of Scientific Advice, including the outcome of the FAO/WHO Workshop held in January 2004 and the comments on the Workshop report received from governments and non-governmental organizations. The Representative indicated the practical steps taken by FAO and WHO to implement the recommendations of the Workshop, including:

- the establishment of an FAO/WHO internal task force to review management options and improve communication with stakeholders;
- the preparation of a procedural manual as a compilation of principles and procedures followed by FAO and WHO in the provision of scientific advice with a view to increasing transparency;
- the preparation of in-depth analysis to address procedures for the selection of experts and the openness of meetings, and for the use of data; and
- the organization of a workshop to explore new approaches to enhance developing countries' capacities to generate data needed and to participate more effectively in expert meetings.

198. The Representative of FAO indicated that the final step of the consultative process would be implemented in the form of an expert consultation or an intergovernmental meeting to prepare feasible recommendations to FAO and WHO, once the analysis of the workshop recommendations has been completed and necessary resources mobilised.

199. The Commission **noted** the advance being made and **expressed their appreciation** to FAO and WHO for their efforts to improve the scientific advice provided to the Commission.

B. Requests for Scientific Advice from Codex Subsidiary Bodies

200. The Representative of WHO, also speaking on behalf of FAO, stressed the need for the Commission to prioritize the requests for scientific advice coming from Codex subsidiary bodies as the current budget of FAO and WHO available for the provision of scientific advice would not allow for a timely response to all these requests and drew the attention of the Commission to the fact that the 53rd Session of the Executive Committee had reviewed the Codex requests to FAO and WHO on scientific advice and indicated issues requiring further

¹⁰¹ ALINORM 04/27/10G; ALINORM 04/27/4 paras 104-107; LIM.21 (comments from Malaysia); LIM.24 (comments from Malaysia); INF. 3 (Report of the Joint FAO/WHO Workshop on the Provision of Scientific Advice to Codex and Member Countries); INF.3A (The Provision of Scientific Advice to Codex and member Countries); INF.4 (The International Portal for Food Safety, Animal and Plant Health, Submission by FAO); INF.5 (Capacity Building for Food Quality and Food Safety Activities of FAO and WHO).

¹⁰² INF 3; INF 3A.

discussion in the Commission¹⁰³. The Executive Committee had also considered a preliminary set of criteria to establish priorities but postponed further discussion to a later session¹⁰⁴.

201. The Representative of WHO highlighted the need to secure adequate funding both from Regular Budgets and from extra budgetary sources so that the provision of scientific advice be made in a more sustainable manner.

202. The Commission **expressed its appreciation** to FAO and WHO for their continuous effort to provide the scientific advice to Codex subsidiary bodies in an optimal way.

203. The Commission **agreed** that Codex requests No 6 (functional foods), No.7 (active chlorine) and No.16 (transport of fats and oils in bulk) for scientific advice in Annex I of the working document should not be considered as cancelled but be retained.

204. Some delegations proposed to give a higher priority to the Codex request No.6 from the 13th Session of the Coordinating Committee for Asia, to evaluate the safety and regulatory issues related to functional foods, given their importance to developing countries. Other delegations indicated that the Committee on Nutrition and Foods for Special Dietary Uses gave priority to the evaluation of upper limits of vitamins and minerals and that there was no international definition of functional food and no work was being undertaken by the Codex in this area and that from a legal point of view functional foods could be considered as common foods or foods for special dietary uses.

205. The Commission noted that the Committee on Food Additives and Contaminants and the Committee on Food Hygiene were preparing the draft Terms of Reference for the proposed expert consultation on safety of active chlorine used in and on foods.

206. In relation to the request regarding the evaluation of the safety of acceptable previous cargoes, the Commission confirmed its earlier request to FAO and WHO to convene an expert consultation, preferably before the next Session of the Committee on Fats and Oils. The Delegation of the United States stated that future work by the Committee on Fats and Oils should concentrate on criteria but not on the list.

207. The Commission **agreed** that priority for the provision of scientific advice should be given to requests coming from Codex subsidiary bodies rather than from Member governments and that the work plan of Codex shall take into account the availability of relevant scientific advice. The Commission noted the view that priority should also be given to the concerns of developing countries, the decisions of the Commission and prioritised requests by Codex subsidiary bodies.

208. The Commission **noted** that in the absence of Codex criteria for setting priorities for the provision of scientific advice, FAO and WHO would continue planning expert meetings and consultations considering the following criteria: a) clear scope of the advice requested; b) urgency of the advice requested, c) availability of required data or commitment of countries to provide such data; and d) availability of financial resources.

C. Other FAO and WHO Activities Related to the Provision of Scientific Advice.

209. The Representatives of FAO and WHO informed the Commission of the major outcome of the FAO and WHO expert meetings and related activities carried out since the last Session of the Commission, including those of JECFA, JEMRA, JMPR, ad hoc meetings, consultations and related projects.

Antimicrobial resistance¹⁰⁵

210. The Representative of WHO informed the Commission that the two FAO/WHO/OIE workshops had been convened, at the request of the 48th Session of the Executive Committee¹⁰⁶, in order to advise the Commission on possible directions to be taken on this issue. He stressed the need to address the matters

¹⁰³ ALINORM 04/27/3, paras 55-75.

¹⁰⁴ ALINORM 04/27/3, paras 76-83.

¹⁰⁵ ALINORM 04/27/13, para.159; LIM.17 Rev. (Proposal for New Work on Non-human Antimicrobial Resistance, prepared by Republic of Korea).

¹⁰⁶ ALINORM 01/4, paras 36-37.

regarding the terminology, risk assessment policy and risk management options for the containment of antimicrobial resistance.

211. The Representative of the OIE drew the attention of the Commission to the fact that the OIE had already adopted sections on the containment of antimicrobial resistance in the OIE Code and indicated that the OIE would support recommendations of the second Workshop held in Oslo. The Representative pointed out that in principle the OIE would accept the proposal to establish a Joint *ad hoc* Task Force on antimicrobial resistance, to operate on the procedures to be agreed upon by the two bodies, with specific terms of reference in accordance with the outcome of the Oslo Workshop: to define risk assessment policy to be used by JEMRA; to develop risk management options; to consolidate existing texts in this area; and to develop guidance for the use of antimicrobials in animal production.

212. The Commission noted the willingness of the Delegation of the Republic of Korea to host an *ad hoc* Task Force on Antimicrobial resistance, if such a Task Force was to be established in future.

213. Many delegations supported the recommendation by the 54th Session of the Executive Committee as the way to proceed on this matter¹⁰⁷.

214. The Commission noted that there was a unanimous support for the cooperation with the OIE, but that financial implications and impact on country participation, especially for developing countries should be carefully considered before taking a final decision towards establishing a new Task Force is taken. The Commission also noted the kind offer of the OIE that the cost for joint activities could be shared between the organizations.

215. The Commission agreed that there were several possible options for the Commission to deal with this matter, including the establishment of a Codex task force with active participation of the OIE, or the use of existing Codex subsidiary bodies such as the Committee on Food Hygiene, the Committee on Residues of Veterinary Drugs in Foods and the Task Force on Animal Feeding.

216. The Commission further agreed that before deciding on the procedural mechanisms to further work, there should be a clear and common understanding of what should be achieved by Codex in regard to the question of antimicrobial resistance related to non-human use of antimicrobials.

217. In order to facilitate the discussion, the Commission **requested** Secretariat to prepare, as soon as possible, a Circular Letter which would include two questions:

- What should be achieved by Codex to address the issue of antimicrobial resistance related to non-human use of microbials (e.g. risk assessment principles, risk management options);
- What mechanisms should be used by Codex to achieve the above outcome?

The Circular Letter would also contain the following information:

- the outline of ongoing work on this matter in relevant Codex Committees, their Terms of Reference in relation to their work on antimicrobial resistance; and
- the executive summary prepared by FAO and WHO from the two Workshops.

218. The Commission **agreed** that the comments received in reply to the Circular Letter would be considered at the 55th Session of the Executive Committee with the understanding that it would provide the advice to the next session of the Commission.

219. The Representative of the OIE stated that the OIE Working Group on Animal Production Food Safety would continue its work on microbial resistance, while waiting for further decisions by Codex.

¹⁰⁷ ALINORM 04/27/4, paras 68-73.

Part II : Capacity Building in Food Safety and Quality

220. The Commission was informed of FAO/WHO activities in capacity building in the field of food safety, which covered three main areas, namely: (i) the organization of global and regional/sub-regional conferences, workshops and seminars on food safety related matters; (ii) field projects; and, (iii) guidance and training tools. The Commission noted, in particular, the plans to hold the Second Global Forum of Food Safety Regulators (Bangkok, Thailand, 12-14 October 2004) and the regional food safety conferences for Africa, the Americas and the Near East. The importance of the pre-Codex workshops in improving the effectiveness of the participation of developing countries in Codex was highlighted.

221. The Commission was informed that over thirty field projects were currently in operation in different parts of the world and twelve others were under consideration. The Commission took note of the following tools already developed or under preparation by FAO/WHO: Assuring Food Safety and Quality – Guidelines for Strengthening National Food Control Systems; Food Safety Risk Analysis – a Training Package (undergoing finalization); Evaluation of Capacity Building Needs for Food Control (in preparation); Improving the Safety and Quality of Fresh Fruits and Vegetable – a Training Manual and Resource Database; and, Improving Participation in the Work of Codex – a Training Pack (in preparation).

222. The Commission noted the development of the International Food Safety Authorities Network (INFOSAN) to be used for targeted and rapid distribution of various information for the protection of public health. One part of INFOSAN would be dedicated to food safety emergency situations where imminent risk of serious injury or death might be present.

Part III: Other Matters of Interest

223. The Commission, with appreciation, noted the presentation made by the coordinator of the International Portal for Food Safety, Animal and Plant Health (IPFSAPH).

224. The Representative of IAEA informed the Commission of the activities of the FAO/IAEA Division of Nuclear Techniques in Food and Agriculture, in particular: the Joint FAO/IOC/WHO *Ad Hoc* Expert Consultation on Biotoxins in Molluscan Bivalves (Oslo, 27 September - 1 October 2004) and the Joint FAO/WHO/IAEA Seminar on the Use of Irradiation for Sanitary and Phytosanitary Purposes (Bangkok, 11 October 2004). He also provided information on the IAEA Conventions on Early Notification of Nuclear Accident and on Assistance in the Case of a Nuclear Accident or Radiological Emergency. The Commission noted that a report on relevant activities of IAEA would be submitted at its next Session.

OTHER BUSINESS (Agenda Item 17)

225. The Commission noted the change of dates of some forthcoming Codex Committee meetings including those of the Codex Alimentarius Commission and the Executive Committee. It also noted that these changes would be reflected in the meeting schedule posted on the Codex website¹⁰⁸.

226. The Commission further noted that the Codex website had recently been updated with enhanced functionalities for document searches. Additional data sets of the Codex Alimentarius would be available shortly as part of an ongoing programme of improvement of the Codex website.

227. The Commission noted that its 28th Session would be held in Rome from 4 to 9 July 2005, subject to further confirmation.

¹⁰⁸ <http://www.codexalimentarius.net>

APPENDIX I

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS
LISTE DES PARTICIPANTS
LISTA DE PARTICIPANTES

Chairperson: Dr Stuart Alexander SLORACH
Président: Deputy Director-General
Presidente: National Food Administration
PO Box 622
SE-75126 Uppsala
Sweden
Tel.: +46.18.175594
Fax: +46.18.105848
Email: stsl@slv.se

**LIST OF PARTICIPANTS
LISTE DES PARTICIPANTS
LISTA DE PARTICIPANTES**

ALGERIA - ALGÉRIE - ARGELIA

M Mohamed Chaieb AISSAOUI
Directeur Général
Institut Algerien de normalisation
Comité membre de l'ISO pour l'Algérie
05 et 07 Rue Abou Hamou Moussa
BP 104 RP
Phone: 021-64 2032
Fax: 021-64-1761
Email: mc_aissaoui@ianor.org

ANGOLA

Dr Gomes CARDOSO
Presidente do Comité Nacional do Codex- Angola e Director
Nacional do Comércio Interno
Ministério do Comércio
Presidencia do Comité Nacional para o Codex Alimentarius
Luanda- Angola
Largo 4 de Fevereiro
Palácio de Vidro
Caixa Postal N° 1337/8
Phone: 00244-92-507105
Fax: 00244-2-320553/310658
Email: gcardoso@netangola.com
Minco.dnci.gc@netangola.com
Site :www.dnci.net

Mrs Maria Antónia SANAZENGE
Ministério da Salud
Vice-Presidente do Comité Nacional para o Codex Alimentarius
Luanda- Angola
Rua Comandante Gika, C.P. n°527
Phone: 00244-2-92534756
Fax: 00244-2-320553
Email:
Mr Domingos MIGUEL
Executive Secretary Codex- Angola
Ministério da Agricultura e do desenvolvimento Rural
Secretariado do Comité Nacional para o Codex Alimentarius
Luanda- Angola
Rua Comandante Gika, C.P. n°527
Phone: 00244-2-92534756
Fax: 002-2-320553
Email:

**ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA -
ANTIGUA-ET-BARBUDA -
ANTIGUA Y BARBUDA**

Mr Solange BENJAMIN
Manager, Information Services
Redcliffe St and Corn Alley
P.O. Box 1550
St. John's
Antigua and Barbuda
Phone:
Fax:
Email:

ARGENTINA - ARGENTINE

Ing. Gabriela Alejandra CATALANI
Technical Coordinator of the Codex Contact Point
Dirección Nacional de Mercados Agroalimentarios
Subsecretaría de Política Agropecuaria y Alimentos
Secretaría de Agricultura, Ganadería, Pesca y Alimentos
Paseo Colón 922, Of.29
1063 Buenos Aires
Phone: 54-11 4349 2549
Fax: 54-11 4349 2244
Email: gcatal@sagpa.minproduccion.gov.ar
codex@sagpya.minproduccion.gov.ar

Ms Carolina PADRÓ
Dirección Nacional de Mercados
Agroalimentarios – SAGPYA
Paseo Colón 922, Of. 29
1063 Buenos Aires
Phone: 54 11 43492549
Fax:
Email: cpadro@sagpya.minproducción.gov.ar

AUSTRALIA - AUSTRALIE

Mr Steve MCCUTCHEON
General Manager
Product Safety and Integrity
Australian Government Department of Agriculture, Fisheries
and Forestry
GPO Box 858
Canberra ACT 2601
Phone: 61-2-6272-4316
Fax: 61-2-6272-5697
Email: steve.mccutcheon@daff.gov.au

Mr Greg READ
Executive Manager - Exports
Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service
Australian Government Department of Agriculture, Fisheries
and Forestry
GPO Box 858
Canberra ACT 2601
Phone: 61-2-6272-3594
Fax: 61-2-6272-4112
Email: greg.read@daff.gov.au

The Hon Rob KNOWLES
Chair
Food Standards Australia New Zealand
GPO Box 1245
Melbourne Vic 3001
Phone: 61-3-9665-8033
Fax: 61-3-9663-7369
Email: rob.knowles@health.gov.au

Ms Ann BACKHOUSE
Manager
Codex Australia
Australian Government Department of Agriculture, Fisheries
and Forestry
GPO Box 858
Canberra ACT 2601
Phone: 61-2-6272-5692
Fax: 61-2-6272-3103
Email: ann.backhouse@daff.gov.au

Dr Marion HEALY
Chief Scientist
Food Standards Australia New Zealand
PO Box 7186
Canberra BC ACT 2610
Phone: 61-2-6271-2215
Fax: 61-2-6271-2204
Email: marion.healy@foodstandards.gov.au

Ms Jyoti LARKE
 Second Secretary
 Australian Permanent Mission to the WTO
 Chemin des Fins 2
 Geneva
 Phone: 0-22-799 9119
 Fax: 0-79 240 8644
 Email: Jyoti.Larke@dfat.gov.au

Mr George MINA
 Counsellor
 Australian Permanent Mission to WTO
 Chemin des Fins 2
 Case Postale 172
 1211 Geneva 19
 Phone: 41 22 799 9120
 Fax: 41 22 799 9189
 Email: george.mina@dfat.gov.au

AUSTRIA - AUTRICHE

Dr Erhard HÖBAUS
 Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and
 Water Management
 Stubenring 1
 Vienna
 Phone: +431 71100-2855/2901
 Fax:
 Email: erhard.hoebaus@bmlfuw.gv.et

BELGIUM - BELGIQUE - BÉLGICA

M. Charles CRÉMER
 Directeur
 SPF Santé Publique
 Sécurité de la Chaîne alimentaire et environnement
 DG Animaux, végétaux et alimentation
 Division des denrées alimentaires et autres produits de
 consommation
 Cité administrative de l'État
 Arcades, 4
 1010 Bruxelles
 Phone: 32-2-2104843
 Fax: 32-2-2104816
 Email: charles.cremer@health.fgov.be

M. Marc CORNELIS
 Adviseur-generaal
 Federaal Agentschap voor de Veiligheid van de Voedselketen
 DG Controlebeleid - Internationale Zaken
 WTC III
 Simon Bolivarlaan, 30
 1000 Bruxelles
 Phone: 32-2-2083834
 Fax: 32-2-2083823
 Email: marc.cornelis@favv.be

M. Johan HALLAERT
 Conseiller
 Fédération belge des Industries alimentaires (FEVIA)
 Avenue des Arts, 43
 1040 Bruxelles
 Phone: 32-2-55011760
 Fax: 32-2-55011754
 Email: jh@fevia.be

M. Guido KAYAERT
 Vice-président
 Relations with European Institutions
 Nestlé Coordination Center
 Rue de Birmingham, 221
 1070 Bruxelles
 Phone: 32-2-5295330
 Fax: 32-2-5295667
 Email: guido.kayaert@be.nestle.com

M. Luc OGIERS
 Directeur
 SPF Economie
 Rue Général Leman, 60
 1040 Bruxelles
 Geneva
 Phone: 32-2-2065890
 Fax: 32-2-2309565
 Email: luc.ogiers@mineco.fgov.be

BHUTAN - BHOUTAN - BHUTÁN

Mr Thuji TSHERING
 Chief Regulatory and Quarantine Officer
 Bhutan Agriculture and Food Regulatory Authority
 Ministry of Agriculture
 Tashichho Dzong
 Thimphu
 Phone: 975-2 327031/325790
 Fax: 975-2-327032
 Email: t_tshering@moa.gov.bt

BOTSWANA

Dr Boitumelo V. KGAREBE
 Managing Director
 National Food Technology Research Centre
 Private Bag 008
 Kanye
 Botswana
 Phone: 267-5540441
 Fax: 267-5440713
 Email: boitumelo@naftec.bw

Mr Allam Chivunga MPHANDE
 Senior Scientific Officer
 Food Control Unit
 Ministry of Health
 Private Bag 00269
 Gaborone
 Phone: 267-3902908
 Fax: 267-3974354
 Email: acmphande@yahoo.com

BRAZIL - BRÉSIL - BRASIL

Mrs Maria Aparecida MARTINELLI
 Coordinator of Brazilian Codex Committee
 Inmetro
 SEPN 511, Bloco B, 4º Andar
 Brasília - DF - Brazil
 Phone: 55-61-340-2211
 Fax: 55-61-347-3284
 Email: codexbrasil@inmetro.gov.br

Mrs Antonia Maria DE AQUINO
 National Health Surveillance Agency
 Ministry of Health
 SEPN 515 Bloco B - Ed. Ômega, 30 Andar
 70 770 502 Brasília, DF
 Brazil
 Phone: 55-61-448-6289
 Fax: 55-61-448-1080
 Email: antonia.aquino@anvisa.gov.br

Mrs Marilla REGINI NUTTI
 Researcher
 Embrapa Food Technology
 Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Food Supply
 Av. das Américas 29501
 Rio de Janeiro - RJ
 Brazil
 Phone: 55-21-2410-1350
 Fax: 55-21-2410-1090
 Email: marilia@ctaa.embrapa.br

Mr Cleber FERREIRA DO SANTOS
National Health Surveillance Agency
Ministry of Health
SEPN 515 Bloco B - Ed Ômega, 3º Andar
70 770 520 - Brasília - DF- Brazil
Phone: 55-61-4481084
Fax: 55-61-4481080
Email: cleber.ferreira@anvisa.gov.br

Mr Ilto Antonio MORANDINI
Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Food Supply
Esplanada dos Ministérios
Anexo B s 409
Brasília D.F.
Brazil
Phone: 55-61-218-2314
Fax: 55-61-224-3995
Email: morandini@agricultura.gov.br

Mr Francisco F. SPARENBERG OLIVEIRA
Asociación Brasileña de Normas técnicas
Av. Profº Almeida Prado, 532
Prédio 1 - 3º andar - Cidade Universitária
05508-901 - São Paulo, SP
Brazil
Phone: 55-11-3767-3655
Fax: 55-11-3767-3633
Email: ffsoliveira@abnt.org.br

Mr Antonio MANTOAN
Regulatory Affairs and Nutrition Manager
Unilever Bestfoods
Av. Paulista 2.300
São paulo SP
Brazil 01310-300
Phone: 55-11-31381543
Fax: 55-11-332370620
Email: antonio.mantoan@unilever.com

Mr Braz DA COSTA BARACUHY NETO
Secretary
Ministry of External Relations
Esplanada dos Ministérios
Palácio Itamaraty
Brasília - DF
Phone: 55-61 411 6369
Fax: 55-61 226 3255
Email: braz@mre.gov.br

BULGARIA - BULGARIE

Mr Dencho GEORGIEV
Ambassador
Representative of the Republic of Bulgaria to the World Trade
Organization
Geneva
Phone:
Fax:
Email:

Mrs Tatyana PETROVA
Counsellor
Permanent Mission of the Republic of Bulgaria to the World
Trade Organization
Geneva
Phone:
Fax:
Email:

Mrs Deana MEHANDJIYSKA
Attaché
Permanent Mission of the Republic of Bulgaria to the UN and
the Other International Organizations
Geneva
Phone:
Fax:
Email:

CAMEROON - CAMEROUN - CAMERÚN

M Medi MOUNGUI
Deuxième Conseiller
Représentant permanent adjoint auprès de la FAO
Ambassade de la République du Cameroon
Via Siracusa 4-6
00161 Rome
Phone: 39-06 4403644
Fax: 39-06 44 03644
Email: medimoungui@virgilio.it

M Jean Michel MPE
Directeur de la production agricole par Intérim
Ministère de l'agriculture
P.O. Box 1639
Yaoundé
Phone:
Fax:
Email:

CANADA - CANADÁ

Mr Paul MAYERS
Acting Director-General
Food Directorate
Health Canada
Building#7 Postal Locator (0701A5)
Tunney's Pasture
Ottawa, Ontario, K1A 0L2
Phone: 613-957-1821
Fax: 613-957-1784
Email: paul_mayers@hc-sc.gc.ca

Ms Debra BRYANTON
Executive Director
Food Safety Directorate
Canadian Food Inspection Agency
159 Cleopatra Drive
Nepean, Ontario, K1A 0Y9
Phone: 613-221-7155
Fax: 613-221-7295
Email: dbryanton@inspection.gc.ca

Mr Ron BURKE
Codex Contact Point for Canada
Director
Bureau of Food Regulatory, International and Interagency
Affairs
Food Directorate
Health Canada
Building#7, Room 2395 (0702C1)
Tunney's Pasture
Ottawa, Ontario, K1A 0L2
Phone: 613-957-1748
Fax: 613-941-3537
Email: ronald_burke@hc-sc.gc.ca

Mr Allan MCCARVILLE
Senior Advisor, Codex
Bureau of Food Regulatory, International and Interagency
Affairs
Food Directorate
Health Canada
HPB Building, Room 2394 (0702C1)
Tunney's Pasture
Ottawa, Ontario, K1A 0L2
Phone: 613-957-0189
Fax: 613-941-3537
Email: allan_mccarville@hc-sc.gc.ca

Dr Anne MACKENZIE
Senior Science Advisor
Science Branch
Canadian Food Inspection Agency
59 Camelot Drive
Nepean, Ontario, K1A 0Y9
Phone: 613-225-2342 Ext. 4188
Fax: 613-228-6638
Email: amackenzie@inspection.gc.ca

Mr Paul HADDOW
Executive Director
International Affairs
Canadian Food Inspection Agency
59 Camelot Drive
Ottawa, Ontario, K1A 0Y9
Phone: 613-225-2342 (Ext 4203)
Fax: 613-228-6634
Email: phaddow@inspection.gc.ca

Mr Bertrand GAGNON
Manager, Programs, International Coordination
Canadian Food Inspection Agency
159 Cleopatra Drive
Ottawa, Ontario, K1A 0Y9
Phone: 613-221-7161
Fax: 613-221-7295
Email: bgagnon@inspection.gc.ca

Dr Réjean BOUCHARD
Assistant Director
Policy and Dairy Production
Dairy Farmers of Canada
75 Albert Street, Suite 1101
Ottawa, Ontario, K1P 5E7
Phone: 613-236-9997
Fax: 613-236-0905
Email: rejeanb@dfc-plc.ca

Mr Regan KHAN
Trade Policy Analyst, Multilateral Trade Issue Division
International Trade Policy Directorate
Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada
Room 10109, Sir John Carling Building
930 Carling Avenue
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0C5
Phone: 613-715-5049
Fax: 613-759 7503
Email: khanr@agri.gc.ca

CHILE - CHILI

Dr. Gonzalo RÍOS KANTOROWITZ
Encargado de Negociaciones Internacionales – OMC/MSF Y CODEX
Avda. Bulnes 140 – Santiago
Chile
Phone: 56-2 345 1581
Fax: 56-2 345 1578
Email: gonzalo.rios@sag.gob.cl

Ing. Velia ARRAIGADA RÍOS
Ingeniero Agrónomo
Jefe Departamento Asuntos Internacionales
Av. Bulnes 140 – Santiago
Chile
Phone: 56-2 3451193
Fax: 56-2 345 1578
Email: velia.arriagada@sag.gob.cl

Ing. Antonieta URRUTIA
Ingeniero Agrónomo
Departamento Asuntos Internacionales
Av. Bulnes 140 – Santiago
Santiago
Phone: 562-345 1585
Fax: 562-345 1578
Email: antonieta.urrutia@sag.gob.cl

CHINA - CHINE

Mr ZHANG YANQIU
Deputy-Director-General
Department of Market and Economy Information
Ministry of Agriculture
11 Nongzhanguan Nanli
Beijing 100026
Phone: 86-10-64193179
Fax: 86-10-64193315
Email: zhangyanqiu@agri.gov.cn

Mr SUN XIAOKANG
Deputy-Director-General
Standardization Administration
9 Madian East Road
Haidan District
Beijing 100088
Beijing
Phone: 86-10-82262651
Fax: 86-10-82260668
Email: sunxk@sac.gov.cn

Mr JIANG ZONGLIANG
Deputy-Director-General
Bureau of Import-Export Food Safety
General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine
9 Madian East Road
Haidan District
Beijing 100088
Beijing
Phone: 86-10-82262030
Fax: 86-10-82260178
Email: jiangzl@aqsq.gov.cn

Mr KAN XUEGUI
Counsel
Department of Health, Law Enforcement and Supervision
Ministry of Health
1 Xizhimenwai Nanlu
Beijing 100044
Phone: 86-10-68792384
Fax: 86-10-68792387
Email: kanxg@moh.gov.cn

Mr JINJING ZHANG
Deputy-Director-General
Department of Food Safety Coordination
State Food and Drug Administration
A38, Beilishilu
Beijing 100810
Beijing
Phone: 86-10-88375679
Fax: 86-10-88375226
Email: jjzh26@yahoo.com

Ms LI YUTONG
Deputy-Director of Division
Department of International Cooperation
Ministry of Agriculture
11 Nongzhanguan Nanli
Beijing 100026
Phone: 86-10-64192484
Fax: 86-10-65004635
Email: liyutong@agri.gov.cn

Ms WANG MIN
Director of Division
Institute of Agricultural Quality Standards and Testing
Technology
Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences
12 South Avenue
Zhongguancun
Beijing 100081
Phone: 86-10-68977916
Fax: 86-10-68977916
Email: wang_min@126.com

Mr XU XUEWAN
Engineer
Development Center of Science and Technology
Ministry of Agriculture
18 Maizidian Street
Chaoyang District
Beijing 100026
Beijing
Phone: 86-10-64195082
Fax: 86-10-64194550
Email: xuxuewan@agri.gov.cn

Ms ZHANG LINGPING
Deputy-Director of Division
Department of Health, Law Enforcement and Supervision
Ministry of Health
1 Xizhimenwai Nanlu
Beijing 100044
Phone: 86-10-68792403
Fax: 86-10-68792403
Email: lingpingzhang@yahoo.com

Mrs LIU XIUMEI
Professor
China Center for Disease Control and Prevention
29 Nanwei Road
Beijing 100050
Phone: 86-10-83132928
Fax: 86-10-83132928
Email: xmliu01@yahoo.com.cn

Mr GUO HUANXIN
Deputy-Director of Division,
Standardization Administration
9 Madian East Road
Haidan District
Beijing 100088
Phone: 86-1-82262658
Fax: 86-10-82260687
Email: guohx@sac.gov.cn

Ms LIU WEN
Deputy-Director of Division
China National Institute of Standardization
3 Yuhui South Road
Chaoyang District
Beijing 100029
Phone: 86-10-84630931
Fax: 86-10-84651032
Email: liuwen@cnis.gov.cn

Mr YE ZHIPING
Senior Engineer
Shanghai Entry-Exit Inspection and Quarantine
1208 Minsheng Road
Pudong New District
Shanghai 200135
Phone: 86-21-63230830
Fax: 86-21-63230830
Email: yzp@cableplus.com.cn

Mr JIAO YANG
Engineer
Import-Export Food Labelling Office
General Administration of Quality Supervision Inspection and Quarantine
9 Madian east Road
Haidan District
Beijing 100088
Beijing
Phone: 86-10-82262411
Fax: 86-10-82260617
Email: jiaoyang@aqsiq.gov.cn

Dr CHUNG Wai Hung Thomas
Assistant Director
Food and Environmental Hygiene Department
43/F Queensway Government Offices
66 Queensway
Hong Kong
Phone: 852-28675511
Fax: 852-25219527
Email: twchung@fehd.gov.hk

Mr YAU Tin Chung Arthur
Research Officer
Food and Environmental Hygiene Department
43/F Queensway Government Offices
66 Queensway
Hong Kong
Phone: 852 28675607
Fax: 852 28933547
Email: atcyau@fehd.gov.hk

**CONGO, REPUBLIC OF –
CONGO, RÉPUBLIQUE DU –
CONGO, REPÚBLICA DEL**

M Pierre DZON
Directeur de l'Hygiène
Direction générale de la santé
Ministère de la Santé et de la Population
B.P. 2101
Brazzaville
Phone: 242-551 6794
Fax: 242-81 1828
Email: pierdzon@yahoo.fr

Mme Odette BANDENGA
Chef de Service Nutrition
Direction de la santé de la famille
Ministère de la Santé et de la Population
Brazzaville BP: 14973
Phone: 242-661 4442
Fax:
Email: obandenga@yahoo.fr

COSTA RICA

Dr Orlando MUÑOZ HERNÁNDEZ
Secretaría Técnica del Comité Nacional del Codex en Costa Rica
Ministerio de Economía, Industria y Comercio
Moracia San José
del Colegio Lincoln 100
O, 100 S y 200 O, Edificio IFAM.
Phone: 506- 235-2700 ext. 221, 203
Fax: 506 297-1439
Email: infocodex@meic.go.cr

CÔTE D'IVOIRE

Mr Edmond N'DRI APIA
Directeur
Direction des productions alimentaires et de la diversification
BP V84
Abidjan 01
Phone: 225-20 219071
Fax: 225-20 219071
Email: daq@aviso.ci

Mr Ibrahima TOURE
Directeur adjoint des productions alimentaires et de la diversification
BP V84
Abidjan 01
Phone: 225-20 219071
Fax: 225-20 219071
Email: daq@aviso.ci

CUBA

Dra. Hortensia Nancy FERNÁNDEZ RODRÍGUEZ
Directora General
Oficina Nacional de Normalización (NC)
Calle E No.261e/11y 13
Vedado CP 10400
La Habana
Phone: 53-7 8300022
Fax: 537-8368048
Email: nc@ncnorma.cu

Lic. Teresa Infante FRÓMETA
Directora
Dirección de Relaciones Internacionales
Oficina Nacional de Normalización (NC)
Punto de Contacto Nacional del Codex
La Habana
Phone: 53-7 830 0022
Fax: 537 836 8048
Email: nc@ncnorma.cu

Ing. Doris HÉRNANDEZ TORRES
Directora
Dirección de Calidad y Tecnología
Ministerio de la Industria Pesquera
Ave. 5ta., Edif. 1, Barlovento, Playa
La Habana
Phone: 53-7 2972 94
Fax: 53-7 2972 94
Email: doris@telemar.cu

Dr. José A. CARRERA VARA
Asesor de Inocuidad de los Alimentos
Unidad Nacional de salud Ambiental
Ministerio de Salud Pública
La Habana
Phone: 53-7 553384
Fax: 53-7 662312
Email: jose.carrera@infomed.sld.cu

Ing. Gabriel LAHENS ESPINOSA
Jefe del Departamento de Regulaciones Técnicas y Calidad
Ministerio del Comercio Exterior
Calle Infanta 16, esq. 23
Vedado
La Habana
Phone: 53-7 550454
Fax: 53-7 550461
Email: mariela.cue@mincex.cu

MSc Cira Margarita SÁNCHEZ GARCÍA
Jefe Área Gestión de la Calidad, Bioseguridad y Medio Ambiente
Instituto de Investigaciones en Fruticultura Tropical
Ministerio de la Agricultura
Ave. Independencia y Conill
Nuevo Vedado
La Habana
Phone: 53-7 2093401
Fax: 53-7 2046794
Email: iicit@ceniai.inf.cu

CYPRUS - CHYPRE - CHIPRE

Dr Phroso HADJILUCA
Senior Industrial Officer
Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Tourism
Cyprus Codex Contact Point
Nicosia 1421
Phone: +357 22 409305
Fax: +357 22 375120
Email: phadjiluca@cys.mcit.gov.cy

CZECH REPUBLIC – RÉPUBLIQUE TCHÈQUE – REPÚBLICA CHECA

Mr Jirí NOVAK
Counsellor
Permanent Mission of the Czech Republic in Geneva
Email:

DENMARK - DANEMARK - DINAMARCA

Mr Knud ØSTERGAARD
Head of International Affairs
Danish Veterinary and Food Administration
Mørkhøj Bygade 19
DK - 2860 Søborg
Phone: 45-339-56120
Fax: 45-339-56001
Email: koe@fdir.dk

Ms Jytte KJÆRGAARD
Consultant
Danish Veterinary and Food Administration
Mørkhøj Bygade 19
DK - 2860 Søborg
Phone: 45-339 56000
Fax: 45-339-56001
Email: jk@fdir.dk

Mr Gorm LUNN
Head of Division
Feeding Stuffs and Fertilizers
Danish Plant Directorate
Skovbrynet 20
DK-2800 Kgs. Lyngby
Phone: 45-45 263800
Fax: 45-45 263611
Email: gl@pdir.dk

Ms Annette TOFT
Deputy Director, MBA (Political Science)
The Danish Agricultural Council
Axeltorv 3
DK-1609 Copenhagen V
Phone: 45-33-394000
Fax: 45-33-394150
Email: at@agriculture.dk

Mr Jørgen Hald CHRISTENSEN
Head of Division
Danish Dairy Board
Frederiks Alle 22
DK-8000 Århus C
Phone: 45-87-312000
Fax: 45-87-312001
Email: jhc@mejeri.dk

Dr Karina BERGENHOLTZ
Head of Section
The Danish Agricultural Council
Axeltorv 3
DK-1609 Copenhagen V
Phone: 45-3339 4000
Fax: 45-3339-4150
Email: kpb@agriculture.dk

EGYPT - ÉGYPTE - EGIPTO

Dr Maryam AHMED MOUSTAFA MOUSSA
Minister Plenipotentiary for Agricultural Affairs
Head of the Agricultural Office
Deputy Permanent Representative to U.N. Agencies in Rome
Embassy of the Arab Republic of Egypt
Via Salaria, 267
Rome 00199
Phone: 39-06-8548956
Fax: 39-06-8542603
Email: egypt@agrioffegypt.it

Prof Mohammed Fahmy SADDIK
Professor of Food Hygiene- National Nutrition Institute
Ministry of Health and Population
Phone: 3643522/3646413
Fax: 3647476
Email: ilsi@redata.net.eg

Dr Magda ALI RAKHA
First Undersecretary for Preventive Affairs and Undersecretary
of State for Laboratory Services
Ministry of Health and Population
Phone: 7962248
Fax: 7941076
Email: Rakha@link.net

Prof. Salah Hussain ABOU-RAYA
Professor of Food Science and Nutrition
Faculty of Agriculture
Cairo University
34 Taiba St
Mohamdseen, Griza
Egypt
Phone: 202-7493795
Fax: 202-3375003
Email: salaboraia@hotmail.com

Prof. Hoda Abdel FATTAH HASSAN
Director of National Nutrition Institute
Ministry of Health and Population
National Organization for Teaching Hospitals and Institutes
Phone: 5324315/3646413
Fax: 3647476
Email: nniegypt@ nni.org.eg

Dr. Zenaib Abdel HALEEM
 Director-General of Food Safety
 Ministry of Health and Population
 Phone: 7948152
 Fax: 7921077
 Email: zhalim@massrawy.com

Dr. Ahmed Abdel-Aziz GABALLA
 Director of Scientific Affairs
 Coca Cola Company
 Phone: 00 202 271 8820
 Fax: 22 202 2377620
 Email: agaballa@mena.ko.com

ESTONIA - ESTONIE

Ms Kairi RINGO
 Head of the Food Safety Office
 Veterinary and Food Department
 Ministry of Agriculture
 39/41 Lai str,
 15056 Tallinn
 Phone: 372-6-256212
 Fax: 372-6-256210
 Email: kairi.ringo@agri.ee

Ms Tiina VARES
 Counsellor
 Permanent Mission of Estonia
 Chemin du Petit – Saconnex 28A
 1209 Geneva
 Phone : 41 22 919198
 Fax: 41 22 9191981
 Email: tiina.vares@estmission.ch

EUROPEAN COMMUNITY (MEMBER ORGANIZATION) – COMMUNAUTÉ EUROPÉENNE (ORGANISATION MEMBRE) – COMUNIDAD EUROPEA (ORGANIZACIÓN MIEMBRO)

Mr Henri BELVÈZE
 European Commission
 Health and Consumer Protection Directorate-General (SANCO)
 B-1049 Brussels
 Phone: 32-2-296 2812
 Fax:
 Email: henri.belveze@cec.eu.int

Mr Jérôme LEPEINTRE
 Health and Consumer Protection Directorate-General (SANCO)
 B-1049 Brussels
 Phone: 32-2-299 3701
 Fax:
 Email: jerome.lepeintre@cec.eu.int

Mr Patrick DEBOYSER
 European Commission
 Health and Consumer Protection Directorate-General (SANCO)
 B-1049 Brussels
 Phone: 32-2-295 15 29
 Fax:
 Email: patrick.deboyser@cec.eu.int

Mr Wim PENNING
 European Commission
 Health and Consumer Protection Directorate-General (SANCO)
 B-1049 Brussels
 Phone: 32-2-295 56 51
 Fax:
 Email: willem.penning@cec.eu.int

Ms Almudena RODRIGUEZ SANCHEZ-BEATO
 European Commission
 Health and Consumer Protection Directorate-General (SANCO)
 B-1049 Brussels
 Phone: 32-2-296 10 68
 Fax:
 Email: almudena.rodriguez@cec.eu.int

Mr Basil MATHIOUDAKIS
 Deputy Head of Unit
 Food Law and Biotechnology
 Directorate General on Health and Consumer Protection
 European Commission
 B-1049 Brussels
 Phone: Fax:
 Email:

Ms Isabelle PEUTZ
 Official
 European Commission
 Phone:
 Fax:
 Email:

Mr Francis FAY
 Official
 European Commission
 Phone: Fax:
 Email:

FINLAND - FINLANDE - FINLANDIA

Ms Kaija HASUNEN
 Ministerial Adviser
 Health Department
 Ministry of Social Affairs and Health
 P.O. Box 33, 00023 Government, Finland
 Phone: 358-9-1607-4035
 Fax: 358-9-1607-4144
 Email: kaija.hasunen@stm.fi

Ms Anne HAIKONEN
 Counsellor
 Legal Affairs
 Ministry of Trade and Industry
 P.O. Box 32, 00023 Government, Finland
 Phone: 358-9-1606 3654
 Fax: 358-9-1606 2670
 Email: anne.haikonen@ktm.fi

Dr Jorma HIRN
 Director-General
 National Food Agency
 P.O. Box 28, 00581 Helsinki
 Phone: 358-9-393 1510
 Fax: 358-9-393 1592
 Email: jorma.hirn@nfa.fi

FRANCE - FRANCIA

Mme Catherine CHAPOUX
 Ministère de l'agriculture, de l'alimentation,
 de la pêche et des affaires rurales
 DGAL - BAMSPS
 251 rue de Vaugirard
 75732 Paris Cedex 15
 Phone: 33-01-49 558395
 Fax: 33-01-49 554462
 Email: catherine.chapoux@agriculture.gouv.fr

M Pascal AUDEBERT
 Chargé de mission
 Comité interministériel pour les questions de coopération
 économique européenne
 Secrétariat général (SGCI)
 Gestion du Codex Alimentarius
 2, boulevard Diderot
 75572 Paris Cedex 12
 Phone: 33-01-44871603
 Fax: 33-01-44871604
 Email: pascal.audebert@sgci.gouv.fr
 sgci-codex-fr@sgci.gouv.fr

Mme Sandrine BLANCHEMANCHE
INRA
Unité "Méthodologie d'Analyse du Risque"
16, rue Claude Bernard
75231 Paris Cedex 05
Phone: 33-01-44 081818
Fax: 33-01-44 087276
Email: blanchem@inapg.inra.fr

Mme Dominique BUREL
Centre National Interprofessionnel de l'Economie Laitière
(CNIEL)
42, rue de Châteaudun
75314 Paris Cedex 09
Phone: 33-01-49 707105
Fax: 33-01-42 806345
Email: dburel-alf@cniel.com

Mme Roseline LECOURT
Ministère de l'économie, des finances
et de l'industrie
DGCCRF
Chargée de mission
59, Boulevard Vincent Auriol
Télédoc 051
75703 Paris Cedex 13
Phone: 33-01-44 973470
Fax: 33-01-44 973037
Email: roseline.lecourt@dgccrf.finances.gouv.fr

M Christophe LEPRÊTRE
DGAL - BRAB
Bureau de la réglementation alimentaire et des biotechnologies
Ministère de l'agriculture, de l'alimentation, de la pêche et des
affaires rurales
251, rue de Vaugirard
75732 Paris Cedex 15
Phone: 33-01-49 555010
Fax: 33-01-49 555948
Email: christophe.lepretre@agriculture.gouv.fr

GEORGIA - GÉORGIE

Mr Levan CHITEISHVILI
Head of WTO Relations Division
Ministry of Agriculture
41, M. Kostava St.,
Tbilisi
Phone: 99532- 334837
Fax: 99532-334837
Email: levanch@maf.ge

Mrs Nino DEMETRASHVILI
Chief of Division
State Sanitary Inspectorate of State Borders
Ministry of Health
19 Tamar Mepis av.
Tbilisi
Phone: (mob)99599- 555 674
Fax: 99532-334837
Email: ninid@usa.com

Mr Tamar SANIKIDZE
Coordinator – Farmers Information and Consulting Service
Centre
Ministry of Agriculture
41, M. Kostava St.,
Tbilisi
Phone: 99532- 636415
Fax: 99532-996960
Email: TamaraSanik@hotmail.com

Mrs Maia BIGVAVA
Head of Public Relations Service
Ministry of Agriculture
41, M. Kostava St.,
Tbilisi
Phone: 99532- 333671
Fax: 99532-333698
Email: mbigava@gol.ge

Mr Giorgi JORJIASHVILI
Senior Specialist of WTO Relations Division
Ministry of Agriculture
41, M. Kostava St.,
Tbilisi
Phone: 99532- 337837
Fax: 99532-334837
Email: G_jorji@hotmail.com

Mr George JEIRANASHVILI
Chief Specialist of the Service of Experts and Monitoring of
Food
Ministry of Agriculture
5 Mindeli st
Tbilisi
Phone: Mob :99599 491307
Fax: 9932-321435
Email: GJeiranashvili@mail.com

GERMANY - ALLEMAGNE - ALEMANIA

Herr Bernhard KÜHNLE
Director-General
Food Safety and Veterinary Affairs
Federal Ministry of Consumer Protection, Food and Agriculture
Rochusstraße 1
D-53123 Bonn
Phone: 49(0)228 - 529 3542
Fax: 49(0)228 - 529 3341
Email: bernhard.kuehnle@bmvel.bund.de

Mr Gerhard BIALONSKI
Federal Ministry of Consumer Protection, Food and Agriculture
Rochusstraße 1
D-53123 Bonn
Phone: 49(0)228-529 4651
Fax: 49(0)228-529 4947
Email: gerhard.bialonski@bmvel.bund.de

Ms Lucia HERRMANN
Federal Ministry of Consumer Protection, Food and Agriculture
Rochusstraße 1
D 53123 Bonn
Phone: 49(0)228-529 3835
Fax: 49(0)228-529-3429
Email: Lucia.herrmann@bmvel.bund.de

Dr Rolf GROSSKLAUS
Direktor und Professor
Bundesinstitut für Risikobewertung
Postfach 33 00 13
D 14191 Berlin
Phone: 49(0)30-412 3230
Fax: 49(0)30-412 3715
Email: fgr11@bfr.bund.de/ r.grossklauss@bfr.bund.de

Ms Angelika MROHS
Rechtsanwältin und Geschäftsführerin
Bund für Lebensmittelrecht und Lebensmittelkunde . V.
German Federation of Food Law and Food Science
Godesberger Allee 142-148
53175 Bonn
Phone: 0228-8199333
Fax: 0228-375069
Email: amrohs@bll-online.de

Dr Michael PACKERT
Südzucker AG
Zentralabteilung Lebensmittelqualität und Allgemeine
Verbraucherpolitik
Gottlieb-Daimler- Straße 12
68165 Mannheim
Phone: 0621-421573
Fax: 0621-421574
Email: michael.packert@suedzucker.de

Dr Joerg W. RIEKE
Managing Director
German Dairy Association
Godesberger Allee 157
53175 Bonn
Phone: 49(0)228 - 9596922
Fax: 49(0)228-371535
Email: rieke@milchindustrie.de

Ms Clara MEYNEN
Federation of German Consumer Organizations
D-10696 Berlin
Phone: 49(0)30-25800 444
Fax: 49(0)30-25800 418
Email: meynen@vzbv.de

GHANA

Mr Nimo AHINKORAH
Executive Director
Ghana Standards Board
P.O. Box MB 245
Accra-Ghana
Phone: 233-(0) 21-501495(500231)
Fax: 233-(0) 21-500231
Email: gsbdir@ghanastandards.org

Mrs Kistina BIRITWUM
Director
Chemical Science Division
Ghana Standards Board
P.O. Box MB 245
Accra-Ghana
Phone: 233-(0) 21-501492 (500231)
Fax: 233-(0) 21-500231
Email: gsbnep@ghanastandards.org

Mr Kwamina VAN ESS
Head of Food Division
Food and Drugs Board
P.O. Box CT 2783
Cantonments, Accra
Ghana
Phone: 233-21-661247/673090
Fax: 233-21-660389
Email: fdb@ghana.com
kwaminav@yahoo.com

Ms Genevieve BAAH
Scientific Officer
Codex Secretariat
Ghana Standards Board
P.O. Box MB 245
Accra-Ghana
Phone: 233-(0)21-500231
Fax: 233-(0)21-500231
Email: gsbnep@ghanastandards.org

GREECE - GRÈCE - GRECIA

Mr Theodosios KASTRISIOS
Director
Ministry of Rural Development and Food
Directorate of Processing, Standardization and Quality
Inspection
2, Acharnon Street
Athens 10176
Phone: 0030 210-2124351
Fax: 0030 210 523 8337
Email:

Mrs Asimina PAPATHANASIOU
Director
Ministry of Economy and Finance
GCSSL Food Division
An. Tsocha 16-11521 Athens
Phone: 0030 210 6479251
Fax: 0030 210 6467725
Email: gxx-foodiv@ath.forthnet.gr

HUNGARY - HONGRIE - HUNGRÍA

Dr Endre RÁCZ
Head of Unit
Department for Food Production
Ministry of Agriculture and Regional Development
H-1055 Budapest, Kossuth L. tér 11
Phone: 36-1-301-4383
Fax: 36-1-301-4808
Email: endre.racz@fvm.hu

Dr Mária VÁRADI
Head of Unit
Central Food Research Institute
H-1022, Budapest Herman otto út 15
Phone: 36-1-355 8982
Fax: 36-1-292 9853
Email: m.varadi@cfri.hu

ICELAND - ISLANDE - ISLANDIA

Mr Thordur ASGEIRSSON
Director of Fisheries
Directorate of Fisheries
Ingólfsstræti 1
101 Reykjavik
Phone: 354-569 7900
Fax: 354-569-7990
Email: thordur@fiskistofa.is

INDIA - INDE

Ms Rita TEAOTIA
Joint Secretary
Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
Nirman Bhavan
New Delhi - 110011
Phone: +91-11-23019195
Fax: +91-11-23018842
Email: jsrt@nb.nic.in

Mr Tapesh PAWAR
Joint Secretary
Ministry of Agriculture
Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying
Krishi Bhavan
New Delhi-110001
Phone: +91-11 23387804
Fax: +91-11 23386115
Email: tpawar@nic.in

Mr Rahul KHULLAR
Joint Secretary
Ministry of Commerce
Udyog Bhavan
New Delhi-110001
Phone: +91-11-2301 5215
Fax: +91-11-2301 4418
Email: rkhullar@ub.nic.in

Mr K.S. MONEY
Chairman
Agriculture and Processed Food Products
Export Development Authority
NCUI Building, 3 Siri Institutional Area
Augustkranti Marg, Hauz Khas
New Delhi- 110016
Phone: +91-11-26513162
Fax: +91-11-26519259
Email: chairman@apeda.com

Mr A.K. SHRIVASTAV
Deputy Assistant Director-General (PFA)
Directorate General of Health Services
Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
Room No 750 A- Wing
Nirman Bhavan
New Delhi 110011
Phone: +91-11 23013030
Fax: +91-11 23012290
Email: dadgaks@nb.nic.in
Codex-india@nb.nic.in

INDONESIA - INDONÉSIE

Dr SUNARYA
Deputy for Application of Standard and Accreditation
Codex Contact Point - Indonesia
National Standardization Agency
Jakarta
Phone: 62-21-5747042
Fax: 62-21-5747045
Email: bsn@bsn.or.id

Prof.Dr Dedi FARDIAZ
Deputy Chairman for Food Safety and Hazardous Substance
Control
National Agency for Drug and Food Control Republic of
Indonesia
Jakarta 10560 Indonesia
Phone: 62-21-4253857
Fax: 62-21-4253857
Email: deputi3@pom.go.id

Mr Akhmad SUHARDIYANTO
Directorate General for Processing and Marketing of
Agriculture Products
Ministry of Agriculture
Jl. RM. Harsono
Pasar Minggu
Jakarta
Phone: 62-21-7815881
Fax: 62-21-78842568
Email: suhardiyanto@deptan.go.id

Mr Meddy H. SEWAKA
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Jln. Taman Pejambon 6
Jakarta Pusat
Jakarta
Phone: 62-21-3814211
Fax: 62-21-3519593
Email: Meddy.sewaka@yahoo.com

Dr F.G. WINARNO
PT. Mbrio Biotekkindo
Phone: 62-251-332403
Fax: 62-251-377933
Email: fgw@mbrio-food.com

Mr Octa MUCHTAR
Ministry of Agriculture
Jl. RM. Harsono No-3
Pasar Minggu
Jakarta - 12550
Phone: 62-21-7816185
Fax: 62-21-7816186
Email:

Mr Cecap HERMAWAN
Indonesian Embassy
Geneva
Phone:
Fax:
Email:

IRAN (ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF) – IRAN (RÉPUBLIQUE ISLAMIQUE D') - IRÁN (REPÚBLICA ISLÁMICA DEL)

Dr Ali Asghar TOFIGH
Deputy Minister and
President of the Institute of Standards and Industrial Research
P.O. Box 31505-163
Tehran
Phone: 98-21-8879473
Fax: 98-21-8879475
Email:

Mr Mohammad Hossein HASSANPOUR
Director-General
Food and Agriculture Department
Institute of Standards and Industrial Research of Iran
P.O. Box 31505-163
Phone: 98-261-2803889
Fax: 98-261-2803870
Email: msh55@yahoo.com

IRELAND - IRLANDE - IRLANDA

Mr Richard HOWELL
Agricultural Inspector
Food and Research Group
Department of Agriculture and Food
7C Agriculture House
Kildare Street
Dublin 1
Phone: 353-1 607 2572
Fax: 353-1 661 6263
Email: richard.howell@agriculture.gov.ie

Ms Joan REGAN
Assistant Principle Officer - Food Unit
Food Unit
Department of Health and Children
Hawkins House
Dublin 2
Phone: 353-1-6354247
Fax: 353-1-6354247
Email: joan_regan@health.irigov.ie

Mr Alan REILLY
Acting Chief Executive Officer
Food Safety Authority of Ireland
Abbey Court
Lr. Abbey Street
Dublin 1
Phone: 353-1-81713386
Fax: 353-1-8171301
Email: areilly@fsai.ie

Mr Kari TÖLLIKKÖ
Principal Administrator
General Secretariat of General of the EU
Rue de loi 175
B-1048 Brussels
Phone: 32-2-285 7841
Fax: 32-2-285 6198
Email: kari.tollikko@consilium.eu.int

Ms Rose-Marie ELFQUIST
General Secretariat of the Council of the EU
Rue de la Loi 175
B-1048 Brussels
Phone: 32-2-285 9508
Fax: 32-2-285 7928
Email: rose-marie.elfquist@consilium.eu.int

ITALY - ITALIE - ITALIA

Ms Brunella LO TURCO
Secretary General
Italian Codex Committee
Ministero delle Politiche Agricole e Forestali
Via XX Settembre
00187 Rome
Phone: 39 06 46656512
Fax: 39 06 4880273
Email: QTCVI.codex@politicheagricole.it

Mr Ciro IMPAGNATIELLO
Ministero delle Politiche Agricole e Forestali
Via XX Settembre
00187 Rome
Phone: 39 06 46656511
Fax: 39 06 4880273
Email: ciroimpa@tiscali.it

Ms Albina DE MARCO
Ministero delle Politiche Agricole e Forestali
Via XX Settembre
00187 Rome
Phone: 39 06 46656520
Fax: 39 06 4880273
Email:

JAMAICA - JAMAÏQUE

Mr Gladstone ROSE
Manager, Standardization
Bureau of Standards
6, Winchester Road
Kingston 10
Phone: 876-926 31 40
Fax: 876-929 4736
Email: grose@jbs.org.jm

Mrs Orine HENRY BLAIR
International Programmes Officer
Bureau of Standards Jamaica
6, Winchester Road
Kingston 10
Jamaica WI
Phone: 876-9263140-5
Fax: 876-929 4736
Email: info@jbs.org.jm

Mrs Pearlitta LUMSDEN
Standards and Certification Officer
Bureau of Standards
6 Winchester Road
Kingston
Jamaica WI
Phone: 876-9263140-5
Fax: 876-929 4736
Email: info@jbs.org.jm

JAPAN - JAPON - JAPÓN

Dr Takashi TOGUCHI
Counsellor
Minister's Secretariat
Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare
1-2-2, Kasumigaseki,
Chiyoda-ku
Tokyo 100-8916
Phone: 81-3-3503-7965
Fax: 81-3-3503-7965
Email: toguchi-takashi@mhlw.go.jp

Dr Koji MIURA
Director
International Food Safety Planning
Department of Food Safety
Pharmaceutical and Food Safety Bureau
Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare
1-2-2 Kasumigaseki
Chiyoda-ku
Tokyo 100-8916
Phone: 81-3-3595-2326
Fax: 81-3-3503-7965
Email: miura-koujimd@mhlw.go.jp

Mr Nobuo UEMURA
Deputy-Director
Standards and Evaluation Division
Department of Food Safety
Pharmaceutical and Food Safety Bureau
Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare
1-2-2 Kasumigaseki
Chiyoda-ku
Tokyo 100-8916
Phone: 81-3-3595-2341
Fax: 81-3-3501-4868
Email: uemura-nobuo@mhlw.go.jp

Dr Noriko ISEKI
Assistant Director
Inspection and Safety Division
Department of Food Safety
Pharmaceutical and Food Safety Bureau
Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare
1-2-2 Kasumigaseki
Chiyoda-ku
Tokyo 100-8916
Phone: 81-3-3595-2341
Fax: 81-3-3501-4868
Email: iseki-noriko@mhlw.go.jp

Dr Tadahiro OHTSU
Deputy-Director
Policy Planning and Communication Division
Department of Food Safety
Pharmaceutical and Food Safety Bureau
Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare
1-2-2 Kasumigaseki
Chiyoda-ku
Tokyo 100-8916
Phone: 81-3-3595-2326
Fax: 81-3-3503-7965
Email: ootsu-tadahiro@mhlw.go.jp

Mr Teruo SATO
Chief
Office of Health Policy in Newly Developed Foods
Standards and Evaluation Division
Department of Food Safety
Pharmaceutical and Food Safety Bureau
Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare
1-2-2 Kasumigaseki
Chiyoda-ku
Tokyo 100-8916
Phone: 81-3-3595-2327
Fax: 81-3-3501-4867
Email: satou-teruo@mhlw.go.jp

Mr Harumi SAKA
Deputy-Director
Food Safety and Consumer Policy Division
Food Safety and Consumer Affairs Bureau
Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries
1-2-1, Kasumigaseki
Chiyoda-ku
Tokyo 100-8950
Phone: 81-3-5512-2291
Fax: 81-3-3597-0329
Email: harumi_saka@nm.maff.go.jp

Ms Rieko MIYATA
Staff
Food Safety and Consumer Policy Division
Food Safety and Consumer Affairs Bureau
Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries
1-2-1 Kasumigaseki
Chiyoda-ku
Tokyo 100-8950
Phone: 81-3-5512-2291
Fax: 81-3-3597-0329
Email: rieko_miyata@nm.maff.go.jp

Mr Hiroshi TATSUGUCHI
Deputy-Director
Soil Environment Management Division
Water Environment Department
Environment Management Bureau
Ministry of the Environment
1-2-2 Kasumigaseki
Chiyoda-ku
Tokyo 100-8975
Phone: 81-3-5521-8322
Fax: 81-3-3501-2717
Email: KOJI_TATSUGUCHI@env.go.jp

Dr Hiroshi YOSHIKURA
Chairman
Food Sanitation Council
Pharmaceutical Affairs and Food Sanitation Council
1-2-2 Kasumigaseki
Chiyoda-ku
Tokyo 100-8916
Phone: 81-3-3595-2326
Fax: 81-3-3503-7963
Email:

Mr Yasuyuki NAGARA
Technical Adviser
Japan Food Industry Center
Sankaido Building 3rd Fl
1-9-13 Akasaka 1-chome
Minato-ku
Tokyo 107-0052
Phone: 81-3-3593-0661
Fax: 81-3-3593-0780
Email:

JORDAN - JORDANIE - JORDANIA

Eng. Salem A. QUHEIWI
General Manager Assistant
Jordan Institution for Standards and Metrology (JISM)
P.O. Box 941287
Amman 11194
Phone: 962--6-5680139/962-6 5665276 (direct)
Fax: 962-6-581099
Email: jism@nic.net.jo

Dr Mahmoud A. AL-ZOU'BI
Food Standards Officer
Jordan Institution for Standards and Metrology (JISM)
P.O. Box 941287
Amman 11194
Phone: 962-6-580139
Fax: 962-6-581099
Email: jism@nic.net.jo

KENYA

Mrs Eva ODOUR
General Manager
Standards Development Division
Kenya Bureau of Standards
Phone: 254-020 603887
Fax: 254-020 50329
Email: oduore@kebs.org

Mr Tom Kevin OLIELO
Head of Agro-Chemical
Standards Development Division
Kenya Bureau of Standards
Phone: 254-020 502211
Fax: 254-020 503293
Email: tkolielo@kebs.org

Dr Chagemu KEDERA
Managing Director
Kenya Plant Health Inspectorate Service
P.O. Box 49592
Nairobi
Phone: 254-020 894545
Fax: 254-020 882265
Email: kephis@nbnet.co.ke

Mr Christian LANGAT
Trade Mark Examiner
Kenya Industrial Property Institute
P.O. Box 51648
Nairobi
Phone: 254-02 602211
Fax: 254-020 606312
Email: christian.langat@yahoo.com.uk

KOREA, REPUBLIC OF – CORÉE, RÉPUBLIQUE DE – COREA, REPÚBLICA DE

Dr Gun-Jo WOO
Director
Center for Food Safety Evaluation
Korea Food and Drug Administration
5 Nok Bon Dong
Eun Pyoung Gu
Seoul
Phone: 82-2-380-1681
Fax: 82-2-380-1615
Email: visionkorea@empal.com

Mr Jae-Cheol KIM
Deputy-Director
Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry
Government complex Gwacheon
1, Jungang-dong, Gwacheon-Gty
Gyeonggi Prov.
Seoul
Phone: 82-2-500-1851
Fax: 82-2-503-7905
Email: kjc@maf.go.kr

Mr Soo-Hyun, KIM
Bilateral Cooperation
Ministry of Agriculture & Forestry Republic of Korea
Kwacheon-City, Kyunggi-Do
427-719, Korea
Phone: 82-2-500 1727
Fax: 82-2-504 6659
Email: kimsh@maf.go.kr

Mr Cheon-II, PARK
Assistant Director
Ministry of Maritime Affairs & Fisheries
50 Chungjeong-NO,
Seodaemun-Gu, Seoul 120-175
Phone: 82-2-3148 6921-4
Fax: 82-2-3148-6919
Email: pci1000@momaf.go.kr

Mr Young-Ho KOH
Scientific Officer
Center for Food Safety Evaluation
Korea Food and Drug Administration
5 Nok Bon Dong
Eun Pyoung Gu
Seoul
Phone: 82-2-380 1682
Fax: 82-2-380-1615
Email: toll989@kfds.go.kr

Ms Woojung KWON
Senior Researcher
Food Sanitation Council
Korea Food and Drug Administration
5 Nok Bon Dong
Eun Pyoung Gu
Seoul
Phone: 82-2-380 1558
Fax: 82-2-383 8321
Email: wjkwon@mohw.go.kr

Dr Jong Sae PARK
 President
 Labfronter Co., Ltd
 Codex Regional Coordinating Committee for Asia
 KSBC Building
 #Mt, 11-8 lui-dong Yeoungtong-gu
 Suwon
 Kyounggi-do 443-766
 Phone: 82-31 259 6801
 Fax: 82-31 259 6802
 Email: jongseip@labfronter.com

Dr.Joong Keun LEE
 Head Researcher
 Food Industry team
 Korea Health Industry Development Institute
 57-1 Nolyangjin-dong
 Dongjac-gu
 Seoul
 Phone: 82-2-2194 7488
 Fax: 82-2-824 1763
 Email: leejk@khidi.or.kr

Dr. Do-hyong, CHOI
 International Affairs Specialist
 Korea Food Research Institute
 San 46-1, Baekhyun-Dong
 Bundang-Ku, Seongnam-Si
 Gyeongg-Do 463-746
 Phone: 82-31-780-9306
 Fax: 82-31-780-9264
 Email: choi-0313@kfri.re.kr

Mr. Han, KYU-JAI
 Research Scientist
 Korea Food Research Institute
 San 46-1, Baekhyun-Dong
 Bundang-Ku, Seongnam-Si
 Gyeongg-Do 463-746
 Phone: 82-31-780-9120
 Fax: 82-31-780-9264
 Email:hankj@kfri.re.kr

KUWAIT - KOWEÏT

Eng. Hashmia R. AL-ENEZI
 Public Authority for Industry
 Phone:
 Fax:
 Email:

LESOTHO

Ms Mamosala SEMAKALENG SHALE
 First Secretary
 Alternate Permanent Representative to FAO
 Embassy of the Kingdom of Lesotho
 Via Serchio 8
 00198, Rome
 Phone: 06-8542496
 Fax: 06-8542527
 Email: les.rome@flashnet.it

Mr Lebesa LEFULESELE
 Senior Research Officer
 Agricultural Research Department
 P.O. Box 829
 Maseru 100
 Phone: 266-22 312395
 Fax: 266-22 310362
 Email: lefulesele@yahoo.com

LUXEMBOURG - LUXEMBURGO

Dr Carole KAPP
 Attaché à la Mission Permanente du Luxembourg
 Genève
 Phone:
 Fax:
 Email:

MADAGASCAR

M Jean-Michel RASOLONJATOVO
 Premier Conseiller
 Représentation Permanente auprès de l'office des Nations Unies
 ét des Institutions Spécialisées
 32, avenue de Riant Parc
 1209 Genève
 Phone:
 Fax:
 Email:

MALAYSIA - MALAISIE - MALASIA

Dato'Dr Shaf.e OYUB
 Deputy Director-General of Health
 Department of Public Health
 Ministry of Health
 Health Offices Complex
 2nd Floor, Block A, Jalan Cenderasari
 50590 Kuala Lumpur
 Phone: 603-2694 6382
 Fax: 603-2694 6390
 Email: sooyub@dph.gov.my

Ms Noraini DATO'MOHD OTHMAN
 Deputy-Director Codex
 Food Quality Control Division
 Department of Public Health
 Ministry of Health
 Health Offices Complex
 3rd Floor, Block B, Jalan Cenderasari
 50590 Kuala Lumpur
 Phone: 603-2694 6523
 Fax: 603-2694 6517
 Email: noraini_othman@moh.gov.my/ norainio@hotmail.com

Ms Noraini SUDIN
 Ministry of Commodities and Plantation
 Malaysian Palm Oil Board
 P.O. Box 10620
 Kuala Lumpur 50720
 Phone: 603-8925 9952
 Fax: 603-8922 1742
 Email: noraini@mpob.gov.my

MALI - MALÍ

M Ousman TOURÉ
 Conseiller technique chargé de la sécurité sanitaire des
 aliments ; Point Focal du Codex Alimentarius
 Ministère de la santé
 B.P. D 232
 Bamako
 Phone: 223-28 6316
 Fax: 223-22302 03
 Email: oussou_toure@hotmail.com

MALTA - MALTE

Mr. Saviour BORG
 Ambassador, Permanent Representative
 Permanent Mission of Malta
 Geneva
 Phone:
 Fax:
 Email:

Mr. Tony BONNICI
 Second Secretary
 Permanent Mission of Malta
 Geneva
 Phone:
 Fax:
 Email:

MAURITANIA - MAURITANIE

M. Mohamedine FALL OULD ABDI
 Directeur
 Chargé des questions de normalisation et du contrôle de la qualité
 Ministère des Pêches et de l'économie maritime
 BP:137
 Nouakchott
 Phone: 222-529 3059
 Fax: 222-529 3059
 Email: dppp.mpem@mauritania.mr

M Sidi Ould ALOUEIMINE
 Chef de Service de L'Hygiene et du contrôle de la qualité
 CNH BP 695
 Nouakchott
 Phone: 00222 6415773
 Fax: 00222 5253134
 Email: aloueimine.sidi@caramail.com

MEXICO - MEXIQUE - MÉXICO

Lic. Carlos Ramón BERZUNZA SÁNCHEZ
 Director de Normalización Internacional
 Dirección General de Normas
 Secretaria de Economía
 Puente de Tecamachalco #6
 Fuentes de Tecamachalco
 C.P. 53950
 Phone: 5255-57299480
 Fax: 5255-57299480
 Email: cberzunz@economia.gob.mx

Ms Aída ALBUERNE PIÑA
 Comisionada de Operación Sanitaria
 Comisión Federal para la Protección Contra Riesgos Sanitarios
 COFEPRIS
 Monterrey 33, Floor 2o
 Col.Roma, Del. Cuauhtemoc
 C.P. 06010
 Phone: 5255 55 14 13 63
 Fax: 5255 55148586
 Email: aalbuerne@salud.gob.mx

Ms Reneé SALAS GUERRERO
 Subdirectora Ejecutiva de Operación Internacional
 Comisión Federal para la Protección contra Riesgos Sanitarios
 COFEPRIS
 Monterrey #33
 Col. Roma, del. Cuauhtemoc
 C.P. 06010
 Phone: 5255 55141363
 Fax: 5255-55148586
 Email: rsalas@salud.gob.mx

Ing. Alfonso MONCADA JIMÉNEZ
 Responsable del Área de Normalización Internacional
 Consejo Agroempresarial de Mesoamérica y el Caribe
 División del Norte No. 1419
 Col. Santa Cruz Atoyac
 Phone: 5255-54221450 ext.1404
 Fax: 5255-56010903
 Email: amoncada@yakultmex.net

MOROCCO - MAROC - MARRUECOS

M Mohamed MAJDI
 Chef de la Division de la répression des fraudes (DPVCTRF)
 Ministère de l'agriculture, du développement rural et des pêches maritimes
 Avenue Hassan II, Station Dbagh
 BP 1308
 Rabat
 Phone: 00212 37 298150
 Fax: 00212 37 297544
 Email: mmajdi@menara.ma

Mr. El-Maati, BENAZZOUZ
 Chef de la Division Recherche-Développement
 Laboratoire Officiel d' Analyses et de Recherches Chimiques
 25, rue Nichakra Rahal
 Casablanca
 Phone: 212 22 302196
 Fax: 212 22 301972
 Email: loarc@caranet.net.ma

M Mohamed BACHAOUCH
 Association professionnelle de fabricants des boissons gazeuses
 Phone: 212 22 435107
 Fax: 212 22 335300
 Email: mbachaouch@mena.ko.com

NAMIBIA - NAMIBIE

Ms. Percy Wachai, MISIKA
 Minister Counsellor
 Embassy of Namibia
 80 Av. Foch, 75016
 Paris, France
 Phone:
 Fax:
 Email: rj.dortland@minvws.nl

NETHERLANDS - PAYS-BAS – PAÍSES BAJOS

Dr Rob J. DORTLAND
 Director
 Department for Nutrition and Health Protection
 Ministry of Health, Welfare and Sports
 P.O. Box 20350
 2500 EJ The Hague
 Phone: 31-70 340 6966
 Fax: 31-70 340 6280
 Email: rj.dortland@minvws.nl

Mrs Nathalie SCHEIDEGGER
 Coordinator International Food Safety Policy
 Department of Food Quality and Animal Health
 Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality
 P.O. Box 20401
 2500 EK The Hague
 Phone: 31-70 378 4693
 Fax: 31-70 378 6141
 Email: n.m.i.scheidegger@minlnv.nl

Mrs Annie DE VEER
 Chair CCFAC
 Deputy-Director
 Department of Food Quality and Animal Health
 Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality
 P.O. Box 20401
 2500 EK The Hague
 Phone: 31-70 378 5686
 Fax: 31-70 378 6141
 Email: a.de.veer@minlnv.nl

Mrs Anneke VAN DE KAMP
 Main Board for Arable Products
 Head of the Department Food and Nutrition
 P.O. Box 29739
 2502 LS The Hague
 Phone: 31-70 370 8502
 Fax: 31-70 37084444
 Email: a.van.de.kamp@hpa.agro.nl

Mr Hans J. JEURING
Chairman CCPR
Senior Public Health Officer
The Food and Consumer Product Safety Authority
P.O. Box 19506
2500 CM The Hague
Phone: 31-70 4484808
Fax: 31-70 448-4061
Email: hans.jeuring@vwa.nl

Mr Sharief MOHAMED
Coordinator Foodsafety
Department of International Affairs
Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality
P.O. Box 20401
2500 EK the Hague
Phone: 31-70 378 5678
Fax: 31-70 378 6105
Email: s.mohamed@minlnv.nl

Mr Kari TÖLLIKKÖ
Principal Administrator
General Secretariat of the Council of the EU
Rue de loi 175
B-1048 Brussels
Phone: 32-2-285 7841
Fax: 32-2-285 6198
Email: kari.tollikko@consilium.eu.int

Ms Rose-Marie ELFQUIST
General Secretariat of the Council of the EU
Rue de la Loi 175
B-1048 Brussels
Phone: 32-2-285 9508
Fax: 32-2-285 7928
Email: rose-marie.elfquist@consilium.eu.int

**NEW ZEALAND –
NOUVELLE-ZÉLANDE –
NUEVA ZELANDIA**

Dr Steve HATHAWAY
Director
Programme Development Group
New Zealand Food Safety Authority
Po Box 646
Gisborne
Phone: 64-6-867 1144
Fax: 64-6 868 5207
Email: steve.hathaway@nzfsa.govt.nz

Mr Sundararaman RAJASEKAR
Programme Manager (Codex)
Codex Coordinator and Contact Point for New Zealand
New Zealand Food Safety Authority
PO Box 2835
Wellington
Phone: 64-4 463 2576
Fax: 64-4 463 2583
Email: rajasekars@nzfsa.govt.nz

Ms Diana REAICH
Second Secretary
New Zealand Permanent Mission to the World Trade
Organization
2, Chemin de Fins
1218 Grand Saconnex
Geneva
Phone: 41-22 929 0358
Fax: 41-22 929 0374
Email: diana.reaich@mfat.govt.nz

NICARAGUA

Dr. Eduardo CASTILLO
Representante Alterno
37-39 Rue de Vermont
Ginebra 1202
Phone :
Fax :
Email :

Sra. Patricia CAMPBELD
Primer Secretario
37-39 Rue de Vermont
1202 Ginebra
Phone :
Fax :
Email :

NIGER - NIGER

Mr Illiassou BAKO
Directeur
Bureau de la Normalisation, de la Qualité et de la Métrologie
B.P. 480
Niamey
Phone: 227-73 6950
Fax: 227-73 2150
Email: bako142002@yahoo.fr

NIGERIA - NIGÉRIA

Dr J.N. AKANYA
Director General/Chief Executive
Standards Organization of Nigeria
Plot 13/14 Victoria Arobieke Street
Off Admiralty Way
Lekki Phase 1
Lagos
Phone: 234-1-27082467
Fax: 234-1-2708246
Email: info@sononline-ng.org

Mrs M.E. ESHIETT
Deputy-Director
Head Codex Contact Point
Standards Organisation of Nigeria
Plot 13/14 Victoria Arobieke Street
Off Admiralty Way
Lekki Phase 1
Lagos
Phone: 234-1-27082467
Fax: 234-1-2708246
Email: info@sononline-ng.org

Mr J.O. APANISILE
Assistant-Director
Federal Ministry of Commerce Old Secretariate Abuja
Phone: 234-9-2342770
Fax: 234-9-2342770
Email: joreyemi@yahoo.com

Mr S.Kunle OGUNMOKUN
Principal Technical Officer
National Strategic Food Reserve Department
Federal Ministry of Agriculture and
Rural Development
Area 11, Garki - P.M.B. 135
Abuja
Phone: 234-9-2344958
Fax: 234-9-2344382
Email: nsgrfma@hotmail.com

Mr B.O. UGWU
Assistant Chief Standards Officer
Standards Organisation of Nigeria
Plot 13/14 Victoria Arobieke Street
Off Admiralty Way
Lekki Phase 1
Lagos
Phone: 234-1-27082467
Fax: 234-1-2708246
Email: info@sononline-ng.org

Mrs M.O. OLELE
Assistant General Manager
Regulatory Affairs/Public Relations
Codex Committee National
West African Seasoning Company
37, Creek Road Apapa
Lagos
Phone: 234-1-5804928
Fax: 234-1-5804927
Email: margaretolele@hyperia.com

Mr O.A. ADENOLA
Director
National Strategic Food Reserve Department
Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development
Area 11, Garki - P.M.B. 135
Abuja
Phone: 234-9-2344958
Fax: 234-9-2344382
Email: nsgrfma@hotmail.com

Mrs Jane NZEOMA
Chief Regulatory Officer
National Agency for Food Drug Admin and Control
23, Temple Road Ikoyi
Lagos
Phone: 234-1-2690676
Fax: 234-1-2695006
Email: janenzeoma@yahoo.com

Mr A.O. ADEGBOYE
Senior Regulatory Officer
National Agency for Food and Drug Admin and Control
23, Temple Road Ikoyi
Lagos
Phone: 234-1-2690676
Fax: 234-1-2695006
Email: bimbostica@yahoo.com

NORWAY - NORVÈGE - NORUEGA

Ms Bodil BLAKER
Adviser
Department of Public Health
Ministry of Health
P.O. Box 8011 Dep
N-0030 Oslo
Phone: 47-22-248602
Fax: 47-22-248656
Email: bodil.blaker@hd.dep.no

Mr Joakim LYSTAD
Director-General
Norwegian Food Safety Authority - Head Office
P.O. Box 383
N-2381 Brumunddal
Phone: 47-23-216802
Fax: 47-23-216801
Email: joakim.lystad@mattilsynet.no

Mr Stein Ivar ORMSETTRØ
Director
Department of Health and Hygiene
Norwegian Food Safety Authority - Head Office
P.O. Box 383
N-2381 Brumunddal
Phone: 47-23-216804
Fax: 47-23-216801
Email: stein.ivar.ormsettro@mattilsynet.no

Mr Geir VALSET
Senior Adviser
Department of Health and Hygiene
Norwegian Food Safety Authority - Head Office
P.O. Box 383
N-2381 Brumunddal
Phone: 47-23-216862
Fax: 47-23-21 6801
Email: geir.valset@mattilsynet.no

Mr Lennart JOHANSON
Deputy Director-General
Ministry of Fisheries
P.O. Box 8118 Dep
N-0032 Oslo
Phone: 47-22-242665
Fax: 47-22-249585
Email: lennart.johanson@fid.dep.no

Mr Ola Magnus LØMO
Adviser
Department of Food Policy
Ministry of Agriculture
P.O. Box 8007 Dep
N-0030 Oslo
Phone: 47-22-24 9317
Fax: 47-22-249559
Email: ola-magnus.lomo@Gld.dep.no

Ms Bente ODLO
Adviser
Department of Food Policy
Ministry of Agriculture
P.O. Box 8007 Dep
N-0030 Oslo
Phone: 47-22-249138
Fax: 47-22-249559
Email: bente.odlo@ld.dep.no

PANAMA - PANAMÁ

Sra. Gisette MUÑOZ
Representante Permanente Alternativa
Rue de Laussane 94
Ginebra
Phone:
Fax:
Email:

PARAGUAY

Sra. Lilian MARTINEZ DE ALONSO
Director General
INTN
Avda. Artigas No 3973 y Gral. Roa
Asunción
Phone: 595-21 297 516
Fax: 595-21 290 873
Email: direccion@intn.gov.py
codex@intn.gov.py

Dr. Dario BAUMGARTEN LAVAND
Consejero Agropecuario
Embajada del Paraguay
Av. Louise 475, Piso 12
1050 - Bruselas
Phone: 32 2 649 9055
Fax: 32 2 647 4248
Email: empar.baumgarten@skynet.be

Dr. Roberto R. RECALDE
Consejero
Misión Permanente del Paraguay
28/A Ch. Petit – Saconnex
1209 Ginebra
Phone: 41 22 740 3211
Fax: 41 22 740 3290
Email:

PERU - PÉROU - PERÚ

Sra. Eliana BERAUN
Deuxième Secrétaire
71 Av. Louis Casai
1216 Cointrin
Phone:
Fax:
Email:

PHILIPPINES - FILIPINAS

Mr Gilberto LAYESE
Director
Bureau of Agriculture and Fisheries Products Standards
Department of Agriculture
BPI Compound, Visayas Avenue, Diliman
1101 Quezon City
Phone: 632-920 6132
Fax: 632-920 6134
Email: bafps@yahoo.com

POLAND - POLOGNE - POLONIA

Ms Marzena WÓDKA
Chief of Department of International Cooperation
Codex Contact Point
Agricultural and Food Quality Inspection
Republic of Poland Government Service
30 Wspolna St., 00-930 Warsaw
Phone: 48-22 625 2028
Fax: 48-22 621 4858
Email: integracja@ijhar-s.gov.pl

PORTUGAL

Sr. António Pedro ALVES
Attaché
Mission Permanente du Portugal
33, rue Antoine-Carteret
1202 Genève-16
Phone: 918-0200
Fax: 918-0228
Email: Antonio.alves@ties.itu.int

QATAR

Dr Abdulla Omar AL-HAMAQ
Assistant Director of Doha Municipality Health Affairs
Doha Municipality
Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Agriculture
P.O. Box 17178
Doha
Phone: 974-4687490
Fax: 974-4684980
Email: aalhamaq@hotmail.com

Dr Shady Salah ZEYADAH
Senior Food Safety and Control
Health Affairs
Doha Municipality
Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Agriculture
P.O. Box 163
Doha
Phone: 974- 5564890/974-4686643
Fax: 974-4684890
Email: shady.zyadah@yahoo.com

ROMANIA - ROUMANIE - RUMANIA

Dr Nicolai POPARLAN
Deputy Director-General
National Veterinary and Sanitary and Food Safety Authority
Bucharest
Email:

Ms Carmen FRATITA
Second Secretary
Permanent Mission of Romania in Geneva
Email:

SAMOA

Mr Lemalu Tate SIMI
Chairman, Samoa Codex Committee
Ministry Commerce, Industry and Labour
Level 4, ACB House
Apia
Phone: 685-20441
Fax: 685-20443
Email:

**SAUDI ARABIA, KINGDOM OF –
ARABIE SAOUDITE, ROYAUME D' –
ARABIA SAUDITA, REINO DE**

Dr Sirag MASSODE
Director General of the Standards Department
Saudi Arabia Standard Organization
Riyadh P.O. Box 3437
Riyadh 11471
Phone:
Fax:
Email:

SINGAPORE - SINGAPOUR - SINGAPUR

Dr Sin Bin CHUA
Deputy CEO and Director, Food and Veterinary Administration
Agri-Food and Veterinary Authority
5, Maxwell Road, #04-00
Tower Block, MND Complex
Singapore 069110
Phone: 65-6325 7622
Fax: 65-6220 6068
Email: chua_sin_bin@ava.gov.sg

Mr Sin-I CHU
Head
Food Legislation and Factory Control Branch
Food and Veterinary Administration
Agri-Food and Veterinary Authority
5, Maxwell Road, # 18-00
Tower Block, MND Complex
Singapore 069110
Phone: 65-6325 8582
Fax: 65-6324 4563
Email: chu_sin-i@ava.gov.sg

SLOVAKIA - SLOVAQUIE - ESLOVAQUIA

Prof. Milan KOVÁČ
Director
National Focal Point for Codex Alimentarius
Food Research Institute
Priemysel'ná 4, P.O. Box 25
824 75 Bratislava 26
Phone: 004212-55574622
Fax: 004212-55571417
Email: milan.kovac@vup.sk

SOLOMON ISLANDS - ÎLES SALOMON ISLAS SALOMÓN

Mr David HO'OTA
Public Health Laboratory
Environmental Health Division
Ministry of Health and Medical Services
PO Box 349, Honiara
Solomon Islands
Phone: 677 38871
Fax: 677 38871
Email: jskabei@solomon.com.sb

SOUTH AFRICA - AFRIQUE DU SUD - SUDÁFRICA

Dr T. VAN DE VENTER
Director, Food Control
Department of Health
Private Bag X828
0001 Pretoria
Phone: 27-12 312 0185
Fax: 27-12 312 3162
Email: ventert@health.gov.za

Ms J.M. RATHEBE
Senior Manager
Food Safety and Quality Assurance
National Department of Agriculture
Private Bag X343
0001 Pretoria
Phone: 27-12 319 7000
Fax: 27 12 319 6764
Email: SMFSQA@nda.agric.za

Ms F. MAKHOANE
Assistant Director
Directorate: Food Control
Department of Health
Private Bag X828
0001 Pretoria
Phone: 27-12 312 0158
Fax: 27-12 312 3162
Email: makhof@health.gov.za

Mr N. TSELENTIS
Legal and Regulatory Affairs Manager
Consumer Goods Council South Africa
1st Floor Block B
Hurlingham Office Park
Woodlands Drive
Sandton
Phone: 27-11 886 3008
Fax: 27-11 886 4966
Email: nt@cgcsa.co.za

Mr M. YOUNG
Manager: Department Food and Associated Industries (FAI)
The South African Bureau of Standards
Regulatory Affairs and Consumer Protection
P.O. Box 615
Rondebosch
7701 Cape Town
Phone: 27-21 689 5511
Fax: 27-21 689 6128
Email: youngmj@sabs.co.za

Mr D. MAFUBELU
Health Attach'e
SOth Africa Permanent Mission
65, rue du Rhone
Geneva 1204
Phone:
Fax:
Email:

SPAIN - ESPAGNE - ESPAÑA

Dr. Felipe MITTELBRUNN GARCÍA
Consejero Técnico
Secretaría de la Comisión Interministerial para la Ordenación
Alimentaria
Ministerio de Sanidad y Consumo
Alcalá 56
28071 Madrid
Phone: 34-91 3380279
Fax: 34-91 3380883
Email: fmittelbrunn@msc.es

Don Juan Carlos CALVO HUERTA
Jefe de Servicio
Agencia Española de Seguridad Alimentaria
Ministerio de Sanidad y Consumo
Alcalá 56
28071 Madrid
Phone: 34-91 3380040
Fax: 34-91 3380253
Email: jcalvo@msc.es

D^a Elisa REVILLA GARCÍA
Jefe de Área de Coordinación Sectorial
de la Subdirección General de Planificación Alimentaria
Dirección General de Industria Agroalimentaria y Alimentación
Ministerio de Agricultura, Pesca y Alimentación
Paseo Infanta Isabel 1
28071 - Madrid
Phone: 34 91 3474596
Fax: 34 91 3475728
Email: erevilla@mapya.es

SUDAN - SOUDAN - SUDÁN

Dr Mohamed Mahmoud ALHANAN
Under-Secretary
Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry
Al Jamma Avenue
Phone: 249-183 772648
Fax: 249-183 782027
Email: moafus@yahoo.com

Dr Yassin Aldossogi ATAYEB BABIKER
Director
Sudanese Standards and Metrology Organization
Gaser Avenue
Phone: 249-183 775247/777480
Fax: 249-183 774852
Email: SSMO@sudanet.net

Prof Suad H. SATTI
Director
National Chemical Laboratories and Food Safety Coordinator
Federal Ministry of Health
Gaser Avenue
Khartoum
P.O. Box 287
Phone: 249-183-779789
Fax: 249-183-795164
Email: satti10@hotmail.com

Dr Abbasher KHALID
Director
Quarantines Department
Ministry of Animal Resources
Khartoum
Phone: 249-183 476129
Fax: 249-183 475995
Email: Abasher45@hotmail.com

Mr Hamdi Abbas IBRAHIM
Director
Standards and Quality Control Unit
Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry
Al Jamma Avenue
Codex Contact Point
Phone: 249-183 774688
Fax: 249-183 782027
Email: hamdi20072000@yahoo.com

SWEDEN - SUÈDE - SUECIA

Mrs Inger ANDERSSON
Director-General
National Food Administration
SE-751 26 Uppsala
Phone: 46-18 175500
Fax: 46-18 105848
Email: livsmedelsverket@slv.se

Dr Stuart Alexander SLORACH
Deputy Director-General
National Food Administration
P.O. Box 622
SE-75126 Uppsala
Phone: 46-18 175594
Fax: 46-18 105848
Email: stsl@slv.se

Mrs Kerstin JANSSON
Deputy-Director
Food Division
Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Consumer Affairs
SE- 103 33 Stockholm
Phone: 46-8 4051168
Fax: 46-8 219625
Email: kerstin.jansson@agriculture.ministry.se

Ms Susanne CARLSSON
Head of Food Standards Department
National Food Administration
SE-751 26 Uppsala
Phone: 46-18 175500
Fax: 46-18 105848
Email: livsmedelsverket@slv.se

SWITZERLAND - SUISSE - SUIZA

Dr Urs KLEMM
Vice-Director
Swiss Federal Office of Public Health
CH-3003 Bern
Phone: 41-31 3229503
Fax: 41-31 3229574
Email: urs.klemm@bag.admin.ch

Mrs Awilo OCHIENG PERNET
Codex Alimentarius
International Food Safety Issues
Swiss Federal Office of Public Health
CH 3003 Bern
Phone: 41-31 322 0041
Fax: 41-31 322 9574
Email: awilo.ochieng@bag.admin.ch

Dr Gaudenz SILBERSCHMIDT
Division of International Affairs
Head of Division
Swiss Federal Office of Public Health
CH-3003 Bern
Phone: 41-31 3226650
Fax: 41-313221131
Email: gaudenz.silberschmidt@bag.admin.ch

Mrs Irina DU BOIS
Head Regulatory Affairs
Nestec Ltd.
Avenue Nestlé 55
CH-1800 Vevey, Switzerland
Phone: 41-21 9242261
Fax: 41-219244547
Email: irina.dubois@nestle.com

Mrs Ursula TRÜEB
Konsumenten Vertretung
Bölzli 1
CH-4312 Magden, Switzerland
Phone: 41-61 8411256
Fax: 41-61 841 1256
Email: ursula.trueb@tiscali.ch

Mr Thomas JÄGGI
Food Engineer
Swiss Farmers Union
Laurstrasse 10
CH - 5200 Brugg, Switzerland
Phone: 41-56-4625227
Fax: 41-56-4415348
Email: thomas.jaegg@sbv-usp.ch

Dr Hervé NORDMANN
Director
Scientific and Regulatory Affairs
Ajinomoto Switzerland AG
Innere Güterstrasse 2-4
CH - 6304 Zug, Switzerland
Phone: 41-41 7286666
Fax: 41-41 7286565
Email: herve.nordmann@ajimoto.com

Mr Jörg CSELOVSZKY
Global Regulatory Affairs Manager
DSM Nutritional Products
Wurmisweg 576, Bld.241/421
CH-4303 Kaiseraugst, Switzerland
Phone: 41 61 687 3276
Fax: 41 61 688 1635
Email: joerg.cselovszky@dsm.com

Mrs Alexandra GRAZIOLI
Legal Advisor
International Trade Relations
Swiss Federal Institute of Intellectual Property
Einsteinstrasse 2
CH -3003 Bern
Phone: 41-31 323 2720
Fax: 41-31 350 0622
Email: alexandra.grazioli@ipi.ch

Mrs Fränzi WEHRLI
Food Safety, Legal Compliance
Section Foodstuff
Swiss Federal Office of Public Health
CH-3003 Bern
Phone: 41-31-324 9371
Fax: 41-31-322 9574
Email: fraenzi.wehrli@bag.admin.ch

SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC – RÉPUBLIQUE ARABE SYRIENNE – REPÚBLICA ÁRABE SIRIA

Eng. Abdul Razzaa AL HOMSI AJJOUR
Director
Alimentary Standards Department
Secretary of National Codex Committee
The Syrian Arab Organization for Standardization and
Metrology (SASMO)
P.O. Box 11836
Damascus
Phone: 963-11 4529822/5
Fax: 963-11-4528214
Email: sasmo@net.sy

TANZANIA, UNITED REPUBLIC OF – TANZANIE, RÉPUBLIQUE-UNIE DE – TANZANÍA, REPÚBLICA UNIDA DE

Dr Claude J.S. MOSHA
Chief Standards Officer (Food Safety and Quality)
Head, Agriculture and Food Section
Tanzania Bureau of Standards
P.O. Box 9524
Dar-es-Salaam
Phone: 255-22-245 0206/ mobile 255 741 324495
Fax: 255-22 245 0959
Email: cjsmosha@yahoo.co.uk

THAILAND - THAÏLANDE - TAILANDIA

Mr Worwate TAMRONGTANYALAK
Secretary-General
National Bureau of Agricultural Commodity and Food
Standards
4th Floor, Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives
3 Rajdamnern Nok Avenue
Bangkok 10200
Phone: 66-2-2818600
Fax: 66-2-2816182
Email: worwate@moac.go.th

Ms Metanee SUKONTARUG
Director
Office of Commodity and System Standards
National Bureau of Agricultural Commodity and Food
Standards
4th Floor, Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives
3 Rajdamnern Nok Avenue
Bangkok 10200
Phone: 662-280 3900
Fax: 662-2803899
Email: metanee@acfs.go.th

Ms Poonsap VIULHAKUL
Senior Expert in Fisheries Management
Department of Fisheries
Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives
Kaset-klang
Chattuchak, Bangkok 10900
Phone: 662-9406211
Fax: 662-5620571
Email: poonspv@fisheries.go.th

Dr Chanin CHAROENPONG
Expert in Food Standard
Food and Drug administration
Ministry of Public Health
Tiwanond rd,
Nonthaburi 11000
Phone: 662-5907020
Fax: 662-5918460
Email: chanin@fda.moph.go.th

Ms Daranee MUKHAJONPUN
Senior Expert in Food Safety and Consumption
Food and Drug Administration
Ministry of Public Health
Tiwanond rd,
Nonthaburi 11000
Phone: 662-5907153
Fax: 662-5918460
Email: daraneem@fda.moph.go.th

Ms Ghanyapak TANTIPIPATPONG
Vice Chairman of Food Processing Industry
The Federation of Thai Industries
Queen Sirikit National Convention Center, Zone C
4th Floor, 60 New Rachadapisek Rd, Klongtoey
Bangkok 10110
Phone: 662-2294255
Fax: 662-2294041702
Email: foodgroup.off@fti.or.th

Mrs Oratai SILAPANAPORN
Assistant Director
Office of Commodity and System Standards
National Bureau of Agricultural Commodity and Food
Standards
4th Floor, Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives
3 Rajdamnern Nok Avenue,
Bangkok 10200
Phone: 662-2803887
Fax: 662-2803899
Email: oratai@acfs.go.th

Mr Pisan LUETONCHARG
Minister Counsellor
Permanent Mission of Thailand to the World Trade
Organization
ICC- Bâtiment F-G
Route de Pré-Bois 20
Case postale 1848
1215 Genève
Phone: (022) 929 5200/929 52 09
Fax: (022) 791 0166/7888025
Email: pisan@thaiwto.com

TUNISIA - TUNISIE - TÚNEZ

Mr Mefteh AMARA
Directeur général des industries alimentaires
Ministère de l' Industrie et de l'Energie
Immeuble Beya, rue 8011
Cité Montpalsir
1002 Tunis
Phone: 216-71-289 562
Fax: 216-71 789 159
Email: Mefteh.Amara@email.ati.tn

Mr Mohamed BEN FREDJ
Directeur général du Centre Technique de l' Agro-Alimentaire
12, rue de l' Usine 2035 Ariana
Phone: 216-71-940198
Fax: 216-71 941080
Email: CTAA@email.ati.tn

Mr Mounir BEN RJIBA
Conseiller
58 rue Moillebean
1209 Genève
Phone:
Fax:
Email:

TURKEY - TURQUIE - TURQUÍA

Mr Ilhami SAHIN
Head of Food Control Department
General Directorate of Protection and Control
Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs
Akay Street No.3- Bakanliklar
Ankara
Phone: 90 312 4174176/3021-3121
Fax: 90312 4186523
Email: ilhamis@kkgm.gov.tr

Ms. M. Nurseren BUDAK
Codex Division Manager
Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs
General Directorate of Protection and Control
Akay Street No. 3
Bakanliklar - Ankara
Phone: 90312 4174176/3123
Fax: 90312 4186523
Email: nurb@kkgm.gov.tr

Mr Huseyin ERGANI
Second Secretary
Turkish Permanent Mission to the UNOG
Phone:
Fax:
Email:

UGANDA - OUGANDA

Dr Ben MANYINDO
Head
Technical Operations Department
Uganda National Bureau of Standards
P.O. Box 6329
Kampala
Phone: 256-41 222367
Fax: 246-41 286123
Email: ben.manyindo@unbs.org

Dr Terry KAHUMA
Executive Director
Uganda National Bureau of Standards
Plot M 217, Naikawa
Industrial Area, P.O. Box 6329
Kampala
Phone: 256-41 286123
Fax: 266-41-286123
Email: unbs@afsat.com

**UNITED ARAB EMIRATES –
ÉMIRATS ARABES UNIS –
EMIRATOS ÁRABES UNIDOS**

Mr Khalid AL SHERIF
Assistant Director
Public Health Department
Head of Food Control Section
Dubai Municipality
Phone: 971-4-2064200
Fax: 971-4-2231905
Email: kmsharif@dm.gov.ae

Mrs Amina AHMED MOHAMED
Head of Food Environment Laboratory Sec.
Dubai Central Laboratory Department
Phone: 971-4-3011618
Fax: 971-4-3358448
Email: aamohammed@dm.gov.ae

Miss Aseela ABDULLAH AL MOALA
Head of Food and Environment Laboratory
P.O.Box 7 Fujairah,
Phone: 971-9-2228570
Fax: 971-9-2281570
Email: ice_bird2@hotmail.com

Mr Ahmed M. ALYBHOONI
Director
Administration of Agricultural Production
Phone: 971-3-7634333
Fax: 971-3-37624551
Email: theteen@emirates.net.ae

UNITED KINGDOM - ROYAUME-UNI - REINO UNIDO

Miss Barbara RICHARDS
Head of Corporate Secretariat,
Consumers and International Division
Food Standards Agency
Room 612c, Aviation House
125 Kingsway
London WC2B 6NH
Phone: 44 207 276 8610
Fax: 44 207 276 8014
Email: barbara.richards@foodstandards.gsi.gov.uk

Mr Michael WIGHT
Head of European Union and International Strategy Branch
Food Standards Agency
Room 619c, Aviation House
125 Kingsway
London WC2B 6NH
Phone: 44-207 276 8183
Fax: 44-207 276 8004
Email: michael.wight@foodstandards.gsi.gov.uk

Mr Nick TOMLINSON
Head of Chemical Safety and Toxicology Division
Food Standards Agency
Room 527, Aviation House
125 Kingsway
London, WC2B 6NH
Phone: 44 207 276 8562
Fax: 44 207 276 8564
Email: nick.tomlinson@foodstandards.gsi.gov.uk

**UNITED STATES OF AMERICA –
ÉTATS-UNIS D'AMÉRIQUE –
ESTADOS UNIDOS DE AMÉRICA**

Dr F. Edward SCARBROUGH
U.S. Manager for Codex
U.S. Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Ave
SW Room 4841 South Bldg
Washington, DC 20250
Phone: 202-205 7760
Fax: 202-720 3157
Email: ed.scarbrough@fsis.usda.gov

Mr Daryl BREHM
Director - Food Safety and Technical Service
U.S. Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Ave, SW
Washington, DC 20250
Phone: 202 690 0929
Fax: 202 690 0677
Email: daryl.brehm@usda.gov

Mr Richard CHRISS
Senior Counsel to the Under Secretary
International Trade Administration
U.S. Department of Commerce
14th and Constitution NW
Washington, DC 20230
Phone: 202 482 2867
Fax: 202 482 4821
Email: richard_chriss@ita.doc.gov

Dr Karen HULEBAK
Assistant Administrator
Office of Public Health Science
Food Safety Inspection Service
U.S. Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Ave
Room 341 E
Washington DC, SW 20250
Phone: 202- 720 2644
Fax: 202- 690 2980
Email: karen.hulebak@fsis.usda.gov

Mr. Henry SCHMICK
Agricultural Attaché
U.S. Mission to the WTO
U.S. Department of Agriculture Foreign Agricultural Service
11 Route de Pregny
CH 1292 Geneva
Phone: 41-22 749 5223
Fax: 41 22 749 5333
Email: Henry.Schmick@usda.gov

Mr Robert LAKE
Director - Office of Regulations and Policy
Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition (HFS-004)
U.S. Food and Drug Administration
Harvey Wiley Federal Bldg
5100 Paint Branch Parkway
College Park, MD 20740
Phone: 301- 436 2379
Fax: 301- 436 2668
Email: rlake@cfsan.fda.gov

Ms Mary Frances LOWE
Program Advisor
U.S. Environment Protection Agency
Ariel Rios Bldg
1200 Pennsylvania Ave NW
Washington D.C.
Phone: 703- 305 5689
Fax: 703- 308 1850
Email: lowe.maryfrances@epa.gov

Ms Deborah MALAC
Office of Agricultural, Biotechnology and Textile Trade Affairs
U.S. Department of State
Room 3831a
Washington, DC
Phone: 202- 647 2062
Fax: 202- 647 1894
Email: malacdr@state.gov

Ms Ellen Y. MATTEN
International Issues Analyst
US Codex Office
U.S. Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington DC, 20250
Phone: 202- 720 4063
Fax: 202- 720 3157
Email: ellen.matten@fsis.usda.gov

Mr Richard WHITE
Office of the U.S. Trade Representative
600 17th street NW
Winder Bldg Room 415
Washington, DC 20508
Phone: 202- 395 9582
Fax: 202- 395 4579
Email: rwhite@ustr.gov

Mr Kyd BRENNER
DTB Associates, LLP
1001 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, 6th Floor
Washington, DC 20004
Phone: 202- 661 7098
Fax: 202- 661 7093
Email: kbrenner@dtbassociates.com

Ms Jane EARLEY
CEO, Earley Associates
1101 King Street, Suite 444
Alexandria, VA 22314
Phone: 703- 838 0602
Fax: 703- 739 9098
Email: jearley@promarinternational.com

Ms Marsha ECHOLS
Washington Counsel
National Association for the Specialty Food Trade, Inc
3286 M Street, NW
Washington, DC 20007
Phone: 202- 625 1451
Fax: 202- 625 9126
Email: mechols@earthlink.net

Ms. Karen STUCK
Assistant Administrator
Office of International Affairs
Food Safety and Inspection Service
US Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Ave S.W.
Washington D.C. 20250
Phone: 202 -720 3473
Fax: 202-690 3856
Email: Karen.Stuck@fsis.us.da.gov

Mr C.W. MCMILLAN
C.W. McMillan Company
P.O. Box 10009
Alexandria, VA 22310
Phone: 703- 960 1982
Fax: 703- 960 4976
Email: cwmco@aol.com

Mr Doug NELSON
Executive Vice President, General Counsel and Secretary
Crop Life America
1156 15th St, NW
Suite 400
Washington, DC 20005
Phone:
Fax:
Email: dnelson@croplifeamerica.org

Ms Peggy ROCHETTE
Senior Director of International Policy
National Food Processors Association
1350 I Street, NW
Washington, DC 20005
Phone: 202- 639 5921
Fax: 202- 639 5991
Email: prochet@nfpa-food.org

Mr Steve HAWKINS
Food Safety Policy Advisor
Food Safety Inspection Service
U.S. Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Ave SW
Room 1156 South Bldg
Washington, DC 20250
Phone: 202-690 1022
Fax: 202- 690 3856
Email: stephen.hawkins@fsis.usda.gov

Ms Eileen HILL
Senior Advisor
U.S. Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Ave, NW
Washington, DC 20230
Phone: 202-482 5276
Fax: 202-482 5939
Email: eileen_hill@ita.doc.gov

Dr H. Michael WEHR
Codex Programme Coordinator
U.S. Food and Drug Administration
Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition
Room 1B-003 Harvey Wiley Building
5100 Paint Branch Parkway
College Park, MD 20740
Phone: 1-301-436 1724
Fax: 1-301-436 2618
Email: Michael.Wehr@cfsan.fda.gov

URUGUAY

Dra. Delvey ANCHIERI
Directora de la Unidad Inocuidad de Alimentos
Ministerio de Salud Pública
Avenida 18 de Julio 1892, piso 4
Casilla Postal 11100
Montevideo
Phone: 598-2-708 6434
Fax: 598-2-408 5580
Email: danchieri@adinet.com.uy

Dr. Luis PLOUVIER
Ministro Consejero
Misión Permanente de Uruguay en Ginebra
Rue de Lausanne 65
Phone: 022 7328366
Fax: 022 73 15650
Email:

Mr Malcolm DALESA
Environmental Health Officer
Public Health Department
Port Vila Municipality
Port Vila
Phone: 678-22 113
Fax: 678-25 002
Email: malcomdaleasa@hotmail.com

VIET NAM

Dr BUI MANH HAI
Vice Minister
Ministry of Sciences and Technology
Chairman of Vietnam Codex Alimentarius Committee
39 Tran Hung Dao Street
Hanoi
Phone: 84-4-9436598
Fax: 84-4-9439733
Email: bmhai@moste.gov.vn

Dr THI DAO VU
Director
Food Industry Research Institute
301 Nguyen Trai Road
Thanh Xuan
Hanoi
Phone: 844 8 585106
Fax: 84485 84554
Email: vu@FIRI.ac.vn

Mrs NGUYEN THI HOA BINH
Deputy-Director
National Fisheries Quality Assurance and Veterinary
Directorate (NAFIQAVED)
Ministry of Fisheries
10 Nguyen Cong Hoan Street
Ba Dinh
Hanoi
Phone: 84-4-831 0983
Fax: 84-4-831 7221
Email: nafiqaved@mofi.gov.vn

Dr THI KIM PHAN
Director of Food Administration
135 Nui Truc Lane
Giang Vo Street
Hanoi
Phone: 84-4-8 463739
Fax: 84-4-8 463839
Email: cucqltp@hn.vn.vn

Mr HUU DUNG NGUYEN
Officer of Food Administration
135 Nui Truc Lane
Giang Vo Street
Hanoi
Phone: 84-4-8464489
Fax: 84-4-8463702
Email: huu_dung-vga@yahoo.com

Mr MANH CUONG NGUYEN
Officer
Ministry of Health
138A Giang Vo Street
Hanoi
Phone: 84-4-8 464416 ext. 217
Fax: 84-4-8453303/8464051
Email: nguyencuong@moh.gov.vn

Mrs LE THI HIEN
Officer
VinhCat Company of Investment and Trade Service
27 Lane 198 Thai Ha
Trung Liet Ward
Thanh Xuan District
Hanoi
Phone: 0903481881
Fax:
Email:

ZIMBABWE

Dr David B. NHARI
Chief Government Analyst
Government Analyst Laboratory
P.O. Box CY 231
Causeway
Harare, Zimbabwe
Phone: +263 4 792026/7
Fax: + 263 4 708527
Email: dbnhari@africaonline.com.zw

**UNITED NATIONS AND SPECIALIZED AGENCIES
NATIONS UNIES ET INSTITUTIONS SPÉCIALISÉES
NACIONES UNIDAS Y ORGANISMOS ESPECIALIZADOS**

**INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY
AGENCE INTERNATIONALE DE L'ÉNERGIE ATOMIQUE
ORGANISMO INTERNACIONAL DE ENERGÍA ATÓMICA**

Mr David H. BYRON
Head
Food and Environmental Protection Section
Joint FAO/IAEA Division of Nuclear Techniques in Food and Agriculture
Wagramer strasse 5
P.O. Box 100
A-1400 Vienna
Phone: 43-1-2600 21638
Fax: 43-1 26007
Email: d.byron@iaea.org

**INTERNATIONAL GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS
ORGANISATIONS GOUVERNEMENTALES INTERNATIONALES
ORGANIZACIONES GUBERNAMENTALES INTERNACIONALES**

BUREAU INTERNATIONAL DES POIDS ET MESURES

Robert WIELGOSZ
Head of Chemistry Section
Bureau des Poids et Mesures
Pavillon de Breteuil
F-92312 Sevres Cedex
Phone: 33-1- 45076251
Fax: 33-1- 45342021
Email: rwielgosz@bipm.org

**COCOA PRODUCERS ALLIANCE
ALLIANCE DES PAYS PRODUCTEURS DE CACAO
ALIANZA DE PRODUCTORES DE CACAO**

Dr Nanga Paul COULIBALY
Head of Scientific Research Department
Brick House
National Assembly Complex
Tawfawa Balewa Square
P.O. box 1718
Lagos
Phone: 01-263 5574
Fax: 01-263 5684
Email: cnanga@copal-cpa.org

**INTER-AMERICAN INSTITUTE FOR COOPERATION ON
AGRICULTURE
INSTITUTO INTERAMERICANO DE COOPERACIÓN PARA LA
AGRICULTURA**

Dr Kevin D. WALKER
Director de Sanidad Agropecuaria e Inocuidad de Alimentos
IICA
Apdo 55-2200 Coronado
Costa Rica
Phone: 506 - 216 0184
Fax: 506 - 216 0173
Email:

Sr. Timothy O'BRIEN
Especialista
Sanidad Agropecuaria e Inocuidad de Alimentos
Instituto Interamericano de Cooperación para la Agricultura
Apartado Postal 55
2200 Coronado
Costa Rica
Phone: 506 - 216 0184
Fax:
Email:

**INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE OF REFRIGERATION
INSTITUT INTERNATIONAL DU FROID
INSTITUTO INTERNACIONAL DEL FRÍO**

M Felix DEPLEDT
Institut International du froid
177, boulevard Malesherbes
75017 Paris
Phone: 33-14227 3235
Fax: 33-14763 1798
Email: iifir@iifir.org

ORGANISATION INTERNATIONALE DE LA VIGNE ET DU VIN

Mr Yann JUBAN
Chef de l'Unité "Economie vitivinicole, droit et relations avec
les organisations internationales" OIV
18, rue d'Aguesseau
F-75008 Paris
Phone: 33-1 4494 8095
Fax: 33-1 4266 9063
Email: yjuban@oiv.int

**WORLD ORGANIZATION FOR ANIMAL HEALTH (OIE)
ORGANISATION MONDIALE DE LA SANTÉ ANIMALE
ORGANIZACIÓN MUNDIAL DE SANIDAD ANIMAL**

M Bernard VALLAT
Directeur général
Rue 12 de Prony
75017 Paris
Phone: 33-1 4415 1888
Fax: 33-1 4267 0987
Email: b.vallat@oie.int/ oie@oie.int

Dr Francesco BERLINGIERI
Rue de prony 12
F-75017 Paris
Phone: 33-1-4415 1888
Fax: 33-1 4267 0987
Email: F.Berlingieri@oie.int

Dr Catherine ROGY
Chef de la mission des affaires internationales
Centre collaborateur OIE pour le médicament vétérinaire AFSSA
27-31 Avenue du Général Leclerc
9770 1 Maisons Alfort Cédex
Phone: 33-1-4977 1356
Fax: 33-1 4977 2626
Email: c.rogly@afssa.fr

**WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION
ORGANISATION MONDIALE DU COMMERCE
ORGANIZACIÓN MUNDIAL DEL COMERCIO**

Mr Michael ROBERTS
Economic Affairs Officer
Agriculture and Commodities Division
Centre William Rappard
Rue de Lausanne 154
Case postale CH-1211 Genève 21
Phone:
Fax:
Email:

Ms Serra AYRAL
Economic Affairs Officer
Agriculture and Commodities Division
Centre William Rappard
Rue de Lausanne 154
Case postale CH-1211 Genève 21
Phone:
Fax:
Email:

Ms María PEREZ-ESTEVE
Economic Affairs Officer
Agriculture and Commodities Division
Centre William Rappard
Rue de Lausanne 154
Case postale CH-1211 Genève 21
Phone:
Fax:
Email:

Ms Lee Ann JACKSON
Economic Affairs Officer
Agriculture and Commodities Division
Centre William Rappard
Rue de Lausanne 154
Case postale CH-1211 Genève 21
Phone:
Fax:
Email:

Ms Joann YOUNG
Economic Affairs Officer
Agriculture and Commodities Division
Centre William Rappard
Rue de Lausanne 154
Case postale CH-1211 Genève 21
Phone:
Fax:
Email:

**INTERNATIONAL NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS
ORGANISATIONS NON-GOUVERNEMENTALES INTERNATIONALES
ORGANIZACIONES INTERNACIONALES NO GUBERNAMENTALES**

**AOAC INTERNATIONAL
ASSOCIATION DES CHIMISTES ANALYTIQUES OFFICIELS
ASOCIACIÓN DE QUÍMICOS ANALÍTICOS OFICIALES**

Mrs Anita MISHRA
Principal Scientific Liaison, Government and Industry
Phone: 301-924 7077 ext. 131
Fax: 301-924 7089
Email: amishra@aoac.org

ASOCIACIÓN LATINOAMERICANA DE AVICULTURA

Dr J. Isidro MOLFESE
Executive Secretary and ALA Codex Observer
Arce 441 3rd "F"
C1426BSE Buenos Aires
Phone: 54-11-4774-4770/mobile: 54 9 11 4539 2595
Fax:
Email: molfese@ciudad.com.ar

**ASSOCIATION OF EUROPEAN COELIAC SOCIETIES
ASSOCIATION DES SOCIÉTÉS COÉLIAQUES EUROPÉENNES
ASOCIACIÓN DE SOCIEDADES CELÍACAS EUROPEAS**

Mrs Hertha DEUTSCH
Codex/Labeling Affairs
Anton Baumgartner Straße 44/C5/2302
A 1230 Vienna
Phone: 43-1-66 71 887
Fax: 43-1-66 71 887
Email: hertha.deutsch@utanet.at

BIOTECHNOLOGY INDUSTRY ORGANIZATION

Dr Michael J. PHILLIPS
Vice President for Food and Agriculture
Science and Regulatory Policy
Biotechnology Industry Organization
1225 Eye Street NW
Washington, DC 20005
Phone: 202-962-9200
Fax: 202-962-9201
Email: mphillips@bio.org

Mr Jeff FRITZ
Manager
DuPont Government Affairs
1946 West Cook Road
Fort Wayne, IN 46818
Phone: 260-425-5882
Fax: 260-425-5836
Email: jeff.fritz@usa.dupont.com

**CONFEDERATION OF THE FOOD AND DRINK INDUSTRIES
CONFEDERATION DES INDUSTRIES AGRO-ALIMENTAIRES
DE L' UE**

Mr Dominique TAEYMANS
Director
Scientific and Regulatory Affairs
Avenue des Arts,43
B-1040 Bruxelles
Phone: +32 2 514 11 11
Fax: +32 1 511 29 05
Email: d.taeymans@ciaa.be

**CONSUMERS INTERNATIONAL
ORGANISATION INTERNATIONALE DES UNIONS DE
CONSUMMATEURS**

Ms Sue DAVIES
Consumers Association
2 Marylebone Road
London NW1 4 DF
Phone: +44 2077707274
Fax: +44 2077707666
Email: sue.davies@which.co.uk

Dr Michael HANSEN
Senior Research Associate
Consumer Policy Institute of Consumers Union
101 Truman Avenue
Yonkers
NY 10703-1057
USA
Phone: +1 914 378 2452
Fax: +1 914 378 2928
Email: hansmi@consumer.org

Ms Auxillia MOTSI
Consumers International - Regional Office for Africa
31 A Lincoln Road, Belgravia
Private Bag A 6215 Avondale
Harare, Zimbabwe
Phone: (263) 4302 283
Fax: (263) 4303 092
Email: amotsi@ci-roaf.co.zw

Dr Sri Ram KHANNA
VOICE
Voluntary Organization in Interest of Consumer Education
441 (Basement) Jangpura
Mathura Road
New Delhi 110-014
Phone: 91 11 24319078
Fax: 91 11 24319081
Email: srkhanna@giadl01.vsnl.net.in
cvoice@usnd.net

**COUNCIL FOR RESPONSIBLE NUTRITION
CONSEJO PARA UNA NUTRICIÓN RESPONSABLE**

Dr John HATHCOCK
Vice President
Nutritional and Regulatory Science
Council for Responsible Nutrition
1828 L St., NW, Suite 900
Washington, DC 20036-5114
Phone: 1-202-776 7955
Fax: 1-202-204 7980
Email: jhathcock@crnusa.org

Mr Mark MANSOUR
Morgan Lewis
1111 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, DC 20004
Phone: 1-202-739 3000
Fax: 1-202-739 3001
Email: mmansour@morganlewis.com

EUROPEAN ASSOCIATION FOR BIOINDUSTRIES

Dr Dirk KLONUS
Bayer Crop Science
Department of Product Safety/Biotechnology
Postfach 80 03 20
65926 Frankfurt/Main 80
Phone: 49-69-30514758
Fax: 49-69-3051 3442
Email: Dirk.Klonus@bayercropscience.com

**EUROPEAN FEED MANUFACTURERS' FEDERATION
FÉDÉRATION EUROPÉENNE DES FABRICANTS D'ALIMENTS
COMPOSÉS**

Mr Alexander DÖRING
Secretary General
FEFAC
223 rue de la Loi-box3
B-1040 Brussels
Phone: 32-2-285 0050
Fax: 32-2-230 5722
Email: adoring@fefac.org

**EUROPEAN FOOD LAW ASSOCIATION
ASSOCIATION EUROPÉENNE POUR LE DROIT DE
L'ALIMENTATION**

Mr Mikael Conny SVENSSON
50, rue de l'Association
1000 Brussels
Belgium
Phone: 0032-2-2181470
Fax: 0032-2-2197342
Email:

GLOBAL CROP PROTECTION FEDERATION

Mr Michael LEADER
Manager CropLife International
143 Avenue Louise
1050 Brussels
Phone: 0032-2 541 1666
Fax:
Email: michael@croplife.org

INSTITUTE OF FOOD TECHNOLOGISTS

Dr C. Ann HOLLINGSWORTH
President
Better Built Foods
160 Star Point Road
Carrollton, GA 30116
Phone: 770-854 4473
Fax:
Email: annholl@bellsouth.net

Mr Robert V. CONOVER
Assistant General Counsel
Kikkoman Foods, Inc
Six Corners Road
P.O. Box 69
Walworth, WI 53184
Phone: 262-275-1651
Fax: 262-275-9452
Email: rconover@kikkoman.com

**INTERNATIONAL TREE NUT COUNCIL
CONSEIL INTERNATIONAL DES FRUITS SECS
CONSEJO INTERNACIONAL DE LOS FRUTOS SECOS**

Mrs Julie G. ADAMS
Senior Director
International and Regulatory Affairs
Almond Board of California
1150 9th Street, Suite 1500
Modesto, california 95354
Phone: 209-343 3238
Fax: 209-549 8267
Email: jadams@almondboard.com

**INTERNATIONAL ALLIANCE OF DIETARY/FOOD
SUPPLEMENT ASSOCIATIONS**

Mr David PINEDA EREÑO
Manager
Regulatory Affairs
IADSA
50, rue de l'Association
B-1000 Brussels
Phone: 32-(0)2 209 1155
Fax: 32- (0)2 223 3064
Email: secretariat@iasda.be

Mr Simon PETTMAN
Executive Director
IADSA
50, rue de l'Association
B-1000 Brussels
Phone:
Fax:
Email:

**INTERNATIONAL BABY FOOD ACTION NETWORK
RÉSEAU INTERNATIONAL DES GROUPES D'ACTION POUR
L'ALIMENTATION INFANTILE
RED INTERNACIONAL DE ACCIÓN SOBRE ALIMENTOS DE
LACTANTES**

Ms Alison LINNECAR
International Coordinator, IBFAN-GIFA
C.P. 157
1211 Geneva 19
Phone: 41-22-798 91 64
Fax: 41-22-798 44 43
Email: alison.linnekar@gifa.org

**INTERNATIONAL COOPERATIVE ALLIANCE
ALLIANCE COOPÉRATIVE INTERNATIONALE
ALIANZA COOPERATIVA INTERNACIONAL**

Mr Kazuo ONITAKE
Safety Policy Service
Japanese Consumers' Co-operative Union
Co-op Plaza 3-29-8
Shibuya, Shibuyaku
Tokyo
Phone: 81-3- 5778 8109
Fax: 81-3-5778 8002
Email: kazuo.onitake@jccu.coop

**INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF GROCERY MANUFACTURERS
ASSOCIATIONS
CONSEJO INTERNACIONAL DE ASOCIACIONES DE
FABRICANTES DE COMESTIBLES**

Mr. Mark NELSON
2401 Pennsylvania Ave, Nw
2nd Floor
Washington, D.C. 20037
Phone: 1-202-337-9400
Fax: 1-202-337-4508
Email: icgma@gmabrands.com

**INTERNATIONAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
CHAMBRE DE COMMERCE INTERNATIONALE
CÁMARA DE COMERCIO INTERNACIONAL**

Dr Janet E. COLLINS
Lead, Global Regulatory Organization
Monsanto Company
1300 I St., NW
Suite 450 East
Washington, D.C. 20005
Phone: 1-202-383 2861
Fax: 1-202-783 0382
Email: janet.e.collins@stl.monsanto.com

**INTERNATIONAL DAIRY FEDERATION
FÉDÉRATION INTERNATIONALE DE LAITERIE
FEDERACIÓN INTERNACIONAL DE LECHERÍA**

Mr Thomas KUTZEMEIER
Managing Director and Secretary General IDF Germany
Verband der Deutschen Milchwirtschaft
Meckenheimer Allee 137
D-53115 Bonn
Phone: 49-228 98 2430
Fax: 49-228 9824320
Email: th.kuetzemeier@vdm-deutschland.de

Mr Claus HEGGUM
Head of Department
Danish Dairy Board
Frederiks Alle 22
DK-8000 Aarhus C
Phone: 45-87-312198
Fax: 45-87-312001
Email: ch@mejeri.dk

Mr Joerg SEIFERT
Technical Manager
International Dairy Federation
Diamant Building
80, Boulevard Auguste Reyers
1030 Brussels
Phone: 322-706 8643
Fax: 322-733 0413
Email: JSeifert@fil-idf.org

**INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION FOR ANIMAL HEALTH
FÉDÉRATION INTERNATIONALE POUR LA SANTÉ ANIMALE**

Dr Jean-Louis DELFORGE
Executive Director
IFAH
Rue Defacqz, 1
1000 Brussels
Phone: 32-2-541 0111
Fax: 32-2-541 0119
Email: ifah@ifahsec.org

Dr Robert LIVINGSTON
Director
International Affairs and Regulatory Policy
Animal Health Institute
1325 G Street, NW Suite 700
Washington, DC 20005-3104
Phone: 1-202-637 2440
Fax: 1-202-393 1667
Email: rlivingston@ahi.org

Mr Dennis L. ERPELDING
Manager
Elanco Government Relations, Public Affairs and Communications
Elanco Animal Health
2001 West Main Street
P.O. Box 708
Greenfield, IN 46140
Phone: 317-276-2721
Fax: 317-433-6353
Email: erpelding_dennis_1@lilly.com

Dr Olivier ESPEISSE
ELANCO Animal Health
Research and Development
Stoofstraat 52
1000 Brussels
Phone: 0032 2 5488606
Fax: 0032 2 5125150
Email: espeisse_olivier@lilly.com

Dr Witold KLAWE
Regional Manager
Central East Europe
Eli Lilly (Suisse) S.A.
Stawki 2
00-193 Warsaw
Poland
Phone: +48 22 635 0048
Fax: +48 22 635 3688
Email: klawe_witold@lilly.com

**INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF CHEWING GUM
ASSOCIATIONS**

Mr Jean SAVIGNY
Rue Blanche 25
B-60 Brussels
Phone: 32-2-541 0570
Fax: 32-2-541 0580
Email:

**INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF FRUIT JUICE PRODUCERS
FÉDÉRATION INTERNATIONALE DES PRODUCTEURS DE JUS
DE FRUITS
FEDERACIÓN INTERNACIONAL DE LOS PRODUCTORES DE
JUGOS DE FRUTAS**

Mr Paul ZWIKER
Delegate
Postfach 45
Ch-9220 Bischofszell
Phone: 41-71-4200644
Fax: 41-71-4200643
Email: zwiker@bluewin.ch

**INTERNATIONAL FEED INDUSTRY FEDERATION
ASSOCIATION INTERNATIONALE D'ALIMENTATION ANIMALE**

Mr Roger GILBERT
Secretary General
214 Prestbury Road
Cheltenham GL 52 3ER
United Kingdom
Phone: 44 (0) 1242 267702
Fax: 44 (0) 1242 267701
Email: roger.gilbert@ifif.org

**INTERNATIONAL FROZEN FOODS ASSOCIATION
ASSOCIATION INTERNATIONALE DES DENRÉES CONGELÉES
ASOCIACIÓN INTERNACIONAL DE ALIMENTOS CONGELADOS**

Mr Robert GARFIELD
Senior Vice President
Public Policy
International Frozen Food Association
2000 Corporate Ridge- Suite 1000
McLean, VA 22102
Phone: 703-821 0770
Fax: 703-821 1350
Email: rgarfield@affi.com

**INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR STANDARDIZATION
ORGANISATION INTERNATIONALE DE NORMALISATION
ORGANIZACIÓN INTERNACIONAL DE NORMALIZACIÓN**

Mr Alan BRYDEN
Secretary General
1 Rue Varembe
Geneva
Phone:
Fax:
Email:

Mrs Pauline Jones
Technical Programme Manager
1 rue Varembe
Geneva
Phone:
Fax:
Email:

INTERNATIONAL SOFT DRINKS COUNCIL

Ms Päivi JULKUNEN
Chair
ISDC Committee for Codex
International Soft Drink Council
c/o National Soft Drink Association
1101 16th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20036
Phone: 1-202-4636790
Fax: 1-202-463 8172
Email: isdc@nsda.com

Mr Alain BEAUMONT
Advisor
International Soft Drinks Council
c/o National Soft Drink Association
1101 16th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20036
Phone: 1-202-463 6790
Fax: 1-202-463 8172
Email: abeaumont@agep.be

Mr Shuji IWATA
Chair Technical Committee
Japan Soft Drinks Association
Nihonbashi-Muromachi 3-3-3
Chuo Ward
Tokyo 103-0022
Phone: 81 3 3270 7300
Fax: 81 3 3270 7306
Email: info-isdc@j-sda.or.jp

Mr John MWANGI
Advisor
International Soft Drinks Council
c/o National Soft Drink Association
1101 16th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20036
Phone: 1-202-463 6790
Fax: 1-202-463 8172
Email: jomwangi@na.ko.com

**INTERNATIONAL SPECIAL DIETARY FOODS INDUSTRIES
FÉDÉRATION INTERNATIONALE DES INDUSTRIES
DES ALIMENTS DIÉTÉTIQUES**

Dr Andrée BRONNER
Secretary General
194 rue de Rivoli
F-75001 Paris
Phone: 33/(0)1 53458787
Fax: 33/(0)1-53458780
Email: andrée.bronner@wanadoo.fr

Ms Alice GRAVEREAUX
Scientific and Regulatory Affairs
194 rue de Rivoli
F-75001 Paris
Phone: 33/(0)1 53 458787
Fax: 33/(0)1 53 458780
Email: alice.gravereaux@wanadoo.fr

Ms Margaret CREEDON
194 rue de Rivoli
F-75001 Paris
Phone: 33/(0)1 53 458787
Fax: 33/(0)1 53 458780
Phone:
Email:.

Mr Marc DE SKOWRONSKI
Member of the Board of Directors
194 rue de Rivoli
F-75001 Paris
Phone: 33/(0)1 53 458787
Fax: 33/(0)1 53 458780
Email:

**INTERNATIONAL UNION OF FOOD SCIENCE AND
TECHNOLOGY
UNION INTERNATIONALE DE SCIENCE ET DE TECHNOLOGIE
ALIMENTAIRES
UNIÓN INTERNACIONAL DE CIENCIA Y TECNOLOGÍA DE
LA ALIMENTACIÓN**

Mr. Eduardo MENDEZ
Representative
Progreso 184-1
Col. Escandon
Mexico D.F. 11800
Phone: +52 55 55950916
Fax: +52 55 55980882
Email: emendezmx@terra.com.mx

**SECRETARIAT
SECRETARIAT
SECRETARÍA**

Dr Kazuaki MIYAGISHIMA
Secretary, Codex Alimentarius Commission
Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme
Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)
Viale delle Terme di Caracalla
00100 Rome
Italy
Phone: +39-06 570 54390
Fax: +39-06 570 54593
Email: kazuaki.miyagishima@fao.org

Ms Selma H. DOYRAN
Senior Food Standards Officer
Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme
Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)
Viale delle Terme di Caracalla
00100 Rome
Italy
Phone: +39-06 570 55826
Fax: +39-06 570 54593
Email: selma.doyran@fao.org

Ms Annamaria BRUNO
Food Standards Officer
Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme
Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)
Viale delle Terme di Caracalla
00100 Rome
Italy
Phone: +39-06 570 56254
Fax: +39-06 570 54593
Email: annamaria.bruno@fao.org

Mr Yoshihide ENDO
Food Standards Officer
Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme
Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)
Viale delle Terme di Caracalla
00100 Rome
Italy
Phone: +39-06 570 54796
Fax: +39-06 570 54593
Email: yoshihide.endo@fao.org

Dr Jeronimas MASKELIUNAS
Food Standards Officer
Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme
Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)
Viale delle Terme di Caracalla
00100 Rome
Italy
Phone: +39-06 570 53967
Fax: +39-06 570 54593
Email: jeronimas.maskeliunas@fao.org

Ms Gracia BRISCO LOPEZ
Food Standards Officer
Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme
Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)
Viale delle Terme di Caracalla
00100 Rome
Italy
Phone: +39-06 570 52700
Fax: +39-06 570 54593
Email: gracia.brisco@fao.org

Ms Anne BRETON
Associate Food Standards Officer
Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme
Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)
Viale delle Terme di Caracalla
00100 Rome
Italy
Phone: +39-06 570 56210
Fax: +39-06 570 54593
Email: anne.breton@fao.org

Mr John ALLAN III
Associate Food Standards Officer
Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme
Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)
Viale delle Terme di Caracalla
00100 Rome
Italy
Phone: +39-06 570 53283
Fax: +39-06 570 54593
Email: john.allan@fao.org

**LEGAL COUNSEL
CONSEILLER JURIDIQUE
ASESOR JURÍDICO**

Mr Antonio TAVARES
Senior Legal Officer
Legal Office
FAO
Viale delle Terme di Caracalla
00100 Rome
Italy
Phone: 39-06-570-55132
Fax: 06-57054408
Email: antonio.tavares@fao.org

Mr Gianluca BURCI
Senior Legal Officer
Office of the Legal Counsel
World Health organization
20 Avenue Appia
CH 1211 Geneva 27
Switzerland
Phone: 41-22-791 4754
Fax: 41-22 791 4158
Email: burcig@who.int

**FAO PERSONNEL
PERSONNEL DE LA FAO
PERSONAL DE LA FAO**

Mr Hartwig DE HAEN
Assistant Director-General
Economic and Social Department
FAO
Viale delle Terme di Caracalla
00100 Rome
Italy
Phone: 39-06-570-54110
Fax: 39-06-570-54110
Email: hartwig.dehaen@fao.org

Mr Ezzedine BOUTRIF
Officer-in-Charge, Food Quality and Standards Service
Food and Nutrition Division
Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)
Viale delle Terme di Caracalla
00100 Rome
Italy
Phone: +39-06 570 56156
Fax: +39-06 570 54593
Email: ezzedine.boutrif@fao.org

Dra Maria Lourdes COSTARRICA GONZALEZ
Senior Officer
Food and Nutrition Division
Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)
Viale delle Terme di Caracalla
00100 Rome
Italy
Phone: +39-06 570 56060
Fax: +39-06 570 54593
Email: lourdes.costarrica@fao.org

Mr Paul MERLIN
Food and Nutrition Division
Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)
Viale delle Terme di Caracalla
00100 Rome
Italy
Phone: +39-06 570 55854
Fax: +39-06 570 54593
Email: Paul.merlin@fao.org

**WHO PERSONNEL
PERSONNEL DE L'OMS
PERSONAL DE LA OMS**

Mr Denis AITKEN
Assistant Director-General and
Director of the Office of the Director-General
World Health Organization
20 Avenue Appia
CH-1211 Geneva 27
Phone: 41-22 791 2311
Fax: 41-22-791 4846
Email: aitkend@who.int

Dr Kerstin LEITNER
Assistant Director-General
Sustainable Development and Healthy Environments
World Health Organization
20, Avenue Appia
CH-1211 Geneva 27
Phone: 41-22-791 12899/74712
Fax:
Email: leitnerk@who.int

Dr Jørgen SCHLUNDT
Director
Food Safety Department
World Health Organization
20, Avenue Appia
CH-1211 Geneva 27
Phone: 41-22-791 3445
Fax: 41-22-791 4807
Email: schlundtj@who.int

Dr Wim VAN ECK
Senior Advisor to the Assistant Director-General SDE
Food Safety and Nutrition
Food Safety Department
World Health Organization
20, Avenue appia
CH-1211 Geneva 27
Phone: 41-22-791 3582
Fax: 41-22-791 4807
Email: vaneckw@who.int

Ms Mary VALLANJON
Liaison Officer
Food Safety Department
World Health Organization
20 Avenue Appia
CH-1211 Geneva 27
Phone: 41-22-791 2373
Fax: 41-22-791 4807
Email: vallanjonm@who.int

Ms Mariarosaria CARDINES
Codex Trust Fund Administrator
Food Safety Department
World Health Organization
20 Avenue Appia
CH-1211 Geneva 27
Phone: 41-22-791 3080
Fax: 41-22-791 4807
Email: cardinesm@who.int

Dr Angelika TRITSCHER
WHO Joint Secretary to JECFA and JMPR
International Programme on Chemical Safety
World Health Organization
20 Avenue Appia
Ch-1211 Geneva 27
Phone: 41-22-791 3569
Fax: 41-22-791 4848
Email: tritschera@who.int

Dr Genaro W. GARCIA, DVM:MPVM; PH.D
Regional Food Safety Adviser
Veterinary Public Health Unit
PAHO/WHO
Phone: 1-2020- 974 3193
Fax: 1-202-974 3331
Email: garciage@paho.org

Dr Peter BEN EMBAREK
Food Safety Department
World Health Organization
20 Avenue Appia
Ch-1211 Geneva 27
Phone: 41-22-791 4204
Fax: 41-22-791 4807
Email: benembarekp@who.int

Dr Gerald MOY
Food Safety Department
World health Organization
20 Avenue Appia
Ch-1211 Geneva 27
Phone: 41-22-791 3698
Fax: 41-22-791 4807
Email: moyg@who.int

Dr Jaap JANSEN
Scientist
Food Safety Department
World Health Organization
Avenue Appia 20
CH-1211 Geneva 27
Switzerland
Phone: 41 22 791 3568
Fax: 41 22 791 4807
Email: jansenj@who.int

Dr Kelebohile LEKOAPE
Scientist
Food Safety Department
World Health organization
Avenue Appia 20
CH-1211 Geneva 27
Phone: 41-22-791 4235
Fax: 41-22-791 4807
Email: lekoapek@who.int

Dr. Christine TAYLOR
Nutrition Scientist
International Programme on Chemical Safety
World Health Organization
Avenue Appia 20
CH-1211 Geneva 27
Switzerland
Phone: 41-22-791 5417
Fax: 41-22-791 4848
Email: taylorc@who.int

Dr Hajime TOYOFUKU
Scientist
Food Safety Department
World Health Organization
Avenue Appia 20
CH-1211 Geneva 27
Switzerland
Phone: 41-22-791 3556
Fax: 41-22-791 4807
Email: toyofukuh@who.int

Dr Hae Jung YOON
Scientist
Food Safety Department
World Health Organization
Avenue Appia 20
CH-1211 Geneva 27
Switzerland
Phone: 41-22-791 1434
Fax: 41-22-791 4807
Email: yoonh@who.int

Dr Awa AIDARA-KANE
Medical Officer
Programme of Strategy Development and Monitoring of Zoonoses, Foodborne Diseases and Kinetoplastidae
World Health Organization
Avenue Appia 20
CH-1211 Geneva 27
Phone: 41-22-791 2403
Fax: 41-22-791 4893
Email: aidarakanea@who.int

Dr Peter BRAAM
Scientist
Programme of Strategy Development and Monitoring of Zoonoses, Foodborne Diseases and Kinetoplastidae
World Health Organization
Avenue Appia 20
CH-1211 Geneva 27
Phone: 41-22-791 3882
Fax: 41-22-791 4893
Email: braamp@who.int

Dr Margaret MILLER
Scientist
Food Safety Department
World Health Organization
Avenue Appia 20
CH-1211 Geneva 27
Phone: 41-22-791 1067
Fax:
Email:

APPENDIX II

AMENDMENTS TO THE PROCEDURAL MANUAL

AMENDMENTS TO THE PROCEDURES FOR THE ELABORATION OF
CODEX STANDARDS AND RELATED TEXTS

Note: Throughout this text the word “Standard” is meant to include any of the recommendations of the Commission intended to be submitted to Governments for acceptance. Except for provisions relating to acceptance, the Procedures apply *mutatis mutandis* to codes of practice and other texts of an advisory nature.

INTRODUCTION

The full procedure for the elaboration of Codex standards is as follows.

- 1. The Commission shall implement a unified approach in the area of standards development by taking its decisions, based on a strategic planning process (“standards management”) (See Part 1 of this document).**
- 2. An on-going critical review shall ensure that proposals for new work and draft standards submitted to the Commission for adoption continue to meet the strategic priorities of the Commission and can be developed within a reasonable period of time, taking into account the requirements and availability of scientific expert advice (See Part 2 of this document).**
3. The Commission decides, taking into account the **outcome of the on-going critical review conducted by the Executive Committee**, that a standard should be elaborated and also which subsidiary body or other body should undertake the work. Decisions to elaborate standards may also be taken by subsidiary bodies of the Commission in accordance with the above-mentioned **outcome** subject to subsequent approval by the Commission at the earliest possible opportunity. The Secretariat arranges for the preparation of a “proposed draft standard” which is circulated to governments for comments and is then considered in the light of these by the subsidiary body concerned which may present the text to the Commission as a “draft standard”. If the Commission adopts the “draft standard” it is sent to governments for further comments and in the light of these and after further consideration by the subsidiary body concerned, the Commission reconsiders the draft and may adopt it as a “Codex standard”. The procedure is described in Part 3 of this document.
4. The Commission or any subsidiary body, subject to the confirmation of the Commission may decide that the urgency of elaborating a Codex standard is such that an accelerated elaboration procedure should be followed. While taking this decision, all appropriate matters shall be taken into consideration, including the likelihood of new scientific information becoming available in the immediate future. The accelerated elaboration procedure is described in Part 4 of this document.
5. The Commission or the subsidiary body or other body concerned may decide that the draft be returned for further work at any appropriate previous Step in the Procedure. The Commission may also decide that the draft be held at Step 8.
6. The Commission may authorise, on the basis of two-thirds majority of votes cast, the omission of Steps 6 and 7, where such an omission is recommended by the Codex Committee entrusted with the elaboration of the draft. Recommendations to omit steps shall be notified to Members and interested international organizations as soon as possible after the session of the Codex Committee concerned. When formulating recommendations to omit Steps 6 and 7, Codex Committees shall take all appropriate matters into consideration, including the need for urgency, and the likelihood of new scientific information becoming available in the immediate future.
7. The Commission may at any stage in the elaboration of a standard entrust any of the remaining Steps to a Codex Committee or other body different from that to which it was previously entrusted.

8. It will be for the Commission itself to keep under review the revision of “Codex standards”. The procedure for revision should, *mutatis mutandis*, be that laid down for the elaboration of Codex standards, except that the Commission may decide to omit any other step or steps of that Procedure where, in its opinion, an amendment proposed by a Codex Committee is either of an editorial nature or of a substantive nature but consequential to provisions in similar standards adopted by the Commission at Step 8.

9. Codex standards are published and governments are invited to notify the Commission’s Secretariat of the status or use of the Codex standard in accordance with their established legal and administrative procedures. They are also sent to international organizations to which competence in the matter has been transferred by their Member States (See Part 5 of this document). Details of notifications are published periodically by the Commission’s Secretariat.

PART 1. STRATEGIC PLANNING PROCESS

1. Taking into account the “*Criteria for the Establishment of Work Priorities*”, the strategic plan shall state broad priorities against which individual proposals for standards (and revision of standards) can be evaluated during the critical review process.

2. The strategic plan shall cover a six-year period and shall be renewed every two years on a rolling basis.

PART 2. CRITICAL REVIEW

Proposals to Undertake New Work or to Revise a Standard

1. Prior to approval for development, each proposal for new work or revision of a standard, shall be accompanied by a project document, prepared by the Committee or Member proposing new work or revision of a standard, detailing :

- the purposes and the scope of the standard;
- its relevance and timeliness;
- the main aspects to be covered ;
- an assessment against the *Criteria for the establishment of work priorities*;
- relevance to the Codex strategic objectives;
- information on the relation between the proposal and other existing Codex documents;
- identification of any requirement for and availability of expert scientific advice;
- identification of any need for technical input to the standard from external bodies so that this can be planned for;
- the proposed time-line for completion the new work, including the start date, the proposed date for adoption at Step 5, and the proposed date for adoption by the Commission ; the time frame for developing a standard should not normally exceed five years.

2. The decision to undertake new work or to revise standards shall be taken by the Commission taking into account a critical review conducted by the Executive Committee.

3. The critical review includes:

- examination of proposals for development/revision of standards, taking into account the “*Criteria for the Establishment of Work Priorities*”, the strategic plan of the Commission and the required supporting work of independent risk assessment;
- identifying the standard setting needs of developing countries;
- advice on establishment and dissolution of committees and task forces, including *ad hoc* cross-committee task forces (in areas where work falls within several committee mandates); and
- preliminary assessment of the need for expert scientific advice and the availability of such advice from FAO, WHO or other relevant expert bodies, and the prioritisation of that advice.

4. The decision to undertake new work or revision of individual maximum residue limits for pesticides or veterinary drugs, or the maintenance of the General Standard on Food Additives¹, the General Standard on contaminants and toxins in foods², the Food categorization system and the International numbering System, shall follow the procedures established by the Committees concerned and endorsed by the Commission.

Monitoring Progress of Standards Development

5. The Executive Committee shall review the status of development of draft standards against the time frame agreed by the Commission and shall report its findings to the Commission.
6. The Executive Committee may propose an extension of the time frame; cancellation of work; or propose that the work be undertaken by a Committee other than the one to which it was originally entrusted, including the establishment of a limited number of ad hoc subsidiary bodies, if appropriate.
7. The critical review process shall ensure that progress in the development of standards is consistent with the envisaged time frame, that draft standards submitted to the Commission for adoption have been fully considered at Committee level.
8. Monitoring shall take place against the time line deemed necessary and revisions in the coverage of the standard shall need to be specifically endorsed by the Commission.

This shall therefore include:

- monitoring of progress in developing standards and advising what corrective action should be taken;
- examining proposed standards from Codex committees, before they are submitted to the Commission for adoption :
 - for consistency with the mandate of Codex, the decisions of the Commission, and existing Codex texts;
 - to ensure that the requirements of the endorsement procedure have been fulfilled, where appropriate,
 - for format and presentation, and
 - for linguistic consistency.

PART 3: UNIFORM PROCEDURE FOR THE ELABORATION OF CODEX STANDARDS AND RELATED TEXTS

Steps 1, 2 and 3

- (1) The Commission decides, taking into account the **outcome of the critical review conducted by the Executive Committee**, to elaborate a World-wide Codex Standard and also decides which subsidiary body or other body should undertake the work. A decision to elaborate a World-wide Codex Standard may also be taken by subsidiary bodies of the Commission in accordance with the above mentioned **outcome**, subject to subsequent approval by the Commission at the earliest possible opportunity. In the case of Codex Regional Standards, the Commission shall base its decision on the proposal of the majority of Members belonging to a given region or group of countries submitted at a session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission.
- (2) The Secretariat arranges for the preparation of a proposed draft standard. In the case of Maximum Limits for Residues of Pesticides or Veterinary Drugs, the Secretariat distributes the recommendations for maximum limits, when available from the Joint Meetings of the FAO Panel of Experts on Pesticide Residues in Food and the Environment and the WHO Core Assessment Group on Pesticide Residues (JMPR), or the Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Food Additives (JECFA). **Any other relevant information regarding**

¹ including related methods of analysis and sampling plans

² including related methods of analysis and sampling plans

risk assessment work conducted by FAO and WHO should also be made available. In the cases of milk and milk products or individual standards for cheeses, the Secretariat distributes the recommendations of the International Dairy Federation (IDF).

- (3) The proposed draft standard is sent to Members of the Commission and interested international organizations for comment on all aspects including possible implications of the proposed draft standard for their economic interests.

Step 4

The comments received are sent by the Secretariat to the subsidiary body or other body concerned which has the power to consider such comments and to amend the proposed draft standard.

Step 5

The proposed draft standard is submitted through the Secretariat **to the Executive Committee for critical review and to the Commission** with a view to its adoption as a draft standard³. In taking any decision at this step, the Commission will give due consideration to **the outcome of the critical review and** to any comments that may be submitted by any of its Members regarding the implications which the proposed draft standard or any provisions thereof may have for their economic interests. In the case of Regional Standards, all Members of the Commission may present their comments, take part in the debate and propose amendments, but only the majority of the Members of the region or group of countries concerned attending the session can decide to amend or adopt the draft. In taking any decisions at this step, the Members of the region or group of countries concerned will give due consideration to any comments that may be submitted by any of the Members of the Commission regarding the implications which the proposed draft standard or any provisions thereof may have for their economic interests.

Step 6

The draft standard is sent by the Secretariat to all Members and interested international organizations for comment on all aspects, including possible implications of the draft standard for their economic interests.

Step 7

The comments received are sent by the Secretariat to the subsidiary body or other body concerned, which has the power to consider such comments and amend the draft standard.

Step 8

The draft standard is submitted through the Secretariat **to the Executive Committee for critical review and to the Commission**, together with any written proposals received from Members and interested international organizations for amendments at Step 8, with a view to its adoption as a Codex standard. In the case of Regional standards, all Members and interested international organizations may present their comments, take part in the debate and propose amendments but only the majority of Members of the region or group of countries concerned attending the session can decide to amend and adopt the draft.

PART 4: UNIFORM ACCELERATED PROCEDURE FOR THE ELABORATION OF CODEX STANDARDS AND RELATED TEXTS

Steps 1, 2 and 3

- (1) The Commission, on the basis of a two-thirds majority of votes cast, taking into account the **outcome of the critical review conducted by the Executive Committee**, shall identify those standards which shall be the

³ Without prejudice to **the outcome of the critical review conducted by the Executive Committee and/or** any decision that may be taken by the Commission at Step 5, the proposed draft standard may be sent by the Secretariat for government comments prior to its consideration at Step 5, when, in the opinion of the subsidiary body or other body concerned, the time between the relevant session of the Commission and the subsequent session of the subsidiary body or other body concerned requires such action in order to advance the work

subject of an accelerated elaboration process.⁴ The identification of such standards may also be made by subsidiary bodies of the Commission, on the basis of a two-thirds majority of votes cast, subject to confirmation at the earliest opportunity by the Commission.

- (2) The Secretariat arranges for the preparation of a proposed draft standard. In the case of Maximum Limits for Residues of Pesticides or Veterinary Drugs, the Secretariat distributes the recommendations for maximum limits, when available from the Joint Meetings of the FAO Panel of Experts on Pesticide Residues in Food and the Environment and the WHO Core Assessment Group on Pesticide Residues (JMPR), or the Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Food Additives (JECFA). **Any other relevant information regarding risk assessment work conducted by FAO and WHO should also be made available.** In the cases of milk and milk products or individual standards for cheeses, the Secretariat distributes the recommendations of the International Dairy Federation (IDF).
- (3) The proposed draft standard is sent to Members of the Commission and interested international organizations for comment on all aspects including possible implications of the proposed draft standard for their economic interests. When standards are subject to an accelerated procedure, this fact shall be notified to the Members of the Commission and the interested international organizations.

Step 4

The comments received are sent by the Secretariat to the subsidiary body or other body concerned which has the power to consider such comments and to amend the proposed draft standard.

Step 5

In the case of standards identified as being subject to an accelerated elaboration procedure, the draft standard is submitted through the Secretariat **to the Executive Committee for critical review and to the Commission**, together with any written proposals received from Members and interested international organizations for amendments, with a view to its adoption as a Codex standard. In taking any decision at this step, the Commission will give due consideration to any comments that may be submitted by any of its Members regarding the implications which the proposed draft standard or any provisions thereof may have for their economic interests.

GUIDE TO THE PROCEDURE FOR THE REVISION AND AMENDMENT OF CODEX STANDARDS

1. Proposals for the amendment or revision of Codex standards should be submitted to the Commission's Secretariat in good time (not less than three months) before the session of the Commission at which they are to be considered. The proposer of an amendment should indicate the reasons for the proposed amendment and should also state whether the proposed amendment had been previously submitted to and considered by the Codex committee concerned and/or the Commission. If the proposed amendment has already been considered by the Codex committee and/or Commission, the outcome of the consideration of the proposed amendment should be stated.
2. Taking into account such information regarding the proposed amendment, as may be supplied in accordance with paragraph 1 above, **and the outcome of the on-going critical review conducted by the Executive Committee**, the Commission will decide whether the amendment or revision of a standard is necessary. If the Commission decides in the affirmative, and the proposer of the amendment is other than a Codex committee, the proposed amendment will be referred for consideration to the appropriate Codex committee, if such committee is still in existence. If such committee is not in existence, the Commission will determine how best to deal with the proposed amendment. If the proposer of the amendment is a Codex committee, it would be open to the Commission to decide that the proposed amendment be circulated to governments for comments prior to further consideration by the sponsoring Codex Committee. In the case of an amendment proposed by a Codex Committee, it will also be open to the Commission to adopt the amendment at Step 5 or Step 8 as appropriate, where in its opinion the amendment is either of an editorial nature or of a substantive nature but consequential to provisions in similar standards adopted by it at Step 8.

⁴ Relevant considerations could include, but need not be limited to, matters concerning new scientific information; new technology(ies); urgent problems related to trade or public health; or the revision or up-dating of existing standards.

3. The procedure for amending or revising a Codex standard would be as laid down in paragraphs 5 and 6 of the Introduction to the Procedure for the Elaboration of Codex Standards (see page .. above).
4. When the Commission has decided to amend or revise a standard, the unrevised standard will remain the applicable Codex standard until the revised standard has been adopted by the Commission.

CRITERIA FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRPERSONS

By virtue of Article 7 of its Statutes, the Commission may establish such subsidiary bodies as it deems necessary for the accomplishment of its task.

The Member countries who shall be designated, under Rule X.10⁵, as responsible for appointing Chairpersons of subsidiary bodies established under Rule X.1(b)(i) and Rule X.1(b)(ii), shall retain the right to appoint a chairperson of their choice.

The following criteria may be considered during the selection of the appointee:

- to be a national of the member country responsible for appointing the chairperson of the Committee;
- to have a general knowledge in the fields of the subsidiary body concerned and to be able to understand and analyse technical issues;
- insofar as possible, to be able to serve in a continuing capacity;
- to be familiar with the system of Codex and its rules, and to have experience in the work of relevant international, governmental or non-governmental organizations;
- to be able to communicate clearly both orally and in writing in one of the working languages of the Commission;
- to have demonstrated ability in chairing meetings with objectivity and impartiality, and in facilitating consensus building;
- to exercise tact and sensitivity to issues of particular importance to members of the Commission;
- not to engage and/or not to have engaged in activities which could give rise to a conflict of interest on any item on the agenda of the Committee.

GUIDELINES TO HOST GOVERNMENTS OF CODEX COMMITTEES AND AD HOC INTERGOVERNMENTAL TASK FORCES

INTRODUCTION

By virtue of Article 7 of the Statutes of the Codex Alimentarius Commission and Rule X.1(b)⁶ of its Rules of Procedure, the Commission has established a number of Codex Committees and *ad hoc* Intergovernmental Task Forces to prepare standards in accordance with the Procedure for the Elaboration of Codex Standards and Coordinating Committees to exercise general coordination of its work in specific regions or groups of countries. The Rules of Procedure of the Commission shall apply, *mutatis mutandis*, to Codex Committees, Coordinating

⁵ 13th Edition of the Procedural Manual

⁶ 13th Edition of the Procedural Manual

Committees and *ad hoc* Intergovernmental Task Forces. The Guidelines applying to Codex Committees, as described in this Section, apply also to Coordinating Committees and to Codex *ad hoc* Intergovernmental Task Forces.

COMPOSITION OF CODEX COMMITTEES

MEMBERSHIP

Membership of Codex Committees is open to Members of the Commission who have notified the Director-General of FAO or WHO of their desire to be considered as members thereof or to selected members designated by the Commission. Membership of Regional Coordinating Committees is open only to Members of the Commission belonging to the region or group of countries concerned.

OBSERVERS

Any other Member of the Commission or any Member or Associate Member of FAO or WHO which has not become a Member of the Commission may participate as an observer at any Codex Committee if it has notified the Director-General of FAO or WHO of its wish to do so. Such countries may participate fully in the discussions of the Committee and shall be provided with the same opportunities as other Members to express their point of view (including the submission of memoranda), but without the right to vote or to move motions either of substance or of procedure. International organizations which have formal relations with either FAO or WHO should also be invited to attend in an observer capacity sessions of those Codex Committees which are of interest to them.

ORGANIZATION AND DUTIES

CHAIRPERSON

The Codex Alimentarius Commission will designate a member country of the Commission, which has indicated its willingness to accept financial and all other responsibility, as having responsibility for appointing a chairperson of the Committee. The member country concerned is responsible for appointing the chairperson of the Committee from among its own nationals. Should this person for any reason be unable to take the chair, the member country concerned shall designate another person to perform the functions of the chairperson for as long as the chairperson is unable to do so. A Committee may appoint at any session one or more rapporteurs from among the delegates present.

SECRETARIAT

A member country to which a Codex Committee has been assigned is responsible for providing all conference services including the secretariat. The secretariat should have adequate administrative support staff able to work easily in the languages used at the session and should have at its disposal adequate word processing and document reproducing equipment. Interpretation, preferably simultaneous, should be provided from and into all languages used at the session, and if the report of the session is to be adopted in more than one of the working languages of the Committee, then the services of a translator should be available. The Committee secretariat and the Joint FAO/WHO (Codex) Secretariat are charged with the preparation of the draft report in consultation with the rapporteurs, if any.

DUTIES AND TERMS OF REFERENCE

The duties of a Codex Committee shall include:

- (a) the drawing up of a list of priorities as appropriate, among the subjects and products within its terms of reference,
- (b) consideration of the types of safety and quality elements (or recommendations) to be covered, whether in standards for general application or in reference to specific food products,
- (c) consideration of the types of product to be covered by standards, e.g., whether materials for further processing into food should be covered,
- (d) preparation of draft Codex standards within its terms of reference,
- (e) reporting to each session of the Commission on the progress of its work and, where necessary, on any difficulties caused by its terms of reference, together with suggestions for their amendment.

- (f) the review and, as necessary, revision of existing standards and related texts on a scheduled, periodic basis to ensure that the standards and related texts within its terms of reference are consistent with current scientific knowledge and other relevant information.

SESSIONS

DATE AND PLACE

A member country to which a Codex Committee has been assigned is consulted by the Directors-general of FAO and WHO before they determine when and where a session of this Committee shall be convened.

The member country should consider arrangements for holding Codex sessions in developing countries.

INVITATIONS AND PROVISIONAL AGENDA

Sessions of Codex Committees and Coordinating Committees will be convened by the Directors-General of FAO and WHO in consultation with the chairperson of the respective Codex Committee. The letter of invitation and provisional agenda shall be prepared by the Secretary, Codex Alimentarius Commission, Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme, FAO, Rome, in consultation with the chairperson of the Committee for issue by the Directors-General to all Members and Associate Members of FAO and WHO or, in the case of Coordinating Committees, to the countries of the region or group of countries concerned, Codex Contact Points and interested international organizations in accordance with the official mailing lists of FAO and WHO. Chairpersons should, before finalizing the drafts, inform and consult with the national Codex Contact Point where one has been established, and, if necessary, obtain clearance from the national authorities concerned (Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Health, or as the case may be). The invitation and Provisional Agenda will be translated and distributed by FAO/WHO in the working languages of the Commission at least four months before the date of the meeting.

Invitations should include the following:

- (a) title of the Codex Committee,
- (b) time and date of opening and date of closing of the session,
- (c) place of the session,
- (d) languages to be used and arrangements for interpretation, i.e., whether simultaneous or not,
- (e) if appropriate, information on hotel accommodation,
- (f) request for the names of the chief delegate and other members of the delegation, and for information on whether the chief delegate of a government will be attending as a representative or in the capacity of an observer.

Replies to invitations will normally be requested to be sent to reach the chairperson as early as possible and in any case not less than 30 days before the session. A copy should be sent also to the Secretary, Codex Alimentarius Commission, Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme, FAO, Rome. It is of the utmost importance that by the date requested a reply to invitations should be sent by all those governments and international organizations which intend to participate. The reply should specify the number of copies and the language of the documents required.

The Provisional Agenda should state the time, date and place of the meeting and should include the following items:

- (a) adoption of the agenda,
- (b) if considered necessary, election of rapporteurs,
- (c) items relating to subject matter to be discussed, including, where appropriate, the step in the Commission's Procedure for the Elaboration of Standards at which the item is being dealt with at the session. There should also be reference to the Committee papers relevant to the item,
- (d) any other business,
- (e) consideration of date and place of next session,

- (f) adoption of draft report.

The work of the Committee and the length of the meeting should be so arranged as to leave sufficient time at the end of the session for a report of the Committee's transactions to be agreed.

ORGANIZATION OF WORK

A Codex or Coordinating Committee may assign specific tasks to countries, groups of countries or to international organizations represented at meetings of the Committee and may ask member countries and international organizations for views on specific points.

Ad hoc working groups established to accomplish specific tasks shall be disbanded once the tasks have been accomplished as determined by the Committee.

A Codex or Coordinating Committee may not set up standing sub-committees, whether open to all Members of the Commission or not, without the specific approval of the Commission.

PREPARATION AND DISTRIBUTION OF PAPERS

Papers for a session should be sent by the chairperson of the Codex Committee concerned at least two months before the opening of the session to the following:

- (i) all Codex Contact Points,
- (ii) chief delegates of member countries, of observer countries and of international organizations, and
- (iii) other participants on the basis of replies received. Twenty copies of all papers in each of the languages used in the Committee concerned should be sent to the Secretary, Codex Alimentarius Commission, Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme, FAO, Rome.

Papers for a session prepared by participants must be drafted in one of the working languages of the Commission, which should, if possible, be one of the languages used in the Codex Committee concerned. These papers should be sent to the chairperson of the Committee, with a copy to the Secretary, Codex Alimentarius Commission, Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme, FAO, Rome, in good time to be included in the distribution of papers for the session.

Documents circulated at a session of a Codex Committee other than draft documents prepared at the session and ultimately issued in a final form, should subsequently receive the same distribution as other papers prepared for the Committee.

Codex Contact Points will be responsible for ensuring that papers⁷ are circulated to those concerned within their own country and for ensuring that all necessary action is taken by the date specified.

Consecutive reference numbers in suitable series should be assigned to all documents of Codex Committees. The reference number should appear at the top right-hand corner of the first page together with a statement of the language in which the document was prepared and the date of its preparation. A clear statement should be made of the provenance (origin or author country) of the paper immediately under the title. The text should be divided into numbered paragraphs. At the end of these guidelines is a series of references for Codex documents adopted by the Codex Alimentarius Commission for its own sessions and those of its subsidiary bodies.

Members of the Codex Committees should advise the Committee chairperson through their Codex Contact Point of the number of copies of documents normally required.

Working papers of Codex Committees may be circulated freely to all those assisting a delegation in preparing for the business of the Committee; they should not, however, be published. There is, however, no objection to the publication of reports of the meetings of Committees or of completed draft standards.

⁷ See Uniform System of References for Codex Documents – p. 86 of the Procedural Manual.

GUIDELINES ON THE CONDUCT OF MEETINGS OF CODEX COMMITTEES AND AD HOC INTERGOVERNMENTAL TASK FORCES

INTRODUCTION

By virtue of Article 7 of the Statutes of the Codex Alimentarius Commission and Rule X.1(b)⁸ of its Rules of Procedure, the Commission has established a number of Codex Committees and *ad hoc* Intergovernmental Task Forces to prepare standards in accordance with the Procedure for the Elaboration of Codex Standards and Coordinating Committees to exercise general coordination of its work in specific regions or groups of countries. The Rules of Procedure of the Commission shall apply, *mutatis mutandis*, to Codex Committees, Coordinating Committees and *ad hoc* Intergovernmental Task Forces. The Guidelines applying to the conduct of meetings of Codex Committees as described in this Section apply also to those of Coordinating Committees and to those of Codex *ad hoc* Intergovernmental Task Forces.

CONDUCT OF MEETINGS

Meetings of Codex and Coordinating Committees shall be held in public unless the Committee decides otherwise. Member countries responsible for Codex and Coordinating Committees shall decide who should open meetings on their behalf.

Meetings should be conducted in accordance with the Rules of Procedure of the *Codex Alimentarius* Commission.

Only the chief delegates of members, or of observer countries or of international organizations have the right to speak unless they authorize other members of their delegations to do so.

The representative of a regional economic integration organization shall provide the chairperson of the Committee, before the beginning of each session, with a written statement outlining where the competence lies between this organization and its members for each item, or subparts thereof, as appropriate, of the provisional agenda, pursuant to the Declaration of Competence submitted according to Rule II of the Rules of Procedure of the Codex Alimentarius Commission by this organization. In areas of shared ("mixed") competence between this organization and its members, this statement shall make clear which party has the voting right.

Delegations and delegations from observer countries who wish their opposition to a decision of the Committee to be recorded may do so, whether the decision has been taken by a vote or not, by asking for a statement of their position to be contained in the report of the Committee. This statement should not merely use a phrase such as: "The delegation of X reserved its position" but should make clear the extent of the delegation's opposition to a particular decision of the Committee and state whether they were simply opposed to the decision or wished for a further opportunity to consider the question.

REPORTS

In preparing reports, the following points shall be borne in mind:

- (a) decisions should be clearly stated; action taken in regard to economic impact statements should be fully recorded; all decisions on draft standards should be accompanied by an indication of the step in the Procedure that the standards have reached;
- (b) if action has to be taken before the next meeting of the Committee, the nature of the action, who is to take it and when the action must be completed should be clearly stated;
- (c) where matters require attention by other Codex Committees, this should be clearly stated;
- (d) if the report is of any length, summaries of points agreed and the action to be taken should be included at the end of the report, and in any case, a section should be included at the end of the report showing clearly in summary form:
 - standards considered at the session and the steps they have reached;

⁸ 13th Edition of the Procedural Manual

- standards at any step of the Procedure, the consideration of which has been postponed or which are held in abeyance and the steps which they have reached;
- new standards proposed for consideration, the probable time of their consideration at Step 2 and the responsibility for drawing up the first draft.

The following appendices should be attached to the report:

- (a) list of participants with full postal addresses,
- (b) draft standards with an indication of the step in the Procedure which has been reached.

The Joint FAO/WHO Secretariat should ensure that, as soon as possible and in any event not later than one month after the end of the session, copies of the final report, as adopted in the languages of the Committee, are sent to all participants, and all Codex Contact Points.

DRAWING UP OF CODEX STANDARDS

A Codex Committee, in drawing up standards and related texts, should bear in mind the following:

- (a) the guidance given in the General Principles of the Codex Alimentarius;
- (b) that all standards and related texts should have a preface containing the following information:
 - the description of the standard or related text,
 - a brief description of the scope and purpose(s) of the standard or related text,
 - references including the step which the standard or related text has reached in the Commission's Procedures for the Elaboration of Standards, together with the date on which the draft was approved,
 - matters in the draft standard or related text requiring endorsement or action by other Codex Committees.
- (c) that for standards or any related text for a product which includes a number of sub-categories, the Committee should give preference to the development of a general standard or related text with specific provisions as necessary for sub-categories.

GUIDELINES TO CHAIRPERSONS OF CODEX COMMITTEES AND AD HOC INTERGOVERNMENTAL TASK FORCES

INTRODUCTION

By virtue of Article 7 of the Statutes of the Codex Alimentarius Commission and Rule X.1(b)⁹ of its Rules of Procedure, the Commission has established a number of Codex Committees and *ad hoc* Intergovernmental Task Forces to prepare standards in accordance with the Procedure for the Elaboration of Codex Standards and Coordinating Committees to exercise general coordination of its work in specific regions or groups of countries. The Rules of Procedure of the Commission shall apply, *mutatis mutandis*, to Codex Committees, Coordinating Committees and *ad hoc* Intergovernmental Task Forces. The Guidelines applying to the Chairpersons of Codex Committees as described in this Section apply also to those of Coordinating Committees and to those of Codex *ad hoc* Intergovernmental Task Forces.

DESIGNATION¹⁰

The Codex Alimentarius Commission will designate a member country of the Commission, which has indicated its willingness to accept financial and all other responsibility, as having responsibility for appointing a chairperson of the Committee. The member country concerned is responsible for appointing the chairperson of the Committee from among its own nationals. Should this person for any reason be unable to take the chair, the

⁹ 13th Edition of the Procedural Manual

¹⁰ Should the CCGP agree on draft criteria for the selection of Chairpersons, the new text could be inserted in this section.

member country concerned shall designate another person to perform the functions of the chairperson for as long as the chairperson is unable to do so.

CONDUCT OF MEETINGS

The chairperson should invite observations from members of the Committee concerning the Provisional Agenda and in the light of such observations formally request the Committee to adopt the Provisional Agenda or the amended agenda.

Meetings should be conducted in accordance with the Rules of Procedure of the Codex Alimentarius Commission. Attention is particularly drawn to Rule VII.7 which reads: "The provisions of Rule XII of the General Rules of FAO shall apply *mutatis mutandis* to all matters which are not specifically dealt with under Rule VII of the present Rules."

Rule XII of the General Rules of FAO, a copy of which will be supplied to all chairpersons of Codex and Coordinating Committees, gives full instructions on the procedures to be followed in dealing with voting, points of order, adjournment and suspension of meetings, adjournment and closure of discussions on a particular item, reconsideration of a subject already decided and the order in which amendments should be dealt with.

Chairpersons of Codex Committees should ensure that all questions are fully discussed, in particular statements concerning possible economic implications of standards under consideration at Steps 4 and 7.

Chairpersons should also ensure that the written comments, received in a timely manner, of members and observers not present at the session are considered by the Committee; that all issues are put clearly to the Committee. This can usually best be done by stating what appears to be the generally acceptable view and asking delegates whether they have any objection to its being adopted.

Chairpersons should use the statement submitted by the representatives of the regional economic integration organizations on the matters of respective competence between these organizations and their members in the conduct of meetings, including assessing of the situation with regard to the party which has the right to vote.

CONSENSUS¹¹

The chairpersons should always try to arrive at a consensus and should not ask the Committee to proceed to voting if agreement on the Committee's decision can be secured by consensus.

The *Procedure for the Elaboration of Codex Standards and Related Texts* allows for full discussion and exchange of views on the issue under consideration, in order to ensure the transparency of the process and arrive at compromises that would facilitate consensus.

Much of the responsibility for facilitating the achievement of consensus would lie in the hands of the Chairpersons.

When working out the means of progressing the work of a Committee, the chairperson should consider:

- (a) the need for timely progress in developing standards ;
- (b) the need to achieve consensus among the members as to the content of, and justification for, proposed standards;
- (c) the importance of achieving consensus at all stages of the elaboration of standards and that draft standards should, as a matter of principle, be submitted to the Commission for adoption only where consensus has been achieved at the technical level.

The chairperson should also consider implementing the following measures in order to facilitate consensus building in the elaboration of standards at the Committee stage:

- (a) ensuring that: (i) the scientific basis is well established on current data including, wherever possible, scientific data and intake and exposure information from the developing countries; (ii) where data from developing countries are not available, an explicit request for collecting and making available such data

¹¹ Reference is made to the *Measures to facilitate consensus* (Decision of the 26th Session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission (2003), 13th Edition of the Procedural Manual).

- is made; and (iii) where necessary, further studies are carried out in order to clarify controversial issues;
- (b) ensuring that issues are thoroughly discussed at meetings of the Committees concerned;
 - (c) organizing informal meetings of the parties concerned where disagreements arise, provided that the objectives of any such meetings are clearly defined by the Committee concerned and that participation is open to all interested delegations and observers in order to preserve transparency;
 - (d) requesting the Commission, where possible, for a redefinition of the scope of the subject matter being considered for the elaboration of standards in order to cut out issues on which consensus cannot be reached;
 - (e) ensuring that matters are not progressed from step to step until all relevant concerns are taken into account and adequate compromises worked out¹²;
 - (f) facilitating increased involvement and participation of developing countries.

GUIDELINES FOR THE INCLUSION OF SPECIFIC PROVISIONS IN CODEX STANDARDS AND RELATED TEXTS

PRINCIPLES FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF CODEX METHODS OF ANALYSIS

General Criteria for the Selection of Single-Laboratory Validated Methods of Analysis (to be included after the General Criteria)

Inter-laboratory validated methods are not always available or applicable, especially in the case of multi-analyte/multi substrate methods and new analytes. The criteria to be used to select a method are included in the General Criteria for the Selection of Methods of Analysis. In addition the single-laboratory validated methods must fulfil the following criteria:

- i. the method is validated according to an internationally recognized protocol (e.g. those referenced in the harmonized IUPAC Guidelines for Single-Laboratory Validation of Methods of Analysis)
- ii. the use of the method is embedded in a quality system in compliance with the ISO/IEC 17025: 1999 Standard or Principles of Good Laboratory Practice;

The method should be complemented with information on accuracy demonstrated for instance with:

- regular participation in proficiency schemes, where available;
- calibration using certified reference materials, where applicable;
- recovery studies performed at the expected concentration of the analytes;
- verification of result with other validated method where available.

Amendments to Analytical Terminology for Codex Use

Specificity: deleted

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

¹² This does not preclude square bracketing of parts of a text in the early stages of the elaboration of a standard, where there is consensus on the large majority of the text.

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

Accuracy (as a concept) and Accuracy (as a statistic) to be replaced with the following definition:

Accuracy: The closeness of agreement between a test result and the accepted reference value.

Note:

The term accuracy, when applied to a set of test results, involves a combination of random components and a common systematic error or bias component.

Trueness: The closeness of agreement between the average value obtained from a series of test results and an accepted reference value.

Notes:

- 1 The measure of trueness is usually expressed in terms of bias.
- 2 Trueness has been referred to as “accuracy of the mean”. This usage is not recommended.

Terms to Be Used in the Criteria Approach

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

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

DEFINITIONS FOR THE PURPOSE OF THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS

DEFINITIONS OF RISK ANALYSIS TERMS RELATED TO FOOD SAFETY

Definitions to be added

Food Safety Objective (FSO): The maximum frequency and/or concentration of a hazard in a food at the time of consumption that provides or contributes to the appropriate level of protection (ALOP).

Performance Objective (PO): The maximum frequency and/or concentration of a hazard in a food at a specified step in the food chain before the time of consumption that provides or contributes to an FSO or ALOP, as applicable.

Performance Criterion (PC): The effect in frequency and/or concentration of a hazard in a food that must be achieved by the application of one or more control measures to provide or contribute to a PO or an FSO.

DEFINITIONS FOR THE PURPOSE OF THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS

Definition to be added

Traceability/Product tracing: the ability to follow the movement of a food through specified stage(s) of production, processing and distribution.

APPENDIX III

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

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

Standard and Related Text	Reference	Status
Code of Practice on Good Animal Feeding	ALINORM 04/27/38; Appendix II and ALINORM 03/38A: Appendix II	Adopted with amendments to the Spanish version (see paras. 23-24)
Food Category System of the Codex General Standard for Food Additives	ALINORM 04/27/12; Appendix V, para. 68	Adopted with amendments (see para. 26)
Code of Practice for the Prevention and Reduction of Aflatoxin Contamination in Peanuts	ALINORM 04/27/12; Appendix XV, para. 140	Adopted
Code of Practice for the Prevention and Reduction of Lead Contamination in Food	ALINORM 04/27/12; Appendix XVI, para. 168	Adopted
Revisions to Table 1 of the Codex General Standard for Food Additives	ALINORM 04/27/12; Appendix VI, para. 81	Adopted (benzoates in food category 14.1.4 adopted on an interim basis)
Standard for Salted Atlantic Herring and Salted Sprat	ALINORM 04/27/18; Appendix II, para. 54	Adopted
Model Certificate for Fish and Fishery Products (sanitary certificate)	ALINORM 04/27/18; Appendix III, para. 68	Adopted with amendments (see para. 34)
Amendment to the Standard for Quick Frozen Lobsters	ALINORM 04/27/18; Appendix IV, para. 74	Adopted
Standard for Oranges	ALINORM 04/27/35; Appendix II, para. 18	Adopted
Code of Hygienic Practice for Milk and Milk Products	ALINORM 04/27/13; Appendix II, para. 53	Adopted with amendment (see paras. 45-46)
Guidelines for Use of Nutrition and Health Claims	ALINORM 04/27/22; Appendix III, para. 51	Adopted
Amendment to the Standard for Quick Frozen Fish Sticks (Fish Fingers), Fish Portions and Fish Fillets, Breaded or in Batter (Labelling Section)	ALINORM 04/27/22; Appendix II, para. 11	Adopted with a correction (see paras. 54-55)
Amendment to the Guidelines for the Production, Processing, Labelling and Marketing of Organically Produced Foods: Revised Annex 2 – Tables 1 and 2	ALINORM 04/27/22; Appendix IV, para. 75	Adopted with amendments (see paras. 56 and 59)
General Guidelines on Sampling	ALINORM 04/27/23; Appendix III, para. 25	Adopted with amendments (see para. 60)
Guidelines on Measurement Uncertainty	ALINORM 04/27/23; Appendix IV, para. 37	Adopted with amendments (see paras. 61 and 63)

Standard and Related Text	Reference	Status
Methods of Analysis for Additives and Contaminants	ALINORM 04/27/23; Appendix VI- Part E	Adopted
Methods of Analysis (for inclusion in the Standard of Olive Oils and Olive Pomace Oils)	ALINORM 04/27/23; Appendix VI- Part A	Adopted
Methods of Analysis (for inclusion in the Standard of Named Vegetable Oils)	ALINORM 04/27/23; Appendix VI- Part A	Adopted
MRLs for Pesticides	ALINORM 04/27/24; Appendix II, paras 60-175	Adopted with amendments (see para. 66)

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

Standard and Related Text	Reference	Status
Revisions to Table 1 of the Codex General Standard for Food Additives	ALINORM 04/27/12; Appendix VI, para. 81	Adopted
Specifications for the Identity and Purity of Food Additives (Category I) arising from the 61 st JECFA Meeting	ALINORM 04/27/12; Appendix XI, para. 99	Adopted
Amendments to the International Numbering System for Food Additives	ALINORM 04/27/12; Appendix XII, para. 103	Adopted
Code of Practice for Fish and Fishery Products (quick frozen coated fish products) ¹³	ALINORM 04/27/18, Appendix V, para. 113; ALINORM 06/27/13, paras. 13-14	Adopted
Principles and Guidelines for the Exchange of Information in Food Safety Emergency Situations	ALINORM 04/27/30; Appendix II, para. 61	Adopted with amendments (see para. 47)
MRLs for Pesticides	ALINORM 04/27/24; Appendix III, paras 60-175	Adopted with amendments (see para. 66)

¹³ The Code of Practice supersedes the provisions on fish products in the Code of Practice for Frozen Battered and/or Breaded Fishery Products (CAC/RCP 35-1985).

APPENDIX IV

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

Standard and Related Text	Reference	Status
Draft Maximum Levels of Cadmium in: rice, polished; wheat grain; potato; stem and root vegetables; leafy vegetables; and, other vegetables	ALINORM 04/27/12; para. 182; Appendix XXIII	Adopted at Step 5, except rice, polished (returned to Step 3) (see para. 68)
Draft Code of Practice for the Prevention and Reduction of Aflatoxin Contamination in Tree Nuts	ALINORM 04/27/12; para. 143; Appendix XX	Adopted
Draft Code of Practice for the Prevention and Reduction of Inorganic Tin Contamination in Canned Foods	ALINORM 04/27/12; para. 174; Appendix XXI	Adopted
Draft Guideline Levels for Radionuclides in Food for Use in International Trade	ALINORM 04/27/12; para. 204; Appendix XXII	Adopted
Draft Amendment to the Standard for Salted Fish and Dried Salted Fish of the <i>Gadidae</i> Family (Sampling and Analysis)	ALINORM 04/27/18; para. 183; Appendix VI	Adopted
Draft Code of Practice for Fish and Fishery Products (aquaculture)	ALINORM 04/27/18, Appendix V, para. 113; ALINORM 06/27/13, paras. 13-14	Adopted
Draft Standard for Tomatoes	ALINORM 04/27/35; para. 56; Appendix IV	Adopted
Draft Guidelines for Evaluation of Acceptable Methods of Analysis	ALINORM 04/27/23; para. 54; Appendix V	Adopted
Draft Standard for a Blend of Evaporated Skimmed Milk and Vegetable Fat	ALINORM 04/27/11; Para. 46, Appendix III	Adopted
Draft Standard for a Blend of Skimmed Milk and Vegetable Fat in Powdered Form	ALINORM 04/27/11; Para. 46, Appendix IV	Adopted
Draft Standard for a Blend of Sweetened Condensed Skimmed Milk and Vegetable Fat	ALINORM 04/27/11; Para. 46, Appendix V	Adopted
Draft Standard for Cheddar (C-1)	ALINORM 04/27/11; Para. 79, Appendix VI	Adopted

Standard and Related Text	Reference	Status
Draft Standard for Danbo (C-3)	ALINORM 04/27/11; Para. 79, Appendix VII	Adopted
Draft revised Standard for Whey Cheeses	ALINORM 04/27/11; Para. 100, Appendix XXII	Adopted
Draft Guidelines for Vitamin and Mineral Supplements	ALINORM 04/27/26; para. 61; Appendix IV	Adopted
Draft Standard for Infant Formula (Section A)	ALINORM 04/27/26; para. 100; Appendix V	Adopted
Draft Revised Standard for Processed Cereal-Based Foods for Infants and Young Children	ALINORM 04/27/26; para. 130; Appendix VI	Adopted
Draft Maximum Residue Limits (MRLs) for Pesticides	ALINORM 04/27/24; paras 60-175 and Appendix IV	Adopted

APPENDIX V

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

Standard and Related Text	Reference
Maximum Levels for Food Additives (Codex General Standard for Food Additives)	ALINORM 04/27/12, para 83, Appendix VII
Code of Hygienic Practice for Dried Milk (CAC/RCP 31-1983)†	ALINORM 04/27/13, para. 53
Codex Maximum Residue Limits	ALINORM 04/27/24, paras 60-175 and Appendix V
Packing media (Composition and Labelling) (CAC/GL 35-1985)*	ALINORM 03/41 para 106 and Appendix V ALINORM 03/27, para 52 and Appendix IV
Sampling Plans for Prepackaged Foods (AQL 6.5) (CODEX STAN 233-1969)‡	ALINORM 04/27/23, para. 25

† Replaced by the Code of Hygienic Practice for Milk and Milk Products

* Replaced by the Guidelines for Packing Media/Canned Fruits (CAC/GL 51-2003)

‡ Replaced by the General Guidelines on Sampling

The Commission took note of the omission in the Appendix VII of ALINORM 03/41 of two Maximum Levels below revoked by the 26th Session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission:

Standard and Related Text	Reference
Maximum Level for lead in butter	ALINORM 03/12, para. 135
Maximum Level for lead in milk fat	ALINORM 03/12A, para. 148

APPENDIX VI

**LIST OF NEW WORK APPROVED BY THE TWENTY-SEVENTH SESSION OF THE
CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION**

Responsible Committee	Standard and Related Text	Job Code¹⁴
	Proposal for the New <i>Ad Hoc</i> Intergovernmental Task Force on Foods Derived from Biotechnology (see Appendix VIII)	
CCASIA	Proposed Draft Standard for Ginseng Products	N01-2004
CCASIA/CCCPL	Proposed Draft Standard for Fermented Soybean Paste (Doenjang)	N02-2004
CCASIA/CCCPL	Proposed Draft Standard for Hot Pepper Fermented Soybean Paste (Gochujang)	N03-2004
CCFICS	Proposed Draft Appendices to the Guidelines on the Judgement of Equivalence of Sanitary Measures Associated with Food Inspection and Certification	N04-2004
CCFICS	Proposed Draft Principles for Electronic Certification	N05-2004
CCFICS	Proposed Draft Guidelines for Risk-based Inspection of Imported Foods	N06-2004
CCFAC	Proposed Draft Sampling Plans for Aflatoxins in Almonds, Brazil nuts, Hazelnuts and Pistachios	N07-2004
CCFAC	Proposed Draft Maximum Levels for 3-MCPD (Chloropropanol) in Acid Hydrolyzed Vegetables Proteins (acid-HVPs) and Acid HVP Containing Products	N08-2004
CCFAC	Proposed Draft Revision of the Codex General Standard for Contaminants and Toxins in Foods	N09-2004
CCFH	Proposed Draft Revision of the Recommended International Code of Practice for Foods for Infants and Children (CAC/RCP 21-1979 – amended 1981)	N10-2004
CCPR	Priority List for the establishment of MRLs for certain pesticides	
CCPR	Limited Revision of the Codex Classification of Foods and Animal Feeds (1993)	N11-2004
CCGP	Revision of the Definition of “Food” in the Procedural Manual	N12-2004

¹⁴ The Job Code will be used to facilitate the Critical Review, namely monitoring progress of standards development.

APPENDIX VII

**LIST OF DISCONTINUATION OF WORK APPROVED BY THE TWENTY-SEVENTH
SESSION OF THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION**

Responsible Committee	Standards and Related Text
CCFFP	Proposed Draft Model Certificate for Fish and Fishery Products (other certificates)
CCFFP	Establishment of a list of predatory fish
CCFICS	Proposed Draft Guidelines on the Judgement of Equivalence of Technical Regulations Associated with Food Inspection and Certification Systems
CCMH	Proposed Draft Annex on Risk-Based Post-Mortem Examination Procedures for Meat
CCMH	Proposed Draft Annex on Microbiological Verification of Process Control of Meat Hygiene
CCFAC	Proposed draft (Step 3) and draft (Step 6) food additive provisions of the Codex General Standard for Food Additives (GSFA)
CCFAC	Proposed Draft Code of Practice for the Safe Use of Active Chlorine
CCFAC	Proposed Draft Maximum Level for deoxynivalenol
CCFAC	Draft Maximum Levels for cadmium in fruits; meat of cattle, pigs, sheep, and poultry; horse meat; herbs, fungi (edible); celeriac; soybeans (dry); and, peanuts.

APPENDIX VIII

**TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE AD HOC INTERGOVERNMENTAL TASK FORCE ON
FOODS DERIVED FROM BIOTECHNOLOGY**

Objectives

To develop standards, guidelines or recommendations, as appropriate, for foods derived from modern biotechnology or traits introduced into foods by modern biotechnology, on the basis of scientific evidence, risk analysis and having regard, where appropriate, to other legitimate factors relevant to the health of consumers and the promotion of fair practices in the food trade.

Time frame

The Task Force shall complete its work within four years. The Task Force should submit a full report in 2009.

Terms of Reference

- (a) To elaborate standards, guidelines, or other principles, as appropriate, for foods derived from modern biotechnology, taking account, in particular, of the Principles for the Risk Analysis of Foods derived from Modern Biotechnology;
- (b) To coordinate and closely collaborate, as necessary, with appropriate Codex Committees within their mandate as relates to foods derived from modern biotechnology; and
- (c) To take account of existing work carried out by national authorities, FAO, WHO, other international organizations and other relevant international fora.

APPENDIX IX

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

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

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

CX 801 *ad hoc* Codex Intergovernmental Task Force on Fruit and Vegetable Juices Brazil

Ad hoc Intergovernmental Task Force established by the 27th Session of the Commission

CX 802 *ad hoc* Codex Intergovernmental Task Force on Foods derived from Biotechnology Japan¹⁵

¹⁵ Subject to confirmation by the Government of Japan

APPENDIX X

**OPINION OF THE LEGAL OFFICES OF FAO AND WHO ON THE LEGAL ASPECTS
INVOLVED IN THE QUESTIONS RAISED BY
THE COMMITTEE ON MILK AND MILK PRODUCTS¹⁶**

INTRODUCTION

1. At its Sixth Session, held in Auckland, New Zealand, 26-30 April 2004, the Codex Committee on Milk and Milk Products (CCMMP) discussed the possibility of elaborating an individual cheese for parmesan but was not able to reach agreement on whether or not to proceed with this work. The Committee agreed to the following text in respect of specific questions to be asked to the Codex Alimentarius Commission:

“The majority of the CCMMP present at the 6th Session are of the opinion that the name ‘Parmesan’ is and has been generic for quite some time. On the other hand, the denomination ‘Parmigiano-Reggiano’ is officially registered as a Protected Designation of Origin (PDO) by the European Community. The EC currently considers that there is a ‘indissoluble relationship’ between the words ‘Parmigiano-Reggiano’ and ‘Parmesan’.

Reference to EC legislation is preventing a decision on the establishment of a world wide standard for Parmesan Cheese by the CCMMP. Further, the inability to reach a decision on this issue is hindering the work of the CCMMP on this matter and might have important horizontal implications for work in other Codex Committees.

Two questions are addressed to the Commission.

- 1. To what extent, if any, should a PDO recognized in EC legislation for a product otherwise considered to be generic by the majority of the members present be grounds for rejecting elaboration of a Codex standard when in the opinion of the majority of members present existing criteria for acceptance of new work have been met?*
- 2. Should aspects of intellectual property protection e.g. trademarks, certification marks, geographical indications (GI’s) or PDO’s be considered as legitimate criteria by Codex when deciding on acceptance of new work or adopting standards?*

If the answers to both questions are that these matters are not legitimate considerations for CCMMP, will the CAC request that the CCMMP begin new work on the promulgation of a standard for Parmesan Cheese?”

2. The Legal Offices of FAO and WHO were asked to offer their views on the legal aspects involved in the questions raised.

3. Prior to examining the questions raised, in order to place them in a correct perspective, it would be useful to recall the relevant provisions of the Codex Alimentarius Commission’s mandate and procedures governing the decision to elaborate a standard, as well as past consideration of the issues at hand within the Codex Alimentarius Commission.

¹⁶ This document was made available to the 27th session of the Commission as LIM.15 document.

RELEVANT PROVISIONS OF THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION'S MANDATE AND PROCEDURES GOVERNING THE DECISION TO ELABORATE A STANDARD

4. Under the terms of its Statutes, the Codex Alimentarius is responsible for making proposals on all matters pertaining to the implementation of the Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme, the purpose of which is:

- (a) protecting the health of the consumers and ensuring fair practices in food trade;
- (b) promoting coordination of all food standards work undertaken by international governmental and non-governmental organizations;
- (c) determining priorities and initiating and guiding the preparation of draft standards through, and with the aid of, appropriate organizations;
- (d) finalizing standards elaborated under (c) above and, after acceptance by governments, publishing them in a Codex Alimentarius, either as regional or world-wide standards, together with international standards already finalized by other bodies under (b) above, wherever this is practicable; and
- (e) amending published standards, after appropriate survey, in the light of developments.

5. The Codex Alimentarius Commission has developed procedures for the elaboration of Codex Standards and related texts as set out in the Procedural Manual. Under these procedures, the Commission decides, taking into account the Criteria for the Establishment of Work Priorities, to elaborate a world-wide Codex Standard and also decides which subsidiary body or other body should undertake the work. Under such criteria, when a Codex Committee proposes to elaborate a standard 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 following criteria applicable to commodities:

- (a) consumer protection from the point of view of health and consumer practices¹⁷;
- (b) volume of production and consumption in individual countries and volume and pattern of trade between countries;
- (c) diversification of national legislations and apparent resultant or potential impediments to international trade;
- (d) international or regional market potential;
- (e) amenability of the commodity to standardization;
- (f) coverage of the main consumer protection and trade issues by existing or proposed general standards;
- (g) number of commodities which would need separate standards indicating whether raw, semi processed or processed; and
- (h) work already undertaken by other international organizations in their field.

PAST CONSIDERATION OF THE MATTER BY THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION

6. The issue of whether the Commission could adopt standards with respect to commodities protected under geographical denominations was the subject of much debate in the Sixties and early Seventies. At its Ninth Session, held in 1971, the Commission, after having noted the complexity of the questions connected with "*appellations d'origine*", agreed that some consideration should be given to this subject by the Executive Committee at its next session, insofar as the work of the Commission was concerned, in the light of background material to be made available by the Legal Office of FAO.

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The phrase should read: "consumer protection from the point of view of health and fraudulent practices".

7. The Legal Office of FAO prepared an information note entitled “*Appellations d’origine and international food standards*”. The document reviewed past discussions on the matter within Codex Alimentarius Commission and its subsidiary bodies, international instruments relevant to the protection of “*appellations d’origine*” and the relevant provisions of the Codex Alimentarius. The document indicated that the general provisions on the elaboration of standards did not contain any rules on the matter. On the one hand, the “*mere elaboration and adoption of a standard without special regard to the protection recognized in certain countries for a given name can in no way alter the law or detract from existing international obligations of those countries. If a government should find that acceptance of a standard would be incompatible with such laws or international obligations, it may wish to decline to accept the standard (...) On the other hand, the rules governing the work of the Codex Alimentarius Commission do not contain any provision which would enable these countries to prevent the elaboration and adoption of standards for the varieties concerned and under the names which are at present protected in their territory on the basis of national legislation or by virtue of bilateral or multilateral agreements, such as the Lisbon Agreement or the Stresa Convention*”. The document further indicated that “*the introduction of a special clause whereby countries accepting a standard may be allowed to maintain the status quo with regard to the protection for certain names, is neither prescribed nor excluded by any of the rules covering the work of the Codex Alimentarius Commission*”.

8. At its Tenth Session, held in 1974, the Commission examined the issue of “*appellation d’origine*” in relation to the work of the Commission in some detail. The Commission noted that the matter had been discussed by the Executive Committee at its May 1972 Session and that it was a question which had arisen in the Committee of Government Experts on the Code of Principles concerning Milk and Milk Products. The Commission noted the recommendation of the Executive Committee on the matter¹⁸. In particular, the Commission agreed with the view of the Executive Committee that it was not essential to arrive at a definite recommendation at this stage since the controversial issues had been resolved within the Joint FAO/WHO Committee of Government Experts on the Code of Principles concerning Milk and Milk Products on a pragmatic basis and might not arise again in the immediate future. Eventually, in 1978, the Committee of Government Experts on the Code of Principles concerning Milk and Milk Products, completed work on the Standard for Extra Hard Grating Cheese which was adopted as Codex STAN C-35-1978.

9. At its Second Session, in 1996, the Codex Committee on Milk and Milk Products, considered a proposal of Germany to elaborate a new individual cheese standard for “*Parmesan*” and requested Germany to identify products in question and prepare a paper on trade statistics and justification for the elaboration of the Standard for consideration by the Committee at its next session. France and the International Dairy Federation offered to collaborate with Germany (ALINORM 97/11, paragraph 87). At its Third Session in 1998, the Committee noted the request of Italy to delete consideration of a Codex standard for “*Parmesan*” from the Provisional Agenda on the basis that Parmesan (Parmigiano Reggiano) was recognized all over the world. In view of the decision taken at the Second Session, the Committee decided to consider its elaboration as scheduled under Agenda Item 11 (ALINORM 99/11, paragraph 4). The proposal on the matter (CX/MMP 98/11) mentioned, *inter alia*, that Parmesan was a generic name and there is no clear definition of the product at international level. There was considerable trade on cheese under this denomination. The document referred to difficulties to provide statistical data from official sources on the production and marketing of Parmesan as in the majority of countries it was not recorded as a separate item but it was covered by headings such as “*hard cheese*” or “*grated cheese*” or cheese in general. Data provided by the International Dairy Federation indicated that Parmesan cheese was produced in 11 countries; consumed in 19 and that 6 countries had a legal standard. Production was at least 64,620 tons and exports amounted to 11,577 tons.

¹⁸ The Executive Committee considered the matter on the basis of the document that had been prepared by the FAO Legal Office. The Executive Committee proposed a solution “*which would permit the elaboration and adoption of a Codex standard while at the same time safeguarding the interest of those countries who wished to maintain protection of the appellation d’origine. This might be achieved by the introduction of an alternative name (apart from the appellation d’origine) and of a special clause whereby countries accepting the Standard would be allowed to maintain the status quo with regard to the protection of the appellation d’origine. This special clause would enable governments to accept the standard for the commodity concerned with a declaration 1. that the name as appellation d’origine will be reserved to the products produced in the area of origin in accordance with the traditional local requirements, and 2. that products corresponding to the standard but manufactured outside that area will have to be sold on their territory under an alternative name. The inclusion in the standard itself of such an enabling clause and of the alternative name would avoid doubts and disputes as to the validity of any declarations that may be made to this effect by countries accepting the standard. It would also enable a potential importing country in whose territory the appellation d’origine is protected on the basis of a multilateral or bilateral agreement to accept the international standard in a manner compatible with pre-existing international obligations*”.

10. Due to time constraints the matter was deferred to the Fourth session of the Committee in 2000. At the Fourth session, the Delegation of Portugal, speaking on behalf of the member States of the European Community, and in view of continuing EC discussions on the question relating to the denomination "Parmesan", indicated that it was premature for the Committee to make a decision at this time. Several delegations and the observer from IDF stated that, utilizing the Criteria for the Elaboration or Revocation of Individual Standards for Cheeses and the data contained in CX/MMP 00/18, the elaboration of a standard for "Parmesan" would be justified. Notwithstanding the opinion of several delegations, the Committee agreed that discussions concerning the possibility of a new individual cheese standard for "Parmesan" would be deferred until its next session where it would consider whether or not to proceed with work on the basis of CX/MMP 00/18 and preliminary texts of a standard as contained in CX/MMP 00/18-Add.1 (ALINORM 01/11, paragraphs 132-133).

11. At its Fifth Session in 2002, the delegation of Spain, speaking on behalf of the Member States of the European Community present at the Session, requested the postponement of the consideration of the elaboration of a standard, in view of ongoing negotiations within the Community related to the use of the term "Parmesan". It was also suggested that the Codex Standard for Extra Hard Grating Cheese (Codex STAN C-35) could be revised, thereby avoiding the naming issue. Other delegations strongly supported the elaboration of a Codex Standard for Parmesan Cheese, and noted that information submitted and compiled in support of the elaboration of a standard was more than adequate to address the Codex Criteria for the Establishment of Work Priorities applicable to commodities, including a large volume of production and trade between countries, diverse national legislation with potential impediments to international trade and substantial market potential. It was also noted that regardless of the negotiations within the Community, a Codex standard would apply to all 165 member states of the Codex Alimentarius Commission, The Committee could not reach a consensus position and therefore, postponed the consideration of the elaboration of a proposed draft Codex Standard for Parmesan until its next meeting. The delegation of the United States objected to this decision (ALINORM 03/11, paragraphs 124-126). At its Sixth Session in 2004, the Committee raised the two questions.

FIRST QUESTION: TO WHAT EXTENT, IF ANY, SHOULD PDO RECOGNIZED IN EC LEGISLATION FOR A PRODUCT OTHERWISE CONSIDERED TO BE GENERIC BY THE MAJORITY OF THE MEMBERS PRESENT BE GROUNDS FOR REJECTING ELABORATION OF A CODEX STANDARD WHEN, IN THE MAJORITY OF MEMBERS PRESENT EXISTING CRITERIA FOR ACCEPTANCE OF THE NEW WORK HAVE BEEN MET?

12. The above-mentioned provisions of the Statutes of the Codex Alimentarius Commission, the provisions on the elaboration of Codex Standards and related texts and the Criteria for the Establishment of Work Priorities (Cf. paragraphs 4 to 5 of this document) do not contain any clauses whereby, in deciding whether a standard should be prepared, under the above reference framework, the Commission and its subsidiary committees should be restricted by any national or related legislation regarding protection of geographical indications adopted by its Members. It may be of interest to recall that the same views on this matter were presented in 1972 by the Legal Office of FAO (Cf. paragraph 7 of this document).

13. Accordingly, the fact that Parmigiano-Reggiano is registered as a Protected Designation of Origin by the European Community would not preclude a majority of the Members of the Codex Alimentarius Commission from deciding to elaborate a Codex standard on Parmesan cheese, if applicable criteria for acceptance of new work have been met.

SECOND QUESTION: SHOULD ASPECTS OF INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY PROTECTION E.G. TRADEMARKS, CERTIFICATION MARKS, GEOGRAPHICAL INDICATIONS (GI'S) OR PDO'S BE CONSIDERED AS LEGITIMATE CRITERIA BY CODEX WHEN DECIDING ON ACCEPTANCE OF NEW WORK OR ADOPTING STANDARDS?

14. When deciding to elaborate a standard on a particular commodity, the Commission is required to act under the framework established by its mandate, the procedures for the elaboration of standards and the Criteria for the Establishment of Work Priorities and to take into account the criteria laid down in that framework.

15. From a legal point of view, insofar as this would not be precluded or incompatible with these provisions, the Commission could take into consideration additional criteria not listed among those criteria. As reflected

earlier in this document, it would be entirely open to the Commission to take into account criteria of political convenience when deciding whether or not to proceed with the elaboration of a particular standard.

16. In the same vein, the Commission could decide to take into consideration criteria and aspects related to intellectual property protection such as trade marks, certification marks, geographical indications or protected designations of origin, when deciding to elaborate a particular standard. However, this would be done at the discretion of the Commission and not as a result of any specific legal requirement arising from its mandate, from the procedures for the elaboration of standards or from the Criteria for the Establishment of Work Priorities. Furthermore, the possibility for the Commission to do so would have to take into account the following two legal parameters.

17. First, at the Sixth Session of the Codex Committee on Milk and Milk Products, references were made to work in process under the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (the so-called TRIPS Agreement). Under Article 22 of the TRIPS Agreement a minimum level of protection is established in respect of all goods for geographical indications which identify a good as originating in the territory of a Member where a given quality, reputation or other characteristic of the good is essentially attributable to its geographic origin. Under that Article geographical indications have to be protected in order to avoid misleading the public and to prevent unfair competition. A special, reinforced regime is established for geographical indications for wines and spirits in Article 23. As a result of the so-called Doha mandate, work is under way within the WTO on issues related to the extension of the higher level of protection beyond wines and spirits but no consensus on this matter has yet been reached. Once this work is completed, any results might be taken into account by Codex Members when reaching their decisions within the Codex Alimentarius Commission.

18. Second, following on the above observation, the rights and obligations of the Members of the Codex Alimentarius Commission derive from their membership of FAO or WHO and their decision to become Members of the Commission. Consequently, such rights and obligations are defined by the relevant statutory provisions of the Codex Alimentarius Commission which do not foresee, neither in their letter, nor in the practice developed thereunder, that aspects related to intellectual property protection be taken into consideration when deciding to undertake work on a particular standard. Consequently, within the Codex Alimentarius Commission, its Members are expected to act under the legal framework set forth above, as long as that framework is not amended with a view to introducing other criteria. A different approach to issues of the nature of that under consideration, would be likely to undermine the autonomy and integrity of the mandate of the Codex Alimentarius Commission.

19. In view of the foregoing considerations, from a strictly legal point of view, there are no requirements to the effect that aspects of intellectual property protection e.g. trademarks, certification marks, geographical indications (GI's) or PDO's be considered as criteria to be taken into consideration by Codex when deciding on acceptance of new work or adopting standards.

20. The above considerations are obviously without prejudice to the fulfilment of all relevant criteria and procedural requirements for the elaboration of standards, including the need for a document on the basis of which the Commission would take its decision.