

Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme

CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION

REPORT OF THE THIRTIETH SESSION

Rome, 2-7 July 2007



World Health
Organization



Food and Agriculture
Organization of
the United Nations

Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme

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WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION
FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

Rome, 2007

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JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME

CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION

Thirtieth Session

FAO Headquarters, Rome, Italy, 2–7 July 2007

Report

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Commission:

- a) Adopted amendments to the Rules of Procedure and other amendments to the Procedural Manual;
- b) Adopted 44 new or revised Codex standards or related texts;
- c) Approved a number of new work proposals and proposals for discontinuation of work;
- d) Noted the Codex budget proposals for 2008-09 and expressed its strong desire that FAO and WHO allocate, to the Codex programme, a budget level that would allow the Secretariat to conserve, at least, the same purchasing power as in the 2006-07 biennium; and made recommendations on the use of Russian and Portuguese in selected Codex meetings, subject to certain conditions;
- e) Adopted the Strategic Plan 2008-2013 of the Codex Alimentarius Commission;
- f) Noted with satisfaction the progress made in implementing the proposals based on the recommendations from the Codex Evaluation (2002); agreed to some principles to streamline the Codex committee structure and session planning, while requesting the Executive Committee to follow up on other pending issues;
- g) Agreed to re-activate the Codex Committee on Natural Mineral Waters to update the provisions on health-related substances in the current standard;
- h) Supported continued cooperation and coordination with international governmental and non-governmental organizations; recommended that FAO and WHO study the possibility of reviewing or updating FAO and WHO Agreements with OIE, as might be required; and requested the Codex Secretariat to identify, in cooperation with the Legal Offices of FAO and WHO, any practical problems affecting the cooperation between Codex and OIE that might need to be addressed in a pragmatic manner;
- i) Expressed its appreciation to FAO and WHO and to the donors making financial contribution to the Codex Trust Fund;
- j) Expressed its appreciation to FAO and WHO for their ongoing activities in support of Codex, namely provision of scientific advice and capacity building in food safety and quality;
- k) Elected the following Officers of the Commission and other members of the Executive Committee:
 - **Chairperson:** Mr Claude J.S. Mosha (United Republic of Tanzania),
 - **Vice-Chairpersons:** Ms Karen Hulebak (USA), Ms. Noraini Mohd. Othman (Malaysia) and Mr Wim van Eck (the Netherlands)
 - **Regional Coordinators:** Ghana, Indonesia, Switzerland, Mexico, Tunisia and Tonga
 - **Other Members:** Mali, Japan, United Kingdom, Argentina, Jordan, Canada, New Zealand
- l) Designated/confirmed the host governments of Codex subsidiary bodies, including Malaysia as new host country for the Committee on Fats and Oils

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INTRODUCTION

1. The Codex Alimentarius Commission held its Thirtieth Session at FAO Headquarters, Rome, Italy, from 2-7 July 2007. Dr Claude J. S. Mosha (Tanzania), Chairperson of the Commission presided over the Session, assisted by the Vice-Chairpersons, Ms Noraini Mohd. Othman (Malaysia), Dr Karen Hulebak (United States of America) and Dr Wim van Eck (Netherlands). The Session was attended by 516 delegates from 122 Member countries and 1 Member Organisation, 40 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 J. M. Sumpsi, Assistant Director-General, Agriculture and Consumer Protection Department, FAO and Dr G. Moy, Scientist, Department of Food Safety, Zoonoses and Foodborne Disease, WHO on behalf of Ms Weber-Mosdorf, Assistant Director-General, Sustainable Development and Healthy Environments, WHO, respectively.
3. A minute's silence was observed in memory of Mr Graham Kermodé, Joint Secretary of the Commission from 1964 to 1983, who had played an important role in the setting up and early running of the Codex Alimentarius Commission.

Division of Competence

4. The Commission noted the division of competence between the European Community and its Member States, according to paragraph 5, Rule II of the Procedure of the Codex Alimentarius Commission, as presented in document CAC/30 LIM/2.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA (Agenda Item 1)¹

5. The Commission adopted the Provisional Agenda as its Agenda for the Session.
6. At the request of the Delegation of Colombia, the Commission agreed to discuss, under Agenda Item 20, "Other Business", if time allowed, the necessity of circulating Codex documents simultaneously in all working languages.
7. The Commission, upon the proposal of the Delegation of Switzerland, the host country for the Codex Committee on Natural Mineral Waters and with a view to facilitating the Commission's discussion on the subject matter under Agenda Item 13, agreed to convene an in-session working group under the chairmanship of Switzerland, opened to all interested members and observers and working in English only, to review the comments submitted in response to the Circular Letter (CL) 2006/13-NMW and to consider whether an amendment to the Codex Standard for Natural Mineral Waters was necessary and, if affirmative, how to proceed.

REPORT BY THE CHAIRPERSON ON THE 59th SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (Agenda item 2)²

8. In accordance with Rule V.7 of the Rules of Procedure, the Chairperson reported to the Commission on the outcome of the 59th Session of the Executive Committee, as follows.
9. The Chairperson recalled that the Executive Committee had not met since the 29th Session of the Commission and therefore had considered both the Critical Review of standards and related texts submitted to the Commission for adoption and the monitoring of standards development. It had recommended adoption of all the texts proposed for adoption and made some recommendations of a general nature, especially as regards food additives. As regards new work, some general recommendations had also been made considering the preparation of project documents and specific comments on individual proposals.
10. As regards the structure and mandate of Codex Committees the Executive Committee had considered the Proposal related to commodity work of regional committees (Proposal 8 of CL 2006/29-CAC) and

¹ ALINORM 07/30/1 and ALINORM 07/30/1A Rev.1

² ALINORM 07/30/3

recommended a revised text for this Proposal, which had been used in the consideration of the Proposed Draft Standards and proposals for new work originating from the Coordinating Committee for Asia.

11. The Executive Committee had considered in detail financial and budgetary matters and had proposed a revised version of the Draft Strategic Plan 2008-2013, taking into account the comments from Coordinating Committees and further discussion during the session.

12. In accordance with Rule IX.6, the Executive Committee had considered the application of five international non-governmental organizations and had recommended to the Directors-General of FAO and WHO to grant them Observer status with the Codex Alimentarius Commission.

13. The Commission noted that this report was presented for information with the understanding that the recommendations made by the Executive Committee on specific questions would be considered under the relevant Agenda items.

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

14. The Commission noted the reports of the Coordinating Committees, as presented by their respective Coordinators. The Coordinators expressed their gratitude for the capacity building activities of FAO and WHO and the Codex Trust Fund, while expressing the wish that such activities would continue in order to facilitate the participation of countries in Codex work. The Coordinating Committees had discussed food legislation and food control systems, consumer participation, the use of Codex standards, the Draft Strategic Plan, and had expressed their views on issues of interest to their regions.

FAO/WHO Coordinating Committee for Africa

15. The Delegation of Morocco informed the Commission that the Coordinating Committee for Africa had endorsed a Strategic Plan to enhance participation of countries of the region in Codex and was developing a regional plan of action for the CCAFRICA together with a set of indicators for evaluation and a mechanism for monitoring its progress. A website with a discussion forum had been developed and was operational within the region. Several countries in the region were harmonising national legislation with Codex standards, although some difficulties still existed in the process and countries in the region still faced difficulties in accessing international markets due to the fact that importing countries adopted more stringent standards than Codex standards.

FAO/WHO Coordinating Committee for Asia

16. The Delegation of the Republic of Korea reported the progress of the four commodity standards under elaboration by the Coordinating Committee for Asia and noted that the Proposed Draft Standard for Gochujang and the Proposed Draft Standard for Ginseng Product had been forwarded to the Commission for adoption at Step 5, with the recommendation by the Committee to finalize these standards in relevant Commodity Committees. The Committee further agreed to request the Commission for approval of new work on two commodity standards. The Committee had initiated the consideration of the Strategic Plan for CCASIA, with the goal of strengthening the food safety infrastructure of the countries of the region.

FAO/WHO Coordinating Committee for Latin America and the Caribbean

17. The Delegation of Argentina informed the Commission about different Codex related activities held in conjunction with the Coordinating Committee, including the development of a project platform to enhance food quality and safety in the region as a follow-up to the recommendations of the FAO/WHO Regional Conference on Food Safety in the Americas. Other activities aimed at improving communication within the region included the enhancement of the CCLAC webpage (www.cclac.org); the establishment of electronic fora to discuss Codex matters of interest to the region and the development of e-learning tools, and presently the second online course to increase knowledge about Codex had been initiated. In addition, the Delegation highlighted some of the matters of interest to the region such as the establishment of and compliance with Codex maximum residue limits for pesticides, and the matters associated with the availability of data to set Codex MRLs for pesticides and the criteria for the establishment of such MRLs.

³ ALINORM 07/30/28, ALINORM 07/30/15, ALINORM 07/30/36, ALINORM 07/30/19, ALINORM 07/30/40, ALINORM 07/30/32

FAO/WHO Coordinating Committee for Europe

18. The Delegation of Switzerland indicated that the Coordinating Committee had recognised the need to further encourage participation from countries outside the European Union; had supported Codex work on the implementation of the Global Strategy on Diet, Physical Activity and Health; had stressed the importance of risk analysis for food control; and had urged FAO/WHO to allocate sufficient resources to allow Codex to fulfil its mandate, especially as regards Coordinating Committees. A website to foster intra-regional cooperation had been created (www.codexeurope.ch) and three regional training courses had been organized. The Delegation noted that food legislation was well harmonized within the European Community and the European Economic Area and that it was a long standing practice in Europe to involve consumers in food legislation, food control and Codex matters.

FAO/WHO Coordinating Committee for the Near East

19. The Delegation of Jordan informed the Commission that the Coordinating Committee had advanced three draft regional standards for final adoption and was working on the proposed draft Regional Guidelines for Street-Vended Foods. The Committee had endorsed the recommendations of the 28th Session of the Commission regarding the role and activities of Regional Coordinating Committees and recommended that the Committee on General Principles should seek to define the respective roles of the Coordinators and members of the Executive Committee elected on a geographical basis. It had supported the adoption of the draft Strategic Plan 2008-2013 of the Commission; had expressed its appreciation to FAO and WHO for their work in the area of scientific advice; and supported various coordinating activities in the region.

FAO/WHO Coordinating Committee for North America and the South West Pacific

20. The Delegation of New Zealand, on behalf of the Delegation of Samoa, absent, presented the report and indicated that the Coordinating Committee had made several specific comments on the draft Strategic Plan 2008-2013 and on the review of the Structure and Mandate of Codex Committees and Task Forces. The Committee also discussed the status of implementation of the Strategic Plan for the CCNASWP, the objectives of which included the improvement of coordination and communication of regional activities on Codex and the promotion of participation of all members countries of the region in the activities of the Committee. The Delegation congratulated Samoa for the excellent work carried out as Coordinator and wished to the delegate of Samoa a very prompt recovery.

AMENDMENTS TO THE PROCEDURAL MANUAL OF THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION (Agenda Item 4)⁴

Proposed Amendments to the Rules of Procedure

Amendments concerning the role of coordinators and members elected on a geographical basis

21. The Commission determined that the quorum specified in Rule VI.7 for the amendment of the Rules of Procedure was constituted⁵. The Commission noted that there was general support for the amendments to Rules IV. Coordinators, Rule V. Executive Committee and Rule XI. Subsidiary Bodies, as proposed by the Committee on General Principles. In accordance with Rule VIII.7 and XV.1 of the Commission's Rules of Procedure and Rule XII.7 of the General Rules of FAO, the Commission agreed to proceed to a single roll call vote for all amendments, as they all concerned the role of coordinators and members elected on a geographical basis, with the following results.

Votes in favour: Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Benin, Bhutan, Botswana, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cote d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guinea, Honduras, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Islamic Republic of Iran, Ireland, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kenya,

⁴ ALINORM 07/30/4, ALINORM 07/30/4A (comments of Islamic Republic of Iran, CIAA), ALINORM 07/30/4A-Add.1 (comments of Brazil), CAC/30 LIM/9 (comments of Ghana)

⁵ The number of Codex Member Countries [174] / 2 + 1 = 88

Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lithuania, Malawi, Malaysia, Mali, Malta, Mexico, Morocco, Mozambique, Netherlands, New Zealand, Niger, Norway, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tanzania, Thailand, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United States of America, Vanuatu, Viet Nam, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Votes against:	None
Abstaining:	Bolivia, Nigeria
Tally:	99 votes cast, 99 in favour, 0 against, 2 abstentions (two-thirds majority required: 66)
Result:	The amendments were adopted

22. The Commission noted that the amendments to the Rules of Procedure would enter into force only after their approval by the Directors-General of FAO and WHO (Rule XVI). The amendments to the Rules as adopted by the Commission are presented in Appendix II to the present report.

23. The Delegation of Italy subsequently indicated that it was in agreement with the amendment proposed.

Proposals to Amend Other Sections of the Procedural Manual

Amendments to the Procedures for the Elaboration of Codex Standards and Related texts - *Guide to the Procedure for the Revision and Amendment of Codex Standards and Arrangements for the Amendments of Codex Standards Elaborated by Codex Committees which have been adjourned sine die*

24. The Delegation of Colombia, supported by other delegations, expressed the view that the provisions for methods of analysis and sampling should be considered as revisions rather than amendments as they were of a substantial nature and could create technical barriers to trade.

25. The Delegation indicated that the current text in the Procedural Manual in the Spanish version did not refer to "updating" but only to "finalization" of methods of analysis. The Commission noted that the current text in the English version was identical and that the changes to the proposed text resulted from the discussion in the Committee on General Principles.

26. The Secretariat recalled that methods of analysis and sampling were considered for adoption by the Commission as any other provision in Codex standards, and noted that the text under consideration specified that the Commission had the final authority to decide whether an amendment was of an editorial or substantive nature.

27. Some delegations pointed out that these questions had been discussed in detail in the Committee on General Principles and supported the current text. After some discussion, the Commission agreed to adopt the text as proposed, recalling that it would have the authority to decide on any proposed amendment or revision.

Amendments to the *General Principles of the Codex Alimentarius*

28. The Delegation of Argentina expressed its reservation on paragraph 3 on the Nature of Codex Standards, as, in their view, it undermined the importance of Codex standards as an international reference in the framework of the WTO.

Amendment to the *Principles Concerning the Participation of International Non-Governmental Organizations in the Work of the Codex Alimentarius Commission*

Proposed amendments to the *Format for Commodity Standards*

29. The Commission adopted the above amendments as proposed.

Draft Risk Analysis Principles Applied by the Committee on Pesticide Residues

30. The Delegation of Argentina was of the view that the proposed procedures for the periodic review and criteria for deletion of the Maximum Residue Limits (MRLs) were not fully based on science and did not take sufficiently into consideration the concerns and situation of developing countries. The Delegation

pointed out that the issue to be addressed related to the procedures applied by the Committee on Pesticide Residues and should not be confused with the trade related problems that had also been discussed in the Committee and were also under consideration in the WTO Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures, and proposed to return the document for further consideration by the Committee on Pesticide Residues. This view was supported by several delegations. Some delegations also pointed out that the revocation of MRLs in the framework of Codex should be based on the relevant new scientific evidence and not on commercial considerations or on a pre-established revision period, especially as Codex standards were an international reference in the framework of the WTO SPS Agreement.

31. Several other delegations pointed out that all aspects of the document had been discussed at length in the Committee on Pesticide Residues and clearly described the procedures applied in the Committee, as well as its relationship with the JMPR. These delegations stressed the need to adopt the Draft Risk Analysis Principles in order to document the risk analysis policies and procedures applied to the establishment of MRLs, in accordance with the earlier decision of the Commission.

32. After some discussion, the Commission adopted the document as proposed, with the understanding that, in accordance with the Strategic Plan, this matter could be further considered when the Committee on General Principles reviewed all relevant texts on risk analysis policies applied by Codex Committees as a whole, in order to ensure consistency throughout Codex.

33. The Delegations of Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Guatemala, India, Indonesia, Jamaica, Panama, Paraguay, and Peru expressed their reservation on this decision, not only because what is mentioned above but also because in their view consensus had not been reached.

Proposed Draft Risk Management Methodologies, including Risk Assessment Policies in the Committee on Residues of Veterinary Drugs in Foods

34. The Delegation of Australia, while supporting the adoption of the text, expressed the view that when reviewing the risk analysis policies applicable to the Codex Committees concerned, the Committee on General Principles should review the provisions on data protection and confidentiality in order to ensure consistency throughout Codex. The Commission adopted the document as proposed.

Proposed Amendment of the Principles for the Establishment or Selection of Codex Sampling Procedures

Proposed Procedure for Consideration of the Entry and Review of Food Additive Provisions in the General Standard for Food Additives

Proposed amendments to harmonise the text concerning the membership of the Coordinating Committee for Europe with that of the other Coordinating Committees

Proposed Amendments to the Terms of Reference for the Committee on Food Additives

Proposed Amendments to the Terms of Reference for the Committee on Contaminants in Foods

Proposed Amendments to the Risk Analysis Principles Applied by the Codex Committee on Food Additives and Contaminants

Proposed Amendments to the CCFAC Policy for Exposure Assessment of Contaminants and Toxins in Foods or Food Groups

Proposed Definition for Codex Maximum Level for a Contaminant in a Food or Feed Commodity

35. The Commission adopted the above texts as proposed.

Proposed Amendments to the Format for Codex Commodity Standards – Food Additives and Relations between Commodity Committees and General Committees

36. The Commission recalled that the proposed changes to the *Relations between Commodity Committees and General Committees* applied only to additives and that, if they were adopted, the current provisions applicable to contaminants would be lost, and noted that the Executive Committee had recommended to defer the adoption of the amendment proposed, with the understanding that the Secretariat would review the current provisions and prepare a revised proposed amendment addressing both additives and contaminants.

37. Some delegations expressed the view that it would be preferable to adopt the proposed text at the present session as it was necessary in order to clarify the relations between Commodity Committees and the Committee on Food Additives, although it would result in the deletion of the provisions applicable to contaminants in the immediate future. It was however recognised that similar provision for contaminants should be developed for inclusion in the *Relations between Commodity Committees and General Committees*. The Commission therefore adopted the provisions applicable to additives as proposed, and recommended that the Committee on Contaminants in Foods develop necessary provisions for contaminants, on the basis of a draft to be prepared by the Secretariat.

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

DRAFT STANDARDS AND RELATED TEXTS AT STEP 8 OF THE PROCEDURE (Agenda Item 5)⁶

39. The Commission **adopted** all of the Draft Standards and Related Texts submitted by its subsidiary bodies at Step 8 (including those submitted at Step 5 with a recommendation to omit Steps 6 and 7 and those submitted at Step 5 of the Accelerated Procedure) as presented in Appendix IV to this report.

40. The following paragraphs provide additional information on the comments made and the decisions taken on certain items.

Contaminants in Foods

Draft Maximum Levels for Tin in Canned Foods (other than beverages) and in Canned Beverages⁷

41. The Committee **adopted** the draft Maximum Levels and agreed to include them in Schedule I of the General Standard for Contaminants and Toxins in Foods (GSCTF), with the understanding that the existing maximum levels for tin in certain canned foods included in Schedule I of the GSCTF would be replaced by the adopted maximum levels.

42. The Delegation of the European Community maintained its reservation expressed at the First Session of the Codex Committee on Contaminants in Foods, stating that the proposed maximum levels for tin might lead to the PTWI set by JECFA being exceeded in certain vulnerable groups, that the maximum levels for tin should be set as low as reasonably achievable and that the technological need did not justify the proposed levels.

Proposed Draft Code of Practice for the Prevention and Reduction of Ochratoxin A Contamination in Wine (N05-2006)⁸

43. The Committee **adopted** the proposed draft Code of Practice at Step 8, omitting Steps 6 and 7, with some editorial changes in the English text.

⁶ ALINORM 07/30/5; ALINORM 07/30/3; ALINORM 07/30/5A (comments of Argentina, Australian, Bolivia, Brazil, European Community, Ecuador, Guatemala, Iran, Lebanon, Mexico, Peru, United States of America, CIAA, IADSA, ISDI and WPTC); ALINORM 07/30/5A Corr. (comments of Argentina); CAC/30 LIM/3 (comments of France, Malaysia, Peru, South Africa and Sri Lanka), CAC/30 LIM/7 (comments of European Community, Guatemala, Indonesia, Philippines and Switzerland); CAC/30 LIM/12 (comments of France); CAC/30 LIM/15 (comments of Kenya); CAC/30 LIM/17 (comments of the United States of America); CAC/30 LIM/18 (comments of Honduras)

⁷ ALINORM 07/30/41, Appendix IX

⁸ ALINORM 07/30/41, Appendix VIII

Food Additives

*Draft and Proposed Draft Food Additive Provisions of the General Standard for Food Additives (GSFA)*⁹

44. The Commission noting the recommendations of the 59th Session of the Executive Committee, within the framework of the Critical Review, **agreed** that: (i) no consequential changes should be made to commodity standards at this stage when adopting food additive provisions in the GSFA, recognizing that inconsistencies would exist between the GSFA and commodity standards until the General Standard would be finalized; (ii) the food additive provisions in Annex 1 of CX/EXEC 09/59/2 be forwarded by the Codex Committee on Food Additive (CCFA) to active commodity committees as appropriate; and (iii) the CCFA give the highest priority to the completion of the GSFA.¹⁰

45. In view of the above decision and of the difficulty of the CCFA to simultaneously work on the completion of the GSFA and address the food additive provisions in the commodity standards, the Commission agreed to suspend the following decision taken at its 29th Session:

*When provision for additives for inclusion into the GSFA result in amendments to additive provisions in Codex standards, consequential amendments should be made to the relevant standards and that the report of CCFAC should include a table showing the existing food additive provisions in Codex standards.*¹¹

46. The Commission **adopted** the draft and proposed draft food additive provisions of the GSFA as proposed by the 39th Session of the CCFA, noting the reservation of the Delegation of Cuba with regard to the provisions for alitame (INS 956) in food category 01.1.2 “Dairy-based drinks, flavoured and/or fermented (e.g. chocolate milk, cocoa, egnog, drinking yoghurt, whey-based drink)”.

*Proposed Draft Amendments to the International Numbering (INS) System for Food Additives*¹²

47. The Commission noted that a number of amendments to the INS system adopted at the current session should be reflected in the food additive provisions of existing commodity standards and requested the Codex Secretariat to revise the INS numbers in commodity standards accordingly.

Fish and Fishery Products

*Draft Code of Practice for Fish and Fishery Products (Sections on Quick Frozen Coated Products, Salted Fish and relevant Definitions)*¹³

48. The Commission **adopted** the Draft Sections with the amendments proposed by the Committee on Food Hygiene to Sections 10.4 and 10.5 Processing Operations for Molluscan Shellfish and Coated Shrimp, respectively, and to Section 11.4.4 Dry Salting and Section 11.5.3 Weighing, Wrapping and Packaging.

Fresh Fruits and Vegetables

*Draft Standard for Table Grapes and its proposed draft Sections 2.1.2 - Maturity Requirements and 3.1 - Minimum Bunch Weight*¹⁴

49. The Delegation of the United States of America, while not opposing the adoption of the Standard, expressed its reservation on the provisions for maturity requirements, stating that the uniform approach applied to Section 2.1.2 and the values therein did not reflect maturity requirements for all table grape varieties and producing regions in the world.

⁹ ALINORM 07/30/12 Rev, Appendix VII

¹⁰ ALINORM 07/30/3, para. 8

¹¹ ALINORM 06/29/41, para. 42, point (ii)

¹² ALINORM 07/30/12 Rev, Appendix XIII

¹³ ALINORM 07/30/18, Appendix II

¹⁴ ALINORM 07/30/35, Appendices IV and V

50. The Commission **adopted** the draft Standard for Table Grapes at Step 8 and the proposed draft Sections 2.1.2 - Maturity Requirements and 3.1- Minimum Bunch Weight at Step 5/8, with the omission of Steps 6 and 7, for inclusion in the Standard.

Food Hygiene

Draft Guidelines on the Application of General Principles of Food Hygiene to the Control of Listeria monocytogenes in Foods¹⁵

51. The Commission **adopted** the Draft Guidelines on the Application of General Principles of Food Hygiene to the Control of *Listeria monocytogenes* in Foods with amendments, as proposed by Brazil and Guatemala in their written comments, to reinsert “ready-to-eat foods” in the title and to insert a reference to the *General Standard for the Labelling of Prepackaged Foods* in Section 9.3.

Food Import and Export Inspection and Certification Systems

Proposed Draft Revision to the Guidelines for Generic Official Certificate Formats and Design, Production, Issuance and Use of Certificates¹⁶

52. The Delegation of Australia, speaking as the Chairperson of the Codex Committee on Food Import and Export Inspection and Certification Systems, stated that, after a careful review of the written comments submitted, the following amendments could be taken on board with a view to improving the document:

- Amend the title to read: “Guidelines for Design, Production, Issuance and Use of Generic Official Certificates”, in order to better reflect the content of the guidelines.

- Amend the first sentence of paragraph 18 as follows to avoid translation issues with the term “trade sample”:

“A consignment consisting of a food sample intended for evaluation, testing or research in the importing country ~~may be described using a term such as “trade sample”~~ should be clearly identified according to its intended use.”

- Amend the beginning of paragraph 34 for clarification as follows:

“Where, in exceptional cases justified by ~~immediate~~ a documented public health problem ~~concern~~, [...]”.

53. The Commission noted that additionally several editorial corrections to the Spanish version would be made in the final version of the text.

54. The Commission **adopted** the Proposed Draft Revision to the Guidelines at Steps 5/8, with the omission of Steps 6 and 7, with the amendments indicated above.

Fats and Oils

Draft Standard for Fat Spreads and Blended Spreads¹⁷

55. The Commission **adopted** the Draft Standard with the amendments made in the endorsement process by the Committee on Food Additives and the Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling. In particular, the Commission recommended that the Committee on Fats and Oils reconsider the levels of annatto extracts in fat spreads and other relevant products in existing standards to take into account the new ADIs established by JECFA.

¹⁵ ALINORM 07/30/13, Appendix III

¹⁶ ALINORM 07/30/30, para. 39 and Appendix II

¹⁷ ALINORM 07/30/17, Appendix II

General Principles

*Proposed Draft Working Principles for Risk Analysis for Food Safety for Application by Governments*¹⁸

56. The Commission briefly recalled the history of the proposed draft document which had begun as a general document on the application of risk analysis principles and had then been split into a document on *Working Principles for Risk Analysis for Application in the Framework of the Codex Alimentarius*, which was subsequently adopted by the Commission at its 26th session (2003), and the proposed draft principles intended for application by governments, which had been discussed for several sessions in the Committee on General Principles (CCGP).

57. Several delegations stated that while not being opposed to the adoption of the text at Step 5, they had reservations on adopting it at Steps 5/8. They felt that while significant progress had been made in a physical working group and in the last session of the CCGP, not all comments had been taken into account and there was still room for improving the text. Some delegations, referring to the 59th Session of the Executive Committee,¹⁹ felt that the document should be circulated for comments at Step 6 to allow for more time before its finalization.

58. The Delegations of Chile, Mexico, Paraguay and South Africa expressed their reservation with respect to the procedure adopted in the CCGP, whereby comments on the proposals from the working group were not accepted, which was not consistent with the Guidelines on Physical Working Groups.

59. Many delegations and one Observer supported adoption of the Proposed Draft Principles at Steps 5/8. They expressed the view that the text was the fruit of long-lasting work in the CCGP and contained important guidance for governments to be made available to Codex members without delay. Some delegations noted that Codex was the only organisation among the “three sisters” under the WTO SPS agreement that had not as yet adopted such principles.

60. The Commission **adopted** the Proposed Draft Principles at Steps 5/8, with the omission of Steps 6 and 7. The Commission noted the reservations of the delegations of Costa Rica, Mexico, Paraguay and Thailand, who requested another round of discussion on this document before final adoption, on the decision to omit Steps 6 and 7, as well as the reservations of Argentina, Costa Rica, Paraguay and Thailand with the respect to the inclusion of the first sentence of paragraph 12 of the Proposed Draft Principles.

Coordinating Committee for Near East

*Draft Regional Standards for Canned Humus with Tehena, for Foul Medames and for Tehena*²⁰

61. The Commission **adopted** all three Standards at Step 8, with the amendments proposed by Lebanon improving the clarity of the texts, especially in Arabic, with the understanding that their sections on methods of analysis and sampling would be considered by the Commission after their endorsement by the Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling.

Nutrition and Foods for Special Dietary Uses

*Draft Revised Standard for Infant Formula and Formula for Special Medical Purposes Intended for Infants*²¹

62. The Delegation of Côte d'Ivoire indicated that the reference to good hygienic practice and other provisions in Section 9.5 “Information for Use” did not provide sufficiently detailed guidance for safe preparation and use of powdered infant formula and proposed to reference the recently published WHO/FAO *Guidelines on the Safe Preparation, Storage and Handling of Powdered Infant Formula*, which provided useful information for customers on safe handling and use of powdered infant formula and which had not

¹⁸ ALINORM 07/30/33 para. 89 and Appendix VIII

¹⁹ ALINORM 07/30/3, para. 13

²⁰ ALINORM 07/30/40, Appendices II, III and IV

²¹ ALINORM 07/30/26, Appendix II; ALINORM 07/30/3 para. 15

been available during finalization of the Standard by the Committee on Nutrition and Foods for Special Dietary Uses. The Representative of WHO proposed, instead, to make a reference, in the Section on Hygiene, to the WHO/FAO *Guidelines* in order to better protect infants. These proposals were supported by the Delegation of Singapore and several other delegations and observers.

63. Several other delegations and one observer pointed out that the standard had been under revision during a very long period of time, that the current text had been agreed by consensus at the last session of the CCNFSDU and that introduction of the reference to the WHO/FAO *Guidelines* might open some technical issues which should be dealt with by the Committee. It was noted that the Committee on Food Hygiene has been revising the Code of Hygienic Practice for Powdered Infant Formula for Infants and Young Children and that the WHO/FAO *Guidelines* could be fully taken into account in the revision of the Code.

64. After some discussion, the Commission agreed to **adopt** the Standard at Step 8 as proposed by the CCNFSDU with some editorial changes in Spanish and deletion of the reference to arginine in Annex I containing the list of essential amino acids, with the understanding that the section on methods of analysis would be reviewed by the next session of the CCNFSDU with a view to its submission to CCMAS for endorsement.

65. The Commission also **agreed** to request the Committee on Food Hygiene to take into account the WHO/FAO *Guidelines on the Safe Preparation, Storage and Handling of Powdered Infant Formula* when revising the Code of Hygienic Practice for Powdered Infant formula for Infants and Young Children and to invite the CCNFSDU to review the Section on Hygiene of the adopted Standard once the above Code had been finalized by the CCFH.

Processed Fruits and Vegetables

*Draft Standard for Processed Tomato Concentrates*²²

66. The Delegation of Cuba expressed concern on the technological justification for the inclusion of citric acid as an acidity regulator for this commodity. The Delegation indicated that the current Standard for Processed Tomato Concentrates (CODEX STAN 57-1981) did not contemplate the use of this additive whose addition might create a technical barrier to trade. The Delegation of the United States, speaking on behalf of the Chairperson of the Committee on Processed Fruits and Vegetables, informed the Commission that food additive provisions, including citric acid in processed tomato concentrates, had been discussed and agreed upon by the Committee and subsequently endorsed by the Committee on Food Additives.

67. The Commission **adopted** the draft Standard for Processed Tomato Concentrates at Step 8 as proposed by the Committee. The Delegations of Cuba and Egypt reserved their position on this decision of the Commission.

Pesticide Residues

*Draft and Proposed Draft Maximum Residue Limits for Pesticides*²³

68. In reply to the strong opposition expressed by the European Community and Norway on Indoxacarb (216), the WHO Secretariat of the FAO/WHO Joint Meetings on Pesticide Residues (JMPR) clarified that their concern had been considered by the JMPR in 2006. After detailed review of the relevant toxicological studies, the JMPR confirmed its previous opinion and a detailed analysis of this matter was presented at the 39th Session of the Committee, which accepted the opinion and assessment of the JMPR and recommended the advancement of the draft MRLs for adoption at Step 8.

69. The Commission **adopted** the MRLs as proposed in Appendices II and III of ALINORM 07/30/24 with the addition of the explanatory note for exclusion for the MRLs for Boscalid (221), which had inadvertently been omitted from the report of the Committee, and noted the reservation expressed by the European Community and Norway on MRLs for Endosulfan (32), Pirimicarb (101), Propamocarb (148), Fenpropathrin (185) and Pyraclostrobin (210) as presented in CAC/30 LIM/7.

²² ALINORM 07/30/27, Appendix III

²³ ALINORM 07/30/24, Appendices II and III

Methods of Analysis and Sampling

*Methods of Analysis in Codex Standards at different steps*²⁴

70. The Commission adopted the methods as proposed by the Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling. The Delegation of Brazil expressed its reservation on the methods of analysis for inclusion in the four Standards developed by the Committee on Processed Fruits and Vegetables and adopted at the current session and on the update of the methods in current standards for fats and oils, as mentioned in their written comments in ALINORM 07/30/5A.

Standards and related texts held at the Commission at Step 8

*Draft MRLs for Bovine Somatotropin*²⁵

71. Some delegations noted that the draft MRLs for bovine somatotropin (BST) had been held at Step 8 since the 23rd Session of the Commission in 1999 and expressed the view that the Commission needed to take action to finalise this matter in the near future. The Delegation of Chile requested that the status and procedures be defined for standards retained at Step 8.

72. The Commission noted that no request had been received to change the status of the draft MRLs for BST and therefore agreed to retain them at Step 8.

*Draft Revised Standards for: Cheddar (C-1); Danbo (C-3); Edam (C-4); Gouda (C-5); Havarti (C-6); Samsø (C-7); Tilsiter (C-11); Saint-Paulin (C-13); Provolone (C-15); Cottage Cheese (C-16); Coulommiers (C-18); Cream Cheese (C-31); Camembert (C-33); Brie (C-34); and draft Standard for Mozzarella*²⁶

73. The Commission recalled that its 29th Session had agreed to hold 16 individual cheese standards at Step 8 due to non-endorsement of their labelling provisions²⁷ and that the 35th Session of the Committee on Food Labelling had subsequently endorsed all provisions in section 7.2 “Country of Origin” as originally proposed by the Committee on Milk and Milk Products.²⁸ The Commission further recalled that the 38th Session of the Committee on Food Additives and Contaminants had not endorsed the food additive provisions for annatto extracts (INS 160b) and gluconic acids (INS 574).²⁹

74. The Commission agreed to adopt the 15 draft standards above mentioned with the amendments made in the endorsement process by the Committee on Food Additives and Contaminants. Furthermore, the Commission recommended that the Committee on Milk and Milk Products reconsider the levels of annatto extracts in individual cheese standards and in existing standards for milk products to take into account the new ADIs established by JECFA, as recommended by the Executive Committee in the framework of the Critical Review³⁰.

*Draft Revised Standard for Emmental (C-9)*³¹

75. The Delegation of Switzerland, referring to its written comments in CAC/30 LIM/7, recalled that it had always been opposed to the deletion of the reference to Switzerland as the historical country of origin of Emmental cheese in the Draft Revised Standard. The Delegation stressed that the omission of the reference to Switzerland as the historical country of origin would mislead or deceive the consumers especially since Switzerland had been recognised as the historical country of origin in the current Codex Emmental Standard since 1967. In addition, the Delegation of Switzerland opposed the establishment of a link to the question of

²⁴ ALINORM 07/30/23, Appendix III

²⁵ ALINORM 95/31, Appendix II

²⁶ ALINORM 06/29/11, para. 85 and Appendices VI, VII, IX-XII, XIV-XXII

²⁷ ALINORM 06/29/41, para. 88 and Appendix VI

²⁸ ALINORM 07/30/22, para. 16

²⁹ ALINORM 06/29/12, paras 40 and 44 and Appendix IV

³⁰ ALINORM 07/30/3, para. 16

³¹ ALINORM 06/29/11, para. 85 and Appendix XIII

unascertained goods and reiterated the opinion that individual cheese standards should be replaced by more general health-based group standards in accordance with the recommendations of the Codex *Evaluation* and the Strategic Framework. The Delegation expressed its strong opposition to the adoption of the Draft Revised Standard, unless a footnote in section 7.2 was added to indicate the country (Switzerland) in which the name “Emmental” had historically originated and the labelling provisions were dealt with separately from questions regarding unascertained goods and that no mention with regard to the nature of the names of the cheeses concerned was made or accepted.

76. Other delegations supported the adoption of the draft revised standard as submitted by the Committee on Milk and Milk Products and noted that Emmental cheese was produced all over the world and its name had become generic. It was also noted that the standard had been considered by the Committee on Milk and Milk Products on the basis of the same criteria used for the other standards for individual cheeses.

77. On the basis of the above debate, the Chairperson closed the discussion and concluded that the revised Standard for Emmental had been adopted, with the amendments made in the endorsement process by the Committee on Food Additives and Contaminants, and the strong opposition of the Delegation of Switzerland recorded in the report.

78. The Delegation of Switzerland challenged the Chairperson’s ruling and, in accordance with the General Rules of FAO, for instance Rules IX.4 and XII.16, they submitted an alternative proposal, seconded by the Delegation of Jamaica, to hold the Draft Revised Standard at Step 8 and to refer its labelling provisions in section 7.2 “Country of Origin” back to the Committee on Food Labelling for further discussion. According to the above mentioned Rules a vote was conducted on the alternative proposal made by Switzerland. The motion was put to a roll-call vote, as opposed to a show of hands, at the request of the Delegation of Switzerland, with the following results.

Votes in favour: Algeria, Angola, Armenia, Benin, Bhutan, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Islamic Republic of Iran, Iraq, Jamaica, Lao People’s Democratic Republic, Niger, Papua New Guinea, Qatar, Romania, Rwanda, Senegal, Serbia, Sudan, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Turkey

Votes against: Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Botswana, Brazil, Burundi, Cameroon, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Côte d’Ivoire, Cuba, Democratic Republic of Congo, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Japan, Kenya, Kuwait, Latvia, Lithuania, Malawi, Malaysia, Mali, Malta, Mexico, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Paraguay, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Tanzania, Tunisia, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United States of America, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Abstaining: Antigua and Barbuda, Czech Republic, Ghana, Iceland, Ireland, Jordan, Lebanon, Lesotho, Morocco, Panama, Thailand

Tally: 93 votes cast, 23 in favour, 70 against, 11 abstentions (majority required 47)

Result: The motion by Switzerland was not approved.

79. The ruling of the Chairperson that the Commission had adopted the revised Standard for Emmental, as per above, stood.

PROPOSED DRAFT STANDARDS AND RELATED TEXTS AT STEP 5 (Agenda Item 6)³²

80. The Commission **adopted** the Proposed Draft Standards and Related Texts at Step 5 submitted by its subsidiary bodies as presented in Appendix V to this report and advanced them to Step 6. The Commission noted that technical comments raised during the session would be referred to the relevant Committees for their consideration. The Commission encouraged members and observers that have submitted comments in writing or orally at the session to submit these comments at Step 6 of the Procedure.

81. The following paragraphs provide additional information on the comments made and the decisions taken on certain items.

Food Additives***Proposed Draft Guidelines for the Use of Flavourings (N03-2006) (with the exception of Section 4 and Annexes A and B)³³***

82. The Commission **adopted** the proposed draft Guidelines at Step 5 as proposed by the Committee and advanced them to Step 6, with the understanding that several translation issues in Spanish would be addressed by the next session of the Committee on Food Additives.

Coordinating Committee for Asia***Proposed Draft Standards for Gochujang and Ginseng Product³⁴***

83. The Commission agreed to defer the discussion on the proposed draft Standards for Gochujang and Ginseng Product until it had discussed the issues on the role of Coordinating Committees in developing regional standards and the conversion of regional standards into worldwide standards, as a general issue, under Agenda Item 12 (b). The Delegation of the Republic of Korea proposed to apply Proposal 8, as amended by the Executive Committee, to new work rather than to ongoing work.

84. Taking into account the outcome of the discussion under Agenda Item 12 (b), based on the recommendation of the 59th Session of the Executive Committee³⁵, the Commission **adopted** the proposed draft Standards at Step 5 as Draft Regional Standards for further elaboration by the CCASIA with a view to finalization as regional standards. The Delegation of the United States, speaking as the Vice-Chair of the Commission, reminded the Commission of the Executive Committee's commitment to develop policies concerning regional standards including their conversion into world-wide standards. The Delegation of the Republic of Korea stated that the conversion of these regional standards into world-wide standards should be actively considered after adoption at Step 8.

³² ALINORM 07/30/6, ALINORM 06/29/6A (comments of Japan (CCFA), International Alliance of Dietary/Food Supplement Associations (CCASIA), European Community, Peru (CCFFP), Argentina, Australia, Mexico, New Zealand, United States of America, International Special Dietary Food Industry (CCNFSDU), Argentina (CCFFV), International Hydrolyzed Protein Council (CCCF), Brazil (CCPFV), CAC/30 LIM-4 (comments of Guatemala, Malaysia (CCFL), South Africa (CCNFSDU), Malaysia, Peru (CCPFV), Malaysia (CCASIA), CAC/30 LIM-8 (comments of Indonesia (CCFA), Indonesia (CCASIA), Indonesia, Peru, Philippines (CCFL), European Community, Indonesia (CCPR), Indonesia (CCNFSDU, CCPFV, CCFFV), Indonesia, Philippines (CCCF), CAC/30 LIM-18 (comments of Honduras)

³³ ALINORM 07/30/12 Rev, Appendix XI

³⁴ ALINORM 07/30/15, Appendices II and III

³⁵ ALINORM 07/30/3 para. 114

Fish and Fishery Products

*Proposed Draft Standard for Live and Raw Bivalve Molluscs*³⁶

85. The Commission endorsed the recommendation of the Executive Committee that the Committee on Fish and Fishery Products consider the questions from the Committee on Food Hygiene in the development of the standard and consider the need for further scientific advice on biotoxins and **adopted** the draft Standard at Step 5 and advanced it to Step 6.

Committee on Food Labelling

*Proposed Draft Amendment to the Guidelines for Organically Produced Foods (Ethylene)*³⁷

86. Some delegations, while not objecting in principle to the use of ethylene, expressed the view that this substance should be used only in accordance with good agricultural practices and that all required conditions for use should be met in order to ensure the safety and quality of the products treated with ethylene.

87. The Commission agreed that these comments should be taken into account in the finalisation of the amendment on the inclusion of ethylene.

*Proposed Draft Amendment to the General Standard for the Labelling of Prepackaged Foods (Quantitative Declaration of Ingredients)*³⁸

88. The Delegation of Norway, while not objecting to the adoption of the text, expressed concern with the deletion of the provisions for added sugars in view of their importance in the perspective of the WHO Global Strategy for Diet, Physical Activity and Health and proposed that the purpose of these provisions should not be lost and should be considered further by the Committee in relation with the implementation of the Global Strategy.

*Proposed Draft Definition of Advertising in relation to health and nutrition claims*³⁹

89. The Delegation of China expressed the view that advertising should not be defined in the framework of Codex but should be left to national authorities.

90. The Commission recommended that the Committee on Food Labelling clarify in which text the definition should be included when finalised.

Pesticide Residues

*Proposed Draft Maximum Residue Limits for Pesticides*⁴⁰

91. The Commission **adopted** the draft MRLs as proposed in Appendices IV of ALINORM 07/30/24 at Step 5 and advanced them to Step 6, noting the reservations expressed by the European Community and Norway on the MRLs for Endosulfan (32). The Commission noted that the reference to “marine mammals” appearing under Thiabendazole (65) was an editorial error and should be deleted.

Fresh Fruits and Vegetables

*Proposed Draft Standard for Bitter Cassava*⁴¹

92. The Commission concurred with the recommendation of the Executive Committee to adopt the Standard at Step 5 and that, as a separate issue, the Committee on Contaminants in Foods should consider the

³⁶ ALINORM 07/30/18 Appendix V, ALINORM 07/30/3 paras 25 – 27, ALINORM 07/30/13 paras 219 – 223

³⁷ ALINORM 07/30/22 Appendix IV

³⁸ ALINORM 07/30/22 Appendix V

³⁹ ALINORM 07/30/22 Appendix VI

⁴⁰ ALINORM 03/30/24, Appendix IV

⁴¹ ALINORM 07/30/ 35 Appendix VI, ALINORM 07/30/3, paras 28 - 30

safety levels of hydrogen cyanide proposed in the Standard, with a view to a re-evaluation of cyanogenic glycosides by JECFA.

Proposed Draft Guidelines for the Inspection and Certification of Fresh Fruits and Vegetables for Conformity to Quality Standards⁴²

93. In adopting the proposed draft Standard at Step 5, the Commission recognized that the Guidelines addressed inspection, certification and sampling matters specific to fresh fruits and vegetables and therefore, agreed to forward the document to the Committees on Food Import and Export Inspection and Certification Systems as well as on Methods of Analysis and Sampling to provide observations from a horizontal perspective on certification, inspection and sampling provisions in order to ensure consistency in the approach followed on these matters within Codex.

Contaminants in Foods

Proposed Draft Maximum Levels for 3-MCPD in Liquid Condiments containing Acid-Hydrolyzed Vegetable Proteins (excluding Naturally Fermented Soy Sauce) (N08-2004)⁴³

94. The Delegations of the European Community and Norway expressed their reservation on the decision of the Commission to adopt the proposed draft Maximum Levels of 0.4 mg/kg for 3-MCPD at Step 5, stating that the maximum level for 3-MCPD should be set as low as reasonably achievable in view of possible public health concerns, that the levels lower than 0.4 mg /kg were achievable by implementing good manufacturing practices and that lower maximum levels should be considered in the light of the finalization and implementation of the Code of Practice for the Reduction of 3-MCPD during the Production of Acid-Hydrolyzed Vegetable Proteins (Acid-HVPs) and Products that contains Acid-HVPs.

REVOCAION OF EXISTING CODEX STANDARDS AND RELATED TEXTS (Agenda Item 7)⁴⁴

95. The Commission **approved** the revocation from the *Codex Alimentarius* of previously adopted texts as summarized in Appendix VI to this report.

PROPOSALS FOR THE ELABORATION OF NEW STANDARDS AND RELATED TEXTS AND FOR THE DISCONTINUATION OF WORK (Agenda Item 8)⁴⁵

ELABORATION OF NEW STANDARDS AND RELATED TEXTS

96. The Commission **approved** the elaboration of new standards and related texts as summarized in Appendix VII to this report. The following paragraphs provide additional information on the comments made and the decisions taken on certain items.

97. The Commission noted that project documents submitted to the 59th Session of the Executive Committee contained information that, while respecting the overall format as set out in the Procedural Manual, varied significantly in terms of quantity and quality, and therefore, endorsed the recommendation of the Executive Committee to encourage Codex committees, task forces and Codex Members to prepare future project documents according to the format set out in the current revision of the Procedural Manual and provide sufficiently detailed, relevant information with particular regard to the evidence-based assessment against each of all the Criteria for the Establishment of Work Priorities⁴⁶.

⁴² ALINORM 07/30/35 Appendix VII

⁴³ ALINORM 07/30/41 Appendix X

⁴⁴ ALINORM 07/30/7; CAC/30 LIM/10 (comments of Sri Lanka)

⁴⁵ ALINORM 07/30/8, CAC/30 LIM/6 (comments of Ghana, Malaysia and Philippines), CAC/30 LIM/10 (comments of Japan and Malaysia), CAC/30 LIM/13 (comments of Indonesia) and CAC/30 LIM/15 (comments of Kenya)

⁴⁶ ALINORM 07/30/3, para 46

Fish and Fishery Products

Revision of the Procedure for the Inclusion of Additional Species in Standards for Fish and Fishery Products

98. The Delegation of Morocco, supported by the Delegation of Chile, noting the status of the document which was for internal use by the Committee on Fish and Fishery Products, stated that there was a need for more transparency with regard to the procedures used by this Committee.

99. In view of the above, the Commission recommended that the Committee consider, upon finalisation of the document, its inclusion in the Procedural Manual and subsequent publication on the Codex website in order to enhance transparency of the processes used by the Committee.

Standard for Fresh/Live and Frozen Abalone (*Haliotis* spp.)⁴⁷

100. The Commission, while approving the proposal for new work on the revision of the Standard for Fresh/Live and Frozen Abalone (*Haliotis* spp) endorsed the recommendation of the Executive Committee that the Committee on Fish and Fishery Products consider broadening the scope of the standard to include other gastropods.

Processed Fruits and Vegetables

Sampling Plan Including Methodological Provisions for Controlling Minimum Drained Weight of Canned Fruits and Vegetables⁴⁸

101. The Commission agreed with the recommendation of the Executive Committee to amend the title by referring to canned fruits and vegetables “in packing media” as there are other canned fruits and vegetables not requiring provisions for minimum drained weight.

102. The Delegation of the United States, while not opposing to the elaboration of the proposed document, questioned the need for developing a separate sampling plan for minimum drained weight as the current, simple provisions in the relevant standards for processed fruits and vegetables had not created problems in international trade and the proposed work did not substantially advance the Codex objectives in terms of the protection of consumers’ health and fair trade practices. The Delegation stressed the need to consider carefully priorities amongst proposals for new work to be undertaken by subsidiary bodies of the Commission in view of their workload and resource limitations.

Coordinating Committee for Asia⁴⁹

Standard for Chili Sauce

103. Many delegations from Asia, referring to the recommendation of the 59th Session of the Executive Committee, supported the elaboration of a standard for chili sauce with a view to its finalization as a regional standard by the CCASIA. Its conversion into a worldwide standard could be considered after adoption at Step 8. Some other delegations from the region and from outside the region did not support the proposal because in their countries chili sauce referred to tomato-based products, not to chili pepper-based products only as suggested in the Project Document, and stated that the establishment of a Codex Standard for Chili Sauce, whether regional or worldwide, could have adverse impact on fair trade of the related products.

104. Some delegations from outside the region expressed the view that, depending on the scope to be defined for this standard, it could refer to products which were widely traded in other regions and therefore they could be interested in participating in this work. The Delegation of Mexico informed the Commission of its intention to propose new work on chili peppers at the next meeting of the Committee on Fresh Fruits and Vegetables.

⁴⁷ ALINORM 07/30/3 para. 34

⁴⁸ ALINORM 07/30/3, para 35

⁴⁹ ALINORM 07/30/3, paras 40-41

105. Given the support by the majority of the Members from Asia, the Commission **approved** the proposal for new work to elaborate a Regional Standard for Chili Sauce by the CCASIA and agreed to encourage the Committee, in undertaking the work, to take into account the comments made at the present session and seek comments and information from members belonging to other regions. The Commission also recommended that the Committee on Processed Fruits and Vegetables be informed of the status of work in CCASIA at its next session and be invited to provide its views on the need for an international standard for chili sauce. The Delegation of the Republic of Korea reserved its position on this decision of the Commission, stating that the standard should be developed as a worldwide standard.

Standard for Edible Sago Flour

106. The Delegation of Japan, while not opposing the proposal for new work, suggested that the scope of the standard should exclude sago starch, whose manufacturing process and quality factors were quite different from sago flour.

107. The Commission **approved** the elaboration of a Regional Standard for Edible Sago Flour by CCASIA.

Foods Derived from Biotechnology

Annex to the Guideline for the Conduct of Food Safety Assessment of Foods Derived From Recombinant-DNA Plants on Low-level Presence of Recombinant-DNA Plant Material

108. The Delegation of the European Community, supporting the new work, stressed that the proposed annex must be developed in parallel with the establishment of a mechanism for data sharing and information exchange to support the actions of food control authorities in situations of low-level presence of unauthorized recombinant-DNA plant materials and urged FAO to take a lead to coordinate with other relevant international organizations and stakeholders with a view to facilitating construction of such mechanism.

109. The Representative of FAO, speaking on behalf of FAO and WHO, informed the Commission of the ongoing work for the establishment of a database to be developed within FAO as part of the International Portal on Food Safety, Animal and Plant Health, and stated that the Codex Task Force on Food Derived from Biotechnology would be kept informed of the progress made on this matter.

Food Hygiene

Guidelines for the Control of Campylobacter and Salmonella spp. in Broiler (young bird) Chicken Meat⁵⁰

110. The Commission agreed to the recommendation of the Executive Committee that the scope of the new work be expanded to cover chicken meat in general, thereby deleting reference to “broiler (young bird)” in the title, and that the Committee for Food Hygiene be invited to consider re-scoping the document, as appropriate, taking into account all relevant factors including the availability of risk assessments.

111. The Commission noted that this decision would impact on the proposed work plan for the new work and might require a longer time-frame for the completion of the guidelines since the guidelines would follow a novel farm-to-fork approach based on quantitative risk assessment to the widest extent practicable; that there existed considerable scientific data and a risk assessment by JEMRA for broiler chickens but not for non-broiler chickens with different risk profiles, production and processing conditions; that a new worldwide call for scientific data for the latter category of chicken meat might be necessary before a risk assessment be conducted by JEMRA.

112. The Commission further noted that the OIE would undertake work on *Salmonella* and *Campylobacter* in broiler chickens that could contribute to this new work in the Committee on Food Hygiene.

⁵⁰ ALINORM 07/30/3 paras 43-45

DISCONTINUATION OF WORK

Committee on Food Labelling⁵¹

Guidelines for the Production, Processing, Labelling and Marketing of Organically produced Foods Proposed Draft Revised Annex 2: Table 1 (Natural Sodium Nitrate)

113. The Delegation of Chile expressed the view that the consideration of this issue in the Committee on Food Labelling had not been consistent with the criteria applicable to substances for inclusion in the Guidelines as, although all relevant scientific justification had been provided, the use of Natural Sodium Nitrate had not been accepted, although other member countries did not provide written counter arguments. The Delegation also pointed out that other substances which were not based on similar scientific data had been included in the list of permitted substances.

FINANCIAL AND BUDGETARY MATTERS (Agenda Item 9)

114. The Commission noted the extensive discussions held at the 59th Session of the Executive Committee on the Codex Budget 2006-07 and the estimates of expenditure for 2008-09⁵², on alternative funding mechanisms and on the FAO/WHO budgets for scientific advice.

Codex Budget 2006-07 and estimated budget for 2008-09⁵³

115. The Commission noted the introduction by the Secretariat of document ALINORM 07/30/9 on the budget for the current biennium (2006-07) (Table 1) and estimates of expenditure for the biennium 2008-09 (Tables 2A and 2B). The estimates were based on the assumption of two sessions of the Commission, three sessions of the Executive Committee, one session of each Coordinating Committee, and maintaining the current cost saving measures concerning publication/document distribution. Different budgetary scenarios were envisaged pending the introduction of additional languages (Russian in CCEURO and CAC; Portuguese in CCAFRICA).

116. One delegation stated that the Commission should await the outcome of the FAO Conference in November 2007 before pronouncing its view on the budget 2008-09. The Commission noted the opinion of one delegation that four sessions of the Executive Committee should be held during the next biennium in order to allow it to adequately fulfil its standards management function.

117. The Commission recalled that FAO and WHO had significantly increased their contributions to the Codex programme between the 2002-03 and 2004-05 biennia but noted further that the main expenditure of the Codex Secretariat was in Euro and Swiss Francs, against which the US dollar had weakened significantly in the same period of time, resulting in loss of purchasing power. The Commission further noted that WHO had adopted its overall budget level for 2008-09 in May 2007 whereas FAO would discuss its budget proposals only at the FAO Conference in November 2007. The Commission welcomed the commitment of the parent organisations to secure the Codex budget. In reply to requests for WHO to increase its share in the Codex budget, the Representative of WHO stated that any requests for additional resources from WHO should be well justified by a business plan based on the objectives of the Strategic Plan. The Representative further stated that the increase of one budget (e.g. Codex) might lead to a decrease in another (e.g. scientific advice) and stressed the need for a clear prioritisation of Codex work as well as further investigation of relevant cost-saving measures.

118. The Commission noted that the overall cost of the Codex undertakings was significantly higher than the figures given in document ALINORM 07/30/9 due to the fact that host governments of Codex Committees and Task Forces also provided substantial contributions through the provision of resources such as venue, translation and interpretation services.

119. The Commission noted requests from delegations for increased transparency in the expenditure of the Codex programme and welcomed the information given by the Secretariat to the 59th Session of the

⁵¹ ALINORM 07/30/22, para. 92

⁵² ALINORM 07/29/3, paras 88-106

⁵³ ALINORM 07/30/9

Executive Committee on the staff structure of the Codex Secretariat and the breakdown of chargebacks⁵⁴. The Commission further noted that the capacity of the Codex Secretariat was stretched to its limits due to the increased workload related to the annual sessions of the Commission and the newly assigned functions of the Executive Committee such as the critical review and the assessment of the applications for observer status. The Commission also noted that the need for continuously monitoring and reporting the progress made in the implementation of the Strategic Plan 2008-2013 would lead to additional work.

120. The Commission noted proposals from delegations on the possibility to make savings by outsourcing translation and printing but recalled that as the Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme was administered by FAO on behalf of FAO and WHO, the Codex Secretariat had to follow FAO rules and practices in the purchase of services and goods. Any proposal to change the current arrangement would have to be reviewed as an organization-wide management issue. The Representative of FAO stressed the need to identify further cost-saving measures, such as producing outcome-based, significantly shorter reports of Codex sessions. The Commission however noted concerns of some members that this might impact negatively on the transparency of the Codex standards setting process, especially for developing countries which could not participate in all Codex sessions. The Representative of WHO informed the Commission that WHO had now outsourced many administrative tasks including printing.

121. The Commission further noted concerns of some delegations on the late availability of Codex documentation in other languages than English and problems with the quality of translations. The Commission noted the information from the Secretariat that delays in translation were often due to the complexity and tightness of the Codex session schedule especially with annual Commission sessions, limited human resources of the Codex Secretariat and late submission of government comments.

122. Some members strongly supported the use of Portuguese in CCAFRICA as a language of interpretation but not for documentation.

123. In conclusion the Commission:

- **Noted** the Codex budget proposals for 2008-09 and **expressed** its strong desire that FAO and WHO allocate, to the Codex programme, a budget level that would allow the Secretariat to conserve, at least, the same purchasing power as in the 2006-07 biennium, calling upon Codex members to voice their support to Codex in the governing bodies of FAO and WHO;
- **Requested** FAO and WHO, pending the adoption of Russian by the FAO Conference as an FAO language, to increase the Codex budget to allow the use of Russian in the Commission and in the FAO/WHO Coordinating Committee for Europe; and
- **Requested** FAO and WHO to study the possibility to add Portuguese as a language of interpretation in the FAO/WHO Coordinating Committee for Africa in line with the policy applied at the FAO Regional Conference for Africa and the WHO Regional Committee for Africa.

Consideration of alternative funding mechanisms⁵⁵

124. The Commission recalled that at its 29th Session it had requested the Secretariat to prepare a discussion paper, in collaboration with FAO and WHO, on the possibilities for more sustainable funding including through other funding sources and alternative ways of achieving it⁵⁶.

125. The Commission noted the discussion held at the 59th Session of the Executive Committee on this matter⁵⁷ and endorsed the recommendation of the Executive Committee to consider the document at its 60th Session in December 2007.

FAO/WHO budgets for scientific advice⁵⁸

126. The Commission noted the information provided by FAO and WHO, including the strengthening of their scientific activity in the area of nutrition. The Commission **expressed** its desire that FAO and WHO

⁵⁴ ALINORM 07/30/3, para. 95, CRD 9 at the 59th Session of the Executive Committee

⁵⁵ ALINORM 07/30/9-Add.1

⁵⁶ ALINORM 06/29/41, para. 150

⁵⁷ ALINORM 07/29/3, paras 88-99

⁵⁸ CAC/30 INF/3

maintain an adequate budgetary level for the provision of scientific advice and welcomed the initiative of FAO and WHO to develop adequate funding strategies for these activities supporting Codex. The Commission was informed that the Global Initiative for Food Related Scientific Advice (GIFSA), was launched at a side-event of this Commission session, allowing FAO and WHO to collect extrabudgetary contributions from members and civil society.

PROPOSED SCHEDULE OF CODEX SESSIONS (Agenda Item 10)⁵⁹

127. The Commission considered the tentative schedule that had been prepared on the basis of the information provided by host countries of Codex Committees and Task Forces. The Commission noted the changes in the dates and venues proposed for some sessions.

128. The Delegation of Mexico proposed to retain the current five-day meeting of the Coordinating Committee for Latin America and the Caribbean instead of the four-day meeting mentioned in the proposed Schedule. The Secretariat pointed out that this duration was consistent with the schedule of other Coordinating Committees, and drew the attention of the Commission to the financial implications of longer sessions in the case of Coordinating Committees as interpretation and translation were funded by the Codex budget.

129. The Delegation of Argentina stressed the importance of Coordinating Committees in order to allow developing countries to participate in Codex and therefore expressed the view that the current five days meeting should be retained so as to allow the Committee to consider all issues of importance to countries in the region.

130. The Commission noted that the final dates and venues of Codex sessions were determined by the Directors-General of FAO and WHO, in consultation with the host country, and would be indicated in formal invitations. The Commission endorsed the Proposed Schedule in principle with the above mentioned changes and noted that some further changes might be made to the schedule in the future.

STRATEGIC PLANNING OF THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION⁶⁰ (Agenda Item 11)

131. The Commission considered the revised draft Strategic Plan 2008 – 2013 and the relevant discussion in the report of the 59th Session of the Executive Committee (ALINORM 07/30/3), which conducted a final revision on the basis of comments forwarded by the six FAO/WHO Coordinating Committees as presented in document ALINORM 07/30/9B. The Commission noted the observations made, and agreed to some amendments as follows.

132. The Commission agreed that the term “risk-based” be replaced with “based on risk” in the first bullet point of paragraph 6, Part 1 and in Activity 1.1 of Part 2 in the English text, on the basis of a proposal from Brazil, in order to ensure consistency with the language that was already used in the Codex Alimentarius.

133. The Commission agreed to delete Activity 2.6 in Part 2 and in Table 1, Part 3 regarding the elaboration of working principles for risk analysis for food safety for application by governments, taking note of the adoption of the “Working Principles for Risk Analysis for Food Safety for Application by Governments” at its current Session (see Appendix III). The Commission, while noting the proposal from the Delegation of Cameroon to replace activity 2.6 with another activity to develop indicators to monitor the implementation of the Working Principles, agreed with the proposal of the Delegation of New Zealand to replace activity 2.6 with an alternative activity aimed at facilitating the implementation and application of the Working Principles at the national level. The Commission therefore agreed to add a new Activity 2.6 in Part 2 and in Table 1, Part 3, on the basis of a proposal by the Delegation of New Zealand (LIM 21) with a minor modification, noting the important role of FAO, WHO and Codex Members in the provision of technical assistance. The Commission noted the proposal of the delegation of Chile to include under activity 4.4. of the Strategic Plan the activities on cooperation with the WTO, as they were included in the Goals but not in the activities, however decided not to make changes in this regard.

⁵⁹ ALINORM 07/30/9A

⁶⁰ ALINORM 07/30/3 paras 72 - 87 and Appendix II, ALINORM 07/30/9B, CAC/30 LIM/21 (Proposed text from New Zealand)

134. The Delegation of Australia, supporting the adoption of the draft Strategic Plan, suggested that the Executive Committee could consider, probably at its next session, the elaboration of a biennial business plan based on the priority of work identified in the Strategic Plan, along with corresponding estimates of funding and expenditure to cover the activities foreseen in 2010 - 2011. This business plan could also be used as a basis for future requests for increased funding. The Delegation noted that this approach was already used by the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC).

135. In regard to the concern expressed by the Delegation of Mexico, on the need to strengthen scientific advisory bodies particularly in the area of pesticide residues, the Commission, recalling the extensive discussion at the 59th Session of the Executive Committee on this issue, agreed that there was no need to amend the text of the draft Strategic Plan, noted that it was necessary to explore possible solutions to mitigate or eliminate concerns of developing countries on this matter and therefore suggested that FAO and WHO organize a tailor-made action-oriented workshop to address some of these concerns of developing countries on pesticide residue issues. Such a workshop would facilitate the understanding of the impact of the current processes followed by JMPR and CCPR in developing MRLs for pesticides and the identification of the need of developing countries.

136. The Representative of FAO stated that FAO, WHO and IAEA continued to provide capacity building activities to assist member countries in generating data as well as controlling and monitoring pesticide residues to ensure food safety. The Representative expressed their willingness to continue efforts to respond to greater needs of developing countries on this issue.

137. The Delegation of Argentina, supporting the view expressed by Mexico, suggested that an international FAO/WHO conference with all interested parties, that would take into account the concerns of developing countries, be held to explore an alternative mechanism for data generation and collection with a view to facilitating the provision of scientific advice on pesticide residues to Codex.

Status of the Draft Strategic Plan 2008-2013

138. The Commission adopted its Strategic Plan 2008 – 2013 as contained in Appendix IX to this report.

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

GENERAL IMPLEMENTATION STATUS (Agenda Item 12a)⁶¹

139. The Commission noted with satisfaction the status of implementation of the proposals as presented in Tables 1 and 2 of document ALINORM 07/30/9C. Five years after the Joint FAO/WHO Evaluation of the Codex Alimentarius and other FAO and WHO Work on Food Standards, nearly all proposals originating from the recommendations of the Joint Evaluation and endorsed by the 26th Session of the Commission had been implemented and no further action required at this juncture, except the two recommendations below which were being experimented at the committee level:

- Proposal No. 19 “Use of facilitators”; and
- Proposals No. 32 “Co-chairmanship”

140. With regard to Proposal No. 12 “Participation of observers in the Executive Committee”, the Commission noted that recent sessions of the Executive Committee had been audio-recorded and the audio-recording posted on the Codex website on an experimental basis. In view of the positive outcome of this arrangement which allowed publicizing of the proceedings of the Executive Committee, the Commission recommended that the current arrangements for audio-recording and web-posting be implemented on an ongoing basis.

141. Regarding Proposal No. 34 “Definition of Consensus”, the Delegations of Chile and Colombia expressed their reservation on the way the matter had been handled in the Committee on General Principles and expressed the wish that this matter be addressed as a high priority.

⁶¹

142. The Commission acknowledged the remarkable work done by the Committee on General Principles hosted by the Government of France as well as the support so far provided by FAO and WHO in this regard. The Chairperson observed that now the Commission was fully capacitated to efficiently develop international food standards for a decade to come and stand up to new challenges.

143. The Commission noted that some work was still necessary, especially on the review of the structure and mandates of the Committees and Task Forces (see Item 12b). One delegation stated that the Commission should consider monitoring the effectiveness of the new measures taken and developing an implementation plan for any additional actions that would contribute to the goal of the Commission.

REVIEW OF CODEX COMMITTEE STRUCTURE AND MANDATES OF CODEX COMMITTEES AND TASK FORCES (Agenda Item 12 b)⁶²

144. The Commission recalled that the 29th Session of the Commission had considered proposals put forward by the Secretariat on the structure and mandates of Codex Committees and Task Forces, had requested government comments through a Circular Letter (CL 2006/29-CAC) and had also invited FAO/WHO Coordinating Committees to provide their views on these proposals. The Commission noted that, due to time constraints, the 59th Session of the Executive Committee did not discuss in detail individual proposals as presented in CL 2006/29-CAC, with the exception of Proposal 8.

145. The Commission took note of the general comments of several members urging to further focus and expedite the work of Codex and to enhance the Committee management and standards management function of the Executive Committee. The matter was referred to the next session of the Executive Committee.

Proposal 1 (number of meetings)

146. The Delegation of Cameroon, while agreeing to the setting of upper limits, stated that they should be adopted on a temporary basis pending the improvement of the strategic planning process.

147. The Commission **agreed** to set an indicative upper limit on the number of Codex sessions planned per biennium (forty) and an indicative upper limit on the number of Codex sessions planned in one calendar year (twenty), in order to achieve a balanced session schedule within a biennium, with the understanding that these upper limits were based on the current, quite full Codex meeting schedule, but that they should be considered as indicative targets to allow for some flexibility. They would serve as a management tool to call the attention of the Executive Committee and the Commission where the number of meetings exceeded these targets.

148. The Commission recognized that an increased number of Codex meetings would have negative impact on the overall management of Codex standards setting work and on effective participation of Codex members.

149. Some delegations pointed out that the increasing number of physical working group meetings posed serious concerns and therefore suggested that the number of physical working group meetings should be closely monitored, with a view to better management of Codex work.

Proposal 2 (number of subsidiary bodies)

150. The Commission **agreed** to set an indicative target upper-limit (eighteen, excluding coordinating committees) on the number of active subsidiary bodies that could co-exist at one time, in order to avoid the increase of Codex sessions beyond a manageable level. The Commission also agreed to consider, before proposing to establish a new subsidiary body, dissolving or adjourning others, in accordance with work priorities identified by the Commission and in particular the Commission's six-year Strategic Plan.

⁶² CL 2006/29-CAC, ALINORM 07/30/9C Part II, ALINORM 07/30/9C Add.1, ALINORM 07/30/3 paras 109-118, LIM 11 (comments of Brazil, Malaysia and South Africa), LIM 14 (comments of Indonesia), LIM 16 (comments of China), LIM 20 (comments of Republic of Korea)

Proposal 3 (interval of meetings)

151. The Commission **agreed** to invite Codex committees to consider adopting a longer inter-session interval with the understanding that a structured, effective inter-session working mechanism should then be put in place in accordance with the Guidelines on Physical Working Groups and on Electronic Working Groups.

152. The Commission, referring to the recommendation under Agenda Item 10 on CCRVDF and CCFICS⁶³, noted that the intervals of meetings should be decided depending on the length of agenda as well as the use of working groups in the committees and that decision on the meeting intervals should be made on a committee-by-committee basis.

153. With regard to inter-session physical working group meetings, several delegations suggested that the number of physical working group meetings should be limited and that physical working groups should only undertake work on non-controversial issues and should not impose a limit to discussion at the committee level, and expressed concern that many physical working groups were held with a single working language. It was also proposed that physical working groups be held in conjunction with Codex subsidiary body meetings as much as possible, to save travel costs and enhance participation.

154. The Commission recalled that a wider coverage of languages was desirable in working groups and that the Guideline for Working Groups, in the Procedural Manual, clearly stated that working groups could not take any decisions on behalf of the committee that established them.

Proposal 4 (duration of meetings)

155. The Commission **agreed** that the duration of a Codex session should be kept within seven days, including the pre-session meetings of working groups, if any, in order to keep its proceedings well focused, ensure transparency, and facilitate effective participation of the members, with the understanding that a certain margin of flexibility should be allowed, depending on the workload of each subsidiary bodies.

Proposal 5 (use of ad hoc task forces)**Proposal 6 (consideration of merging or dissolving existing committees)****Proposal 7 (next comprehensive review)**

156. Due to time constraints, the Commission agreed to request the 60th Session of the Executive Committee to further consider the three proposals above.

Proposal 8 (conversion of regional standards into world-wide standards)

157. The Commission, taking into account the extensive discussion held and recommendations made at the 59th Session of the Executive Committee on Proposal 8, **endorsed** the amended Proposal 8, on a temporary basis, as follows:

“a) The commodity work of coordinating committees should concentrate on the development of regional standards, in compliance with their terms of reference. Conversion of a regional standard into a worldwide standard should, in principle, be considered after its adoption at Step 8, at the request of Codex members or a coordinating committee or at the recommendation of the commodity committee concerned, substantiated by a project document to be reviewed by the Executive Committee in the framework of the critical review, taking into account the programme of work of commodity committees concerned.

b) The proposal for new work for commodities having international trade potential should preferably be submitted through a worldwide commodity committee if such committee exists and is active, or in other cases, to the Commission through the Executive Committee.”

158. The Commission further noted that the 60th Session of the Executive Committee (December 2007) would review the outcome of a study to be undertaken by the bureau of the Commission to identify a set of draft procedures and criteria for use by the Executive Committee in its critical review process and eventually

⁶³ ALINORM 07/30/9A para. 6

by the Commission which would, amongst others, assist the Commission in streamlining its work on development of regional standards as opposed to worldwide standards and their conversion into worldwide standards.

159. The Delegation of Portugal, speaking on behalf of the Member States of the European Community, expressed the view that regional standards should not routinely be converted into world-wide standards after adoption at Step 8 and that such decision should be made on a case-by-case basis.

160. The Delegation of Cameroon stated that the principles adopted on a temporary basis should not constitute unnecessary obstacles to conversion of regional standards into world-wide standards and stressed that the standards development process by developing countries should be facilitated and encouraged as a way of enhancing their participation in the work of Codex.

Proposal 9 (relation between committees)

Proposal 10 (tasks related to nutrition)

Proposal 11 (role of private standards)

161. Due to time constraints, the Commission agreed to request the 60th Session of the Executive Committee to further consider the three proposals above.

MATTERS ARISING FROM REPORTS OF THE COMMISSION, CODEX COMMITTEES AND TASK FORCES (Agenda Item 13)⁶⁴

162. The Commission noted several matters arising from the reports of Codex Committees, including those matters arising from the previous session of the Commission, as contained in working documents ALINORM 07/30/9D and ALINORM 07/30/9D-Add.1.

163. The following paragraphs provide additional information on the comments made and decisions taken on certain items.

29th Session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission

Revision of WHO Guidelines for Drinking Water Quality⁶⁵

164. The Commission recalled that the completion of the revision of the WHO Guidelines for Drinking Water Quality (Third Edition, 2004) resulted in discrepancies of the values of certain health related substances between the Codex Standard for Natural Mineral Waters (CODEX STAN 108-1981) and the above WHO Guidelines. The Commission also recalled that an in-session working group chaired by Switzerland, acting as host country for the Committee on Natural Mineral Waters, had met during its present session to review the written comments received and provide recommendations to the Commission on whether the amendment to the Codex Standard on Natural Mineral Waters was necessary and, in the affirmative, how to proceed.

165. The Commission **endorsed** the conclusions of the working group presented in document CAC/30 LIM/19 that:

- the health-related limits for certain substances in the Codex Standard on Natural Mineral Waters should be reviewed and amended as necessary;
- this review and amendment should consider substances listed in the Annex to the Codex Circular Letter CL 2006/13-NMW on a case-by-case basis; and

⁶⁴ ALINORM 07/30/9D; ALINORM 07/30/9D-Add.1; CAC/30 LIM/06 (comments of Ghana); CAC/30 LIM/10 (comments of Malaysia); CAC/30 LIM/13 (comments of Brazil, European Community and Vietnam); CAC/30 LIM/18 (comments of Honduras)

⁶⁵ CL 2006/13-NMW; ALINORM 07/30/9D (comments of Australia, Brazil, Canada, Costa Rica, European Community, Norway, Paraguay, Peru, United States, Vietnam, ICBA, ICBWA); ALINORM 07/30/9D-Add.1 (comments of Mexico); LIM 19 (Report of an intrasessional working group of the Codex Alimentarius Commission on the Need to for Amendment of Health Related Substances in the Standard for Natural Mineral Waters)

- due to the complexity of issues involved, it would be difficult to reach agreement on the alignment of certain health related substances in the Codex Standard for Natural Mineral Waters working by an electronic working group or by correspondence.

166. The Commission therefore **agreed** that:

- work should be initiated through a Circular Letter, seeking further comments on each of the substances listed in the Annex of CL 2006/13-NMW including new discrepancies between the health-related limits for certain substances in the Codex Standard and the current version of the WHO guideline values for chemicals of health significance in drinking water;
- the Committee on Natural Mineral Waters (CCNMW) should be reactivated with a scope necessary to the review and amendment outlined above, in the light of comments already received and comments to be received in reply to the new Circular Letter; and
- the CCNMW should complete this task in no more than two sessions, and should propose a revised Section 3.2, "Health-related limits for certain substances" of the Codex Standard for Natural Mineral Waters for final adoption by the Commission at its Session in 2009.

167. The Delegation of Switzerland informed the Commission that a session of the CCNMW could be convened in Switzerland, in February 2008, with the exact dates and venue to be determined by the Host Government and the Codex Secretariat in due course.

Committee on Food Hygiene

The Use of the Lactoperoxidase System for Milk and Milk Products in International Trade⁶⁶

168. The Commission recalled that, during the adoption of the Code of Practice for Milk and Milk Products at its 27th Session, it had added as footnote 9 that the use of the lactoperoxidase system for milk and milk products would be examined by the Committee on Food Hygiene following the 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.

169. The Commission was informed that the Committee on Food Hygiene had examined the issue as requested, based on the conclusions and recommendations of the FAO/WHO Technical Meeting on the Benefits and Potential Risks of the Lactoperoxidase System of Raw Milk Preservation (Rome, Italy, 28 November – 2 December 2005), but that it could not reach consensus because of the divergent views held by members on the recommendation for the removal of the restriction on the use of the lactoperoxidase system in milk and milk products intended for international trade as agreed to by the 19th Session of the Commission.

170. The Delegation of Cuba, supported by several other delegations, requested the removal of the restriction since the FAO/WHO Technical Meeting on the Benefits and Potential Risks of the Lactoperoxidase System of Raw Milk Preservation mandated by the Commission had taken place and had concluded that the lactoperoxidase system was safe if used in accordance with the *Guidelines for the Preservation of Raw Milk by Use of the Lactoperoxidase System* (CAC/GL 13-1991) and had recommended that this restriction be lifted.

171. The Delegation of the United States of America opposed the removal of the restriction and raised their concern that the technical meeting had mainly based their decisions on toxicological data, but had not considered literature that suggested that reduced rates of acid production might result in the possibility of outgrowth of pathogens, particularly acid-resistant strains of pathogens.

172. The Delegation of Singapore questioned the addition of chemicals to raw milk as this could constitute an adulteration of milk and questioned the safety of the chemicals used to activate the lactoperoxidase system in milk.

173. The Representatives of WHO and FAO emphasized the recommendations of the technical meeting, based on assessment of all available data, that the lactoperoxidase system was safe for use if used in accordance with CAC/GL 13-1991 and that there was a scientific basis for Codex to consider the removal of

⁶⁶ ALINORM 07/30/13, paras 29-32 and 188-195

the restriction on the international trade of milk and milk products treated with the lactoperoxidase system. It was further explained that the technical meeting had considered the issue of the lactoperoxidase system not only from a human health and nutrition perspective, but also from microbiological, processing and economic perspectives.

174. The FAO JECFA Secretariat further clarified that the 29th and 35th Sessions of JECFA had evaluated hydrogen peroxide and thiocyanate used to activate the lactoperoxidase system and had concluded that at the levels used, these chemicals did not pose a hazard to human health, but that thiocyanate could have a toxicological effect if iodine intake was not adequate and that the reports of these sessions of JECFA had been taken into account by the FAO/WHO technical meeting.

175. In view of the diversity of views and lack of consensus, the Commission **agreed** to refer the matter back to the Committee on Food Hygiene and to request, by Circular Letter, government comments that would facilitate the identification of additional information regarding the potential risks in respect of the lactoperoxidase system, for consideration by the Committee on Food Hygiene. The Committee on Food Hygiene would then evaluate all available evidence regarding the safety of the lactoperoxidase system when used in accordance with the *Guidelines for the Preservation of Raw Milk by Use of the Lactoperoxidase System* (CAC/GL13). The Committee should take into account the report of the FAO/WHO technical meeting and all other information submitted in response to the Circular Letter. The Commission agreed to remove footnote 9 from the Code of Hygienic Practice in Milk and Milk Products in view of the discussions that had taken place in the Committee on Food Hygiene.

176. The Delegations of Cuba, Colombia, Costa Rica and Burundi expressed their reservations on the decision to refer the matter back to the CCFH, observing that there was sufficient scientific evidence allowing the Commission to take a decision on the removal of the restriction.

177. The Commission also noted the concern of the Delegation of Cuba that the Delegation had not been able to attend the last session of the Committee on Food Hygiene held in the United States of America and that this matter was being addressed through channels outside Codex.

Committee on Sugars

Codex Standard for Sugars: Consideration of Method for determination of Colour in Plantation and Mill White Sugar⁶⁷

178. The Commission recalled that, while adopting a change of the method for determination of colour in the Codex Standard for Sugars (CODEX STAN 212-1999), the 24th Session of the Commission had requested the Committee on Sugars to examine whether a change in the method of analysis for the determination of colour might require a change in the specification of colour for plantation and mill white sugar. The Commission also recalled that, following the ICUMSA review of the methodology for colour determination and subsequent analysis of comments received in response to the CL 2006/32-CCS, the Committee on Sugars proposed to change the method of determination of colour for all sugars including plantation or mill white sugar without making a change to the colour specification for plantation and mill white sugar.

179. The Delegation of Brazil referred to its comments in CAC/30 LIM/13 and reiterated its concern with the recommendation of the Committee on Sugars to exclude the method GS2/3-9 currently extensively applied in Brazil.

180. After some discussion, the Commission **agreed** to forward the recommendations of the Committee on Sugars contained in document ALINORM 07/30/9D and the written comments submitted on this matter in CAC/30 LIM/13 to the Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling for their consideration and endorsement of methods of colour determination for all sugars, with a view to adopting it by the 31st Session of the Commission in 2008.

⁶⁷ ALINORM 07/30/9D, paras 9-14; CL 2006/32-CCS; CAC/30 LIM/13 (comments of Brazil and European Community)

Committees on Nutrition and Foods for Special Dietary Uses and on Food Labelling

WHO Global Strategy on Diet, Physical Activity and Health: actions that could be taken by Codex⁶⁸

181. The Commission recalled that the background to the consideration of the Global Strategy was as follows. WHA Resolution 57.17 endorsing the Global Strategy requested the Codex Alimentarius Commission “to continue to give full consideration within the framework of its operational mandate, to measures which it might take to contribute towards the improvement of health standards of foods consistent with the aims and objectives of the Global Strategy.”

182. The 28th Session of the Commission agreed to ask WHO, in cooperation with FAO, to prepare a document focused on actions that could be taken by Codex including specific proposals for new work for consideration by the Committee on Nutrition and Foods for Special Dietary Uses (CCNFSDU) and the Committee on Food Labelling (CCFL).

183. The 29th Session of the Commission considered a progress report on the consideration of the Global Strategy and agreed that WHO and FAO would complete a document containing concrete proposals for possible actions by Codex that would be circulated for comments and consideration by the CCNFSDU and CCFL.

184. The Representative of WHO recalled that the document on the implementation of the Global Strategy contained a series of proposed actions related to nutrition labelling, certain nutrition claims, quantitative declaration of ingredients, modification of standardized foods and production and processing standards regarding nutritional quality and safety of foods. The Representative thanked the members who had provided comments and participated in the work of the two Committees concerned for their active contribution and indicated that WHO and FAO planned to strengthen their interaction with the Committees concerned as regards the implementation of the Global Strategy. The Representative indicated that WHO and FAO would make every effort to inform these Committees of the scientific advice currently being produced by WHO and FAO and of any plans for relevant scientific work which may affect the implementation of the Global Strategy, including the planned FAO/WHO Expert Consultation on Fats and Oils in Human Nutrition.

185. The Representative of FAO expressed his appreciation for the work carried out so far and looked forward to further consideration of the Global Strategy in the relevant Codex Committees, while recalling the ongoing cooperation with WHO in this area.

186. The Delegation of Germany, speaking as Chair of the CCNFSDU, stressed the importance of the Global Strategy to address public health issues related to non communicable diseases and indicated that the Committee had agreed to proceed with the consideration of the revision of the Nutrient Reference Values (NRVs) for vitamins and minerals and to ask the advice of the Committee on Food Labelling concerning the revision and extension of the list of NRVs in the Guidelines for Nutrition Labelling to other nutrients associated with increased and decreased risk of non communicable diseases. The Committee had agreed that if this reply was positive it would consider new work on the revision and extension of the list to relevant nutrients at its next session. The Delegation noted that there was no support in the Committee to initiate work on claims for trans fatty acids and restrictions on saturated and trans fatty acids in the conditions for comparative claims.

187. The Delegation of Canada, speaking as Chair of the Committee on Food Labelling, recalled that the Committee had discussed extensively the proposals for action related to labelling issues, with the following result: there was no support for the amendment of the Purpose of the *Guidelines on Nutrition Labelling*, no conclusion on the need to amend the *Guidelines* to require mandatory nutrient declaration, on the revision of the current list of nutrients that should always be declared, and on the development of additional criteria for nutrient presentation. There was no support to undertake new work on nutrition claims for trans fatty acids. The Committee had agreed with the proposal of the CCNFSDU to revise the list of vitamins and minerals but had not reached a conclusion on the extension of the list to other nutrients. The Delegation further advised that a working group would be held immediately prior to the next session of the Committee in May 2008 to consider all issues relevant to the draft action plan.

⁶⁸ ALINORM 07/30/26, paras. 144-147, ALINORM 07/30/22, paras. 20-64, CAC/30 INF/13 (Progress Report on the Implementation of the WHO Global Strategy on Diet, Physical Activity and Health as related to Codex)

188. The Commission **agreed** that it would defer further consideration of the implementation of the Global Strategy to its next session in order to consider the outcome of the Committee on Food Labelling to be held in May 2008.

Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling

Reference to the IUPAC/ISO/AOAC Protocols and Guidelines⁶⁹

189. The Commission noted the reply of the Committee on Methods of Analysis to the request for clarification at its 29th Session as to whether the above Protocols and Guidelines should be identified separately. The Commission therefore **agreed** to replace the current single reference to *Food Control Laboratory Management Recommendations* (CAC/GL 28-1995) with individual references to the following texts:

- International Harmonised Protocol for the Proficiency Testing of (Chemical) Analytical Laboratories (1995, revised 2006)
- Protocol for the Design, Conduct and Interpretation of Method Performance Studies (1997)
- Harmonised Guidelines for Internal Quality Control in Analytical Chemistry Laboratories (1997)

Committee on Fats and Oils

Linolenic Acid Level for the Standard for Olive Oils and Olive Pomace Oils⁷⁰

190. The Commission recalled that its 26th Session had adopted the Standard for Olive Oils and Olive Pomace Oils without a level for linolenic acid and with a footnote stating "Pending the result of the IOOC survey and further consideration by the Committee on Fats and Oils, national limits may remain in place". The Commission was informed that the Committee had considered the above survey and agreed to circulate a Proposed Draft Linolenic Acid Level in Section 3.9 of the Standard with a footnote, as a proposed draft amendment to the Standard at Step 3. The Commission noted the Committee had resumed its work on the Standard for Olive Oils and Olive Pomace Oils and encouraged the Committee to solve the issue of the level of linolenic acid.

Committee on Contaminants in Foods

Amendments to Schedule I of the General Standards for Contaminants and Toxins in Foods⁷¹

191. The Commission **adopted** the following amendments to Schedule I: i) deletion of references 'CS 248-2005' and their replacement by the adoption year '2005'; ii) reorganization of contaminants into the following four categories: metals, mycotoxins, other chemicals and radionuclides, as proposed by the Committee.

Guideline levels for Methylmercury in Fish

192. The Commission recalled that its 29th Session⁷² had requested FAO and WHO for scientific advice on the health risks associated with methylmercury and dioxins and dioxin-like PCBs in fish and the health benefits of fish consumption. The Representative of FAO, speaking on behalf of FAO and WHO, informed the Commission that a step-wise preparatory process was being taken, given the complex nature of the issue and the need for innovative principles and methodology. The Representative indicated that, possibly at a first stage, FAO and WHO would consider conducting qualitative risk-benefit assessment of fish consumption, specifically addressing issues related to the impact of methylmercury exposure on women of child-bearing age and at a later stage, conducting quantitative assessment including the intake of dioxin and dioxin-like PCBs, taking into account consumption of fatty fish, considered as a significant source of beneficial fatty acids.

⁶⁹ ALINORM 07/30/23, paras 16-17, ALINORM 06/29/41, paras 197-198

⁷⁰ ALINORM 03/30/17, para. 107, Appendix VII

⁷¹ ALINORM 07/30/41, para. 46

⁷² ALINORM 06/29/41 para.195

Committee on General Principles

*Proposed Draft Code of Ethics for International Trade in Food*⁷³

193. The Commission recalled that during the ongoing revision work of the existing Code, the Committee on General Principles (CCGP) had requested the Committee on Food Import and Export Inspection and Certification Systems (CCFICS) to evaluate if part of the elements of the present Code were covered by existing texts in the Codex Alimentarius developed by the CCFICS or if these texts could be expanded accordingly. The CCFICS had found that some of the elements were covered by the existing texts and had additionally forwarded three recommendations to the CCGP. When deciding to circulate the Proposed Draft Revised Code of Ethics for International Trade in Food for comments at Step 3, the CCGP at its last session also decided to forward the recommendations from the CCFICS to the Commission for endorsement.

194. The Commission, bearing in mind the difficulties encountered by member countries with insufficient capacity for food import and export control, **decided** to:

- encourage member countries to further implement the provisions in existing Codex guidelines on food import and export inspection and certification systems related to the subsequent export of food, whether imported or produced domestically, that had been found to be unsafe or unsuitable;
- encourage FAO, WHO and other international organizations to give priority to providing technical assistance to member countries with insufficient capacity for establishing and implementing food import and export control systems; and
- encourage those member countries with insufficient control systems to give priority in their capacity building/technical assistance needs assessments to the issue of import control systems.

195. The Commission noted an intervention from the Representative of WHO that bilateral donor agencies should also be encouraged to provide technical assistance for establishing and implementing food import and export control systems.

*Procedures for the Elaboration of Codex Standards and Related Texts*⁷⁴

196. The Commission recalled that at its 27th Session it had referred a number of comments from India on the *Procedures for Elaboration of Codex Standards and Related Texts* to the CCGP. The CCGP at its 22nd Session agreed that the Delegation of India would prepare a discussion paper providing the objectives and rationale for the proposed changes to the Elaboration Procedure. At its 23rd Session, the CCGP briefly discussed the paper but considered that it was yet premature to request approval of the Commission to initiate new work on these subjects. The 24th Session of the Committee held an in-depth discussion on the basis of document CX/GP 06/23/6 Part-I and agreed to forward the content of the discussion on the Procedure for the Elaboration of Codex Standards and Related Texts to the Commission for further advice on how this work could be pursued and in which forum.

197. The Commission considered the proposals contained in the above-mentioned document one by one, as follows.

Reference to decisions taken by consensus in the Elaboration Procedure, including a definition of that term

198. The Commission noted that the definition of consensus and how the concept was handled in practice in Codex was considered an important issue by many members, to be further discussed as a matter of priority within the CCGP.

199. After some discussion as to how best to prepare for discussions at the forthcoming session of the CCGP in 2009 with due input from the Chairpersons of Codex subsidiary bodies, while ensuring transparency and inclusiveness, the Commission **agreed** that:

⁷³ ALINORM 07/30/33, paras 106-107

⁷⁴ ALINORM 07/30/33, paras 116-130

- The issue be discussed by the 60th Session of the Executive Committee (December 2007), including how to request chairpersons of Codex subsidiary bodies to provide their input on the matter and especially their experiences with the application of the *Measures to Facilitate Consensus*;
- The Secretariat compile the replies from the chairpersons into a discussion paper and circulate it to members and observers at the earliest possible time in the second half of 2008, in order to allow for ample time for reflection and the preparation of comments and proposals by Codex members for discussion of the issue at the 25th Session of the CCGP in April 2009.

200. The Commission noted that this process would not prevent the matter from being discussed at the 61st Session of the Executive Committee and the 31st Session of the Commission if the members so wished.

Elaboration of provisions on how to take into account the situation of developing countries within the Critical Review

201. The Commission confirmed that the special needs of developing countries had already been taken in the current Elaboration Procedure, particularly its Part 2 “Critical Review” and in the *Criteria for the Establishment of Work Priorities* and that no new work was necessary on this matter.

Scope of the Critical Review including the basis of the decision to entrust work to a Committee other than the one to which it had originally been entrusted

202. The Commission confirmed that as per the explanation of the Secretariat provided at the 24th Session of the CCGP⁷⁵, no further discussion on this matter was necessary.

Committee on Food Additives

Codex General Standard for Food Additives – Food Category 02.2.1.2

203. The Commission noted that the new work on the revision of the Food Category System (FCS) of the Codex General Standard for Food Additives (see Appendix VII) addressed the need to ensure better correspondence of the FCS and the products covered by the adopted Standard for Fat Spreads and Blended Spreads (see Appendix IV). In view of the revocation of the Codex Standard for Margarine (see Appendix VI), which had covered the products that were now included in the newly adopted Standard, the Commission agreed to delete food category 02.2.1.2 “Margarine and similar products” from the Annex to Table 3 of the General Standard for Food Additives.

Codex General Standard for Food Additives – Food Category 02.1.1

204. The Commission agreed to adopt the amendment to food category 2.1.1 “Butter oil, anhydrous milkfat and ghee” of the Codex General Standard for Food Additives, as proposed by the Committee on Food Additives.

Committee on Pesticide Residues

Enforcement of Codex MRLs at National Level⁷⁶

205. The Commission recalled that the issue of enforcement of Codex MRLs at national level had been discussed by the Committee on Pesticide Residues where many member governments expressed their concerns that some countries were imposing stricter MRLs than those in the Codex Alimentarius without sufficient scientific justification and that this impeded trade for developing countries.

206. The Secretariat confirmed that the enforcement of Codex standards including MRLs was an issue outside the mandate of the Commission and indicated that possible venues for considering this issue were the FAO/WHO Regional Coordinating Committees, where this matter could be considered under the standing agenda item “Information on Use of Codex Standards at National and Regional Level”, or the WTO SPS Committee that regularly monitored the use or non use of international standards including Codex standards and related texts.

⁷⁵ ALINORM 07/30/33, para. 129

⁷⁶ ALINORM 07/30/24, paras 204-211; ALINORM 07/30/3 para.80; CAC/30 LIM/13 (comments of European Community)

207. The Observer from WTO, referring to the relevant provisions of the SPS Agreement in this area, in particular, Article 3 and Article 12, pointed out that the SPS Agreement strongly encouraged the use of international standards by WTO members and that the SPS Committee had developed a procedure to monitor the use of international standards, in accordance with Article 12.4.

208. Some delegations stressed the importance of further consideration of this matter, expressing the view that technical assistance was necessary for developing countries to overcome this problem.

209. The Commission noted that the lack of capacity to generate scientific data by developing countries, especially with regard to pesticide MRLs, had been discussed at the 59th Session of the Executive Committee which had noted a proposal made by the Member for Latin America and the Caribbean to include an additional activity which would address the strengthening of scientific advisory groups, to improve their efficiency as well as to equip them with necessary resources, particularly in the area of pesticide residues. The Commission noted that the concerns expressed in relation to this proposal were related amongst others to the lack of capacity to generate scientific data in developing countries and that some of these concerns might best be addressed outside Codex, for instance, through international FAO/WHO workshops on pesticide residues. The Commission further noted that this matter had been addressed in Activity 1.7 under Goal 1 of the Strategic Plan 2008 -2013.

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

RELATIONS BETWEEN THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS (Agenda Item 14a)⁷⁷

Relation between Codex and the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE)

210. The Commission was reminded that at its 28th Session it had endorsed the recommendations of the 55th Session of the Executive Committee related to the collaboration between Codex and OIE and that the effectiveness of cooperative arrangements between Codex and OIE in accordance with the recommendations should be reviewed by the 30th Session of the Commission with a view to considering if further arrangements would be necessary or desirable, including those provisions mentioned in paragraph 13 of the *Guidelines on Cooperation with International Intergovernmental Organizations*.⁷⁸

211. The Observer from OIE, referring to the written submission, drew the attention of the Commission to two main points: the framework for cooperation between OIE and Codex, and the organisation of an international Conference addressing both OIE and Codex standards on traceability and their implementation at the national level.

212. With regard to the current framework for cooperation between OIE and Codex, he explained that OIE had been involved in consultations with Codex, FAO and WHO since 2001 with a view to improving the coordination of standards setting activities. He highlighted that the cooperation between OIE and Codex had produced over the present years positive results through the exchange of information and the cross-referencing between the respective international standards. He indicated that good examples of collaboration in the development of standards included texts produced by the two organizations regarding meat inspection and animal/product identification and that there was still room for further improvement.

213. The Observer stated that it would be appropriate to formalize the relationship between OIE and Codex by strengthening the legal basis for the production of international standards, including the development of joint OIE-Codex standards, where appropriate. He encouraged the Commission to recommend that OIE, FAO and WHO legal services work together with a view to eventually updating their existing mutual cooperation agreements to enable the establishment of a formal agreement between OIE and Codex.

214. On the second point, the Observer informed the Commission of the OIE's plan to hold an international Conference in 2009 in Argentina on the implementation of OIE standards on identification and traceability of live animals. He invited the Commission to consider broadening the scope of the Conference by including

⁷⁷ ALINORM 07/30/9E; CAC/30 INF/4 Rev.1 (OIE); CAC/30 INF/5 (WTO); CAC/30 INF/6 (IAEA); CAC/30 INF/7 (OIV)

⁷⁸ ALINORM 05/28/41, paras 201-203

Codex standards thus covering the entire food chain and invited FAO and WHO to work together with OIE to organise the event.

215. The Representative of the Legal Counsel of FAO, in presenting the common view of the Legal Offices of FAO and WHO, stated that Codex, despite its functional autonomy, was a statutory body of the parent organizations FAO and WHO and could only act through its parent organizations as regard its relations with external organizations. He informed the Commission that Codex had no legal capacity to conclude agreements and to be, in its own right, directly a party to any agreement or any contractual arrangement and that any agreement concerning Codex, if the need would arise, would necessarily be between FAO and WHO, on the one hand, and OIE, on the other hand. The Representative further stated that OIE was currently a party to agreements with both FAO and WHO and that these agreements provided a broad framework under which a wide range of cooperation activities could be carried out. He indicated the need to identify all practical issues that deserve special and specific treatment and clearly identify problems that hindered practical collaboration between Codex and OIE, with due consideration being paid to the status of FAO and WHO as organizations of the United Nations System.

216. Many delegations expressed their support for further strengthening the collaboration between Codex and OIE. Views expressed included: that there was a need for more consistency between Codex and OIE texts in order to ensure a coordinated approach to food safety throughout the food chain; that collaboration between veterinary and public health services needed to be strengthened to enhance food safety; that bilateral agreements between OIE and FAO/WHO currently in place needed to be modified to foster more systematic collaboration between Codex and OIE; that there were many areas of common interest for Codex and OIE including traceability, salmonellosis, certification, antimicrobial resistance; that there was a need to ensure more consistency in the decision-making process and standards between Codex and OIE; that collaboration between Codex and OIE needed to be strengthened also at national and regional level; and that the *Guidelines on Cooperation with International Intergovernmental Organizations* provided adequate guidance to ensure good collaboration between Codex and OIE and there was no need to review the current arrangements for cooperation.

217. In response to the statement made by the Representative of the Legal Counsel of FAO, the Observer from OIE indicated the lack of a specific reference to Codex in the WHO-OIE Agreement as one of the problems to be addressed to further strengthen the collaboration between Codex and OIE.

218. The Commission concluded its discussion by noting the ongoing substantial cooperation between Codex and OIE and recognised the need to further strengthen this collaboration on substantive matters.

219. The Commission **recommended** that FAO and WHO study the possibility of reviewing or updating FAO and WHO Agreements with OIE, as might be required. It also **requested** the Codex Secretariat to identify, in cooperation with the Legal Offices of FAO and WHO, any practical problems affecting the cooperation between Codex and OIE that might need to be addressed in a pragmatic manner, and taking into account all relevant circumstances.

220. With regard to the planned OIE Conference on traceability, the Commission noted that such event could best be organised in collaboration with FAO and WHO. It was also noted that the experts having Codex background could usefully participate in the planned Conference to keep informed the Commission and its subsidiary bodies on relevant development in order to facilitate the participation of those interested at this important event.

World Trade Organization (WTO)

221. In addition to the information provided in CAC/30 INF/5 on the work of the World Trade Organisation (WTO), the Observer from WTO informed the Commission of a number of other issues, especially those from the SPS Committee which had met just prior to this session of the Commission. The Observer highlighted four areas related to transparency, private standards, the second review of the implementation of the SPS Agreement, and technical assistance.

222. In particular, the Commission was informed that a workshop on transparency was scheduled for 15 October 2007 and that members were invited to submit proposals regarding possible modification to the Recommended Procedures for Implementing the Transparency Obligations of the SPS Agreement for consideration at the workshop and at subsequent Committee meetings and that one proposal already under discussion suggested that WTO members notify all new or modified sanitary and phytosanitary measures of trade significance, whether or not they conformed to international standards. In addition, the Commission noted that there were ongoing discussions on private standards in the SPS Committee, that an information

session had been held on 25 June 2007 on this matter and that the presentations were available on the WTO webpage (www.wto.org).

223. The Commission also noted that the SPS Committee, in the context of the second review of the implementation of the SPS Agreement, decided to give priority to the consideration of two issues: the use of *ad hoc* consultations and the relationship between the SPS Committee and Codex, OIE and IPPC.

224. With regard to technical assistance, the Commission noted the expression of thanks to the Codex Secretariat for their participation in and contribution to WTO regional workshops on the SPS and TBT Agreements as well as specialised courses on the SPS Agreement.

225. The Delegation of Chile emphasized the importance of the coordination between Codex and WTO in particular to cooperate in the monitoring use of international standards in relation to harmonization. The Delegation requested that Codex should continue its contacts with NGOs, considering that a number of private standards had a bearing on Codex standards.

International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)

226. The Commission noted the information provided in CAC/30 INF/6 and thanked the IAEA for the information.

The International Organisation of Vine and Wine (OIV)

227. The Observer from OIV, referring to the information provided in CAC/30 INF/7, highlighted the cooperation of OIV with Codex on a number of issues. These included work on the Code of Practice for the Prevention and Reduction of Ochratoxin A Contamination in Wine and the Standard for Table Grapes, both adopted at this session of the Commission.

228. The Commission also noted that the OIV at its General Assembly in June 2007 had taken into account different principles established by the Commission through the Committee on Food Import and Export Inspection and Certification Systems in the elaboration of the OIV draft resolution related to traceability guidelines in the vitiviculture sector.

229. The Commission **expressed** its thanks to the Observers of the intergovernmental organizations for the useful information provided in the present session and their continued cooperation with the Codex Alimentarius Commission.

RELATIONS BETWEEN THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION AND INTERNATIONAL NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS (Agenda Item 14b)⁷⁹

230. In accordance with section 6, paragraph 4 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 relations between the Commission and international non-governmental organizations.

Relations with the International Organization for Standardization (ISO)

231. The Commission noted the detailed information provided in document CAC/30 INF/8 on the work of ISO relevant to Codex work as well as the ongoing contacts for information exchange between the Codex and ISO Secretariats.

232. The Observer from ISO expressed the hope that through ongoing coordination and cooperation, Codex and ISO standards could remain complementary. The Observer informed the Commission of the recent creation of ISO/TC 234, "Fisheries and Aquaculture" and the publication of a joint ISO/ITC handbook on ISO 22000 to assist small businesses, especially in developing countries and transition economies, in their effort to improve their market share of food and agricultural products in the global market.

233. Several delegations stressed the importance of maintaining and strengthening coordination and cooperation between Codex and ISO both at the secretariat level as well as between Codex Contact Points

⁷⁹ ALINORM 07/30/9E, CAC/30 INF/2 (International non-governmental organization in observer status with the Codex Alimentarius Commission); CAC/30 INF/8 (Communication from ISO – Report of Activities Relevant to Codex)

and national member bodies of ISO in order to ensure the complementarity of the work carried out and to avoid duplication of work or contradiction in the standards. One delegation suggested that the cooperation should not be limited to the technical committees but also apply to the policy committees of ISO such as the Committee on Conformity Assessment (CASCO).

234. The Commission **supported** continued cooperation and coordination with ISO and agreed that the Codex Secretariat should maintain its contacts with ISO and continue to report regularly to the Commission on ISO activities of relevance to Codex work. The Commission also **supported** increased coordination and cooperation between the focal points of Codex and ISO at the national level.

FAO/WHO PROJECT AND TRUST FUND FOR ENHANCED PARTICIPATION IN CODEX (Agenda Item 15)⁸⁰

235. The Representative of WHO, on behalf of FAO and WHO, expressed their appreciation to the generous contribution from donor countries to the Trust Fund and drew the attention of the Commission to the additional study carried out in 2007 focusing on the impact of the Trust Fund on enhanced trade opportunity and the strengthening of national food safety institutions. The Representative noted that the study also contained several recommendations to improve the effectiveness of the Trust Fund, including the more support to activities at national level, which could lead to enhanced participation in Codex meetings and better implementation of Codex standards and related texts at national level.

236. Many delegations stated that the increased participation in Codex meetings achieved thanks to the Trust Fund had had various positive impacts in their countries, which could be further amplified if paralleled with capacity building activities to strengthen food safety legislation and enforcement. In this regard, the Commission noted that capacity building activities provided through the Trust Fund were restricted to those for the purpose of better participation in Codex meetings and that capacity building in the area of food safety in general would better be sought by other means, including through bilateral technical assistance and the Standards and Trade Development Facility.

237. The Delegation of Cameroon suggested that a midterm review of the Trust Fund should be considered to follow up on the matters identified in the first biennial review and that two-thirds of the funds should be targeted at the capacity building.

238. Some delegations expressed concern on the current criteria for the classification of eligible countries because they believed that the current classification primarily based on economic indicators did not correctly reflect the need and capacity of each country. The Representative of WHO responded that the selection criteria were under review while the basic principle would continue to be giving higher support to countries with larger difficulties in participating in the Codex process.

239. The Commission expressed its appreciations to the effort being made by FAO and WHO and to the donors making financial contribution. The Commission encouraged current donors to continue to provide funds to the Trust Fund and invited other countries to consider contributing to the Fund in order to ensure its sustainability, welcoming the move of Brazil and Malaysia to make contributions to the Fund.

OTHER MATTERS ARISING FROM FAO AND WHO (Agenda Item 16)⁸¹

Part I: Outcomes of Recent FAO/WHO Expert Meetings

240. The Representative of FAO, on behalf of FAO and WHO, informed the Commission of the major outcomes of the FAO and WHO expert meetings and related activities carried out since the last Session of the Commission and future meetings to be held in 2007, including those of JECFA, JMPR and JEMRA. The Representative noted that in view of increasing workload and requests for scientific advice, alternative ways were being sought to mobilize the necessary resources to provide such advice.

241. The Delegations of Paraguay and Brazil requested information on the outcomes of the recently held 68th meeting of JECFA, especially with regard to evaluation of steviol glycosides. The FAO Secretariat of JECFA informed the Commission that the JECFA meeting considered that the newly examined data did not

⁸⁰ ALINORM 07/30/9F Rev

⁸¹ ALINORM 07/30/9G, ALINORM 07/30/9G Add.1

raise additional safety concerns, but that the results of some ongoing clinical studies, which had been specifically requested at the sixty-third meeting of JECFA, needed to be provided to complete full evaluation. Therefore JECFA had agreed to maintain the temporary ADI, expressed as steviol, pending submission of the results of ongoing studies. The Commission further noted that this matter would be considered by the next session of JECFA in June 2008, that a summary report of the 68th meeting would be available on the website in two weeks time, and that a full report would be published by WHO early 2008. The Delegation of Paraguay, while expressing the great interest for steviol glycosides for their country, expressed its concern with the results of the evaluation and the decision taken by JECFA.

Part II: Report of Conclusions of the FAO/WHO Consultative Process on Provision of Scientific Advice to Codex and Member Countries

242. The Representative of FAO, speaking on behalf of FAO and WHO, informed the Commission of the final conclusions to the FAO/WHO Consultative Process initiated at the request of the 24th Session of the Commission (2001) and highlighted some of the main points, as follows.

- The FAO/WHO Framework on the Provision of Scientific Advice was developed to document the principles, practices and procedures currently applied by FAO and WHO for the provision of scientific advice in order to continue strengthening the independence, transparency and quality of scientific advice.
- FAO and WHO jointly continued to prioritise Codex requests for scientific advice, taking in consideration the criteria proposed by Codex (ALINORM 05/28/3, para. 75) as well as the requests of advice from member countries and the availability of resources. The status of requests for scientific advice was presented annually to the Commission.
- The FAO/WHO meeting on “*Enhancing Developing Country Participation in FAO/WHO Scientific Advice Activities*” (Belgrade, 12-15 December 2005) provided a range of recommendations to FAO and WHO in three main areas: greater inclusion of data from developing countries; enhancement of the potential for experts from developing countries; and means to enhance the enabling environment at national, regional and international levels.

Part III: Status of Requests for FAO/WHO Scientific Advice

243. The Representative of WHO, speaking on behalf of FAO and WHO, highlighted that recent increase in requests from Codex subsidiary bodies and member states of FAO and WHO for scientific advice related to food safety required more resources to be mobilized so as to facilitate the provision of scientific evidence in a timely and appropriate manner, particularly among others, in the area of risk assessment of microbial hazards in fresh foods including viruses. The Representative stated that priority had also been given to emerging issues in food production related to human health (e.g. antimicrobial resistance, biotechnology and nanotechnology) as well as to areas requiring innovative approach such as risk-benefit assessment (e.g. active chlorine, consumption of fish associated with methylmercury) .

Part IV: Other Matters from FAO and WHO

244. The Representative of WHO informed the Commission that the International Health Regulations (IHR (2005)), which were legally binding to Member States of WHO and covered serious health hazards in foods in international trade, had come into force in June 2007. The Representative also indicated that the International Food Safety Authorities Network (INFOSAN) was an effective tool to communicate emergency information related to food safety and manage food safety related events which required notification under the IHR, and urged that relevant food safety authorities register their contact point for INFOSAN.

Part V: FAO/WHO Capacity Building Activities in Food Safety and Quality

245. The Commission was informed of the FAO/WHO activities in capacity building in the field of food safety and quality as provided in ALINORM 07/30/9G Add.1. The Commission was informed that capacity building activities were conducted at national, regional and global level and took the form of field projects, training activities and development of tools such as manuals and training packages. Several key activities were highlighted: the programme for improving the quality and safety of fresh fruits and vegetables; strengthening the capacity of national food control systems: guidelines to assess capacity building needs; risk analysis and support to national Codex work, amongst others.

246. The Commission noted that FAO and WHO were trying to keep up with member country demands and were improving effectiveness with new training modalities and approaches such as the e-learning courses and the use of indicators for the impact evaluation of capacity building activities.

APPOINTMENT OF REGIONAL COORDINATORS (Agenda Item 17)⁸²

247. In accordance with Rule IV.2 of the Commission's Rules of Procedure, and on the basis of the nominations made by the Coordinating Committees, the following Members of the Commission were **appointed** as Coordinators to hold office from the end of the Thirtieth Session of the Commission until the end of the regular session of the Commission held in 2009.

Africa: Ghana
 Asia: Indonesia
 Europe: Switzerland
 Latin America & the Caribbean: Mexico
 Near East: Tunisia
 North America & South-West Pacific: Tonga

ELECTION OF OFFICERS OF THE COMMISSION AND ELECTION OF MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (Agenda Item 18)⁸³

248. The Commission **elected**, by general consent, the following persons to hold office as Chairperson and Vice-Chairpersons of the Codex Alimentarius Commission from the end of its present Session to the end of the next regular session of the Commission.

Chairperson: Dr Claude J.S. MOSHA (United Republic of Tanzania)

Vice-Chairpersons: Dr Karen HULEBAK (United States of America)

Ms NORAINI Mohd. Othman (Malaysia)

Dr Wim VAN ECK (The Netherlands)

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

Africa: Mali
 Asia: Japan
 Europe: United Kingdom
 Latin America & the Caribbean: Argentina
 Near East: Jordan
 North America: Canada
 South-West Pacific: New Zealand

⁸² ALINORM 07/30/2, paras 33–34; ALINORM 07/30/15, paras 142–145; ALINORM 07/30/19, paras 54–55; ALINORM 07/30/28, paras 61–62; ALINORM 07/30/32, para. 78; ALINORM 07/30/36, para. 124; ALINORM 07/30/40, para. 82

⁸³ ALINORM 07/30/2

DESIGNATION OF COUNTRIES RESPONSIBLE FOR APPOINTING THE CHAIRPERSON OF CODEX COMMITTEES AND AD HOC TASK FORCES (Agenda Item 19)⁸⁴

250. The Commission **confirmed** the designation of the Host Governments as listed in the Appendix X to this report.

251. In arriving at its decision, the Commission noted that United Kingdom no longer sought to host the Committee on Fats and Oils and noted the willingness of Malaysia and Argentina to serve as host government for this Committee. The Commission proceeded with a secret ballot and designated Malaysia as the host government for the Committee.

252. The Delegation of Malaysia indicated its commitment to ensure effective operation of this Committee. The Delegation of Argentina congratulated Malaysia on their designation and wished them every success.

OTHER BUSINESS (Agenda Item 20)

253. Due to time constraints, the Commission did not discuss the necessity of circulating Codex documents simultaneously in all working languages, which had been proposed for discussion under this agenda item by the Delegation of Columbia (*see* para. 6).

254. The Commission noted that its 31st Session would be held in Geneva, Switzerland, from 30 June to 5 July 2008, subject to further confirmation.

APPENDIX I

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APPENDIX II

AMENDMENTS TO THE RULES OF PROCEDURE OF THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS
COMMISSION**Rule IV Coordinators**

- 1.-2. [no change]
3. The functions of the Coordinators shall be:
- (i) **to appoint the Chairperson of the Coordinating Committee where such committee has been set up under Rule XI.1(b)(ii) for the region or group of countries concerned.**
 - (ii) to assist and coordinate the work of the Codex Committees set up under Rule XI.1(b)(i) in their region or group of countries in the preparation of draft standards, guidelines and other recommendations for submission to the Commission
 - (iii) to assist the Executive Committee and the Commission, as required, by advising them of the views of countries and recognized regional intergovernmental and non-government organizations in their respective regions on matters under discussion or of interest;

Rule IV (paragraph 3 (i) renumbered 3 (ii) as above)

[FRENCH ONLY]

aider aux travaux des comités du Codex créés **pour leur région ou groupe de pays** en vertu de l'Article XI.1b)i) et les coordonner, ~~dans leur région ou groupe de pays~~ en ce qui concerne la préparation de projets de normes, de lignes directrices et autres recommandations à soumettre à la Commission;

Rule V Executive Committee

1. The Executive Committee shall consist of the Chairperson and the Vice-Chairpersons of the Commission, and the Coordinators appointed on the basis of Rule IV together with seven further Members elected by the Commission at regular sessions from among the Members of the Commission, one each coming from the following geographic locations: Africa, Asia, Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean, Near East, North America, South-West Pacific. Not more than one delegate from any one country shall be a member of the Executive Committee. Members elected on a geographic basis shall hold office from the end of the session of the Commission at which they were elected until the end of the second succeeding regular session and shall be eligible for re-election if they have not served for more than two years in their current term, but after having served two consecutive terms shall be ineligible to hold such office for the next succeeding term. **Members elected on a geographic basis are expected to act within the Executive Committee in the interest of the Commission as a whole.**
- 2.-7. [no change]

Rule XI Subsidiary Bodies

- 1.-9. [no change]
10. The Members who shall be responsible for appointing Chairpersons of subsidiary bodies established under Rule XI.1(b)(i) ~~and Rule XI.1(b)(ii)~~ shall be designated at each session by the Commission and shall be eligible for re-designation. All other officers of subsidiary bodies shall be elected by the body concerned and shall be eligible for re-election.
11. [no change]

(Secretariat to take care of possible consequential changes)

APPENDIX III

**AMENDMENTS TO THE GUIDE TO THE PROCEDURE FOR THE REVISION AND
AMENDMENT OF CODEX STANDARDS AND ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE AMENDMENTS
OF CODEX STANDARDS ELABORATED BY CODEX COMMITTEES WHICH HAVE BEEN
ADJOURNED *SINE DIE***

**GUIDE TO THE PROCEDURE FOR THE AMENDMENT REVISION AND REVISION AMENDMENT OF CODEX
STANDARDS AND RELATED TEXTS**

13. The procedure for amending or revising a Codex standard is laid down in paragraph 8 of the Introduction to the Procedure for the Elaboration of Codex Standards and Related Texts. This Guide provides more detailed guidance on the existing procedure for the amendment and revision of Codex standards and related text.

24. When the Commission has decided to amend or revise a standard, the unrevised standard will remain the applicable Codex standard until the amendment to the standard or the revised standard has been adopted by the Commission.

3. For the purpose of this Guide:

Amendment means any addition, change or deletion of text or numerical values in a Codex standard or related text, may be editorial or substantive, and concerns one or a limited number of articles in the Codex text. In particular, amendments of an editorial nature may include but are not limited to:

- correction of an error;
- insertion of an explanatory footnote; and
- updating of references consequential to the adoption, amendment or revision of Codex standards and other texts of general applicability, including the provisions in the Procedural Manual.

Finalization or updating of methods of analysis and sampling as well as alignment of provisions, for consistency, to those in similar standards or related texts adopted by the Commission may be handled by the Commission in the same manner as amendments of an editorial nature, as far as the procedure described in this Guide is concerned.

Revision means any changes to a Codex standard or related text other than those covered under “amendment” as defined above.

The Commission has the final authority to determine whether a proposal made constitutes an amendment or a revision, and whether an amendment proposed is of an editorial or substantive nature.

~~42. Proposals for the amendment or revision of Codex standards and related texts should be submitted to the Commission by the subsidiary body concerned, by the Secretariat, or a member of the Commission where the subsidiary body concerned is not in existence or has been adjourned *sine die*. In the latter case, proposals should be received by 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. The proposal should be accompanied by a project document (see Part 2 of the Elaboration Procedures) unless the Executive Committee or the Commission decides otherwise. However, if the amendment proposed is of an editorial nature, the preparation of a project document is not required.~~

~~53. 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~~ decides whether the amendment or revision of a standard is necessary. If the Commission decides in the affirmative, one of the following courses of action will be taken:

(i) In the case of an amendment of an editorial nature, it will be open to the Commission to adopt the amendment at Step 8 of the Uniform Procedure (see Part 3 of the Elaboration Procedures).

~~(ii) 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 and agreed upon by a subsidiary body Codex Committee, it will also be open to the Commission to adopt the amendment at Step 5 of the Uniform Procedure (see Part 3 of the Elaboration Procedures) 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.~~

(iii) In other cases, the Commission will approve the proposal as new work and the approved new work and the proposer of the amendment is other than a Codex committee, the proposed amendment will be referred for consideration to the appropriate subsidiary body Codex committee, if such body committee is still in existence. If such body committee is not in existence, the Commission will determine how best to deal with the new work proposed amendment.

[Paragraphs 1 and 2 of the "Arrangements" are removed.]

~~65. In the case w~~Where Codex subsidiary bodies have been abolished or dissolved, or Codex committees have been adjourned sine die, the Secretariat keeps under review all Codex standards and related texts elaborated by these bodies originating from Codex Committees adjourned sine die and to determine the need for any amendments, in particular those arising from decisions of the Commission, in particular amendments of the type mentioned in para. 1(a), (b), (c), (d) and those of (e) if of an editorial nature. If a need to amend the standard appears appropriate. If the need for amendments of an editorial nature is identified then the Secretariat should prepare proposed amendments a text for consideration and adoption by in the Commission. If the need for amendments of the type in para (f) and those of (e) of a substantive nature is identified, the Secretariat, in cooperation with the national secretariat of the adjourned Committee if applicable, and, if possible, the Chairperson of that Committee, should agree on the need for such an amendment and prepare a working paper containing the wording of a proposed amendment and the reasons for proposing such amendments and the wording of such amendments as appropriate, and request comments from members of the Commission Member Governments: (a) on the need to proceed with such an amendment and (b) on the proposed amendment itself. If the majority of the replies received from members of the Commission Member Governments is affirmative on both the need to amend the standard and the suitability of the proposed wording for the amendment or an alternative proposed wording, the proposal should be submitted to the Commission with a request to approve the amendment of the standard concerned for consideration and adoption. In cases where replies do not appear to offer an uncontroversial solution then the Commission should be informed accordingly and it would be for the Commission to determine how best to proceed.

AMENDMENTS TO THE GENERAL PRINCIPLES OF THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS

Purpose of the Codex Alimentarius

1. The Codex Alimentarius is a collection of internationally adopted food standards and related texts¹ presented in a uniform manner. These food standards and related texts aim at protecting consumers' health and ensuring fair practices in the food trade. ~~The Codex Alimentarius also includes provisions of an advisory nature in the form of codes of practice, guidelines and other recommended measures intended to assist in achieving the purposes of the Codex Alimentarius.~~ The publication of the Codex Alimentarius is intended to guide and promote the elaboration and establishment of definitions and requirements for foods to assist in their harmonization and in doing so to facilitate international trade.

Scope of the Codex Alimentarius

2. The Codex Alimentarius includes standards for all the principal foods, whether processed, semi-processed or raw, for distribution to the consumer. Materials for further processing into foods should be included to the extent necessary to achieve the purposes of the Codex Alimentarius as defined. The Codex Alimentarius includes provisions in respect of food hygiene, food additives, ~~pesticide~~ residues of pesticides and veterinary drugs, contaminants, labelling and presentation, methods of analysis and sampling, and import and export inspection and certification. ~~It also includes provisions of an advisory nature in the form of codes of practice, guidelines and other recommended measures.~~

Nature of Codex Standards

3. Codex standards and related texts are not a substitute for, or alternative to national legislation. Every country's laws and administrative procedures contain provisions with which it is essential to comply.

43. Codex standards and related texts contain requirements for food aimed at ensuring for the consumer a safe sound, wholesome food product free from adulteration, correctly labelled and presented. A Codex standard for any food or foods should be drawn up in accordance with the Format for Codex Commodity Standards and contain, as appropriate, the sections criteria listed therein.

Revision of Codex Standards

54. The Codex Alimentarius Commission and its subsidiary bodies are committed to revision as necessary of Codex standards and related texts to ensure that they are consistent with and reflect current scientific knowledge and other relevant information. When required, a standard or related text shall be revised or removed in accordance with the Procedures for the Elaboration of Codex Standards and Related Texts ~~using the same procedures as followed for the elaboration of a new standard~~. Each member of the Codex Alimentarius Commission is responsible for identifying, and presenting to the appropriate committee, any new scientific and other relevant information which may warrant revision of any existing Codex standards or related texts.

¹ These include codes of practice, guidelines and other recommendations.

**AMENDMENTS TO THE PRINCIPLES CONCERNING THE PARTICIPATION OF
INTERNATIONAL NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS IN THE WORK OF THE
CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION**

1.-5. [no change]

6. Review of "Observer Status"

The Directors-General may terminate observer status if an Organization no longer meets the criteria in sections 3 and 4 above ~~that applied at the time it was granted observer status~~, or for reasons of exceptional nature, in accordance with the procedures set out in this section. [...]

DEFINITIONS FOR THE PURPOSE OF THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS

[for inclusion in Section I]

Codex maximum level for a contaminant in a food or feed commodity is the maximum concentration of that substance recommended by the Codex Alimentarius Commission to be legally permitted in that commodity.

Good Manufacturing Practice in the Use of Food Additives means that:

- the quantity of the additive added to food does not exceed the amount reasonably required to accomplish its intended physical nutritional or other technical effect in food;
- the quantity of the additive that becomes a component of food as a result of its use in the manufacturing, processing or packaging of a food and which is not intended to accomplish any physical, or other technological effect in the food itself, is reduced to the extent reasonably possible;
- the additive is of appropriate food grade quality and is prepared and handled in the same way as a food ingredient. Food grade quality is achieved by compliance with the specifications as a whole and not merely with individual criteria in terms of safety.

PROCEDURES FOR CONSIDERATION OF THE ENTRY AND REVIEW OF FOOD ADDITIVE PROVISIONS IN THE GENERAL STANDARD FOR FOOD ADDITIVES

[for inclusion in Section II]

SCOPE

The Codex General Standard for Food Additives is intended to include food additive provisions for standardised and non-standardised foods in the Codex Alimentarius.

The following text describes the data and information that should be submitted to the Codex Committee on Food Additives when requesting the Committee to initiate work to add or revise food additive provisions in the Codex General Standard for Food Additives. The decisions required to establish acceptance or rejection of new proposals are also elaborated.

Provisions for the use of processing aids (e.g., most enzyme preparations, clarifying and filtering aids, extraction solvents) are not included in the General Standard for Food Additives.

INITIATION OF WORK

Revision

The food additive provisions of the General Standard for Food Additives may be revised by the Committee on Food Additives after requests submitted by Codex Committees, Codex members, or the Codex Alimentarius Commission. Information to support amendment of the General Standard for Food Additives shall be provided by the proposing body. Supporting information provided to the Committee on Food Additives should include, as appropriate:

- Specifications for the food additive;
- A summary of the Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Food Additives (JECFA) safety evaluation of the food additive;
- The food categories or sub-categories in which the additive is intended to be used;
- An indication of the technological need / justification for the additive, referencing one or more of the General Principles for the Use of Food Additives of the GSFA (Section 3);
- Maximum use levels for the food additive in the specified food categories:
 - For additives with a numerical Acceptable Daily Intake (ADI), a numerical maximum use level for each specified use although for certain cases, a level of GMP may be appropriate;
 - For additives with an ADI Not Specified or Not Limited, a recommendation to list the additive in Table 3 accompanied by additional proposals for inclusion in Tables 1 and 2 for use in the food categories listed in the Annex to Table 3, as appropriate;
 - For additives with an “acceptable” ADI, either a numerical maximum use level for the acceptable level of treatment of a food or a level of GMP, consistent with the JECFA evaluation.
- A justification of the maximum use levels from a technological point-of-view; and an indication, by means of the procedure indicated in Annex A of the General Standard for Food Additives or an exposure assessment, that this level meets the safety requirements enumerated in Section 3.1 of the General Standard for Food Additives.
- A reasoned statement that consumers will not be misled by the use of the additive.

The Committee on Food Additives shall consider all amendments to the General Standard for Food Additives proposed by Codex Committees, Codex members, or the Codex Alimentarius Commission.

Review

The food additive provisions for the General Standard for Food Additives shall be reviewed by the Committee on Food Additives on a regular basis and revised as necessary in light of revisions of the risk assessment by JECFA or of changing technological need and justification for use.

- If JECFA changes an ADI to a Temporary ADI, the food additive provisions of the General Standard for Food Additives may remain unchanged until the ADI has been withdrawn or the full status has been restored by JECFA.
- If JECFA withdraws an ADI the food additive provisions of the General Standard for Food Additives shall be amended by removing all provision for the use of the additive.

The following additional guidance is provided regarding the information to be submitted:

- Identity of the food additive
 - Food additives shall have been evaluated by JECFA and either assigned a full numerical or non-numerical (“not specified” or “not limited”) ADI, or deemed to be acceptable for a particular use.
 - Food additives shall have been assigned an International Numbering System number.
- Functional effect of the food additive
 - The functional class list used in *Class Names and the International Numbering System* (CAC/GL 36-1989) should be used.
- Proposed use of the food additive
 - The appropriate food categories from the food category system (Annex B of the General Standard for Food Additives) and maximum use levels should be specified.
 - With regard to the acceptable maximum use level:
 - A numerical use level should be provided for a food additive assigned a numerical ADI. However, in some cases, reporting the use level as good manufacturing practice (“GMP”) may be appropriate.
 - For a food additive assigned a non-numerical (“not specified” or “not limited”) ADI that is listed in Table 3 of the General Standard for Food Additives, a numerical or good manufacturing practice (“GMP”) use level should be provided for any request to list the additive in a food category in the Annex to Table 3.
 - For some food additives, the ADI has been reported on a specific basis (e.g., “as phosphorus” for phosphates; “as benzoic acid” for benzoates). For consistency, the maximum use level for these additives should be reported on the same basis as the ADI.
- Justification for the use and technological need of the food additive
 - Supporting information based on the criteria in Section 3.2 of the Preamble of the General Standard for Food Additives should be included.
- Safe use of the food additive
 - An intake assessment of the proposed use of the food additive, in accordance with Section 3.1 of the Preamble of the General Standard for Food Additives, should be included as appropriate.
- Justification that the use does not mislead the consumer
 - A reasoned statement that consumers will not be misled by the use of the additive should be provided.

DOES THE FOOD ADDITIVE USE MEET THE CRITERIA OF SECTION 3.2 OF THE PREAMBLE OF THE GENERAL STANDARD FOR FOOD ADDITIVES?

Section 3.2 of the Preamble of the General Standard for Food Additives establishes the criteria for justifying the use of a food additive. Adherence to these criteria is necessary for the inclusion of the food additive in the General Standard for Food Additives. If the use of the additive does not meet these criteria, it is not considered further and the work is discontinued. If the information provided to justify the use of the additive is inadequate for the Codex Committee on Food Additives to reach a decision, further information on the use and technological justification and need for the food additive will be requested for consideration at the Committee's next session. If this information is not provided by the next session, work on the provision is discontinued.

IS THE FOOD ADDITIVE USED IN STANDARDIZED FOOD?

The Codex Committee on Food Additives, asks the relevant Codex commodity committee to consider the functional classes of additives, additives, and their technological justification for the commodity and to refer back this information by the next available session.. In light of this information, the Codex Committee on Food Additives recommends appropriate conditions of use based on proposals of the commodity committee.

In certain cases, however, it may be appropriate for the Codex commodity committee to develop a list of food additives with associated functional classes and acceptable maximum use levels that would be forwarded to the Codex Committee on Food Additives for endorsement and, ultimately, incorporation into the General Standard for Food Additives. The development of such food additive lists should be consistent with the principles used in the development of the General Standard for Food Additives. However, the development of food additive lists in commodity standards should be restricted as much as possible. For example, an additive may be listed in a commodity standard if it is needed to achieve a technical effect that is not achievable by the use of other additives of the same functional class. Additives may also be listed in a commodity standard if there is a need, based on a safety assessment, to limit the use of the additive. Justification for such exceptions should be provided by the Codex commodity committees to the Codex Committee on Food Additives for consideration.

If the Codex commodity committee has been adjourned, the Codex Committee on Food Additives may revise the food additive provisions in commodity standards under the purview of the adjourned committee, as necessary.

The Codex Committee on Food Additives would consider any proposed revision in light of the principles of technological justification for the use of additives as indicated in Section 3.2 of the Preamble of the General Standard for Food Additives. These revisions, once adopted by the Commission, would be incorporated into the General Standard for Food Additives.

HAS A NON-NUMERICAL (“NOT SPECIFIED” OR “NOT LIMITED”) ADI BEEN ASSIGNED?

Yes - Non-Numerical (“Not Specified” or “Not Limited”) ADI:

Food additives assigned a non-numerical ADI are proposed for inclusion in Table 3 of the General Standard for Food Additives. Requests for the use of these additives in the food categories listed in the Annex to Table 3 are made by proposing provisions for inclusion in Tables 1 and 2 of the General Standard for Food Additives. These proposals are considered by the Codex Committee on Food Additives according to the criteria described under “**Consideration of Conditions of Use in the Specific Food Categories**”, below.

No - Numerical ADI or Acceptable for Limited Use:

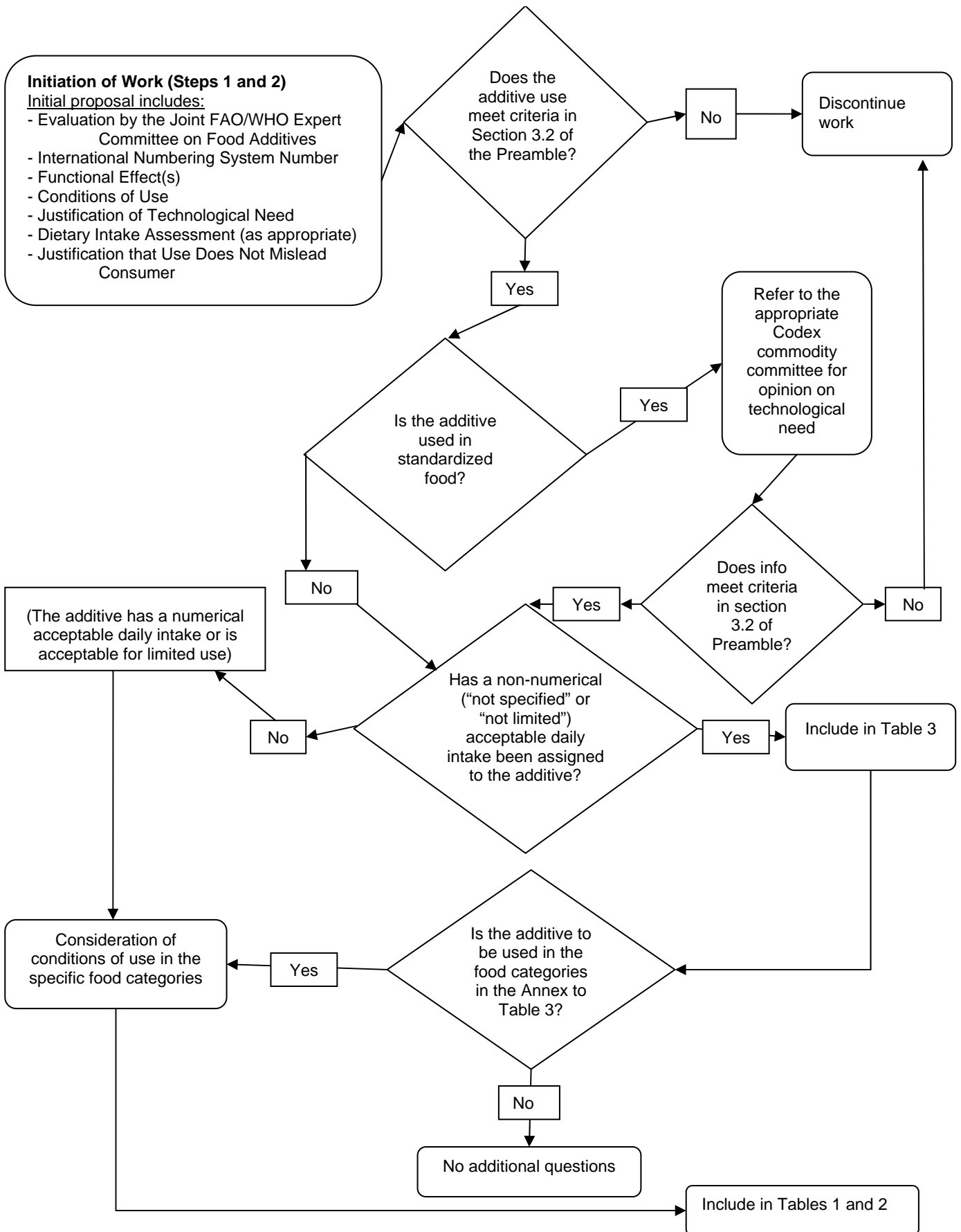
Food additives assigned a numerical ADI or evaluated to be acceptable for one or more particular uses are proposed for inclusion in Tables 1 and 2 of the General Standard for Food Additives. These proposals are considered by the Codex Committee on Food Additives according to the criteria described under “**Consideration of Conditions of Use in the Specific Food Categories**”, below.

CONSIDERATION OF CONDITIONS OF USE IN THE SPECIFIC FOOD CATEGORIES

The Codex Committee on Food Additives identifies and recommends appropriate food categories and use levels for inclusion in Tables 1 and 2 of the General Standard for Food Additives. For this purpose, the Committee will consider the following general principles for the inclusion of a food additive provision in Tables 1 and 2 of the General Standard for Food Additives:

1. Food additives that share a numerical group ADI will be considered as a group without further restrictions on the use of individual additives in that group. However, in some cases, restrictions on the use of individual additives in that group could be appropriate (e.g., because of public health concerns).
2. Food additives that have multiple functional classes will be considered without further restrictions to their functional class.
3. In general, a numerical use level for a proposed use of a food additive in a food category is given preference over a use level reported as good manufacturing practice (“GMP”). However, exceptions, as noted under “**Initiation of Work**”, shall also be taken into account by the Codex Committee on Food Additives on a case-by-case basis.
4. When establishing the acceptable maximum level of use for an additive in a specified food category, the Codex Committee on Food Additives considers the technological justification for the proposed level and the exposure assessment in accordance with Sections 3.1 and 3.2 of the Preamble of the General Standard for Food Additives. If more than one maximum use level is proposed, and the Committee cannot reach consensus on the appropriate maximum use level, the delegations supporting and the delegations opposing the proposed maximum use level should provide additional justification for their proposed levels to address any specific concerns raised by the Committee, by the next available session, to the Codex Committee on Food Additives, for consideration in its next session. Proposals lacking justification will no longer be considered, and the proposed level for which justification has been provided will be forwarded for adoption.
5. To resolve questions related to dietary exposure of food additives, the Codex Committee on Food Additives may request JECFA to perform exposure assessments for the additives based on the acceptable maximum use levels under consideration by the Codex Committee on Food Additives.
6. Acceptable maximum use levels are established as described in the previous sections and the food additive provisions are entered in the General Standard for Food Additives. Each use level represents the highest acceptable maximum use level in the broadest food category for which the use is technologically justified. To the extent possible, the hierarchical structure of the food category system will be used to simplify the listing of the food additive provisions in Tables 1 and 2 of the General Standard of Food Additives. In this regard:
 - If the new use of a food additive is for a broader food category and at a maximum use level that is higher than or equal to those in the sub-categories of the broad food category that are already listed in the General Standard for Food Additives, then the new use in the broader food category supersedes the already-listed provisions. These provisions are discontinued (if proposed draft or draft provisions), or revoked upon adoption of the proposed use at Step 8 (if adopted provision at Step 8).
 - If the new use of a food additive is for a broader food category and at a lower maximum use level than for the sub-categories of the broad food category that already exist in the General Standard for Food Additives, then the provisions listed in the General Standard for Food Additives are determined according to the hierarchy of the food category system. The highest maximum use level in each food sub-category, whether from an existing provision or from the new use in the broader food category, is entered into the General Standard for Food Additives. Any existing provisions that are superseded by the new use are discontinued (if proposed draft or draft provisions), or revoked upon adoption of the proposed use at Step 8 (if adopted provision at Step 8).
 - If the new use of a food additive, together with the already-listed provisions in the General Standard for Food Additives, represents use in all of the sub-categories of a broader food category at the same maximum use level, then the use in the broader food category will be listed in the General Standard for Food Additives. The already-listed provisions in the sub-categories are discontinued (if proposed draft or draft provisions), or revoked upon adoption of the provision in the broader food category at Step 8 (if adopted provision at Step 8).

Diagram of procedure for consideration of the entry and review of food additives in the Codex General Standard for Food Additives



AMENDMENTS TO THE PRINCIPLES FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OR SELECTION OF CODEX SAMPLING PROCEDURES

PURPOSE OF CODEX METHODS OF SAMPLING

Codex Methods of Sampling are designed to ensure that fair and valid sampling procedures are used when food is being tested for compliance with a particular Codex commodity standard. The sampling methods are intended for use as international methods designed to avoid or remove difficulties which may be created by diverging legal, administrative and technical approaches to sampling and by diverging interpretation of results of analysis in relation to lots or consignments of foods, in the light of the relevant provision(s) of the applicable Codex standard.

METHODS OF SAMPLING

Types of Sampling Plans and Procedures

(a) Sampling Plans for Commodity Defects:

~~Such plans~~ These are normally applied to visual defects (e.g. loss of colour, ~~mis-graded for misgrading of size, etc.~~) and extraneous matter. They ~~are~~ will normally be attributes plans, and plans such as those included in Section 3.1 and 4.2 of the FAO/WHO Codex Alimentarius Sampling Plans for Prepackaged Foods (AQL 6.5) General Guidelines on Sampling (CAC/GL 50-2004) (hereinafter referred to as "General Guidelines") may be applied.

(b) Sampling Plans for Net Contents:

~~These~~ Such plans are ~~sampling plans~~ those which apply to pre-packaged foods generally and are intended to serve to check compliance of lots or consignments with provisions for net contents. Plans such as those included in Section 3.3 and 4.4 of the General Guidelines may be applied.

(c) Sampling Plans for Compositional Criteria:

Such plans are normally applied to analytically determined compositional criteria (e.g., loss on drying in white sugar, etc.). They are predominantly based on variable procedures with unknown standard deviation. Plans such as those included in Section 4.3 of the General Guidelines may be applied.

(d) Specific Sampling Plans for Health-related Properties:

Such plans are ~~generally~~ normally applied to heterogeneous conditions, e.g., in the assessment of microbiological spoilage, microbial by-products or sporadically occurring chemical contaminants.

General Instructions for the Selection of Methods of Sampling

~~(a) Official methods of sampling as elaborated by international organizations occupying themselves with a food or a group of foods are preferred. Such methods, when attracted to Codex standards, may be revised using Codex recommended sampling terms (to be elaborated).~~

(a) Sampling methods described in the General Guidelines or official methods of sampling elaborated by international organizations occupying themselves with a food or a group of foods are preferred. Such official methods may be written using the General Guidelines when attracted to Codex standards.

(b) When selecting appropriate sampling plans, Table 1 in the General Guidelines may be utilized.

~~(bc)~~ The appropriate Codex Commodity Committee should indicate, before it elaborates any sampling plan, or before any plan is endorsed by the Codex Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling, the following:

- (i) the basis on which the criteria in the Codex Commodity standards have been drawn up (e.g. whether on the basis that every item in a lot, or a specified high proportion, shall comply with the provision in the standard or whether the average of a set of samples extracted from a lot must comply and, if so, whether a minimum or maximum tolerance, as appropriate, is to be given);

- (ii) whether there is to be any differentiation in the relative importance of the criteria in the standards and, if so, what is the appropriate statistical parameter each criterion should attract, and hence, the basis for judgement when a lot is in conformity with a standard.

(ed) Instructions on the procedure for the taking of samples should indicate the following:

- (i) the measures necessary in order to ensure that the sample taken is representative of the consignment or of the lot;
- (ii) the size and the number of individual items forming the sample taken from the lot or consignment;
- (iii) the administrative measures for taking and handling the sample.

(de) The sampling protocol may include the following information:

- (i) the statistical criteria to be used for acceptance or rejection of the lot on the basis of the sample;
- (ii) the procedures to be adopted in cases of dispute.

GENERAL CONSIDERATIONS

(a) The Codex Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling should maintain closest possible relations with all interested organizations working on methods of analysis and sampling.

(b) The Codex Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling should organize its work in such a manner as to keep under constant review all methods of analysis and sampling published in the Codex Alimentarius.

(c) In the Codex methods of analysis, provision should be made for variations in reagent concentrations and specifications from country to country.

(d) Codex methods of analysis which have been derived from scientific journals, theses, or publications, either not readily available or available in languages other than the official languages of FAO and WHO, or which for other reasons should be printed in the Codex Alimentarius *in extenso*, should follow the standard layout for methods of analysis as adopted by the Codex Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling.

(e) Methods of analysis which have already been printed as official methods of analysis in other available publications and which are adopted as Codex methods need only be quoted by reference in the Codex Alimentarius.

AMENDMENTS TO THE FORMAT FOR CODEX COMMODITY STANDARDS

FOOD ADDITIVES

This section should contain ~~the names of the additives permitted and, where appropriate, the maximum amount permitted in the food. It should be prepared in accordance with guidance given in the section on Food Additives and Contaminants in the *Relations between Commodity Committees and General Committees*, a general reference to the corresponding sections of the General Standard for Food Additives which and may should~~ take the following form:

~~“The following provisions in respect of food additives and their specifications as contained in section of the Codex Alimentarius are subject to endorsement [have been endorsed] by the Codex Committee on Food Additives.”~~

“[Food Additive functional class] used in accordance with Tables 1 and 2 of the Codex General Standard of Food Additives in food category x.x.x.x [food category name] or listed in Table 3 of the General Standard for Food Additives are acceptable for use in foods conforming to this standard.”

Exceptions from, or addition to, the General Standard for Food Additives that are necessary for its interpretation with respect to the product concerned should be justified fully, and should be restricted where possible. In cases where it is necessary to explicitly list food additives in a commodity standard, the names of the additives/functional classes permitted and, where appropriate, the maximum amount permitted in the food should be prepared in accordance with guidance given in the section on Food Additives in the *Relations between Commodity Committees and General Committees*, and may take the following form:

“The following provisions in respect of food additives and their specifications as contained in section of the Codex Alimentarius are subject to endorsement [have been endorsed] by the Codex Committee on Food Additives.”

Then should follow a tabulation, viz.:

“INS number, name of additive, maximum level (in percentage or mg/kg), grouped by functional classes.

In this section, provisions for flavourings and processing aids should also be included.

CONTAMINANTS

Pesticide Residues:

~~This section should include, by reference, any levels for pesticide residues that have been established by the Codex Alimentarius Commission for the product concerned.~~

Other Contaminants:

~~In addition, this section should contain the names of other contaminants and where appropriate the maximum level permitted in the food, and the text to appear in the standard may take the following form:~~

~~“The following provisions in respect of contaminants, other than pesticide residues, are subject to endorsement [have been endorsed] by the Codex Committee on Contaminants in Foods.”~~

~~Then should follow a tabulation, viz.:~~

~~“Name of contaminant, maximum level (in percentage or mg/kg).”~~

This section should include the following statement:

“The products covered by this Standard shall comply with the Maximum Levels of the Codex General Standard for Contaminants and Toxins in Foods (CODEX/STAN 193-1995) and the maximum residue limits for pesticides and veterinary drugs established by the CAC.”

AMENDMENTS TO THE RELATIONS BETWEEN COMMODITY COMMITTEES AND GENERAL COMMITTEES

Codex Committees may ask the advice and guidance of committees having responsibility for matters applicable to all foods on any points coming within their province.

The Codex Committees on Food Labelling; Food Additives; Contaminants in Foods; Methods of Analysis and Sampling; Food Hygiene; Nutrition and Foods for Special Dietary Uses; and Food Import and Export Inspection and Certification Systems may establish general provisions on matters within their terms of reference. These provisions should only be incorporated into Codex Commodity Standards by reference unless there is a need for doing otherwise.

Codex Commodity standards shall contain sections on hygiene, labelling and methods of analysis and sampling and these sections should contain all of the relevant provisions of the standard. Provisions of Codex General Standards, Codes or Guidelines shall only be incorporated into Codex Commodity Standards by reference unless there is a need for doing otherwise. Where Codex Committees are of the opinion that the general provisions are not applicable to one or more commodity standards, they may request the responsible Committees to endorse deviations from the general provisions of the Codex Alimentarius. Such requests should be fully justified and supported by available scientific evidence and other relevant information. Sections on hygiene, labelling, food additives and methods of analysis and sampling which contain specific provisions or provisions supplementing the Codex General Standards, Codes or Guidelines shall be referred to the responsible Codex Committees at the most suitable time during Steps 3, 4 and 5 of the Procedure for the Elaboration of Codex Standards and Related Texts, though such reference should not be allowed to delay the progress of the standard to the subsequent steps of the Procedure.

Subject and commodity Committees should refer to the principles and guidelines developed by the Codex Committee on Food Import and Export Inspection and Certification Systems when developing provisions and/or recommendations on inspection and certification and make any appropriate amendments to the standards, guidelines and codes within the responsibility of the individual committees at the earliest convenient time.

FOOD LABELLING [no change]

FOOD ADDITIVES AND CONTAMINANTS

~~Codex commodity committees should prepare a section on food additives in each draft commodity standard and this section should contain all the provisions in the standard relating to food additives. The section should include the names of those additives which are considered to be technologically necessary or which are widely permitted for use in the food within maximum levels where appropriate.~~ shall examine the General Standard for Food Additives with a view toward incorporating a reference to the General Standard. All proposals for additions or revisions to the General Standard in order to establish a reference to the General Standard shall be referred to the Codex Committee on Food Additives. The Codex Committee on Food Additives shall consider such proposals for endorsement. Revisions of a substantive nature that are endorsed by the Food Additives Committee will be referred back to the commodity committee in order to achieve consensus between both committees at an early stage of the step procedure.

Should the Codex commodity committee consider that a general reference to the General Standard for Food Additives does not serve its purpose, a proposal should be prepared and forwarded to the Codex Committee on Food Additives for consideration and endorsement. The commodity committee shall provide a justification for why a general reference to the General Standard would not be appropriate in light of the criteria for the use of food additives established in the Preamble of the General Standard, in particular Section 3.

All provisions in respect of food additives (including processing aids) ~~and contaminants~~ contained in Codex commodity standards should be referred to the Codex Committee on Food Additives ~~or on Contaminants in Foods~~ preferably after ~~before~~ the Standards have been advanced to Step 5 of the Procedure for the Elaboration of Codex Standards or before they are considered by the Commodity Committee concerned at Step 7, though such ~~reference~~ referral should not be allowed to delay the progress of the Standard to the subsequent Steps of the Procedure.

All provisions in respect of food additives contained in commodity standards will require ~~to be endorsed~~ endorsement by the Codex Committee on Food Additives, on the basis of technological justification

submitted by the commodity committees and ~~of~~ on the recommendations of the Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Food Additives concerning the safety-in-use (acceptable daily intake (ADI) and other restrictions) and an estimate of the potential and, where possible, the actual intake of the food additives, ensuring conformity with the ~~General Principles for the Use of Food Additives~~ Preamble of General Principles for the Use of Food Additives.

~~In preparing working papers for the~~ When forwarding a food additive section of a commodity standard for endorsement by Codex Committee on Food Additives, the Secretariat should prepare ~~make~~ a report to the Committee concerning the endorsement of provisions for food additives (including processing aids), ~~on the basis of the General Principles for the Use of Food Additives. Provisions for food additives should~~ that includes the functional classes and technological justification. With regard to exceptional cases where specific food additives and their maximum levels are given, the report should also indicate the International Numbering System (INS) number, the Acceptable Daily Intake (ADI) assigned by the Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Food Additives, technological justification, proposed level, and whether the additive was previously endorsed (or temporarily endorsed) by the Codex Committee on Food Additives.

When commodity standards are sent to governments for comment at Step 3, they should contain a statement that the provisions “in respect of food additives ~~and contaminants~~ are subject to endorsement by the Codex Committees on Food Additives ~~or on Contaminants in Foods~~ and to incorporation into the General Standard for Food Additives ~~or the General Standard for Contaminants and Toxins in Foods~~”.-

~~When establishing provisions for food additives, Codex committees should follow the General Principles for the Use of Food Additives and the Preamble of the General Standard for Food Additives. Full explanation should be provided for any departure from the above recommendations.~~

When an active commodity committee exists, proposals for the use of additives in any commodity standard under consideration should be prepared by the committee concerned, and forwarded to the Codex Committee on Food Additives for endorsement and inclusion in the General Standard for Food Additives. When the Codex Committee on Food Additives decides not to endorse specific additives provisions (~~use of the additive, or level in the end product~~), the reason should be clearly stated. The section under consideration should be referred back to the commodity ~~C~~committee concerned if further information is needed, or for information if the Codex Committee on Food Additives decides to amend the provision.

When no active commodity committee exists, proposals for new additive provisions or amendment of existing provisions for inclusion in the General Standard for Food Additives should be forwarded directly by Codex member ~~countries~~ to the Codex Committee on Food Additives.

Good Manufacturing Practice means that:

- ~~the quantity of the additive added to food does not exceed the amount reasonably required to accomplish its intended physical nutritional or other technical effect in food;~~
- ~~the quantity of the additive that becomes a component of food as a result of its use in the manufacturing, processing or packaging of a food and which is not intended to accomplish any physical, or other technological effect in the food itself, is reduced to the extent reasonably possible;~~

~~the additive is of appropriate food grade quality and is prepared and handled in the same way as a food ingredient. Food grade quality is achieved by compliance with the specifications as a whole and not merely with individual criteria in terms of safety.~~

Move the above definition of Good Manufacturing Practice in the Use of Food Additives to section “Definitions for the Purposes of the Codex Alimentarius”

FOOD HYGIENE [no change]

METHODS OF ANALYSIS AND SAMPLING [no change]

RISK ANALYSIS PRINCIPLES APPLIED BY THE CODEX COMMITTEE ON PESTICIDE RESIDUES

[for inclusion in Section III]

SCOPE

1. This document addresses the respective applications of risk analysis principles by the Codex Committee on Pesticide Residues (CCPR) as the risk management body and the Joint FAO/WHO Meeting on Pesticide Residues (JMPR) as the risk assessment body and facilitates the uniform application of the Working Principles for Risk Analysis for Application in the Framework of the Codex Alimentarius. This document should be read in conjunction with the Working Principles for Risk Analysis for Application in the Framework of the Codex Alimentarius.

ROLES OF CCPR AND JMPR IN RISK ANALYSIS

INTERACTION BETWEEN CCPR AND JMPR

2. In addressing pesticide residue issues in Codex, providing advice on risk management is the responsibility of the Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC) and CCPR while conducting risk assessment is the responsibility of JMPR.

3. CCPR and JMPR recognize that an adequate communication between risk assessors and risk managers is an essential requirement for successfully performing their risk analysis activities.

4. CCPR and JMPR should continue to develop procedures to enhance communication between the two bodies.

5. CCPR and JMPR should ensure that their respective contributions to the risk analysis process result in outputs that are scientifically based, fully transparent, thoroughly documented and available in a timely manner to members².

6. JMPR, in consultation with CCPR, should continue to explore developing minimum data requirements necessary for JMPR to perform risk assessments.

7. These requirements should be used by CCPR as a fundamental criterion as described in the Annex in preparing its Priority List for JMPR. The JMPR Secretariat should consider whether these minimum data requirements have been met when preparing the provisional agenda for meetings of JMPR.

ROLE OF CCPR

8. CCPR is primarily responsible for recommending risk management proposals for adoption by the CAC.

9. CCPR shall base its risk management recommendations, such as MRLs, to the CAC following JMPR's risk assessments of the respective pesticides, and considering, where appropriate, other legitimate factors such as relevant to the health protection of consumers and for the promotion of fair practices in food trade.

10. In cases where JMPR has performed a risk assessment and CCPR or the CAC determines that additional scientific guidance is necessary, CCPR or CAC may make a specific request to JMPR to provide further scientific guidance necessary for a risk management decision.

11. CCPR's risk management recommendations to the CAC shall take into account the relevant uncertainties as described by JMPR.

² Submission and evaluation of pesticide residues data for the estimation of maximum residue levels in food and feed; FAO Plant Production and Protection Paper, 170, 2002, ISBN 92-5-104759-6

12. CCPR shall consider maximum residue limits (MRLs) only for those pesticides for which JMPR has completed a full safety evaluation.
13. CCPR shall base its recommendations on the GEMS/Food diets used to identify consumption patterns on a global scale when recommending MRLs in food. The GEMS/Food diets are used to assess the risk of chronic exposure. The acute exposure calculations are not based on those diets, but available consumption data provided by members.
14. When establishing its standards, CCPR shall clearly state when it applies any considerations based on other legitimate factors in addition to JMPR's risk assessment and recommended maximum residue levels and specify its reasons for doing so.
15. CCPR shall consider the following when preparing its priority list of compounds for JMPR evaluation:
 - CCPR's Terms of Reference;
 - JMPR's Terms of Reference;
 - The Codex Alimentarius Commission's Strategic Plan;
 - The Criteria for the Establishment of Work Priorities;
 - The Criteria for Inclusion of Compounds on the Priority List;
 - The Criteria for Selecting Food Commodities for which Codex MRLs or Extraneous Maximum Residue Limits (EMRLs) should be Established;
 - The Criteria for Evaluation of New Chemicals;
 - The Criteria for Prioritization Process of Compounds for Evaluation by JMPR
 - A commitment to provide the necessary data for the evaluation in time.
16. When referring substances to JMPR, the CCPR shall provide background information and clearly specify the reasons for the request when chemicals are nominated for evaluation.
17. When referring substances to JMPR, the CCPR may also refer a range of risk management options, with a view toward obtaining JMPR's guidance on the attendant risks and the likely risk reductions associated with each option.
18. CCPR shall request JMPR to review any methods and guidelines being considered by CCPR for assessing maximum limits for pesticides.

ROLE OF JMPR

19. The Joint FAO/WHO Meeting on Pesticide Residues (JMPR) consists of the FAO Panel of Experts on Pesticide Residues in Food and the Environment and the WHO Core Assessment Group. It is an independent scientific expert body convened by both Directors General of FAO and WHO according to the rules of both organizations, charged with the task to provide scientific advice on pesticide residues.
20. This guidance document applies to the work of JMPR in the context of Codex and in particular as it relates to advice requests from CCPR.
21. JMPR is primarily responsible for performing the risk assessments upon which CCPR and ultimately the CAC base their risk management decisions. JMPR also proposes MRLs based on Good Agricultural Practices (GAPs)/ registered uses or in specific cases, such as EMRLs, based on monitoring data.
22. JMPR provides CCPR with science-based risk assessments that include the four components of risk assessment as defined by CAC and safety assessments that can serve as the basis for CCPR's risk-management discussions. JMPR should continue to use its risk assessment process for establishing Acceptable Daily Intakes (ADIs) and Acute Reference Doses (ARfDs) where appropriate.

23. JMPR should identify and communicate to CCPR in its assessments any information on the applicability and any constraints of the risk assessment to the general population and to particular sub-populations and will as far as possible identify potential risks to populations of potentially enhanced vulnerability (e.g. children).
24. JMPR is responsible for evaluating exposure to pesticides. JMPR should strive to base its exposure assessment and hence the dietary risk assessments on global data, including that from developing countries. In addition to GEMS/Food data, monitoring data and exposure studies may be used. The GEMS/Food diets are used to assess the risk of chronic exposure. The acute exposure calculations are not based on those diets, but on the available high percentile consumption data as provided by members.
25. JMPR should communicate to CCPR the magnitude and source of uncertainties in its risk assessments. When communicating this information, JMPR should provide CCPR a description of the methodology and procedures by which JMPR estimated any uncertainty in its risk assessment.
26. JMPR should communicate to CCPR the basis for all assumptions used in its risk assessments.

ANNEX: LIST OF RISK MANAGEMENT POLICIES USED BY CCPR

1. This part of the document addresses the risk management policy that is used by the Codex Committee on Pesticides Residues (CCPR) when discussing the risk assessments, the exposure to pesticides and the proposals for MRLs which are the outcomes of the Joint FAO/WHO Meeting on Pesticides Residues (JMPR).

ESTABLISHMENT OF MRLs/EMRLs

Procedure for Proposing Pesticides for Codex Priority Lists

2. CCPR has developed a policy document in relation to establishing a priority list of pesticides for evaluation or re-evaluation by JMPR³.
3. Before a pesticide can be considered for the Priority List, it must:
- be available for use as a commercial product; and
 - not have been already accepted for consideration.
4. To meet the criteria for inclusion in the priority list, the use of the pesticide must: give rise to residues in or on a food or feed commodity moving in international trade, the presence of which is (or may be) a matter of public health concern and thus create (or have the potential to create) problems in international trade.
5. When prioritising new chemicals for evaluation by the JMPR, the Committee will consider the following criteria:
- (i) If the chemical has a reduced acute and/or chronic toxicity risk to humans compared with other chemicals in its classification (insecticide, fungicide, herbicide);
 - (ii) The date when the chemical was nominated for evaluation;
 - (iii) Commitment by the sponsor of the compound to provide supporting data for review with a firm date for data submission;
 - (iv) The availability of regional/national reviews and risk assessments, and coordination with other regional/national lists; and
 - (v) Allocating priorities to new chemicals, so that at least 50% of evaluations are for new chemicals, if possible.

³ Criteria for Prioritization Process of Compounds for Evaluation by JMPR, Procedural Manual

6. When prioritising chemicals for periodic re-evaluation by the JMPR, the Committee will consider the following criteria:

- (i) If the intake and/or toxicity profile indicate some level of public health concern;
- (ii) Chemicals that have not been reviewed toxicologically for more than 15 years and/or not having a significant review of maximum residue limits for 15 years;
- (iii) The year the chemical is listed in the list for Candidate Chemicals for Periodic Re-evaluation –Not Yet Scheduled;
- (iv) The date that data will be submitted;
- (v) Whether the CCPR has been advised by a national government that the chemical has been responsible for trade disruption;
- (vi) If there is a closely related chemical that is a candidate for periodic re-evaluation that can be evaluated concurrently; and
- (vii) The availability of current labels arising from recent national re-evaluations.

7. Once the JMPR has reviewed a chemical, three scenarios may occur:

- the data confirm the existing Codex MRL, it remains in place, or
- a new MRL is recommended or an amendment of an existing MRL. The new or amended proposal enters at Step 3 of the Codex procedure. The existing MRL remains in place for no more than four years, or
- insufficient data have been submitted to confirm or amend an existing Codex MRL. The Codex MRL is recommended for withdrawal. However, the manufacturer or countries may provide a commitment to the JMPR and CCPR to provide the necessary data for review within four years. The existing Codex MRL is maintained for a period of no more than four years pending the review of the additional data. A second period of four years is not granted.

MRLs for Commodities of Animal Origin

8. Farm animal metabolism studies are required whenever a pesticide is applied directly to livestock, to animal premises or housing, or when significant residues remain in crops or commodities used in animal feed, in forage crops, or in plant parts that could be used in animal feeds. The results of farm animal feeding studies and residues in animal feed serve also as a primary source of information for estimating maximum residue levels in animal products.

9. If no adequate studies are available, no MRLs will be established for commodities of animal origin. MRLs for feeds (and the primary crops) should not be established in the absence of animal transfer data. Where the exposure of livestock to pesticides through feeds leads to residues at the limit of quantitation, MRLs at the LOQ must be established for animal commodities. MRLs should be established for all mammalian species where pesticides on feeds are concerned and for specific species (e.g. cattle, sheep) where direct treatments of pesticides are concerned.

10. Where the recommended maximum residue limits for animal commodities resulting from direct treatment of the animal, regardless of whether they are recommended by JMPR or JECFA, and from residues in animal feed do not agree, the higher recommendation will prevail.

MRLs for Processed or Ready-to-eat Foods or Feeds

11. CCPR agreed not to establish MRLs for processed foods and feeds unless separate higher MRLs are necessary for specific processed commodities.

MRLs for spices

12. CCPR agreed that MRLs for spices can be established on the basis of monitoring data in accordance with the guidelines established by JMPR.

MRLs for fat-soluble pesticides

13. If a pesticide is determined as “fat soluble” after consideration of the following factors, it is indicated with the text “The residues are fat soluble” in the residue definition:

- When available, it is the partitioning of the residue (as defined) in muscle versus fat in the metabolism studies and livestock feeding studies that determines the designation of a residue as being “fat soluble”.
- In the absence of useful information on the distribution of residues in muscle and fat, residues with $\log Pow > 3$ are likely to be “fat soluble”

14. For fat soluble pesticides, two MRLs are recommended if data permit: one for whole milk and one for milk fat. For enforcement purposes, a comparison can be made either of the residue in milk fat with the MRL for milk fat or of the residue in whole milk with the MRL for milk.

Establishment of MRLs

15. The CCPR is entrusted with the elaboration of Maximum Residue Limits (MRLs) of pesticide residues in food and feed. The JMPR is using the WHO Guidelines for predicting dietary intake of pesticides residues (revised)(1997)⁴. The JMPR is recommending MRLs establishing Supervised Trial Median Residues (STMRs) for new and periodic review compounds for dietary intake purposes. In cases the intake exceeds the Acceptable Daily Intake (ADI) in one or more of the regional diets, the JMPR, when recommending MRLs, flags this situation indicating the type of data which may be useful to further refine the dietary intake estimate.

16. When the ADI is exceeded in one or more regional diets, then the MRLs will not advance to Step 8 pending further refinement of the intake at the international level. If further refinement is not possible then MRLs are withdrawn until the remaining MRLs give no longer rise to intake concerns. This procedure should be reviewed at regular interval.

17. The JMPR is currently routinely establishing acute reference doses (ARfDs), where appropriate, and indicates cases where an ARfD is not necessary. The 1999 JMPR for the first time calculated the short-term dietary intake estimates following an approach using the International and National Estimates of Short-term Intake (IESTI, NESTI). The procedure allows for estimating the short-term risk for relevant subgroups of the population, like children. The JMPR flags cases when the IESTI for a given commodity exceeds the ARfD.

18. When the ARfD is exceeded for a given commodity, then the MRLs will not advance to Step 8 pending further refinement of the intake at the international level.

19. When a Draft MRL has been returned to Step 6 three times, the CCPR should ask JMPR to examine residue data from other appropriate GAPs and to recommend MRLs which cause no dietary intake concerns if possible.

20. If further refinement is not possible then MRLs are withdrawn. More sophisticated methodologies such as probabilistic approaches are under investigation at the moment.

21. The estimate of the short-term dietary intake requires substantial food consumption data that currently are only sparsely available. Governments are urged to generate relevant consumption data and to submit these data to the WHO.

Utilization of Steps 5/8 for elaboration of MRLs

22. Preconditions for utilization of Step 5/8 Procedure

- New MRL circulated at Step 3
- JMPR report available electronically by early February
- No intake concerns identified by JMPR

23. Steps 5/8 Procedure (Recommendation to omit Steps 6 and 7 and adopt the MRL at Step 8)

⁴ Programme of Food Safety and Food Aid; WHO/FSF/FOS/97.7

- If the preconditions listed above are met.
- If a delegation has a concern with advancing a given MRL, a concern form should be completed detailing the concern along with a description of the data that will be submitted to substantiate the concern preferably as comments at Step 3, or at the latest, one month after the CCPR session.
- If the JMPR Secretariat or the CCPR can address that concern at the upcoming CCPR session, and the JMPR position remains unchanged, the CCPR will decide if the MRL will be advanced to Step 5/8.
- If the concern cannot be addressed at the meeting, the MRL will be advanced to Step 5 at the CCPR session and the concern will be addressed by the JMPR as soon as possible but the rest of the MRLs should be advanced to Step 5/8.
- The result of the consideration of the concern by the JMPR will be considered at the next CCPR session. If the JMPR position remains unchanged, the CCPR will decide if the MRL will be advanced to Step 8.

Establishment of EMRLs

24. The Extraneous Maximum Residue Limit (EMRL) refers to a pesticide residue or a contaminant arising from environmental sources (including former agricultural uses) other than the use of the pesticide or contaminant substance directly or indirectly on the commodity. It is the maximum concentration of a pesticide residue that is recommended by the Codex Alimentarius Commission to be legally permitted or recognized as acceptable in or on a food, agricultural commodity or animal feed.

25. Chemicals for which EMRLs are most likely to be needed are persistent in the environment for a relatively long period after uses have been discontinued and are expected to occur in foods or feeds at levels of sufficient concern to warrant monitoring.

26. All relevant and geographically representative monitoring data (including nil-residue results) are required to make reasonable estimates to cover international trade. JMPR has developed a standard format for reporting pesticide residues monitoring data⁵.

27. The JMPR compares data distribution in terms of the likely percentages of violations that might occur if a given EMRL is proposed to the CCPR.

28. Because residues gradually decrease, CCPR evaluates every 5 years, if possible, the existing EMRLs, based on the reassessments of the JMPR.

29. The CCPR generally agreed at the 30th Session on the potential elements for inclusion in a set of criteria for estimation of EMRLs while it also agreed not to initiate a full exercise of criteria elaboration.

Periodic Review Procedure

30. The Committee agreed on the Periodic Review Procedure, which was endorsed by the CAC and attached to the list of MRLs prepared for each session of the CCPR. Those Codex MRLs confirmed by JMPR under the Periodic Review shall be distributed to members and interested organizations for comments.

Deleting Codex MRLs

31. Every year new compounds are introduced. These compounds are often new pesticides which are safer than existing ones. Old compounds are then no longer supported/produced by industry and existing Codex MRLs can be deleted.

⁵ Submission and evaluation of pesticide residues data for the estimation of maximum residue levels in food and feed; FAO Plant Production and Protection Paper, 170, 2002, ISBN 92-5-104759-6

32. If information is delivered between two sessions of CCPR, that a certain compound is no longer supported, this information will be shared during the first coming session (t=0). The proposal will be to delete the existing MRLs at the following session (t=0+1 year).

33. It may happen that compounds are no longer supported in Codex, but are supported in some selected countries. If there is no international trade in commodities where the active compounds may have been used, CCPR will not establish MRLs.

MRLs AND METHODS OF ANALYSIS

34. JMPR needs data and information for their evaluations. Among these are methods of analysis. Methods should include specialized methods used in supervised trials and enforcement methods.

35. If no methods of analysis are available for enforcing MRLs for a specific compound, no MRLs will be established by CCPR.

RISK ANALYSIS PRINCIPLES APPLIED BY THE CODEX COMMITTEE ON RESIDUES OF VETERINARY DRUGS IN FOODS

[for inclusion in Section III]

SECTION 1. PURPOSE – SCOPE

1. The purpose of this document is to specify Risk Analysis Principles applied by the Codex Committee on Residues of Veterinary Drugs in Foods.

SECTION 2. PARTIES INVOLVED

2. The *Working Principles for Risk Analysis for Application in the Framework of the Codex Alimentarius* has defined the responsibilities of the various parties involved. The responsibility for providing advice on risk management concerning residues of veterinary drugs lies with the Codex Alimentarius Commission and its subsidiary body, the Codex Committee on Residues of Veterinary Drugs in Foods (CCRVDF), while the responsibility for risk assessment lies primarily with the Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Food Additives (JECFA).

3. According to its mandate, the responsibilities of the CCRVDF regarding veterinary drug residues in food are:

- (a) to determine priorities for the consideration of residues of veterinary drugs in foods;
- (b) to recommend maximum residue limits (MRLs) for such veterinary drugs;
- (c) to develop codes of practice as may be required;
- (d) to consider whether available methods of sampling and analysis for the determination of veterinary drug residues in foods.

4. The CCRVDF shall base its risk management recommendations to the Codex Alimentarius Commission on JECFA's risk assessments of veterinary drugs in relation to proposed MRLs.

5. The CCRVDF is primarily responsible for recommending risk management proposals for adoption by the Codex Alimentarius Commission.

6. JECFA is primarily responsible for providing independent scientific advice, the risk assessment, upon which the CCRVDF base their risk management decisions. It assists the CCRVDF by evaluating the available scientific data on the veterinary drug prioritised by the CCRVDF. JECFA also provides advice directly to FAO and WHO and to Member governments.

7. Scientific experts from JECFA are selected in a transparent manner by FAO and WHO under their rules for expert committees on the basis of the competence, expertise, experience in the evaluation of compounds used as veterinary drugs and their independence with regard to the interests involved, taking into account geographical representation where possible.

SECTION 3. RISK MANAGEMENT IN CCRVDF

8. Risk management should follow a structured approach including:

- preliminary risk management activities;
- evaluation of risk management options; and
- monitoring and review of decisions taken.

9. The decisions should be based on risk assessment, and take into account, where appropriate, other legitimate factors relevant for the health protection of consumers and for fair practices in food trade, in accordance with the *Criteria for the Consideration of the Other Factors Referred to in the Second Statement of Principles*⁶.

⁶ *Statements of Principle Concerning the Role of Science in the Codex Decision-making Process and the Extent to Which Other Factors are Taken into Account*, Codex Procedural Manual - Appendix

3.1 Preliminary risk management activities

10. This first phase of risk management covers:
- Establishment of risk assessment policy for the conduct of the risk assessments;
 - Identification of a food safety problem;
 - Establishment of a preliminary risk profile;
 - Ranking of the hazard for risk assessment and risk management priority;
 - Commissioning of the risk assessment; and
 - Consideration of the result of the risk assessment.

3.1.1 Risk Assessment Policy for the Conduct of the Risk Assessment

11. The responsibilities of the CCRVDF and JECFA and their interactions along with core principles and expectations of JECFA evaluations are provided in *Risk Assessment Policy for the Setting of MRLs in Food*, established by the Codex Alimentarius Commission.

3.1.2 Establishment of Priority List

12. The CCRVDF identifies, with the assistance of Members, the veterinary drugs that may pose a consumer safety problem and/or have a potential adverse impact on international trade. The CCRVDF establishes a priority list for assessment by JECFA.

13. In order to appear on the priority list of veterinary drugs for the establishment of a MRL, the proposed veterinary drug shall meet some or all of the following criteria:

- A Member has proposed the compound for evaluation;
- A Member has established good veterinary practices with regard to the compound;
- The compound has the potential to cause public health and/or international trade problems;
- It is available as a commercial product; and
- There is a commitment that a dossier will be made available.

14. The CCRVDF takes into account the protection of confidential information in accordance with WTO Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) - Section 7: Protection of Undisclosed Information - Article 39, and makes every effort to encourage the willingness of sponsors to provide data for JECFA assessment.

3.1.3 Establishment of a Preliminary Risk Profile

15. Member(s) request(s) the inclusion of a veterinary drug on the priority list. The available information for evaluating the request shall be provided either directly by the Member(s) or by the sponsor. A preliminary risk profile shall be developed by the Member(s) making the request, using the template presented in the Annex.

16. The CCRVDF considers the preliminary risk profile and makes a decision on whether or not to include the veterinary drug in the priority list.

3.1.4 Ranking of the Hazard for Risk Assessment and Risk Management Priority

17. The CCRVDF establishes an ad-hoc Working Group open to all its Members and observers, to make recommendations on the veterinary drugs to include into (or to remove from) the priority list of veterinary drugs for the JECFA assessment. The CCRVDF considers these recommendations before agreeing on the priority list, taking into account pending issues such as temporary Acceptable Daily Intakes (ADIs) and/or MRLs. In its report, the CCRVDF shall specify the reasons for its choice and the criteria used to establish the order of priority.

18. Prior to development of MRLs for new veterinary drugs not previously evaluated by JECFA, a proposal for this work shall be sent to the Codex Alimentarius Commission with a request for approval as new work in accordance with the *Procedures for the Elaboration of Codex Standards and Related Texts*.

3.1.5 Commissioning of the Risk Assessment

19. After approval by the Codex Alimentarius Commission of the priority list of veterinary drugs as new work, the CCRVDF forwards it to JECFA with the qualitative preliminary risk profile as well as specific guidance on the CCRVDF risk assessment request. JECFA, WHO and FAO experts then proceed with the assessment of risks related to these veterinary drugs, based on the dossier provided and/or all other available scientific information.

3.1.6 Consideration of the Result of the Risk Assessment

20. When the JECFA risk assessment is completed, a detailed report is prepared for the subsequent session of the CCRVDF for consideration. This report shall clearly indicate the choices made during the risk assessment with respect to scientific uncertainties and the level of confidence in the studies provided.

21. When the data are insufficient, JECFA may recommend temporary MRL on the basis of a temporary ADI using additional safety considerations⁷. If JECFA cannot propose an ADI and/or MRLs due to lack of data, its report should clearly indicate the gaps and a timeframe in which data should be submitted, in order to allow Members to make an appropriate risk management decision.

22. The JECFA assessment reports related to the concerned veterinary drugs should be made available in sufficient time prior to a CCRVDF meeting to allow for careful consideration by Members. If this is, in exceptional cases, not possible, a provisional report should be made available.

23. JECFA should, if necessary, propose different risk management options. In consequence, JECFA should present, in its report, different risk management options for the CCRVDF to consider. The reporting format should clearly distinguish between the risk assessment and the evaluation of the risk management options.

24. The CCRVDF may ask JECFA any additional explanation.

25. Reasons, discussions and conclusions (or the absence thereof) on risk assessment should be clearly documented, in JECFA reports, for each option reviewed. The risk management decision taken by the CCRVDF (or the absence thereof) should also be fully documented.

3.2 Evaluation of Risk Management Options

26. The CCRVDF shall proceed with a critical evaluation of the JECFA proposals on MRLs and may consider other legitimate factors relevant for health protection and fair trade practices in the framework of the risk analysis. According to the 2nd statement of principle, the criteria for the consideration of other factors should be taken into account. These other legitimate factors are those agreed during the 12th session of the CCRVDF⁸ and subsequent amendments made by this Committee.

27. The CCRVDF either recommends the MRLs as proposed by JECFA, modifies them in consideration of other legitimate factors, considers other measures or asks JECFA for reconsideration of the residue evaluation for the veterinary drug in question.

28. Particular attention should be given to availability of analytical methods used for residue detection.

3.3 Monitoring and Review of the Decisions Taken

29. Members may ask for the review of decisions taken by the Codex Alimentarius Commission. To this end, veterinary drugs should be proposed for inclusion in the priority list. In particular, review of decisions may be necessary if they pose difficulties in the application of the *Guidelines for the Establishment of a Regulatory Programme for the Control of Veterinary Drug Residues in Foods* (CAC/GL 16-1993).

30. The CCRVDF may request JECFA to review any new scientific knowledge and other information relevant to risk assessment and concerning decisions already taken, including the established MRLs.

⁷ Definition of "Codex maximum limit for residues of veterinary drugs", Codex Procedural Manual.

⁸ ALINORM 01/31 paragraph 11.

31. The risk assessment policy for MRL shall be reconsidered based on new issues and experience with the risk analysis of veterinary drugs. To this end, interaction with JECFA is essential. A review may be undertaken of the veterinary drugs appearing on prior JECFA agendas for which no ADI or MRL has been recommended.

SECTION 4. RISK COMMUNICATION IN THE CONTEXT OF RISK MANAGEMENT

32. In accordance with the *Working Principles for Risk Analysis for Application in the Framework of the Codex Alimentarius*, the CCRVDF, in cooperation with JECFA, shall ensure that the risk analysis process is fully transparent and thoroughly documented and that results are made available in a timely manner to Members. The CCRVDF recognises that communication between risk assessors and risk managers is critical to the success of risk analysis activities.

33. In order to ensure the transparency of the assessment process in JECFA, the CCRVDF provides comments on the guidelines related to assessment procedures being drafted or published by JECFA.

ANNEX: TEMPLATE FOR INFORMATION NECESSARY FOR PRIORITIZATION BY CODEX COMMITTEE ON RESIDUES OF VETERINARY DRUGS IN FOODS

Administrative information

1. Member(s) submitting the request for inclusion
2. Veterinary drug names
3. Trade names
4. Chemical names
5. Names and addresses of basic producers

Purpose, scope and rationale

6. Identification of the food safety issue (residue hazard)
7. Assessment against the criteria for the inclusion on the priority list

Risk profile elements

8. Justification for use
9. Veterinary use pattern
10. Commodities for which Codex MRLs are required

Risk assessment needs and questions for the risk assessors

11. Identify the feasibility that such an evaluation can be carried out in a reasonable framework
12. Specific request to risk assessors

Available information⁹

13. Countries where the veterinary drugs is registered
14. National/Regional MRLs or any other applicable tolerances
15. List of data (pharmacology, toxicology, metabolism, residue depletion, analytical methods) available

Timetable

16. Date when data could be submitted to JECFA

⁹ When preparing a preliminary risk profile, Member(s) should take into account the updated data requirement, to enable evaluation of a veterinary drug for the establishment of an ADI and MRLs, published by JECFA.

RISK ASSESSMENT POLICY FOR THE SETTING OF MAXIMUM LIMITS FOR RESIDUES OF VETERINARY DRUGS IN FOODS

[for inclusion in Section III]

Role of JECFA

1. The Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Food Additives (JECFA) is an independent scientific expert body convened by both Directors-General of FAO and WHO according to the rules of both organizations, charged with the task to provide scientific advice on veterinary drug residues in food.
2. This annex applies to the work of JECFA in the context of Codex and in particular as it relates to advice requests from the Codex Committee on Residues of Veterinary Drugs in Foods (CCRVDF).
 - (a) JECFA provides CCRVDF with science-based risk assessments conducted in accordance with the *Working Principles for Risk Analysis for Application in the Framework of the Codex Alimentarius* and incorporating the four steps of risk assessment. JECFA should continue to use its risk assessment process for establishing Acceptable Daily Intakes (ADIs) and proposing Maximum Residues Limits (MRLs).
 - (b) JECFA should take into account all available scientific data to establish its risk assessment. It should use available quantitative information to the greatest extent possible and also qualitative information.
 - (c) Constraints, uncertainties and assumptions that have an impact on the risk assessment need be clearly communicated by JECFA.
 - (d) JECFA should provide CCRVDF with information on the applicability, public health consequences and any constraints of the risk assessment to the general population and to particular sub-populations and, as far as possible, should identify potential risks to specific group of populations of potentially enhanced vulnerability (e.g. children).
 - (e) Risk assessment should be based on realistic exposure scenarios.
 - (f) When the veterinary drug is used both in veterinary medicine and as a pesticide, a harmonised approach between JECFA and the Joint FAO/WHO Meeting on Pesticide Residues (JMPR) should be followed.
 - (g) MRLs, that are compatible with the ADI, should be set for all species based on appropriate consumption figures. When requested by CCRVDF, extension of MRLs between species will be considered if appropriate data are available.

Data Protection

3. Considering the importance of intellectual property in the context of data submission for scientific evaluation, JECFA has established procedures to cover the confidentiality of certain data submitted. These procedures enable the sponsor to declare which data is to be considered as confidential. The procedure includes a formal consultation with the sponsor.

Expression of Risk Assessment Results in terms of MRLs

4. MRLs have to be established for target animal tissues (e.g. muscle, fat, or fat and skin, kidney, liver), and specific food commodities (e.g. eggs, milk, honey) originating from the target animals species to which a veterinary drug can be administered according to good veterinary practice.
5. However, if residue levels in various target tissues are very different, JECFA is requested to consider MRLs for a minimum of two. In this case, the establishment of MRLs for muscle or fat is preferred to enable the control of the safety of carcasses moving in international trade.
6. When the calculation of MRLs to be compatible with the ADI may be associated with a lengthy withdrawal period, JECFA should clearly describe the situation in its report.

AMENDMENTS TO THE RISK ANALYSIS PRINCIPLES APPLIED BY THE CODEX COMMITTEE ON FOOD ADDITIVES AND CONTAMINANTS

RISK ANALYSIS PRINCIPLES APPLIED BY THE CODEX COMMITTEE ON FOOD ADDITIVES AND THE CODEX COMMITTEE ON CONTAMINANTS IN FOODS ~~CODEX COMMITTEE ON FOOD ADDITIVES AND CONTAMINANTS~~

SECTION 1. SCOPE

- 1) This document addresses the respective applications of risk analysis principles by the ~~Codex Committee on Food Additives and Contaminants (CCFAC)~~ Codex Committee on Food Additives (CCFA) and the Codex Committee on Contaminants in Foods (CCCF) and the Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Food Additives (JECFA). For matters which cannot be addressed by JECFA, this document does not preclude the possible consideration of recommendations arising from other internationally recognized expert bodies, as approved by the Commission.
- 2) This document should be read in conjunction with the *Working Principles for Risk Analysis for Application in the Framework of the Codex Alimentarius*.

SECTION 2. ~~CCFAC~~ CCFA/CCCF and JECFA

- 3) ~~CCFAC~~ CCFA/CCCF and JECFA recognize that communication between risk assessors and risk managers is critical to the success of their risk analysis activities.
- 4) ~~CCFAC~~ CCFA/CCCF and JECFA should continue to develop procedures to enhance communication between the two committees.
- 5) ~~CCFAC~~ CCFA/CCCF and JECFA should ensure that their contributions to the risk analysis process involve all interested parties and are fully transparent and thoroughly documented. While respecting legitimate concerns to preserve confidentiality, documentation should be made available, upon request, in a timely manner to all interested parties.
- 6) JECFA, in consultation with ~~CCFAC~~ CCFA/CCCF, should continue to explore developing minimum quality criteria for data requirements necessary for JECFA to perform risk assessments. These criteria are used by ~~CCFAC~~ CCFA/CCCF in preparing ~~its~~ their Priority List for JECFA. The JECFA Secretariat should consider whether these minimum quality criteria for data have been met when preparing the provisional agenda for meetings of JECFA.

SECTION 3. ~~CCFAC~~ CCFA/CCCF

- 7) ~~CCFAC~~ CCFA/CCCF ~~is~~ are primarily responsible for recommending risk management proposals for adoption by the CAC.
- 8) ~~CCFAC~~ CCFA/CCCF shall base ~~its~~ their risk management recommendations to the CAC on JECFA's risk assessments, including safety assessments¹⁰, of food additives, naturally occurring toxicants, and contaminants in food.
- 9) In cases where JECFA has performed a safety assessment and ~~CCFAC~~ CCFA/CCCF or the CAC determines that additional scientific guidance is necessary, ~~CCFAC~~ CCFA/CCCF or CAC may make a more specific request to JECFA to obtain the scientific guidance necessary for a risk management decision.
- 10) ~~CCFAC~~ CCFA's risk management recommendations to the CAC with respect to food additives shall be guided by the principles described in the Preamble and relevant annexes of the Codex General Standard for Food Additives.

¹⁰ A Safety Assessment is defined as a scientifically-based process consisting of: 1) the determination of a NOEL (No Observed Effect Level) for a chemical, biological, or physical agent from animal feeding studies and other scientific considerations; 2) the subsequent application of safety factors to establish an ADI or tolerable intake; and 3) comparison of the ADI or tolerable intake with probable exposure to the agent (Temporary definition to be modified when JECFA definition is available).

- 11) ~~CCFAC~~ CCCF's risk management recommendations to the CAC with respect to contaminants and naturally occurring toxicants shall be guided by the principles described in the Preamble and relevant annexes of the Codex General Standard for Contaminants and Naturally Occurring Toxins in Food.
- 12) ~~CCFAC~~ CCFA/CCCF's risk management recommendations to the CAC that involve health and safety aspects of food standards shall be based on JECFA's risk assessments and other legitimate factors relevant to the health protection of consumers and to ensuring fair practices in food trade in accordance with the *Criteria for the Consideration of the Other Factors Referred to in the Second Statement of Principles*.
- 13) ~~CCFAC~~ CCFA/CCCF's risk management recommendations to the CAC shall take into account the relevant uncertainties and safety factors described by JECFA.
- 14) ~~CCFAC~~ CCFA shall endorse maximum use levels only for those additives for which 1) JECFA has established specifications of identity and purity and 2) JECFA has completed a safety assessment or has performed a quantitative risk assessment.
- 15) ~~CCFAC~~ CCCF shall endorse maximum levels only for those contaminants for which 1) JECFA has completed a safety assessment or has performed a quantitative risk assessment and 2) the level of the contaminant in food can be determined through appropriate sampling plans and analysis methods, as adopted by Codex. ~~CCFAC~~ CCCF should take into consideration the analytical capabilities of developing countries unless public health considerations require otherwise.
- 16) ~~CCFAC~~ CCFA/CCCF shall take into account differences in regional and national food consumption patterns and dietary exposure as assessed by JECFA when recommending maximum use levels for additives or maximum levels for contaminants and naturally occurring toxicants in food.
- 17) Before finalising proposals for maximum levels for contaminants and naturally occurring toxicants, ~~CCFAC~~ CCCF shall seek the scientific advice of JECFA about the validity of the analysis and sampling aspects, about the distribution of concentrations of contaminants and naturally occurring toxicants in foods and about other relevant technical and scientific aspects, including dietary exposure, as necessary to provide for a suitable scientific basis for its advice to ~~CCFAC~~ CCCF.
- 18) When establishing its standards, codes of practice, and guidelines, ~~CCFAC~~ CCFA/CCCF shall clearly state when it applies any other legitimate factors relevant to the health protection of consumers and to ensuring fair practices in food trade in accordance with the *Criteria for the Consideration of the Other Factors Referred to in the Second Statement of Principles*, in addition to JECFA's risk assessment, and specify its reasons for doing so.
- 19) ~~CCFAC~~ CCFA/CCCF's risk communication with JECFA includes prioritising substances for JECFA review with the view towards obtaining the best available risk assessment for purposes of elaborating safe conditions of use for food additives and elaborating safe maximum levels or codes of practice for contaminants and naturally occurring toxicants in food.
- 20) ~~CCFAC~~ CCFA/CCCF shall consider the following when preparing their priority list of substances for JECFA review:
 - Consumer protection from the point of view of health and prevention of unfair trade practices;
 - ~~CCFAC~~ CCFA/CCCF's Terms of Reference;
 - JECFA's Terms of Reference;
 - The Codex Alimentarius Commission's Strategic Plan , its relevant plans of work and *Criteria for the Establishment of Work Priorities*;
 - The quality, quantity, adequacy, and availability of data pertinent to performing a risk assessment, including data from developing countries;
 - The prospect of completing the work in a reasonable period of time;
 - The diversity of national legislation and any apparent impediments to international trade;
 - The impact on international trade (i.e., magnitude of the problem in international trade);
 - The needs and concerns of developing countries; and,

– Work already undertaken by other international organizations;

- 21) When referring substances to JECFA, ~~CCFAC~~ CCFA/CCCF shall provide background information and clearly explain the reasons for the request when chemicals are nominated for evaluation;
- 22) ~~CCFAC~~ CCFA/CCCF may also refer a range of risk management options, with a view toward obtaining JECFA's guidance on the attendant risks and the likely risk reductions associated with each option.
- 23) ~~CCFAC~~ CCFA/CCCF requests JECFA to review any methods and guidelines being considered by ~~CCFAC~~ CCFA/CCCF for assessing maximum use levels for additives or maximum levels for contaminants and naturally occurring toxicants. ~~CCFAC~~ CCFA/CCCF makes any such request with a view toward obtaining JECFA's guidance on the limitations, applicability, and appropriate means for implementation of a method or guideline for ~~CCFAC~~ CCFA/CCCF's work.

SECTION 4. JECFA

- 24) JECFA is primarily responsible for performing the risk assessments upon which ~~CCFAC~~ CCFA/CCCF and ultimately the CAC base their risk management decisions.
- 25) JECFA's scientific experts should be selected on the basis of their competence and independence, taking into account geographical representation to ensure that all regions are represented.
- 26) JECFA should strive to provide ~~CCFAC~~ CCFA/CCCF with science-based risk assessments that include the four components of risk assessment as defined by CAC and safety assessments that can serve as the basis for ~~CCFAC~~ CCFA/CCCF's risk-management discussions. For contaminants and naturally occurring toxicants, JECFA should determine to the extent possible the risks associated with various levels of intake. Because of the lack of appropriate information, including data in humans, however, this may be possible in only a few cases for the foreseeable future. For additives, JECFA should continue to use its safety assessment process for establishing ADIs.
- 27) JECFA should strive to provide ~~CCFAC~~ CCFA/CCCF with science-based quantitative risk assessments and safety assessments for food additives, contaminants, and naturally occurring toxicants in a transparent manner.
- 28) JECFA should provide ~~CCFAC~~ CCFA/CCCF with information on the applicability and any constraints of the risk assessment to the general population to particular sub-populations and should as far as possible identify potential risks to populations of potentially enhanced vulnerability (e.g., children, women of child-bearing age, the elderly).
- 29) JECFA should also strive to provide ~~CCFAC~~ CCFA with specifications of identity and purity essential to assessing risk associated with the use of additives.
- 30) JECFA should strive to base its risk assessments on global data, including data from developing countries. These data should include epidemiological surveillance data and exposure studies.
- 31) JECFA is responsible for evaluating exposure to additives, contaminants, and naturally occurring toxicants.
- 32) When evaluating intake of additives or contaminants and naturally occurring toxicants during its risk assessment, JECFA should take into account regional differences in food consumption patterns.
- 33) JECFA should provide to ~~CCFAC~~ CCCF its scientific views on the validity and the distribution aspects of the available data regarding contaminants and naturally occurring toxicants in foods which have been used for exposure assessments, and should give details on the magnitude of the contribution to the exposure from specific foods as may be relevant for risk management actions or options of ~~CCFAC~~ CCCF.
- 34) JECFA should communicate to ~~CCFAC~~ CCFA/CCCF the magnitude and source of uncertainties in its risk assessments. When communicating this information, JECFA should provide ~~CCFAC~~ CCFA/CCCF with a description of the methodology and procedures by which JECFA estimated any uncertainty in its risk assessment.
- 35) JECFA should communicate to ~~CCFAC~~ CCFA/CCCF the basis for all assumptions used in its risk assessments including default assumptions used to account for uncertainties.

- 36) JECFA's risk assessment output to ~~CCFAC~~ CCFA/CCCF is limited to presenting its deliberations and the conclusions of its risk assessments and safety assessments in a complete and transparent manner. JECFA's communication of its risk assessments should not include the consequences of its analyses on trade or other non-public health consequence. Should JECFA include risk assessments of alternative risk management options, JECFA should ensure that these are consistent with the Working Principles for Risk Analysis for the Application in the Framework of the Codex Alimentarius and Risk Analysis Principles applied by the ~~Codex Committee on Food Additives and Contaminants~~ Codex Committee on Food Additives and the Codex Committee on Contaminants in Foods.
- 37) When establishing the agenda for a JECFA meeting, the JECFA Secretariat work closely with ~~CCFAC~~ CCFA/CCCF to ensure that ~~CCFAC~~ CCFA/CCCF's risk management priorities are addressed in a timely manner. With respect to food additives, the JECFA Secretariat should normally give first priority to compounds that have been assigned a temporary ADI, or equivalent. Second priority should normally be given to food additives or groups of additives that have previously been evaluated and for which an ADI, or equivalent, has been estimated, and for which new information is available. Third priority should normally be given to food additives that have not been previously evaluated. With respect to contaminants and naturally occurring toxicants, the JECFA Secretariat should give priority to substances that present both a significant risk to public health and are a known or expected problem in international trade.
- 38) When establishing the agenda for a JECFA meeting, the JECFA Secretariat should give priority to substances that are known or expected problems in international trade or that present an emergency or imminent public health risk.

AMENDMENTS TO THE CCFAC POLICY FOR EXPOSURE ASSESSMENT OF CONTAMINANTS AND TOXINS IN FOODS OR FOOD GROUPS

CCFAC POLICY OF THE CODEX COMMITTEE ON CONTAMINANTS IN FOODS FOR EXPOSURE ASSESSMENT OF CONTAMINANTS AND TOXINS IN FOODS OR FOOD GROUPS

SECTION 1. INTRODUCTION

1. Maximum ~~Levels~~ ~~Limits~~ (MLs) do not need to be set for all foods that contain a contaminant or a toxin. The Preamble of the Codex General Standard for Contaminants and Toxins in Foods (GSCTF) states in Section 1.3.2 that “maximum levels (MLs) shall only be set for those foods in which the contaminant may be found in amounts that are significant for the total exposure of the consumer. They should be set in such a way that the consumer is adequately protected”. Setting standards for foods that contribute little to dietary exposure would mandate enforcement activities that do not contribute significantly to health outcomes.
2. Exposure assessment is one of the four components of risk assessment within the risk analysis framework adopted by Codex as the basis for all standard-setting processes. The estimated contribution of specific foods or food groups to the total dietary exposure to a contaminant as it relates to a quantitative health hazard endpoint (e.g. PMTDI, PTWI) provides further information needed for the setting of priorities for the risk management of specific foods/food groups. Exposure assessments must be guided by clearly articulated policies elaborated by Codex with the aim of increasing the transparency of risk management decisions.
3. The purpose of this Annex is to outline steps in contaminant data selection and analysis undertaken by JECFA when requested by ~~CCFAC~~ the Codex Committee on Contaminants in Foods (CCCF) to conduct a dietary exposure assessment.
4. The following components highlight aspects of JECFA’s exposure assessment of contaminants and toxins that contribute to ensuring transparency and consistency of science-based risk assessments. Exposure assessments of contaminants and toxins in foods are performed by JECFA at the request of ~~CCFAC~~CCCF. ~~CCFAC~~CCCF will take this information into account when considering risk management options and making recommendations regarding contaminants and toxins in foods.

SECTION 2. ESTIMATION OF TOTAL DIETARY EXPOSURE TO A CONTAMINANT OR TOXIN FROM FOODS/FOOD GROUPS

5. JECFA uses available data from member countries and from GEMS/Food Operating Program for analytical laboratories system on contaminant levels in foods and the amount of foods consumed to estimate total dietary exposure to a contaminant or toxin. This is expressed as a percentage of the tolerable intake (e.g. PTDI, PTWI, or other appropriate toxicological reference point). For a carcinogen with no clear threshold, JECFA uses available data on intake combined with data on carcinogenic potency to estimate potential population risks.
6. Median/mean contaminant levels in foods are determined from available analytical data submitted by countries and from other sources. These data are combined with information available for the ~~GEMS/Food Regional diets~~GEMS/Food Consumption Cluster Diets to generate dietary exposure estimates for regions in the world. JECFA provides an estimate as to which of the ~~GEMS/Food Regional diets~~GEMS/Food Consumption Cluster Diets are likely to approach or exceed the tolerable intake.
7. In some cases, available national contaminant and/or individual food consumption data may be used by JECFA to provide more accurate estimates of total dietary exposure, particularly for vulnerable groups such as children.
8. JECFA performs exposure assessments if requested by ~~CCFAC~~CCCF using the ~~GEMS/Food Regional diets~~GEMS/Food Consumption Cluster Diets and, if needed, available national consumption data to estimate the impact on dietary exposure of proposed alternative maximum levels to inform ~~CCFAC~~CCCF about these risk management options.

SECTION 3. IDENTIFICATION OF FOODS/FOOD GROUPS THAT CONTRIBUTE SIGNIFICANTLY TO TOTAL DIETARY EXPOSURE OF THE CONTAMINANT OR TOXIN

9. From dietary exposure estimates JECFA identifies foods/food groups that contribute significantly to the exposure according to ~~CCFAC~~CCCCF's criteria for selecting food groups that contribute to exposure.
10. The ~~CCFAC~~CCCCF determines criteria for selecting foods/food groups that contribute significantly to total dietary exposure of a contaminant or toxin. These criteria are based upon the percentage of the tolerable intake (or similar health hazard endpoint) that is contributed by a given food/food group and the number of geographic regions (as defined by the ~~GEMS/Food Regional diets~~GEMS/Food Consumption Cluster Diets) for which dietary exposures exceed that percentage.
11. The criteria are as follows:
 - a) Foods or food groups for which exposure to the contaminant or toxin contributes approximately 10%¹¹ or more of the tolerable intake (or similar health hazard endpoint) in one of the ~~GEMS/Food Regional diets~~GEMS/Food Consumption Cluster Diets;
 - or,
 - b) Foods or food groups for which exposure to the contaminant or toxin contributes approximately 5%¹ or more of the tolerable intake (or similar health hazard endpoint) in two or more of the ~~GEMS/Food Regional diets~~GEMS/Food Consumption Cluster Diets;
 - or,
 - c) Foods or food groups that may have a significant impact on exposure for specific groups of consumers, although exposure may not exceed 5% of the tolerable intake (or similar health hazard endpoint) in any of the ~~GEMS/Food Regional diets~~GEMS/Food Consumption Cluster Diets. These would be considered on a case-by-case basis.

SECTION 4. GENERATION OF DISTRIBUTION CURVES FOR CONCENTRATIONS OF THE CONTAMINANT IN SPECIFIC FOODS/FOOD GROUPS (CONCURRENT WITH SECTION 2, OR SUBSEQUENT STEP)

12. If requested by ~~CCFAC~~CCCCF, JECFA uses available analytical data on contaminant or toxin levels in foods/food groups identified as significant contributors to dietary exposure to generate distribution curves of contaminant concentrations in individual foods. ~~CCFAC~~CCCCF will take this information into account when considering risk management options and, if appropriate, for proposing the lowest achievable levels for contaminants/toxins in food on a global basis.
13. Ideally, individual data from composite samples or aggregated analytical data would be used by JECFA to construct the distribution curves. When such data are not available, aggregated data would be used (for example mean and geometric standard deviation). However, methods to construct distribution curves using aggregated data would need to be validated by JECFA.
14. In presenting the distribution curves to ~~CCFAC~~CCCCF, JECFA should, to the extent possible, provide a comprehensive overview of the ranges of contamination of foods (i.e., both the maximum and outlier values) and of the proportion of foods/food groups that contain contaminants/toxins at those levels.

SECTION 5. ASSESSMENT OF THE IMPACT OF AGRICULTURAL AND PRODUCTION PRACTICES ON CONTAMINANT LEVELS IN FOODS/FOOD GROUPS (CONCURRENT WITH SECTION 2, OR SUBSEQUENT STEP)

15. If requested by ~~CCFAC~~CCCCF, JECFA assesses the potential impact of different agricultural and production practices on contaminant levels in foods to the extent that scientific data are available to support such assessments. ~~CCFAC~~CCCCF takes this information into account when considering risk management options and for proposing Codes of Practice.

¹¹ Rounded to the nearest 1/10th of a percent.

16. Taking this information into account, ~~CCFACCCCF~~ proposes risk management decisions. To refine them, ~~CCFACCCCF~~ may request JECFA to undertake a second assessment to consider specific exposure scenarios based on proposed risk management options. The methodology for assessing potential contaminant exposure in relation to proposed risk management options needs to be further developed by JECFA.

AMENDMENTS TO SECTION IV OF THE PROCEDURAL MANUAL**FAO/WHO COORDINATING COMMITTEE FOR EUROPE (CX-706)*****Membership:***

Membership of the This Committee is open to all Member Nations Governments and Associate Members of FAO and/or WHO which are members of the Codex Alimentarius Commission, within the geographic location area of Europe, including Israel, Turkey and the Russian Federation and its Chairperson is, ex officio, the Coordinator for Europe.

Terms of reference: [no change]

CODEX COMMITTEE ON FOOD ADDITIVES (CX-711)***Terms of reference:***

- (a) to establish or endorse acceptable ~~permitted~~ maximum levels for individual food additives;
- (b)-(f): [no change]

CODEX COMMITTEE ON CONTAMINANTS IN FOODS (CX-735)***Terms of reference:***

- (a) to establish or endorse permitted maximum levels, ~~or~~ and where necessary revise existing guideline levels, for contaminants and naturally occurring toxicants in food and feed;
- (b) to prepare priority lists of contaminants and naturally occurring toxicants for risk assessment by the Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Food Additives;
- (c) to consider and elaborate methods of analysis and sampling for the determination of contaminants and naturally occurring toxicants in food and feed;
- (d) to consider and elaborate standards or codes of practice for related subjects; and
- (e) to consider other matters assigned to it by the Commission in relation to contaminants and naturally occurring toxicants in food and feed.

APPENDIX IV

**LIST OF STANDARDS AND RELATED TEXTS ADOPTED BY THE THIRTIETH SESSION OF
THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION**

Part 1 – Standards and Related Texts Adopted at Step 8

Standard and Related Text	Reference	Status
Maximum Levels for Tin in Canned Foods (other than beverages) and in Canned Beverages	ALINORM 07/30/41 Appendix IX	Adopted
Food Additive Provisions of the General Standard for Food Additives (GSFA)	ALINORM 07/30/12 Rev. Appendix VII	Adopted
Standard for Table Grapes	ALINORM 07/30/35 Appendix IV and V	Adopted
Code of Hygienic Practice for Eggs and Egg Products	ALINORM 07/30/13 Appendix II	Adopted
Guidelines on the Application of General Principles of Food Hygiene to the Control of <i>Listeria monocytogenes</i> in Ready-to-Eat Foods	ALINORM 07/30/13 Appendix III	Adopted with amendments (see para. 51)
Principles and Guidelines for the Conduct of Microbiological Risk Management	ALINORM 07/30/13 Appendix IV	Adopted
Amendment to the Guidelines for the Production, Processing, Labelling and Marketing of Organically Produced Foods: Annex 2 – Permitted Substances: Table 3	ALINORM 07/30/22 Appendix II	Adopted
Standard for Fat Spreads and Blended Spreads	ALINORM 07/30/17 Appendix II	Adopted with amendments (see para. 55)
Regional Standard for Canned Humus with Tehena	ALINORM 07/30/40 Appendix II	Adopted with amendments (see para. 61)
Regional Standard for Canned Foul Medames	ALINORM 07/30/40 Appendix III	Adopted with amendments (see para. 61)
Regional Standard for Tehena	ALINORM 07/30/40 Appendix IV	Adopted with amendments (see para. 61)
Revised Standard for Infant Formula and Formula for Special Medical Purposes Intended for Infants	ALINORM 07/30/26 Appendix II	Adopted
Standard for Pickled Fruits and Vegetables	ALINORM 07/30/27 Appendix II	Adopted
Standard for Processed Tomato Concentrates	ALINORM 07/30/27 Appendix III	Adopted
Standard for Preserved Tomatoes	ALINORM 07/30/27 Appendix IV	Adopted
Standard for Certain Canned Citrus Fruits	ALINORM 07/30/27 Appendix V	Adopted
Maximum Residue Limits for Pesticides	ALINORM 07/30/24 Appendix II	Adopted with amendments (see para. 69)
Revised Standard for Cheddar (C-1)	ALINORM 06/29/11 Appendix VI	Adopted with amendments from endorsement process

Standard and Related Text	Reference	Status
Revised Standard for Danbo (C-3)	ALINORM 06/29/11 Appendix VII	of food additive provisions (see paras. 74 and 77-79)
Revised Standard for Edam (C-4)	ALINORM 06/29/11 Appendix IX	
Revised Standard for Gouda (C-5)	ALINORM 06/29/11 Appendix X	
Revised Standard for Havarti (C-6)	ALINORM 06/29/11 Appendix XI	
Revised Standard for Samsø (C-7)	ALINORM 06/29/11 Appendix XII	
Revised Standard for Emmental (C-9)	ALINORM 06/29/11 Appendix XIII	
Revised Standard for Tilsiter (C-11)	ALINORM 06/29/11 Appendix XIV	
Revised Standard for Saint-Paulin (C-13)	ALINORM 06/29/11 Appendix XV	
Revised Standard for Provolone (C-15)	ALINORM 06/29/11 Appendix XVI	
Revised Standard for Cottage Cheese (C-16)	ALINORM 06/29/11 Appendix XVII	
Revised Standard for Coulommiers (C-18)	ALINORM 06/29/11 Appendix XVIII	
Revised Standard for Cream Cheese (C-31)	ALINORM 06/29/11 Appendix XIX	
Revised Standard for Camembert (C-33)	ALINORM 06/29/11 Appendix XX	
Revised Standard for Brie (C-34)	ALINORM 06/29/11 Appendix XXI	
Standard for Mozzarella	ALINORM 06/29/11 Appendix XXII	

Part 2 – Standards and Related Texts Adopted at Step 5/8 (with omission of Step 6 and 7)

Standards and Related Text	Reference	Status
Code of Practice for the Prevention and Reduction of Ochratoxin A Contamination in Wine (N05-2006)	ALINORM 07/30/12 Appendix VIII	Adopted
Food Additive provisions of the General Standard for Food Additives (GSFA)	ALINORM 07/30/12 Rev. Appendix VII	Adopted
Amendments to the International Numbering System for Food Additives	ALINORM 07/30/12 Rev. Appendix XIII	Adopted
Specifications for the Identity and Purity of Food Additives arising from the 65 th JECFA meeting	ALINORM 07/30/12 Rev. Appendix XIV Part 1	Adopted

Standards and Related Text	Reference	Status
Code of Practice for Fish and Fishery Products (Quick Frozen Coated Products, Salted Fish and relevant Definitions)	ALINORM 07/30/18 Appendix II	Adopted
Sections 2.1.2 - Maturity Requirements and 3.1 - Minimum Bunch Weight (Standard for Table Grapes)	ALINORM 07/30/35 Appendix V	Adopted
Guidelines for Design, Production, Issuance and Use of Generic Official Certificates (Revision of the <i>Guidelines for Generic Official Certificate Formats and the Design, Production, Issuance and Use of Certificates</i> (N05-2005))	ALINORM 07/30/30 Appendix II	Adopted with amendments (see paras 52-54)
Working Principles for Risk Analysis for Food Safety for Application by Governments	ALINORM 07/30/33 Appendix VIII	Adopted
Maximum Residue Limits for Pesticides	ALINORM 07/30/24 Appendix III	Adopted with amendments (see para. 69)

Guidelines for Design, Production, Issuance and Use of Generic Official Certificates

Part 3 – Standards and Related Texts Adopted at Step 5 of the Accelerated Procedure

Standard and Related Text	Reference	Status
Amendment to the Standard for Canned Sardines and Sardine-Type Products	ALINORM 07/30/18 Appendix III	Adopted

Part 4 – Other Standards and Related Texts Adopted

Standard and Related Text	Reference	Status
Methods of Analysis in Codex Standards at different steps	ALINORM 07/30/23 Appendix III	Adopted
Amendments to Schedule I of the General Standard for Contaminants and Toxins in Foods	ALINORM 07/30/41, para. 46	Adopted (see para. 191)
Amendment to the Annex to Table 3 of the General Standard for Food Additives	ALINORM 07/30/12 Rev., para. 71	Adopted (see para. 203)
Amendment to the General Standard for Food Additives - Entries in Food Category 02.1.1	ALINORM 07/30/12 Rev., para. 167	Adopted (see para. 204)

APPENDIX V

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

Standards and Related Texts	Reference	Status
Draft Guidelines for the Use of Flavourings (N03-2006) (with the exception of Section 4 and Annexes A and B)	ALINORM 07/30/12 Rev. para. 123 and Appendix XI	Adopted
Draft Regional Standard for Gochujang (N03-2004)	ALINORM 07/30/15, para. 42 and Appendix II	Adopted
Draft Regional Standard for Ginseng Product (N01-2004)	ALINORM 07/30/15, para. 68 and Appendix III	Adopted
Draft Code of Practice for Fish and Fishery Products (Live and Raw Bivalve Molluscs, Lobsters and Crabs and relevant Definitions)	ALINORM 07/30/18, para. 92 and Appendix IV	Adopted
Draft Standard for Live and Raw Bivalve Molluscs	ALINORM 07/30/18, para. 111, Appendix V	Adopted
Draft Amendment to the Guidelines for the Production, Processing, Labelling and Marketing of Organically Produced Foods: Annex 1 (inclusion of Ethylene) (N10-2006)	ALINORM 07/30/22, para. 96 and Appendix IV	Adopted
Draft Amendment to the General Standard for the Labelling of Prepackaged Foods: Quantitative Declaration of Ingredients	ALINORM 07/30/22, para. 133 and Appendix V	Adopted
Draft Definition of Advertising in Relation to Nutrition and Health Claims (N11-2006)	ALINORM 07/30/22, para. 140 and Appendix VI	Adopted
Draft Maximum Residue Limits for Pesticides	ALINORM 07/30/24, paras 44-136 and Appendix IV	Adopted
Advisory Lists of Nutrient Compounds for Use in Foods for Special Dietary Uses Intended for Infants and Young Children	ALINORM 07/30/26, para. 130 and Appendix V	Adopted
Draft Standard for Jams, Jellies and Marmalades	ALINORM 07/30/27, para. 146 and Appendix VI	Adopted
Draft Standard for Certain Canned Vegetables (general provisions)	ALINORM 07/30/27, para. 114 and Appendix VII	Adopted
Draft Standard for Bitter Cassava (N03-2005)	ALINORM 07/30/35, para. 82 and Appendix VI	Adopted
Draft Guidelines for the Inspection and Certification of Fresh Fruits and Vegetables for Conformity to Quality Standards	ALINORM 07/30/35, para. 92 and Appendix VII	Adopted
Draft Maximum Levels for 3-MCPD in Liquid Condiments containing Acid-Hydrolyzed Vegetable Proteins (excluding Naturally Fermented Soy Sauce) (N08-2004)	ALINORM 07/30/41, para. 88 and Appendix X	Adopted
Draft Code of Practice for the Reduction of 3-Monochloropropane-1,2-diol (3-MCPD) during the Production of Acid-Hydrolyzed Vegetable Protein (Acid-HVPs) and Products that Contain Acid-HVPs (N09-2005)	ALINORM 07/30/41, para. 93 and Appendix XI	Adopted

APPENDIX VI

**LIST OF STANDARDS AND RELATED TEXTS REVOKED BY THE THIRTIETH SESSION OF
THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION**

Standard and Related Texts	Reference
Codex Specifications for Identity and Purity of Food Additives	ALINORM 07/30/12, para. 157 and Appendix XIV Part 2
Certain existing Codex MRLs for pesticides	ALINORM 07/30/24, paras 44- 136 and Appendix V
Maximum levels for cadmium (CODEX STAN 248-2005)	ALINORM 07/30/41, para. 46
Standard for Canned Grapefruit (CODEX STAN 15-1981)	ALINORM 07/30/27, para. 89
Standard for Canned Mandarin Oranges (CODEX STAN 68-1981)	
Standard for Margarine (CODEX STAN 32-1981)	ALINORM 07/30/17, para. 63
Standard for Minarine (CODEX STAN 135-1981)	
Code of Practice for Frozen Battered and/or Breaded Fishery Products (CAC/RCP 35-1985)	ALINORM 07/30/18, para. 91
Code of Practice for Salted Fish (CAC/RCP 26-1979)	

APPENDIX VII

**LIST OF DRAFT STANDARDS AND RELATED TEXTS APPROVED AS NEW WORK BY THE
THIRTIETH SESSION OF THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION**

Responsible Committee	Standard and Related Texts	Job Code
CCFFP	Revision of the Procedure for the Inclusion of Additional Species in Standards for Fish and Fishery Products	Procedure
CCFFP	Amendment to the Standard for Quick Frozen Fish Sticks, Fish Portions and Fish Fillets – Breaded or in Batter (Nitrogen Factors)	N01-2007
CCFFP	Standard for Fish Sauce	N02-2007
CCFFP	Standard for Fresh/Live and Frozen Abalone (<i>Haliotis spp</i>)	N03-2007
CCPFV	Sampling Plan including Methodological Provisions for Controlling Minimum Drained Weight of Canned Fruits and Vegetables in Packing Media	N04-2007
CCNFSDU	Establishment and Application of Risk Analysis Principles by the Committee on Nutrition and Foods for Special Dietary Uses	Procedure
CCASIA	Regional Standard for Chili Sauce	N05-2007
CCASIA	Regional Standard for Edible Sago Flour	N06-2007
TFFBT	Annex to the Guideline for the Conduct of Food Safety Assessment of Foods Derived from Recombinant-DNA Plants on Low-level Presence of Recombinant-DNA Plant Material	N07-2007
CCFH	Guidelines for Control of <i>Campylobacter</i> and <i>Salmonella</i> spp. in Chicken Meat	N08-2007
CCFO	Amendment to the Standard for Named Vegetable Oils: Palm Kernel Olein and Palm Kernel Stearin	N09-2007
CCCF	Code of Practice for the Prevention and Reduction of Aflatoxin Contamination in Dried Figs	N10-2007
CCFA	Revision of the Food Category System (FCS) of the Codex General Standard for Food Additives	N11-2007
CCPR	Priority List of Pesticides for Evaluation by JMPR (New Pesticides and Pesticides under Periodic Review)	Ongoing
CCNMW	Amendments to Section 3.2 "Health-Related Limits for Certain Substances" of the Standard for Natural Mineral Waters (CODEX STAN 108-1981)	N12-2007

APPENDIX VIII

LIST OF WORK DISCONTINUED BY THE THIRTIETH SESSION OF THE CODEX
ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION

Responsible Committee	Standard and Related Texts	Reference
CCFA	Draft and Proposed Draft Food Additive Provisions of the GSFA	ALINORM 07/30/12, para. 107 and Appendix VIII
CCFL	Proposed Draft Amendment to the Guidelines for the Production, Processing, Labelling and Marketing of Organically Produced Foods: Annex 2 – Permitted Substances : Table 1 (Natural Sodium Nitrate)	ALINORM 07/30/22, para. 92
CCPR	Draft and Proposed Draft MRLs for Pesticides	ALINORM 07/30/24, paras 44-136 and Appendix IX

APPENDIX IX

**CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION
STRATEGIC PLAN 2008-2013****PART 1****STRATEGIC VISION STATEMENT**

The Codex Alimentarius Commission envisages a world afforded the highest attainable levels of consumer protection including food safety and quality. To this end, the Commission will develop internationally agreed standards and related texts for use in domestic regulation and international trade in food that are based on scientific principles and fulfil the objectives of consumer health protection and fair practices in food trade.

INTRODUCTION

1. This document sets out the strategic plan for the Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC), stating strategic goals of the Commission (Part 1) and incorporating a list of programme areas and planned activities with a clearly defined timetable (Part 2). The strategic vision and goals for the CAC underpin the high priority attached to food safety by its parent organizations, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the World Health Organization (WHO). *The Strategic Framework for FAO: 2000-2015* accords high priority to promoting policy and regulatory frameworks for food at the international and national levels. Several resolutions adopted by the World Health Assembly recognized the need to highlight health considerations in international food trade and acknowledged the importance of the CAC for ensuring the highest levels of consumer health protection. These resolutions and related documents¹ urged WHO to work towards integrating food safety as one of its essential public health functions with the goal of developing sustainable, integrated food safety systems for the reduction of health risks along the entire food chain. It is understood that Codex, when elaborating standards, guidelines and recommendations, gives full consideration to those resolutions and decisions from WHO and FAO that are relevant within the framework of the Codex mandate. The fundamental mandate of the CAC is to develop international standards, guidelines and other recommendations for protecting the health of consumers and ensuring fair practices in the food trade.
2. The CAC has always operated in an environment of change and technological advancement. The growth in world food trade, advances in modern communication and increasing mobility of populations are all contributing to elevating the profile and significance of food safety and regulation. There is growing international concern related to a perceived emergence of or increase in food-borne diseases. Consumers around the world are seeking ever-greater assurances about the safety and quality of foods they eat. In its endeavour to promote food safety and quality, the CAC needs to ensure more effective participation and involvement of all members in setting globally relevant standards and to consider opportunities for strengthening partnerships with all stakeholders, in particular consumers and their representative organizations, at the global and national levels. It is also likely that developing countries will account for an increasing proportion of global food and agricultural trade. CAC, FAO and WHO are striving to respond to the new challenges and keep abreast of most recent developments.²
3. The recognition and status that Codex standards, guidelines and other recommendations acquired under the World Trade Organization (WTO) Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures has presented challenges and brought responsibilities, including the need to ensure that Codex standards and related texts are based on scientific principles and meet the needs and mandate of the organization. The WTO Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade is also of great relevance, given the significance of the provisions pertaining to product description, labelling,

¹ WHO Global Strategy for Food Safety (WHO, 2002).

² Joint FAO/WHO Evaluation of the Codex Alimentarius and Other FAO and WHO Food Standards Work.

packaging and quality descriptors for consumer information and fair practices in trade. The CAC has an important role in providing for essential composition and quality requirements that are not more trade-restrictive than necessary. The CAC needs to maintain its pre-eminent status as the internationally recognized body for food standard-setting and to call for the use of its standards to the widest extent possible by all members as a basis for domestic regulation and international trade. This will help members to be more aware of the importance of the international harmonization of food safety and quality standards, as well as the enhancement of food control systems for ensuring food safety and quality.

DECISION-MAKING BASED ON SCIENTIFIC EVIDENCE

4. The CAC, as a risk management body, does not undertake scientific evaluations *per se* but relies on the opinions of scientific expert bodies convened by FAO and WHO on specific issues. These expert bodies such as the Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Food Additives (JECFA), the Joint FAO/WHO Meetings on Pesticide Residues (JMPR) and the Joint FAO/WHO Expert Meetings on Microbiological Risk Assessment (JEMRA) and other *ad hoc* expert consultations are functionally separate from the CAC and its subsidiary bodies and do not directly fall within the scope of the present Strategic Plan. The mandates, functions, composition and agendas of these bodies are established by FAO and WHO. The independence of the expert bodies is critical to the objectivity of their opinions, and meetings of these bodies should interact with the CAC in accordance with the Working Principle for Risk Analysis for Application in the Framework of the Codex Alimentarius. There is considerable synergy between the scientific bodies of FAO and WHO and the intergovernmental bodies of the CAC in order to take decisions based on scientific evidence.

STRATEGIC GOALS AND SHARED RESPONSIBILITIES

5. To enable the overall achievement of the strategic vision, the CAC must take action jointly with its parent organizations and its members. The Commission urges FAO and WHO to mobilise sufficient resources to allow the CAC to fulfil its mandate. Their other key roles are to provide scientific advice requested by the CAC and to offer technical assistance to developing members so that they can effectively participate in the standard-setting process and build capacity for the development of sound food control systems. The Commission fully recognises the efforts of the members of the CAC, especially those which provide significant financial and other support to the work of the CAC as host governments of subsidiary bodies or as contributors to extra-budgetary programmes of FAO and WHO. In close cooperation with the partners above, the Commission will focus on the following goals to achieve its strategic vision.

Goal 1: Promoting Sound Regulatory Frameworks

6. An effective food control system is critical in enabling all countries to ensure the safety of their foods entering international trade and to ensure that imported foods conform to national requirements. International harmonization based on Codex standards, guidelines and recommendations is essential to promoting a global approach to consumer health protection, including systems for the reduction of food-borne risks, and minimizing the negative effects of technical regulations on international trade. For this purpose, the CAC will provide essential guidance for its members through the continued development of international standards and guidelines relating to food safety and hygiene, nutrition, labelling, and import/export inspection and certification and quality of food stuff. This will require sustained commitment and effort in the following key directions:
 - The CAC will develop international standards, guidelines, and recommendations based on scientific principles for the reduction of health risks along the entire food chain, including feed when appropriate. In strengthening the strategic focus of the CAC in the development of standards and related texts based on risk and performance for broad application across a range of commodities, the CAC must give priority to establishing a coherent and integrated set of food standards covering the entire food chain. Such an approach can serve as a model for the members of the CAC to pursue food regulatory systems that provide consumers with safe food and ensure fair practices in the food trade;
 - Codex standards and related texts for food safety and quality, including labelling aspects, should be carefully prepared to reflect global variations. Codex standards for food quality

should focus on essential characteristics of products to ensure that they are not overly prescriptive and that the standards are not more trade restrictive than necessary; and

- The CAC, when elaborating and deciding upon Codex standards and related texts should take into consideration the technical and economic implications for all members as well as the special needs of developing countries including infrastructure, resources and technical and legal capabilities, Codex standards and related texts should not have the effect of creating unnecessary, unjustified or discriminatory obstacles to the exports of developing countries.

7. In many countries, effective food control is undermined by the existence of fragmented legislation, multiple jurisdictions and weaknesses in surveillance, monitoring and enforcement. Sound national food control and regulatory systems are essential to ensuring the health and safety of the domestic population as well as ensuring the safety and quality of foods entering international trade. The FAO and WHO have made significant advances in promoting sound regulatory frameworks at the national level. The Commission, while encouraging members to use relevant Codex standards, strongly encourages FAO and WHO to continue to promote national regulatory systems that are based on international principles and guidelines and address all components of the food chain. The development of sound food control and regulatory infrastructure including human resources is particularly important for developing countries as they seek to achieve higher levels of food safety and nutrition and will require high-level political and policy commitment.³ Successful negotiation of bilateral mutual recognition and equivalence of food control systems also depends on the abilities of countries to assure each other of the integrity and international conformity of their regulatory systems.

Goal 2: Promoting Widest and Consistent Application of Scientific Principles and Risk Analysis

8. The scientific basis of decision-making by the CAC is spelled out in the Statements of Principle on the Role of Science in the Codex Decision-Making process and the Extent to Which Other Factors are Taken into Account and in the Working Principles for Risk Analysis for Application in the Framework of the Codex Alimentarius⁴. The CAC will ensure their consistent application by relevant Codex subsidiary bodies, in order to maintain its focus on this Goal. Risk analysis as it applies to food safety across the food chain is an internationally accepted discipline and will require ongoing and sustained inputs from the CAC, its parent organisations and national governments to promote its understanding and application at the international and national levels.
9. In recent years the scope of scientific advice sought by the CAC from the parent organisations increased considerably and went beyond chemical and microbiological hazards. FAO and WHO responded to these requests through several FAO/WHO *ad hoc* consultations on topics such as foods derived from genetically modified organisms and antimicrobial resistance. The Commission requests FAO and WHO to continue to promote the understanding of risk analysis and to continue to explore new areas of work, such as nutritional risk assessment, so as to provide the scientific advice relevant to CAC activities for standard setting.
10. The timely availability of scientific advice is a prerequisite for the CAC to fulfil its mandate. The Commission will continue to encourage FAO and WHO to make sufficient resources available to ensure that the scientific advice to the CAC can be provided in a timely and sustainable way. To make more efficient and effective use of the FAO/WHO expert bodies and *ad hoc* consultations, particularly given the rapidly expanding scope of scientific advice requested from FAO and WHO, the CAC will continue to strengthen the interaction between the risk managers (relevant Codex subsidiary bodies) and the risk assessors (FAO/WHO expert bodies and *ad hoc* expert consultations). The Commission has agreed to recommend to FAO and WHO a set of criteria for the prioritization of requests from the CAC for scientific advice and will review the usefulness of this approach. The CAC, in close cooperation with its parent organizations, will enhance its capacity to respond efficiently to emerging food borne risks by strengthening its work management capabilities (see Goal 3).

³ Report of the Conference on International Food Trade beyond 2000: Science based Decisions, Harmonization, Equivalence and Mutual Recognition, Melbourne, Australia, 11-15 October, 1999, Appendix 1.

⁴ Codex Alimentarius Procedural Manual.

11. The CAC has the goal of elaborating standards that cover the needs of its entire membership to ensure these standards are applicable globally. A constraint to this goal is the persistent lack of relevant data from all major parts of the world. The CAC will continue to encourage countries from both the developed and developing worlds to submit relevant data to the CAC and the parent organizations. The Commission recommends that FAO and WHO build on the achievements already accomplished⁵ and take meaningful steps to ensure that scientific advice is provided more quickly, with even higher quality, that more requests are addressed, and that the process is conducted with enhanced transparency. The Commission particularly encourages FAO and WHO to explore new approaches to enhance participation of experts and the use of data from developing countries in the elaboration of scientific advice. Where relevant data are not available from developing countries, the CAC encourages FAO and WHO to assist the developing countries in generating such data.

Goal 3: Strengthening Codex Work-Management Capabilities

12. Attention to food safety and global food trade has continued to increase among countries and among the international governmental and non-governmental organizations concerned with these matters. More expeditious and efficient work by the CAC is necessary to provide members and international organizations with the standards, guidelines, and recommendations that they need.
13. The CAC has already made several important advances towards achieving more efficient work-management procedures, such as strengthening the role of the Executive Committee as a strategic and standards-management body, holding annual Commission sessions, and instituting more effective use of information technology. But the CAC must take additional steps to keep pace with international developments by better managing its work so that it addresses high priority issues in a timely manner and that standards development work is completed within specified time frames.
14. The implementation of new Codex work-management procedures⁶ must make the CAC more effective and efficient, while maintaining the valuable reputation that the CAC has earned as an open, fair, transparent, and rules-based body. Key features of continuing enhancements include⁷:
 - Enhancing the capabilities of the Executive Committee with respect to strategic oversight, direction, and cross coordination of the work programmes of all subsidiary bodies through recommendations to the Commission;
 - Ensuring that the Commission and its subsidiary bodies make decisions about work prioritization using criteria that enable effective decision making, taking into consideration the need to initiate new work and to revise existing standards;
 - Ensuring that new work and standard-revision work is completed within defined time frames. Work progress is monitored by the Executive Committee, and in the event that work exceeds specified time frames, the Executive Committee recommends to the Commission that corrective actions be taken as necessary;
 - Exploring mechanisms for progressing the work of subsidiary bodies in between sessions, while maintaining transparency and inclusiveness;
 - Promoting consensus-based decision-making; and
 - Strengthening the Secretariat of the CAC to ensure effective operation and work management of the Commission and its subsidiary bodies and to maintain effective communication with the Codex Contact Points.

⁵ FAO/WHO Consultative Process for the Provision of Scientific Advice to Codex and Member Countries.

⁶ As suggested by both the Report of the Evaluation of the Codex Alimentarius and Other FAO and WHO Food Standards Work and the Report on the Review of Codex Committee Structure and Mandates of Codex Committees and Task Forces and as endorsed by the Commission.

⁷ Key features are not listed in priority order.

Goal 4: Promoting Cooperation between Codex and Relevant International Organizations

15. The CAC must work closely on matters of common interest with other relevant international organizations, including those whose work has indirect but significant implications for food-standard issues. Monitoring by the CAC of activities of other organizations that are relevant to food standards, and coordination with them, where appropriate and consistent with Codex procedures, is necessary to achieve complementarity, avoid duplication and prevent development of contradictory standards or guidelines. Such collaboration is also critical to the development of health-protection and food-trade measures that address the food chain from farm to table in a coherent and seamless manner.
16. The WTO recognizes the CAC as the pre-eminent international body for establishing food safety standards. The Commission must, therefore, play a leadership role in establishing international food standards for protecting the health of consumers and ensuring fair practices in food trade, while taking due account of international regulatory initiatives of international governmental and non-governmental organizations. The CAC also has a responsibility to provide its technical input and expertise towards the building of international consensus on food standards and regulatory policy matters. Establishment or promotion of cooperation, between the CAC and other relevant international intergovernmental organizations, in particular, OIE and IPPC, should be considered, where appropriate, to ensure effective collaboration and coordination, and that such cooperation should be in line with the Guidelines on Cooperation between Codex Alimentarius Commission and International Intergovernmental Organizations in the Elaboration of Standards and Related Texts.

Goal 5: Promoting Maximum and Effective Participation of Members

17. Full participation by all Codex Members and other interested parties in the work of the CAC is now more important than ever. The participation of all members and relevant intergovernmental and international non-governmental organizations is critical to sound decision-making and ensuring that Codex standards and related texts take account of the full range of interests and viewpoints. Since the early 1990s there has been a significant increase in the membership of the CAC with developing countries now constituting a significant proportion of total membership. The Commission welcomes some initiatives undertaken so far to mitigate the financial and human resource constraints hitherto hampering the effective participation of developing countries and countries with economies in transition in the activities of the CAC. Such initiatives include the establishment of the Joint FAO/WHO Project and Trust Fund for Enhanced Participation in Codex, and the development of training manuals and other Codex related capacity building tools. Capacity building programmes under FAO and WHO also have a bearing on strengthening these countries' participation in Codex activities. The Trust Fund and other FAO and WHO programmes are efforts aimed at enabling the members to further gain experience in the Codex process. The Commission strongly urges beneficiary members to take these opportunities offered and create sustainability towards more effective participation, by making firm commitments to adequate allocation of national resources towards Codex work.
18. There is a continuing need for FAO and WHO to implement capacity building programmes in a coherent manner, especially in developing countries and countries with economies in transition, aimed at strengthening national administrative and consultative structures on Codex (e.g. Codex Contact Point, National Codex Committee) and enhancing technical expertise required for effective participation in international standards development. The CAC will play an advisory role in facilitating the efforts made by FAO and WHO so that those efforts address the needs of the CAC and its members.
19. In addition to actions to promote participation of member countries, the CAC will continue to enhance inclusiveness and transparency of the Codex process by furthering its efforts to encourage the participation of consumers and public interest groups in its processes at the international level and encourage governments to take action at the national level. The CAC will take advantage of any information technological developments for advancement of inclusiveness and transparency in the Codex process.

PART 2

PROGRAMME AREAS AND PLANNED ACTIVITIES 2008-2013

Goal 1: Promoting Sound Regulatory Frameworks**1.1 : Review and develop Codex standards and related texts for food safety**

Description: Review and develop Codex standards and related texts for food safety, taking into account scientific and technological developments, to ensure that they: emphasize a horizontal approach; employ an approach to food safety that is based on risk and that addresses the entire food chain; and reflect global variations so as to avoid being more trade restrictive than necessary, while respecting the basic objectives of the CAC, taking into consideration the technical and economic implications for all members as well as the special needs of developing countries including infrastructure, resources and technical and legal capabilities.

Timeline : Continuing

Responsible parties: CCFH, CCFA, CCCF, CCPR, CCRVDF, CCNFSDU, relevant Task Forces and Commodity Committees

1.2 : Review and develop Codex standards and related texts for food quality

Description: Review and develop Codex standards and related texts for food quality, taking into account scientific and technological developments, to ensure that they are generic in nature and whilst maintaining inclusiveness, reflect global variations and focus on essential characteristics so as to avoid being overly prescriptive and not more trade restrictive than necessary, while respecting the basic objectives of the CAC, taking into consideration the technical and economic implications for all members as well as the special needs of developing countries including infrastructure, resources and technical and legal capabilities.

Timeline : Continuing

Responsible parties: Relevant Task Forces, Commodity Committees and FAO/WHO Coordinating Committees

1.3 : Review and develop Codex standards and related texts for food labelling and nutrition

Description: Review and develop Codex standards and related texts for food labelling and nutrition, taking into account scientific and technological developments and the WHO Global Strategy on Diet, Physical Activity and Health, to ensure that they: emphasize a horizontal approach and the need to maintain inclusiveness, and address food labelling and nutrition so as to avoid being overly prescriptive and not more trade restrictive than necessary, while respecting the basic objectives of the CAC, taking into consideration the technical and economic implications for all members as well as the special needs of developing countries including infrastructure, resources and technical and legal capabilities.

Timeline: Continuing

Responsible parties: CCFL, CCNFSDU

1.4 : Review and develop Codex standards and related texts for food inspection and certification, and methods of sampling and analysis

Description: Review and develop Codex standards and related texts for food inspection and certification as well as methods of sampling, including guidance on equivalence, mutual recognition and traceability / product tracing, taking into account scientific and technological developments, to ensure that they: emphasize a horizontal approach and the need to maintain inclusiveness, and reflect global variations so as to avoid being overly prescriptive and not more trade restrictive than necessary, while respecting the basic objectives of the CAC, taking into consideration the technical and economic implications for all members as well as the special needs of developing countries including infrastructure, resources and technical and legal capabilities.

Timeline: Continuing

Responsible parties: CCMAS, CCFICS

1.5 : Develop guidance for safe and prudent non-human antimicrobial usage for containment of resistance

Description: Develop guidance within the remit of the Codex mandate for safe and prudent antimicrobial usage for containment of resistance in food production which focuses on public health, is based on sound science and follows risk analysis principles, and takes into account the work of other international organisations.

Timeline: Completion by 2011

Responsible parties: Existing relevant Codex Committees, *ad hoc* Intergovernmental Task Force on Antimicrobial Resistance

1.6 : Explore innovative risk management frameworks

Description: Explore innovative risk management frameworks in establishing MRLs of veterinary drugs and pesticides and share the results of new approaches among Codex Committees.

Timeline: Completion by 2009

Responsible parties: CCRVDF, CCPR

1.7 : Encourage FAO/WHO to expand capacity building programmes

Description: Encourage FAO/WHO to strengthen their programmes to enhance food control infrastructures and to provide technical assistance including assistance on generating data to countries in need to promote application or use of Codex standards and related texts at the national and regional level. Request FAO/WHO to report to the Commission on the implementation status of their capacity building activities.

Timeline: Continuing

Responsible parties: CAC, CCEXEC and FAO/WHO Coordinating Committees

1.8 : Publish and disseminate the Codex Alimentarius

Description: Ensure timely publication and availability of Codex standards, guidelines and recommendations to all interested parties through the Internet and other appropriate means.

Timeline: Continuing

Responsible parties: Codex Secretariat, Codex Contact Points

Goal 2: Promoting Widest and Consistent Application of Scientific Principles and Risk Analysis

2.1 Review the consistency of risk analysis principles elaborated by the relevant Codex Committees

Description: Review the risk analysis principles elaborated by the relevant Codex Committees for consistency with the Working Principles for Risk Analysis for Application in the Framework of the Codex Alimentarius. The review might result in the CAC advising Codex Committees to amend their risk analysis principles document relevant to their area of work.

Timeline: Completion by 2011.

Responsible parties: CCGP

2.2 Review risk analysis principles developed by relevant Codex Committees

Description: Review risk analysis principles developed by relevant Codex Committees in the light of the experience gained when all relevant Codex Committees have elaborated risk assessment policies pertaining to their area of work, these policies having been adopted by the CAC.

As these risk assessment policies play a pivotal role in the interaction between risk managers and risk assessors, communication between these two parties should be further improved, where appropriate. The result of such a review may be revised documents on risk analysis principles for adoption by the Commission. The review should also take into account the outcome of the activities described under 2.1 and 2.3.

Timeline: Completion by 2013

Responsible parties: CAC, CCEXEC, CCFA, CCCF, CCPR, CCRVDF, CCFH, CCNFSDU

2.3 Enhance communication among relevant Codex subsidiary bodies and the FAO/WHO scientific expert bodies

Description: Enhance communication between the risk managers and risk assessors in accordance with paragraph 38 of the Working Principle for Risk Analysis for Application in the Framework of the Codex Alimentarius.

Timeline: Ongoing

Responsible parties: CCFA, CCCF, CCPR, CCRVDF, CCFH, CCNFSDU

2.4 Review the set of criteria recommended to FAO and WHO for prioritization of requests from Codex for scientific advice.

Description: Review the usefulness of the criteria agreed upon by the 28th Session of the CAC for use by FAO/WHO to prioritize requests from Codex for scientific advice.

Timeline: Completion by 2009.

Responsible parties: CCEXEC

2.5 Encourage countries to channel their requests for scientific advice to FAO / WHO through the CAC

Description: Encourage countries to channel their requests through the CAC in order to make the best use of the limited resources available at FAO and WHO for the provision of scientific advice. Encourage FAO and WHO to inform the CCEXEC and the CAC of all requests on provision of scientific advice on food safety received from member countries.

Timeline: Continuing

Responsible parties: CAC, CCEXEC, all subsidiary bodies

2.6 Encourage FAO/WHO to provide training and capacity building on risk analysis for food safety

Description: Assistance with capacity building activities aimed at effective implementation of the principles

Timeline: Continuing

Responsible parties: CAC, CCEXEC, FAO/WHO Coordinating Committees and Codex Members

Goal 3: Strengthening Codex Work-Management Capabilities

3.1 Review the Criteria for the Establishment of Work Priorities and procedures of the critical review carried out by the CCEXEC

Description: Review and revise, if necessary, the Criteria for the Establishment of Work Priorities and the effectiveness of the critical review process.

Timeline: Completion of analysis by CCEXEC by 2009; if there is need for revision, completion of revision by CCGP by 2011

Responsible parties: CCEXEC, CCGP

3.2 Ensure effective standards management

Description: Annually review progress of all subsidiary-body activities (i.e., standards, codes of practice, codes of hygienic practice, guidelines) against specified timeframes for completion of each activity, and recommend corrective actions to the Commission for activities that appear likely to exceed or have exceeded specified timeframes.

Timeline: Continuing

Responsible parties: CCEXEC

3.3 Develop committee-specific decision making and priority setting criteria

Description: Develop committee-specific decision-making and priority-setting criteria and use these criteria for management of work. Implement and review criteria where necessary.

Timeline: Completion of decision making and priority setting criteria by 2008. Review of criteria, beginning in 2008.

Responsible parties: All General Subject Committees and some other subsidiary bodies as appropriate

3.4 Analyse work-management approaches that facilitate advancement of texts in the Codex step process.

Description: Analyse work-management approaches used by committees that facilitate advancement of texts in the Codex step procedure in the light of the criteria referred to in 3.3 and their use by these committees.

Timeline: Completion of analysis by 2009

Responsible parties: Analysis work to be done possibly either by Codex Secretariat or by consultant for next step (3.5)

3.5 Adopt approaches proven to facilitate advancement of texts in the Codex step procedure by subsidiary bodies not currently using such approaches.

Description: Recommend adoption of approaches proven to facilitate advancement of texts in the Codex step procedure by subsidiary bodies not currently using such approaches, in the light of the analysis undertaken as per 3.4.

Timeline: Completion by 2011

Responsible parties: CCEXEC and CAC

3.6 Implement priority-ranked comprehensive accounting of all requests for scientific advice

Description: Request FAO and WHO annually to produce a priority-ranked comprehensive accounting (including budget information as it has impacts on Codex work) of all requests for scientific advice (i.e. continuing, ad hoc, requested by subsidiary bodies, or requested by members). The criteria that shall be used for priority ranking are those agreed to at the 55th Session of the Executive Committee (ALINORM 05/28/3). FAO and WHO are also requested to include budget information relevant to provision of scientific advice.

Timeline: Continuing

Responsible parties: CCEXEC, CAC, FAO and WHO

3.7 Evaluate the capacity of the Codex Secretariat to perform its function effectively

Description: Evaluate the effectiveness and resource needs of the Codex Secretariat in the operation and work management of the Commission and its subsidiary bodies, and in communicating with and serving the needs of Codex Contact Points.

Timeline: Completion by 2009

Responsible parties: Codex Secretariat, CCEXEC, CAC

3.8 Streamline Codex Commodity work

Description: Implement the decisions of the Commission on how to streamline Codex work on commodities through an improved structure of Codex subsidiary bodies.

Timeline: Completion by 2010

Responsible parties: CCEXEC, CAC

Goal 4: Promoting Cooperation between Codex and Other Relevant International Organizations

4.1 Track the activities of other international standard-setting bodies
Description: Track the activities of other international standard-setting bodies to identify areas of potential complementarities, gaps, duplication, or conflict. A summary of such activities relevant to Codex shall be reported to the Executive Committee and to the Commission annually.
Timeline: Continuing
Responsible parties: CAC, CCEXEC, Codex Secretariat, subsidiary bodies
4.2 Encourage Codex contributions to the work of other international bodies
Description: Encourage other relevant international bodies, when elaborating food standards and related texts, to take due account of Codex standards, related texts and any relevant ongoing work. Where appropriate, propose inclusion of appropriate cross-reference to Codex standards and relevant texts.
Timeline: Continuing
Responsible parties: Codex Secretariat
4.3 Encourage contributions from other international bodies in Codex work
Description: Invite international bodies concerned with food safety and food quality to participate in the standards development process of Codex
Timeline: Ongoing
Responsible parties: Observers, Codex Secretariat
4.4 Consider cooperation with other relevant international intergovernmental organizations
Description: While recognizing the needs to further improve interaction with OIE and IPPC, where appropriate, explore possibilities for cooperation to ensure effective collaboration and coordination, and that such cooperation should be in line with the Guidelines on Cooperation between Codex and International Intergovernmental Organizations.
Timeline: Continuing
Responsible parties: Legal Counsels of FAO and WHO, Codex Secretariat
4.5 Promote interdisciplinary coordination at the national and regional level
Description: Encourage Codex member countries to establish effective mechanisms within their own countries so that horizontal coordination and communication occurs among national delegates to various food-standards-related international organizations. Invite members to develop evaluation criteria to assess the success of the mechanisms that they have established and report progress in this activity through their respective Codex Regional Coordinating Committees to the CAC.
Timeline: Completion by 2009
Responsible parties: Codex Members, FAO/WHO Coordinating Committees

Goal 5: Promoting Maximum and Effective Participation of Members

<p>5.1 Promote Enhanced Participation of developing countries in Codex</p> <p>Description: Request FAO/WHO to encourage current donors to continue to provide funds to the FAO/WHO Trust Fund and invite other donors to contribute to the Fund to ensure sustainability. Request FAO/WHO to analyse the impact of the Codex Trust Fund on the capacity of beneficiary countries and report its findings to the CCEXEC and the Commission. Provide recommendations to FAO / WHO with a view to improved operation of the Trust Fund based on the outcome of the Trust Fund mid-term evaluation.</p> <p>Timeline: Continuing</p> <p>Responsible parties: CAC, CCEXEC</p>
<p>5.2 Promote effective use of written comments in the Codex process</p> <p>Description: Encourage members and observers to make maximum use of opportunities to submit written comments in response to Circular Letters (CLs) while respecting the deadlines for such submissions to allow all members and observers to study the positions of other members and observers in a timely manner.</p> <p>Codex Secretariat and Chairs of the Committees will examine how best to ensure that written comments of members that are not present at the meetings are taken into consideration, and how to handle the late submission of comments in response to CLs, from the view points of transparency and inclusiveness.</p> <p>Timeline: Continuing</p> <p>Responsible parties: Codex Members, Observers, CCEXEC, Codex Secretariat</p>
<p>5.3 Evaluate effectiveness of Codex Committee sessions held in developing countries</p> <p>Description: Evaluate the effectiveness of holding Codex sessions in developing countries in terms of enhanced participation. Analyse the effectiveness of co-hosting arrangements, and continue to explore possibilities of convening Codex sessions outside the host countries.</p> <p>Timeline: Completion by 2009</p> <p>Responsible parties: Host countries, CCEXEC</p>
<p>5.4 Strengthen Codex Contact Points and National Codex Committees</p> <p>Description: Request FAO and WHO to provide technical assistance for the strengthening of national Codex structures; provide improved support by the Codex Secretariat to Codex Contact Points through the effective use of Internet facilities.</p> <p>Timeline: Continuing</p> <p>Responsible parties: CAC, CCEXEC, Codex Secretariat</p>
<p>5.5 Enhance participation of non-governmental organizations at international, regional and national levels</p> <p>Description: Encourage non-governmental organizations to participate in Codex work at national, regional and international levels. Encourage members to establish sound structures and processes for consultation on Codex matters to ensure effective involvement and participation of all interested parties.</p> <p>Timeline: Continuing</p> <p>Responsible parties: CAC, Codex Members, subsidiary bodies</p>

5.6 Enhance communication about Codex work at international and national levels

Description: Develop new communication approaches to promote the work of Codex at national and international levels. Develop direct and easily understandable messages on Codex to interested parties including consumers and especially emphasizing high level policy makers. .

Timeline: Continuing

Responsible parties: Codex Secretariat, WHO and FAO, Codex Contact Points, subsidiary bodies

PART 3
IMPLEMENTATION OF STRATEGIC PLAN

This Part contains two tables:

- Table 1: Implementation of Strategic Plan
(This table is a checklist of the Strategic Plan activities to monitor the progress and achievement of the activities listed in Part 2. This table will be regularly updated for review by the Executive Committee.)
- Table 2: Critical Review of Proposals for New Work and Monitoring Progress of Standards Development
(This table is a checklist of ongoing work, to manage current and future work undertaken by the subsidiary bodies of the Commission. This Part will regularly be presented for critical review by the Executive Committee to monitor the progress of the ongoing work of standards setting mentioned in 1.1, 1.2, 1.3 and 1.4 of Part 2.)

Table 1: Implementation of Strategic Plan

Goal	Activities	Responsible parties	Timeframe	Output/Measurable indicators	Current Status	Notes *	Advice by EXEC	Decision by CAC
Goal 1: Promoting Sound Regulatory Frameworks	1.1 Review and develop Codex standards and related texts for food safety	CCFH, CCFA, CCCF, CCPR, CCRVDF, CCNFSDU, relevant Task Forces and Commodity Committees	Continuing	Standards related texts adopted at respective steps	See Table 2			
	1.2 Review and develop Codex standards and related texts for food quality	Relevant Task Forces, Commodity Committees and FAO/WHO Coordinating Committees	Continuing	Standards and related texts adopted at respective steps	See Table 2			
	1.3 Review and develop Codex standards and related texts for food labelling and nutrition	CCFL, CCNFSDU	Continuing	Standards and related texts adopted at respective steps	See Table 2			

	1.4 Review and develop Codex standards and related texts for food inspection and certification, and methods of sampling and analysis	CCMAS, CCFICS	Continuing	Standards and related texts adopted at respective steps	See Table 2			
	1.5 Develop guidance for safe and prudent non-human antimicrobial usage for containment of resistance	Existing relevant Codex Committees, <i>ad hoc</i> Intergovernmental Task Force on Antimicrobial Resistance	Completion by 2011	Guidance for safe and prudent non-human antimicrobial usage for containment of resistance	See Table 2			
	1.6 Explore innovative risk management frameworks	CCRVDf, CCPR	Completion by 2009	Reports by CCRVDf and CCPR respectively to CCEXEC and CAC				
	1.7 Encourage FAO/WHO to expand capacity building programmes	CAC, CCEXEC and FAO/WHO Coordinating Committees	Continuing	Report from FAO/WHO to CAC, CCEXEC and Coordinating Committees				
	1.8 Publish and disseminate the Codex Alimentarius	Codex Secretariat, Codex Contact Points	Continuing	Publication and dissemination of Codex Alimentarius				

* (Notes from Committees, Secretariat, whichever necessary)

Goal	Activities	Responsible parties	Timeframe	Output/Measurable indicators	Current Status	Notes *	Advice by EXEC	Decision by CAC
Goal 2: Promoting Widest and Consistent Application of Scientific Principles and Risk Analysis	2.1 Review the consistency of risk analysis principles elaborated by the relevant Codex Committees	CCGP	Completion by 2011	Report by CCGP of completed review to CAC.	See Table 2			
	2.2 Review risk analysis principles developed by relevant Codex Committees	CAC, CCEXEC, CCFA, CCCF, CCPR, CCRVDF, CCFH, CCNFSDU	Completion by 2013	Report by relevant Committees of completed review, taking into account the review of the activities in 2.1 and 2.3.	See Table 2			
	2.3 Enhance communication among relevant Codex subsidiary bodies and the FAO/WHO scientific expert bodies	CCFA, CCCF, CCPR, CCRVDF, CCFH, CCNFSDU	Ongoing	Incorporated into report as required in 2.2.				
	2.4 Review the set of criteria recommended to FAO and WHO for prioritization of requests from Codex for scientific advice.	CCEXEC	Completion by 2009	Report of review with recommendation to better match of priorities and resources by CCEXEC to CAC				

	2.5 Encourage countries to channel their requests for scientific advice to FAO / WHO through the CAC	CAC, CCEXEC, all subsidiary bodies	Continuing	Reports by FAO and WHO of requests for scientific advice received directly from countries vs. requests received through CAC.				
	2.6 Encourage FAO/WHO to provide training and capacity building on risk analysis for food safety	CAC, CCEXEC, FAO/WHO Coordinating Committees and Codex Members	Continuing	Report from FAO/WHO to CAC, CCEXEC and Coordinating Committees	See Table 2			

* (Notes from Committees, Secretariat, whichever necessary)

Goal	Activities	Responsible parties	Timeframe	Output/Measurable indicators	Current Status	Notes *	Advice by EXEC	Decision by CAC
Goal 3: Strengthening Codex Work-Management Capabilities	3.1 Review the Criteria for the Establishment of Work Priorities and procedures of the critical review carried out by the CCEXEC	CCEXEC, CCGP	Completion by 2009 Completion by 2011	Report by CCEXEC on analysis of the critical review process If there is need for revision, revise the Criteria for the Establishment of Work Priorities by CCGP				
	3.2 Ensure effective standards management	CCEXEC	Continuing	Report on compliance of standards developed against timelines (associated with critical review process)	See Table 2			

	3.3 Develop committee-specific decision making and priority setting criteria	All General Subject Committees and some other subsidiary bodies as appropriate	Completion by 2008 Continuing	Committee-specific decision-making and priority-setting criteria Confirmed review of criteria beginning in 2008				
	3.4 Analyse work-management approaches that facilitate advancement of texts in the Codex step process	Either by Codex Secretariat or by consultant for next step (3.5)	Completion by 2009	Report to the CCEXEC and CAC on analysis of work-management approaches				
	3.5 Adopt approaches proven to facilitate advancement of texts in the Codex step procedure by subsidiary bodies not currently using such approaches	CCEXEC and CAC	Completion by 2011	Adoption by CAC on work - management approaches.				
	3.6 Implement priority-ranked comprehensive accounting of all requests for scientific advice	CCEXEC, CAC, FAO and WHO	Continuing	Comprehensive report by FAO/WHO to CAC on accounting of all requests for scientific advice				
	3.7 Evaluate the capacity of the Codex Secretariat to perform its function effectively	Codex Secretariat, CCEXEC, CAC	Completion by 2009	Report by Secretariat to CAC on the staff and other key resources				

	3.8 Streamline Codex Commodity work	CCEXEC, CAC	Completion by 2010	Accomplished Implementation of the decisions of the Commission on how to streamline Codex work on commodities through an improved structure of Codex subsidiary bodies				
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* (Notes from Committees, Secretariat, whichever necessary)

Goal	Activities	Responsible parties	Timeframe	Output/Measurable indicators	Current Status	Notes *	Advice by EXEC	Decision by CAC
Goal 4: Promoting Cooperation between Codex and other relevant international organizations	4.1 Track the activities of other international standard-setting bodies	CAC, CCEXEC, Codex Secretariat, subsidiary bodies	Continuing	Report to the CCEXEC and CAC indicating potential complementarities, gaps, duplication, or conflict with the work of other international organizations				
	4.2 Encourage Codex contributions to the work of other international bodies	Codex Secretariat	Continuing	Number of standards elaborated by other international organisations with a cross reference to Codex standards and relevant texts				
	4.3 Encourage contributions from other international bodies in Codex work	Observers, Codex Secretariat	Continuing	Number of Codex standards elaborated with identifiable input from other international organisations				

	4.4 Consider cooperation with other relevant international intergovernmental organizations	Legal Counsels of FAO and WHO, Codex Secretariat	Continuing	Devise the means by which Codex can strengthen cooperation with OIE and IPPC				
	4.5 Promote interdisciplinary coordination at the national and regional level	Codex Members, FAO/WHO Coordinating Committees	Completion by 2009	Reports from members to Regional Coordinating Committees on mechanisms and evaluation criteria.				

* (Notes from Committees, Secretariat, whichever necessary)

Goal	Activities	Responsible parties	Timeframe	Output/Measurable indicators	Current Status	Notes*	Advice by EXEC	Decision by CAC
Goal 5: Promoting Maximum and Effective Participation of Members	5.1 Promote enhanced participation of developing countries in Codex	CAC, CCEXEC	Continuing	Reports from FAO / WHO presenting analysis of measures of enhanced participation achieved through the Codex Trust Fund.				
	5.2 Promote effective use of written comments in the Codex process	Codex Members, Observers, CCEXEC, Codex Secretariat	Continuing	Reports by host countries on patterns of submission of written comments in response to CLs, and adherence by chairs to the guidelines for the conduct of the meetings.				
	5.3 Evaluate effectiveness of Codex Committee sessions held in developing countries	Host countries, CCEXEC	Completion by 2009	Reports from host and co-hosting countries documenting experience co-hosting experience.				

	5.4 Strengthen Codex Contact Points and National Codex Committees	CAC, CCEXEC, Codex Secretariat	Continuing	Reports from FAO/WHO on countries whose National structure and codex Contact Points have been supported.				
	5.5 Enhance participation of non-governmental organizations at international, regional and national levels	CAC, Codex Members, subsidiary bodies	Continuing	Reports from member countries under relevant agenda items of the Regional Committees, on participations of non-governmental organizations at National level.				
	5.6 Enhance communication about Codex work at international and national levels	Codex Secretariat, WHO and FAO, Codex Contact Points, subsidiary bodies	Continuing	Reports by Secretariat to CAC on increased use of audio / webcasting, enhancement of webpages, increase use of electronic distribution of codex materials, etc.				

* (Notes from Committees, Secretariat, whichever necessary)

Table 2: Critical Review of Proposals for New Work and Monitoring Progress of Standards Development
Sample

<i>Codex Committee on xx¹</i> Document title	Timeframe		Current Status ²	Relevant Output Codes ³	Provision of scientific advice	Explanatory notes	Specific Comments from the Chairperson of the Committee	Advice given by the Executive Committee
	Job ID ⁴	Target Year ⁵						
Draft Guidelines for A	N03-2005	2009	6/7	1.2	Not required			
Draft Standard for B	N04-2006	2011	5	1.3	Not required			
Proposed Draft Guidelines for C	N05-2006	2011	3/4	1.2	FAO/WHO Expert Consultation planned in 2009			
Proposed Draft Standard for D	N04-2008	2013	2	1.3	FAO/WHO Expert Consultation requested by 2011			
General comments by the Chairperson / host countries of the Committee:								

¹ Name of the subsidiary body

² Step in the Elaboration Procedure

³ Reference made to Part 2 of the Strategic Plan

⁴ Job IDs are assigned by the Commission upon approval as new work

⁵ Year by which the draft text is to be adopted at Step 8, as agreed by the Commission on the basis of the Project Document

APPENDIX X

CHAIRMANSHIP OF CODEX SUBSIDIARY BODIES

Subsidiary Bodies established under Rule XI.1(b)(i)

Code	Subsidiary Body	Member Responsible	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	Malaysia	Active
CX 710	Codex Committee on Sugars	United Kingdom	<i>Sine die</i>
CX 711	Codex Committee on Food Additives	China	Active
CX 735	Codex Committee on Contaminants in Foods	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	China	Active
CX 719	Codex Committee on Natural Mineral Waters	Switzerland	Active
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	<i>Sine die</i>
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 27th Session of the Commission

CX 802	<i>Ad hoc</i> Codex Intergovernmental Task Force on Foods derived from Biotechnology	Japan	Active
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Ad hoc Intergovernmental Task Force established by the 29th Session of the Commission

CX 804	<i>Ad hoc</i> Codex Intergovernmental Task Force on Antimicrobial Resistance	Republic of Korea	Active
CX 805	<i>Ad hoc</i> Codex Intergovernmental Task Force on the Processing and Handling of Quick Frozen Foods	Thailand	Active

Subsidiary Bodies established under Rule XI.1(b)(i)

Code	Subsidiary Body	Member Responsible
CX 706	FAO/WHO Coordinating Committee for Europe	Coordinator for Europe
CX 707	FAO/WHO Coordinating Committee for Africa	Coordinator for Africa
CX 725	FAO/WHO Coordinating Committee for Latin America and the Caribbean	Coordinator for Latin America and the Caribbean
CX 727	FAO/WHO Coordinating Committee for Asia	Coordinator for Asia
CX 732	FAO/WHO Coordinating Committee for North America and the South West Pacific	Coordinator for North America and the South West Pacific
CX 734	FAO/WHO Coordinating Committee for the Near East	Coordinator for the Near East

www.codexalimentarius.net

The FAO/WHO Codex Alimentarius Commission is the unique United Nations body responsible for establishing international food standards aimed at protecting the health of consumers and ensuring fair practices in the food trade. The food standards, codes of practice and other guidelines and recommendations adopted by the Commission form the Codex Alimentarius: the international food code. The Codex Alimentarius Commission envisages a world afforded the highest attainable levels of consumer protection, including food safety and quality.

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