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Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme

CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION

REPORT OF THE THIRTY-FIRST SESSION

Geneva, 30 June - 4 July 2008

World Health Organization

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

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WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION
FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

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JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME

CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION

Thirty-first Session

International Conference Centre, Geneva (Switzerland), 30 June - 4 July 2008

Report

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Commission:

a) Adopted several amendments to the Procedural Manual;

b) Adopted 35 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 and expenditure for 2006-2007; noted the funding situation of the Codex programme in 2008-09 and its implications to Codex work including the decreasing share of the WHO contribution to the Codex budget; regretted that one of the implications was that the Executive Committee would meet only three times in the biennium and that Russian would not be added as a language of the Commission, due to lack of funds; agreed that the usefulness of Portuguese as a language of interpretation in the Coordinating Committee for Africa be evaluated at the 32nd Session of the Commission; also agreed to encourage all Codex members to make the best use of electronic means of communication; requested FAO and WHO to assign high priority to Codex when determining their budgets, including the allotment for 2009 and the biennial budget 2010-2011;

e) Noted with satisfaction that all proposals based on the recommendations from the Codex Evaluation (2002) had been implemented and agreed that the item did not require further consideration at its next session; noted that the proposal relating to consensus would be considered by the 25th Session of the Committee on General Principles; and agreed that the structure and mandates of Codex Committees and related issues would be considered further by the next sessions of the Executive Committee and the Commission;

f) Noted the status of implementation of the Strategic Plan 2008-2013 and agreed on the action to be taken to implement some specific activities;

g) Agreed that the issue of participation of developing countries would be considered by the 25th Session of the Committee on General Principles on the basis of a document prepared by the Secretariat; recommended that Coordinating Committees consider this issue and report their views to the 32nd Session of the Commission;

h) Agreed to postpone decision of possible new work on animal feeding until its 32nd Session;

i) Agreed to postpone consideration of the issue of the use of the lactoperoxidase system until its 32nd Session;

j) Supported continued cooperation and coordination with international governmental and non-governmental organizations;

k) 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;

l) Elected the following Officers of the Commission:

- **Chairperson**: Ms Karen HULEBAK (USA)
- **Vice-Chairpersons**: Mr Sanjay DAVE (India), Mr Ben MANYINDO (Uganda), and Mr Knud ØSTERGAARD (Denmark)

m) Confirmed the host governments of Codex subsidiary bodies;

n) Agreed to dissolve the *Ad hoc* Task Force on Foods Derived from Biotechnology and the *Ad hoc* Task Force on the Processing and Handling of Quick Frozen Foods as their work had been completed, and to adjourn *since die* the Committee on Natural Mineral Waters.

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APPENDICES

INTRODUCTION

1. The Codex Alimentarius Commission held its Thirty-first Session at the International Conference Centre, Geneva, Switzerland, from 30 June - 4 July 2008. Dr Claude J. S Mosha (United Republic of Tanzania), Chairperson of the Commission, presided over the Session assisted by the Vice-Chairpersons, Dr Karen Hulebak (United States of America) and Dr Wim van Eck (The Netherlands). The Session was attended by 505 delegates from 138 Member countries and 1 Member Organization, 44 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 D. Heymann, Assistant Director-General, WHO, and Mr E. Boutrif, Director, Food and Consumer Protection Division, FAO, on behalf of the Directors-General of WHO and FAO, respectively.

Division of Competence

3. The Commission noted the division of competence between the European Community and its Member States, according to paragraph 5, Rule II of the Rules of Procedure of the Codex Alimentarius Commission, as presented in document CAC/31 LIM/2.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA (Agenda Item 1)[1]

4. The Commission adopted the Provisional Agenda as its Agenda for the Session. At the request of the Delegations of Uruguay, Argentina and Colombia, the Commission agreed to discuss the issue of "timely distribution of the Codex documents in all working languages" under Agenda Item 18 "Other Business", if time allowed.

REPORT BY THE CHAIRPERSON ON THE 60TH AND 61ST SESSIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (Agenda Item 2)[2]

5. In accordance with Rule V.7 of the Rules of Procedure, the Chairperson reported to the Commission on the outcome of the 60th and 61st Sessions of the Executive Committee, as follows.

60th Session of the Executive Committee

6. The 60th Session of the Executive Committee had agreed in particular on "Guidelines for the Establishment of Work Priorities applicable to Commodities" intended to provide further guidance to the Executive Committee when performing the critical review and had agreed that they should be made widely available in order to assist Codex Members and subsidiary bodies when preparing proposals for new work. The Commission supported this conclusion. The Committee had also agreed on proposed procedures for the conversion of regional standards into worldwide standards, for inclusion in the Procedural Manual (see Agenda Item 3).

7. The Commission took note of the monitoring of standards development conducted by the 60th Session of the Executive Committee in the framework of the Critical Review.[3] The Commission also stressed the importance of an early conclusion of the Letter of Agreement and Memorandum of Responsibilities between FAO and a host government for the smooth conduct of Codex sessions.[4]

8. In reply to a question on the availability of the General Rules of FAO applying to Codex to delegates to Codex sessions, the Secretariat indicated that the General Rules of FAO were available electronically on the FAO website and that the printed version was sent by FAO to all FAO Members.

61st Session of the Executive Committee

9. The 61st Session of the Executive Committee had considered the follow-up to the statement made by FAO and WHO at its 60th Session and other issues and had agreed on a number of recommendations presented in the working document (CX/EXEC 08/61/2). The Commission noted comments on the

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1 ALINORM 08/31/1, ALINORM 08/31/1A Rev. and ALINORM 08/31/1B
2 ALINORM 08/31/3, ALINORM 08/31/3A
3 ALINORM 08/31/3, paras 38-42
4 ALINORM 08/31/3, para. 66

usefulness of teleconferencing for the purpose of capacity building seminars at the regional level. The Commission endorsed the recommendations of the Executive Committee in this respect[5].

10. The Commission noted that several items considered by the 60th and 61st sessions of the Executive Committee would be addressed under specific agenda items at the present session and that the advice of the Executive Committee would be taken into account as required.

AMENDMENTS TO THE PROCEDURAL MANUAL (Agenda Item 3)[6]

11. The Commission recalled that no session of the Committee on General Principles had been held in 2008 and that the proposed amendments under consideration had been put forward by Codex Committees and Task Forces and considered by the Executive Committee.

A. Proposed Amendment to the Terms of Reference to the *Ad Hoc* Intergovernmental Task Force on Antimicrobial resistance

12. The Commission adopted the proposed amendment as proposed by the First Session of the Task Force (see Appendix II to this report).

B. Proposed amendments to the "*Format for the Commodity Standards*" and to the "*Relations between Commodity Committees and General Committees*"

13. The Commission recalled that the 61st Session of the Executive Committee had considered the proposed amendments to the "*Format for the Commodity Standards*" and to the "*Relations between Commodity Committees and General Committees"* as presented in Annexes III and IV of document ALINORM 08/31/4 and that the Committee had recommended the adoption of these texts with some minor changes[7].

14. The Commission noted that the two proposed amendments had been prepared by the Secretariat, following the recommendation by the 60th Session of the Executive Committee to streamline the content and relationships between the two texts, while incorporating the proposed amendments forwarded by the Second Session of the Committee on Contaminants in Foods (April 2008), as presented in Annex II to document ALINORM 08/31/4.

15. The Commission agreed to delete the proposed insertion of the term "and" in the section on Food Additives of the "*Format for Commodity Standards*", noting that usually no food additives were to be listed in Tables 1, 2 and 3 of the General Standard for Food Additives at the same time.

16. The Commission adopted the proposed amendments to the "*Format for the Commodity Standards"* with the above deletion of the term "and" (see Appendix III to this report).

17. The Commission also considered the proposed amendments to the "*Relations between Commodity Committees and General Committees*" and endorsed the recommendation of the 61st Session of the Executive Committee to adopt the proposed amendments with the following changes:

- Include a reference to "*CODEX STAN 193-1995*" to the first paragraph of the Section on Contaminants;
- Replace the term "revisions" with "amendments" in the same section for consistent use of those terms that were defined in the Procedural Manual; and
- Delete the proposed inclusion of a reference to "contaminants" in the section on methods of analysis of pesticide residues in food so that this section cover the relations between the Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling, on one hand, and the Committees on Pesticide Residues and on Residues of Veterinary Drugs in Foods on the other.

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5 ALINORM 08/31/3A, paras 12,15, 21,26 and 34

6 ALINORM 08/31/4, ALINORM 08/31/4A (Comments of Australia, Brazil, Norway, USA, CIAA and NMKL), LIM 8 (Comments of Japan), LIM 9 (Comments of India), LIM 10 (Comments of Malaysia), LIM12 (Comments of European Community)

7 ALINORM 08/31/3A paras 35-45

18. The amendments to the "Relations between Commodity Committees and General Committees" adopted the Commission are presented in Appendix IV to this Report.

C. Other Amendments

Proposed Amendment to the *Working Instructions for the Implementation of the Criteria Approach*

19. The Commission adopted the Proposed Amendment and agreed that the written comments presented in ALINORM 08/31/4A should be referred to the Committee on Methods for Analysis and Sampling for consideration in view of their technical nature (see Appendix V to this report).

Proposed Procedures for Conversion of Regional Standards into Worldwide Standards

20. The Commission recalled that the 60th Session of the Executive Committee had considered the conversion of regional standards into worldwide standards, as requested by the 30th Session of the Commission, and adopted the Proposed Procedures presented in Appendix III of ALINORM 08/31/3, for inclusion in part 5 of the Elaboration Procedures of the Procedural Manual (see Appendix VI to this report).

DRAFT STANDARDS AND RELATED TEXTS AT STEP 8 OF THE PROCEDURE (Agenda Item 4)[8]

21. The Commission **adopted** 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), as well as other standards and related texts submitted for adoption, as presented in Appendix VII to this report.

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

Contaminants in Foods

Draft Maximum Level for 3-MCPD in Liquid Condiments containing Acid-Hydrolyzed Vegetable Proteins (Excluding Naturally Fermented Soy Sauce) (N08-2004)[9]

23. The Delegation of the European Community, supported by the Delegation of Norway, proposed to defer the adoption of the draft Maximum Level of 0.4 mg/kg for 3-MCPD until a full re-evaluation of new scientific data on 3-MCPD release from 3-MCPD esters from all foods had been performed. The Delegation considered it important to review the maximum level for 3-MCPD in the light of the forthcoming JECFA evaluation, currently under review by the European Food Safety Authority in relation to the dietary exposure to 3-MCPD associated with all food products containing 3-MCPD.

24. The Commission **adopted** the draft Maximum Level of 0.4 mg/kg for 3-MCPD in Liquid Condiments containing Acid-Hydrolyzed Vegetable Proteins (Excluding Naturally Fermented Soy Sauce) at Step 8, noting the reservation of the European Community and Norway on this decision.

Draft Maximum Level for Ochratoxin A in Raw Wheat, Barley and Rye[10]

25. The Delegation of India, referring to its written comments (in CAC/31 LIM/9), stated that the maximum level for Ochratoxin A (OTA) in raw wheat, barley and rye should be fixed at a higher level of 20 µg/kg instead of 5 µg/kg, arguing that, between these two levels, there was no significant difference in the impact on dietary exposure to OTA for the purpose of protecting consumers' health, according to the JECFA evaluations. The Delegation also emphasized the need to take into account the Codex decision to adopt the least trade restrictive measures.

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8 ALINORM 08/31/5; ALINORM 08/31/3A; ALINORM 08/31/5A (comments of Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, Colombia, Egypt, European Community, France, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Iran, Peru, United States of America, Uruguay, AIDGUM, CIAA, IFAH and ISDI); CAC/31 LIM/3 (comments of Australia, Brazil, France, European Community, Japan, Peru, United States of America, CEFIC, CI, CIAA and IFMA), CAC/31 LIM/5 (comments of European Community, Kenya, Malaysia, Peru and Thailand); CAC/31 LIM/9 (comments of India); CAC/31 LIM/14 (comments of Indonesia); CAC/31 LIM/15 (comments of Nigeria and INC)

9 ALINORM 08/31/41, Appendix III

10 ALINORM 08/31/41, Appendix VII

26. The Commission **adopted** the draft maximum level of 5 µg/kg for OTA in raw wheat, barley and rye, noting the reservation of India on this decision.

Food Additives

Draft and Proposed Draft Food Additive Provisions of the General Standard for Food Additives (GSFA) (CODEX STAN 192-1995)[11]

27. The Commission **adopted** the food additive provisions of the GSFA as proposed by the 40th Session of the Committee on Food Additives and noted the comments of the Delegation of the European Community that food additives were not needed in fresh, dried and precooked pastas.

Amendment to Table 3 of the GSFA[12]

28. The Delegation of India, referring to its written comments in CAC/31 LIM/9, suggested to amend the footnote to Table 3 of the GSFA, proposed by the Committee on Food Additives, because the Standard for Fermented Milks (CODEX STAN 243-2003) did not allow for the use preservatives in plain heat-treated fermented milks while allowing the use of stabilizers and thickeners in this category of products. Noting the suggestion from India in relation to the footnote, the Commission agreed to **return** the proposed amendment for consideration by the 41st Session of the Committee on Food Additives.

Proposed Draft Guidelines for the Use of Flavourings (N03-2006)[13]

29. The Commission **adopted** the Guidelines as proposed by the 40th Session of the Committee on Food Additives. The Commission invited the Delegation of Colombia to forward its recommendation as to the need to clearly differentiate among natural and synthetic flavourings to a future session of the Committee on Food Additives.

Proposed Draft Amendments to the International Numbering System for Food Additives (CAC/GL 36-1989)[14]

30. The Commission **adopted** the proposed draft amendment to the International Numbering System with changes to the INS numbers for sucrose esters of fatty acids (INS 473) and for sucrose oligoesters type I and II (INS 473a) and the name for INS 243 (ethyl lauroyl arginate), as suggested by the Delegations of the European Community and Japan in their written comments.

Fish and Fishery Products

Draft Code of Practice for Fish and Fishery Products (Live and Raw Bivalve Molluscs and Lobsters and relevant Definitions) [15]

31. The Delegation of Brazil, supported by several delegations, expressed the view that Section 13.1.2 Hygiene Control Programme did not reflect current scientific evidence and proposed that either the original text, which allowed for in-factory chlorination while also indicating that such systems should follow the Draft *FAO/WHO Guide on the Use of Chlorination in Fish Processing*, should be reinserted or that Section 13 Lobsters should be returned to the Committee on Fish and Fishery Products for further discussion.

32. The Delegation of Norway, speaking as chair of the Committee on Fish and Fishery Products, supported by some other delegations, explained that Section 13.1.2 had received thorough consideration by the 29th Session of the Committee on Fish and Fishery Products and that there had been a reluctance to refer to draft work of FAO/WHO.

33. The Delegation of the European Community, while supporting the adoption of the Code, expressed the opinion that, should the Commission not support adoption of the section on lobsters, the entire section should be returned to the Committee on Fish and Fishery Product for further consideration.

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11 ALINORM 08/31/12, Appendix VII
12 ALINORM 08/31/12, para. 52
13 ALINORM 08/31/12, Appendix X
14 ALINORM 08/31/12, Appendix XII
15 ALINORM 08/31/18, Appendix II

34. The Commission also noted that several technical terms in the Spanish version would have to be revised.

35. In view of the discussion, the Commission agreed to **adopt** Section 7 Live and Raw Bivalve Molluscs and its relevant definitions, but to return Section 13 Lobsters and its relevant definitions to Step 6 for comments and consideration by the next session of the Committee on Fish and Fishery Products. The Delegation of the European Community expressed their strong reservation on this decision.

Draft Standard for Raw and Live Bivalve Molluscs [16]

36. The Commission **adopted** the Standard with a correction to the scope of the Spanish version by replacing "*desbullados"* with "a*biertos"*.

Fresh Fruits and Vegetables

Draft Standard for Bitter Cassava [17]

37. The Commission had an exchange of views on the preparation instructions (Section 6.1.2) relating to proper handling of bitter cassava roots. The Commission noted that the Committee on Fresh Fruits and Vegetables had extensively discussed this provision vis-à-vis the safety concerns associated with the content of hydrogen cyanide, as recommended by the Committee on Food Labelling, and had agreed on a revised provision by which cassava must be fully cooked before consumption to inactivate the process leading to the production of hydrogen cyanide and the cooking or rinsing water must not be consumed or used for other food preparation due to the solubility of hydrogen cyanide in water. The Commission further noted that the Standard applied to the fresh product whereas processed cassava such as different types of cassava flours was excluded from the scope of the Standard and the mandate of the Committee. However, the Delegation of Nigeria, supported by several delegations, pointed out that the labelling instructions did not sufficiently address the safety of the product and ignored other processing methods such as soaking and further processing of cassava roots.

38. In light of the above discussion, the Commission decided to **return** the labelling section to Step 6 for further comments, in particular on the preparation instructions, for consideration by the 15th Session of the Committee on Fresh Fruits and Vegetables (2009) and endorsement by the 38th Session of the Committee on Food Labelling (2010) and to **hold** the other sections at Step 8, with a view to the adoption of the Standard by the Commission in 2010. The Commission recalled its earlier decision that merging the standards for bitter and sweet cassava could be considered after the finalization of the current draft Standard.

39. The Commission noted the reservations of the delegations of India and Costa Rica to the effect that the diameter of the cut at the distal end of the cassava root should be 1 cm rather than 2 cm in order to provide for better protection against microbial contamination and against increase of hydrogen cyanide content.

Food Hygiene

Proposed Draft Code of Hygienic Practice for Powdered Formulae for Infants and Young Children[18]

40. The Commission noted the creation of a new genus *Cronobacter*, which was equivalent to *Enterobacter sakazakii* and agreed to use both taxonomic names in the Code.

41. Some delegations noted the need for testing for *E. sakazakii* throughout the production chain as well as in the end product and were of the opinion that affordable alternative methods were needed to avoid the testing of powdered infant formula becoming a burden, especially for developing countries. It was also indicated that assistance was needed for better surveillance of *E. sakazakii* in powdered infant formula.

42. The Representative of WHO emphasized that testing did not ensure absence of *E. sakazakii,* that testing specifically for *E. sakazakii* was not necessarily more expensive than ordinary microbiological testing and that the primary responsibility for ensuring the safety of powdered infant formula lay with the industry.

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16 ALINORM 08/31/18, Appendix III
17 ALINORM 08/31/35, Appendix III
18 ALINORM 08/31/13, Appendix II

It was further indicated that technical assistance to countries to improve surveillance practices could be considered by WHO.

43. The Representative of WHO explained that there was no conflict between the WHO/FAO Guidelines for Safe Preparation, Storage and Handling of Powdered Infant Formula and the Codex code of practice. The Representative further informed the Commission that the recently held World Health Assembly (May 2008) had adopted a resolution (WHA61.20) which indicated that the Assembly was encouraged by the work of the FAO/WHO through Codex on the *Code of Hygienic Practice for Powdered Formulae for Infants and Young Children*; that Member States were urged to implement through application and dissemination the WHO/FAO Guidelines on Safe Preparation, Storage and Handling of Powdered Infant Formula to minimize the risk of bacterial infection and to ensure that labelling conformed with standards, guidelines and recommendations of Codex taking into account resolution WHA58.32 and in addition urged Member States to investigate the possible use of donor milk through human milk banks for vulnerable infants as a risk-reduction strategy.

44. To the concerns raised by several observers about the revocation of the *Recommended International Code of Hygienic Practice for Foods for Infants and Young Children* (CAC/RCP 21-1979) which also provided guidance for foods other than powdered formulae, it was clarified that, although the scope of the *Code of Hygienic Practice for Powdered Formulae for Infants and Young Children* was narrower and did not cover canned baby foods or processed cereal-based foods, the General Principles on Food Hygiene and other existing Codes of Practice would be sufficient to provide guidance for these products and that the Code focused on powdered infant formulae because these products were those implicated in outbreaks related to the presence of *E. sakazakii* and *Salmonella enterica*.

45. The Commission **adopted** the Proposed Draft Code of Hygienic Practice for Powdered Formulae for Infants and Young Children at Steps 5/8, with the omission of Steps 6 and 7, with the amendment to use both *Cronobacter* and *E. sakazakii* in the Code.

Proposed Draft Annex II on the Guidance on Microbiological Risk Management Metrics to the Principles and Guidelines for the Conduct of Microbiological Risk Management [19]

46. To the request to FAO/WHO to develop a practical manual on the implementation of metrics which would be especially beneficial to developing countries, the Representative of FAO explained that the completion of such a manual would require some time because there was a need to gain practical experience on the application of the metrics at the national level. The Commission **adopted** the Proposed Draft Annex II on the *Guidance on Microbiological Risk Management Metrics to the Principles and Guidelines for the Conduct of Microbiological Risk Management.*

Food Import and Export Inspection and Certification Systems

Proposed Draft Appendix to the Guidelines on the Judgement of Equivalence of Sanitary Measures Associated with Food Inspection and Certification Systems (N04-2004) [20]

47. The Delegation of Colombia, while not opposing the adoption of the proposed draft Appendix and referring to their written comments[21], expressed the opinion that the proposed draft Appendix contained a number of repetitions in relation to its parent document (CAC/GL 53-2003), which could lead to confusion in its application, and that the Appendix should be incorporated into the parent document.

48. The Commission **adopted** the Proposed Draft Appendix to the Guidelines (CAC/GL 53-2003) at Steps 5/8, with the omission of Steps 6 and 7. The Commission also invited the Delegation of Colombia to forward their comments above to the Committee on Food Import and Export Inspection and Certification Systems.

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19 ALINORM 08/31/13, Appendix IV
20 ALINORM 08/31/30, Appendix II
21 ALINORM 08/31/5A

Milk and Milk Products

Proposed Draft Amendment to the List of Additives of the Standard for Creams and Prepared Creams (CODEX STAN A-9-1976) (N08-2006)[22]

49. The Commission **adopted** the proposed draft amendment as proposed by the 8th Session of the Committee on Milk and Milk Products and endorsed the recommendation of the 61st Session of the Executive Committee to include the provision for diacetyltartaric and fatty esters of glycerol (INS 472e), which had been inadvertently omitted, in the list of additives[23].

Nutrition and Foods for Special Dietary Uses

Draft Revised Standard for Foods for Special Dietary Use for Persons Intolerant to Gluten (CODEX STAN 118-1981)[24]

50. The Commission noted the view of the European Community and its Member States that information campaigns should be encouraged in order to ensure the correct use of "gluten reduced" products by celiac patients and that further scientific work should be promoted on the risk assessment relating to oats consumption by persons intolerant to gluten, and **adopted** the draft standard as proposed.

Draft Advisory Lists of Nutrient Compounds for Use in Foods for Special Dietary Uses Intended for Infants and Young Children (CAC/GL 10-1979)[25]

51. The Commission noted that, in the listing of purity criteria, the references to the body abbreviated as "FSANZ" in Part A2, A4 and C1 should be deleted and that the reference to "FP" in Part C for 1.22 L-Arginine L-Aspartame should be changed to "Ph EUR" in the English version. With these amendments the Commission **adopted** the Advisory Lists as proposed.

Natural Mineral Waters

Proposed Draft Amendment to Sections 3.2 and 6.3.2 of the Standard for Natural Mineral Waters (CODEX STAN 108-1981) (N12-2007)[26]

52. The Delegation of Chile indicated that some natural mineral waters due to certain geological structure naturally contained higher levels of some substances such as arsenic, manganese, boron and fluoride and did not support the adoption of these levels. The Commission, noting the reservation of Chile, **adopted** the proposed draft amendments as proposed.

Pesticide Residues

Draft and Proposed Draft Maximum Residue Limits for Pesticides[27]

53. The Commission **adopted** the MRLs as proposed in Appendices II and III of ALINORM 08/31/24 with the addition of the note "except maize" for the MRL for fenitrothion (037) for cereal grains, which had inadvertently been omitted from the report of the Committee, and noted the reservation of the European Community and Norway on MRLs for captan (007) for table grapes, dried grapes, pome fruits and peaches , fenitrothion (037) for apples, rice and wheat, phosmet (103) for apricots, nectarines, pears and apples, and cyfluthrin/beta-cyfluthrin (157) for citrus fruit and cauliflower, as presented in CAC/31 LIM/5.

Residues of Veterinary Drugs in Foods

Draft and Proposed Draft Maximum Residues Limits (MRLs) for Veterinary Drugs[28]

54. The Commission **adopted** the draft and proposed draft MRLs for colistin and erythromycin as proposed by the 17th Session of the Committee on Residues of Veterinary Drugs in Foods.

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22 ALINORM 08/31/11, Appendix V
23 ALINORM 08/31/3A, para. 53
24 ALINORM 08/31/26, Appendix III
25 ALINORM 08/31/26, Appendix IV
26 ALINORM 08/31/20, Appendix II
27 ALINORM 08/31/24, Appendices II and III
28 ALINORM 08/31/31, Appendices II and III

55. With regard to the MRLs for ractopamine, the Delegation of the European Community recommended to return these MRLs to Step 6 for further discussion by the Committee on Residues of Veterinary Drugs in Foods. In doing so, the Delegation recalled their reservation to the decision of the 17th Session of the Committee to advance the MRLs for ractopamine to Step 8 because their legislation did not allow the use of beta-agonists for growth promotion purposes. The Delegation informed the Commission that the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) was preparing an opinion as to the safety of ractopamine, which would be available in February 2009 and could be discussed at the next session of the Committee.

56. The Delegation of China, supporting the position of the European Community, stated that China was the largest producer and consumer country of pig meat and recommended further research to fully evaluate the safety of ractopamine. The Delegation of Singapore, supporting the position of the European Community and China, expressed its concern with relying on veterinary drugs rather than genetic improvement to increase gross weight and leanness of livestock. Other delegations intervened in favour of returning the MRLs back to the Committee, noting that veterinary drugs should be used only when necessary and taking into consideration aspects of animal health and animal welfare.

57. The Delegation of Australia, supported by several other delegations and one observer, recommended the adoption of the MRLs. These delegations recalled that the MRLs were based on the outcome of the completed JECFA evaluation and that the arguments for not adopting these MRLs were not based on science. They highlighted the importance of not further delaying the adoption of these MRLs which could be reconsidered by the Committee on Veterinary Drugs in Foods when new scientific data became available. In this regard, it was noted that Members had had many opportunities to provide information and data to allow further evaluation of ractopamine by JECFA if needed. It was further noted that the adoption of these MRLs was very important for those countries which did not have adequate resources to conduct their own safety assessment.

58. After an extensive discussion, the Commission agreed to **hold** the MRLs for ractopamine at Step 8 for further discussion at its 32nd Session. It requested Members to submit relevant information on the availability of scientific data to the 18th Session of the Committee on Residues of Veterinary Drugs in Foods (May 2009) thus allowing for a decision by the Committee regarding the inclusion of ractopamine in the priority list of substances for evaluation / re-evaluation by JECFA. The Commission further agreed that at its 32nd Session, it would decide on the adoption of the MRLs for ractopamine based on the report of the 18th Session of the Committee on Residues of Veterinary Drugs in Foods.

Foods Derived from Biotechnology

Proposed Draft Annex on Food Safety Assessment in Situations of Low-level Presence of Recombinant-DNA Plant Material in Food (N07-2007)[29]

59. The Delegation of the European Community informed the Commission that it had agreed to the advancement of this proposed draft annex, which was conditional on the development of a data and information sharing mechanism as provided for in the proposed draft annex. The Delegation welcomed the action so far taken by FAO to establish a database to this effect as part of the International Portal on Food Safety, Plant and Animal Health and requested that Codex members be kept informed of further progress being made.

60. While noting the proposal by the Delegation of Norway to replace the phrase "the recommended approach" with "one approach" in paragraph 2 to emphasize the fact that the national authorities could always choose to conduct a full safety assessment, consistent with the provision in paragraph 6, the Committee **adopted** the proposed draft annex as proposed by the Task Force without amendments, with the understanding that the "recommended approach" in paragraph 2 was referring to the entire annex, including paragraph 6, and should not be interpreted in isolation.

61. The Commission noted the reservations of the delegations of Sudan and Iran on the adoption of the above-mentioned text as well as the two other texts developed by the *Ad Hoc* Intergovernmental Task Force on Foods Derived from Biotechnology, based on their concern with the safety of foods produced using recombinant-DNA techniques in general.

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29 ALINORM 08/31/34, Appendix IV

Processing and Handling of Quick Frozen Foods

Proposed Draft Recommended International Code of Practice for the Processing and Handling of Quick Frozen Foods[30]

62. The Commission noted that freezing was not sufficient to control the risk of all species of *Trichinella* in foods undergoing a quick freezing process and agreed to amend Section 4.3.1 on the impact of quick freezing on microorganisms and parasites by specifically referring to *Trichinella spiralis*. The Commission adopted the amended proposed draft Code of Practice at Step 5/8, with the omission of Steps 6/7.

Methods of Analysis and Sampling

Methods of Analysis in Codex Standards at different steps[31]

63. The Commission noted the comments of the Delegation of India that the conversion factor of N x 6.38 used in the methods for the determination of protein should be explicitly mentioned for all relevant methods listed for cheese and milk products methods, but agreed to retain the methods for milk and milk products as currently presented in ALINORM 08/31/23, Appendix III. The Commission adopted all methods as proposed.

Standards and related texts held at the Commission at Step 8

Draft MRLs for Bovine Somatotropin[32]

64. The Commission noted that no request had been received to change the status of the draft MRLs for bovine somatotropin and agreed to retain them at Step 8. It was further noted that the next session of the Executive Committee, as part of the Critical Review process, would monitor the progress of standards development for all texts that had not yet been adopted by the Commission, including these draft MRLs, against the pre-determined time frame and would report its findings to the Commission. The Delegation of Chile expressed the view that the term "retained at Step 8" needed to be defined in the Codex standard setting process, especially with regard to the basis for such a decision and its time frame.

PROPOSED DRAFT STANDARDS AND RELATED TEXTS AT STEP 5 OF THE PROCEDURE (Agenda Item 5)[33]

65. The Commission **adopted** at Step 5 the Proposed Draft Standards and Related Texts submitted by its subsidiary bodies, as presented in Appendix VIII 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 had submitted comments in writing or orally at the session to submit these comments at Step 6 of the Procedure.

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

Nutrition and Foods for Special Dietary Uses

Establishment and Application of Risk Analysis Principles by the Codex Committee on Nutrition and Foods for Special Dietary Uses[34]

67. The Commission, noting that, after finalization, this document on risk analysis would constitute a part of the Codex Alimentarius Procedural Manual, **adopted** the draft text at Step 5 and advanced it to Step 6, and referred technical comments submitted to the 31st Session of the Commission for consideration by the

30 ALINORM 08/31/25, Appendix II
31 ALINORM 08/31/23, Appendix III
32 ALINORM 95/31, Appendix II
33 ALINORM 08/31/6, ALINORM 08/31/6A (comments of Australia (CCMAS), Egypt, Iran, Japan, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Malaysia, Peru, United States of America, Uruguay (CCMMP), Brazil, Guatamala, New Zealand, United States of America, Council for Responsible Nutrition, International Dairy Federation, National Health Federation, (CCNFSDU), Australia (CCPR), CAC/31 LIM/4 (comments of Australia (CCNFSDU), Peru (CCMMP), CIAA (CCCF), Brazil (CCPR), Colombia (CCFFV), CAC/31 LIM/6 (comments of European Community),CAC/31 LIM/9 (comments of India), CAC/31 LIM/14 (comments of Indonesia)
34 ALINORM 08/31/26, Appendix VI

next session of the Committee on Nutrition and Foods for Special Dietary Uses. The Commission noted that the input from FAO and WHO would be important to define risk analysis policy and procedures in this area.

Milk and Milk Products

Proposed Draft Amendment to the Standard for Fermented Milks (CODEX STAN 243-2003) Pertaining to Drinks Based on Fermented Milk[35]

68. The Commission **adopted** the proposed draft Amendment at Step 5 and advanced it to Step 6, as proposed by the 8th Session of the Committee on Milk and Milk Products. It requested those Members that had made comments on the description (i.e. minimum content of dairy ingredients), composition and other aspects of the proposed draft, to forward their comments to the Committee for further consideration.

Contaminants in Foods

Proposed Draft Code of Practice for the Reduction of Acrylamide in Food (N06-2006)[36]

69. The Delegation of Switzerland, while not opposing the adoption of the proposed draft Code of Practice at Step 5, expressed the view that the current proposed draft text did not provide clear prospects for substantive reduction of acrylamide in foods derived from potatoes with high sugar content, and therefore urged that scientific data on this matter needed to be fully taken into account by the next session of the Committee on Contaminants in Foods.

70. The Delegation of India, referring to its written comment presented in CAC/31 LIM/9, stated that the selection of cultivars to achieve a reduced sugar content level of less than 0.3 % in raw potatoes was not always feasible and that strict control of storage temperature and time was not always possible, particularly in developing countries.

71. The Committee **adopted** the proposed draft Code of Practice at Step 5 and advanced it to Step 6 and agreed to refer the comments raised at the present session to the Committee on Contaminants in Foods for consideration.

Pesticide Residues

Proposed Draft Maximum Residue Limits for Pesticides[37]

72. The Commission **adopted** the draft MRLs as proposed in Appendix IV of ALINORM 08/31/24 at Step 5 and advanced them to Step 6, noting the reservations expressed by the Delegations of the European Community and Norway on the draft MRLs for triadimefon (133) for grapes, cyfluthrin/beta-cyfluthrin (157) for broccoli and head cabbage, and Flusilazole (165) for pome fruits, peach, nectarine and bovine edible offal, as presented in CAC/31 LIM/6.

REVOCATION OF EXISTING CODEX STANDARDS AND RELATED TEXTS (Agenda Item 6)[38]

73. The Commission considered the list of texts proposed for revocation from the Codex Alimentarius as presented in ALINORM 08/31/7. It agreed not to revoke: the Recommended International Code of Hygienic Practice for Lobsters (CAC/RCP 24-1979), consistent with its decision under Agenda Item 4 not to adopt the section on Lobster of the Draft Code of Practice for Fish and Fishery Products (see para. 35); and the Codex MRLs for triadimenol and triadimefon on tomato and peppers, sweet, until the replacement group MRL would be adopted.

74. The Commission further agreed to revoke the Codex MRL for fenitrothion on wheat, which was proposed for revocation by the Committee on Pesticide Residues and inadvertently omitted in Appendix V of ALINORM 08/31/4.

75. The list of texts approved for revocation from the Codex Alimentarius is summarized in Appendix IX to this report.

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35 ALINORM 08/31/30, Appendix IV
36 ALINORM 08/31/41, Appendix V
37 ALINORM 08/31/24, Appendix IV
38 ALINORM 08/31/7; CAC/31 LIM/3; CAC/31 LIM/14 (Comments of Indonesia)

AMENDMENTS TO CODEX STANDARDS AND RELATED TEXTS[39] (Agenda Item 7)

76. The Secretariat introduced document ALINORM 08/31/8 and stated that the issue of amendments to Codex standards and related texts had been included as a new standing agenda item for the Commission allowing the Secretariat to address inconsistencies discovered in adopted Codex texts, including those developed by subsidiary bodies which had been either adjourned or abolished. The inconsistencies were partly due to the decisions taken by the Commission that horizontally affected a number of existing Codex texts and that had not yet been uniformly implemented. The working document contained editorial amendments, in some cases already taken care of by the Secretariat, consistent with such decisions, or amendments related to format and presentation, which were brought to the Commission for information only, as well as proposed amendments (or other actions to be taken) to correct inconsistencies which would require explicit guidance by the Commission. The Commission noted that the item had been discussed in depth at the 61st Session of the Executive Committee.[40]

77. The Commission noted and supported all actions taken marked "for information" in the working document and discussed all recommendations marked "for decision/referral" individually and took the following decisions:

CODEX STAN 66-1981 (Table Olives) (Part I, 2.1.2)

78. The Commission agreed to amend footnote 2 in the above standard as follows, taking into account the suggestion from the European Community in LIM-12: "The varieties of olives considered to be suitable should be identified when the standard is used."

References to the abolished "acceptance" provisions in commodity standards (Part I, 2.1.3)

79. The Commission noted that some Codex commodity standards (e.g. CODEX STANs 169, 212 and A18) contained the statement: "The Annex to this standard contains provisions which are not intended to be applied within the meaning of the acceptance provisions of Section 4.A (I) (b) of the General Principles of the Codex Alimentarius". As the acceptance procedure had been abolished by the 29th Session of the Commission, the Secretariat had proposed to replace the text with the text found in CODEX STAN 211: "The Appendix to this Standard is intended for voluntary application by commercial partners and not for application by governments."

80. The Commission noted the discussion in the Executive Committee on potential problems associated with defining different applicability for different parts of Codex standards, as the World Trade Organization was unlikely to make a distinction between these different parts of Codex standards.

81. The Commission agreed to the recommendation of the Executive Committee to invite the Codex Secretariat to draw up a list of all standards containing the text mentioned above or a similar text for submission to the 25th Session of the Committee on General Principles for advice on how to deal with this issue in a consistent and horizontal way. The Commission noted the request of some delegations to make this list available at the earliest possible time to allow delegations to study the issue in advance.

References to Volume 2 (Part I, 3.1.2)

82. The Commission recalled that until 2001 Codex standards and related texts had been published in a number of volumes, which had since been discontinued to save costs.

83. The Commission noted that CODEX STAN 229-1993 contained a number of references to different sections of Volume 2 dealing with pesticide residues, which were still valid because they had not been replaced with other texts and which had no separate identification number. The Commission agreed to invite the Committee on Pesticide Residues to discuss the issue at its next session.

Harmonisation of the Numbering of Codex Standards (Part I, 3.5)

84. The Commission agreed to the proposal to harmonise the numbering system of Codex standards by renumbering current A-Standards (A01, A02, A03, A04, A07, A08(a), A08(b), A08(c), A09, A15 and A18)

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39 ALINORM 08/31/8, CAC/31 LIM/12 (Comments from the European Community)

40 ALINORM 08/31/3A, paras 59-68

as had been done for the C-Standards. The Commission noted that during the renumbering process any cross references between existing A-standards should be updated consequently.

CAC/GL 44-2003: Principles for the Risk Analysis of Foods Derived From Modern Biotechnology (Part I, 4.3)

Amendment to footnote 6

85. The Commission, recalling that under Agenda Item 4 it had adopted the new "*Guideline for the Conduct of Food Safety Assessment of Foods Derived from Recombinant-DNA Animals*", agreed to include a reference to this Guideline in footnote 6 of CAC/GL 44-2003.

Amendment to footnote 9

86. The Commission, recalling that at its 29th Session it had adopted the Principles for Traceability/Product Tracing elaborated by the Committee on Food Import and Export Inspection and Certification Systems, agreed to amend the last sentence in footnote 9 of CAC/GL 44-2003 to read:

> "The application of product tracing to the areas covered by both Agreements was considered by the Codex Committee on Food Import and Export Inspection and Certification Systems, see CAC/GL 60-2006: *Principles for Traceability/Product Tracing as a Tool within a Food Inspection and Certification System."*

Deletion of Footnote 6 of CAC/RCP 54-2004 (Part I, 4.5.1)

87. The Commission agreed to delete the footnote as recommended by the Executive Committee, recognising that the definitions contained in the Procedural Manual applied to all Codex standards and related texts unless stated otherwise.

CODEX STAN 150-1984: Standard for Food Grade Salt (Part I, 4.7)

88. The Commission noted that in the above standard, reference was made to "Instructions on Codex Sampling Procedures" (CX/MAS 1-1987). The Commission noted the explanation given by the Secretariat that CX/MAS 1-1987 had been prepared by the Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling but had not been adopted by the Commission in 1987. It was used in practice as a recommendation from the Committee to other committees. The reference was included in CODEX STAN 150-1987 when the sampling plan for salt was endorsed by the Committee in 1988. The Commission agreed to invite the Committees on Food Additives and on Methods of Analysis and Sampling to decide how to refer to definitions in the section or whether the section was needed.

Proposed Draft Code of Hygienic Practice for Powdered Formulae for Infants and Young Children at Step 5/8 (Part II)

89. The Commission noted the taxonomic note on *Enterobacter sakazakii (Cronobacter* species*)* in the working document and recalled that when adopting the Code under Agenda Item 4, it had also agreed to amend throughout the document *"Enterobacter sakazakii"* to read *"Enterobacter sakazakii* (*Cronobacter* species)".

Use and Validity of Certain Old Standards and Related Texts (Part III)

- **CAC/RCP 7-1974: *System for the Description of Carcasses of Bovine and Porcine Species*;**
- **CODEX STAN 88-1981: *Corned Beef*;**
- **CODEX STAN 89-1981: *Luncheon Meat*;**
- **CODEX STAN 96-1981: *Cooked Cured Ham*;**
- **CODEX STAN 97-1981: *Cooked Cured Pork Shoulder*; and**
- **CODEX STAN 98-1981: *Cooked Cured Chopped Meat***

90. The Commission noted the information given by the Secretariat that the above texts might require updating and agreed with the recommendation of the Executive Committee to request the Secretariat to send a circular letter inviting government comments on the use and validity of these texts before taking any further decision.

Part IV

91. The Commission did not discuss Part IV of the working document and noted that a more comprehensive proposal would be prepared by the Secretariat for discussion at the 32nd Session of the Commission.

PROPOSALS FOR THE ELABORATION OF NEW STANDARDS AND RELATED TEXTS AND FOR THE DISCONTINUATION OF WORK (Agenda Item 8)[41]

ELABORATION OF NEW STANDARDS AND RELATED TEXTS

92. The Commission approved the elaboration of new standards and related texts as summarized in Appendix X. The following paragraphs provide additional information on the comments made and the decisions taken on certain items.

Committee on Residues of Veterinary Drugs in Foods

Risk Management Recommendations for Veterinary Drugs without ADI and/or MRLs due to Specific Health Concern

93. The Commission noted a proposal from the Delegation of United States of America, as contained in CAC/31 LIM/15, to revise the project document to broaden the scope of new work on risk management decisions to also include substances for which no ADI/MRL were set because the information needed to evaluate human health concerns was lacking. This proposal was supported by the Delegation of the European Community. In view of the substantial change in the scope of the proposal, the Commission decided to return the new work proposed back to the Committee on Residues of Veterinary Drugs in Foods for further consideration.

Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling

Guidelines on Criteria for Methods for the Detection and Identification of Foods Derived from Biotechnology

94. Some delegations expressed their concerns on this proposal for the following reasons: currently no Codex provisions on foods derived from biotechnology required methods of analysis; the scope of the work proposed was not clear enough; and it might duplicate the work of other organisations in the same area. These delegations therefore proposed to develop the criteria as an FAO/WHO document rather than Codex Guidelines.

95. Many delegations expressed the view that foods derived from biotechnology were a high priority for Codex and of great importance to many countries at the national level, and that the detection and identification of genetically modified material was essential in order to ensure food safety and to address consumer concerns. These delegations therefore supported new work and recalled that this question had been discussed extensively in the Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling for several sessions and that progress should not be delayed. Several delegations stressed the need for technical guidance on methodology applying to GM foods, and especially for developing countries, and the need to facilitate harmonisation at the international level to prevent barriers to trade.

96. The Delegation of the United States of America proposed to return the project document to the Committee in order to broaden the scope of the work proposed as it should not be limited to genetically modified material but was also relevant to allergens and contaminants. However, taking into account the significant efforts made by the Committee to develop this proposal, the Delegation could support new work with the following amendment to paragraph 2 of the project document so that it would read: “Recognizing the difficulties with the practical application of new technology in this area, the Committee proposed to develop recommendations with respect to criteria for methods of analysis and for quality control measures that should be introduced in laboratories offering GM analyses”. The Secretariat clarified that the project

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41 ALINORM 08/31/9, ALINORM 08/31/9-Add.1, CAC/31 LIM/9 (comments of India); CAC/31 LIM/11 (comments of Malaysia and Thailand), CAC/31 LIM/14 (comments of Indonesia) and CAC/31 LIM/15 (comments of the United States of America)

document was not a document for adoption by the Commission and could not be modified as it had been prepared by the Committee to provide supporting information for the proposal for new work.

97. The Commission approved new work on the Guidelines on the Criteria and recommended that the Committee consider the concerns and recommendations regarding the scope expressed at the current session.

Committee on Contaminants in Foods

Maximum Levels for Total Aflatoxin in Brazil Nuts

98. The Delegation of Norway, referring to its written comments (CAC/31 LIM/7), opposed the approval of new work to develop maximum levels for total aflatoxin in Brazil nuts, stating that the levels of total aflatoxin that could be achievable through the implementation of Good Agriculture Practices, Good Manufacturing Practices and codes of practice had not been clearly documented.

99. The Delegation of Brazil, supporting approval of the new work proposal, stated that all necessary data that are being generated would be provided to allow the consideration of new work.

100. The Commission endorsed the recommendation of the 61st Session of the Executive Committee[42] and approved the new work proposal, noting the reservation of Norway on this decision.

Code of Practice for the Prevention and Reduction of Ochratoxin A Contamination in Coffee

101. The Commission, noting the view of many members supporting new work in order to provide clear guidance on how to reduce Ochratoxin A in the production of coffee, endorsed the recommendation of the 61st Session of the Executive Committee[43] and approved the new work proposal.

102. The Commission noted the reservation expressed by the Delegation of Switzerland on this decision; in their view, the Committee on Contaminants in Foods should, before developing a Code of practice, further assess the need for new work in the light of the existing guidance produced by FAO, namely the Guidelines for the Prevention of Mould Formulation in Coffee.

Committee on Fresh Fruits and Vegetables

Durian

103. The Delegation of Thailand indicated that international trade in durian was regularly increasing and therefore the establishment of a worldwide standard should be envisaged for this product. The Delegation recognized the current workload of the Coordinating Committee for Asia and requested that the question of standardizing durian at the international level be referred back to the Committee on Fresh Fruits and Vegetables for further consideration. The Commission agreed to this proposal.

Chilli Peppers

104. The Commission noted that duplication of work should be avoided for those provisions for which international standards already existed, such as the degree of pungency. It was noted that this particular provision was included as a reference to the work already carried out by relevant international organizations and that the standard would address those remaining issues related to product quality that were relevant to ensure fair trade practices for this produce.

General Aspects

105. The Commission noted a general comment regarding the application of the criteria for the establishment of work priorities, in particular those applicable to commodities, which did not require only justification in terms of trade volume but, more importantly, on those aspects related to potential or real barriers to trade. In this regard, the Commission recalled that the Executive Committee had noted that assessment and approval of new work proposals was one of its essential functions and that the Committee should be consistent and stringent in its approach to the critical review of proposed new work, especially for

42 ALINORM 08/31/3A para. 94
43 ALINORM 08/31/3A para. 94

commodities, and for this purpose it was especially important to apply the *Guidelines on the Application of the Criteria of Work Priorities Applicable to Commodities*[44].

Committee on Natural Mineral Waters

Amendments to the Standard on Natural Mineral Waters

106. The Commission noted the proposal of Kenya to initiate new work on the completion of the Section on methods of analysis in the Codex Standard on Natural Mineral Waters (CODEX STAN 108-1981) in view of the fact that, in the standard, there was no indication of specific methods of analysis and sampling procedures available for a number of chemical substances mentioned in Sections 3.2.17 (Surface active agents), 3.2.18 (Pesticides and PCBs), 3.2.19 (Mineral oil) and 3.2.20 (Polynuclear aromatic hydrocarbons), and the proposal to revise the Section on Hygiene to make it easier to use and consistent with the Recommended International Code of Hygienic Practice for Collecting, Processing and Marketing of Natural Mineral Waters (CAC/RCP 33-1985). The Chair of the Committee on Natural Mineral Waters also noted that the proposal from Kenya had been presented orally at the last session of the Committee on Natural Mineral Waters, however it had not been examined by the Committee as it fell outside the mandate given to the Committee by the 30th Session of the Commission. The Commission further noted that the project document had been considered at the last session of the Executive Committee and, after some discussion, agreed to refer the issue on the methods of analysis raised in Project Document 22 to the Committees on Contaminants in Foods, on Pesticide Residues and on Methods of Analysis and Sampling for review in their respective areas of competence as a matter of priority, especially whether further work was warranted and desirable.

107. The Commission also agreed to request the Committee on Food Hygiene to consider whether it was possible to give a higher priority to the revision of the Recommended International Code of Hygienic Practice for Collecting, Processing and Marketing of Natural Mineral Waters.

108. The Commission also requested the Committees concerned, as mentioned above, to inform the Executive Committee and the Commission about their findings in order to allow the Commission to take an informed decision on this matter at its next session.

DISCONTINUATION OF WORK

109. The Commission approved the discontinuation of items of work as presented in Appendix XI.

FINANCIAL AND BUDGETARY MATTERS (Agenda Item 9)[45]

(a) Codex Budget and Expenditure for 2006-07

110. The Secretariat provided a brief explanation on the Codex expenditure in the 2006-07 biennium, as presented in Section A of document ALINORM 08/31/9A and Table 1. The total expenditure (7,378,000 USD) exceeded the original estimate mainly due to the loss of value of the US dollar vis-à-vis the Euro, cost increases and the fact that all professional posts in the Codex Secretariat were filled whereas FAO budget estimates automatically assumed a certain period of vacancy during the biennium. The funding gap was filled by an increase in the contribution of FAO. The expenditure in non-staff costs (3,833,000 USD) in the 2006-07 biennium was smaller than that in the 2004-05 biennium (3,974,000 USD) despite cost increases, thanks to the cost saving measures implemented in 2004, such as discontinuation of printing and dispatch of Codex working documents in hardcopy, and adoption of electronic publication of the Codex Alimentarius on CD-ROM, instead of on paper in Codex Alimentarius Volumes.

111. The Secretariat explained that, because the Codex programme was administered by FAO on behalf of FAO and WHO, it was managed as a Programme Entity in the Regular Budget of FAO, subject to FAO budgeting and accounting rules. The Commission's attention was drawn to document CAC/31 INF/9, which showed for the first time the Codex expenditure during the same biennium by Biennial Output as defined in FAO. Besides the staff costs, the organization of the sessions of the Commission, its Executive Committee

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44 ALINORM 08/31/3A para. 107 and ALINORM 08/31/3, Appendix II

45 ALINORM 08/31/9A, ALINORM 08/31/9A-Corr. (corrigendum to Table 1); CAC/31 INF/9 (Codex Expenditure in 2006-2007 by Biennial Output); CAC/31 INF 3 (Report of FAO/WHO Budgets for Codex-related Activities 2006/7 and 2008/9: FAO/WHO Scientific Support to Codex)

and FAO/WHO Coordinating Committees and the publication of adopted standards and related texts occupied larger proportions of expenditure which showed that Codex was basically a meeting and publication operation where further savings would be difficult to make, beyond those measures already implemented in 2004 and predictability and continuity in the budget planning was critical.

112. The Commission noted the further clarification provided by the Secretariat on the discrepancy between the budget estimates and the final expenditure due to the fact that increases of unitary prices for official internal translators and interpreters in FAO were known only after submitting the estimates and that to compensate for vacant general service posts either consultants or temporary assistance needed to be recruited. The Commission also noted the explanation on in-kind contributions provided to the Codex programme on the one hand from host governments (meeting venues, translation, interpretation and local secretariat) as well as through secondments to the Codex Secretariat (presently three professional staff members).

113. The Commission thanked the Secretariat for making available the breakdown of Codex expenditure by Biennial Outputs and noted the Codex budget and expenditure for 2006-2007 as presented in the documents.

(b) Codex Budget for 2008-2009

114. The Secretariat, referring to Section B of document ALINORM 08/31/9A and Table 2, provided an update on the financial situation of the current biennium. The revised total estimated costs stood at 8,420,000 USD, which would be shared by FAO (85.5%) and WHO (14.5%).

115. The Commission noted the implications of the final budget to the activities of the Commission (paragraph 12 of the document): the present staffing of the secretariat would be maintained; all six sessions of FAO/WHO Coordinating Committees would be held; Russian would not be added as a language of the Commission, despite the recommendation made by the 30th Session of the Commission, due to lack of funds; audio recording of sessions of the Executive Committee and the Commission would continue; the present publications strategy based on Internet and CD-ROM and a limited number of special paper publications according to availability of funds would be maintained; addressing the request made by he Coordinating Committee for Africa, Portuguese would be added as a language of interpretation in the Coordinating Committee for Africa, on an experimental basis, by using efficiency savings to be made in other areas of the Codex programme; and the Executive Committee would meet three times in the biennium, as had been the case in 2006-07, instead of four times.

116. Several delegations expressed serious concern about the aggravating imbalance between the FAO's and WHO's shares in the Codex budget, due to the fact that the WHO contribution had stayed nominally the same in the US dollar terms as in the 2004-2005 biennium, resulting in a decrease in real terms, while the FAO contribution had been increased to compensate for the cost increase and the exchange rate shift between the US dollar and the Euro. Several delegations stated that it was incomprehensible to them, how a budget for an activity such as Codex could be prepared without taking into account inflation.

117. The Representative of WHO replied that within the WHO's budget preparation process there was no policy to provide for compensation of inflation automatically and that it was not the WHO secretariat but the member states of WHO that had the power to determine the budget levels for the WHO food safety programme in general, from which the Codex contribution was drawn. The contribution of WHO to the Codex programme accounted for as much as 35% of the regular budget of the WHO Food Safety Programme. The Representative also explained that the WHO budget for food safety for 2008-2009 had been decided by the WHA in May 2007, and that a decision on the budget for 2010-2011 would be taken at the WHA in May 2009.

118. The Delegation of Australia, noting in particular the Secretariat's comments on the vulnerability of the Codex programme to cost increases in services suggested that to support the need for increased income from the parent organizations a compelling business case was needed. The Delegation reiterated their view expressed at the last session of the Commission that a business plan, linking the strategic plan to activities and providing a breakdown of costs per activity could provide a favourable environment for discussions on future budgets.

119. The Representative of WHO stated that also other programmes in WHO were vulnerable to cost increase and confirmed that the Codex programme was not treated differently in the budget process. The Representative stated that if the overall budget for food safety within WHO was not increased by the World

Health Assembly the only possibility to increase funding for Codex would be to reduce other related activities such as the provision of scientific advice or capacity building.

120. Several delegations expressed serious concern that the strategic and management function of the Executive Committee was negatively affected by the reduced frequency of its sessions. The Secretariat indicated that one session of the Executive Committee would cost approximately 200,000 USD and it was not possible to schedule a fourth session unless the contributions from the parent organizations were increased to cover the funding gap, including additional staff resources to service the meetings of the Commission and the Executive Committee. The Commission noted that a number of cost saving measures had already been implemented over the past two biennia and therefore margins for additional cost saving were very small.

121. In conclusion, the Commission noted the funding situation of the Codex programme in 2008-09 and its implications to Codex work including the decreasing share of the WHO contribution to the Codex budget. The Commission regretted that one of the implications was that the Executive Committee would meet only three times in the biennium. The Commission agreed that the usefulness of Portuguese as a language of interpretation in the Coordinating Committee for Africa be evaluated at the 32nd Session of the Commission. The Commission also agreed to encourage all Codex members to make the best use of electronic means of communication. The Commission invited the Delegations of Australia and New Zealand to prepare a short document explaining further their proposal of a business plan for Codex, including an example. Finally, the Commission requested FAO and WHO to assign high priority to Codex when determining their budgets, including the allotment for 2009 and the biennial budget 2010-2011. The Chair noted that the preparation of a business plan might require additional human resources such as the secondment of staff members from governments.

(c) Alternative Funding Mechanisms

122. The Secretariat informed the Commission that a document on alternative funding mechanisms of the Codex programme had been discussed at the 60th Session of the Executive Committee[46]. Different options had been outlined in the document such as mandatory assessed contributions, voluntary assessed contributions or the status quo with possible improvements. Both mandatory and voluntary assessed contributions while offering greater budget independence for the Commission also presented risks of contributions not arriving and a consequential increased administrative burden on the Codex Secretariat. One possibility to improve the status quo (funding through the regular budgets of FAO and WHO) originally proposed by the WHO representative at the Executive Committee was to consider removing the reference to "Regular Budgets" in the second sentence of Article 9 of the Statutes. It had been noted however that the sentence might also be interpreted in a manner that would not necessarily restrict the funding of the Codex programme to regular budgets only and that further legal studies were necessary by the Legal Offices of FAO and WHO.

123. The Commission noted the information given at the 61st Session of the Executive Committee[47] and at the present session of the Commission by the Representatives of FAO and WHO that in FAO there was clear distinction between the regular programme funded by members' assessments, which included the Codex programme and the programmes funded by extrabudgetary resources. FAO had granted a high priority to the Codex programme within its Regular Budget, protecting it from budgeting cuts or by increasing its allocation to Codex where possible. WHO programmes generally depended more on extrabudgetary resources, which were also used to fund normative activities. In view of the fact that a large proportion of the operation of the Codex Alimentarius Commission, namely those expenses related to the work of Codex subsidiary bodies, was borne by the voluntary contribution of host governments, the financing by the parent organizations of the core operation of Codex was considered to be contributing to preserving a universal and multi-lateral character of the programme.

124. The Commission noted that the Executive Committee at its 60th Session had agreed to request the FAO and WHO to prepare a discussion paper to explore the legal, financial and other implications of an amendment to Article 9 of the Statutes to allow the use of extra-budgetary resources, in addition to funds

46 ALINORM 08/31/3 paras 43-51.
47 ALINORM 08/31/3A paras 123 - 125

from the Regular Budgets for funding of Codex and that that discussion paper would be presented to the 62nd Session of the Executive Committee (June 2009).[48] The Representative of the FAO Legal Counsel indicated that the extraordinary session of the FAO Conference (November 2008) would consider reviewing the structure of the FAO budget and that this would be taken into account in the preparation of the paper.

(d) Budget for Codex-related Activities of FAO and WHO[49]

125. The Representative of FAO, speaking on behalf of FAO and WHO, referring to Table 1 in document CAC/31 INF/3, informed the Commission of their expenditures covering the period of 2006-07 and budgets for 2008-09 on the provision of scientific advice to Codex and member states.

126. The Representative indicated that FAO had received extrabudgetary contribution from member states: Australia provided funds to address issues on nanotechnology in agriculture production; Japan and Thailand contributed to the work on microbiological risk assessment for leafy green vegetables. The Representative stated that the criteria for prioritization of requests for scientific advice recommended by the 55th Session of the Executive Committee were useful and appropriate for FAO and WHO.

127. The Representative of WHO clarified that the figures in Table 1 did not include cost for human resources in the parent organizations and stated that the total cost for scientific activities, including staff cost, could be provided to the next session of the Commission. The Representative also stated that in WHO activities of scientific advice heavily relied on extra budgetary contribution. The Representative stressed that extrabudgetary contribution would enable FAO and WHO to respond, in a timely manner, to an increase in demands from Codex and member states for scientific advice in such areas as microbiological risks, other emerging issues and safety assessment in nutrition.

128. The Commission, recognizing that the provision of scientific advice undertaken by FAO and WHO was independent from Codex, yet indispensable in facilitating Codex standard-setting work, acknowledged the efforts made by FAO and WHO in providing scientific advice to Codex and encouraged both organizations to mobilize sufficient resources for the programmes on scientific advice to Codex.

STRATEGIC PLANNING OF THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION (Agenda Item 10)[50]

129. The Commission recalled that the Strategic Plan 2008-2013 adopted by its 30th Session contained a check list, in its Part 3, for use by the Executive Committee to monitor the implementation of the Strategic Plan. The Commission noted that the 61st Session of the Executive Committee had reviewed the check list as presented in Annex I to document ALINORM 08/31/9B.

130. The Commission did not consider Activities 1.7, 2.5, 2.6, 3.6, 3.8, 5.1 and 5.6, due to time constraints. Discussion held and decisions made by the Commission are summarized below:

Goal 1 (Promoting Sound Regulatory Frameworks)

Activities 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 1.4, 1.5 and 1.6

131. The Commission noted that these activities were addressed at the current session under relevant Agenda Items (Items 4, 5, 6 and 8) and progress was being made. A delegation stated that a four year time-frame applied in Codex to complete elaboration of texts was not always feasible and needed certain flexibility.

Activity 1.8

132. The Commission endorsed the recommendation of the 61st Session of the Executive Committee[51] and agreed that the Codex Contact Points should enhance their capacity to communicate with, and disseminate Codex-related information to, interested parties at the national level.

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48 ALINORM 08/31/3 para. 50

49 CAC/31 INF/3 (Report of FAO/WHO Budgets for Codex-related Activities 2006/7 and 2008/9: FAO/WHO Scientific Support to Codex)

50 ALINORM 08/31/9B, ALINORM 08/31/3A paras 126-141

51 ALINORM 08/31/3A para. 130

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

Activities 2.1, 2.2 and 2.3

133. The Commission endorsed the recommendation of the 61st Session of the Executive Committee[52] and agreed that the 25th Session of the Committee on General Principle (April 2009) should initiate Activity 2.1 to consider this matter and agree on a timeline of work and steps to follow to complete the review. It was noted that it would be possible to start Activity 2.2 once Activity 2.1 was completed and that the outcome of Activity 2.3 would be taken into account under Activity 2.2.

Activity 2.4

134. The Commission noted that the current criteria recommended by the 55th Session of the Executive Committee were useful and appropriate for FAO and WHO (see Agenda Item 9(d)) and agreed that there was no need to revise the criteria at this stage.

Goal 3 (Strengthening Codex Work-Management Capabilities)

Activity 3.1

135. The Commission noted that the 61st Session of the Executive Committee had considered it premature to make concrete proposals on how to initiate review of these criteria and procedures and that the Executive Committee would revisit the matter after the Committee had gained more experience in the conduct of the critical review.

Activity 3.2

136. The Commission noted that Activity 3.2 was being implemented through the critical review as exercised by the Executive Committee.

Activities 3.3, 3.4 and 3.5

137. The Commission, noting that development of some committee-specific criteria had not been completed and some other criteria were under revision, hence Activity 3.3 could not start at this moment, endorsed the recommendation of the 61st Session of the Executive Committee[53] and agreed that relevant subsidiary bodies be encouraged to finalize the relevant work as early as possible. It was noted that, once Activity 3.3 was completed, it would be possible to start Activity 3.4, to be followed by Activity 3.5.

138. In reply to a question on the relation between Activities 3.3 and 3.1, it was clarified that there was no direct link between them since Activity 3.3 addressed issues on committee-specific decision-making and priority-setting criteria used within relevant subsidiary bodies, while Activity 3.1 aimed at reviewing the horizontal criteria used by the Executive Committee in its critical review process.

Activity 3.7

139. The Commission noted the discussion on Activity 3.7 held at the 61st Session of the Executive Committee[54].

Goal 4 (Promoting Cooperation between Codex and other relevant international organizations)

Activities 4.1, 4.2, 4.3 and 4.4

140. The Commission noted that these Activities were discussed at its current session under Item 13.

Activity 4.5

141. The Commission endorsed the recommendation of the 61st Session of the Executive Committee[55] and agreed that the forthcoming Coordinating Committees should review the current status on the basis of replies to the questionnaires sent to Codex members and observers, identify possible actions to be taken with a view to promoting interdisciplinary coordination and communication at national and regional level, and report to the 32nd Session of the Commission.

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52 ALINORM 08/31/3A para. 131
53 ALINORM 08/31/3A para. 134
54 ALINORM 08/31/3A para. 135 and paras 168-172
55 ALINORM 08/31/3A para. 136

Goal 5 (Promoting Maximum and Effective Participation of Members)

Activity 5.2

142. The Commission noted that the Secretariat would take an initial step by preparing a questionnaire to Chairpersons and host countries of subsidiary bodies in order to collect baseline data and information on the use of written comments in the Codex process. In order to reduce workload of Codex host governments that were involved in other activities (e.g. Activity 5.3) this year, Activity 5.2 would most probably take place during the second half of 2009 and a progress report become available in 2010.

Activity 5.3

143. The Commission noted that the Secretariat was starting to collect a range of information on the experience gained from holding Codex sessions in developing countries and including data on attendance of member governments in these sessions, and that a progress report would be presented to the 62nd Session of the Executive Committee and the 32nd Session of the Commission.

144. It was clarified that the main focus of Activity 5.3 would be those meetings of Codex subsidiary bodies which had been held outside the territories of designated countries responsible for appointing the chairpersons, including co-chairing arrangements with the countries that offered meeting venues.

Activity 5.4

145. The Commission endorsed the recommendation of the 61st Session of the Executive Committee[56] and agreed that the forthcoming Coordinating Committees should review the operation and activity of the Codex Contact Points and national Codex committees, discuss the ways to strengthen their function, and report back to the 62nd Session of the Executive Committee.

Activity 5.5

146. The Commission endorsed the recommendation of the 61st Session of the Executive Committee[57] and agreed that the forthcoming Coordinating Committees should review the current status, identify any additional measures to be taken by governments and other parties to enhance participation of non-governmental organizations at international, regional and national levels and report to the 32nd Session of the Commission.

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE JOINT FAO/WHO EVALUATION OF THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS AND OTHER FAO AND WHO WORK ON FOOD STANDARDS (Agenda Item 11)

GENERAL IMPLEMENTATION STATUS (Agenda Item 11a) [58]

147. The Commission noted that the proposal relating to consensus would be considered by the 25th Session of the Committee on General Principles, according to the process agreed upon at the 30th Session of the Commission and further discussed at the 60th Session of the Executive Committee[59]. The Commission also noted that all other proposals arising from the Evaluation, as endorsed by the 26th Session of the Commission, had been implemented and that the general implementation status did not require further consideration at its next session.

REVIEW OF THE CODEX COMMITTEE STRUCTURE AND MANDATES OF CODEX COMMITTEES AND TASK FORCES (Agenda Item 11b)[60]

148. The Secretariat recalled that the 29th Session of the Commission had considered a number of proposals related to the structure and mandates of Committees and Task Forces in ALINORM 06/29/9B Part II-Add.1, that the 30th Session of the Commission had reached a conclusion on Proposals 1, 2, 3, 4 and 8 and had referred Proposals 5, 6, 7, 9, 10 and 11 to the 60th Session of the Executive Committee. The

56 ALINORM 08/31/3A para. 139
57 ALINORM 08/31/3A para. 141
58 ALINORM 08/31/9C Part 1
59 ALINORM 07/30/REP, para. 199
60 ALINORM 08/31/9C Part II, ALINORM 08/31/9C Part II-Add.1, CAC/31 LIM/7 (comments of the United States of America), CAC/31 LIM/9 (comments of India), CAC/31 LIM/13 (comments of Thailand)

Commission considered the recommendations of the Executive Committee[61] and reached the following conclusions.

Proposal 5 (Use of *ad hoc* Task Forces)

149. The Commission endorsed the Proposal as recommended by the 60th Session of the Executive Committee, as follows:

> *The Commission should consider, on a case by case basis, the advantages and disadvantages of using an ad hoc task force or a commodity committee in developing or revising commodity standards, while giving priority to the establishment of a Task Force rather than a Committee when the establishment of a new subsidiary body is required.*

Proposal 6 (Consideration of merging or dissolving existing committees)

150. The Secretariat recalled that, as agreed at the 60th Session of the Executive Committee, a discussion paper had been prepared and sent to host countries of subsidiary bodies for comments. However, due to time constraints, the 61st Session of the Executive Committee had not been able to consider this question. The Commission agreed to postpone consideration of Proposal 6 until it had been considered by the 62nd Session of the Executive Committee.

Proposal 7 (Next comprehensive review)

151. The Commission recalled that it was recommended to undertake the next comprehensive review of the structure and mandates of committees and task forces after 2011. However as the current review was not completed, the proposed timetable did not appear achievable. The Commission therefore agreed that the next comprehensive review would be initiated at an appropriate time and would depend on the completion of the ongoing review.

Participation of Developing Countries in Codex Meetings

152. The Delegation of Brazil expressed the view that the structure of Codex was very complex and that many committees, mainly hosted by developed countries, were held in different locations worldwide, with the result that it was very difficult for developing countries to follow Codex work and to participate effectively in meetings, due to lack of financial and human resources, and therefore this serious problem should be addressed urgently in order to ensure a participatory, transparent and democratic process. The Delegation indicated that the majority of members could not present their views in the framework of Codex and that there was a lack of balance between developed and developing countries in terms of input to the standards setting process. The Delegation noted that efforts had been made to improve participation through the establishment of the Trust Fund and capacity building activities but this did not address the general problem. The Delegation therefore proposed that the Secretariat prepare a document presenting a thorough analysis of the statistics of participation of developing countries in the meetings of the Commission and its subsidiary bodies and proposals for action to remedy the lack of participation, for consideration by the next session of the Commission as a separate Agenda Item. Many delegations expressed their support for the concerns expressed by the Delegation of Brazil and endorsed the proposal submitted by that delegation.

153. Some delegations pointed out that a study on the effectiveness of Codex Committee sessions held in developing countries was scheduled as Activity 5.3 of the Strategic Plan 2008-2013 and proposed that the contribution of existing mechanisms such as co-hosting, the Trust Fund and related activities should be incorporated into any evaluation. It was also noted that given the limited resources, the Secretariat may not be able to undertake this task.

154. The Chairperson noted that this was an important question and deserved a detailed discussion, which would not be easily achievable in this Session of the Commission, in view of the heavy agenda and limited time allocated for each item, and therefore suggested to initiate a preliminary discussion in the Committee on General Principles on the basis of a document to be prepared by the Secretariat, and subsequently to consider the outcome of this discussion in the 32nd Session of the Commission.

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61 ALINORM 08/31/3, paras 13-34

155. The Commission noted several suggestions concerning the document to be prepared: the statistics could indicate participation of developing countries in Codex sessions before and after the establishment of the Trust Fund (from 2001 onwards); the number of countries supported by the Trust Fund since its establishment; and a representative pattern of participation of developing and developed countries.

156. Several delegations expressed their appreciation to FAO and WHO for the support provided through the Trust Fund and capacity building activities and noted that although substantial progress had been made, there was a need for further improvement and further discussion was needed in the Commission. Some delegations also recalled that, although the Trust Fund had given very positive results, it would come to an end in a few years and there was a need for alternative solutions.

157. Some delegations highlighted the importance of convening Codex sessions in developing countries as this allowed the co-hosting country to gain more experience with Codex work, and could also facilitate attendance of the countries in the region concerned, and therefore this mechanism should be used on a regular basis.

158. Some delegations stressed the importance of capacity building in order to ensure that countries did not only attend Codex sessions but participate effectively. Some other delegations pointed out that attendance was necessary as a first stage in capacity building as it allowed countries to gain basic and practical experience of the Codex process.

159. The Delegation of Thailand, while supporting further consideration of this important issue, expressed the view that possible solutions should be proposed by the member countries, as they could analyse their specific situation and problems at the national level, and also proposed that this question be considered by Coordinating Committees, which could usefully discuss the problems related to participation at the regional level and report their views to the Commission. The Delegation also pointed out that, due to the limited resources of the Codex Secretariat, any new work to be undertaken by them should be considered seriously and prioritized. This proposal was supported by other delegations.

160. The Representative of WHO recalled that the activities of the parent organizations were intended to provide as much support as possible to member countries but that there were limitations to the assistance provided by the Trust Fund.

161. The Commission agreed that the issue of participation of developing countries would be considered by the 25th Session of the Committee on General Principles on the basis of a document prepared by the Secretariat including the data on the participation of developing countries in Codex sessions, and proposals to improve the situation. The Commission also recommended that Coordinating Committees consider this issue and report their views to the next session of the Commission. The conclusions of the Committee on General Principles and Coordinating Committees would be presented to the 32nd Session of the Commission for further consideration. The Commission agreed to include this question as a specific item on the agenda of its 32nd Session.

Proposal 10 (Tasks related to nutrition)

162. The Commission agreed that the tasks related to nutrition were adequately addressed in the current structure of Codex through the Committee on Nutrition and Foods for Special Dietary Uses and, where appropriate, the Committee on Food Labelling, and that there was no need for another subsidiary body such as a Task Force.

163. The Representatives of FAO and WHO, referring to the discussions held at the 60th Session of the Executive Committee, indicated that FAO and WHO were ready to provide scientific advice in nutrition in order to reflect the high importance of nutrition issues, that the mechanism to be used was under consideration and that the parent organisations would ensure that it was flexible enough to address the requests to be formulated by Codex in this area.

Proposal 11 (Role of private standards)

164. The Commission recalled that the 60th Session of the Executive Committee had agreed to request the Secretariat to monitor developments of the subject in WTO and elsewhere and to keep the Committee informed. The 61st Session of the Executive Committee had invited FAO and WHO to present a paper for consideration by the 62nd Session.

165. The Representative of FAO informed the Commission that FAO had conducted studies on the impact of private standards and was ready to work with WHO, taking into account the work underway in WTO, to prepare a paper on this subject for consideration by the next session of the Executive Committee.

166. The Observer from WTO noted that the term "private standards" reflected a range of standards, from individual firm schemes to collective national or international schemes, and could include quality, social and environmental aspects in addition to food safety. The Observer indicated that this issue had been on the agenda of the SPS Committee since June 2005 and that three information sessions had also been held since that date, and that the concerns raised by WTO Members were related to 1) effects of private standards on market access; 2) development concerns; and 3) legal issues in relation to the WTO Agreements. While some WTO members had underlined the positive aspects of private standards on quality and access to high quality markets, many other members had expressed the following concerns: the application of private standards at the import stage resulted in *de facto* barriers to trade, and created difficulties especially for developing countries; complying with these standards required multiple certification by private bodies, with a high cost for small producers; in many cases private standards were more restrictive and prescriptive than government standards and Codex standards and often had no scientific basis; the process by which private standards were set lacked transparency and inclusiveness; and in some cases such standards did not meet the requirements of the SPS Agreement. Questions about the relationship between private standards and the standards set by OIE, Codex and IPPC had also been raised. As regards legal issues, different views existed on the interpretation of the reference to "non-governmental entities" in Article 13 of the SPS Agreement.

167. The Observer from WTO indicated that the Standard Trade Development Facility (STDF) had held an information session on private standards in conjunction with the last SPS Committee meeting and that the SPS Committee had agreed to establish a working group on private standards and to consider this question further at its next session. The three standard-setting organisations referred to in the SPS Agreement would be consulted or involved in this process, as appropriate. It was also noted that all relevant information on these activities was available on the WTO website.

168. The Commission welcomed the information provided by WTO and agreed that the question of private standards would be discussed at its 32nd Session in the light of the discussion held in the 62nd Session of the Executive Committee.

Other Matters: Duration of the Terms for Hosting Codex Committee

169. The Commission noted that the 61st Session of the Executive Committee had discussed this question as a follow-up to the FAO/WHO Statement made at its 60th Session. The Commission endorsed the recommendation of the Executive Committee, concurring with the conclusions of paragraph 19 of CX/EXEC 08/61/2, that prior to considering amendments to Rule XI.10 it might be useful to see how the system could be improved under the existing framework.

MATTERS ARISING FROM REPORTS OF THE COMMISSION, CODEX COMMITTEES AND TASK FORCES (Agenda Item 12)[62]

170. 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 08/31/9D and ALINORM 08/31/9D-Add.1. The following paragraphs provide additional information on the comments made and decisions taken on certain items.

29th Session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission

Future Work on Animal Feeding[63]

171. The Commission recalled that the purpose of Codex work on animal feeding was to ensure food safety at the consumer level by covering the entire food chain, including primary production. The Ad-hoc Task Force on Animal Feeding had successfully completed its work with the adoption of the Code of

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62 ALINORM 08/31/9D; ALINORM 08/31/9D-Add.1; CAC/31 LIM/07 (comments of Kenya, Cuba and Guatemala); CAC/31 LIM/9 (comments of India); CAC/31 LIM/16 (comments of Colombia)

63 ALINORM 06/29/41, paras 170-174; ALINORM 08/31/9D (Comments of Canada, Czech Republic, European Community, Iran, Norway, United States of America, FEFAC, IFAH and IFIF); ALINORM 08/31/9D-Add.1 (Comments of Australia, Peru and Switzerland)

Practice on Good Animal Feeding (CAC/RCP 54-2004) by the 27th Session of the Commission in 2004. It was further recalled that in view of the requests for additional work in animal feeding submitted at the conclusion of the Task Force, a Circular Letter[64] had been issued asking members and observers to identify areas where Codex could start new work regarding animal feeding. The issue was subsequently considered at the 28th and 29th Sessions of the Commission. The latter concluded that it was too early to make a decision and agreed to defer discussion on the timing and scope of possible new work on animal feeding until 2008. A Circular Letter[65] was then issued asking for proposals for new future work and information on national experience in the implementation of the Code of Practice on Good Animal Feeding (CAC/RCP 54-2004) in order to allow further consideration of this matter at the present session.

172. With regard to the replies to this Circular Letter, the Commission noted that: i) the proposals for new work submitted indicated that there was a general willingness to continue work on animal feeding in Codex; and ii) the Code of Practice (CAC/RCP 54-2004) had been very well received by Members, which had commenced implementation of the Code at national level.

173. The Commission noted that in order to assist countries in the implementation of the Code, FAO had prepared a guidance document. Furthermore, in October 2007 FAO and WHO, with the participation of the OIE, had convened an Expert Meeting on Animal Feed Impact on Food Safety[66], which resulted in several recommendations, some of which could be considered as potential future work by Codex on animal feeding.

174. Due to time constraints, the Commission could not consider all comments received and identify areas for new work, if any.

175. After some discussion, the Commission agreed to postpone decision of possible new work on animal feeding until its 32nd Session. In order to facilitate discussion and decision at its 32nd Session, the Commission agreed to establish an electronic working group, hosted by Denmark and co-chaired by Mexico, to prepare:

(i) a proposal for the scope and terms of reference of future work on animal feeding. In doing so the working group should take into consideration the conclusions and recommendations of the FAO/WHO Expert Meeting on Animal Feed Impact on Food Safety; and

(ii) a proposal as to suitable mechanisms for Codex to carry out this work, including, but not limited to, the establishment of an *Ad hoc* Intergovernmental Task Force.

176. The electronic working group would be open to all Members and Observers and would work in English, French and Spanish.

177. The Commission agreed that the work of the working group should be governed by the Guidelines on Electronic Working Groups[67] and a report should be produced accordingly. The Commission noted the reservation of the Delegation of the United States of America as to the decision that Denmark would be the host country and Mexico co-chair of the electronic Working Group, while proposing Mexico as host country or other arrangements that would ensure equal standing for both Mexico and Denmark.

178. The Commission agreed that Denmark, with full support of Mexico, would prepare a kick-off message inviting Members and Observers to participate in the electronic working group; that the message would be distributed through the Codex e-mailing lists by end of July 2008; and that the report of the electronic working group, including proposals and a list of participants, would be circulated for comments through a Circular Letter by January 2009, thus allowing adequate time for Members and Observers to formulate their comments on the proposals. The Commission noted that it would reconsider the matter at its 32nd Session in the light of the proposals in the report of the working group and comments received thereto, with due regard to the advice from the 62nd Session of the Executive Committee, if any.

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64 CL 2004/33-CAC

65 CL 2007/19 CAC

66 Report available (in English, French and Spanish) at: www.fao.org/ag/againfo/resources/en/pubs_food.html

67 Procedural Manual of the Codex Alimentarius Commission

Committee on Food Hygiene

The Use of the Lactoperoxidase System (LPS) for Milk and Milk Products in International Trade[68]

179. The Commission recalled that consensus could not be reached at its last session on the lifting of the restriction on the use of the LPS for products in international trade and that this matter had been referred back to the Committee on Food Hygiene for further discussion based on the provision of new information and data requested through a Circular Letter.[69] The Commission was reminded that no such restriction existed in the Codex Alimentarius as such, but that at the adoption of the Guidelines for the Preservation of Raw Milk by the Lactoperoxidase System by the 19th Session of the Commission, it was emphasized that the LPS should not be used for products intended for international trade[70] and that this statement was reconfirmed at its 27th Session in 1999[71].

180. The Representative of FAO reminded the Commission that, at its request, a joint FAO/WHO technical meeting on benefits and potential risks of the lactoperoxidase system of raw milk preservation (Rome, Italy, 28 November - 2 December 2005)[72] had been convened and data as well as the safety evaluation by the 35th meeting of JECFA had indicated that there were no safety concerns relating to the components or metabolites of the LPS when used in accordance with the Guidelines.

181. The Delegation of Cuba expressed the view that the agreement reached at the 30th Session of the Commission had not been fulfilled as regards the reply to the circular letter requesting countries to submit new scientific evidence on the use of the LPS system and risks to human health, since only four countries had replied to the circular letter in time; however in the meeting of the Committee on Food Hygiene held in India in October 2007 new documents were circulated, there was very little time to discuss the subject, which did not allow to reach a conclusion.

182. Many delegations supported the lifting of the restriction based on the scientific evidence provided and because of the absence of new scientific information that questioned the safety of the LPS. In their view, Codex should abide by its risk analysis principles and base its decisions on science.

183. Some other delegations were of the opinion that the restriction should be maintained. According to their view some concerns still remained that the thiocyanate ion could have a toxicological effect when iodine intake was not sufficient; that pasteurization did not eliminate the thiocyanate ion; that there might be the possible misuse of the LPS by small farmers; and that the LPS inhibited growth of foodborne pathogens but did not eliminate them.

184. Some other delegations further questioned the addition of chemicals to raw milk as this could constitute adulteration of milk.

185. The Representative of WHO pointed out that the effectiveness of the LPS was limited to short periods and therefore its applicability to products in international trade was limited because of longer duration of transport.

186. After some discussion, the Chairperson put forward a proposal to the Commission to lift the restriction on the use of the LPS in products in international trade, but to reconfirm its previous decision that the most appropriate method for preservation was refrigeration and that the LPS be considered as an alternative only where refrigeration was not possible.

187. Several delegations supported the proposal of the Chairperson, while other delegations expressed their reservation to the proposal.

188. The Delegation of New Zealand noted that the Code of Hygienic Practice for Milk and Milk Products (CAC/RCP 57-2004) allowed for several microbiostatic control measures including the LPS and that the use of any of these measures required validation prior to their use with respect to their effectiveness and safe use. The Delegation, pointing out that this point was also emphasized in the Guidelines for the Validation of Food

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68 ALINORM 08/31/13, paras 173-180

69 ALINORM 07/30/REP, paras 168-177

70 ALINORM 91/40, para. 234

71 ALINORM 99/37, para. 216

72 Report available at http://www.fao.org/ag/agn/agns/chemicals_lactoperoxidase_en.asp

Safety Control Measures adopted at the current session, which provided that control measures required validation on a case-by-case basis, proposed that the restriction be lifted, but that the use of the LPS be conditional on infrastructure and validation and be based on mutual agreements between countries depending on patterns of trade, and in line with this observation, further proposed to amend footnote 9 in Appendix A: Microbiostatic Control Measures - Code of Practice for Milk and Milk Products by the addition of the following: "Any trade in milk treated by the lactoperoxidase system should only be on the basis of mutual agreement between countries concerned, and without prejudice to trade with other countries." This view was supported by many delegations.

189. In view of the lack of time to resolve the issues, that is lifting the restriction in paragraph 19 or lifting the restriction under the conditions proposed by New Zealand, the Commission agreed to postpone further discussion until its next session. The Delegations of Cuba and Chile expressed their reservation to the decision and the way in which the matter had been dealt with by the Commission.

RELATIONS BETWEEN THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS (Agenda Item 13)[73]

RELATIONS BETWEEN THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS (Agenda Item 13a)

Relation between Codex and the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE)[74]

190. The Observer from the OIE, referring to the written submission in CAC/31 INF/4, drew the attention of the Commission to two main points: i) the progress of the cooperation between OIE and Codex; and ii) the implications of private standards in OIE standard setting activities.

191. With regard to the cooperation between the OIE and Codex, the Observer recalled that the OIE and Codex had been working together since 2001, mainly through the work of the OIE Animal Production Food Safety Working Group, with a view to improving the coordination and harmonization of standards setting activities. This collaboration had resulted in an improved exchange of scientific and technical information and the use of cross-references in several Codex and OIE texts. The Observer informed the Commission that the OIE in 2008-2009 would actively contribute to Codex standards setting through the Codex Committees on Food Import and Export Inspection and Certifications Systems, on Food Hygiene and on General Principles. He also indicated that animal feeding was an important sector of collaboration between the OIE and Codex and that the OIE was working on the development of guidelines on animal feeding (for both terrestrial and aquatic animals) which would complement the work already undertaken by Codex. The Observer informed the Commission about the progress of updating the existing inter-agency cooperation agreements with a view to fostering the development of joint standards. The Observer stated that, in his view, further guidance on the food safety of animal treated with recombinant-DNA vaccines could be a good subject for the development of a joint standard. The Observer further noted that a proposal for an amendment to the cooperation agreement between the OIE and WHO, approved by the 76th General Session of the OIE in May 2008, was under consideration by WHO.

192. The Observer from OIE encouraged all Codex members to participate in the OIE International Conference on Animal Identification and Traceability ('From Farm to Fork'), to be held in Buenos Aires (Argentina) from 17-19 March 2009, aimed at promoting seamless application of both Codex and OIE standards in this area.

193. Regarding private standards, the Observer informed the Commission that the 76th OIE General Assembly, in view of the great concern shared by the majority of OIE Members, had adopted a resolution[75], requesting the Director-General of the OIE to work with relevant public and private international organizations to address the concerns of OIE Members and to ensure that private standards, where used, be consistent with OIE standards. Private standards were considered to be an issue of common concern for the OIE and Codex.

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73 ALINORM 08/31/9E; CAC/31 INF/2

74 CAC/31 INF/4 (OIE Contribution to the 31st Session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission)

75 Resolution No. XXXII on Implication of private standards in international trade of animal and animal products.

194. In replying to the statement of the Observer from the OIE, delegations pointed out that strengthened collaboration with OIE was important to ensure that the risk-based approach be applied in the pre-harvest sector of the food chain, especially in addressing the control of microorganisms in animal products, currently undertaken by the Committee on Food Hygiene. It was also pointed out that this strengthened collaboration would minimize potential overlaps in the work of the two organizations, would prevent the setting of contradictory standards, and was consistent with Goal 4 and activity 4.4. of the Codex Strategic Plan 2008-2013.

195. The Commission concluded its discussion by noting that collaboration with the OIE had considerably enhanced over the years and needed to continue to be strengthened, in particular in the area of control of microorganisms in animal products.

World Trade Organization (WTO)[76]

196. In addition to the information provided in CAC/31 INF/5, the Observer from the World Trade Organization (WTO) informed the Commission of some key issues, especially those from the SPS Committee which had met just prior to this session of the Commission. The Observer highlighted the areas related to transparency, the review of the implementation of the SPS Agreement and technical assistance. In particular the Commission was informed that the work of the SPS Committee continued to address specific trade concerns raised by WTO Members and that it was decided to hold a workshop on standard setting procedures of Codex, World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) and International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) in October 2009.

197. In addition, the Commission was informed that in June 2007 a new SPS Information Management System was launched (www.spsims.wto.org) providing information on, among others, SPS notifications, documents circulated, trade concerns and enquiry points and notification authorities of members. The Commission noted that the system allowed for easier tracking and management of WTO SPS related documentation and that it also made it easier for the FAO's International Portal on Food Safety, Animal and Plant Health (IPFSAPH) to access WTO information.

198. The Observer also informed the Commission that the SPS Committee had adopted revised recommended procedures on implementing the transparency obligations of the SPS Agreement, including modifications to various notification formats which would be applicable from 1 December 2008. One significant change in the revised recommendations encouraged WTO members to notify new or changed measures which conform to international standards, which was not an obligation for member countries, and which would assist the Committee in undertaking its task of monitoring the use of international standards.

International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)[77]

199. The Representative of the IAEA, referring to the information presented in CAC/31 INF/6, highlighted work of the Joint FAO/IAEA Programme on Nuclear Techniques in Food and Agriculture in the three key areas of addressing multiple food contamination hazards affecting food safety and trade, responding to nuclear emergencies affecting food and agriculture, and the application of ionizing radiation; pointed out some of the current Codex related activities undertaken by IAEA in the field of seafood safety risk analysis, pesticide residues, contaminants and the planned training workshops to assist in the implementation of Codex standards in Member States; and informed the Commission of the future activities of IAEA in relation to intensified activities for the development and application of research related to technical assistance, technology transfer and elaboration of standards; increased collaboration with Member States in the implementation of food safety policy and regulatory programmes for the establishment of national and regional food control laboratories; and increased inter-agency collaboration in the management of nuclear preparedness and response procedures for protection of the public.

International Organization of Legal Metrology (OIML)[78]

200. The Observer of the OIML introduced the information provided in CAC/31 INF/12 and informed the Commission of the organizational structure and purpose of the OIML; its publications; other work of the

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76 CAC/31 INF/5 (Activities of the SPS Committee and other relevant WTO activities From 2007 to the present).

77 CAC/31 INF/6 (Report on activities of the International Atomic Energy Agency relevant to Codex work).

78 CAC/31 INF/12.

organization and highlighted the common areas of work of the OIML and Codex, namely, work relating to quantity of product in pre-packages, labelling and instruments for physico-chemical measurements. The Observer also highlighted several areas for cooperation between the two organizations especially in relation to exchange of information, identification of overlapping activities, avoiding duplication of work, resolving conflicting provisions in standards and participation in each other's technical work.

The International Organization of Vine and Wine (OIV)

201. The Observer from OIV informed the Commission of the objectives and membership of the OIV and of the resolutions adopted during the 6th OIV General Assembly held prior to this Session of the Commission. The Observer especially drew the attention of the Commission to the resolution on the OIV standard on minimum maturity requirements for table grapes which cross referenced the Codex Standard on Table Grapes adopted at the last session of the Commission and other food safety related work on additives, contaminants and pesticides.

202. 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 13b)

Relations with the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) [79]

203. The Observer from ISO presented document CAC/31 INF/7 and informed the Commission on key ISO activities relevant to the work of Codex. The Observer highlighted the increasing demand for voluntary international standards due to various factors, among others: globalization of trade in products and services; outsourcing and foreign investment; deregulation/privatization of public services; public demand for consumer safety, environmental protection and corporate social responsibility. He further provided explanation on the ISO system and structure and its global networking.

204. The Observer indicated the priority areas of mutual interest and cooperation / coordination to ISO and Codex, which included the work of ISO/TC 34 on food products and the horizontal work of the ISO Committee on conformity assessment (ISO/CASCO) on inspection and certification. He further indicated other ISO Technical Committees which were working in fields of interest for Codex, such as ISO TCs 54 (essential oils), 93 (starch), 134 (fertilizers) and 234 (aquaculture).

205. The Observer concluded his presentation by highlighting the long-standing collaboration with Codex, the need to focus on the complementarity of work between Codex and ISO and strengthen relations between the Codex and ISO Secretariats, between the Codex Committees and the ISO Technical Committees, and between Codex and ISO Members.

206. The Commission thanked the Observer from ISO for the useful information and continued cooperation.

FAO/WHO PROJECT AND TRUST FUND FOR ENHANCED PARTICIPATION IN CODEX (Agenda Item 14)[80]

207. The Commission noted the Annual Report for 2007 and the Tenth Progress Report of the FAO/WHO Project and Trust Fund for Enhanced Participation in Codex as presented in Document ALINORM 08/31/9F and agreed not to consider them in the plenary, due to time constraints and with the understanding that views could be exchanged and feedback provided to the Secretariat for the Trust Fund during an Informal Meeting on the FAO/WHO Project and Fund for Enhanced Participation in Codex, which was scheduled later the same day as an FAO/WHO side event.

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79 CAC/31 INF/2 (International non-governmental organization in observer status with the Codex Alimentarius Commission); CAC/31 INF/7 (Communication from ISO – Report of Activities Relevant to Codex)

80 ALINORM 08/31/9F; CAC/31 LIM/9 (comments of India)

OTHER MATTERS ARISING FROM FAO AND WHO (Agenda Item 15)[81]

208. As regards scientific advice, the Representative of FAO pointed out that an important consideration applied by FAO when deciding on the budget allocation for scientific advice was not only the number of expert meetings implemented to meet requests but the use of such advice by Codex.

209. The Representative of WHO drew the attention of the Commission to document ALINORM 08/31/9G-Add.2 referring to two activities carried out jointly with FAO to provide scientific update on issues related to Carbohydrates in Human Nutrition (December 2007) and on Fats and Fatty Acids in Human Nutrition (November 2008). In addition a number of future expert meetings on nutrition, not included in ALINORM 08/31/9G, were mentioned at the Joint FAO/WHO Side Event on Provision of Scientific Advice.

210. Due to time constraints, the Commission did not discuss this item further and agreed to consider this matter and any additional information at its next session.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS OF THE COMMISSION (Agenda Item 16)[82]

211. The Commission elected the following persons to hold office from the end of its present Session to the end of the next regular (32nd) Session of the Commission:

Chairperson:	Ms Karen HULEBAK (United States of America)
Vice-Chairpersons:	Mr Sanjay DAVE (India)
	Mr Ben MANYINDO (Uganda)
	Mr Knud ØSTERGAARD (Denmark)

DESIGNATION OF COUNTRIES RESPONSIBLE FOR APPOINTING THE CHAIRPERSONS OF CODEX COMMITTEES AND AD HOC TASK FORCES (Agenda Item 17)[83]

212. The Commission confirmed the designation of the host governments as listed in the Appendix XII to this report.

213. In arriving at its decision, the Commission noted that the United Kingdom could remain as the host of the Committee on Sugars until such time when another country would volunteer to take it over. Noting that the Committee on Natural Mineral Waters had accomplished the work assigned to it by the 30th Session of the Commission, the Commission agreed to adjourn the Committee *sine die* while confirming Switzerland as host country.

214. The Commission further noted that the *Ad Hoc* Intergovernmental Task Forces on Foods derived from Biotechnology and on the Processing and Handling of Quick Frozen Foods had completed their work, both one year ahead of schedule, and agreed to dissolve the two task forces. The Commission congratulated Japan and Thailand for their excellent service as host governments and for their contribution in these important areas of work by Codex.

OTHER BUSINESS (Agenda Item 18)

215. The Commission recalled that it had agreed, when adopting the Agenda for the Session, to discuss the issue raised by the Delegations of Uruguay, supported by Argentina and Colombia, regarding timely translation and simultaneous distribution of Codex documentation in the working languages of the Commission that would allow for enough time and equal opportunity among Members to comment on matters under consideration by the Commission and its subsidiary bodies.

216. In this regard, the Commission noted that, due to its annual sessions, the increase in the number of meetings of its subsidiary bodies (around forty on a biennial basis) and the unavoidable concentration of such meetings, particularly for those general subject committees having an endorsement function, over certain periods of year, it was not possible to issue, in good time, working documents in all languages of the

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81 ALINORM 08/31/9G, ALINORM 08/31/9G-Add.1, ALINORM 08/31/9G-Add.2, CAC/31 INF/3 (Report of FAO/WHO Budgets for Codex-related Activities 2006/7 and 2008/9: FAO/WHO Scientific Support to Codex) and CAC/31 INF/10 (The International Portal on Food Safety, Animal and Plant Health: Progress in 2007/2008)

82 ALINORM 08/31/2

83 ALINORM 08/31/9H

Commission. The Commission further noted that such synchronized, advance distribution of documents would only be possible by significantly reducing the number of meetings of subsidiary bodies so that no Codex sessions take place during a three month period before a Commission session and by returning to the biennial meetings of the Commission, which would allow to accommodate several Codex committee meetings in the April-September period for the year when the Commission did not meet.

217. The Delegation of Colombia drew the attention of the Commission to Rule XIV (Languages) of the Rules of Procedure which did not make any distinction between the languages of the Commission and to Goal 5 of the Strategic Plan 2008-2013 on promoting maximum and effective participation of members, and reasserted the need for equal treatment in the use of the languages to ensure transparency and fairness in the Codex process.

218. In view of the above, the Commission agreed that this issue be further discussed at the next session of the Executive Committee in order to explore avenues to improve the translation and timely distribution of Codex documents.

Date and Place of Next Session

219. The Commission noted that its 32nd Session would be held in Rome, Italy, from 29 June to 4 July 2009, subject to further confirmation.

APPENDIX 1

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LISTE DES PARTICIPANTS
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APPENDIX II

AMENDMENTS TO THE PROCEDURAL MANUAL

AMENDMENT TO THE TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE *AD HOC* CODEX INTERGOVERNMENTAL TASK FORCE ON ANTIMICROBIAL RESISTANCE

Objectives

To develop science based guidance, taking full account of its risk analysis principles and the work and standards of other relevant international Organizations, such as FAO, WHO and OIE. The intent of this guidance is to assess the risks to human health associated with the presence in food and feed including aquaculture and the transmission through food and feed of antimicrobial resistant microorganisms and antimicrobial resistance genes and to develop appropriate risk management advice based on that assessment to reduce such risk. The Task Force should attempt to put into perspective the risk of increase of antimicrobial resistance in human beings and animal generated by different areas of use of antimicrobials such as veterinary applications, plant protection or food processing.

Terms of reference

[No Change]

Time frame

[No Change]

APPENDIX III

AMENDMENTS TO THE PROCEDURAL MANUAL

AMENDMENTS TO THE "FORMAT FOR CODEX COMMODITY STANDARDS"

Format for Codex Commodity Standards

Introduction

The Format is ~~also~~ intended for use as a guide by the subsidiary bodies of the Codex Alimentarius Commission in presenting their standards, with the object of achieving, as far as possible, a uniform presentation of commodity standards. The Format also indicates the statements which should be included in standards as appropriate under the relevant headings of the standard. The sections of the Format require to be completed in a standard only insofar as such provisions are appropriate to an international standard for the food in question.

NAME OF THE STANDARD

SCOPE

DESCRIPTION

ESSENTIAL COMPOSITION AND QUALITY FACTORS

FOOD ADDITIVES

CONTAMINANTS

HYGIENE

WEIGHTS AND MEASURES

LABELLING

METHODS OF ANALYSIS AND SAMPLING

~~Codex Commodity standards 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.

Notes on the Headings

Name o~~O~~f t~~T~~he Standard

The name of the standard should be clear and as concise as possible. It should usually be the common name by which the food covered by the standard is known or, if more than one food is dealt with in the standard, by a generic name covering them all. If a fully informative title should be inordinately long, a subtitle could be added.

Scope

This section should contain a clear, concise statement as to the food or foods to which the standard is applicable unless this is self-explanatory in the name of the standard. In the case of a general standard covering more than one specific product, it should be made clear as to which specific products the standard applies.

Description

This section should contain a definition of the product or products with an indication, where appropriate, of the raw materials from which it is derived and any necessary references to processes of manufacture. It may also include references to types and styles of product and to type of pack. There may also be additional definitions when these are required to clarify the meaning of the standard.

Essential Composition and Quality Factors

This section should contain all quantitative and other requirements as to composition including, where necessary, identity characteristics, provisions on packing media and requirements as to compulsory and optional ingredients. It should also include quality factors which are essential for the designation, definition or composition of the product concerned. Such factors could include the quality of the raw material, with the object of protecting the health of the consumer, provisions on taste, odour, colour and texture which may be apprehended by the senses, and basic quality criteria for the finished products, with the object of preventing fraud. This section may refer to tolerances for defects, such as blemishes or imperfect material, but this information should be contained in an appendix to the standard or in another advisory text.

Food Additives

This section should contain a general reference to the corresponding sections of the General Standard for Food Additives which should take the following form:

> *"[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 Subject 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

This section should contain only the following reference to the General Standard for Contaminants and Toxins in Foods without reference to specific provisions on contaminants:

> *"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)."*

For residues of pesticides and veterinary drugs, if applicable to products concerned, this section should contain a general reference which should take the following form, without reference to specific provisions on residues of pesticides and veterinary drugs:

> *"The products covered by this Standard shall comply with ~~and~~ the maximum residue limits for pesticides and/or veterinary drugs established by the CAC."*

Hygiene

~~Any specific mandatory hygiene provisions considered necessary should be included in this section. They should be prepared in accordance with the guidance given in the section on Food Hygiene in the *Relations between Commodity Committees and General Committees*.~~

~~Commodity Committees should use in the commodity standards the following text~~ This Section should contain the following general reference to the *Recommended International Code of Practice – General Principles of Food Hygiene* and the *Principles for the Establishment and Application of Microbiological Criteria for Foods* without reference to specific provisions on food hygiene:

> *"It is recommended that the products covered by the provisions of this ~~s~~Standard be prepared and handled in accordance with the appropriate sections of the Recommended International Code of Practice - General Principles of Food Hygiene (CAC/RCP 1-1969~~,Rev 4-2003~~), and other relevant Codex texts such as Codes of Hygienic Practice and Codes of Practice."*
>
> *"The products should comply with any microbiological criteria established in accordance with the Principles for the Establishment and Application of Microbiological Criteria for Foods (CAC/GL 21-1997)."*

Reference should also be made to applicable codes of hygienic practice. ~~Any parts of such codes, including in particular any end-product specifications, should be set out in the standard, if it is considered necessary that they should be made mandatory.~~

~~The following statement should also appear:~~

> ~~*"The following provisions in respect of the food hygiene of this product are subject to endorsement [have been endorsed] by the Codex Committee on Food Hygiene."*~~

Weights and Measures

This section should include all provisions, other than labelling provisions, relating to weights and measures, e.g. where appropriate, fill of container, weight, measure or count of units determined by an appropriate method of sampling and analysis. Weights and measures should be expressed in S.I. units. In the case of standards which include provisions for the sale of products in standardized amounts, e.g. multiples of 100 grams, S.I. units should be used, but this would not preclude additional statements in the standards of these standardized amounts in approximately similar amounts in other systems of weights and measures.

Labelling

This section should include all the labelling provisions contained in the ~~s~~Standard. ~~and should be prepared in accordance with the guidance given in the section on Food Labelling in the *Relations between Commodity Committees and General Committees*.~~ Provisions should be included by reference to the General Standard for the Labelling of Prepackaged Foods (CODEX STAN 1-1985).

The section may also contain provisions which are exemptions from, additions to, or which are necessary for the interpretation of the General Standard in respect of the product concerned provided that these can be justified fully. ~~The following statement should also appear:~~

> ~~*"The following provisions in respect of the labelling of this product are subject to endorsement [have been endorsed] by the Codex Committee on Food Labelling."*~~

~~The provisions on food labelling should be included by reference to the Codex General Standard for the Labelling of Prepackaged Foods (CODEX STAN 1-1985). Exemptions from, or additions to, the General Standard which are necessary for its interpretation in respect of the product concerned should be justified fully, and should be restricted as much as possible.~~

Information specified in each draft standard should normally be limited to the following:

- a statement that the product shall be labelled in accordance with the Codex General Standard for the Labelling of Prepackaged Foods (CODEX STAN 1-1985);

- the specified name of the food;
- date marking and storage instructions (only if the exemption foreseen in Section 4.7.1 of the General Standard is applied).

Where the scope of the Codex Standard is not limited to prepackaged foods, a provision for labelling of non retail containers may be included.

In such cases the provision may specify that:

"Information on ...[1] shall be given either on the container or in accompanying documents, except that the name of the product, lot identification, and the name and address of the manufacturer or packer shall appear on the container.[2]

However, lot identification, and the name and address of the manufacturer or packer may be replaced by an identification mark provided that such a mark is clearly identifiable with the accompanying documents."

In respect of date marking (Section 4.7 of the General Standard for the Labelling of Prepackaged Foods), if a Codex commodity committee, in exceptional circumstances, determine another date or dates as defined in the General Standard, either to replace or to accompany the date of minimum durability, or alternatively decide that no date marking is necessary, a relevant provision may be included.

Methods of Analysis and Sampling

This section should include, either specifically or by reference, all methods of analysis and sampling considered necessary and should be prepared in accordance with the guidance given in the section on Methods of Analysis and Sampling in the *Relations between Commodity Committees and General Subject Committees*. If two or more methods have been proved to be equivalent by the Codex Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling, these could be regarded as alternatives and included in this section either specifically or by reference. ~~The following statement should also appear:~~

> "The methods of analysis and sampling described hereunder are to be endorsed [have been endorsed] by the Codex Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling.".. [3]

---

[1] Codex Committees should decide which provisions are to be included.

[2] Codex Committees may decide that further information is required on the container. In this regard, special attention should be given to the need for storage instructions to be included on the container.

[3] ~~Methods of analysis should be indicated as being "defining", "reference", "alternative approved" or "tentative" methods, as appropriate.~~

APPENDIX IV

AMENDMENTS TO THE PROCEDURAL MANUAL

AMENDMENTS TO THE "RELATIONS BETWEEN COMMODITY COMMITTEES AND GENERAL COMMITTEES"

Relations between Commodity Committees and General Subject Committees

Codex Committees may ask the advice and guidance of general subject committees having responsibility for matters applicable to all foods on any points coming within their province, in accordance with their Terms of Reference. In particular, due referral should take place between commodity committees (in this document "commodity committees" are meant to include coordinating committees and other subsidiary bodies of the Commission in so far as they elaborate commodity standards) and general subject committees during the elaboration of Codex commodity standards.

Codex general subject committees which include t~~T~~he Committees on Food Labelling; Food Additives; Contaminants in Foods; Pesticides Residues; Residues of Veterinary Drugs in Foods; Food Hygiene; 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 general provisions should only be incorporated into Codex Commodity Standards by reference unless there is a need for doing otherwise (see "*Format for Codex Commodity Standards"*).

~~Codex Commodity standards 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~~ commodity c~~C~~ommittees are of the opinion that the general provisions are not applicable to one or more commodity standards, they may request the responsible general subject c~~C~~ommittees 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 food additives, contaminants, 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~~ general subject c~~C~~ommittees at the most suitable and earliest time in ~~during Steps 3, 4 and 5 of~~ the Procedure for the Elaboration of Codex Standards and Related Texts, though such referral~~ence~~ should not be allowed to delay the progress of the standard to the subsequent S~~s~~teps 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

Commodity committees shall refer any exemptions from, or additions to, the reference to the General Standard for the Labelling of Prepackaged Foods (CODEX STAN 1-1985) as indicated in the section on food labelling in the *Format for Codex Commodity Standards* to the Committee on Food Labelling for endorsement.

~~The provisions on food labelling should be included by reference to the Codex General Standard for the Labelling of Prepackaged Foods (CODEX STAN 1-1985). Exemptions from, or additions to, the General Standard which are necessary for its interpretation in respect of the product concerned should be justified fully, and should be restricted as much as possible.~~

~~Information specified in each draft standard should normally be limited to the following:~~

- ~~a statement that the product shall be labelled in accordance with the Codex General Standard for the Labelling of Prepackaged Foods (CODEX STAN 1-1985)~~
- ~~the specified name of the food~~
- ~~date marking and storage instructions (only if the exemption foreseen in Section 4.7.1 of the General Standard is applied)~~

~~Where the scope of the Codex Standard is not limited to prepackaged foods, a provision for labelling of non retail containers may be included.~~

~~In such cases the provision may specify that:~~

~~"Information on ...[4] shall be given either on the container or in accompanying documents, except that the name of the product, lot identification, and the name and address of the manufacturer or packer shall appear on the container.[5]~~

~~However, lot identification, and the name and address of the manufacturer or packer may be replaced by an identification mark provided that such a mark is clearly identifiable with the accompanying documents."~~

In respect of date marking (Section 4.7 of the General Standard for the Labelling of Prepackaged Foods), a ~~Codex~~ commodity c~~C~~ommittee may, in exceptional circumstances, determine another date or dates as defined in the General Standard, either to replace or to accompany the date of minimum durability, or alternatively decide that no date marking is necessary. In such cases, a full justification for the proposed action should be submitted to the ~~Codex~~ Committee on Food Labelling.

Food Additives

C~~odex c~~ommodity committees shall examine the General Standard for Food Additives (*CODEX STAN 192-1995*) with a view towards incorporating a reference to the General Standard. All proposals for additions or ~~revisions~~ amendments to the General Standard for Food Additives in order to establish a reference to the General Standard for Food Additives 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 on Food Additives 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 for Food Additives would not be appropriate in light of the criteria for the use of food additives established in the Preamble of the General Standard for Food Additives, in particular Section 3.

All provisions in respect of food additives (including processing aids) contained in Codex commodity standards should be referred to the ~~Codex~~ Committee on Food Additives, preferably 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 ~~C~~commodity ~~C~~committee concerned at Step 7, though such 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 endorsement by the ~~Codex~~ Committee on Food Additives, on the basis of technological justification submitted by the commodity committees and 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

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~~[4] Codex Committees should decide which provisions are to be included.~~

~~[5] Codex Committees may decide that further information is required on the container. In this regard, special attention should be given to the need for storage instructions to be included on the container.~~

potential and, where possible, the actual intake of the food additives, ensuring conformity with the Preamble of the General Standard for Food Additives ~~General Principles for the Use of Food Additives~~.

When forwarding a food additive section of a commodity standard for endorsement by the ~~Codex~~ Committee on Food Additives, the Secretariat should prepare a report to the Committee that includes the International 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 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 are subject to endorsement by the Codex Committee on Food Additives and to incorporation into the General Standard for Food Additives."~~

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, the reason should be clearly stated. The section under consideration should be referred back to the commodity 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 members to the ~~Codex~~ Committee on Food Additives .

Contaminants in Foods

~~Codex~~ Commodity committees shall examine the General Standard for Contaminants and Toxins in Foods *(CODEX STAN 193-1995)* with a view towards incorporating a reference to the General Standard.

Should the ~~Codex~~ commodity committee consider that a general reference to the General Standard for Contaminants and Toxins in Foods does not serve its purpose, a proposal should be prepared and forwarded to the ~~Codex~~ Committee on Contaminants in Foods for consideration of starting new work, amendments to the General Standard for Contaminants and Toxins in Foods, or ~~and~~ endorsement of proposed provisions, as appropriate.

When doing so, the commodity committee shall provide a justification why a general reference to the General Standard~~s~~ for Contaminants and Toxins in Foods would not be appropriate for products concerned.

All proposals should be referred to the ~~Codex~~ Committee on Contaminants in Foods, preferably before the advancement of the draft commodity standards concerned to Step 5 of the Procedure for Elaboration of Codex Standards or before they are considered by the commodity committee concerned at Step 7, though such referral should not be allowed to delay the progress of the Standard to the subsequent Steps of the Procedure.

~~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 Contaminants in Foods.~~ The ~~Codex~~ Committee on Contaminants in Foods shall consider all ~~such~~ proposals for additions or amendments to the General Standard or ~~for~~ endorsement of proposed provisions and take action where necessary and appropriate. ~~Revisions of a substantive nature that are endorsed by the Committee on Contaminants in Foods will be referred back to the commodity committee in order to achieve consensus between both committees at an early stage of the step procedure.~~

~~In accordance with the agreed Format for Codex Commodity Standards, the section on contaminants in the Standard developed by the commodity committee should contain only the following reference to the General Standard for Contaminants and Toxins in Foods without reference to specific provisions on contaminants:~~

> ~~*"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 Commission."*~~

Pesticide residues / residues on veterinary drugs in Foods

Commodity committees shall examine the provisions on residue limits of pesticides and of veterinary drugs adopted by the Codex Alimentarius Commission with a view towards incorporating a general reference as indicated in the section on contaminants in the *Format for Codex Commodity Standards*.

Should the commodity committee consider that the general reference above does not serve its purpose, a proposal should be prepared and forwarded to the Committees on Pesticide Residues or on Residues of Veterinary Drugs in Foods as appropriate, for consideration of new work or revision of the adopted residue limits.

Food Hygiene

Commodity committees should examine the provisions on food hygiene adopted by the Codex Alimentarius Commission, with a view towards incorporating a general reference as indicated in the section on food hygiene in the *Format for Codex Commodity Standards*. Commodity committees shall refer any exemptions from, or additions to, the general reference above to the Committee on Food Hygiene for endorsement.

~~Commodity Committees should use in the commodity standards the following text:~~

> ~~*"It is recommended that the products covered by the provisions of this standard be prepared and handled in accordance with the appropriate sections of the Recommended International Code of Practice - General Principles of Food Hygiene (CAC/RCP 1-1969, Rev 4-2003), and other relevant Codex texts such as Codes of Hygienic Practice and Codes of Practice."*~~
>
> ~~*"The products should comply with any microbiological criteria established in accordance with the Principles for the Establishment and Application of Microbiological Criteria for Foods (CAC/GL 21-1997)."*~~

Methods of Analysis and Sampling

Normal Practice

Except for methods of analysis and sampling associated with microbiological criteria, when ~~Codex~~ commodity committees have included provisions on methods of analysis or sampling in a Codex commodity standard, these should be referred to the ~~Codex~~ Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling at Step 4, to ensure Government comments at the earliest possible stage in the development of the standard. A ~~Codex~~ commodity ~~C~~committee should, whenever possible, provide information to the ~~Codex~~ Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling for each individual analytical method proposed, relating to specificity, accuracy, precision (repeatability, reproducibility) limit of detection, sensitivity, applicability and practicability, as appropriate. Similarly a ~~Codex~~ commodity c~~C~~ommittee should, whenever possible, provide information to the ~~Codex~~ Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling for each sampling plan relating to the scope or field of application, the type of sampling (e.g. bulk or unit), sample sizes, decision rules, details of plans (e.g. "Operating characteristic" curves), inferences to be made to lots or processes, levels of risk to be accepted and pertinent supportive data.

Other criteria may be selected as required. Methods of analysis should be proposed by the ~~C~~commodity ~~C~~committees in consultation if necessary with an expert body.

At Step 4, ~~Codex~~ ~~C~~commodity ~~C~~committees should discuss and report to the ~~Codex~~ Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling on matters connected with:

- Provisions in Codex standards which require analytical or statistical procedure;
- Provisions for which elaboration of specific methods of analysis or sampling are required;
- Provisions which are defined by the use of Defining Methods (Type I);
- All proposals to the extent possible should be supported by appropriate documentation; especially for Tentative Methods (Type IV);
- Any request for advice or assistance.

The Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling should undertake a coordinating role in matters relating to the elaboration of Codex methods of analysis and sampling. The originating committee is, however, responsible for carrying out the Steps of the Procedure.

When it is necessary, the Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling should try to ensure elaboration and collaborative testing of methods by other recognized bodies with expertise in the field of analysis.

The Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling will assess the actual analytical performance of the method which has been determined in its validation. This will take account of the appropriate precision characteristics obtained in collaborative trials which may have been carried out on the method together with results from other development work carried out during the course of the method development. The set of criteria that are developed will form part of the report of the endorsement by the Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling and will be inserted in the appropriate Codex ~~C~~commodity ~~S~~standard.

In addition, the Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling will identify numeric values for the criteria for which it would wish such methods to comply.

Methods of analysis and sampling of general application to foods

When the Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling itself elaborates methods of analysis and sampling which are of general application to foods, it is responsible for carrying out the steps of the Procedure.

Methods of analysis of food additives as such

Methods of analysis included in Codex ~~Advisory Food Additives~~ Specifications for Food Additives (CAC/MISC 6), for the purpose of verifying the criteria of purity and identity of the food additive, need not be referred to the Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling for endorsement. The Committee on Food Additives is responsible for carrying out the steps of the Procedure.

Methods of analysis of pesticide residues and veterinary drugs in food

The methods for determining the levels of pesticide residues and veterinary drug residues in food need not be referred to the Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling for endorsement. The Committees on Pesticide Residues and Residues of Veterinary Drugs in foods are ~~is~~ responsible for carrying out the steps of the Procedure.

Microbiological methods of analysis and sampling

When ~~Codex~~ commodity committees have included provisions on microbiological methods of analysis and sampling for the purpose of verifying hygiene provisions, they should be referred to the Committee on Food Hygiene at the most suitable time during Steps 3, 4 and 5 of the Procedure for the Elaboration of Codex Standards, which will ensure that government comments on the methods of analysis and sampling are available to the Committee on Food Hygiene. The procedure to be followed will be as in the normal practice described above, substituting the Committee on Food Hygiene for the Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling. Microbiological methods of analysis and sampling elaborated by the Committee on Food Hygiene for inclusion in Codex commodity standards for the purpose of verifying hygiene provisions need not be referred to the Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling for endorsement.

Food Import and Export Inspection and Certification Systems

General 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.

APPENDIX V

AMENDMENTS TO THE PROCEDURAL MANUAL
WORKING INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CRITERIA APPROACH IN CODEX

(This document replaces the *Working Instructions for the Implementation of the Criteria Approach in Codex* in the *Principles for the Establishment of Codex Methods of Analysis*)

Any Codex Committee may continue to propose an appropriate method of analysis for determining the chemical entity and/or develop a set of criteria to which a method used for the determination must comply. In either case the specified maximum level, minimum level, any other normative level or the concentration range of interest has to be stated.

When a Codex Committee decides that a set of criteria should be developed, in some cases the Committee may find it easier to recommend a specific method and request the Codex Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling (CCMAS) to "convert" that method into appropriate criteria. The Criteria will then be considered by the CCMAS for endorsement and will, after the endorsement, form part of the standard. If a Codex Committee wishes to develop the criteria, it should follow instructions given for the development of specific criteria as outlined in table 1.

Table 1: Guidelines for establishing numeric values for the criteria:

Applicability:	The method has to be applicable for the specified provision, specified commodity and the specified level(s) (maximum and/or minimum) (ML). The minimum applicable range of the method depends on the specified level (ML) to be assessed, and can either be expressed in terms of the reproducibility standard deviation (s_R) or in terms of LOD and LOQ.
Minimum applicable range:	For ML ≥ 0.1 mg/kg, [ML - 3 s_R , ML + 3 s_R] For ML < 0.1 mg/kg, [ML - 2 s_R , ML + 2 s_R] s_R[1] = standard deviation of reproducibility
Limit of Detection (LOD):	For ML ≥ 0.1 mg/kg, LOD ≤ ML · 1/10 For ML < 0.1 mg/kg, LOD ≤ ML · 1/5
Limit of Quantification (LOQ):	For ML ≥ 0.1 mg/kg, LOQ ≤ ML · 1/5 For ML < 0.1 mg/kg, LOQ ≤ ML · 2/5

[1] The s_R should be calculated from the Horwitz / Thompson equation. When the Horwitz / Thompson equation is not applicable (for an analytical purpose or according to a regulation) or when "converting" methods into criteria then it should be based on the s_R from an appropriate method performance study.

<table>
<tr><td>Precision:</td><td>For ML ≥ 0.1 mg/kg, HorRat value ≤ 2
For ML < 0.1 mg/kg, the RSD_{TR} < 22%.
RSD_R[2] = relative standard deviation of reproducibility</td></tr>
<tr><td>Recovery (R):</td><td>
<table>
<tr><td>Concentration</td><td>Ratio</td><td>Unit</td><td>Recovery (%)</td></tr>
<tr><td>100</td><td>1</td><td>100% (100 g/100g)</td><td>98 – 102</td></tr>
<tr><td>≥10</td><td>10^{-1}</td><td>≥ 10% (10 g/100g)</td><td>98 – 102</td></tr>
<tr><td>≥1</td><td>10^{-2}</td><td>≥ 1% (1 g/100g)</td><td>97 – 103</td></tr>
<tr><td>≥0.1</td><td>10^{-3}</td><td>≥ 0.1% (1 mg/g)</td><td>95 – 105</td></tr>
<tr><td>0.01</td><td>10^{-4}</td><td>100 mg/kg</td><td>90 – 107</td></tr>
<tr><td>0.001</td><td>10^{-5}</td><td>10 mg/kg</td><td>80 – 110</td></tr>
<tr><td>0.0001</td><td>10^{-6}</td><td>1 mg/kg</td><td>80 – 110</td></tr>
<tr><td>0.00001</td><td>10^{-7}</td><td>100 µg/kg</td><td>80 – 110</td></tr>
<tr><td>0.000001</td><td>10^{-8}</td><td>10 µg/kg</td><td>60 – 115</td></tr>
<tr><td>0.0000001</td><td>10^{-9}</td><td>1 µg/kg</td><td>40 – 120</td></tr>
</table>
Other guidelines are available for expected recovery ranges in specific areas of analysis. In cases where recoveries have been shown to be a function of the matrix other specified requirements may be applied.
</td></tr>
<tr><td>Trueness:</td><td>For the evaluation of trueness preferably certified reference material should be used.</td></tr>
</table>

The criteria in Table 1 must be approved for the determination in question.

However, the primary responsibility for supplying information about the specified Codex level(s), methods of analysis and criteria resides with the referring Committee. If the Committee fails to provide a method of analysis or criteria despite numerous requests, then the CCMAS may establish appropriate criteria as above.

[2] The RSD_R should be calculated from the Horwitz / Thompson equation. When the Horwitz / Thompson equation is not applicable (for an analytical purpose or according to a regulation) or when "converting" methods into criteria then it should be based on the $RSDs_R$ from an appropriate method performance study.

CONVERSION OF SPECIFIC METHODS OF ANALYSIS TO METHOD CRITERIA BY THE CCMAS

When a Codex Committee submits a Type II or Type III method to CCMAS for endorsement, it should also submit information on the specified Codex level(s) along with the provision to enable the CCMAS to convert it into suitable generalized analytical characteristics:

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

These terms are defined in the Analytical Terminology for Codex Use, as are other terms of importance.

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

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

ASSESSMENT OF THE ACCEPTABILITY OF THE PRECISION CHARACTERISTICS OF A METHOD OF ANALYSIS

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

APPENDIX VI

AMENDMENTS TO THE PROCEDURAL MANUAL

PROCEDURES FOR CONVERSION OF REGIONAL STANDARDS INTO WORLDWIDE STANDARDS

(for inclusion in Part 5 of the *Procedures for the Elaboration of Codex Standards and Related Texts*)

a) A request to convert a regional standard into a worldwide standard may arise immediately after adoption of the regional standard at Step 8, or some time thereafter.

b) The conversion of a regional standard into a worldwide standard may contemplate the following situations as per status of the relevant commodity committee:

(i) When the relevant commodity committee is active:

Requests for conversion of a regional standard into a worldwide standard should preferably be made by the commodity committee concerned, substantiated by a Project Document. This Project Document will be reviewed by the Executive Committee in the framework of the Critical Review Process, taking into account the programme of work of the commodity committee concerned. If the Codex Alimentarius Commission approves the proposal, taking into account the outcome of the Critical Review by the Executive Committee, the regional standard usually enters the Uniform Accelerated Procedure at Step 3, for consideration at Step 4 at the subsequent session of the commodity committee concerned.

(ii) When the relevant commodity committee is not active:

When the commodity committee concerned is not active (i.e., not holding physical sessions), the proposal for conversion of a regional standard into a worldwide standard should preferably come through the originating coordinating committee, substantiated by a Project Document; it may also come from Codex members in the form of a Project Document for consideration by the Executive Committee in the framework of the Critical Review process. If the Codex Alimentarius Commission approves the proposal, taking into account the outcome of the Critical Review by the Executive Committee, the regional standard usually enters the Uniform Accelerated Procedure at Step 3, for consideration at Step 4 by the commodity committee concerned. In this case, the Executive Committee should give consideration to how to proceed with the work either by correspondence, or by reconvening the adjourned committee. In the latter situation, the Executive Committee should recommend to the Commission the reactivation of the committee adjourned *sine die* to undertake the new work.

APPENDIX VII

LIST OF STANDARDS AND RELATED TEXTS ADOPTED BY THE THIRTY-FIRST SESSION OF THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION

Part 1 – Standards and Related Texts Adopted at Step 8

Standards and Related Texts	Reference	Status
Maximum Levels for 3-MCPD in Liquid Condiments containing Acid-Hydrolyzed Vegetable Proteins (Excluding Naturally Fermented Soy Sauce) (N08-2004)	ALINORM 08/31/41 Appendix III	Adopted
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 08/31/41 Appendix IV	Adopted
Maximum Level for Ochratoxin A in Raw Wheat, Barley and Rye	ALINORM 08/31/41 Appendix VII	Adopted
Maximum Levels for Total Aflatoxins in Almonds, Hazelnuts and Pistachios "For further processing" and "Ready-to-eat"	ALINORM 08/31/41 Appendix VIII	Adopted
Food additive provisions of the General Standard for Food Additives (GSFA) (CODEX STAN 192-1995)	ALINORM 08/31/12 Appendix VII	Adopted
Guidelines for the Use of Flavourings (N03-2006) (with the exception of Section 4)	ALINORM 08/31/12 Appendix X	Adopted
Revision of the Codex *Class Names and International Numbering Systems* (CAC/GL 36-1989) (N03-2006)	ALINORM 08/31/12 Appendix XII	Adopted
Code of Practice for Fish and Fishery Products (Live and Raw Bivalve Molluscs and relevant Definitions)	ALINORM 08/31/18 Appendix II	Adopted (see para. 35)
Standard for Raw and Live Bivalve Molluscs	ALINORM 08/31/18 Appendix III	Adopted with amendments in Spanish (see para. 36)
Standard for Tomatoes	ALINORM 08/31/35 Appendix II	Adopted
Amendment to the Guidelines for the Production, Processing, Labelling and Marketing of Organically Produced Foods: Annex 1 (inclusion of ethylene) (N10-2006)	ALINORM 08/31/22 Appendix II	Adopted
Amendment to the General Standard for the Labelling of Prepackaged Foods: Quantitative Declaration of Ingredients	ALINORM 08/31/22 Appendix IV	Adopted
Amendment to the Guidelines for Use of Nutrition and Health Claims (Definition of Advertising) (N11-2006)	ALINORM 08/31/22 Appendix V	Adopted
Model Export Certificate for Milk and Milk Products	ALINORM 08/31/11 Appendix III	Adopted
Revised Codex Standard for Foods for Special Dietary Use for Persons Intolerant to Gluten (CODEX STAN 118-1981)	ALINORM 08/31/26 Appendix III	Adopted

Standards and Related Texts	Reference	Status
Advisory Lists of Nutrient Compounds for Use in Foods for Special Dietary Uses Intended for Infants and Young Children (CAC/GL 10-1979)	ALINORM 08/31/26 Appendix IV	Adopted with amendments (see para. 51)
Maximum Residue Limits for Pesticides	ALINORM 08/31/24 Appendix II	Adopted
Maximum Residues Limits (MRLs) for Veterinary Drugs (colistin)	ALINORM 08/31/31 Appendix II	Adopted (see para. 54)

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

Standards and Related Texts	Reference	Status
Aflatoxin Sampling Plans for Aflatoxin Contamination in Ready-to-eat Treenuts and Treenuts Destined for Further Processing: Almonds, Hazelnuts and Pistachios (N07-2004)	ALINORM 08/31/41 Appendix IX	Adopted
Code of Practice for the Prevention and Reduction of Aflatoxin Contamination in Dried Figs (N10-2007)	ALINORM 08/31/41 Appendix XI	Adopted
Food additive provisions of the General Standard for Food Additives (GSFA) (CODEX STAN 192-1995)	ALINORM 08/31/12 Appendix VII	Adopted
Revision of the Food Category System of the GSFA (N11-2007)	ALINORM 08/31/12 Appendix IX	Adopted
Guidelines for the Use of Flavourings (N03-2006) (Section 4)	ALINORM 08/31/12 Appendix X	Adopted
Amendments to the International Numbering System for Food Additives (CAC/GL 36-1989)	ALINORM 08/31/12 Appendix XII	Adopted with amendments (see para. 30)
Specifications for the Identity and Purity of Food Additives arising from the 68th JECFA meeting (CAC/MISC 6)	ALINORM 08/31/12 Appendix XIII, Part 1	Adopted
Code of Hygienic Practice for Powdered Formulae for Infants and Young Children	ALINORM 08/31/13 Appendix II	Adopted with amendments (see para. 45)
Guideline for the Validation of Food Safety Control Measures	ALINORM 08/31/13 Appendix III	Adopted
Annex II on the Guidance on Microbiological Risk Management Metrics to the Principles and Guidelines for the Conduct of Microbiological Risk Management	ALINORM 08/31/13 Appendix IV	Adopted
Appendix to the *Guidelines on the Judgement of Equivalence of Sanitary Measures Associated with Food Inspection and Certification Systems* (N04-2004)	ALINORM 08/31/30 Appendix II	Adopted
Amendment to the List of Additives of the Codex *Standard for Creams and Prepared Creams* (CODEX STAN A-9-1976) (N08-2006)	ALINORM 08/31/11 Appendix V	Adopted with amendments (see para. 49)
Amendment to Sections 3.2 and 6.3.2 of the Codex *Standard for Natural Mineral Waters* (CODEX STAN 108-1981) (N12-2007)	ALINORM 08/31/20 Appendix II	Adopted

Maximum Residue Limits for Pesticides	ALINORM 08/31/24 Appendix III	Adopted with amendment (see para. 53)
Maximum Residues Limits (MRLs) for Veterinary Drugs (erythromycin)	ALINORM 08/31/31 Appendix III	Adopted
Guideline for the Conduct of Food Safety Assessment of Foods Derived from Recombinant-DNA Animals (N01-2006)	ALINORM 08/31/34 Appendix II	Adopted
Annex on Food Safety Assessment of Foods Derived from Recombinant-DNA Plants Modified for Nutritional or Health Benefits (N02-2006)	ALINORM 08/31/34 Appendix III	Adopted
Annex on Food Safety Assessment in Situations of Low-level Presence of Recombinant-DNA Plant Material in Food (N07-2007)	ALINORM 08/31/34 Appendix IV	Adopted
Recommended International Code of Practice for the Processing and Handling of Quick Frozen Foods	ALINORM 08/31/25 Appendix II	Adopted with amendments (see para. 62)

Part 3 – Other Standards and Related Texts Adopted

Standards and Related Texts	Reference	Status
Amendment to the provisions for colours of the General Standard for Food Additives (GSFA)	ALINORM 08/31/12 Appendix VII	Adopted
Methods of Analysis in Codex	ALINORM 08/31/23 Appendix III	Adopted
Maximum Levels for Annatto Extracts in Codex Standards for Milk and Milk Products, including consequential changes to the provision for beta-carotene (vegetable)	ALINORM 08/31/11 Appendix II	Adopted
Food Additive Listings of the *Standard for Fermented Milks* (CODEX STAN 243-2003)*	ALINORM 08/31/11 Appendix VI	Adopted

* As endorsed by the Committee on Food Additives

APPENDIX VIII

LIST OF DRAFT STANDARDS AND RELATED TEXTS ADOPTED AT STEP 5 BY THE THIRTY-FIRST SESSION OF THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION

Standards and Related Texts	Reference	Status
Establishment and Application of Risk Analysis Principles by the Codex Committee on Nutrition and Foods for Special Dietary Uses	ALINORM 08/31/26, para. 121 and Appendix VI	Adopted (Procedure)
Draft Amendment to the Codex Standard for Fermented Milks (CODEX STAN 243-2003), Pertaining to Drinks Based on Fermented Milk	ALINORM 08/31/11, para. 48 and Appendix IV	Adopted
Draft Guidelines on Analytical Terminology	ALINORM 08/31/23, para. 51 and Appendix V	Adopted
Draft Code of Practice for the Reduction of Acrylamide in Food (N06-2006)	ALINORM 08/31/41, para. 95 and Appendix V	Adopted
Draft Code of Practice for the Reduction of Contamination of Food with Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons (PAH) from Smoking and Direct Drying Processes (N07-2006)	ALINORM 08/31/41, para. 109 and Appendix VI	Adopted
Draft Maximum Residue Limits for Pesticides	ALINORM 08/31/24, paras 35-104 and Appendix IV	Adopted
Draft Standard for Apples	ALINORM 08/31/35, para. 88 and Appendix IV	Adopted

APPENDIX IX

LIST OF STANDARDS AND RELATED TEXTS REVOKED BY THE THIRTY-FIRST SESSION OF THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION

Standard and Related Texts	Reference	Status
Food additive provisions of the General Standard for Food Additives (GSFA)	ALINORM 08/31/12, paras 81, 95, Appendix VIII	Revoked
General Requirements for Natural Flavourings (CAC/GL 29-1985)	ALINORM 08/31/12, para. 119	Revoked
Specification for Identity and Purity of Food Additives (food additive specification for fufural)	ALINORM 08/31/12, para. 165, Appendix XIII Part 2	Revoked
Recommended International Code of Hygienic Practice for Molluscan Shellfish (CAC/RCP 18-1978)	ALINORM 08/31/18, para. 62	Revoked
Recommended International Code of Hygienic Practice for Foods for Infants and Children (CAC/RCP 21-1979)	ALINORM 08/31/13, para. 62	Revoked
Certain existing MRLs for pesticides	ALINORM 08/31/24, paras 35-104, Appendix V	Revoked with exception of MRLs for triadimefon and triadimenol on tomato and peppers, sweet. (see para.73)

APPENDIX X

LIST OF DRAFT STANDARDS AND RELATED TEXTS APPROVED AS NEW WORK BY THE THIRTY-FIRST SESSION OF THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION

Responsible Body	Standard and Related Texts	Reference	Job Code
CCRVDF	Priority List of Veterinary Drugs for Evaluation or Re-evaluation by JECFA	ALINORM 08/31/31, para. 89 and Appendix VII	Ongoing
TFAMR	Science-based Risk Assessment Guidance Regarding Food-borne Antimicrobial Resistant Microorganisms	ALINORM 08/31/42, para. 32 and Appendix III	N01-2008
TFAMR	Risk Management Guidance to Contain Food-borne Antimicrobial Resistant Microorganisms	ALINORM 08/32/42, para. 44 and Appendix IV	N02-2008
TFAMR	Guidance on Creating Risk Profiles for Antimicrobial Resistant Food-borne Microorganisms for Setting Risk Assessment and Management Priorities	ALINORM 08/30/42, para. 52 and Appendix V	N03-2008
CCFH	Commodity-Specific Annexes to the Code of Hygienic Practice for Fresh Fruits and Vegetables (CAC/RCP 53-2003)	ALINORM 08/31/13, para. 156 and Appendix V	N04-2008
CCFH	Code of Hygienic Practice for *Vibrio* Species in Seafood	ALINORM 08/31/13, para. 156 and Appendix VI	N05-2008
CCNFSDU	Revision of Nutrient Reference Values of Vitamins and Minerals in the Guidelines for Nutrition Labelling (CAC/GL 2-1985)	ALINORM 08/31/26, para. 132 and Appendix VII	N06-2008
CCFICS	Principles and Guidelines for the Conduct of Foreign on-Site Audits and Inspections	ALINORM 08/31/30, para. 64 and Appendix III	N07-2008
CCFICS	Annex to the Guidelines for Design, Production, Issuance and Use of Generic Official Certificates (CAC/GL 38-2001): Generic Model Health Certificate	ALINORM 08/31/30, para. 85 and Appendix V	N08-2008
CCMAS	Guidelines on Criteria for Methods for the Detection and Identification of Foods Derived from Biotechnology	ALINORM 08/31/23, para. 93	N09-2008
CCMAS	Revision of the Guidelines on Measurement Uncertainty (CAC/GL 54-2004)	ALINORM 08/31/23, para. 101	N10-2008
CCCF	Priority List of Contaminants and Naturally Occurring Toxicants Proposed for Evaluation by JECFA	ALINORM 08/31/41, para. 187 and Appendix XIII	Ongoing
CCCF	Maximum Levels for Total Aflatoxins in Brazil Nuts	ALINORM 08/31/41, para. 147 and Appendix X	N11-2008
CCCF	Code of Practice for the Prevention and Reduction of Ochratoxin A Contamination in Coffee	ALINORM 08/31/41, para. 167 and Appendix XII	N12-2008

Responsible Body	Standard and Related Texts	Reference	Job Code
CCPR	Priority List for Chemicals Scheduled for Evaluation and Re-evaluation by JMPR	ALINORM 08/31/24, para. 153 and Appendix X	Ongoing
CCPR	Revision of Guidelines on Estimation of Uncertainty of Results (CAC/GL 59-2006)	ALINORM 08/31/24, para. 122 and Appendix V	N13-2008
CCPR	Revision of the Risk Analysis Principles applied by the Codex Committee on Pesticide Residues	ALINORM 08/31/24, paras 129-134 and 151	Procedure
CCFA	Priority List of Food Additives proposed for Evaluation by JECFA	ALINORM 08/31/12, para. 170 and Appendix XIV	Ongoing
CCFA	Guidelines and Principles for Substances used as Processing Aids	ALINORM 08/31/12, para. 132 and Appendix XI	N14-2008
CCFL	Amendment to the Guidelines for the Production, Processing, Labelling and Marketing of Organically Produced Foods (CAC/GL 32-1999) – Rotenone	ALINORM 08/31/22, para. 74 and Appendix VIII	N15-2008
CCFL	Revision of the Guidelines on Nutrition Labelling (CAC/GL 2-1985) – Implementation of the Global Strategy for Diet, Physical Activity and Health	ALINORM 08/31/22, para. 46 and Appendix IX	N16-2008
CCFFV	Standard for Chilli Peppers	ALINORM 08/31/35, para. 106	N17-2008
CCFFV	Standard for Tree Tomato	ALINORM 08/31/35, para. 106	N18-2008
CCFFV	Revision of the Standard for Avocado (CODEX STAN 197-1995)	ALINORM 08/31/35, para. 106	N19-2008

APPENDIX XI

LIST OF WORK DISCONTINUED BY THE THIRTY-FIRST SESSION OF THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION

Responsible Body	Standard and Related Texts	Reference
CCRVDF	MRLs for flumequine in Black tiger shrimp and in shrimps	ALINORM 08/31/31, para. 34 and Appendix V
CCFH	Annex to the Code of Hygienic Practice for Egg and Egg Products: Application of Food Safety Metrics in Risk Management Decision Making – Pasteurized Liquid Whole Eggs	ALINORM 08/31/13, para. 148
CCPR	Draft Codex Maximum Residue Limits for Pesticides	ALINORM 08/31/24, paras 35-104 and Appendix VIII
CCFA	Draft and proposed draft Food Additive Provisions of the General Standard for Food Additives	ALINORM 08/31/12, paras 77 and 95 and Appendix IV
CCFL	Amendment to the Guidelines for the Production, Processing, Labelling and Marketing of Organically Produced Foods: Annex 2 – Permitted Substances: Table 3	ALINORM 08/31/22, para. 61
CCFFV	Guidelines for the Inspection and Certification of Fresh Fruits and Vegetables for Conformity to Quality Standards	ALINORM 08/31/35, para. 65

APPENDIX XII

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	*Sine die*
CX 709	Codex Committee on Fats and Oils	Malaysia	Active
CX 710	Codex Committee on Sugars	United Kingdom	*Sine die*
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	*Sine die*
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	*Sine die*
CX 728	Codex Committee on Vegetable Proteins	Canada	*Sine die*
CX 729	Codex Committee on Cereals, Pulses and Legumes	United States of America	*Sine die*
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 29th Session of the Commission		
CX 804	*Ad hoc* Codex Intergovernmental Task Force on Antimicrobial Resistance	Republic of Korea	Active

Subsidiary Bodies Established under Rule XI.1(b)(ii)

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




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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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