



# REPORT OF THE TWELFTH SESSION OF THE JOINT FAO/WHO CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION

Rome, 17–28 April 1978

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- Terms of Reference

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## **PART I**

## INTRODUCTION

1. The Twelfth Session of the Joint FAO/WHO Codex Alimentarius Commission was held at FAO Headquarters, Rome, from 17 to 28 April 1978. The session was attended by 343 participants, including the representatives and observers of 68 countries and observers from 25 international organizations (see Appendix I for list of participants).

2. The Commission was presided over by its Chairman, Prof. Dr. E. Matthey (Switzerland) and, for certain items of the agenda, by its three Vice-Chairmen : Prof. Dr. D. Eckert (Federal Republic of Germany), Mr. W.C.K. Hammer (Australia) and Dr. T. N'Doye (Senegal). The Joint Secretaries were Mr. H.J. McNally (FAO) and Dr. D.G. Chapman (WHO).

### Address by the Deputy-Director General of FAO

3. The Twelfth Session of the Joint FAO/WHO Codex Alimentarius Commission was convened by the Directors-General of FAO and WHO, and was opened, on behalf of the Directors-General, with a speech of welcome by Dr. Ralph W. Phillips, Deputy Director-General of FAO. Dr. Phillips mentioned the continued growth of interest by Member Governments in the work of the Commission, and the steadily increasing number of international standards being accepted. He referred to the fact that the FAO Conference, at its 19th Session in November 1977, had agreed that the Commission should concentrate more on the needs and concerns of the developing countries and he noted that the trend, already in evidence for several years, of the Commission turning its attention more and more to these needs and concerns was continuing.

4. Other matters highlighted by Dr. Phillips were the Commission's intended review of the direction of its work programme and also the referral by the FAO Council, at its 71st session in June 1977, of certain matters relating to the international food standards to the Commission, for its views for transmission to the Director-General of FAO.

5. Dr. Phillips concluded by expressing the appreciation of FAO and WHO to those Governments which had so generously hosted sessions of the Commission's subsidiary bodies since the last session of the Commission. The full text of the address by Dr. Phillips is contained in Appendix II to this Report.

### Reply by the Chairman of the Commission

6. The Chairman thanked Dr. Phillips for having opened the session and for his interesting remarks concerning the work of the Commission. He referred to the growing membership of the Commission, which reflected the importance of the Commission's activities. He thought it very timely that the Commission should, at this session, be reviewing the direction of its work, to see, amongst other things, how better it could respond to the needs of developing countries. The Commission was evolving and some changes in priorities to meet present needs would be a normal and proper development. The Chairman thought that it might be desirable to give greater scope to the Regional Codex Coordinating Committees in their work programmes. He

concluded by requesting the Deputy Director-General to convey to the Director-General the good wishes of the Commission, and the assurance that the remarks in the Deputy Director-General's address would be carefully noted by the Commission.

#### Tribute to Dr. M.F. Markel (USA) and Mr. H.U. Pfister (Switzerland)

7. The Chairman informed the Commission of the deaths of Dr. M.F. Markel (USA) and Mr. H.U. Pfister (Switzerland) since the last session of the Commission. He recalled their many years of association with the Codex Alimentarius Commission and the active roles which they had both played in the work of the Commission from its early days. The Commission observed a minute's silence in memory of Dr. Markel and Mr. Pfister.

#### Adoption of Agenda and Timetable

8. The Commission adopted the provisional agenda with a slight re-arrangement in the order of items.

#### Election of Officers of the Commission

9. During the session, the Commission re-elected Prof. E. Matthey (Switzerland) as Chairman of the Commission, to serve from the end of the twelfth to the end of the thirteenth session of the Commission. The Commission also re-elected Prof. Dr. D. Eckert (Federal Republic of Germany) and elected Mr. D.A. Akoh (Nigeria) and Dr. S. Al Shakir (Iraq) as Vice-Chairmen of the Commission, to serve from the end of the twelfth to the end of the thirteenth session of the Commission.

## **PART II**

### **REPORT BY THE CHAIRMAN ON THE TWENTY-THIRD AND TWENTY-FOURTH SESSIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

10. The Commission received reports concerning the 23rd and 24th Sessions of the Executive Committee held in Geneva from 12 to 15 July 1977 and in Rome on 13 and 14 April 1978, respectively. The reports of these two sessions were contained in ALINORM 78/3 (and Corrigendum: English version only) and ALINORM 78/4. In introducing and reviewing the reports, the Chairman indicated that most of the substantive items considered by the Executive Committee would be dealt with by the Commission under the agenda items relating to the matters concerned. The following matters were dealt with under this item of the agenda.

#### Draft Code of Ethics for the International Trade in Food

11. The Chairman referred to paras 37–40 of the Report of the 23rd Session of the Executive Committee (ALINORM 78/3). He informed the Commission that, in accordance with the instructions of the Executive Committee, the Draft Code had received very wide distribution. It

had been sent in July 1977 to (i) All Codex Contact Points, (ii) Participants at the 11th Session of the Commission, (iii) Participants at the 2nd Session of the Coordinating Committee for Africa, (iv) Participants at the 1st Session of the Coordinating Committee for Latin America, (v) Participants at the Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Regional Conference for Asia, (vi) Participants at the 10th Session of the Coordinating Committee for Europe, and (vii) Interested international organizations.

12. He mentioned that, in general, the basic ideas contained in the Draft Code had been given preliminary approval by the Coordinating Committees for Africa and Asia. The Code would also be considered by the Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Regional Conference for Latin America. The Code was to be developed within the framework of the Codex Committee on General Principles and would be considered by that Committee at its next session in the light of the comments of Member Governments, of the Regional Coordinating Committees for Africa and Asia and of the Food Standards Conference for Latin America.

13. As instructed by the Executive Committee, the Secretariat, in a circular letter, had drawn the particular attention of developing countries to the importance of their being represented in the discussions of a Working Party on this subject which would meet on the first two days of the next session of the Codex Committee on General Principles.

14. The Chairman concluded by informing the Commission that it was not called on, at this stage, to take any action concerning the Draft Code. The Commission took note of the above information.

#### Proposed GATT Code of Conduct for Preventing Technical Barriers to Trade

15. The Chairman referred to paras 47–50 of the Report of the 24th Session of the Executive Committee (ALINORM 78/4). The Commission took note of the communication from the GATT Secretariat summarizing the most recent developments concerning the Proposed GATT Code.

The Commission noted that the Executive Committee had requested the Secretariat to keep it informed of any further developments in this matter.

#### Provisional Agenda and Timetable for the 12th Session of the Commission

16. The Chairman informed the Commission that the Executive Committee, at its 23rd Session, had made certain recommendations concerning the order of items in the provisional agenda for the Commission's 12th Session and that these recommendations had been reflected in the agenda which had been placed before the Commission for adoption.

#### Travel Expenses of the Executive Committee

17. The Chairman referred the Commission to paras 24–32 of the Report of the 24th Session of the Executive Committee (ALINORM 78/4). The Commission endorsed the conclusion of

the Executive Committee that it would not be desirable to make any recommendation to the Commission designed to transfer to the Regular Budgets of FAO and WHO the cost of attendance by members of the Executive Committee at Executive Committee sessions.

## **PART III**

### **Membership of the Codex Alimentarius Commission**

18. The Commission had before it a list of Members of the Codex Alimentarius Commission. The membership as at 28 April 1978 is set out below. The Commission noted that since its last session two more countries had become Members of the Commission - the Republic of Chad and the Republic of Guinea - bringing the current membership to 116 countries.

### **AFRICA**

1. Algeria
2. Benin
3. Burundi
4. Cameroon
5. Central African Empire
6. Chad
7. Congo
8. Egypt
9. Ethiopia
10. Gabon
11. Gambia
12. Ghana
13. Guinea
14. Guinea Bissau
15. Ivory Coast
16. Kenya
17. Liberia
18. Libya
19. Madagascar
20. Malawi
21. Mauritius
22. Morocco
23. Nigeria
24. Senegal
25. Sudan
26. Swaziland
27. Tanzania
28. Togo
29. Tunisia

- 30. Uganda
- 31. Upper Volta
- 32. Zaire
- 33. Zambia

## ASIA

- 34. Bangladesh
- 35. Burma
- 36. Democratic Kampuchea
- 37. India
- 38. Indonesia
- 39. Iran
- 40. Iraq
- 41. Japan
- 42. Jordan
- 43. Korea, Rep. of
- 44. Kuwait
- 45. Lebanon
- 46. Malaysia
- 47. Nepal
- 48. Oman, Sultanate of
- 49. Pakistan
- 50. Philippines
- 51. Qatar
- 52. Saudi Arabia
- 53. Singapore
- 54. Sri Lanka
- 55. Syria
- 56. Thailand
- 57. United Arab Emirates
- 58. Viet-Nam
- 59. Yemen, People's Democratic Republic of

## EUROPE

- 60. Austria
- 61. Belgium
- 62. Bulgaria
- 63. Cyprus
- 64. Czechoslovakia
- 65. Denmark
- 66. Finland
- 67. France
- 68. Germany, Federal Republic of

- 69. Greece
- 70. Hungary
- 71. Iceland
- 72. Ireland
- 73. Israel
- 74. Italy
- 75. Luxembourg
- 76. Malta
- 77. Netherlands
- 78. Norway
- 79. Poland
- 80. Portugal
- 81. Romania
- 82. Spain
- 83. Sweden
- 84. Switzerland
- 85. Turkey
- 86. United Kingdom
- 87. U.S.S.R.
- 88. Yugoslavia

#### LATIN AMERICA

- 89. Argentina
- 90. Barbados
- 91. Bolivia
- 92. Brazil
- 93. Chile
- 94. Colombia
- 95. Costa Rica
- 96. Cuba
- 97. Dominican Republic
- 98. Ecuador
- 99. El Salvador
- 100. Guatemala
- 101. Guyana
- 102. Jamaica
- 103. Mexico
- 104. Nicaragua
- 105. Panama
- 106. Paraguay
- 107. Peru
- 108. Trinidad and Tobago
- 109. Uruguay
- 110. Venezuela

## NORTH AMERICA

111. Canada

112. U.S.A

## SOUTH-WEST PACIFIC

113. Australia

114. Fiji

115. New Zealand

116. Samoa

## PROGRESS REPORT ON ACCEPTANCES OF RECOMMENDED CODEX STANDARDS AND CODEX MAXIMUM LIMITS FOR PESTICIDE RESIDUES AND ON ACTION TAKEN BY MEMBER COUNTRIES CONCERNING THEIR IMPLEMENTATION

19. The Commission had before it a Summary of Acceptances of Recommended Codex Standards and Codex Maximum Limits for Pesticide Residues contained in the publication CAC/ ACCEPTANCES. The Summary contained information received up to March 1977. The Commission also had before it ALINORM 78/5, Parts I, II, III and IV containing communications from Governments and from the Council of the European Communities on progress made in the acceptance of Recommended Codex Standards since March 1977.

20. At the last session of the Commission (ALINORM 76/44, para. 40), the Secretariat had indicated that it intended to begin a "drive" on acceptances and to initiate a system and format for the regular up-dating of Government replies on acceptance of standards.

21. The Commission noted that an acceptance system for Codex standards had now been established with the help of a consultant. This included a tabulated summary system for Recommended Codex Standards and Recommended Maximum Limits for Pesticide Residues. Information on acceptances from 1970 until the cut-off date in March 1977 had been incorporated in the system. A coding system for conveying the information - particularly necessary in the case of maximum limits for pesticide residues - had also been developed. The whole system had been prepared in loose-leaf form and the publication, referenced as CAC/ACCEPTANCES, had been distributed to Member Governments in November 1977. The information would be up-dated at suitable intervals by issuing new pages giving the latest status of acceptance.

22. Document ALINORM 78/5, Part I, indicated that the European Economic Community, on the one hand, and its Member States on the other, had severally decided to accept, with certain specified deviations, a number of the Recommended International Standards for Sugars (White Sugar; Glucose Syrup; Dried Glucose Syrup; Dextrose Monohydrate; and Dextrose Anhydrous).



23. Document ALINORM 78/5, Part II contained in an Appendix a list of Recommended Codex Standards and Codex Maximum Limits for Pesticide Residues sent to Governments to-date for acceptance. The document also covered the situation with regard to further acceptances received between 18 March 1977 and 1 February 1978. Additional information had also been made available since the 11th session of the Commission, by countries which were not yet in a position to accept standards, concerning the steps they were taking to facilitate acceptance. The following countries (Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Brazil, Chad, Chile, Cyprus, Ecuador, Egypt, Fiji, Israel, Rep. of Korea, Liberia, Libya, Malawi, Mauritius, New Zealand, Nigeria, Peru, Philippines, Rwanda, Sao Tomé e Príncipe, Singapore, Surinam, Switzerland, Syria, Zambia) had given acceptances (since 18 March 1977) or additional information (since March/April 1976). The document indicated that several countries had communicated Full Acceptance and a few others had communicated acceptance according to one of the other methods of acceptance provided for. In some cases acceptance had not been given, but there had been an indication that products conforming to the standards would be permitted to circulate freely in the countries concerned.

24. Document ALINORM 78/5, Part III contained information on acceptances supplied by Canada, Costa Rica, Hungary, the Netherlands and the Philippines. Document ALINORM 78/5-Part IV contained information on acceptances given by South Africa and Switzerland.

25. During the discussion which followed the presentation of the above documents, several delegations provided the Commission with additional information on the position with regard to acceptances in their countries.

26. The delegation of the USA stated that it noted the progress reported by the Secretariat with interest and considered that the “drive” on acceptances by the Secretariat was timely and important. The delegation also stated that the USA intended to give higher priority to the consideration of the acceptance of maximum limits for pesticide residues and also to some of the commodity standards. The USA expected to be in a position in the next few months to indicate its position concerning acceptance of maximum limits for pesticide residues. In addition, some 30 of the standards covering various commodities were being examined for acceptance. The milk and milk products standards being examined were being considered for acceptance under the Codex acceptance procedure.

27. The Observer from the European Economic Community recalled that on several occasions in the past, the Community had stressed its interest in the work of the Commission. The acceptances with specified deviations, contained in ALINORM 78/5-Part I were the first acceptances by the EEC. The Observer from the EEC stated that he hoped that the EEC would be able to communicate further acceptances in the future. In this connection the EEC was considering the question of acceptance in connection with standards for Cocoa Products and Chocolate, Fruit Juices and Honey. EEC rules had been established which would make the decision process easier.

28. The delegation of Norway pointed out that in addition to the importance of acceptances for international trade, Norway placed great importance on the effect of acceptance in protecting

the consumer. The delegation indicated that Norway had been actively considering the standards and would soon be in a position to communicate acceptance of some of them.

29. The delegation of New Zealand indicated that New Zealand would soon be in a position to communicate acceptances for a number of the maximum limits for pesticide residues, up to and including the 5th series. Acceptances would, in some cases, be Full Acceptance and in other cases Limited Acceptance. With regard to commodity standards, industry was at present being consulted for their views on acceptances.

30. The delegation of Canada emphasized that the drive on acceptances was an important and necessary part of the Codex Programme. Canada planned to accept the standard for Cream Cheese under the Codex acceptance procedure and was undertaking a complete review of the standards for cheeses with a view to their acceptance under the Codex procedure. Thirteen processed fruits and vegetables standards were also being examined, but because of internal legislative problems it was anticipated that decisions on acceptance would not be communicated until late 1979.

31. The delegation of Czechoslovakia pointed out that the full value of Codex standards could not be judged by acceptances alone. Even though Czechoslovakia had not yet accepted any Codex standards, the transfer of Codex criteria to national standards was already taking place, but this was a lengthy process. The delegation stated that the work of Codex in food standardization was highly appreciated in Czechoslovakia.

32. The delegation of Senegal stated that Senegal envisaged, if possible, examining the Recommended Codex Standards in connection with the National Institute for Standardization, the African Regional Standards Organization and the Economic Community for Western Africa. The delegation added that it hoped that it would soon be possible for Senegal to take positive steps towards accepting Codex standards.

33. The delegation of Venezuela informed the Commission that in Venezuela the infrastructure had been set up for considering giving acceptance to the Codex standards. All Codex standards were at present under examination and it was hoped that in a short time it would be possible to accept some of the standards.

34. The delegation of Cuba referred to the organization in Cuba of a State Committee for Standardization which would review all Codex standards and it was expected soon to give a decision on their acceptance. The delegation of Cuba also drew attention to a typographical error in the Spanish version of document ALINORM 78/3, para. 5, 2nd sentence, where Cuba had been erroneously listed. On the basis of the English version of ALINORM 78/3, Kuwait should have been listed and not Cuba.

35. The delegation of Iraq indicated that Iraq had already established a Codex Standards Committee. The Codex standards were being studied and Iraq hoped to be able to communicate soon its position on acceptances.

36. The delegation of Argentina recalled that Argentina had been one of the first countries to indicate its position on acceptances of the first batch of Codex standards. More Codex standards were being studied in Argentina and it was hoped to inform the Commission of the results of the work in due course.

37. The delegation of Hungary referred to Hungary's written reply in ALINORM 78/5- Part II. Following the establishment of the new Hungarian Food Act, all the Codex standards were in the process of being examined and a further communication on acceptances would be forwarded to the Commission as soon as possible.

38. The Commission agreed that the information on acceptances contained in the written replies and the statements on this subject made by several delegations during the discussion on this item were encouraging signs for the future. The Commission noted with interest the progress made so far and expressed the hope that more acceptances would soon be communicated by Governments.

39. The Secretariat informed the Commission that a supplement to CAC/ACCEPTANCES would be issued shortly after the 12th Session of the Commission, incorporating further acceptances received up to the date of the supplement.

#### REPORT ON FINANCIAL SITUATION OF THE JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME FOR 1976/77 AND 1978/79

40. The Commission had before it document ALINORM 78/6, which had already been the subject of consideration by the Executive Committee at its 24th Session (ALINORM 78/4, paras 6–7). The document was introduced by the Secretariat. The Commission took note of the commentary and explanations given by the Secretariat in its presentation of the document.

41. The delegation of the USA recalled that at the 11th Session of the Commission it had drawn attention to the need for the Commission to revert to the previous schedule of approximately 18 months between sessions of the Commission. The delegation of the USA stressed this because of the importance attached to the work of the Commission throughout the world and also because of the need for the Commission to avoid any loss of momentum. The delegation of the USA was pleased to note, at the current session, that this request had been responded to by the provision for two sessions of the Commission in 1978/79. In this connection the delegation of the USA expressed its appreciation to the Director-General of FAO.

42. The delegation of the USA referred to the concern which had been expressed by the Executive Committee at the diminution over the years of professional staff in the Joint Office of the Programme (FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme Group, ESN) which now stood at 5 professional officers, against a background of expanding Codex work, more especially in the developing countries. The US delegation also referred to the hope which had been expressed by the Executive Committee that this would not result in any lessening of the

standard and quality of Codex documentation generally. The US delegation indicated that it was in complete agreement with the views of the Executive Committee on this matter.

43. The delegation of the Federal Republic of Germany also stressed the importance which it attached to the Codex Programme and the importance which it attached to the continued financial support of the Programme by FAO and WHO.

## **PART IV**

### **REPORT ON ACTIVITIES WITHIN FAO AND WHO COMPLEMENTARY TO THE WORK OF THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION**

44. The Commission had before it document ALINORM 78/7, which contained three sections: Section A - Joint FAO/WHO Activities; Section B - Report of FAO Activities; Section C - Report of WHO Activities.

45. In introductory remarks, the FAO Secretariat pointed out that ALINORM 78/7 contained an account of the work done by FAO and WHO to promote basic food control and consumer protection activities in member countries, particularly in developing countries. These FAO and WHO activities show the strong complementarity of the work of the Codex Alimentarius Commission and the work of the agencies. In this regard reference was made to the reliance of the Codex Committees on Food Additives and Pesticide Residues on evaluations produced by the Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Food Additives and the Joint FAO/WHO Meeting on Pesticide Residues, respectively. It was also noted that recommendations and requests from these two Codex Committees led to further work for the two FAO/WHO Expert Committees. Reference was also made to the use of Codex standards and codes as basic materials for revising or up-dating national food control legislation or in training activities by FAO and WHO in food control projects.

46. The FAO and WHO Secretariat mentioned various joint FAO/WHO activities outlined in Section A of the paper. The accomplishments of the Joint Expert Committee on Food Additives (JECFA) in evaluating some 130 food additives in its 20th (1976) and 21st (1977) meetings were mentioned. Mention was also made of the work recently completed in the 22nd (1978) session of the JECFA, and a report was given of the progress of the publishing of the JECFA reports and technological and specifications monographs. Similar information was also given for the Joint FAO/WHO Meeting on Pesticide Residues (JMPR) which met in 1976 and 1977. It was pointed out that FAO was currently responsible for publication of the JMPR report and monographs, and JECFA specifications for food additives, while WHO was responsible for publishing the JECFA report and food additive toxicological monographs.

47. The WHO Secretariat commented on the Second Joint FAO/WHO Expert Consultation on Microbiological Specifications for Foods, which had prepared guidelines for the establishment of microbiological criteria in certain foods. The Codex Committee on Food Hygiene will make use of the work of the Expert Consultation. Similarly, an FAO/WHO Working Group on

Slaughter Hygiene, Meat Inspection and Judgement of Meat was mentioned, which was convened in Rome in 1977 to discuss improvements of meat hygiene in areas where modern facilities are lacking. This Working Group recommended that an international code on ante- and post-mortem judgement of slaughter animals would be useful in establishing widely acceptable guidelines.

48. The continuing work of FAO, IAEA and WHO on irradiated foods was noted. A Joint FAO/IAEA/WHO Expert Committee on the Wholesomeness of Irradiated Foods met in 1976 and set safety criteria for irradiated foods and gave “unconditional acceptance” or “provisional acceptance” to a number of irradiated foods.

49. The Secretariat informed the Commission of a Joint FAO/WHO Consultation of Food Control Strategy, held in Geneva in December 1977. This Consultation reviewed all aspects of food control systems and recommended a plan of action including priorities and target dates for FAO, WHO and governments to enable strengthening of food control programmes at the national and international levels within the next few years. The Consultation recommended close collaboration between FAO and WHO in this area.

50. Information was also given on the Joint FAO/WHO Food and Animal Feed Contamination Monitoring Programme. The Commission was informed that 18 National Collaborating Centres had been designated and was informed about the type of information the Programme would be collecting in 1978.

51. The Commission was given a report on the FAO/WHO/UNEP Conference on Mycotoxins, which was held in Nairobi in 1977. The Conference recognized the serious economic and health problems caused by mycotoxins in food and animal feed and recommended a number of steps for international agencies and governments to follow to reduce post-harvest losses of food and feed and give better consumer protection from mycotoxins. The Commission was informed of a number of publications on mycotoxins, including the Conference report, which were already available from FAO and WHO, or would be completed in the near future.

52. The Secretariat also mentioned that the Second FAO/WHO Expert Consultation on Methods of Sampling and Analysis for Contaminants in Foods was held in Rome in 1978. This meeting had recommended that a focal agency such as the Association of Official Analytical Chemists (AOAC) be established to coordinate the development of collaboratively tested methods of analysis, in conjunction with other groups interested in collaborative testing of analytical methods. This mechanism, once established, should be of interest to the Commission.

53. A brief review was made of FAO and WHO publications on food hygiene, food inspection and general guidelines for development of food control services. The FAO Secretariat mentioned that an FAO manual on food analysis for use in moderately equipped laboratories was being developed with funding assistance from the Government of Sweden.

54. In a review of FAO activities, the FAO Secretariat drew attention to the list of national or regional FAO projects underway in a number of countries. These projects include assistance in strengthening food control infrastructure, food legislation, training of food inspectors, chemists, microbiologists and food control administrators; strengthening laboratory facilities, and assisting in improving control of food contaminants, as well as control of more classical food problems. As an example, it was mentioned that as a follow-up to the Mycotoxins Conference, FAO had made a survey of several francophone West African countries and was currently considering how best to assist these countries in attacking the problems revealed by the survey.

55. With regard to training in food control, the FAO Secretariat stated that this receives high priority from FAO. Various types of training were mentioned such as external short and longterm fellowships, national or regional seminars, on-the-job training by FAO experts and international training courses. A six month course on analysis of contaminants in foods is underway in India, with participants from several countries; a second course is planned from 1978 to 1979; short term courses on mycotoxins have been or will be held in Mysore, Paris and Tunisia. All of these FAO courses are supported by UNEP. FAO will also carry out a training course for food inspectors, in Arabic, in the Middle East during 1978–79.

56. Mention was made of the FAO activities in food consumption surveys which are useful in estimating intakes of various food contaminants when utilized with food contaminant monitoring data. FAO, in collaboration with WHO and UNEP, is currently preparing guidelines for the estimation of food contaminant intakes.

57. WHO, in summarizing its current related activities, made mention of its Food Safety Programme which is currently involved in preparing assessments of various chemical and microbiological environmental contaminants and called particular attention to its Health Criteria Programme. Several monographs on different environmental contaminants have been published and a number are in progress. The information presented in Part C of the paper also summarized the over-all objectives, approaches and some examples of Food Safety activities.

58. The WHO Secretariat also presented an oral report on the WHO Food Virology Programme which provides information to member governments on request and provides for training of individuals. In discussing microbiological specifications, the WHO Secretariat called attention to the criteria which have been laid down by the FAO/WHO Expert Consultations mentioned above (paras 257–262) and discussed how these might be useful to the Commission, particularly to the Codex Committee on Food Hygiene. WHO training activities in food microbiology were mentioned in both developed and developing countries. A number of related WHO activities on parasitic zoonoses, prevention surveillance and control of food-borne diseases, including diarrhoeal diseases were mentioned, including a number of WHO or FAO/WHO meetings which have been held on these topics.

59. In discussing this agenda item, a number of delegations commended FAO and WHO for their efforts in assisting member countries, particularly developing countries in strengthening

food control services. The need for a great deal of additional work was recognized, including training of food control personnel at several levels. Support was given to activities concerning environmental contaminants. One delegation called attention to the need for additional attention to problems caused by contaminated water in the Sahel area of Africa and stressed the importance of WHO action in this field.

60. A discussion was held on the need for more speed in printing reports of the Joint Expert Committee on Food Additives and the Joint Meeting on Pesticide Residues. Delegations called attention to the need for timely printing of these reports so they would be available to the respective Codex Committees using them. The delegation of the Netherlands, host country to the Codex Committees on Food Additives and Pesticide Residues, also called for WHO or joint FAO/WHO consideration of other contaminants and mentioned in particular the need for a study on the toxicity of mycotoxins appearing in milk, such as aflatoxin M<sub>1</sub>. It also commended FAO and WHO on its food contaminant monitoring and food safety work and looked forward to receiving copies of the manual on estimation of food contaminant intake.

61. The delegation of Iraq commended FAO and WHO on its food control efforts and stated that more joint FAO/WHO missions to developing countries would be useful. It also requested increased cooperation with regional centres involved in various aspects of food control problems and enquired about the role of FAO Regional Offices in this regard. The delegation urged additional support to food control laboratories and also requested the agencies to remember the training needs at the rural level.

62. The delegation of the USA mentioned its strong support of FAO and WHO's training activities and programmes to build stronger food control infrastructure in developing countries. It mentioned that food safety evaluation was an important element of this activity and was essential for certain Commission activities and urged continued or increased support to the Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Food Additives and the Joint FAO/WHO Meeting on Pesticide Residues. The delegation urged that FAO and WHO find means to increase developing countries participation in Codex commodity, labelling and other committees, but mentioned that the Commission should not give differential treatment to attain this increased participation.

63. The delegation of Nigeria stated its support of the statements of the USA and Iraq and stated that there should be more emphasis on FAO and WHO food safety support. The delegation mentioned that it was receiving strong assistance from FAO in the area of food control but that increased WHO support was also essential to enable direction of additional government resources for Ministry of Health food control programmes. The delegation mentioned the need for FAO and WHO to hold more national and regional seminars on various food control topics and to better publicize training possibilities in other regions so that African nominees could participate. The needs for food inspection training, mycotoxins programmes and improved laboratory methodology were highlighted.

64. The delegation of Brazil noted with pleasure the consensus of opinion that training and strengthening basic food control infrastructure were the primary needs. It stated that

differential or preferential treatment was often called for to assist developing countries in trade development, but agreed that basic standards for commodities had to be universal. Since these would be universal, they must have sufficient latitude to take into account unavoidable differences in pesticide residue or microbiological levels of foods from tropical or sub-tropical countries. The delegation of Iraq supported this statement.

65. The delegation of Norway called attention to the complexities of analysis for certain contaminants, such as trace metals in fish. It drew attention to the need for selection of adequately qualified candidates for training and assuring that courses were of sufficient length to suit the training need. The requirement of supply of adequate equipment and reagents in the countries of trainees must also be taken into account.

66. The delegation of France, in commenting on the paper ALINORM 78/7, felt that there was a need for additional emphasis of FAO food and nutrition activities since FAO had a paramount role to play at the international level in programmes on food production, processing, storage, distribution and quality control.

67. In response to the various points and questions raised in the discussions, the Secretariats of FAO and WHO assured the Commission that every effort would be made to speed up publication of Expert Committee reports and that this would be drawn to the attention of the highest levels in the agencies. The usefulness of Joint FAO/WHO food control missions was acknowledged and a joint FAO/WHO/Arab Standards and Metrology Organization (ASMO) mission to several Near Eastern countries was mentioned. The FAO Secretariat mentioned that FAO tries to contact all agencies involved in food control in a country when surveying food control problems or carrying out food control assistance projects and that this includes contact and briefing of the WHO Country Representatives. In addition, excellent liaison existed between FAO and WHO at the Headquarters level.

68. The FAO Secretariat pointed out that the FAO Regional Offices have Regional Nutrition Officers who are responsible for promotion of food control programmes, in addition to other nutrition activities. Training materials for food inspection, extension workers and consumers at all levels were developed to reach the rural areas with information on better food storage, pesticide usage, food preparation, etc., as well as urban population and food processors. The inclusion in technical assistance projects of support to strengthening of laboratories, including costly equipment, was mentioned.

69. In response to the call for increased FAO and WHO support in food control, the FAO Secretariat mentioned that food control systems in a number of countries were inadequate and one of the reasons was isolation of various food control functions in different ministries without adequate coordination of efforts. Guidelines had been prepared urging better coordination, so that governments would realize that food control was a developmental activity requiring control of food problems from the production stage through processing, storage and distribution up to the consumption stage. This required coordination of various ministry efforts, if maximum benefits in reduction of food losses and promotion of food quality and safety were to be expected. FAO and WHO were giving each other full support in food



control development at the national, regional or international level and at the national level supported projects to the extent necessary which the other agency was operating.

70. The Commission, in summing up, took note of the FAO and WHO activities. It recognized the increased emphasis on food control activities over the past four years, FAO's role in the production, processing, storage, distribution and quality control areas, and WHO in food safety activities. It noted the current coordination of activities between the two agencies and urged a continuation or strengthening of such coordination.

#### INFORMATION ON THE ACTIVITIES OF OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS WORKING ON THE STANDARDIZATION OF FOODS AND RELATED MATTERS

71. The Commission had before it the following documents:

ALINORM 78/31 - Part I - Progress Report on the Activities of the Arab Organization for Standardization and Metrology (ASMO) in the Field of Food Standards and Control;

ALINORM 78/31 - Part II - Food Standards Work of the Working Party on the Standardization of Perishable Produce of Economic Commission for Europe - Committee on Agricultural Problems;

ALINORM 78/31 - Part III - Progress Report on the Activities of the Council of Europe (Partial Agreement) on Health Aspects of Food and Agriculture;

ALINORM 78/31 - Part IV - Report on the Activities of Technical Committee ISO/TC 34 - Agricultural Food Products;

ALINORM 78/31 - Part V - Work of the European Economic Community;

ALINORM 78/31 - Part VI - Information Note on the activities of the CMEA Standing Commission on Food Industry in the Field of Standardization of Food Products.

72. The Commission took note of the progress made by these Organizations in the field of standardization of food and methodology and in other areas of close interest to the Commission. The representative of ASMO provided the following information to be added to page 4 of document ALINORM 78/31 - Part I:

#### Technical Committee for Processed Food Products

73. The Technical Committee for Processed Food Products held its meeting in Cairo during the period 2–5 October 1977. It discussed and edited the final text of the following five new food standards:

1. Edible sunflower seed oil
2. Halawa tehenia
3. Method of test for Tehena and Halawa Tehenia

4. Glucose syrup
5. Canned peaches

74. The representative of the Hungarian Secretariat of ISO TC 34 indicated that in addition to the activities listed in document ALINORM 78/31 - Part IV, ISO, through its sub-committees and working groups, was elaborating standards for sampling, testing, terminology, storage and transport. ISO was also active in the field of microbiology and sensory evaluation and had also drawn up standards for the 22 most important spices. As regards work on coffee, the ISO representative indicated her Organization's willingness to collaborate with the Commission, should it be decided to draw up Codex standards for this commodity.

75. The representative of the Hungarian Secretariat of ISO TC 34 referred to earlier discussions in the Commission concerning the establishment of a Codex Committee on Cereals and Cereal Products (see para. 161). She expressed the opinion that, before arriving at a final decision concerning the terms of reference and future work of that new Committee, it would be indispensable to discuss the matter with ISO, the International Organization of Cereal Chemistry (ICC) and the Commission of the European Community (CEC). Such discussions should avoid duplication by the Commission of work already carried out by the ISO Cereals and Pulses Sub-Committee with the participation of 22 countries and the cooperation of ICC and CEC.

76. The representative of the Hungarian Secretariat of ISO TC 34 indicated that in some areas a closer and enhanced cooperation between ISO and the Commission would result in a more rapid and efficient work on standardization. This in turn would result in savings in resources which could be employed in solving some of the problems facing developing countries. The representative of the Hungarian Secretariat of ISO TC 34 then invited the Commission's Secretariat to resume the exchange of views begun in Budapest in 1977 in an endeavour to reach agreement on the form cooperation between ISO and the Commission should take. The Commission reminded the representative of ISO of the agreement between ISO and the Commission that the Commission was concerned primarily with food standards, whilst ISO would concentrate on analytical methods.

## **PART V**

### **CONSIDERATION OF EXTRACT FROM THE REPORT OF THE 71<sup>st</sup> SESSION OF THE FAO COUNCIL CONCERNING FOOD STANDARDS AND VIEWS OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

77. During the course of the 51st Session of the FAO Committee on Commodity Problems certain matters were raised concerning the economic impact of the international food standards on developing countries. The substance of those discussions was reproduced in paragraphs 36 to 38 of the Report of the 71st Session of the FAO Council, the relevant section of which was before the Commission as Appendix I to document ALINORM 78/3. The Committee on Commodity Problems had been unable to reach a consensus on the matter

and had, therefore, agreed that this subject and its deliberations on it be brought to the attention of the FAO Council.

78. The discussions which took place in the FAO Council on this subject were reflected in paragraphs 39 to 42 of Appendix I to document ALINORM 78/3. The FAO Council had agreed that this matter and the various views expressed on it, as recorded in the report of the Council session and in its verbatim report, should be referred to the Codex Alimentarius Commission and its Executive Committee for consideration and for reporting to the Director-General of FAO on its views on the different proposals and points raised, so as to enable the Director-General to report to the Council at its autumn session in 1978.

79. The Executive Committee, at its 23rd Session, considered this matter. The views expressed in the Executive Committee on the different proposals and points raised during the Council discussions on this subject were set forth in paragraphs 77 to 84 of its report (ALINORM 78/3).

80. In order to assist the Commission as much as possible in its deliberations on this subject, the Secretariat, in a circular letter (CL 1977/47, December 1977) addressed to all Member Countries, had invited any country which was of the opinion that the international food standards or some of them operated or were used in the way or for the purpose mentioned in subparagraphs (a) and (b) of paragraph 40 of the Report of the Council session to furnish specific examples, with details. Two countries had replied that they had not had any experience which would enable them to furnish the Commission with examples of this kind. However, one delegation - the delegation of Ghana - did supply written views on this subject (document LIM. 6). The delegation of Senegal stated that the example quoted concerning Senegal during the FAO Council discussions had not been given by a Senegalese and that it was not appropriate for several reasons.

81. In addition to the documents mentioned above, the Commission also had before it document CL 71/PV/6, containing the verbatim record of the FAO Council's discussions on food standards.

82. Twenty-seven delegations and the observer from one international organization expressed their views on this subject. The delegation of Ghana was invited to introduce document LIM. 6. The document gave general support to the points made in paragraphs 40 (a) and (b) of the Report of the FAO Council discussions (ALINORM 78/3, Appendix I) and set forth examples from the reports of certain Codex Committees of how, in the opinion of Ghana, some Codex standards operated or were used in the way or for the purpose mentioned in paragraphs 40(a) and (b) referred to above. The examples cited concerned the recommended international maximum limit for lindane on cocoa beans, and certain matters arising from the work of or from decisions taken by the Codex Committees on Cocoa Products and Chocolate, Fats and Oils, and Food Hygiene.

83. The delegation of Ghana, during the course of its remarks on the above topics, laid particular stress on the importance, from the point of view of the development of the economy

of Ghana, of ensuring that international standards for cocoa and cocoa products were realistic in the sense of facilitating and promoting exports. In this connection, the document referred to some examples where, in the opinion of Ghana, it could be said that exports were not being promoted by some of the provisions of the standards developed by the Committee.

84. Concerning the Codex Committee on Fats and Oils, reference was made in the document to the matter of the erucic acid content of Brassica derived oils and to the health implications of this in connection with the development of international standards for rapeseed oil. Reference was also made to the circumstances which eventually led the Codex Committee on Fats and Oils to agree to develop an international standard for palm oil. The Canadian delegation stated that, on the basis of research conducted in Canada and elsewhere, low erucic acid rapeseed oil was considered to be a safe and nutritious source of fat in the Canadian diet. The delegation of India supported by the delegation of Hungary and many other delegations felt that there was a need to study whether it was only the erucic acid present in oils derived from Brassica which posed a health hazard or whether there were other ingredients present in the oils of this family which might, in conjunction with erucic acid, make it a health hazard.

85. Concerning the Codex Committee on Food Hygiene, reference was made to the code of hygienic practice being developed for peanuts, and to the view of some delegations which attended the 3rd Session of the Coordinating Committee for Africa that the draft code, as it stood, was too complex to meet the needs of developing countries. Reference was also made to the problem of aflatoxin.

86. The Secretariat drew the attention of the Commission to the fact that the figure of 1.0 mg/kg, which had been requested by Ghana as the international maximum limit for lindane on cocoa beans, had indeed been fixed at that level, and that the figure was not 0.05 ppm, as had been supposed in document LIM. 6. Concerning the remarks made about the work of the Codex Committee on Cocoa Products and Chocolate, the Secretariat mentioned that participants at sessions of Codex Committees, including the Codex Committee on Cocoa Products and Chocolate, had varying interests to defend. The provisions of international standards tended, therefore, to represent a compromise of interests, which gave varying degrees of satisfaction - but usually not complete satisfaction - to all of the parties involved in the negotiations at Codex Committee sessions. It was clear that compromise, within the limits of the aims and goals set out in the Statutes of the Commission, was, of necessity, a main feature of international food standards work.

87. As regards the matter of erucic acid in Brassica derived oils, the Secretariat pointed out that, in fact, an FAO/WHO Expert Committee had recently been convened and had, amongst other things, considered this matter. The Secretariat referred to several other aspects of this matter, including the problem of designations for the oil, indicating, *inter alia*, that the Codex Committee on Fats and Oils would be considering the views of the Expert Committee at its next session. Concerning the draft standard for palm oil, it was noted that this draft standard was being developed on the basis of data from Ghana.

88. As regards the draft code of hygienic practice for peanuts, the Secretariat indicated that whilst there was general awareness of the seriousness of the problem of aflatoxin from the point of view of health as well as from the point of view of trade, no limits had, in fact, been set for aflatoxin, as yet, within the Codex framework; the matter was still under consideration and the views of the Conference on Mycotoxins held in Nairobi in September 1977 would need to be taken into account.

89. The Secretariat concluded its commentary on document LIM. 6 by reiterating that one of the main aims of the Programme was to facilitate international trade. As had been mentioned earlier there would probably always be varying degrees of benefit and, no doubt, varying degrees of satisfaction accruing from participation in the work of the Programme. Several delegations supported the points raised by the delegation of Ghana as valid examples of negative impact of the Codex work on the economies of developing countries. The delegation of Ghana, whilst not, in any way, departing from its views as set forth in LIM. 6, indicated its appreciation of the additional commentary of the Secretariat, which it found helpful.

90. The case for the views and proposals of the Group of 77, which appear in paragraph 40 of the Report of the FAO Council's 71st Session, was put forward by the delegation of Brazil. Whilst the delegation of Brazil stressed that, in its view, the position taken by the Group of 77, both in the FAO Committee on Commodity Problems and in the FAO Council, was fundamentally correct, it also emphasized that those who supported the views of the Group of 77 also supported the basic ideals and aims of the Codex. The approach, therefore, should be one of seeing what improvements could be made in the Codex apparatus in order to meet the needs of developing countries.

91. The delegation of Brazil gave examples which, in its opinion, served to support the statements made in paragraphs 40 (a) and (b) of Appendix I to ALINORM 78/3. The delegation stated that there had been a progressive reduction in the figure for the minimum amount of cocoa solids provided for in the standard for chocolate. It also referred to the draft standard for the so-called white chocolate which was a product containing no fat-free cocoa solids. In the opinion of the Brazilian delegation, it was not in the interest of the consumer that the designation "chocolate" should be used in connection with a product containing no fat-free cocoa solids and, therefore, not having the colour normally associated with chocolate.

92. Another example cited by the delegation of Brazil related to the draft standard for sardines and, more specifically, to the labelling provisions, which, by suggesting a "sardine-type product" in relation to species other than pilchardus, made marketing of such species more difficult, even though they were traditionally known and labelled as sardines.

93. The definition of meat was another example cited by the delegation of Brazil as presenting a problem for some developing countries, from the point of view of their export trade. Also international maximum limits for pesticide residues for products produced in developing countries should be more liberal, in order to take account of the climatic conditions and associated pest control problems in different parts of the world. Concerning impurities in salt, it was necessary to draw a distinction between rock salt and marine salt.

94. The delegation of Brazil, referring to the views which had been expressed by the Group of 77 in the FAO Committee on Commodity Problems and the FAO Council, recalled that the following points had been suggested as criteria for re-examining Codex work with a view to its improvement:

- i. Consider the relevance of the standards from the point of view of the developing countries.
- ii. Determine the impact of the standards on the growth of food industries in developing countries.
- iii. Take account of the needs of emerging food industries in developing countries.
- iv. Consider the effect of the standards on the export earnings of developing countries.

In order to do these things, it had been suggested that the FAO Committee on Commodity Problems could help by playing a monitoring role. It had been equally suggested that such monitoring could be facilitated by the preparation of trade impact statements, before the draft standards were approved at Step 8.

95. A number of delegations thought it necessary to have some Committee which could look into the economic effects of Codex standards. They also favoured concise trade impact statements.

96. Referring to the disadvantages, inherent in the Codex practice, of accepting hosting facilities on a permanent basis, thus far in all cases from developed countries, the delegation of Brazil expressed the opinion that this led, in a number of cases, to negative consequences for the food industry and trade of developing countries, as well as paucity of attendance by them. The delegation of Brazil reiterated the suggestion of the Group of 77 that there should gradually be a move towards holding more of the Committee sessions at FAO or WHO Headquarters. The same delegation pointed out that this could facilitate attendance, because there would always be the possibility of representation from Permanent Missions. The above opinions were shared by a number of other delegations.

97. A number of delegations pointed out that the host-country concept was chosen because of programme and budgetary reasons. They stressed that host countries attempted to see that all issues, whether brought up by developing or developed countries, were fully considered in the development of draft standards.

98. The delegation of Brazil was in favour of a more effective role for the Regional Codex Coordinating Committees, but thought that membership should be limited to the countries of the region.

99. In conclusion, the delegation of Brazil stated that there seemed to be a consensus emerging in favour of doing more to help developing countries and to take into greater account their needs and concerns. The Brazilian delegation added that if it was pointing to certain shortcomings, it was solely because Codex work was very important, as was also the need to make it more beneficial for developing countries.

100. In support of the proposals of the Group of 77, the delegation of India stated that the Executive Committee, at its 23rd session, had not shown sensitive appreciation of the problems of the developing countries. The approach taken by the Executive Committee in calling for specific examples of Codex standards which have adversely affected the trade of the developing countries could not lead to purposeful discussions by the Commission or the FAO governing bodies. Keeping in view the atmosphere of rapid change in the developing countries, it would be beneficial if the Commission were to take cognisance of this fact and devise a suitable mechanism under which the views of the developing countries were suitably accommodated, for the benefit of all, as also to maintain the universal nature of the Commission.

101. Several delegations indicated that they were in support of the views which had been expressed by the Group of 77: some were in support of certain aspects of these views, whilst others were in support of the views which had been expressed by the Executive Committee at its 23rd session. The Commission agreed, however, that it was necessary to take into greater account the needs of the developing countries and to make Codex work more responsive to these needs.

102. The Commission did not think it would be profitable to argue the validity or merits of the detailed statements, from both sides, as they appeared in the Report of the Council, or, to argue the validity or merits of the examples given by the delegation of Brazil in support of the views of the Group of 77. The Commission, therefore, did not proceed along such lines, more especially as it was clear that a general consensus was emerging on the need for making suitable changes, in order to make Codex work more responsive to the needs and concerns of developing countries.

103. There was a general consensus in the Commission that the Commission itself was the appropriate body for dealing with any of its own problems. There was also a general consensus about the need for re-examining priorities. In this connection, the Commission noted that it would be looking at this matter under a later item of the agenda.

104. In order to respond to the wishes of developing countries on the question of the economic impact or implications which the international standards might have for them, it was proposed to the Commission that it adopt the following amendments to the Procedure for the Elaboration of Worldwide Codex Standards:

### Step 3

The proposed draft standard is sent by the Commission's Secretariat to Member States and Associate Members of FAO and/or WHO and to the international organizations concerned in order to obtain their comments on all aspects, including possible implications of the proposed draft standard for their economic interests.

### Step 5

The proposed draft standard is submitted through the Secretariat to the Commission with a view to its adoption as a draft standard. The Commission may, however, refer it to a special subsidiary body, set up under Rule IX. 1(a) of the Rules of Procedure, before adopting it as a draft standard or may entrust the special subsidiary body with the responsibility for undertaking steps 5, 7 and 8 of this Procedure or any part thereof. In taking any decision at this-step, the Commission will give due consideration to any comments that may be submitted by any of its Members regarding the implications which the proposed draft standard or any provisions thereof may have for their economic interests.

#### Step 6

The draft standard is sent by the Commission's Secretariat [ for comment ] to all Member States and Associate Members of FAO and/or WHO and to the international organizations concerned in order to obtain their comments on all aspects, including possible implications of the proposed draft standard for their economic interests.

Although a number of delegations expressed misgivings about making the proposed changes in the Elaboration Procedure at this time, the majority favoured adoption of the proposed amendments.

105. With the adoption of the amendments, those delegations which were in favour of the FAO Committee on Commodity Problems having a monitoring role - with particular reference to monitoring the impact of food standards on the export interests of developing countries - agreed, by way of compromise, not to press for such a role to be given to the Committee on Commodity Problems.

(1) Words underlined added and words in square brackets [ ] deleted.

106. The question of how best to arrange for consideration and evaluation of the responses of Governments concerning the economic impact of particular food standards was discussed. Some delegations thought a Committee within the Codex framework should be set up for this purpose. Others were opposed to the establishment of another Committee for such a purpose, and thought that use should be made of the Codex Committee on General Principles in this connection. The Commission agreed that the Codex Committee on General Principles should, at its next session, examine the adopted amendments and make recommendations to the Commission as to the most appropriate mechanism for examining economic impact statements submitted under the new procedures. To facilitate this task, the Commission requested the Secretariat to ask governments beforehand for their views on this matter.

107. The Commission concluded that the new arrangements should enable any difficulties of an economic nature that might arise from standards to be fully examined within the Commission or the appropriate Commodity Committee. In this way the Commission was providing the means, within its procedures, for the resolution of any problems of this kind, should they arise. It was noted that these measures would be communicated to the



Director-General of FAO who would be reporting to the FAO Council and Conference on the matter.

#### REVIEW OF THE DIRECTION OF THE WORK OF THE COMMISSION

108. The Commission had before it document ALINORM 78/8. The Commission also had before it the views of the Executive Committee on that document, set forth in ALINORM 78/4. The document was introduced by the Secretariat.

109. Twenty-four delegations and the observers from two international organizations expressed their views on various aspects of the document. It was the view of most delegations that the suggestions and proposals set forth in the document provided a very useful basis for the Commission's deliberations on this subject.

110. Except for the following observations, there was no dissent expressed as regards the statements in the document relating to (i) the purpose of the Commission's work, (ii) the rationale for the Commission's activities, (iii) the implementation of the aims of the Commission, and (iv) the benefits to be derived from the work of the Commission. The view was put forward that whilst the statements in the paper concerning the purpose of the Commission's work were valid, more attention needed to be given to the interests of developing countries in working to implement these aims. In this connection the point was made that, on the basis of earlier discussions on related matters (see paras 99, 102–103 of this Report), it was clear that there was a general consensus in favour of the desirability of attuning the Commission's work more to the concerns and needs of developing countries. This included, in response to a point made by several delegations, the need for making Codex work more relevant for developing countries, although it was pointed out by some delegations that steps in this direction had already been taken earlier by a number of the Commission's subsidiary bodies, and, indeed, by the Commission itself.

111. Several delegations stressed the importance of and the need for more emphasis to be placed on food control infrastructure and they thought that this should be mentioned specifically in one of the chapter headings mentioned in para. 110 above. It was noted however that, whilst the provision of technical assistance, project work, etc. in the field of food control was outside the scope of the Commission's activities, the Regional Coordinating Committees provided a forum for discussing problems in this area. In this way, a concerted approach to problems of food control infrastructure could be developed, and recommendations at the regional level could be formulated, leading, hopefully, to increased assistance in this important area, with a view to enabling developing countries to be in a better position to make use of the recommendations of the Commission.

112. The Commission agreed that the work of the Codex Committees on General Principles, Food Additives, Pesticide Residues, Food Hygiene and Food Labelling was, by its very nature, ongoing and essential to the progress of the Programme. The Commission saw no reason to recommend any change, therefore, in the work programmes of those Committees. The Commission expressed no view in regard to the Codex Committee on Methods of Analysis

and Sampling. noting that the work of this Committee would be discussed later on under a separate item of the agenda (see paras 277–290).

113. As regards the Codex Committee on General Principles, attention was drawn to the fact that the Code of Ethics for the International Trade in Food was to be developed within the framework of that Committee. In this connection an opinion was expressed that there would be advantage in not proceeding further with the draft Code until such time as the GATT Code of Conduct for Preventing Technical Barriers to Trade had been completed, which was expected to be in the Summer of this year. It was suggested that an examination of the GATT Code, when completed, would facilitate a more constructive approach as to what ought to be the contents of the Code of Ethics for the International Trade in Food. On the other hand, the point was made that whilst the GATT Code was concerned with non-tariff obstacles in general to international trade, the Draft Code of Ethics was concerned principally with the matter of international cooperation in controlling the movement of hazardous foods and with the protection of consumers - especially in countries where national food control facilities were less than adequate - against health risks in food and against commercial fraud.

114. A further comment made in connection with the work of the Codex Committee on General Principles was that the Procedure for the Elaboration of Codex Standards might be reviewed, with a view to considering whether it might not be better to ascertain from Governments whether a draft standard was generally acceptable before finalizing it. Two delegations thought that the Codex Committee on General Principles should re-examine the acceptance provisions, more especially acceptance provisions in relation to pesticide residues. Another delegation suggested that consideration be given to the use of a voting system by correspondence in the development of Codex standards.

115. Concerning the work of the Codex Committee on Pesticide Residues, the opinion was expressed that the Committee should confine its activities to the development of international maximum limits for pesticide residues and not extend them to deal with environmental contaminants, such as PCB's, dioxins, etc.

116. As regards the Codex Commodity Committees, most delegations expressed themselves as being in broad agreement with what was said about these Committees in document ALINORM 78/8. In the case of some of the Committees, the recommendation in document ALINORM 78/8 was that developing countries might wish to consider how better the Committees concerned could respond to their needs. Examples of such Committees were the Codex Committees on Fats and Oils, Fish and Fishery Products, Processed Fruits and Vegetables, and also the Joint UNECE/Codex Alimentarius Group of Experts on Standardization of Fruit Juices. It had also been suggested in ALINORM 78/8 that, for some Codex Committees which appeared to have completed their current assignments, the Commission might wish to consider adjourning them sine die; for other Codex Committees, it had been suggested in the document that the Commission might wish to consider fixing a time (number of further sessions) by which their assignments could reasonably be expected to be completed.

117. Some delegations, such as the delegations of Kenya and Canada, were in favour of winding up certain Committees, in order to reduce the number of Committees, to enable new work to be started, and to discontinue existing permanent hosting arrangements with a number of countries. This would enable others to offer to host new Committees or older Committees if it were necessary to reactivate them. Other delegations, however, considered that adjournment sine die would be more appropriate, in order to provide for the possibility of revising standards as and when necessary. The Commission agreed to consider the Secretariat's proposals regarding the Committees concerned on a Committee by Committee basis, under the relevant items of the agenda. One delegation thought that whilst the Commission might form a view about the continuance of certain Committees, it should not take a definitive decision at this stage, but rather seek the views of the affected Committees themselves and then consider these views. The delegation in question thought that the Milk Committee might possibly be an exception as it appeared to have completed its work. One delegation thought that the Milk Committee should be asked for its views before any decision was taken concerning its future activities.

118. A number of delegations made particular reference to the Milk and Milk Products Committee, noting that it was funded entirely from the budget of the Programme. These delegations were of the opinion that this Committee, which had started its work in 1958 and had now developed standards for almost all milk products of significance, should be wound up and that the funds so released be used for other Codex activities. Another delegation expressed doubt as to the need for many of the standards being elaborated by the Joint UNECE/Codex Alimentarius Groups of Experts on Standardization of Fruit Juices and Quick Frozen Foods. In this connection the delegation questioned the appropriateness of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe playing an important role in setting standards which are of importance on a world-wide basis.

119. Reference was made to what were submitted to be gaps in the programme of work of the Commission. In this connection mention was made of the need for international standards for cereal products, being the staple food of the vast proportion of the world's population (the Secretariat paper had also suggested that there was a need for the establishment of a Codex Committee to deal with these products). Other products mentioned were coffee and tea and tropical fruits. It was noted that the question of the establishment of a Codex Committee on Coffee and Coffee Products was a separate item of the agenda. One delegation stated that, in its view, there was no need, at this stage for international standards for coffee and coffee products. Another delegation expressed the view that, at present, no Committee should be established for coffee and coffee products. The same delegation expressed some reservations concerning the question of the establishment of international standards for vegetable proteins, which was also a separate item on the agenda.

120. A few delegations referred to the budget of the Food Standards Programme and pointed out that it was less than 1% of the total FAO budget. They thought that this was unsatisfactory and expressed the view that the Programme should have a higher priority in WHO and FAO. They considered that if FAO and WHO were to devote at least 1% or even 1/2% more of their

total budgets to the Programme, there would then be developing countries willing to provide host facilities for Codex Committee sessions.

121. On the question of how to achieve increased participation by developing countries in the work of the Commission, a suggestion had been put forward in ALINORM 78/8 that a Trust Fund be established for this purpose. There had been opposition to this proposal in the Executive Committee at its 24th session and a number of delegations expressed themselves as being against this proposal during the course of the Commission's deliberations on this matter. No delegation spoke in favour of the proposal.

122. In ALINORM 78/8, the Secretariat had proposed revised functions or terms of reference for the Codex Coordinating Committees for Africa, Asia and Latin America. Some delegations stated that, in principle, the functions of all Coordinating Committees should be similar and that, therefore, the proposed revised functions should be equally applicable to the Coordinating Committee for Europe. In this connection, one delegation expressed the view that there could be different approaches in different regions. The Commission, whilst it found the proposed revised terms of reference generally acceptable, agreed that they should be referred to each of the four Coordinating Committees for consideration, which should then report to the Commission on this matter at its next session.

123. Referring to the proposed revised functions set forth in paragraph 56 of ALINORM 78/8, one delegation stated that food control was outside the scope of the Programme. It was pointed out, however, that the relevant functions related to the provision of a forum for discussing regional problems relating to food control, and not to the actual provision of technical assistance or the operation of projects in this area.

124. A suggestion was made that one of the functions of the Coordinating Committees might be the consideration of acceptances of Codex standards in the region concerned.

125. The importance of facilitating greater participation by developing countries was stressed by several delegations. A few delegations thought that if funds could be found to provide for more Codex sessions in developing countries this would make for improved participation. Other delegations, however, expressed doubts about this. Referring, on the one hand, to a general trend, evident in the discussions, towards a certain shift in direction to meet the needs and concerns of the developing countries, and, on the other hand, to an expected renewed interest by developing countries in making greater use of the Codex system for their own benefit, one delegation stressed that with millions of producers and consumers throughout the world the great importance of international food standards was self-evident.

126. The suggestion was made that it would be very useful if the Secretariat were to issue a list of all Codex standards and codes of practice adopted and in the course of being developed.<sup>1</sup>

127. Concerning the work of the Regional Coordinating Committees, one delegation mentioned that regional standards could have international effects. Another delegation

expressed the need for caution in relation to the question of developing regional standards, in order to avoid proliferation of such standards. The same delegation thought that participation in the Regional Committees should be confined to the countries of the region. It was supported by another delegation on this point. On the other hand, the point was made that this could be undesirable, more especially if the Coordinating Committee was discussing standards for products of interest to countries outside the region.

128. One delegation indicated that whilst it favoured some changes to meet the needs of developing countries, it cautioned against any unduly radical and hurried changes. It emphasized that only such changes as could reasonably be expected to bring about benefits should be made.

129. The Commission noted that the Coordinating Committee for Asia had drawn attention to the usefulness of international food standards as a means of promoting exports of food products, i.e. the idea of elaborating international standards for products having international market potential. It had been suggested, therefore, in ALINORM 78/8 (para. 72) that this notion should be included in the "Criteria for the Establishment of Work Priorities and for the Establishment of Subsidiary Bodies of the Codex Alimentarius Commission", contained in the Procedural Manual of the Commission. The Commission concurred in this suggestion and agreed that a new item should be included under sub-paragraph 4 A of the criteria applicable to commodities, as follows: "International or regional market potential".

130. Concerning the section of ALINORM 78/8 dealing with the work of the Codex Committee on Food Additives, the observer from the Council of Europe drew attention to the work of his organization in the field of flavouring substances and packaging materials. This work had been carried out in close cooperation with the European Economic Community. The observer from the Council of Europe indicated the willingness of his organization to place this work at the disposal of the Members of the Commission. The Commission expressed its appreciation of this offer and noted that the activities of the Council of Europe and other international organizations would be considered under a later item of the agenda.

131. One delegation drew attention to the close links between the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) and Codex. The delegation referred to the work of ISO/TC 34 and stressed the desirability of further strengthening cooperation between Codex and ISO/TC 34.

132. In connection with a suggestion that it would be a good thing to hold more of the Codex sessions in Rome or Geneva, one delegation thought that this might not be desirable from the point of view of the need to ensure attendance by technical personnel.

<sup>1</sup> Note by the Secretariat: The Secretariat has already issued two such lists, the most recent being in November 1977. An up-to-date list will be issued after the Commission's current session.

133. The following conclusions were agreed to:

- i. In the light of the contents of document ALINORM 78/8 and the discussion thereon, the Commission notes that its activities up to now as well as those of its subsidiary bodies have been carried out in conformity with its Statutes; in accordance with an order of priorities fixed at an earlier time; and with varying degrees of benefit to Member Countries.
- ii. The Commission is conscious of the problems which exist in the developing countries in relation to the work on the development of international food standards, and declares its readiness to take into consideration, within the framework of its Statutes, the requests made by those countries as regards the future activities of the Commission.
- iii. The Commission considers that the activities of its General Subject Committees are essential for its future work. The Commission recognizes that the specific conditions in developing countries must be taken into account, whilst at the same time, not neglecting the protection of consumers everywhere against possible health risks in food.
- iv. Concerning the draft Code of Ethics for the International Trade in Food which was, from the start, intended to be of benefit to those developing countries which lacked adequate food control infrastructure and which had been elaborated in response to a Resolution of the UN Conference on Human Environment (Stockholm, June 1972), the Commission considered that work on the development of the draft Code of Ethics should not be suspended until such time as the GATT Code for the Prevention of Technical Barriers to Trade had been completed, since the completion of work on the GATT Code might take longer than was planned. The Commission agreed, therefore, that work on the draft Code of Ethics should be continued and that the draft Code should be considered at the next session of the Codex Committee on General Principles, as had been originally intended. In this connection, several delegations thought that it would be desirable for the Codex Committee on General Principles to have before it, if completed and available, the GATT Code of Conduct for Preventing Technical Barriers to Trade.
- v. As regards those Codex Commodity Committees or Joint UNECE/Codex Groups of Experts which seemed to be near to completing their work assignments, the Commission considered that adjournment sine die was preferable to disbanding them, because of the possible need for revision of standards, in order to take account of technological developments. The Commission took note of the observations of the various delegations which spoke on the subject of the future work of Commodity Committees and decided that it would consider the matter of adjournment sine die, limiting the number of future sessions, etc., on a Committee by Committee basis, under the appropriate agenda item for each Committee.
- vi. Concerning the wishes of a number of delegations from developing countries regarding, in particular, the need for the provision of training facilities in food control and related areas and strengthening of laboratory facilities, the Commission, whilst noting that these matters were outside the scope of its activities, nevertheless, was of the opinion that this was a matter which needed support and should be brought to the attention of the Directors-General of FAO and WHO.

- vii. On the subject of greater participation by developing countries in the work of the Commission and its subsidiary bodies, and specifically with reference to the suggested setting up of a Trust Fund for this purpose, the Commission concluded, in the light of the objections to this proposal which had been raised both at the Commission's session and in the Executive Committee to this form of financing, that there would be no point in pursuing the idea of a Trust Fund. On the other hand, several delegations stressed the need for increased funding for the Programme from FAO and WHO in order to assist developing countries to host Codex Committees.
- viii. As regards the proposed revised terms of reference for the Coordinating Committees for Africa, Asia and Latin America, as contained in paragraph 56 of ALINORM 78/8, the Commission found them generally acceptable, but agreed that they should be transmitted to all four Coordinating Committees for examination and reporting back to the next session of the Commission.
- ix. The Commission agreed to adopt the amendment to the justification criteria, as proposed in paragraph 72 of ALINORM 78/8, i.e. the inclusion of another criterion: "International or Regional Market Potential".
- x. Concerning the question of the establishment of a Codex Committee on Coffee and Coffee Products, it was noted that this matter would be considered later on, under a separate item of the agenda.
- xi. Concerning matters other than those mentioned above, the Commission did not come to any conclusion at this stage.

## PART VI

### COORDINATING COMMITTEE FOR AFRICA

134. The Commission had before it the Report of the Third Session of the Coordinating Committee for Africa held in Accra in September 1977 (ALINORM 78/28). The Report was introduced by the Rapporteur, Dr. Laurence Twum-Danso, who had replaced the Coordinator, Dr. Robert Oteng, as Chairman of the Third Session.

135. The Rapporteur referred to the concern expressed by delegates at the session that only 10 countries out of the 32 member countries of the region had sent representatives to the Session. This concern had resulted in the Committee drawing up a Resolution addressed to Governments of the Region (ALINORM 78/28, Appendix V) recommending them: "to give serious consideration to invitations to attend such meetings (i.e. where standards for regional products of interest to their economies are elaborated) and to study carefully the agenda documents and, particularly, to recommend to the governments of the developing nations that they ensure that their representatives do attend as many such meetings as is possible and in appointing such representatives, to ensure as far as possible that there is continuity of attendance". The Commission strongly supported the recommendations made in the Resolution.

136. The attention of the Commission was also drawn to a Resolution which had been presented by the Nigerian delegation to the Coordinating Committee Session relating to the establishment of institutes on a regional or sub-regional basis for training personnel in food control (ALINORM 78/ 28, Appendix VI). The Commission took note of this Resolution which, it thought, was well founded.

137. The Commission noted that several Governments of the Region had indicated their positions with regard to the application of the Model Food Law in their countries; in some cases the national legislation was in close agreement with the Model Food Law and in others where the development of food legislation was at an early stage, the provisions of the Model Food Law had been adopted in principle.

138. The Coordinating Committee had recognized that an adequate food control infrastructure was indispensable to the proper application of food standards and had begun to compile, as a preliminary to the planning of intra-regional cooperation, an Inventory of Food Control Facilities and Available Staff in the African Region, which would be kept up-to-date.

139. The Commission's attention was directed to the discussion which had taken place at its previous session (ALINORM 76/44, paras 425–426), in which the Commission had recommended that Regional Coordinating Committees interested in certain products should gather background information, determine priorities and submit their proposals for standards together with full documentation on the products to the Commission for consideration.

140. In the case of the African Region, the Coordinating Committee had studied two documents prepared by consultants. One of them consisted of a survey of production, consumption, trade and legislation of African countries with regard to tubers, other starchy roots and their products, indigenous cereals and their products and certain grain legumes and their products; the other one contained a more general review of products for suggested standardization. As a result, a list of commodities and products had been recommended for standardization and the responsibility for coordinating the preparation of draft standards or for further studies had been allocated to certain countries of the Region. The products concerned were:

1. Dry maize grains offered for direct human consumption;
2. Industrially processed edible maize meal;
3. Industrially processed edible maize flour;
4. Dry sorghum grains offered for direct human consumption;
5. Dry grains of legumes offered for human consumption;
6. Peanut flour industrially processed in Africa;
7. "Gari" (a West African fermented cassava meal product);
8. Cashew nuts.

141. The Rapporteur informed the Commission that Ghana had submitted to the Coordinating Committee a Proposed Draft Standard for Maize (Corn) for Human Consumption which was



now at Step 3 of the Procedure for the Elaboration of Regional Standards (see ALINORM 78/28, Appendix IV).

142. The delegation of the USA pointed out that, taking into account what the Commission had requested in paras 425–426 of the Report of the 11th Session as well as Step 1 of the Procedure for the Elaboration of Regional Codex Standards, a request that a Codex Regional Standard for Maize (Corn) be elaborated, should have been presented to the Commission before going ahead and sending the draft standard out to Governments for comments at Step 3. The delegation stressed that rules and procedures must be followed so that the delegations will be in the best position to respond on behalf of their countries and after clearance with proper authority (before the sessions begin).

143. The delegation of the USA, referring to its position as major exporter of this product, stated that the substantive point which needed to be taken into consideration was that if it was decided that a standard for maize (corn) was necessary or desirable, then such a standard should be a world-wide standard and not a regional one, because the product was traded on a world-wide basis. A further point was that whilst countries outside the region could participate as observers, they could not take part in any vote, should there be one, relating to the amendment or adoption of a regional standard. A number of delegations supported the viewpoint of the delegation of the USA, as did also the observer from the EEC.

144. Other delegations held the view that because of the importance of trade in maize throughout the region of Africa and because of the nutritional importance of maize in the African diet, the elaboration of an African Regional standard was a matter of urgency. It was also pointed out that although large quantities of maize moved in international trade, a great proportion of this was used for feed purposes, whereas in the Region of Africa maize grain was almost entirely a food product. In addition much of the maize consumed was imported - little or no maize was produced for export outside the region.

145. The Commission noted that whilst, procedurally, the Coordinating Committee should have submitted its request for the elaboration of an African Regional Standard to the Commission before proceeding with its elaboration, the position under the Rules of Procedure of the Commission was that it was possible for a majority of countries of a region to embark on a regional standard even though a large majority of the Commission might be in favour of a world-wide standard (Rule VI. 3). Reference was made to a proposal made some years ago to amend Rule VI.3 in such a way as to enable a decision on the question of whether or not a particular regional standard should be elaborated in the first instance to rest with the Commission. The proposal had failed to obtain the required two-thirds majority (Report of the Sixth Session of the Commission, 1969, ALINORM 69/67, paras 30–35).

146. The Commission noted that countries outside the region could send in their comments at Steps 3 and 6 of the Procedure and could make their views known also at Steps 5 and 8. In addition, at Step 12 of the Procedure, the regional standard could be published as a world-wide standard, if the acceptances received so warranted.

147. Recognizing that maize was of particular significance to the African region, the Commission agreed that the elaboration of an African Regional Standard for Maize (Corn) should proceed (see also paras 160–161, 496, 504–505).

#### Appointment of Coordinator for Africa

148. The Commission noted that two consecutive terms of office as Coordinator would be completed by Dr. Robert Oteng of Ghana at the end of the present session. Under the Rules of Procedure of the Commission he was, therefore, ineligible for re-appointment as Coordinator.

149. In accordance with Rule II.4(b) of the Rules of Procedure of the Commission and on the unanimous proposal of the Third Session of the Coordinating Committee for Africa, the Commission appointed Dr. T. N'Doye (Senegal) as Coordinator for Africa, to serve from the end of the Twelfth Session to the end of the Thirteenth Session of the Commission.

150. The Commission expressed its appreciation to the Government of Ghana for having hosted the Second and Third Sessions of the Coordinating Committee for Africa and for their generous hospitality. The Commission also expressed thanks to the Government of Senegal for having offered to host the Fourth Session of the Coordinating Committee in Dakar.

#### COORDINATING COMMITTEE FOR ASIA

151. The Commission had before it the Report of the First Session of the Coordinating Committee for Asia, held in New Delhi in January 1978, as contained in ALINORM 78/15. In the absence of the Coordinator for Asia the Report was introduced by Dr. D.S. Chadha (India), who highlighted specific parts of the deliberations of the Coordinating Committee.

152. The Committee had discussed in detail the task of the Coordinator. The Committee agreed that the role of the Coordinator should be operational but was informed that this could not be so on account of financial constraints. However, the Committee agreed that the role of the Coordinator should be strengthened by the establishment of closer links with the Codex Secretariat and with the Regional Offices of FAO and WHO in matters affecting the Region. The Secretariat confirmed that initial steps in this direction had been taken.

153. The Committee noted the poor attendance of delegations from member countries in the Region. It felt that one way of ensuring more active participation of the developing countries in the work of Codex in the region could be for the Commodity Committee meetings to be held in rotation in different countries in various Regions.

154. The Committee had agreed that the development of food control infrastructure in the region should have the highest priority. In the opinion of the Committee a great deal could be achieved through increased intra-regional cooperation. It therefore held the view that this objective should be given a concrete and practical form by adopting a mutual plan of action. It had strongly recommended that FAO should organize a workshop/seminar in the region to

discuss various aspects of food control infrastructure. The workshop/seminar would make recommendations for action at the national or regional level, inter alia, in the following areas: (i) training of food inspectors and analysts; (ii) development of laboratories; and (iii) transfer of technology (ALINORM 78/15, para. 92).

155. The Committee had expressed the view that the workshop/seminar would also contribute to more active participation by countries of the region in the work of the Codex Alimentarius Commission and its subsidiary bodies. The Commission noted that whilst the holding of such a workshop fell outside its terms of reference, it formed an integral element of the overall effort to strengthen food control for better implementation of Codex standards and other recommendations. The Commission therefore strongly supported the proposal for the holding of a workshop/ seminar and requested FAO and WHO to investigate the possibility of obtaining funds for this purpose from within the UN or from bilateral donor agencies.

156. In the further discussion of the Report, one delegation expressed the view that, under the present circumstances, Codex standards - which could contain provisions as yet unattainable by the emerging food processing industries in some countries - might, at times, create some problems for products traded on a bilateral or intra-regional basis. The delegation was of the opinion that countries should take into account possible economic repercussions when considering acceptance of Codex standards. They should bear in mind that for trade on a restricted basis of certain processed foods, compliance with all the provisions of Codex standards could not always be the case, and taking local circumstances into account, indeed was not always necessary.

157. The representative of ASMO confirmed the interest of his Organization in the work of the Committee and its desire to contribute actively to the efforts to improve the food control infrastructure of the region. The delegation of Japan informed the Commission that, in order further to promote the development of the food control infrastructure in the region, the possibility of making available Japanese associate experts for technical assistance would be seriously studied. The Secretariat further informed the Commission of several ongoing and planned activities in the field of food control in the region by various UN Organizations - jointly or individually. Particular efforts were made to carry out training projects locally, i.e. in the country or (sub)-region concerned using national institutions. Reference in this case was invited to the ongoing Joint FAO/UNEP Training Course for the Control of Environmental Contaminants in Food at the Central Food Technological Research Institute in Mysore, India, and the proposed FAO/WHO/ASMO Training Course in Food Inspection, in the Arabic language, to be organized at the University of Alexandria, Egypt, in early 1979.

158. With regard to the possible development of standards for certain processed fruit products and fruit juices important to the region, it was noted that the delegations of India and Malaysia had undertaken to provide the relevant Codex Commodity Committees with information on the products and where possible also with draft standards.

159. The Commission further noted the views expressed by the Coordinating Committee for Asia on a number of other issues which had been or would be considered under other items of the agenda of the present session.

#### Consideration of Development of a Standard for Wheat Flour

160. The Commission noted that the Coordinating Committee for Asia had identified wheat flour as a commodity for which a worldwide standard should be developed (ALINORM 78/15, para. 99 (ix)). A lengthy discussion ensued which also took into consideration the earlier deliberations of the Commission on the development of an African regional standard for maize. A large number of delegations, not including Japan, expressed their views on the desirability of elaborating a standard for wheat flour. Statements were further made concerning the best way to deal with the work on the elaboration of standards for such commodities. Support was given to a proposal that standards for cereals and cereal products should be worked out on a world-wide basis and in a single Committee.

161. In conclusion, and in view of the strong interest expressed in the Commission in favour of the establishment of world-wide standards for flour and other cereal products, the delegation of the USA made a tentative offer, on behalf of the Government of the USA, and subject to confirmation, to host a Codex Committee on Cereals and Cereal Products, if the Commission considered that such a Committee should be established. The Commission accepted with satisfaction the tentative offer of the USA to host such a new Codex Committee (see also paras. 496 and 504–505).

#### Appointment of Coordinator for Asia

162. The Commission noted that Dr. K.O. Leong (Malaysia), Coordinator for Asia, had informed the Coordinating Committee for Asia that, because of personal commitments, he would not be in a position to offer himself for appointment for a second term.

163. In accordance with Rule II.4(b) of the Rules of Procedure of the Commission and on the unanimous proposal of the First Session of the Coordinating Committee for Asia, the Commission appointed Dr. Arsenio M. Regala (Philippines) as Coordinator for Asia, to serve from the end of the Twelfth Session to the end of the Thirteenth Session of the Commission.

164. The Commission expressed its appreciation to the Government of India for having hosted the First Session of the Coordinating Committee for Asia and for their generous hospitality. The Commission also expressed thanks to the Government of the Philippines for having offered to host the Second Session of the Coordinating Committee for Asia in Manila.

#### COORDINATING COMMITTEE FOR LATIN AMERICA

165. The Commission noted that the First Session of the Coordinating Committee for Latin America had been held immediately prior to the Eleventh Session of the Commission and that the Committee had not met since that time, because a Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards

Regional Conference for Latin America was expected to be held before the Second Session of the Coordinating Committee.

#### Appointment of Coordinator for Latin America

166. In accordance with Rule II.4(b) of the Rules of Procedure of the Commission, the Commission appointed Dr. E. Méndez (Mexico) as Coordinator for Latin America, to serve, for a second term, from the end of the Twelfth Session to the end of the Thirteenth Session of the Commission.

#### Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Regional Conference for Latin America

167. The Commission expressed its thanks and appreciation to the Government of Mexico for having kindly agreed to provide host facilities in Mexico City in September 1978 for the Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Regional Conference for Latin America.

#### COORDINATING COMMITTEE FOR EUROPE

168. The Commission had before it the Report of the above Committee (ALINORM 78/19) and Government comments on the Draft European Regional Standard for Natural Mineral Waters, contained in ALINORM 78/36, Part 9 and Add. I and Conference Room Document LIM. 8. The Coordinator for Europe, Prof. H. Woidich (Austria), gave an account of the work accomplished by the Coordinating Committee since the last session of the Commission.

#### Draft European Regional Standard for Natural Mineral Waters at Step 8

169. The Commission noted that the above Draft Standard represented the best compromise which the Coordinating Committee could achieve. It also noted that the Draft Standard no longer contained provisions which were not acceptable to WHO and to a number of Member Countries. The Coordinator for Europe drew the Commission's attention to some minor errors in the Draft Standard and also indicated where further editorial improvements could be made.

170. The delegations of Yugoslavia, Portugal, Spain and the representative of GESEM were of the opinion that the definition of natural mineral waters as contained in the present text was not sufficiently precise to distinguish natural mineral waters from other types of water. Furthermore, sections 2.1 and 7.1.1(b) were in contradiction with each other. These delegations proposed that the latter subsection should be deleted. They were further of the opinion that the optional designation "spring water" was not appropriate to describe natural mineral waters. The delegation of the United Kingdom expressed the view that the term "spring water" did describe a natural mineral water, i.e. a product different from ordinary drinking water.

171. The delegation of Denmark, speaking on behalf of the EEC, read the following declaration by the Presidency of the Council on behalf of Member States of the European Economic Community:

“The Member States of the Community are not opposed to the passage of the standard to Step 9, but would point out to the Codex Commission that if the Standard were subsequently to be accepted, they would reserve the right to make specified deviations, possibly with the aim of amending the Standard. Such deviations or amendments will be especially concerned with transport of natural mineral water and claims concerning properties favourable to health, having regard to progress of work on this subject in the Community and in accordance with the final outcome of such work”.

172. The delegations of Denmark and Italy withdrew their proposed amendments to the Draft Standard in the light of the above declaration. The delegation of the United Kingdom, for the same reason, withdrew its proposed amendment concerning bulk transport of natural mineral waters.

173. As regards Annex I dealing with criteria for microbiological analyses at source, the Commission was informed that the English version of Annex I to the Draft Standard for Natural Mineral Waters contained some errors as it had erroneously been based on an earlier unrevised version of the EEC text but that the French and Spanish versions were correct. The Coordinator for Europe suggested that an amended version of Annex I, proposed by Switzerland in document ALINORM 78/36, Part 9, be considered for the purpose of discussion. He further suggested that the following editorial changes should be made to the Swiss text to bring it completely in line with the provisions of Section V - Hygiene. The text proposed for consideration by the Commission and the Codex Committee on Food Hygiene was as follows:

"Criteria for microbiological analyses

1. Demonstration of the absence of parasites and of pathogenic microorganisms
2. Determination of colony count indicative of faecal contamination
  - a. absence of Escherichia coli and other coliforms in a 250-ml sample examined at 44.5°C and 37°C;
  - b. absence of faecal streptococci in a 250-ml sample examined;
  - c. absence of sporulated sulphite-reducing anaerobes in a 50-ml sample examined;
  - d. absence of Pseudomonas aeruginosa in a 250-ml sample examined.
3. Determination of colony count per ml of water in agar or agar-gelatine medium
  - a. at 20°C - 22°C in 72 hours
  - b. at 37°C in 24 hours

174. The delegation of the United Kingdom pointed out that Annex I, even with the improvements as set out above, added little to what was already included in sections 5.2.1 and 5.2.2 of the Standard. There was a need to specify in greater detail the actual analytical procedures to be followed in determining the microbiological acceptability of the natural mineral water in the light of the section on hygiene. The Commission noted that that section was still pending endorsement by the Codex Committee on Food Hygiene where the

questions raised by delegations together with the text proposed by Switzerland, as amended, could be discussed.

175. The Commission noted that the section on labelling also required endorsement by the Codex Committee on Food Labelling and that the section on analysis and sampling still required elaboration. The Coordinator for Europe informed the Commission that work was in progress to select appropriate methods of analysis for inclusion in the standard. An opinion was expressed that methods were required particularly for the sections dealing with contaminants and with the various components which were subject to maximum limits.

#### Status of the Draft European Regional Standard for Natural Mineral Waters

176. The Commission decided to adopt, as a Recommended European Regional Standard, the Draft European Regional Standard for Natural Mineral Waters at Step 8 of the Procedure for the Elaboration of Regional Codex Standards. The Coordinator for Europe expressed the hope that countries not belonging to the European Region would also accept the above standard and that, as a result, the European Regional Standard would be published in the Codex Alimentarius as a worldwide standard, in conformity with Step 12 of the above Procedure. It was understood that the various sections of the standard requiring endorsement or elaboration would be considered by the appropriate Codex Committees and that the standard would not be published until such sections had been considered. Should issues arise which required consideration by the Commission, they would be referred to the 13th Session of the Commission by the Secretariat.

#### Matters arising from the Report of the Coordinating Committee for Europe

177. The Coordinator for Europe informed the Commission that out of the 16 countries which had replied, 11 had given Full Acceptance to the Regional Standard for Honey and that only one country had not been able to accept the standard. However, that country had undertaken to permit the free distribution of products conforming to the Codex Standard. He also informed the Commission that the Coordinating Committee for Europe had decided to await the reaction of Governments as regards the acceptance of the Recommended Codex Standard for Canned Fruit Cocktail before considering the possible establishment of a European Regional Standard for this product.

178. The Commission noted that the Hungarian delegation to the Coordinating Committee for Europe would distribute a second simplified questionnaire requesting information on food legislation and food inspection systems in European countries. The results of this survey would be brought to the attention of the Coordinating Committee for Europe.

179. The Commission further noted that the Coordinating Committee for Europe had concluded that a European Regional Standard should be elaborated for fermentation vinegar (especially wine vinegar) (see paras 56–65, ALINORM 78/19). It was agreed that the Coordinating Committee for Europe should commence work in this field.

180. As regards boneless meat, the Commission recalled its previous decision (see para. 205, ALINORM 76/44) that no work needed to be done on this commodity but that the Coordinating Committee for Europe could rediscuss this question in order to see whether or not there was still interest in developing a standard for boneless meat and if so, what course of action might be followed. It was noted that the Coordinating Committee, at its 10th Session, had discussed this question but had not reached a conclusion on the need or otherwise to elaborate a standard for boneless meat (see paras 56–65, ALINORM 78/19).

181. The Commission noted that the Coordinating Committee for Europe had concluded that there seemed to be a possibility of drawing up a standard for size grading of canned green peas (see paras 74–75, ALINORM 78/19) and that the Federal Republic of Germany had submitted a draft proposal for the size grading of this commodity to the Secretariat. The Commission agreed that the Coordinating Committee for Europe should consider this question.

182. The Commission was informed that the Coordinating Committee for Europe had deferred consideration of the possible elaboration of food standards for salt, pending the elaboration of specifications for food grade sodium chloride by the Codex Committee on Food Additives.

#### Appointment of Coordinator for Europe

183. On the unanimous proposal of the Coordinating Committee for Europe and in accordance with Rule II.4(b), the Commission reappointed Prof. H. Woidich (Austria) as Coordinator for Europe to serve from the end of the 12th to the end of the 15th session of the Commission.

## **PART VIII (contd.)**

### CODEX COMMITTEE ON EDIBLE ICES

404. The Commission had before it the Report of the Third Session of the Codex Committee on Edible Ices (ALINORM 78/11). Dr. G. Björkman (Sweden), Chairman of the Committee, acted as Rapporteur.

#### Consideration of Draft Standard for Edible Ices and Ice Mixes at Step 8

405. In introducing the standard, the Rapporteur pointed out that at the start of the work, the Commission had requested the Committee to consider the question of the need to elaborate one or more world-wide and/or regional standards for edible ices. This question had been solved by grouping all edible ices in six main groups - with a subdivision into 16 sub-groups - on the basis of all possible combinations of ingredients.

406. The Rapporteur reminded the Commission that edible ices as defined in the standard covered a very broad group of completely fabricated commodities. As a consequence, the list



of substances in the food additives section - even though not comprehensive - had to be rather lengthy. Furthermore, some difficulties had been encountered with regard to the naming of the various products, but the problem had been solved satisfactorily.

407. The Rapporteur informed the Commission that several section of the standard were still pending endorsement by some of the General Subject Committees. The food additives section had been considered by the Codex Committee on Food Additives. That Committee had accepted the justifications given for the various groups of additives, but had also requested justifications for the individual substances listed. Following this, a circular letter had been sent to Governments asking for the required information.

408. The Swedish Secretariat of the Committee had compiled the replies received and, based on these comments, prepared a substantially shorter list of additives than in the original document. The revised list with the comments would be circulated as part of a working paper for the next session (12th) of the Codex Committee on Food Additives, listing for a number of Codex standards those additive provisions which were pending endorsement.

409. As part of the product standard, the Committee had prepared a draft proposal for microbiological standards. This had been considered by the Joint FAO/WHO Expert Consultation on Microbiological Specifications for Foods, which had proposed instead optional Guidelines for Ice Mixes and Edible Ices. The Committee on Food Hygiene, at its last session, had agreed that for the time being the Guidelines should stand.

410. The Rapporteur also informed the Commission that the labelling section had been endorsed and drew particular attention to the fact that the name of the product had not been specifically laid down in the standard, but was left to the country in which the product was sold.

411. The methods of analysis and sampling listed in the standard had been referred to a Joint IDF/ISO/AOAC Working Group. The delegation of the United States of America provided information on the progress made by the Working Group and stated that it expected the work to be completed by the end of 1978. At the next session of the Codex Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling in 1979, the various methods could be considered for endorsement.

412. The Commission noted that the Committee had decided to adjourn sine die. In view of this, and taking into account that endorsement of a number of provisions was still outstanding, the Commission considered various options on how best to deal with the standard. One option was to adopt the standard at Step 8 at the present session. Following the endorsement of the different provisions mentioned above, the document could then be published as a Recommended International Standard. A similar procedure had been followed for the standard for Jams and Jellies. A number of delegation were not in favour of this procedure. In their opinion, the standard should first be completed before the Commission could make a decision on its status.

413. Several delegation made observations on specific provisions of the standard, in particular on the large number of food additives. In addition to calling in question certain health aspects, this was also considered by some delegation to be a hindrance to the economically important production of edible ices at the small-scale retail level.

414. The delegation of Ireland proposed an amendment to the compositional groups of the standard.

415. It was noted that the hygiene section contained two provisions (5.1 and 5.4) which did not seem to be fully aligned with each other. Moreover, one of the two provisions (5.4) did not appear in other Codex standards, namely the requirement that “all ingredients used in the preparation of the product shall conform with all the hygienic provisions of all applicable Codex Codex of Practice”. Compliance with this requirement seemed difficult.

#### Status of the Draft Standard for Edible Ices and Ice Mixes

416. The Commission decided to hold the Standard for Edible Ices and Ice Mixes at Step 8 of the Procedure. Following endorsement and, where appropriate, revision of the relevant provision by the Committees on Food Additives, Food Hygiene and Methods of Analysis and Sampling, the Secretariat would re-issue the draft standard in time for consideration by the 13th Session of the Commission. The Swedish Secretariat of the Committee undertook to act as focal point for the revision of the food additives section and report to the 12th and 13th Sessions of the Codex Committee on Food Additives.

#### Confirmation of Chairmanship

417. The Commission confirmed under Rule IX.10 that the Codex Committee on Edible Ices should continue to be under the chairmanship of the Government of Sweden. The Commission endorsed the decision of the Committee to adjourn sine die.

#### CODEX COMMITTEE ON SUGARS

418. The Commission was informed by Miss G.D. McElnea, who acted as Rapporteur, on behalf of Mr. J. Bamford, Chairman of the Codex Committee on Sugars, that the Committee had not met between the 11th and the 12th sessions of the Commission. However, work had been continued by ICUMSA and ISO on the revision of methods of analysis in Codex standards for sugars. The Rapporteur further stated that a paper on this revision would be prepared by the Secretariat in the United Kingdom in the near future and issued to Governments as soon as the results of the work of ICUMSA and ISO had been published. She reminded the Commission also of its decision taken at its 11th Session that the Secretariat should request comments at Step 6 on the Draft Standard for Fructose for consideration at the 12th Session at Step 7 and Step 8.

#### Consideration of the Draft Standard for Fructose at Step 7 and 8

419. The Commission had before it ALINORM 78/27 containing in Appendix I Government comments on the Draft Standard for Fructose at Step 6 and additional observations by the United Kingdom, and in Appendix II the Draft Standard for Fructose amended in the light of the aforementioned comments. Comments on ALINORM 78/27 had been received from Switzerland.

420. It was pointed out that some non-substantive changes had been made in the standard and that some problems appeared to exist on the range of values for specific rotation of  $-89^{\circ}$  to  $-93.5^{\circ}$ . Comments had indicated that this range should be amended to read  $-91^{\circ}$  to  $-93.5^{\circ}$  which would still allow for the presence of a reasonable proportion of glucose, in the view of some Governments.

421. The delegation of Finland was of the opinion that new developments in the technology of producing crystalline fructose resulted in a commercial product of very high quality with a specific rotation of  $-92^{\circ}$  to  $-93^{\circ}$  containing only trace amounts of glucose in the range of 0.1%. The delegation of Finland drew attention to the fact that the wider range proposed in the standard would also permit the presence of other unidentified impurities and proposed to include in the standard an enzymatic method for the determination of glucose.

422. The delegation of Switzerland confirmed the information on the technological advances in the production of fructose and suggested that the standard be held at Step 8, in order to permit the recent work done on fructose to be taken into account. Several delegations supported the view expressed by Switzerland. However, it was noted that the product was intended for use as a food and not as a pharmaceutical product. The point was made that in reaching a decision, the Committee should arrive at a balanced view, taking into account economic considerations and providing for products with a wider range in specific rotation as long as they did not present a health hazard.

423. Several delegations requested that the standard be adopted at Step 8. The delegations of Finland, Switzerland and Austria reaffirmed their view that the range of values for specific rotation should be narrowed.

#### Status of the Draft Standard for Fructose

424. The Commission adopted, as a Recommended Standard, the Draft Standard for Fructose at Step 8 of the Procedure for the Elaboration of World-Wide Codex Standards. The delegation of Finland reserved its position on this decision.

#### Confirmation of Chairmanship

425. The Commission confirmed under Rule IX.10 that the Codex Committee on Sugars should continue to be under the chairmanship of the Government of the United Kingdom. The Commission adjourned the Committee sine die.

#### CODEX COMMITTEE ON COCOA PRODUCTS AND CHOCOLATE

426. The Commission had before it the Report of the 12th Session of the Codex Committee on Cocoa Products and Chocolate (ALINORM 78/10) and Government comments on the Draft Standard for Cocoa Powders (Cocoas) and Dry Cocoa-Sugar Mixtures at Step 8 as contained in ALINORM 78/36, Part 7 and LIM. 11.

427. In introducing the Report, the Chairman of the Committee, Dr. E. Matthey, reminded the Commission that the Draft Standard for Cocoa (Cacao) Beans, Cocoa (Cacao) Nibs, Cocoa (Cacao) Mass, Cocoa Press Cake and Cocoa Dust (Cocoa Fines) for use in the Manufacture of Cocoa and Chocolate Products, which had been returned by the 10th Session of the Commission to Step 7, was being held in abeyance, until such time as the FAO Study Group on Cocoa could meet and review the Model Ordinance, on which part of the Standard was based. The Commission was informed that there were no plans for a meeting of the Study Group in the immediate future.

Consideration of the Draft Standard for Cocoa Powders (Cocoas) and Dry Cocoa-Sugar Mixtures at Step 8 of the Procedure (ALINORM 78/10, Appendix III)

428. The Commission noted that the above draft standard had been the subject of much discussion and some controversy at the 12th Session of the Committee. The main point at issue had been whether to allow a lower minimum level of 20% cocoa solids, as shown in the proposed standard at Appendix II of the Report. At a certain point, the discussion on the draft standard had been interrupted to allow a working group representing both producing and manufacturing countries to discuss and redraft the standard.

429. The version of the standard as accepted by the Committee (Appendix III) represented a compromise solution on the basis of which the minimum level of cocoa solids had been increased from 20% to 25%.

430. The delegation of Sweden was of the opinion that, for technical reasons, a lower minimum level of 20% cocoa solids was preferable in certain types of sweetened cocoa powder and in consequence wished to express a reservation on the provision for 25% in Appendix III. The delegation of Sweden also expressed a reservation on the provisions of sub-section 7.1.10 since in its opinion, this was contrary to the established use of the designation "chocolate" for certain traditional products.

431. The Commission noted that the wording in sub-section 7.1.10 represented part of the compromise solution achieved during the session, in that no product containing less than 25% cocoa solids could carry the name "chocolate". The provision had been added as a result of the concern expressed by the producing countries at the progressive erosion of the cocoa content of some products covered by the standard.

432. The Commission also noted that the observer from the European Economic Community was in favour of the advancement of the Standard, although the observer was of the opinion that the declaration of the country of origin should not be required except where its omission might mislead the consumer.

## Status of the Draft Standard for Cocoa Powders (Cocoas) and Dry Cocoa-Sugar Mixtures

433. The Commission recognized that the Draft Standard for Cocoa Powders (Cocoas) and Dry Cocoa-Sugar Mixtures, as it now stood, was an agreed compromise between producing and manufacturing countries and adopted the Standard at Step 8 of the Procedure.

## Consideration of the Amendment concerning Flavoured Chocolate proposed by the Committee to the Step 9 Standard for Chocolate (CAC/RS 87-1976)

434. The Commission considered the proposed amendment contained in ALINORM 78/29. It noted that, at its 12th session, the Codex Committee on Cocoa Products and Chocolate had considered and amended the Draft Standard for Composite and Flavoured Chocolate. With regard to the subsection dealing with flavoured chocolate, the Committee noted that there was strong support for inserting this part of the Standard in the Chocolate Standard.

435. It had, therefore, been proposed that the addition of Flavoured Chocolate could be submitted to the Commission as an amendment to the Chocolate Standard at Step 9.

436. Several delegations expressed the opinion that the proposed amendment needed careful examination and, therefore, they were not in favour of its immediate incorporation into the Chocolate Standard. The Commission noted the points of detail raised by various delegations.

437. The Commission agreed that such an amendment should follow the same procedural steps as a separate standard and that the matter should be reconsidered at the Committee level.

438. It was acknowledged that there were several outstanding matters which should come before the Committee at some future date and that at an appropriate time it would be necessary to reconvene the Committee. These matters included consideration of the Draft Standard for Cocoa (Cacao) Beans, Cocoa (Cacao) Nibs, Cocoa (Cacao) Mass, Cocoa Press Cake and Cocoa Dust (Cocoa Fines) for Use in the Manufacture of Cocoa and Chocolate Products; the Amendment for Flavoured Chocolate and the Proposed Draft Standards for Composite and Filled Chocolate, as well as for “White Chocolate” (name still to be decided). The delegations of the producing countries reiterated their disagreement with the designation “White Chocolate”.

439. The Commission decided that written observations should be requested from Governments concerning the provisions in the amendment for flavoured chocolate and that at an appropriate stage the Committee should meet to consider these and the other matters mentioned above.

## Confirmation of Chairmanship

440. The Commission confirmed under Rule IX.10 that the Codex Committee on Cocoa Products and Chocolate should continue to be under the chairmanship of the Government of Switzerland.

#### CODEX COMMITTEE ON FOODS FOR SPECIAL DIETARY USES

441. The Commission had before it the Report of the 10th Session of the Codex Committee on Foods for Special Dietary Uses (ALINORM 78/26). Dr. E. Hufnagel acted as Rapporteur on behalf of Professor Dr. R. Frank, Chairman of the Committee.

#### Further Work on Standards for Foods for Infants and Children

442. Dr. Hufnagel recalled that three standards for foods for infants and children had been adopted at Step 8 by the Commission at its 11th Session. She informed the Commission of the progress of work related to methods of analysis and sampling. A Code of Hygienic Practice for Foods for Infants and Children including microbiological specifications was being considered by the Committee on Food Hygiene (see also paras 255–256). Lists of vitamins and minerals for use in infant foods were being revised and would be finalized at the next session of the Committee.

#### Amendments to Food Additive Provisions in Standards for Foods for Infants and Children

443. A working group on food additives had considered the need for some additional additives, and matters related to levels of nitrates in canned baby foods, maximum levels for metal and metalloid contaminants and the applicability of the carry-over principle to foods for infants and children. The Committee on Food Additives had endorsed two amendments to these standards. The Commission adopted the non-substantive amendment to permit in canned baby foods the use of mono- and diglycerides at a maximum level of 0.15% on a ready-to-eat basis (section 4.2.2). The Commission further adopted the proposed amendment to the Standard for Infant formula to permit the use of sodium, potassium and calcium hydroxides as pH-adjusting agents under the conditions prescribed for sodium and potassium salts.

444. The delegations of Hungary and France agreed to submit their comments on food additives in foods for infants and children in writing to the next session of the Committee.

#### Application of the Carry-over Principle

445. The Commission noted that the Committee had examined the applicability of the carryover principle to the standards for foods for infants and children. The Commission agreed with the view of the Committee that the carry-over principle should not apply to the Standard for Infant Formula, i.e. that for the products covered by the standard only those additives should be used or be present which were included in the section on food additives in the standard. No amendment of the standard was, therefore, necessary. The Committee had decided that the carry-over principle should apply in the two other standards. However, there appeared to be no guidance as to how to express this provision in the format of the standard.

The Commission recognized that this was a problem of a general nature which would also affect other Committees. It was noted that carried-over additives, according to paragraph 4 of the principle adopted by the Commission, should be treated and regarded as an additive to the food. The Codex Committee on Food Labelling had confirmed that these substances should be labelled as additives.

446. The Commission agreed to request advice from the Codex Committee on Food Additives as to how to incorporate into the section on food additives of Codex standards provisions concerning food additives carried over in accordance with sections 3 and 4 of the principle, and to refer questions concerning the consequential labelling provisions to the Codex Committee on Food Labelling.

#### Proposed Draft Standard for Foods for Older Infants and Children

447. The Commission was informed that the Committee had considered a Proposed Draft Standard for Follow-up Milk and decided that the standard should be revised to take into account Government views on sources and minimum amount of protein and other nutrients and that it had amended the title of the standard to read "Food for Older Infants and Children". The draft, revised by Switzerland, would be discussed in the light of Government comments at the next session of the Committee. The delegation of Senegal stressed the need for weaning foods to be distributed in developing countries and welcomed the possibility to comment on the above standard. The delegate of Senegal stressed the importance for many developing countries of promoting follow-up foods for infants, inasmuch as such programmes already existed in those countries.

#### Future Work of the Committee

448. It was noted that the Committee would continue its work on a Draft Standard for Glutenfree Foods at Step 7, on a revised draft of a General Standard for the Labelling of and Claims for Prepackaged Foods for Special Dietary Uses at Step 4, and on Draft Standards for Low Carbohydrate Foods and for Foods for Use in a Diet for Diabetics. Consideration of the two latter items would be based on the deliberations of a working group coordinated by the Federal Republic of Germany, which would meet in Bonn in May 1978.

#### Confirmation of Chairmanship

449. The Commission confirmed under Rule IX.10 that the Codex Committee on Foods for Special Dietary Uses should continue to be under the chairmanship of the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany.

#### CODEX COMMITTEE ON SOUPS AND BROTHS

450. The Report of the Second Session of the Codex Committee on Soups and Broths (ALINORM 78/9) was introduced by Mr. E. Trempe on behalf of Prof. Dr. E. Matthey, Chairman

of the Committee. Comments from the Government of Poland were contained in ALINORM 78/36, Part 12.

#### Proposed Draft Standard for Bouillons and Consommés at Step 5

451. The second session of the Committee on Soups and Broths had discussed the above standard and had made only minor amendments as follows:

- a. as the standard covered both bouillons and consommés, both terms had been introduced together consistently throughout the standard, where appropriate;
- b. in the section on description, the term “protein-rich substances and their derivatives” had been amended to read: “protein-rich substances and their extracts and hydrolysates”;
- c. the section on fatty bouillons and consommés (now 3.3.4) had been editorially amended;
- d. specific names for the different types of products in accordance with the essential composition requirements had been substituted for the unsatisfactory formula to make reference in the section on the name of the food to the “country in which the food is being sold”. The new wording appeared much more appropriate, as it was in accordance with the philosophy to harmonize provisions in different countries and should be considered as a significant achievement.

452. The section on food additives had been adapted to the scope of the standard in accordance with the following criteria:

- a. they had been proved to be used in the manufacture of bouillons and consommés;
- b. they had been evaluated by the Joint Expert Committee on Food Additives (JECFA) and had been included in the Codex Advisory Lists (with the exception of cysteine);
- c. maximum levels had been set for those substances for which an ADI had been allocated.

453. Technological justification for the use of these additives had been included in Appendix III to ALINORM 78/9. Synthetic colours had been deleted. However, thickening agents needed to be permitted for organoleptic reasons. Maximum levels had been established for lead and tin, as residues of these two heavy metals were likely to be found in the product.

454. Due to timing of the sessions, the Codex Committee on Food Additives had not yet had the opportunity to examine and endorse the additive and contaminant provisions as contained in sections 4 and 5. For the same reason, the Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling had not endorsed the methods of analysis. Sampling had been based on the Codex Sampling Plan and the methods of analysis included in the standard were those established by the International Association of Bouillons and Soup Manufacturers and contained in their Manual “Analytical Methods of Analysis”. It was pointed out that these methods had been collaboratively tested.



455. The Committee had amended the hygiene and labelling provisions to take into account the advice given by the Committees on Food Hygiene and Food Labelling.

456. The Committee had not considered the amendments and changes indicated above to be of a controversial nature. The Committee had therefore recommended to the Commission that Steps 6 and 7 be omitted and the Proposed Draft Standard for Bouillons and Consommés be adopted at Step 8, it being understood that the appropriate General Subject Committees would need to endorse the sections on food additives and contaminants on the one hand, and the labelling provisions on the other.

457. The delegations of the United Kingdom, the United States of America, Canada and Australia supported the omission of Steps 6 and 7 and the adoption of the standard at Step 8. There were other delegations which did not have any objection to this course of action, but which were of the opinion that the list of food additives was excessively large and that the Committee on Food Additives should thoroughly examine these provisions. The proposal of the Chairman of the Codex Committee on Food Additives to delete in sections 4.1.5 – 4.1.8 the word “added” and to change in section 4.5.3 the words “ammonia process” in “ammonia sulphite process” was accepted. The delegation of the Federal Republic of Germany stated that they could not agree with the provisions on the nitrogen content.

#### Status of the Draft Standard for Bouillons and Consommés

458. The Commission decided to adopt the Standard for Bouillons and Consommés at Step 5, to omit Steps 6 and 7, and to hold the standard at Step 8 until the next session of the Commission in order to give Governments the opportunity to comment on it after the Codex Committee on Food Additives had examined the relevant provisions.

#### Consideration of the Need for Standards for Soups

459. The Rapporteur reported to the Commission that the Committee had decided not to commence work on standards for soups and had recommended reconsideration of the subject in about five years time (paras 48–51 of ALINORM 78/9).

#### Hydrolysed Proteins

460. The Rapporteur drew attention to the discussion on hydrolyzed proteins during the second session of the Committee. It had been pointed out that hydrolyzed proteins derived from a great number of sources of plant and animal origin were of importance in bouillons, consommés and soups as a basic ingredient. The Government of Switzerland had expressed its willingness to provide meeting facilities through the Committee on Soups and Broths to consider standards for hydrolyzed proteins from all sources. At the request of the Committee, the delegation of Switzerland had undertaken to prepare a document on work criteria information for the above standards (ALINORM 78/39). Additional information was contained in the document relating to vegetable proteins (pages 25, 26 of ALINORM 78/32).

461. The delegation of France, supported by the delegation of the Federal Republic of Germany, was of the opinion that the Committee on Soups and Broths should commence work on standards for hydrolyzed proteins. The delegation of the United Kingdom was in favour of postponing the elaboration of standards for these products, until such time as the Committee on Soups and Broths would be reconsidering the need for soup standards. The delegations of Canada and India reminded the Commission that, in their opinion, standards for hydrolyzed protein were of very low priority.

462. The delegation of the United States of America proposed that the Secretariat be requested to invite Governments, by circular letter, to comment on the need for standards for hydrolyzed proteins, so that the matter could be rediscussed by the next session of the Commission and to adjourn the Committee sine die.

463. The delegations of Switzerland and Canada supported this proposal. The delegation of Canada suggested that the Commission, in rediscussing the subject of hydrolyzed proteins, might also consider which Committee should embark on the work.

#### Confirmation of Chairmanship

464. The Commission confirmed under Rule IX. 10 that the Codex Committee on Soups and Broths should continue under the chairmanship of the Government of Switzerland. The Commission decided to adjourn the Committee sine die.

#### JOINT FAO/WHO COMMITTEE OF GOVERNMENT EXPERTS ON THE CODE OF PRINCIPLES CONCERNING MILK AND MILK PRODUCTS

465. The Report of the 18th Session of the above Committee (CX 5/70–18th Session, October 1976) was introduced by the Chairman of that Session of the Committee, Mr. F.S. Anderson (United Kingdom).

466. The Rapporteur stated that there were no specific matters referred to the Commission for consideration. He reviewed the work done by the Committee at its 18th session and also pointed out that the Committee had discussed the acceptance procedure under the Code of Principles in relation to the procedure for the acceptance of Codex Commodity Standards. In connection with acceptances, the Committee had recommended that Governments use the forms for acceptance provided by the Codex Secretariat for recommended Codex standards to transmit notifications of acceptance for standards for milk products.

467. The Chairman drew the Commission's attention to various items it had to consider (ALINORM 78/8, paras 50 and 51):

- i. The Committee's future work and the number of sessions necessary to complete its work;

- ii. The question of whether there was a need to develop international standards for imitation milks and which subsidiary body of the Commission should deal with this task in the event of the Commission deciding that this work should be embarked upon;
- iii. How best any remaining work of the Committee could be dealt with by other Codex Committees, if the number of future meetings were to be limited.

468. Many delegations expressed their appreciation for the excellent work done by the Committee. The Milk Committee had been the first to demonstrate that it was possible to reach agreement on international food standards; it had developed the procedures for the elaboration of standards and for the acceptance of these. Most delegations held the view, however, that the Committee had now virtually completed its work and that the time was near for the Committee to go into recess as it had never been the intention of the Commission to continue meetings of Committees which had finished their main tasks. A further argument presented for the adjournment of the Committee was the cost - borne wholly by the Regular Programme - of the meetings of the Committee and the wish of many members of the Commission to embark on work in certain new areas of activity.

469. It was proposed that the Committee in one or two sessions bring to an end work on important matters before it and refer unfinalized matters to other Committees. The Committee could be reactivated when this was found necessary. Some delegations pointed out that the position of the Committee in relation to the Commission differed slightly when compared to other Codex Committees. They suggested that the Committee should be given an opportunity to consider its own position, bearing in mind however, that its decisions were subject to review by the Commission.

470. It was noted that the agenda of the Committee's 19th session to be held in June 1978 had been discussed between the present and outgoing Chairman of the Committee and the Secretariat. There appeared to be a reasonable prospect that the Committee could complete its work, in particular on the General Standards for Cheese and for Processed Cheese, in one or at the very most two sessions, and that the remaining tasks could be handed over to other Codex Committees.

471. With regard to the question of whether there was a need for the development of international standards for imitation milks, several delegations from developing countries stated that, in their opinion, such work should not be undertaken at this stage. They indicated that they considered the elaboration of international standards for cereals and cereal products to be of high priority and the Commission's scarce resources should be allocated to this task.

472. The Commission, noting that the Committee would hold a meeting in June 1978, requested the Committee:

- i. to review the provisional agenda for the 19th Session in the light of the discussions recorded above;
- ii. to aim to finalize at that session the work on important items on the agenda, i.e. the general standards for Cheese and Processed Cheese; and

- iii. to make recommendations regarding the handing over to other Committees of unfinished work.

The Commission further instructed the Committee not to embark on new topics of work e.g. imitation milks. The Commission noted that the Code of Practice for Dried Milk could be further developed by the Codex Committee on Food Hygiene. Having completed its work the Committee could then adjourn sine die. In case new product developments made it necessary, the question of reconvening the Committee could be considered.

473. The Commission requested governments which had accepted standards under the Code of Principles to review their acceptance in relation to the Codex acceptance procedure.

#### CODEX COMMITTEE ON NATURAL MINERAL WATERS

474. The Commission noted that the above Committee had adjourned sine die and endorsed this decision. The Commission also noted that the Coordinating Committee for Europe would, in all probability, be handling the question on analytical and sampling procedures deemed necessary for inclusion in the European Regional Standard for Natural Mineral Waters.

#### Confirmation of Chairmanship

475. The Commission confirmed under Rule IX. 10 that the Codex Committee on Natural Mineral Waters should continue to be under the chairmanship of the Government of Switzerland.

#### CODEX COMMITTEE ON MEAT

476. The Commission confirmed under Rule IX. 10 that the Codex Committee on Meat should continue to be under the chairmanship of the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany. The Commission adjourned the Codex Committee on Meat sine die.

## **PART IX**

#### QUESTION OF THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A CODEX COMMITTEE ON COFFEE AND COFFEE PRODUCTS

477. The Commission had discussed at several sessions the feasibility of or the need to elaborate Codex standards for coffee and coffee products and had decided at its 10th session to adjourn these discussions sine die, as it had not been possible to reach agreement (ALINORM 74/44, para 339).

478. The Coordinating Committee for Africa, however, had requested the 11th Session of the Commission to reconsider the above decision, in the light of the significance of these products for a number of member countries of that Committee. The delegation of Brazil had reiterated at the time its statement, made at previous sessions, expressing their favourable attitude

towards standards for coffee and coffee products. The Commission therefore had decided that the Executive Committee should examine the question of whether or not standards for the above products should be elaborated, taking into account the information on the subject so far presented to the Commission (ALINORM 76/44, para. 181).

479. At its 23rd Session, the Executive Committee had considered document CX/EXEC 77/23/8 containing a summary of the data available on coffee and coffee products. Although there had been no attempt to reach consensus or debate the issue in detail in the Executive Committee on the question of the need for standards for coffee and coffee products, there had been agreement that the question of the establishment of a Codex Committee on Coffee and Coffee Products should be put before the Twelfth Session of the Commission as a separate agenda item.

480. The Executive Committee further had recognized that a main obstacle to the establishment of such a Committee was the absence of an offer by any member country to bear the cost of hosting the Committee. The Executive Committee had expressed the opinion that member countries and especially Governments of the producing countries, might wish to consider, in view of the data presented in CX/EXEC 77/23/8, the possibility of hosting a Committee on Coffee and Coffee Products (ALINORM 78/3, paras 33-36). In accordance with the instructions of the Executive Committee, the Secretariat had brought this matter to the attention of member countries by circular letter CL 1977/40, November 1977, to which had been attached as Annex I the document CX/EXEC 77/23/8.

481. The Commission had before it at its present session ALINORM 78/30 containing comments from governments on the question of the establishment and hosting of a Committee on Coffee and Coffee Products. Comments had been received from a number of Governments. Austria had recommended that the outcome of the work of ISO on standardization of coffee and coffee products be awaited before considering the need for Codex standards for these products. This view had been shared by the delegations of Hungary and Finland. The delegation of Yugoslavia had agreed with the establishment of a Committee and also the European Economic Community had stated that they would welcome discussions on the possibility of establishing such a Committee in view of the EEC Directive on Coffee Products.

482. A number of delegations were of the opinion that there was no need at present for standards for coffee and coffee products and that therefore a Committee on these products should not be established.

483. The delegation of Brazil stated that there was no need at present to set up a Committee on Coffee and Coffee Products. The delegation of Colombia supported this statement and drew attention to the work on standardization of coffee by many other bodies such as the International Coffee Agreement and ISO, as well as the reports of the Commission in this matter. The delegation of Colombia also stressed the purity of coffee as a commodity and recalled national legislation in defence of this commodity. The delegation of Ghana, supported by the delegation of Kenya, informed the Commission that the Third Session of the

Coordinating Committee for Africa had also briefly discussed the matter, but that priorities had changed since then. The delegation of Kenya supported the views of Brazil and Colombia for similar reasons and further stated that as far as coffee products were concerned member countries should develop their national standards for coffee products as there was little international trade in these products.

484. The Commission decided not to establish a Committee for Coffee and Coffee Products, without prejudice to further consideration of the matter at a later time.

#### CONSIDERATION OF THE NEED FOR DEVELOPING INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS FOR (i) VEGETABLE PROTEINS AND (ii) CEREALS AND CEREAL PRODUCTS

485. The Commission had before it ALINORM 78/32 prepared by a consultant and introduced by the Secretariat on his behalf.

486. The document set out to review the sources - actual and potential - of vegetable proteins, the use of such proteins in the food supply system, and the existing regulatory provisions in countries where vegetable proteins are used in and as human food. Finally the document made proposals to the Commission for its consideration on whether or not to establish a Codex Committee on Vegetable Proteins.

487. The Commission expressed its appreciation of an excellent and comprehensive document and recognized the importance of the following points:

1. Vegetable proteins intended for human food, whether in developed or developing economies had to meet definite nutritional requirements and be safe in use.
2. Vegetable proteins, to be used as food or food ingredient, had to offer economic incentives to both producer and consumer.
3. The use of vegetable proteins in improving the diets of populations at nutritional risk was of particular economic and social interest when protective foods such as milk, meat, fish, were in short supply or were beyond the economic reach of such groups.
4. In most developing countries edible fats and oils were generally in short availability and supply. Encouragement in expanding the production of oil seeds in such countries offered the additional advantage that the proteins of the press cake or the extracted oil seed meal could add to the food supply of the country. To achieve this goal it was necessary that regulatory provisions for the safe use of the vegetable proteins be prepared and promulgated.

488. Many delegations were of the opinion that any new Codex Committee entrusted with standardization of vegetable proteins should cover the entire spectrum of vegetable proteins. These included protein derived from field peas, rapeseed, mustard, sunflower seed, fava beans and proteinaceous sources such as lucerne and others which are generally described as "nonconventional proteins".

489. Several delegations informed the Commission that research and development work on non-conventional sources of protein and high protein foods was in progress in their countries.

490. It was pointed out that all plants contained protein and that the title of any new Committee should be chosen so as to make it clear that only high protein plant products should be covered. It was suggested that the use of the term “vegetable proteins” was not specific enough; a better term might be “processed high protein plant products” in which case the title of the appropriate committee could be “Committee on Processed Plant Products with High Protein Content”.

491. The question of the terms of reference for the future Committee was discussed. It was pointed out that the document under consideration had proposed an outline for the work of a Codex Committee on Plant (Vegetable) Proteins. The following terms of reference were proposed (ALINORM 78/32, pages 27 and 28): “to elaborate definitions and world-wide standards for vegetable protein products deriving from soya beans, cottonseed, groundnuts, cereals and from other vegetable sources as they come into use for human consumption, and to elaborate guidelines on utilization of such vegetable protein products in the food supply system, on nutritional requirements and safety on labelling and on other aspects as may seem appropriate”.

492. There was general agreement within the Commission on the terms of reference which were worded so as to cover the full spectrum of vegetable proteins for human consumption.

493. After a short discussion the Commission recommended that hydrolyzed proteins from whatever source should not come within the scope of products covered by the proposed Committee: they would be more appropriately discussed by the Codex Committee on Soups and Broths.

494. With regard to the work already undertaken by the Codex Committee on Processed Meat Products on the standardization of meat products containing meat extenders, the Commission agreed that the Committee should continue work in this area, but felt that it would be preferable for the Committee to await the development of guidelines for the use of vegetable proteins by the Committee on Vegetable Proteins before proceeding.

495. The Commission noted that a large number of delegation were in favour of the establishment of a Committee dealing with vegetable proteins for human consumption and then turned to the matter of which country or countries would be in a position to host such a Committee.

496. The Commission noted with appreciation that the delegation of the United States of America had offered to request its Government to give favourable consideration to the hosting of such a new Committee. In this connection, the delegation of the USA informed the Commission that it had authority to offer to host only one new Codex Committee. The delegation of India also offered to host the Codex Committee on Cereals and Cereal Products, subject to the approval of the Government of India. Further to the earlier tentative offer of the

USA to host a Codex Committee on Cereals and Cereal Products which had been accepted with satisfaction by the Commission (see para. 161), the delegation of the USA informed the Commission that it was now confirming that offer. With a firm offer applicable to a new Committee on Cereals and Cereal Products, the offer of the USA to host a new Codex Committee on Vegetable Proteins was, therefore, only tentative. The delegation of the United Kingdom stated that if the offer of the USA was not confirmed, the United Kingdom delegation would be prepared to request the United Kingdom authorities to give sympathetic consideration to the UK hosting a Committee on Vegetable Proteins.

497. The delegation of Nigeria expressed its appreciation to the Government of the USA for its generous offer with regard to vegetable proteins. It noted, however, that, the USA had already confirmed its offer to host a Committee on Cereals and Cereal Products. The delegation of Nigeria indicated that if the USA accepted the responsibility for both new Committees, this would bring the complement of Committees hosted by the USA to four. The delegation of Nigeria thought that this would perhaps be placing an unduly heavy burden on one country. The delegation of Nigeria asked the Commission to consider the following resolution:

“That the Commission

Recognizing the valuable objectives which the Codex Alimentarius Commission sets out to achieve in elaborating international standards and codes of practice for food;

Appreciating the unanimous support of the 12th Session of the Commission to make the work of the Commission more relevant to the developing country members, and

Recognizing that maximum effective use must be made of resources available to the Commission to reach this goal;

Taking note of the excellent and exhaustive work done by the Joint FAO/WHO Committee of Government Experts on the Code of Principles concerning Milk and Milk Products on relevant standards and codes of practice and the fact that no additional work should be taken up by this Committee after June 1978;

Recognizing the general consensus that the Commission should commence work on cereals and cereal products and

Noting the tentative offer of the United States of America to host a Codex Committee in this area;

Recommends the completion of the work of the Joint FAO/WHO Committee of Government Experts on the Code of Principles concerning Milk and Milk Products in its June 1978 Session, followed by its permanent adjournment to enable application of Commission resources to work on commodities of relevance to developing countries such as cereals and cereal products committee;



Urges the creation of a Codex Committee on Cereals and Cereal Products at FAO Headquarters, Rome and recommends commencement of work in this area immediately with meetings to commence not later than the first half of 1979.”

498. While appreciating the budgetary constraints under which the Commission was operating, the delegation of India and a large number of other delegations supported the Resolution of the delegation of Nigeria.

499. Opinions were expressed that fuller representation would be assured if the Committee on Cereals and Cereal Products replaced the Joint FAO/WHO Committee of Government Experts on the Code of Principles concerning Milk and Milk Products and was held in Rome, funded from Regular Programme sources.

500. The Commission noted, however, that the Milk Products Committee had not yet finished its work (see paras 465-473) and that no absolute guarantee could be given that the Milk Committee would be able to adjourn at its next session. The point was made that since the establishment of a Committee on Cereals and Cereal Products was acknowledged to be a matter of some urgency, it would be advisable in the circumstances to accept the offer of a Host Government.

501. One delegation pointed out that the Milk Products Committee had existed before the establishment of the Commission and the funding arrangements for that Committee were, for historical reasons, different from the arrangements governing the other Codex Committees. In its opinion, as a matter of principle, the Commission should adhere to the well-tried principle of locating Committees in host countries, as this system had been successful and had imposed a relatively small burden on the FAO/WHO budget.

502. The Observer from ISO informed the Commission that its Technical Committee 34 SubCommittee 4, the Secretariat of which was in Hungary, collaborated with such organizations as the International Association of Cereal Chemists (ICC) in elaborating specifications for cereals and legumes. Work on specifications for rice had already begun and ISO was willing to consider standardization of other cereal products.

503. The Commission noted the valuable work of ISO in harmonizing work with other international organizations on the standardization of methods of analysis and recognized that, as in the past, collaboration with ISO in the matter of methodology appropriate to Codex Standards was essential. Reference was also made to the agreement reached some years ago concerning the nature of the cooperation between ISO and the Commission.

#### Establishment of Codex Committee on Cereals and Cereal Products

504. After further discussion the Commission decided to establish under Rule IX.1(b)(1) a Codex Committee on Cereals and Cereal Products to be hosted by the Government of the United States of America.

505. The Commission approved the following terms of reference for the Committee:

“To elaborate world-wide standards and/or codes of practice, as may be appropriate, for cereals and cereal products” it being understood that the Committee would examine its terms of reference at its first session.

506. The Observer from the Commission of the European Communities stated that the EC Commission did not support at the present time the need to elaborate standards for cereals because it was not convinced that adequate technical reasons had been given to the Commission and because an international agreement on cereals was under discussion in another international organization associated with the United Nations.

#### Establishment of Codex Committee on Vegetable Proteins

507. As regards the question of the establishment of a Codex Committee on Vegetable Proteins, the Commission accepted that there was a need for such a committee and established it under Rule IX.1(b)(1). The establishment of the Committee was on the understanding that the USA would indicate to the Secretariat in due course whether it was in a position to confirm its tentative offer to host the Committee, failing which the United Kingdom would indicate whether it would be prepared to become host country.

#### A. CONSIDERATION OF QUESTIONS RAISED BY DENMARK CONCERNING THE MEANING OF THE PHRASE 'NAME AND DESCRIPTION LAID DOWN IN THE STANDARD' APPEARING IN THE TEXT OF FULL ACCEPTANCE UNDER THE GENERAL PRINCIPLES OF THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS

#### B. CONSIDERATION, FROM THE POINT OF VIEW OF THE NEED TO ENSURE ADEQUATE CONSUMER PROTECTION, FAIR PRACTICES IN THE FOOD TRADE AND THE FACILITATION OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE, OF THE PROBLEM POSED BY PRODUCTS NOT COVERED BY RECOMMENDED CODEX STANDARDS BUT SUFFICIENTLY SIMILAR TO THE PRODUCTS COVERED BY THE STANDARDS TO PRESENT POSSIBLE DIFFICULTIES OF IDENTIFICATION AND LABELLING AND, CONSEQUENTLY TRADE

508. The Commission had before it document ALINORM 78/33 which had been prepared by a consultant. The Secretariat introduced the document and indicated that in its preparation the consultant had had discussions with members of the Codex Secretariat, the Legal Offices of FAO and WHO, and all the appropriate officials in Denmark. The Secretariat briefly outlined the nature of the matters covered in the document.

509. The Commission agreed with the recommendation which had been endorsed by the Executive Committee at its 24th session, that, in view of the complexity of some of the matters dealt with in the paper, the Codex Committee on General Principles would be the appropriate body to consider the paper. The Commission agreed that the Secretariat should request

Government comments on the paper, in order to facilitate its consideration by the Codex Committee on General Principles at its next session.

## **PART X**

### **PROVISIONAL TIMETABLE OF CODEX MEETINGS FOR 1978/79**

510. The Commission took note of the provisional list of Codex sessions in the 1978/79 biennium which had been drawn up by the Secretariat (ALINORM 78/34). The delegation of Canada informed the Commission that, for reasons indicated during the consideration of the Report of the Codex Committee on Food Labelling, Canada wished that the next session of the Food Labelling Committee be postponed from October 1978 to June 1979 and suggested that it might follow the 16th Session of the Codex Committee on Food Hygiene. The 14th Session of the Food Labelling Committee - which would deal with endorsements only - would be held immediately before the 13th Session of the Commission.

511. The Commission was informed that the Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Regional Conference for Latin America would be held in Mexico City from 5 to 11 September 1978.

512. On the proposal presented by the delegation of Brazil in the name of producing countries, the Commission agreed that the Committee on Cocoa Products and Chocolate could meet in 1979. The delegation of Switzerland agreed to host the Cocoa Products and Chocolate Committee in 1979 in place of a scheduled session of the Codex Committee on Soups and Broths which would not be meeting in 1979.

513. The Commission noted that the 11th Session of the Codex Committee on Pesticide Residues had been fixed for the period 11–18 June 1979 and that the 25th Session of the Executive Committee had been fixed for the period 10–13 July 1979.

514. The Commission further noted that firm bookings had been made for the 26th Session of the Executive Committee and the 13th Session of the Commission - 29/30 November 1979 and 3/14 December 1979, respectively, which would be held in Rome.

515. The Commission noted that, as indicated during the consideration of the Reports of the Coordinating Committees for Africa and Asia, the next sessions of these two Committees would be held in Dakar and Manila, respectively, the precise dates to be determined between the authorities concerned and the Secretariat. The Coordinator for Asia suggested that the proposed seminar be held just preceding the session of the Coordinating Committee for Asia.

516. The Commission was also informed that the 13th Session of the Fish and Fishery Products Committee would be held from 7 to 12 May 1979.

517. In reply to a question concerning the date of the next session of the Codex Committee on Meat Hygiene, the delegation of New Zealand indicated that the timing of the session would

depend on the completion of the necessary preliminary work and that it would be necessary to have discussions on this matter with the Secretariat, but that in any event a meeting was unlikely before mid 1979.

518. The delegation of the United States of America expressed the wish that the First Session of the Codex Committee on Cereals and Cereal Products be held in 1979.

519. The Secretariat explained that it was the policy of the Governing Bodies to keep the number of statutory bodies to a minimum and to reduce the number of meetings. Furthermore an unscheduled session could be held only if a corresponding approved session was cancelled. The sessions listed in ALINORM 78/34 were the approved scheduled sessions. One session had been added (Cocoa Products and Chocolate) and compensated for by the deletion of another (Soups and Broths). It would be contrary to the policy laid down to have a session of either the Codex Committee on Meat Hygiene or the Codex Committee on Cereals and Cereal Products in the current 1978/79 biennium, apart from the fact that given existing resources it would be difficult to service the additional sessions.

520. The delegation of the United States of America expressed the view, which it wished to have recorded in the Report, that it was important that delegates to the Commission emphasize to their delegations to sessions of the FAO Conference and Council the necessity to stress the importance of Codex work at those sessions and endeavour to have all necessary Codex sessions approved to enable the Commission to carry out its work properly.

#### OTHER BUSINESS

521. None.

## APPENDIX I

### LIST OF PARTICIPANTS\*

### LISTE DES PARTICIPANTS

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Figuran en primer lugar los Jefes de las delegaciones; los Suplentes, Asesores y Consultores aparecen por orden alfabético.

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## **APPENDIX II**

### **STATEMENT BY THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF**

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FAO/WHO CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION

Twelfth Session, 17-28 April, Plenary Hall

FAO

9.30 a.m. Monday, 17 April 1978

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have great pleasure in welcoming you to Rome on behalf of the Directors-General of FAO and WHO. Since your last session two more countries - the Republic of Guinea and the Republic of Chad - have become members of the Codex Alimentarius Commission, bringing the current membership to 116 countries. This large membership indicates the sustained and, indeed, growing interest of the Member Nations of FAO and WHO in the work of the Commission. May I take this opportunity to welcome particularly the representatives of the new Members of the Commission and also those participating in a session of the Commission for the first time.

Since the last session of the Commission Member Governments have continued to accept a steadily increasing number of the Recommended Codex International Food Standards and the Recommended Codex International Maximum Limits for Pesticide Residues. From the documents before the Commission concerning acceptance and action taken or being taken by Governments in regard to these, you will see that some 55 countries have now communicated their acceptance of a number of the international standards, including international pesticide residue limits, with a view to giving effect to these through their food legislation and regulations. You will also have noted with interest, I am sure, the communication from the Council of the European Communities indicating that the European Economic Community, on the one hand, and its Member States on the other, have severally decided to accept with certain specified deviations a number of the Recommended Codex Standards for sugars. The Code of Principles for Milk and Milk Products has been accepted by 72 countries and an increasing number of acceptances are being given to the many standards developed under the Code. The number of acceptances for some of the basic milk product standards ranges from 45 to 65.

Although acceptances continue to be received and are on the increase, more progress needs to be made in this area. I hope, therefore, that delegates will be able to provide during the session information on developments in their countries regarding acceptances of the standards and the international maximum limits for pesticide residues. Since your last session many other international standards and additional maximum limits for pesticide residues have been developed and these will be submitted to the present session of the Commission. Most of these will, we hope, be adopted for issue to Governments for acceptance and implementation in their national legislation and regulations.

The aims of the work of the Codex Alimentarius Commission, namely the protection of consumers against possible health hazards in food and against commercial fraud, the ensuring of fair practices in the food trade, the promotion of the food industry and international trade by removing certain obstacles to trade in foods and stimulating opportunities to increase

earnings from exports, are all matters of great interest to our Member Countries and are matters calling for the continuing support of FAO and WHO. The meetings of the Codex Alimentarius Commission and its subsidiary bodies provide worldwide and regional fora for discussions of these matters and for arriving at solutions that have a wide measure of general acceptability. Its international standards and codes of practice together with other recommendations in the health field represent the end - product of a considerable investment of scientific, technical and legal knowledge, intergovernmental negotiation, and consultation among the representatives of governments, consumers and industry.

The work of the Codex Alimentarius Commission is for the benefit of all the Member Nations of FAO and WHO. Some Member Nations are, however, less well equipped than others to derive full benefit from the work of the Commission. These less well equipped countries need technical advice and assistance to enable them to strengthen their capabilities to ensure better food control, quality and safety, and to implement, as far as feasible in their own circumstances, the Commission's recommendations. WHO, through its food safety activities and FAO through its projects on food control and consumer protection play a very important role in providing such assistance, which is complementary to and furthers the work of the Commission. I do not propose, Mr. Chairman, to go into any detail regarding these important complementary activities of FAO and WHO, as during the course of the session you will be hearing about these and other activities of the two Organizations which have relevance for the work of the Commission.

It is particularly gratifying to note, more especially as the FAO Conference at its 19th Session in November 1977 agreed that the Commission should concentrate more on the needs and concerns of developing countries, that the trend, already in evidence for several years, of the Commission turning its attention more and more to the needs of developing countries continues. Since the last session of the Commission, the Coordinating Committee for Asia held its first session in January 1978 in New Delhi. The session was kindly hosted by the Government of India. The work of the Committee seems to have gotten off to a very good start. As will be seen from its report, the Committee had extensive discussions on and gave very careful attention to how best to serve the interests of the region. It drew up a comprehensive programme of future work and outlined its priorities.

The third session of the Coordinating Committee for Africa was held in Accra in September 1977 and was kindly hosted by the Government of Ghana. The Committee appears to be making good progress in its work, particularly in advancing the use of the Model Food Law in the region, in its review of food control facilities in the region and of products of interest to the region from a standardization point of view.

Arrangements are, I understand, now well in hand for the holding of a Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Regional Conference for Latin America in September of this year, which the Government of Mexico has kindly agreed to host. This is the Third Regional Conference of its type, the first - a Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Regional Conference for Africa - was held in Nairobi in October 1973 and generously hosted by the Government of Kenya, and the

second - a Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Regional Conference for Asia - was held in Bangkok in December 1975, kindly hosted by the Government of Thailand.

The Coordinating Committee for Latin America has held one session to date, immediately prior to the last session of the Commission. Although it was a brief session, it was a very important one because the Coordinating Committee discussed the organization of its work and priorities and decided on the subject matter to be considered at the forthcoming Food Standards Conference for Latin America. This Coordinating Committee can be expected to carry forward and further develop, on a continuing basis, the conclusions and recommendations of the Food Standards Conference.

All these developments are intended to provide intergovernmental fora for greater and more active participation by developing countries in the work of the Commission, and directed principally to food legislation, food control and food safety needs of Africa, Asia and Latin America. I think, Mr. Chairman, that I ought to mention, whilst on the topic of the Commission turning its attention increasingly to the needs of developing countries, that, in fact, several of the long established Codex Committees, have, for some years, been developing standards and codes of practice of particular interest to a considerable number of developing countries. The Codex Committees on Food Hygiene, Fats and Oils, Fish and Fishery Products, and Processed Fruits and Vegetables are examples of this. A topic of very great importance to developing countries will be the development of the "Code of Ethics for the International Trade in Food" which is currently with governments for their comments and will be examined in the light of these comments by the Codex Committee on General Principles at its next session.

Mr. Chairman, the Commission has a heavy agenda before it and I do not wish to delay the proceedings. I might mention, however, that one of the items of your agenda is a review of the direction of the work of the Commission. It is a very healthy sign indeed that the Commission, on the advice of its Executive Committee, should review its work to see whether all of it still responds adequately to the present needs of Member Governments and to consider whether some shifts in emphasis or changes in priorities might be needed. It is a sign that the Executive Committee sees the Commission's role as being essentially dynamic and certainly not static, and I believe you will find this reflected in the paper on this subject prepared by the Secretariat.

A clear indication of the significance and importance attached to the activities of the Commission is the fact that the FAO Council, at its 71st Session in June 1977, had a very full discussion on the food standards work of the Commission. The discussion was not without its controversial aspects and the matter was, as you know, referred by the Council to the Commission and its Executive Committee for further consideration. The views of the Executive Committee are before you and, in accordance with the wish of the Council, you are asked to consider the different proposals and points raised during the Council discussion and to report your views on them to the Director-General, so as to enable him to report to the Autumn Session of the Council in 1978 and to the Conference in 1979.

Before closing I should like to make two additional points.

First, let me take this opportunity to express the appreciation of FAO and WHO to those Governments which have so generously hosted sessions of the Commission's subsidiary bodies since the last session of the Commission.

Second, I should like to inject a brief personal note. I am particularly pleased to be able to meet with you at the opening of this - the Twelfth - Session of the Commission, in my new capacity as Deputy Director - General of FAO, because I have been associated in various capacities with the Commission's work from its early beginning. I had occasion last week to look back at the verbatim records of the FAO Conference in 1961, when the Conference took the formal action, on the FAO side, to establish the Commission. I was reminded that, at that time, I made the statement for my Government, supporting the establishment of the Commission and the adoption of the pertinent Resolution. So I can claim a rather long-standing association with Codex Alimentarius activities.

Now, it only remains for me to wish you all a pleasant stay in Rome, and a most successful session of the Commission.