



REPORT OF THE FOURTEENTH SESSION OF THE JOINT FAO/WHO CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION Geneva, 29 June - 10 July 1981

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Issued by the Secretariat of the
Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme, FAO, ROME
Ref. No. ALINORM 81/39, August 1981

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ISBN 92-5-101119-2

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FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS
WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION
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Appendix III - Reply of the Chairman of the Codex Alimentarius Commission.

PART I

INTRODUCTION

1. The Fourteenth Session of the Joint FAO/WHO Codex Alimentarius Commission was held at the International Conference Centre of Geneva (CICG), from 29 June to 10 July 1981. The session was attended by 282 participants, including the representatives and observers of 56 countries, and observers from 32 international organizations (see Appendix I for List of Participants).

2. The Commission was presided over by its Chairman, Professor Dr. D. Eckert (Federal Republic of Germany) and for certain items of the agenda by the following Vice-Chairmen: Mr. D.A. Akoh (Nigeria) and Mr. E.F. Kimbrell (USA). Apologies for absence were received from the third Vice-Chairman, Dr. E.R. Mendez (Mexico). The Joint Secretaries were Mr. G.O. Kermode (FAO/WHO), Mr. H.J. McNally (FAO/WHO) and Dr. F. Käferstein (WHO).

ADDRESS BY THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF WHO AND RESPONSE OF THE CHAIRMAN

3. The Fourteenth Session of the Joint FAO/WHO Codex Alimentarius Commission was convened by the Directors-General of FAO and WHO, and was opened with a speech of welcome by Dr. H. Mahler, Director-General of WHO. Dr. Mahler thanked the Geneva

Cantonal authorities for making available to the Commission the excellent facilities of the International Conference Centre of Geneva. During the course of his welcoming address, he outlined the views of WHO on the place of the work of the Commission in the broader field of WHO's endeavours and emphasized the importance of the work of the Codex Alimentarius Commission in contributing towards ensuring the safety of food. Dr. Mahler concluded by expressing the appreciation of WHO and FAO to those member governments which had generously hosted sessions of the Commission's subsidiary bodies since the last session of the Commission. The text of the address of Dr. Mahler is contained in Appendix II to this Report.

4. The Chairman of the Commission thanked the Director-General of WHO for having opened the session and, on behalf of the Commission, joined with the Director-General in expressing appreciation and also thanked the Geneva Cantonal authorities for making available the facilities of the International Conference Centre of Geneva. The Chairman outlined the range of activities of the Commission and the steps which had been taken by the Commission to place greater emphasis, in its programme of work, on the needs and concerns of developing countries. He also stressed the importance of the many activities in WHO and FAO which supported the work of the Commission. The Chairman concluded by assuring the Director-General of WHO that the Codex Alimentarius Commission would continue its best endeavours to make its own particular contribution towards ensuring a safe and wholesome food supply. The text of the Chairman's response is contained in Appendix III to this Report.

TRIBUTE TO DR. E. HÜFNAGEL (FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY) AND PROF. DR. M.J.L. DOLS (NETHERLANDS)

5. The Chairman informed the Commission of the deaths of Dr. E. Hüfnagel (Federal Republic of Germany) and Professor Dr. Dols (The Netherlands) since the last session of the Commission. Dr. Hüfnagel had represented the Federal Republic of Germany in numerous Codex committees and had dedicated a great deal of her time to Codex work. She had also been an active member of the Delegation of the Federal Republic of Germany at sessions of the Commission and through her knowledge and experience had contributed substantially to the advancement of Codex work.

The Chairman recalled that Professor Dols had been the second Chairman of the Codex Alimentarius Commission. He had been a distinguished scientist, an internationally known nutritionist and cabinet adviser to the Dutch Minister of Agriculture for many years. He had been a founder member of the Codex Alimentarius Europaeus and of its successor the FAO/WHO Codex Alimentarius Commission. Professor Dols had dedicated his life's work to the nutrition improvement of many peoples all over the world. The Chairman expressed sympathy to the Delegations of the Federal Republic of Germany and of the Netherlands and to the families of Dr. Hüfnagel and Prof. Dols on behalf of the Commission. The Commission observed a minute's silence in memory of Dr. Hüfnagel and Professor Dols.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA AND TIMETABLE

6. The Commission adopted the Provisional Agenda and Timetable of the Session.
7. The Commission was informed that the International Olive Oil Council (IOOC) would be proposing, under 'Other Business', that the Recommended International Standard for Table Olives be amended. The Commission agreed to consider this proposal.
8. The Delegation of Iraq proposed that for the 15th Session of the Commission the reports of the Coordinating Committees for Africa, Asia, Europe and Latin America be considered immediately after the Report of the Codex Committee on General Principles. The Commission agreed that the Executive Committee should consider this proposal.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS OF THE COMMISSION

9. During the session, the Commission elected Professor Dr. D. Eckert (Federal Republic of Germany) as Chairman of the Commission, to serve from the end of the Fourteenth to the end of the Fifteenth Session. The Commission also elected Dr. A.A.M. Hasan (Iraq), Prof. A.H. Ibrahim (Sudan) and Mr. E. Kimbrell (USA) as Vice-Chairmen of the Commission to serve from the end of the Fourteenth to the end of the Fifteenth Session.

APPOINTMENT OF REGIONAL COORDINATORS

10. The following persons were appointed by the Commission as Regional Coordinators for: Africa - Dr. J.K. Misoi (Kenya); Asia - Prof. A. Bhumiratana (Thailand); Latin America - Ing. E.M. Brivio (Uruguay) - to serve from the end of the Fourteenth to the end of the Fifteenth Session of the Commission. The Coordinator for Europe, Prof. Dr. H. Woidich (Austria) who was appointed at the Twelfth Session of the Commission continues to serve to the end of the Fifteenth Session of the Commission.

PART II

REPORT BY THE CHAIRMAN ON THE TWENTY-SEVENTH AND TWENTY-EIGHTH SESSIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

11. The Commission received reports concerning the Twenty-Seventh and Twenty-Eighth Sessions of the Executive Committee held from 13 to 17 October 1980 and from 25 to 26 June 1981 in Geneva. The reports of these two sessions were contained in ALINORM 81/3 and ALINORM 81/4. In introducing and reviewing the reports, the Chairman indicated that all

substantive items considered by the Executive Committee would be dealt with by the Commission under the agenda items of the Commission relating to the matters concerned.

MEMBERSHIP OF THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION

12. The Commission had before it a list of Members of the Codex Alimentarius Commission. The Membership is set out below. The Commission noted that since its last session four more countries - Bahrain, Cape Verde, Democratic People's Republic of Korea and Sierra Leone - had become members of the Commission bringing the current membership to 121 countries. The Commission requested the Secretariat to intensify its efforts to increase membership of the Commission and to advise non-member countries of the advantages of membership.

AFRICA

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

- 31. Togo
- 32. Tunisia
- 33. Uganda
- 34. Upper Volta
- 35. Zaire
- 36. Zambia

ASIA

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

EUROPE

- 65. Austria
- 66. Belgium
- 67. Bulgaria
- 68. Cyprus
- 69. Czechoslovakia

70. Denmark
71. Finland
72. France
73. Germany, Federal Republic of
74. Greece
75. Hungary
76. Iceland
77. Ireland
78. Israel
79. Italy
80. Luxembourg
81. Malta
82. Netherlands
83. Norway
84. Poland
85. Portugal
86. Romania
87. Spain
88. Sweden
89. Switzerland
90. Turkey
91. United Kingdom
92. USSR
93. Yugoslavia

LATIN AMERICA

94. Argentina
95. Barbados
96. Bolivia
97. Brazil
98. Chile
99. Colombia
100. Costa Rica
101. Cuba
102. Dominican Republic
103. Ecuador
104. El Salvador
105. Guatemala
106. Guyana
107. Jamaica
108. Mexico
109. Nicaragua
110. Panama
111. Paraguay

- 112. Peru
- 113. Trinidad and Tobago
- 114. Uruguay
- 115. Venezuela

NORTH AMERICA

- 116. Canada
- 117. USA

SOUTH-WEST PACIFIC

- 118. Australia
- 119. Fiji
- 120. New Zealand
- 121. Samoa

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

13. The Commission had before it a full list of recommended Codex standards and Codex maximum limits for pesticide residues sent to governments for acceptance (ALINORM 81/2, Appendix IV). The Commission also had before it in ALINORM 81/2, Addendum I a list of recommended Codex standards and Codex maximum limits for pesticide residues adopted by the Commission at its 13th Session and to be issued to governments for acceptance. The document also included a list of recommended codes of hygienic and/or technological practice and other texts adopted by the Codex Alimentarius Commission.

14. The published "Summary of Acceptances of Recommended Worldwide and Regional Codex Standards and Recommended Codex Maximum Limits for Pesticides" (Ref. No. CAC/Acceptances Rev. 1) which had been sent to all member governments, contained full details of all acceptances notified up to 30 October 1978. Details of acceptances received between 31 October 1978 and 1 October 1979 had been set forth in document ALINORM 79/5 which had been put before the 13th Session of the Commission. Since then further acceptances had been received as summarized in ALINORM 81/2 and ALINORM 81/2-Add. 1. Additional information concerning acceptances was given to the Commission orally by the Secretariat. Document ALINORM 81/2 and 81/2-Add. I contained information concerning acceptances received from the following countries: Argentina, Canada, Cyprus, El Salvador, Gambia, Federal Republic of Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iran, Jordan, Kenya, New Zealand,

Norway, Peru, Portugal, South Africa, Thailand, Tunisia, United Kingdom, United States of America. Additional information concerning acceptances or other action on the standards was made available by Argentina, Canada, Finland, Poland, Portugal and Spain.

15. Argentina had given acceptance with specified deviations to the General Standard for Edible Fats and Oils not covered by individual standards and to the following standards for edible fats and oils: Edible Soyabean Oil, Edible Arachis Oil, Edible Sunflowerseed Oil, Edible Rapeseed Oil, Edible Maize Oil, Edible Sesameseed Oil, Edible Safflowerseed Oil, Mustardseed Oil and Olive Oil. Argentina had also notified acceptance with specified deviations of the standards for Quick Frozen Fillets of Cod and Haddock, Quick Frozen Fillets of Ocean Perch, Quick Frozen Fillets of Hake, Quick Frozen Lobsters, Quick Frozen Shrimps or Prawns and Canned Sardines and Sardine-type Products. Argentina had also notified acceptance with specified deviations of the standard for Chocolate. Details of these deviations which relate mainly to food additives and also to declarations of country of origin would be given in the next up-dating of the Summary of Acceptances. Argentina had also found many of the Recommended Codes of Practice to be fully acceptable. These included the Codes of Hygienic Practice for Dried Fruits, Desiccated Coconut and Dehydrated Fruits and Vegetables including Edible Fungi, Treenuts, Molluscan Shellfish, Shrimps and Prawns and the Codes of Practice for Canned Fish and Fresh Fish.

16. The Delegation of Argentina recalled that Argentina had already notified the Commission at earlier sessions of its acceptance of many other standards. Details of these earlier acceptances were contained in the already published "Summary of Acceptances".

17. Canada had notified acceptance with specified deviations of several standards for milk products including Butter and Whey Butter, Butter Oil and Anhydrous Butter Oil, Evaporated Milk and Evaporated Skimmed Milk, Sweetened Condensed Milk and Skimmed Sweetened Condensed Milk, Whole Milk Powder, Partly Skimmed Milk Powder and Skimmed Milk Powder, the General Standard for Cheese, the General Standard for Whey Cheese, and the standards for Cream for Direct Consumption, Edible Acid Casein, Edible Caseinates. Canada had also notified acceptance with specified deviations of the standard for Rendered Pork Fat and the standard for Fructose. Canada had further notified free distribution with specified conditions in the case of the standard for Cream Powder, Half Cream Powder and High Fat Milk Powder as well as in the case of the standard for Edible Babassu Oil. Canada had indicated that it was unable to accept the standard for Cocoa Powder and Dry Cocoa Sugar Mixtures, but that products conforming to the standard would be permitted to be distributed freely in Canada.

18. Finland had indicated that it had made a very thorough study of all the present Codex standards and had compared them with Finnish regulations. Codex standards had been used as a basis of reference in the elaboration of modern Finnish food regulations, which were, to a great extent, in line with the Codex standards. The principal differences were regarding food additives and labelling provisions. Finland hoped to be able to set out more precisely at a later time its position concerning the question of acceptance of a number of Codex standards.

19. Poland had indicated that it was considering acceptance of several Codex standards. Poland had notified acceptance of the standards for Olive Oil and the European Regional Standard for Fresh Fungus Chanterelle. Poland had also notified acceptance with specified deviations (relating to heavy metal contaminants) of the European Regional Standard for Honey.

20. Portugal had indicated its position concerning the Maximum Limits for Pesticide Residues contained in the Fifth and Sixth Series. For the moment, Portugal was notifying limited acceptance until such time as Portugal's position in relation to membership of the EEC had been defined more precisely. For the time being, Portugal would permit the entry of products containing pesticide residues levels which were not greater than the levels laid down by the Codex Alimentarius Commission. The Delegation of Portugal indicated during the course of the Session that it was ready to accept the Standard for Edible Cottonseed Oil, with certain deviations.

21. Spain had indicated its position concerning the question of acceptance of the Maximum Limits for Pesticide Residues contained in the Sixth Series.

22. The Representative of the Commission of the European Economic Community (EEC) made available to the Codex Alimentarius Commission a detailed communication from the EEC concerning the acceptance of Codex standards, including maximum limits for pesticide residues. The document supplied by the European Economic Community indicated that the Community had been prompted, by the orientations agreed by the Codex Committee on General Principles, to indicate for a series of Codex standards the conditions under which the products concerned may be marketed in the territory of the Community. This action by the EEC would be a move in the direction of fulfilling one of the objectives of the Codex programme, namely to achieve the freer circulation of foodstuffs. The document drew attention to the fact that there were already a number of fields covered by Codex standards which were also covered by Community Directives or Regulations and indicated those areas where the Community had already notified acceptance to the Codex Alimentarius Commission. The Community had already been able to indicate to the Commission its position concerning pesticide residues on and in fruits and vegetables and its position concerning the standards for fruit juices and similar products. It was also the intention of the Community to inform the Codex Alimentarius Commission of the legislative situation in the member states of the Community in the following sectors: Processed Fruits and Vegetables, Fish Products and certain Maximum Limits for Pesticide Residues in the Sixth Series.

23. The Delegation of Cuba stated that a new organization called the State Committee for Standardization had been established in Cuba and that this body was now the one responsible for considering Codex work in Cuba. The Delegation of Cuba indicated that Cuba was aware of the benefits of participation in the Codex Programme and hoped to be able to indicate Cuba's position in relation to Codex standards and recommendations in the future.

24. The Delegation of Ghana stated that great use had been made of Codex standards in Ghana in the development of national standards and that machinery for the acceptance of Codex standards had been set in motion.

25. The Delegation of Czechoslovakia stated that Czechoslovakia and other member countries had, within the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance (CMEA), discussed acceptance of Codex standards. Agreement had been reached on a common approach to the question of accepting Codex standards. Some of the Codex standards would be accepted as CMEA standards and others would be accepted individually by the member countries of CMEA. The Delegation of Czechoslovakia added that considerable importance was attached by the CMEA to Codex work.

26. The Delegation of Hungary informed the Commission that it had undertaken, at the last session of the Coordinating Committee for Europe, to carry out comparative studies of Codex and CMEA standards and that this work was under way. The Delegation of Hungary added that several Hungarian standards were already generally in line with Codex standards.

27. The Delegation of Chile stated that the National Codex Committee in Chile was studying the Codex standards which were regarded as points of reference for the development of national Chilean standards.

28. The Delegation of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya indicated that Codex standards were being used as the basis of development of Libyan national standards. The Delegation also stressed the importance of establishing efficient national food control services for the proper implementation of the standards. The Delegation thought that it would be desirable for the Secretariat to explain more fully to Member Countries the benefits to be derived from acceptance of Codex standards.

29. The Delegation of the United Kingdom indicated that Target Acceptance previously notified in respect of the Sixth Series of Maximum Limits for Pesticide Residues had been converted to Limited Acceptance with effect from 1 August 1981.

30. The Delegation of Kenya stated that Kenya had under consideration six Codex standards with a view to accepting them eventually. These were the standards for Honey, Glucose Syrup, Canned Green Beans, Canned Mushrooms, Canned Peas and Pineapple Juice. As regards the acceptance of Maximum Limits for Pesticide Residues, surveys in Kenya were being carried out currently to ascertain actual residue levels before considering acceptance of Codex Maximum Limits.

31. The Delegation of Sweden stated that the importance of Codex work had been increasing over the years. Sweden had certain difficulties of a legal nature as regards the amount of detail in some Codex standards and was, therefore, considering acceptance with specified deviations, as well as the question of permitting free entry without actually notifying acceptance. Sweden was also looking at the Maximum Limits for Pesticide Residues contained in the Fourth, Fifth and Sixth Series.

32. The Delegation of Iraq indicated that steps were being taken to strengthen work on food control and food standards in Iraq, and that Iraq hoped to be in a position to notify its position concerning acceptance before too long. Iraq was using Codex standards as reference material in the development of its own national standards.

33. The Delegation of Egypt gave a brief description of monitoring activities in Egypt for residues of pesticides in the food basket.

34. The Representative of the Arab Organization for Standardization and Metrology (ASMO) referred to his Organization's report on the activities concerning food standards and food control. He indicated that many of the ASMO standards were based on Codex standards and that a series of new committees had been formed to deal with food standards.

35. Italy had communicated to the Secretariat (document ALINORM 81/2-Add. 1). that it would wish the Committee of Government Experts on Milk and Milk Products to examine the matter concerning the use of recombined and reconstituted products in the manufacture of cheese and the use of the designation "cheese" for these products. The Commission agreed that this matter was a matter appropriate for consideration by the Committee on Milk and Milk Products at its next session.

36. The Commission was of the opinion that there was clear evidence of steady progress by member countries regarding acceptance of Codex standards. Although the Commission was encouraged by the responses notified, it considered that member countries should give more attention to acceptances. In particular, the Commission recommended that where a country was unable to give acceptance it should give serious consideration to the possibility of allowing free distribution of foods in conformity with Codex standards. The Commission requested the Secretariat to make available to those countries which had not yet become members of the Commission further information concerning the meaning of, and benefits to be derived from, acceptance of Codex standards.

REPORT ON FINANCIAL SITUATION OF THE JOINT FAO/WHO

FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME FOR 1979, 1980/81 AND THE

PROPOSED BUDGET FOR 1982/83

37. The Commission had before it ALINORM 81/5. The Commission noted that the Executive Committee at its 27th and 28th sessions had reviewed the financial situation of the programme in 1979, 1980/81 and the proposed budgetary estimates of 1982/83 (paragraphs 70–102 of ALINORM 81/3 and paragraphs 10–13 of ALINORM 81/4). The Commission noted that the matter of the deficit of \$ 250,000 arising in 1979 in meeting the programme's commitments concerning two sessions of the Commission in the biennium 1978/79, had been absorbed by FAO and the programme was no longer faced with this difficulty for 1980/81.

38. Regarding the current biennium 1980/81 the Commission was pleased to note that the programme's projected level of activities could be sustained within the limits of the budget, and that the programme would break even for the biennium. This outcome was possible due to the introduction of certain economies concerning documentation and publications.

39. The Commission expressed its appreciation of the actions taken by the Directors-General of FAO and WHO concerning the recommendations of the Executive Committee on the need to maintain the level of budget of the programme in 1982/83 at a level corresponding in real terms to that of 1980/81. The Commission was pleased to note that the WHO share of the budget for 1982/83 had already received the approval of the World Health Assembly. The FAO share was still subject to approval by the FAO Conference, which would meet in November 1981. The Commission noted that the question of cost-sharing was a matter for the Directors-General themselves and that information on changes if any would be conveyed to the Executive Committee or the Commission at their next sessions. The Commission further noted that the programme's requirements over a long-term would be examined in order to ensure a better basis for planning the programme and to enable host governments to plan also their involvement in hosting and servicing of the Commission's subsidiary bodies.

40. The Delegation of Australia, whilst noting the action taken by FAO and WHO, stated that the budget level proposed for 1982/83 continued to represent a declining trend in the percentage of resources from the overall regular budgets of FAO and WHO available for Codex activities. The Delegation of the USA expressed the view that the interval between Commission sessions should be reduced as soon as practicable to eighteen months. The Commission noted in this context the general overall financial restraints on the regular budgets of the two Agencies.

41. Concerning the Secretariat proposals to try to effect greater economies in respect of documentation and to improve their distribution to the Members of the Commission, the Commission agreed with the steps proposed and taken by the Secretariat as endorsed by the Executive Committee at its 28th Session (paragraphs 13 and 14 of ALINORM 81/4). The Commission was informed that it was the Secretariat's intention to contact all Members of the Commission individually to seek their views on the number of copies of documents required and what distribution arrangements best suited the needs of the country. Several Members of the Commission suggested that more flexibility in the numbers of copies might be contemplated and other thought that the idea of a uniform but reasonable number of copies might be proposed to Members. The Commission emphasized that care should be taken to involve National Codex Contact Points fully as well as the principal technical Ministries concerned with Codex activities. Several Members of the Commission suggested that the practice of sending working documents to the participants of previous sessions of the subsidiary bodies might be abandoned. The Commission further noted that the Executive Committee would examine, at its next session, a progress report to be prepared by the Secretariat, on these matters.

PART III

REPORT ON ACTIVITIES WITHIN FAO AND WHO

COMPLEMENTARY TO THE WORK OF THE COMMISSION AND ON

ACTIVITIES OF OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

WORKING ON THE STANDARDIZATION OF FOODS AND RELATED

MATTERS

42. The Commission had before it document ALINORM 81/6 which contained three sections, Section A. - Joint FAO/WHO Activities, Section B. - Report on FAO Activities and Section C. - Report on WHO Activities.

REPORT ON JOINT FAO/WHO ACTIVITIES

Joint Meeting of the FAO Panel of Experts on Pesticide Residues and the Environment and the WHO Expert Group on Pesticide Residues (JMPR)

Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Food Additives (JECFA)

Joint FAO/IAEA/WHO Expert Committee on the Wholesomeness of Irradiated Food (JECFI)

43. The WHO Joint Secretary of the Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Food Additives (JECFA), of the Joint FAO/WHO Meeting on Pesticide Residues (JMPR) and of the Joint FAO/IAEA/WHO Expert Committee on the Wholesomeness of Irradiated Food (JECFI) briefly introduced the reports of these committees. These meetings had all been held in 1980. In highlighting some of the conclusions reached by these committees, he called the attention of the Commission to the most significant conclusions reached by JECFI which was that irradiation of any food commodity up to an average dose of 10 kGy should not present a toxicological hazard to the consumer and that, consequently, no toxicological testing should be required when clearing foods treated by irradiation up to this average dose.

44. Similarly, while the Committee had concurred that irradiation up to 10 kGy should not introduce special nutritional or microbiological problems, it recommended that attention should be given to the significance of any changes in relation to each particular irradiated food and to its role in the diet; this implied that in clearing foods treated by irradiation up to this average dose, proof should still be required to ensure that, in each case, no microbiological and nutritional changes were introduced by the process of irradiation and that populations consuming diets containing irradiated foods should be monitored for nutritional adequacy.

45. These recommendations were formulated by the Committee after examining many toxicological studies carried out on a large number of individual foods and radiation chemistry studies on the nature and concentration of radiolytic products of major food components. Supporting evidence was provided by the absence of any adverse effects resulting from feeding of irradiated diets to laboratory animals, the use of irradiated foods in livestock

production, and the practice of maintaining immunologically incompetent patients on irradiated diets.

46. A number of delegations spoke on the question of the significance of the irradiation process for treating tropical products and to the importance of its correct use including the development of analytical methods to test for overdosing. The Delegation of Norway asked for a clarification regarding labelling requirements for foods treated by the process of irradiation. The WHO Joint Secretary explained that the Committee in this regard understood that irradiated foods would be subject to regulations covering foods generally, and to any specific food standards relating to individual foods; it was therefore not thought necessary on scientific grounds to envisage special requirements for the quality, wholesomeness and labelling of irradiated foods.

Joint FAO/WHO Food and Animal Feed Contamination Monitoring Programme

47. The programme was started in 1976 to implement a recommendation by the UN Conference on the Human Environment. Two phases of the programme had been almost completed.

The initial phase had been devoted to identifying national centres carrying out monitoring programmes and to surveying the contaminants, foods and methods being used for monitoring. The activities in the second phase were devoted to developing detailed plans, designating collaborating centres and collecting monitoring data. To date, 21 Collaborating Centres had been designated and the designation of centres in four additional countries had been initiated.

48. Monitoring data had been received by WHO from the Collaborating Centres, and a draft Summary Report containing all these data, together with their evaluation, had been reviewed by the Second Technical Advisory Committee of the Programme in April 1981. The final report was expected to be published soon. The TAC had also discussed and advised FAO and WHO on how an operational phase of the programme could be implemented. Some of these recommendations are as follows:

- i. If data were to be collected on a global basis, the participation of the developing countries was a necessity. The Committee had recognized that to expand the programme into the developing countries would require substantial resources which were not available from current project funds.
- ii. The Committee had recommended that FAO and WHO Member States, particularly developing countries, be informed of this monitoring programme. A special effort should be made to identify laboratories in developing countries which could benefit from association with the programme, even though full-scale national food contamination monitoring was not now being carried out.
- iii. The Committee was informed that many centres act as regional training laboratories and that suitable manuals were often not available in languages other than English. The Committee recommended that such training manuals should be made available

as part of the programme, with special consideration given to Spanish language versions.

- iv. The Committee had recommended that analytical quality assurance studies be included as a regular part of Phase III activities and these should be organized by selected coordinating institutes to ascertain improvements in particular laboratories identified as requiring training.
- v. The Committee had recommended that data collected in this monitoring programme be referred to appropriate expert groups for evaluation of possible health significance.
- vi. The Committee had recommended that data collected in this monitoring programme should be submitted to the appropriate Codex Committees at the earliest possible opportunity.

REPORT ON FAO ACTIVITIES

49. FAO activities complementary to the work of the Commission could be classified under three categories: strengthening of food control systems; food contamination monitoring and control activities; and activities relating to improvement in the food handling systems. Under food control activities assistance was provided to member countries in relation to food legislation, training of food inspectors, food analysts and food control administrators, strengthening of laboratories and development of overall integrated food control systems. In providing advice on food regulations, recommendations of the Codex Alimentarius Commission were taken into consideration. These activities also included advice on in-process quality control at the stage of food processing and on import/export inspection.

50. Under food contamination monitoring and control, assistance was provided to developing countries in carrying out food contamination studies and setting up of food contaminants monitoring and control systems. This again involved strengthening of laboratories, and training of staff formed an important component of these activities. Increasingly, greater emphasis was being placed on improvement in the food handling systems including post harvest handling and storage of foods, protection of food supplies from insect infestation, mycotoxins contamination and other matters.

51. FAO had provided in the recent past or was currently providing assistance to several countries such as Qatar, Tunisia, Algeria, Benin and Turkey in development of integrated food control systems. Such assistance covered various aspects of food control from food legislation and training to strengthening of laboratories and the inspectorate. Assistance has also been provided to a number of member countries with regard to specific problems relating to surveys of food laws/regulations, general food control set up and specific commodity or other problems of infrastructure to improve quality and safety of food supplies. In the recent past such work had been done in Malaysia, Ecuador, Malawi, Burma and would be carried out shortly in Pakistan, Peru, Ghana and Uruguay.

52. In regard to training, FAO was implementing various national projects such as those in Kuwait, Nigeria and Zimbabwe. A Regional Food Inspection Training Course for Arabicspeaking countries was being organized in collaboration with WHO/ASMO in Jordan.

Training would also be shortly available under an FAO/Government of Libya Regional Food Inspection/ Applied Research Training Centre project now operational in Tripoli. At the international level reference was made to the two training courses in food contaminants control held at the Central Food Technological Research Institute in Mysore, India.

53. FAO was deeply involved in promoting technical cooperation between developing countries in the areas of food quality control and improvement of food handling practices. Technical consultations among developing countries of Asia and the Pacific, and amongst certain countries of Central America were held in Manila and Mexico, respectively. Similar TCDC was being promoted in the Caribbean region in cooperation with the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO). FAO would continue to utilize the regional Codex Coordinating Committees for Asia, Africa and Latin America to promote TCDC in the areas of quality and safety of foods.

54. The Commission was informed about the food contamination studies being carried out in India, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka through Norwegian-financed FAO projects. A food contamination study in the Republic of Korea was being supported under the Regular Programme of FAO. At a sub-regional level reference was invited to the FAO/UNDP/African Groundnut Council Project on control of aflatoxins in groundnuts. The project was operational in six countries of the African Groundnut Council namely Nigeria, Sudan, Mali, Niger, Senegal and Gambia. Two detoxification plants were being set up, one in Senegal and the other in Sudan and the project provided for monitoring of aflatoxin levels before and after detoxification.

55. Besides project assistance, recently FAO was trying out new approaches to strengthening and development of integrated food control systems in member countries particularly those where certain basic infrastructures exist. This was being done through holding of national food quality control strategy workshops to promote inter-ministerial cooperation and coordination and bringing together the agriculture and health sectors to ensure quality and safety of food supplies for the economic development of the country as well as for consumer protection. National workshops had been held in Syria, Senegal and Mexico. Such workshops were proposed to be held in India, Egypt and Brazil.

56. The Commission was informed of the series of publications on food control which provided information on policies and strategies as well as detailed technical know-how with regard to methods of analysis, control of certain contaminants problems such as aflatoxins and food inspection. A Food Inspection Manual was likely to be issued very shortly. FAO was also providing to member countries standard reference material for analytical purposes.

57. The Commission was informed of the high priority being given within FAO to technical assistance programmes in the food control area. For member governments to be able to make use of such assistance it was necessary that the subject of quality and safety of food supplies receive a high priority within the international programmes. A reference was also made to close collaboration with WHO in these activities particularly in the development of common strategies and approaches and avoiding of duplication.

REPORT ON WHO ACTIVITIES

The WHO Food Safety Programme

58. The Commission was informed that most components of the WHO Food Safety Programme were, as far as Headquarters activities were concerned, undertaken jointly with the FAO. For this reason the Commission had already received reports on the health evaluation of food additives, contaminants and pesticide residues as well as a report on the Food and Animal Feed Contamination Monitoring Programme, both being components of the Food Safety Programme. Another activity of the Food Safety Programme was WHO's participation in the Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme itself. WHO's primary concern within the framework of this programme was the aspect of health protection of the consumer of food. WHO was making major technical inputs in food toxicology, food microbiology and nutrition. The Regional Offices of WHO were engaged in technical cooperation activities on food safety through consultants' visits, regional and national workshops and similar projects. To-date a great deal of this work had related to foods moving in trade. WHO now intended to assist member countries to improve also the safety of foods not usually subjected to any form of control, be it for health or trade. Increased emphasis on these foods was important because millions of people, especially in developing countries, were dependent on such foods. Attention should be given to food handling at all stages, including that in the household.

59. The Food Safety Programme had been recently critically reviewed towards these ends and the conclusion was drawn by WHO that insufficient emphasis had been given to foodborne morbidity and mortality caused by contaminated foods, drinking water and personal hygiene, leading to enteric infections such as acute diarrhoea, hepatitis and other diseases, not to mention food and other economic losses. In many countries, malnutrition was the single most significant public health problem, and more important than any other disease in the aetiology of malnutrition was diarrhoea. WHO estimated that 3 to 5 million children up to the age of 5 years die annually from this disease. A solution to this problem was probably conceivable only if the primary health care approach of consumer participation was followed, which meant that the people themselves had to learn how to handle and prepare food which avoided it being rendered unsafe and causing - inter alia - diarrhoea.

60. WHO had with UNESCO laid the groundwork for activities aimed especially at schoolchildren. It was hoped the next generation would not make the same fatal mistakes as their parents still do. WHO had also already laid the groundwork for activities aimed at the training of food handlers such as cooks, hotel/restaurant managers and similar staff. It was hoped to assure, jointly with ILO, that in the industrial training of these professionals due attention would be given to food safety and the decisive role these people could play in maintaining the safety of food.

61. Finally, the Commission was assured that WHO Headquarters, together with FAO and other specialized agencies of the UN family, would in future pay more attention to these aspects of food safety, and that this would not be done at the expense of ongoing and

established activities such as the health evaluation of chemicals in food, or monitoring their levels in food. The WHO Regional Offices likewise were going to pay more attention to food safety, since it was so important for achieving the goal of Health for All by the Year 2000. The Directing Council of the Pan American Health Organization/Regional Office for the Americas would hold technical discussions on sanitary control of foods in September 1981, and the Regional Offices for the Eastern Mediterranean and Africa had planned similar activities for the biennium 1982/83.

62. The Delegation of Nigeria stressed the serious implications which food-borne diseases had for developing countries where they currently ranked among the top three killers. The delegation claimed that one of the major obstacles to effective control of food-borne diseases in many of these countries could be associated with insufficient appreciation, often due to paucity of appropriate data by medical professionals in those countries, of the influence of these diseases on the total morbidity and mortality rates with particular reference to infants. It called on WHO to evolve appropriate programmes to meet this challenge. The delegation emphasized the need for data collection and evaluation as a useful strategy, since these would engender a better appreciation of the problem and provide the necessary leverage for the regulation of the food preparation and service industry in many of these countries was in the hands of persons who did not possess adequate training or facilities to guarantee the safety of their products. The delegation saw the WHO Food Safety Programme as a vital strategy for attaining the goal of "Health for All by the Year 2000" and recommended that it should be projected as such in developing countries. If, therefore, it was necessary, owing to lack of resources, to set priorities, the outlined activities should take precedence over those aimed at microbiological specifications for food.

Veterinary Public Health and Food Hygiene

63. Concerning meat hygiene, the WHO representative reported that in accordance with the Resolution WHA 31.48 on "Prevention and control of zoonoses and food-borne diseases due to animal products", the Veterinary Public Health Programme had been considerably strengthened, and currently strategies and methods for control of selected zoonoses and food-borne diseases were being elaborated, taking into account different epidemiological situations, such as specific animal-related human health risks in urban areas, animal production on large scale in intensive farms, areas of rapid ecological changes, as well as health problems of food production, processing and distribution.

64. A worldwide network of WHO zoonoses centres was now being established to provide technical cooperation to country health programmes regarding zoonoses and related foodborne diseases. Adequate services for such technical cooperation were available in the Region for the Americas through the Pan American Zoonoses Centre. A UNDP/WHO Mediterranean Zoonoses Control Programme with the participation of FAO had begun operations in 1979, the principal centre being Athens. One of the functions of the zoonoses centres would be cooperation with Member States in planning and implementation of their national programmes for control of specific diseases.

65. WHO was paying special attention to salmonellosis as an internationally-distributed food-borne disease. The subject had been discussed at the Round Table Conference on the present status of the Salmonella problem (prevention and control) in Bilthoven, The Netherlands, 6–10 October 1980. This Conference was organized by WHO and the World Association of Veterinary Food Hygienists. Scientists from 12 countries, experts in Salmonella problems, participated and prepared interesting scientific papers. The outcome of the Conference was very fruitful. Salmonellosis is one of the diseases which is part of the new WHO Diarrhoeal Diseases Programme.

66. Taking into consideration the reorientation of the work of the Codex Alimentarius Commission to respond more to the needs of developing countries, the Veterinary Public Health Unit of WHO, together with FAO, was strengthening activities on meat hygiene and meat handling under austere rural conditions. The main objective was an improvement of slaughter facilities and meat hygiene where modern facilities were lacking. For the successful elaboration and further implementation of this programme, which would be part of Primary Health Care, it was planned to visit one or two African countries to select suitable areas (villages) for trials. The main components of this programme were: training, guidelines for the design and construction of slaughter facilities, and slaughter and meat handling and meat inspection.

67. A series of meetings had been held by WHO in Geneva and in the Regional Office for Europe, and the FAO/WHO Collaborating Centre for Research and Training in Food Hygiene concerning the WHO Surveillance Programme for Control of Foodborne Infections and Intoxications. The last meeting, which was convened after the First World Congress of Foodborne Infections and Intoxications, 4–6 July 1980, reviewed the amended version of the paper “Organization and Management of the WHO Surveillance Programme for Control of Foodborne Infections and Intoxications in Europe”, which contained the main objectives of the Programme and detailed information about its organization and management. This document enabled the Programme to be operational in 1980 as was originally recommended.

68. The need for more effective control over the occurrence of pathogenic microorganisms and their toxins in food was evident. Such control had to be exercised not only at the processing level but also during distribution, wholesale and retail storage and ultimate usage either in food service establishments or at home. Food safety through the Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point System (HACCP) was an approach to these problems. This concept was originally developed for use in food processing establishments in the USA and had the full support of WHO. The first meeting of experts in this field was convened in Geneva, 9–11 June 1980, and they discussed the further development of the HACCP system, which included: assessment of the health and spoilage risks associated with processing and marketing a given food product; determination of Critical Control Points in the manufacturing process, and the establishment of programmes for monitoring Critical Control Points. Work on the development of the above-mentioned concepts would continue.

69. The WHO Programme on Food Virology aimed at the collection of data on the occurrence of foodborne diseases due to viruses, at the improvement of methods for isolation of viruses

from various foods and at elucidating the public health significance of various species of viruses in food. The data was available and could be obtained on request.

70. There was a need for close intersectoral and professional cooperation in any of the national food control programmes. WHO was carrying out research on optimum ways for such cooperation as part of the Health Services Research Programme and results will be reported in due course.

Food Microbiology

71. In the area of microbiological specifications for foods the WHO Representative reported that this work had begun as a cooperative project with UNEP and FAO. Two FAO/WHO expert consultations had been held in Geneva (1975, 1977). Ensuing meetings (1979, 1980) were held on an ad hoc basis.

72. These working groups had considered microbiological specifications for the following: shrimps and prawns (May 1980, Bergen), dried milk and natural mineral water (October 1980, Washington). Microbiological specifications were under elaboration or had already been elaborated for the following:

- foods for infants and children including sampling plan (ALINORM 79/13, App. V);
- shrimps and prawns (ALINORM 79/18);
- frog legs (ALINORM 79/13, Appendix VI);
- dried milk products (ALINORM 79/13A, Appendix V);
- natural mineral water (ALINORM 79/19, CX/FH 79/4, Add. I).

73. As regards future activity, a priority list of foods which should be considered for microbiological specifications had been elaborated by the Second FAO/WHO Expert Committee (Geneva, 1977), and included ten different kinds of foods. The Commission was also informed that other foods could be added to this list by countries. However, the addition of new foods should be considered from the following points of view: evidence of hazards to health, microbiology of the raw material, effect of processing on the microbiology of the food, likelihood and consequences of microbiological contamination and/or growth during subsequent handling and storage, category of consumers at risk, and cost/benefit ratio associated with the application of the criterion.

European Food Safety Services

74. The Representative of the WHO Regional Office for Europe mentioned that a survey of food safety services in Europe has been published by that office. It gave for each country a brief outline of its food legislation, food control administration and enforcement system, and addresses where further information could be obtained. Copies were available in English and French from the WHO Regional Office for Europe, Scherfigsvej 8, DK 2100 Copenhagen, Denmark.

General

75. The Commission noted with interest all aforementioned activities being carried out by FAO and WHO, jointly or individually, on various aspects of safety and quality of food at global, regional or country level. These activities were of great significance for the work of the Commission, as several of them were providing inputs into the work of the Commission whilst other carried forward the Commission's recommendations to the stage of implementation at national level in developing countries. The Commission recommended that FAO and WHO strengthen these activities and give the training of national personnel high priority.

INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMME ON CHEMICAL SAFETY

76. Professor M. Mercier (WHO) provided the Commission with a brief progress report on the development of this new international programme of direct interest to the Commission. Previous presentations of the IPCS had been made at the Thirteenth Session of the Commission (ALINORM 79/38) and at the Twenty-Seventh Session of the Executive Committee (ALINORM 81/3).

77. Professor Mercier briefly explained the origins of IPCS which went back to 1977, when the World Health Assembly, concerned about the increase in the extent and nature of chemical pollution over the last thirty years, requested the Director-General of the World Health Organization to study the problem of long-term strategies to control and limit the impact of chemicals on human health and the environment. He stated that the problem clearly had international dimensions, not only because of the international trade in chemicals, but also because a collaborative approach was needed for a sound and thorough evaluation of their effects. Consequently, an international collaborative approach was the only feasible way to avoid costly duplication of national efforts to test and assess chemicals, and to put scarce and valuable resources in toxicological expertise to the best possible use.

78. The World Health Assembly had specifically requested the Director-General to examine in collaboration with appropriate national institutions and international organizations, the possible options for international cooperation, including the financial and organizational implications. A programme on chemical safety was then implemented. Although the programme was initially conceived as a WHO activity, it had now become a cooperative venture of the International Labour Organization (ILO), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and WHO.

79. Professor Mercier then provided the Commission with a Conference Document (Conf. Doc. LIM 4) which gave more details on the IPCS. More specifically, he dwelt upon some of the aspects directly connected with the work of the IPCS and the Commission, namely the Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Food Additives (JECFA) and the Joint FAO/WHO Meeting on Pesticide Residues (JMPR). Both committees were now operating from the WHO side within the framework of the IPCS. In introducing these aspects, Professor Mercier observed that it was very important to note that IPCS should not be thought of as a de novo activity but rather a strengthening and extension of existing work, that is to say that the IPCS

brings together existing activities as well as initiating new ones. In this context he noted that WHO had a long and distinguished record of evaluating the safety of chemicals, food additives, pesticide residues in food and food contaminants through the activities of these two committees: JECFA, lasting for 25 years and the JMPR, in operation since 1962. These two committees were considered as advisory bodies to the Codex Alimentarius Commission, especially to the Codex Committee on Food Additives and to the Codex Committee on Pesticide Residues (see Conf. Doc. LIM 5). He further observed that what became known as JECFA-CCFA and JMPR-CCPR systems proved to be of great value in providing the right framework for credibility and acceptance: JECFA and JMPR, international independent technical bodies serving as advisory bodies to CCFA and CCPR, intergovernmental bodies endeavouring to reach agreement which would result in harmonization of legislation of Member States on food additives and pesticide residues in food. These operational models were outstanding examples of how international cooperation in the field of chemical safety could be put effectively and successfully to work. There was little doubt that these examples would be followed also by other components of chemical safety programmes.

80. Professor Mercier then gave the Commission further reassurances not only that these expert committees would continue but that every effort would be made to strengthen them in close collaboration with the co-sponsoring organization. Based on the recommendations made by the IPCS Advisory and Technical Committees he summarized the situation in the following way:

- i. JECFA and JMPR's activities from the WHO side and within the framework of IPCS will continue unchanged in scope;
- ii. Efforts will be made to see that the increased workload in terms of the everincreasing amount of toxicological data to be collected and evaluated will have the necessary technical and administrative support at the Secretariat level as well as at the level of Temporary Advisers who produce the preparatory work for the Committee's decisions;
- iii. CCFA and CCPR recommendations for priority will be handled as usual by the Secretariat in close consultation with FAO;
- iv. Proprietary unpublished data submitted to JECFA and JMPR will still be collected by the Secretariat and handled according to the existing agreement between the WHO Secretariat and the data submitting parties. Possible new arrangements are under study;
- v. No unilateral action will be taken by IPCS to increase the number of JECFA and/or JMPR meetings without full consultation with the co-sponsoring organization, FAO.

81. In concluding his presentation, Professor Mercier stated that the efforts to potentiate JECFA and JMPR's activities would much depend on the willingness of Member States to fully collaborate with the WHO Secretariat and on the ability of IPCS to create the necessary flexibility for such a potentiation.

82. During the discussion of this agenda item, a number of delegations, while fully supporting the efforts of the IPCS in promoting worldwide chemical safety, expressed some general views concerning the advisability of simplifying the operational structures of this programme

and of strengthening its priority mechanism. In particular, the Delegation of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya stressed the need to give emphasis to the training of toxicologists and food hygienists. The Delegations of Spain and Sweden recommended that high priority should be given to the evaluation of health risks of chemicals migrating into food from packaging material.

83. The Delegation of the USA expressed concern about JECFA and JMPR being budgeted exclusively from voluntary contributions instead of the regular budget of WHO. The UK Delegation expressed concern that widening the scope of the work on pesticides toxicology to include environmental and other aspects without a linked increase in the number of experts would result in a dilution of the present JMPR efforts. The UK Delegation was also concerned that the “lead institutions” approach might result in a clash of priorities between the directors of lead institutions and the experts of JMPR. In addition, this approach was likely to create difficulties in the protection of proprietary data rights.

84. The Delegation of Brazil announced that its government would soon communicate to IPCS its firm request to join the programme.

85. In replying, Professor Mercier reassured the various delegations that serious consideration had already been given to the points raised. These would continue to be considered carefully in the future. Concerning the question of budgeting for JECFA and the JMPR, he stated that these activities were, and would continue to be funded by the WHO regular budget.

86. The Commission expressed its appreciation to Professor Mercier for his presentation of the IPCS and recognizing the importance of the programme for the work of the Codex Alimentarius Commission, took note of the important commitments of IPCS to continue the activities of JECFA and JMPR.

Consumer Protection

87. The Commission was informed about the recent ECOSOC (Economic and Social Council of the United Nations) Resolution on Consumer Protection, and the discussions on the subject within the UN System and at one of the Regional Consultations held in Bangkok in June 1981.

88. These discussions had brought out clearly the fact that food was one of the most important areas deserving a high priority for action. In this context the role of the Codex Alimentarius Commission was highly appreciated, and the Secretary-General in his report to the ECOSOC, which was meeting concurrently with the Commission in Geneva, had acknowledged the importance of the Commission's work through recommending early acceptance of Codex recommended international food standards and the implementation of the Code of Ethics for International Trade in Food. Similarly, member governments of UN had been requested to strengthen their food control systems for the protection of their consumers. FAO and WHO activities in these areas had been referred to and the need for providing technical assistance to developing countries further stressed.

89. The Commission noted with interest these developments and wished to be kept informed.

Irradiated Food

90. The Executive Committee discussed the subject of irradiated food at its 27th and 28th sessions. The reason for this was that the International Project on Food Irradiation was due to end and the Executive Committee had been asked if it was prepared to supervise or guide further activities in this area.

91. At its 27th Session, the Executive Committee had decided that it was not prepared to accept this task for various reasons, both technical and legal. This view had been conveyed by the Secretariat to the Manager of the International Project. In the meantime, in early June 1981, the Board of Management of the International Project met and decided not to continue the Project as it had achieved the primary objective for which it had been set up in 1970. This was to clear the wholesomeness aspects of irradiated food, which was done by the 1980 Joint FAO/IAEA/WHO Expert Committee on Irradiated Food, which was able to formulate a recommendation on the acceptability of food irradiated up to an overall average dose of 10 kGy. On the other hand, the Board of Management expressed the view that there was an urgent need to continue close international cooperation in order to achieve, inter alia, the following objectives:

- i. furtherance of international trade in irradiated foods;
- ii. legislative requirements regarding the importation and marketing of irradiated foods and regarding the recognition and inspection of licensed irradiation facilities;
- iii. consumer acceptance trials and marketing tests;
- iv. information service;
- v. training courses;
- vi. focal point with appropriate expertise.

92. In order to meet the perceived need for international cooperation, it was felt necessary to set up some form of International Food Irradiation Board or Programme under the aegis of FAO, IAEA and WHO. It was hoped that such a Board or Programme might be constituted on the basis of Memoranda of Understanding by interested governments.

93. The Executive Committee at its 28th Session noted these thoughts with interest and expressed the hope that it would be possible to achieve some useful form of international cooperation in the field of food irradiation, as the Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme would be benefiting from this. However, it also expressed the view that it was not within the scope of the Codex Alimentarius Commission to sponsor such an International Board or Programme, but the Commission and its subsidiary bodies would appreciate the scientific expertise which would emanate from such a cooperative venture. A number of members of the Commission spoke in support of some form of collaborative arrangement being provided in order to continue the above-mentioned activities. The Representative of IAEA informed the Commission of IAEA's interest in being kept informed of progress on

acceptances of the General Standard for Irradiated Foods and informed the Commission concerning a Regional Seminar which was to be held in Japan later in 1981. The Commission was further informed that the International Facility for Food Irradiation Technology (IFFIT) sponsored by FAO, IAEA and the Dutch Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries would organize a training course on the proper use and control of food irradiation. These activities were considered to be useful in furthering the acceptance of the General Standard for Irradiated Foods. The Commission concurred with the views of the Executive Committee and supported the idea that IAEA, WHO and FAO collaborate in any new international venture in this field.

REPORTS OF ACTIVITIES OF OTHER INTERNATIONAL

ORGANIZATIONS WORKING ON THE STANDARDIZATION OF

FOODS AND RELATED MATTERS

94. The Commission had before it the reports of certain other international organizations working on the standardization of food and other related subjects. The organizations which informed the Commission of their activities were:

- European Economic Community (EEC)
- Arab Organization for Standardization and Metrology (ASMO)
- Council of Europe (CE)
- International Organization for Standardization - Technical Committee 34 (ISO TC/34, Agricultural Food Products)
- Council for Mutual Economic Assistance (CMEA)
- United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE)

EEC

95. The salient features of the report received from the European Economic Community were described by the Representative of the Community during the discussion of the item of the agenda dealing with progress on the acceptance of Codex standards (see para. 22). The document presented by the Representative of the Community indicated the current position as regards texts adopted by the Community.

ASMO

96. The Representative of the Arab Organization for Standardization and Metrology (ASMO) outlined progress on the activities of his organization in the fields of food standards and food control (see also para. 34).

CE

97. The Representative of the Council of Europe indicated the main features of her Organization's report on activities in the area of health aspects of food and agriculture. The report of the Council of Europe covered, amongst other things, the work of the Council of Europe's Committee of Experts on the Health Control of Foodstuffs, the Council's Committee of Experts on Material coming into Contact with Food, the Council's Committee of Experts on Flavouring Substances, and the Council's Committee of Experts on Microbiological Problems.

ISO

98. The report of the activities of ISO TC/34 (Agricultural Food Products) was introduced by the ISO Representative, who referred to the established arrangements for consultations between ISO and Codex, in order to avoid duplication of activity. The Representative of ISO indicated that ISO TC/34 had formulated some 200 standards and that 200 more were being developed. The Delegation of Hungary, which hosts ISO TC/34, drew attention to cooperation between ISO, Codex, AOAC and other international organizations in the area of methods of sampling and analysis, within the framework of the Codex Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling.

CMEA

99. The Representative of the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance (CMEA) referred to the document "Statute of CMEA Standards - Convention of the Application of CMEA Standards". The Commission was informed that the CMEA attached great importance to standardization work, including the development of CMEA standards for food. These standards were important from the point of view of meeting public health requirements and assisting in the maintenance of good nutrition standards, of strengthening technological disciplines in the production process, and of improving quality of food products, development of trade and economic relations of the CMEA member countries. The Commission was also informed of the comparative study of Codex and CMEA standards that was under way. A comparative study was also under way between Codex standards and the national standards of the CMEA member countries, and the results of this study would be taken into account in the future development of CMEA standards.

UNECE

100. The Representative of the Secretariat of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) referred to the work of the Working Party on Standardization of Perishable Produce of the UNECE. The Working Party continued to develop standards for perishable produce, but had decided not to undertake work on standards for fresh and chilled fish, in view of the fact that other international organizations were working in this field. At its most recent session, held in June 1981, the Working Party had adopted five recommendations relating to dry and dried products. The Working Party was continuing its work on poultry, meat and egg products. The Working Party was also developing a standard for pulses, and would take into account any Codex work that might become available in this field.

ARRANGEMENTS TO AVOID DUPLICATION OF EFFORT BETWEEN

CODEX WORK AND THE WORK OF OTHER INTERNATIONAL

ORGANIZATIONS

101. The Commission had before it document CX/EXEC 81/28/3 on the above topic. The Executive Committee had considered this document at its 28th Session and had decided that it should be placed before the Commission as a Conference Room Document.

GATT

102. The attention of the Commission was directed to paras 2 and 3 of CX/EXEC 81/28/3 relating to obligations falling on member countries in connection with notifications of acceptances of Codex standards, and notifications under the GATT Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade. The Commission noted that the arrangements which had been agreed upon between the Codex secretariat and the GATT secretariat would be of considerable benefit to member governments. The Commission endorsed the recommendation of the Executive Committee that the information contained in paras 2 and 3 of document CX/EXEC 81/28/3 be made known to governments by means of a Circular Letter issued by both the GATT and Codex secretariats.

UNECE

103. The Commission noted with appreciation the efforts which had been made jointly by the Codex and UNECE secretariats to resolve certain outstanding differences between Codex and the UNECE Working Party on Standardization of Perishable Produce. The differences which needed to be resolved related to standards for certain dry and dried produce. Proposals for rationalizing the work between Codex and the Working Party had been prepared jointly by the two Secretariats and had been submitted to the Working Party and the Executive Committee.

104. The Working Party felt unable to accept the proposals for rationalization of the work and pointed out the following:

- that the proposals presented in document CX/EXEC 81/28/3 were premature in their present form;
- that a pragmatic approach, on a commodity-by-commodity basis, to the problems of harmonization of requirements was preferable;
- that to a large degree the existing arrangements seemed to work;
- that the Working Party would, through its secretariat inform the Codex Alimentarius Commission of all new work being undertaken, and that any member government of the Codex Alimentarius Commission not a member of the Commission would be welcome to participate under Article 11 of the Commission's Terms of Reference;

- that the Working Party would, in any case, take account of the relevant recommendations of the Codex Alimentarius Commission, and
- that all reasonable efforts would be made to harmonize the texts of corresponding standards whenever possible.

105. The Executive Committee had noted with regret that it had not been possible for the Working Party to accept the detailed proposals for rationalizing the work. The Executive Committee considered that the proposals were essential for preventing duplication, and hoped that the Working Party would consider the matter favourably at its next session.

106. The Executive Committee noted that, in the meantime, the Working Party would inform the Codex Alimentarius Commission of any plans it might have for new work.

107. The Representative of the Secretariat of the UNECE indicated that the UNECE standards contained commercial quality classes as well as minimum quality requirements. There was no problem of coordination as far as commercial quality classes were concerned, nor as far as food safety was concerned, in respect of which the expertise and authority of Codex were recognized. It was only in the area of minimum quality requirements that problems had arisen. In order to facilitate harmonization of views at the national level the secretariat of the UNECE had provided Codex contact points with all working documents related to areas which were of interest to Codex.

108. The Delegation of Australia commended the joint efforts of the two secretariats to resolve this problem. The delegation stated that the Working Party on Standardization of Perishable Produce was not, in the opinion of Australia, the right body to develop international standards for food products which were traded internationally. The delegation pointed out that the existence of two sets of minimum quality standards for the same products would give rise to difficulties for governments and could result in the erection of trade barriers. The Delegation of Australia was aware that under Article 11 of UNECE's terms of reference, countries which were not members of UNECE could participate in the work of the Working Party. This was not very satisfactory, however, as the costs of participation in two bodies doing the same type of work had to be taken into consideration.

109. The above views of the Delegation of Australia were fully supported by the Delegations of New Zealand, the United Kingdom and the United States of America. The Delegation of the United Kingdom also stated that it doubted that the Working Party was the correct body to decide on jurisdictional issues, and that the matter should be taken up at higher levels in the UN system. The Delegation of the United States of America noted that the inter-secretariat efforts had not succeeded in resolving the problem, and that there was a need for much more effective coordination at the national level. The Delegation of the United States of America suggested, therefore, that each interested delegation should take it upon itself to try and have this problem resolved at the national level.

110. The Coordinator for Europe, Dr. H. Woidich (Austria), offered to cooperate closely with the UNECE Working Party on Standardization of Perishable Produce, in order to resolve any

problems of the kind mentioned above at the European level. The Coordinator expressed the view that the Coordinating Committee for Europe would be a suitable forum to consider such problems, and indicated that this subject had been considered by the Coordinating Committee at its two most recent sessions.

111. The Commission requested the secretariat to continue its efforts to resolve this problem, but stressed the responsibility of governments themselves for resolving issues of this kind.

Other International Organizations

112. The Commission noted with satisfaction the standing arrangements for regular consultations between the Codex and the ISO secretariats on matters of mutual interest. The Commission also noted with appreciation the steps being taken within the Coordinating Committees for Latin America and Europe to bring certain regional standards into harmony, as far as possible, with Codex standards. The Commission endorsed the proposal of the secretariat for joint consultations with EEC officials for the purpose of reviewing Codex standards and EEC directives and draft directives of interest. The Representative of the EEC indicated that he was in agreement with the proposal and looked forward to fruitful discussions with the Codex secretariat.

INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS FOR CERTAIN KINDS OF FRESH

FRUIT AND VEGETABLES

113. The Commission noted that some member countries had expressed an interest in the development of international standards for certain kinds of fresh fruit and vegetables of particular interest to developing countries wishing to expand their exports of these products. The Commission endorsed the recommendation of the Executive Committee that it would be useful to have a paper prepared on this subject for the 15th Session of the Commission and requested the secretariat to prepare such a paper, which should have particular regard to products of interest to developing countries. The paper would also be expected to take particular note of situations where international standards already existed for some of these products.

LIST OF INTERNATIONAL BODIES DEVELOPING FOOD

STANDARDS

114. The Commission endorsed the recommendation of the Executive Committee and requested the secretariat to undertake the compilation of a list of international bodies developing composition standards for foods and other related food matters of trade significance, to assist the Commission in its task of coordination and avoidance of duplication

generally. The Commission noted that the Executive Committee had requested that, if possible, the paper should be prepared for the Executive Committee's next session.

PART IV

NUTRITION AND THE WORK OF THE COMMISSION

115. The Commission had before it document ALINORM 81/7, entitled as above, which had been requested by the Commission at its 13th Session. The report was introduced by the consultant (Prof. R.J.L. Allen, United Kingdom), who had drawn it up, in accordance with terms of reference laid down by the Executive Committee at its 27th Session (ALINORM 81/3, para. 29).

116. The report had been reviewed by the Executive Committee at its 28th Session. The Executive Committee had expressed the view that the report constituted an excellent basis for a full discussion by the Commission of this important subject. The Executive Committee had noted that the consultant was of the opinion that the Commission and its subsidiary bodies had given due attention to nutritional aspects of their activities and that no radical changes were called for.

117. The consultant had made a series of recommendations in paragraphs 36 to 50 of his report concerning future activities. In the report the consultant had raised the question of the possibility of reviving the idea of a "general standard". The Commission noted that the Executive Committee had recommended that the matter of a "general standard" should not be revived, as much had been achieved in this area by the work of the Codex Committee on Food Labelling and the FAO/WHO Model Food Law. The Executive Committee had agreed to recommend to the Commission that the matter of the general standard should continue to be left in abeyance. The Executive Committee had also expressed its full agreement with the consultant's conclusions in paragraph 52 of the report regarding the value and limitations of food standards, and considered that these had been placed in their proper context regarding nutrition.

118. In introducing the report the consultant outlined its main features. He briefly reviewed the analysis in the report of the work of each of the Commission's subsidiary bodies and the extent to which nutritional considerations figured in this work. He indicated that this analysis had led him to conclude that the past and present work of the Commission had had and was continuing to have a considerable nutritional impact (paragraph 35 of the consultant's report). He drew particular attention to the role which, in his opinion, the Codex Committee on Foods for Special Dietary Uses could play in any increased emphasis by the Commission on nutrition in its programme of work. The consultant had, therefore, suggested widened terms of reference for that Committee. The report also contained sections on other topics such as fortification of foods and recommendations concerning collaboration with other FAO and WHO units. The consultant concluded his introductory remarks by drawing the Commission's

attention to the conclusions and recommendations contained in paragraphs 53 to 55 of his report.

119. The Secretariat drew attention to a document which was circulated as a Conference Room Document and which was referenced as LIM 2. This document contained a report on a Workshop on “Nutritional Quality in Food Standards and Guidelines”, which had been held in London from 18 to 20 May 1981. The Workshop had been organized by the Committee on Food Standards of the International Union of Nutritional Sciences. There were some references in the report of the Workshop to the subject of nutrition and the work of the Codex Alimentarius Commission. The purpose of the report of the Workshop was to emphasize the importance of nutritional considerations in food standards work.

120. All delegations that spoke on this subject congratulated the consultant for the excellence of his paper. The Delegation of the Federal Republic of Germany, which hosts the Codex Committee on Foods for Special Dietary Uses, was of the opinion that the consultant's paper and the recommendations therein should be considered in the first instance by the Codex Committee on Foods for Special Dietary Uses, which would be asked for example, for its views on the proposed new title and extended terms of reference for the Committee. In this way the Codex Committee on Foods for Special Dietary Uses would be able to report on these matters as well as on the implications for new work for the Committee to the Commission at its 15th Session. The Delegation of the Federal Republic of Germany also drew attention to the recommendation in the consultant's report that it would be desirable to hold annual meetings of the Committee to accommodate the expected new work. The delegation stated that for financial reasons it was not possible at this time for the authorities concerned in the Federal Republic of Germany to indicate whether it would be feasible to increase the frequency of Committee sessions. Moreover the reference to the creation of a Working Group on Nutrition as part of the Committee could also have financial and other implications. The delegation reminded the Commission that the Committee still had a heavy programme of work before it under its existing terms of reference. If the Committee were to undertake the new work proposed for it, it would need to re-arrange its existing order of priorities and presumably ascribe a certain priority to the proposed new subjects. The Delegation of the Federal Republic of Germany concluded by suggesting that consideration might also be given to the Commission to the establishment of a new committee to deal specifically with nutrition questions.

121. Concerning the titles of subsidiary bodies, their terms of reference and scope of activities, most members emphasized that it was the responsibility of the Commission to decide on these. The Commission, however, concluded as follows:

- i. The Commission considered that nutrition considerations had not been neglected in the work of the Codex Alimentarius Commission; on the contrary the past and present work of the Commission had had and was continuing to have a considerable nutritional impact. No radical change was necessary, therefore, in the Commission's programme of work.

- ii. The Commission agreed with the overall philosophy and recommendations in the consultant's report.
- iii. The Commission agreed with the Executive Committee that the idea of a "general standard" should not be pursued.
- iv. The Commission agreed in principle with the proposed new terms of reference for the Codex Committee on Foods for Special Dietary Uses, but wished to have the views of the Committee itself on these before finalization of them by the Commission at its 15th Session.
- v. The Codex Committee on Foods for Special Dietary Uses should report to the next session of the Commission on the extent to which it could undertake the wider responsibilities proposed for it in the consultant's paper, and on what would be a feasible time-scale for dealing with the work arising from the proposed additional responsibilities.
- vi. The Codex Committee on Foods for Special Dietary Uses should report on methods of operating within the proposed new terms of reference.
- vii. The Commission endorsed the recommendations concerning continued support from the units concerned in FAO, WHO and the UN System in the nutrition field.
- viii. The Commission agreed with the views expressed in paragraphs 51 and 52 of the consultant's report concerning the value and limitation of food standards in relation to nutrition policy.
- ix. The Secretariat should consult with the Host Government (Federal Republic of Germany) concerning any organizational and administrative questions which might need to be discussed before the next session of the Committee.
- x. The Commission agreed that the Codex Committee on Foods for Special Dietary Uses would not be an endorsing Committee in the full sense. It was not the intention that the Committee should automatically scrutinize every standard or draft standard. It would be a matter for each Committee developing standards to decide for itself whether to refer any or all of its standards to the Codex Committee on Foods for Special Dietary Uses for endorsement on nutrition matters, aided, if necessary, by guidelines which might be developed by the Codex Committee on Foods for Special Dietary Uses.

REVIEW OF CURRENT WORK PROGRAMME OF THE COMMISSION

AND ITS SUBSIDIARY BODIES, DIRECTION OF FUTURE ACTIVITIES

AND PROVISIONAL TIMETABLE OF CODEX SESSIONS 1982/83

122. The Commission had before it document ALINORM 81/8 and Addendum on the above topic. The Commission noted that the Executive Committee, at its 28th Session had considered these documents and had expressed its general agreement with the analysis of the work of the Commission's subsidiary bodies which had been made by the Secretariat.

123. The Delegation of the United States stated that in its view the work of the Codex Committee on Processed Fruits and Vegetables and of the Codex Committee on Cocoa

Products and Chocolate was nearing completion and that these Committees should soon be asked to consider adjourning sine die. The Delegation of the United States also expressed the view that if the Commission were to decide that international standards should be elaborated for pulses, the Codex Committee on Cereals and Cereal Products would, for the foregoing reason, be a more appropriate committee to undertake this task. The Delegation of the United States considered that the Commission should keep in mind the need to review, from time to time, the work of all of its subsidiary bodies with a view to determining which of them could soon be expected to adjourn sine die, in order to free resources for other subjects of interest to the Membership of the Commission.

124. The Delegation of Australia was of the opinion that the Codex Committees on Cocoa Products and Chocolate, Fats and Oils, and Meat Hygiene as well as the Joint FAO/WHO Committee of Experts on Milk and Milk Products, should be in a position before very long to adjourn sine die. Later on the Codex Committees on Fish and Fishery Products and on Processed Fruits and Vegetables, as well as the Joint ECE/Codex Group of Experts on Fruit Juices, should also be able to adjourn sine die. The Delegation of Australia thought that the Commission should issue a general directive that the subsidiary bodies of the Commission should keep their work programmes under a constant review and make recommendations to the Commission for possible adjournment sine die, when their work programmes were nearing completion.

125. The Delegation of New Zealand indicated that it was in agreement with the comments of Australia and expressed the opinion that the Codex Committee on Processed Meat and Poultry Products should be able to adjourn before very long. The Delegation of New Zealand stressed the importance for Committees to take account of the work priorities criteria.

126. The Delegation of the United Kingdom stated that it was in agreement with much of what had been said concerning the need for Committees to think in terms of adjourning when their programmes of work had been completed. The Delegation indicated that the United Kingdom Secretariat would be examining the work of the Committee on Fats and Oils, which was hosted by the United Kingdom, with a view to seeing when it might be appropriate for that Committee to consider adjournment sine die.

127. The Delegation of Canada was of the opinion that the Codex Committee on Processed Fruits and Vegetables, Cocoa Products and Chocolate, and the ECE/Codex Group of Experts on Fruit Juices should soon consider adjourning sine die. On the question of the development of any standards for pulses, the Delegation of Canada agreed with the Delegation of the United States that the Codex Committee on Cereals and Cereal Products would be the appropriate Committee to undertake this work.

128. Referring to the Timetable of Codex Sessions (1982/83), the Delegation of the Netherlands drew attention to the fact that there would be a period of two years elapsing between the 14th and 15th Sessions of the Commission. In response, the Secretariat indicated that there were financial constraints which had to be taken account of, and also that it was necessary to leave a reasonable period of time between sessions of subsidiary bodies

and the session of the Commission to which they would report. The Delegation of the Netherlands asked the Secretariat to consider whether it would be possible to bring forward by a few weeks, the date set for the 1983 session of the Commission, in order to avoid holding the Commission session at a time when there was a likelihood that many people would be on holiday. The Secretariat undertook to look into this request.

129. The Delegation of Switzerland stressed the particular importance of the work of the General Subject Committees. In this connection, the Delegation of Switzerland thought that it would be advantageous if the Codex Committee on Food Hygiene and the Codex Committee on Food Labelling could meet in consecutive weeks, in the interest of reducing travel expenses for some delegations. The Delegation of Switzerland mentioned that there were four Committees meeting in North America, namely: (i) Codex Committee on Processed Fruits and Vegetables, (ii) Codex Committee on Vegetable Proteins, (iii) Codex Committee on Food Hygiene, and (iv) Codex Committee on Food Labelling, and that efforts should be made to try to link some of these meetings with each other.

130. The Delegation of New Zealand expressed its agreement with the views of the Delegation of Switzerland.

131. The Delegation of Ghana stated that in developing countries there were often very few people available to attend the Codex Committee sessions. The Delegation of Ghana considered that it would be helpful if more Codex Committee sessions could be linked together.

132. The Secretariat indicated that in fixing dates for Codex Committee sessions, account had to be taken of the wishes of Host Governments as regards the dates when suitable facilities could be made available. However, the Host Governments and the Secretariat did, as far as was practicable, try to phase sessions with a view to facilitating participation of the delegates at sessions.

133. The Delegation of Austria confirmed the date proposed for the next session of the Coordinating Committee for Europe (27 September to 1 October 1982). No decision had as yet been taken as to whether the meeting would be held in Innsbruck or Vienna.

134. Concerning the tentative date for the 17th Session of the Codex Committee on Food Labelling (March 1983), the Delegation of Canada indicated that it would prefer to see the 17th Session postponed to November 1983 because of the fact that very few Commodity Committees would be meeting between the 16th Session of the Codex Committee on Food Labelling and the 1983 Session of the Commission, and therefore, little endorsement work would be necessary. Such endorsement work as would be necessary could be done at the 15th Session of the Commission. The Commission concurred with this change in date.

HOSTING OF CODEX SESSIONS IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

135. The Commission had before it ALINORM 81/9 and ALINORM 81/3 containing the responses of various Host Governments to the question of whether they would be willing, and if so under what conditions, to hold meetings of their Committees in developing countries. As had been noted by the Executive Committee at its 28th Session, some Host Governments saw major problems in transferring Codex sessions to other locations. Other Host Countries had indicated their willingness, in principle, to contemplate an arrangement of this kind subject to various conditions being fulfilled. The Executive Committee had noted that a major point raised was the question of whether moving a session to a different location would, in fact, result in greater attendance of developing countries. For example, would a session held in Africa result in greater attendance of Asian and Latin American countries. The Executive Committee had expressed the opinion that this was a point which should be brought specifically to the attention of the Commission, recognizing that it was important to look carefully at this matter to see if there really would be an advantage to be gained.

136. The attention of the Commission was also drawn to the fact that the Chairman of the Commission, when presiding over the 28th Session of the Executive Committee, had suggested that the Coordinating Committees for the various regions might be able to play a useful role in examining standards, under elaboration by the various Commodity Committees, of particular interest to the Members of the Region. The Executive Committee had considered that this was a matter which merited further examination, and would be helpful for the discussion of the Commission on this topic.

137. The Delegation of Norway stated that, in principle, Norway would try to accommodate the wishes of developing countries if they felt strongly about transferring a session or sessions of the Codex Committee on Fish and Fishery Products to another location. The Delegation of Norway added that it was probably preferable to hold sessions in countries where there were FAO or WHO facilities. The Delegation of Norway thought that a factor which would need to be borne in mind was whether the transfer of a Codex meeting to another distant location would result in a falling off in the attendance of those countries which usually sent delegations to sessions of the Committee, resulting in loss of continuity of participation and expertise.

138. The Delegation of the United States recalled that it had arranged for a session of the Codex Committee on Food Hygiene and a session of the Codex Committee on Processed Fruits and Vegetables, in the early years of the Committees' existence, to be held in Rome. This had not, however, resulted in increased participation in the sessions. Concerning the Codex Committee on Cereals and Cereal Products, the Delegation of the United States was of the opinion, taking into account the wide geographical interest in products being dealt with by this Committee and the already good and increasing participation, that it would be best to continue holding sessions of the Committee in the USA.

139. The Delegation of Hungary stated that, in principle, it would be agreeable to hold a session of the Codex Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling in a developing country even though it had taken note of the various difficulties there might be in trying to arrange for a meeting of the Committee in another location. The Delegation of Hungary thought that the Regional Coordinating Committees should look into this question. The

Delegation also felt that any concrete proposals that might come forward could be looked at by the Executive Committee.

140. The Delegation of Switzerland indicated that, in principle, it was not opposed to holding a meeting of the Codex Committee for Cocoa Products and Chocolate in a developing country. The Delegation pointed out that the Committee was discussing commodities the raw materials for which were produced in developing countries. The Delegation of Switzerland indicated that, if it was advised which countries were interested in providing facilities for the holding of a session of this Committee in its territory, it might be possible to come to some arrangement. The delegation of Ghana stated that, as cocoa was so important to Ghana's economy, Ghana might consider the hosting of a session of the Codex Committee on Cocoa Products and Chocolate after consultation with Switzerland, which holds the chairmanship of the Committee.

141. The Delegation of Canada indicated that it was open to the possibility of holding a session of the Codex Committee on Vegetable Proteins in an interested developing country. While not ruling out holding a session of the Codex Committee on Food Labelling in a developing country, experience had indicated that there would likely be significant problems associated with moving the venue of this type of horizontal or endorsement committee. The Delegation of Canada considered that it would be necessary to have a list of potential sites accompanied by details of services available. Also, if a Regional Coordinating Committee wished to be brought up to date on the work of, say, the Codex Committee on Vegetable Proteins, the Chairman of that Committee, or the Codex Contact Point in Canada, could be invited to attend and report to the Coordinating Committee.

142. The Coordinator for Latin America, Dr. A.M. Dovat stated that Uruguay which had provided host facilities for the Second Session of the Coordinating Committee for Latin America would also be providing them for the Third Session in Montevideo. He expressed the view that it was very important that Member Countries in the various regions should strengthen their participation in the work of the Coordinating Committees for those regions. He also thought that greater economic support should be given to the work of the Regional Coordinating Committees.

143. Several delegations from countries, including those of Cuba, Ivory Coast, Ghana and Nigeria, which were not host countries for Codex Committees, also expressed their views on this matter. Most delegations thought that although there might be financial and other difficulties, every effort should be made to have some Codex Committee sessions held in developing countries. Some delegations thought that perhaps FAO and WHO Regional Offices might be in a position to help in this matter with appropriate financial assistance from both Organizations.

144. Another proposal was that the Secretariat should make a survey of conference facilities available in the different developing countries. The point was also made, especially in relation to Codex Committees which discuss standards for commodities produced in developing countries, that for a better understanding of problems experienced by developing countries, it

would be desirable to hold Codex sessions where the problems exist. Another advantage of holding Codex sessions in developing countries would be that it would create greater awareness of the value of the work of the Codex Alimentarius Commission, which was still not adequately appreciated in all parts of the world. The point was also made that if a host country was really committed to the idea of helping the developing countries, a way could be found to overcome financial and other difficulties. Another proposal put forward was that where a Codex Committee was dealing with products of particular interest to developing countries, it would be desirable for sessions of the Committee to be held in those countries which produce these commodities. It was also stated that the holding of a Codex Committee session in a developing producer country would enable other participants to see how the raw material was processed. Another suggestion put forward was that it would be desirable to have an approximate estimate of costs involved in holding a Codex meeting in another location.

145. Most delegations thought that the Commission should accept, in principle, the idea of trying to hold more sessions in developing countries. The Representative of the Arab Organization for Standardization and Metrology (ASMO) expressed the view that it was up to the developing countries themselves to make known their interest in holding particular Codex Committee sessions in their country. He also thought that developing countries which had the facilities for holding Codex Committee sessions should be encouraged by the FAO or WHO Regional Offices, or the appropriate Regional Codex Coordinating Committee.

146. The Commission concluded that the discussion had shown substantial interest in this subject, and despite financial and other difficulties, it was the general view that, in principle, every effort should be made to try and arrange to have a number of Codex Committees meet in developing countries. The Commission agreed that it would be necessary to obtain more information on what was possible, on what facilities were on offer, and under what conditions. Also, it would be necessary to obtain information regarding the availability of qualified interpreters locally, as otherwise this could be the single most expensive item in the cost of the holding of Codex Committee sessions. It was also agreed that it would be necessary to identify standards of interest to a potential new host country. In this connection the Commission agreed that it would be necessary to send an appropriate questionnaire to developing countries. The Commission agreed that the Secretariat should send letters to developing countries posing the appropriate questions and enquiring which Codex Committees were of special interest. The Secretariat should also maintain close liaison with the present host countries about this matter. The Secretariat was asked to prepare a progress report on this topic for consideration by the Executive Committee at its next session.

147. The Commission recognized that it might be of greater interest to developing countries and a more practicable proposition to transfer to another location sessions of certain Commodity Committees, such as for example the Committee on Cocoa Products and Chocolate, rather than sessions of Codex General Subject Committees. It might be too difficult to operate General Subject Committees away from their normal location, because of the extensive documentation requirements and need to refer to records and files from previous sessions. The Commission also thought it valuable to keep in mind the proposal of the Delegation of Canada concerning the suggestion that Chairmen of certain Codex

Committees and Codex Contact Points might be invited to attend and report in sessions of Coordinating Committees.

INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS FOR PULSES AND LEGUMES

148. The Executive Committee at its 27th Session had considered the question of whether there was a need to establish international Codex standards for Pulses and Legumes. The Executive Committee had recommended that a document be prepared for consideration by the Commission at its 14th Session.

149. The document entitled "Consideration of need for international standards for pulses and legumes" (ALINORM 81/5) was introduced by the Secretariat. It contained details of the most important pulses moving in international trade, and the principle areas of cultivation. Data on production, consumption and trade were also provided in the paper, as well as information on the nutritive value of these products. There was also a section on health consideration associated with some of these products. The conclusion in the paper was that, on the basis of the work criteria of the Commission, there was a need to establish international standards for these products, which were an important source of energy and protein in diets of many peoples in the developing world.

150. The majority of delegations that spoke on this topic agreed that the paper had established that there was a need to develop worldwide standards, or codes of practice as might be appropriate, for these products. A number of delegations pointed out that it would be important for any international standards to take into account that in many developing regions these products were processed by simple techniques. In this connection it was stressed that any international standards should promote exports and not result in the creation of export difficulties for developing countries.

151. Attention was drawn to the fact that the Working Party on Standardization of Perishable Produce of the UNECE was working on a European recommendation for pulses. The need to ensure that the minimum quality requirements of any UNECE proposal did not conflict with any minimum quality requirements of Codex standards was stressed.

152. The Delegation of Argentina drew attention to the conclusion in paragraph 13e in that paper, which stated that the Caribbean area and Latin America as a whole continued to be a net importer. The Delegation pointed out that Argentina was a net exporter and therefore it would be more informative to say that the majority of countries in the Caribbean area and Latin America continued to be net importers.

153. A number of delegations thought it would be better for the Commission not to take a decision to embark on elaboration of standards for these products at this time. Amongst the points made by these delegations were the following: There was insufficient information before the Commission as to how much of these products were used for human consumption, and how much for animal feed; the possible health risks associated with these products were

not very significant; the Secretariat should issue a Circular Letter to obtain further information concerning the extent and importance of trade in these products destined for human consumption, and also which products would need to be standardized at regional and worldwide levels.

154. In connection with the foregoing points, the Secretariat made available copies of an FAO document entitled "Pulses - World Situation and Outlook". This had been prepared by the Commodities and Trade Division of FAO for the Assembly of the International Pulse Trade and Industry Confederation held in Marrakesh, Morocco, June 1981.

155. After full consideration the Commission decided that work should be started on the elaboration of standards for these products. The Commission requested the Codex Committee on Cereals and Cereal Products to undertake this task. The Codex Committee on Cereals and Cereal Products should determine its own priorities, including the question of which products needed to be standardized on a worldwide basis, and which products might more appropriately be standardized on a regional basis. It would also be necessary for the UNECE to ensure that there was no conflict between its standards and those of the Codex for these products. It would be necessary, therefore for the Codex Committee on Cereals and Cereal Products to examine the UNECE draft recommendation for these products. The Commission considered that the Codex Committee on Cereals and Cereal Products could benefit from the expertise of the International Pulse Trade and Industry Confederation and noted with appreciation the offer of the Secretary-General of IPTIC to collaborate with the Committee in this work.

156. It was agreed that it was necessary to widen the terms of reference and title of the Codex Committee on Cereals and Cereal Products. In this connection it was agreed that revised terms of reference for the Committee should be considered under the item of the agenda dealing with the activities of the Codex Committee on Cereals and Cereal Products (see also paras 476–477).

PART V

CODEX COMMITTEE ON GENERAL PRINCIPLES

157. The Commission had before it the Report of the 7th Session of the Codex Committee on General Principles (ALINORM 81/33). The Report was introduced by the Chairman of the Committee, Mr. C. Castang (France), who outlined its main features. In particular he drew attention to Appendix II of the report which contained a proposed revised Procedure for the Elaboration of Worldwide Codex standards and Regional Codex standards. The Chairman of the Committee pointed out that the purpose in revising the procedure was to speed up the development of Codex standards, as had been requested by Members of the Commission. The Chairman of the Committee also drew the Commission's attention to Step 8 of the revised Procedure wherein a Codex standard rather than a recommended standard would be adopted

at that Step, in view of the fact that the process of elaboration of the standards ended at that Step. The ensuing Steps 9 – 12 related to matters other than the elaboration of standards and therefore did not, properly speaking, form part of the Steps procedure.

158. The Chairman of the Committee also brought to the Commission's attention the conclusions and recommendations of the Committee concerning the following topics:-

- i. format of Codex standards and the related questions of acceptance
- ii. question of need for guidelines for Governments in connection with acceptance of milk product standards
- iii. consideration of the question of a general provision for styles in Codex standards
- iv. improved terminology to replace “non-acceptance”
- v. status of specifications for the identity and purity of food additives.

Revision of the Procedure for the Elaboration of Worldwide and Regional Codex Standards

159. The Delegation of Australia indicated that it was in full agreement with the revised Procedure for the Elaboration of Worldwide Codex standards, but would have difficulty in agreeing to the revised Procedure for the Elaboration of Regional Codex Standards. In particular, the Delegation of Australia objected to Steps 5 and 8 of the Procedure for the Elaboration of Regional Codex Standards, which provided that “only the majority of the Members of the region concerned attending the session (of the Commission) can decide to amend or adopt the draft”. The Delegation of Australia saw this question as being tied up with the new terms of reference for Codex Coordinating Committees. The delegation pointed out, in this connection, that the Coordinating Committees for Europe had not agreed to accept the same terms of reference as the other Coordinating Committees, so far as the elaboration of standards was concerned. This would raise objections even to Steps 5 and 8 of the existing Procedure for the Elaboration of Regional Codex Standards. The Delegation of Australia considered that the problem was further exacerbated by Rule VI.3 which it still considered was in conflict with Article 1 of the Commission's statutes. The Delegation of Australia concluded by stating that the revised Procedure for the Elaboration of Regional Codex Standards contained potential for creating barriers to trade, and that Regional Coordinating Committees should not embark upon the standardization of foods unless these foods moved exclusively or almost exclusively in the region.

160. The views expressed by the Delegation of Australia were supported by the Delegations of New Zealand and the USA. The Delegation of New Zealand added that Rule VI.3 should be looked into by the Commission.

161. Several delegations pointed out that the remit of the Secretariat and the Codex Committee on General Principles had been to propose amendments to the Procedure for the Elaboration of Standards which would result in speeding up the process of developing standards. The remit did not include the putting forward of proposals relating to the substance of Rule VI.3. The problem for certain countries stemming from Rule VI.3 had to be regarded

as a separate issue, therefore, from the business of speeding up the procedure for developing standards. These delegations expressed the view that the point raised by the Delegation of Australia could be examined in depth at another session of the Commission. The Delegations of Australia, New Zealand and the United States agreed that the problem arising from Rule VI.3 could, perhaps, be looked into at another time, but that there was a need to resolve, satisfactorily, at this session of the Commission, the problem arising from the views expressed in its report by the Coordinating Committee for Europe concerning its terms of reference.

162. The Coordinator for Europe, Dr. H. Woidich (Austria), stated that whilst he did not think that the revised procedure for the elaboration of Codex standards should be linked with the terms of reference of individual subsidiary bodies of the Commission, he thought that the question of the terms of reference of the Coordinating Committee for Europe could more properly be discussed under the item of the agenda dealing with the Coordinating Committee. The Coordinator proposed, as an interim solution to the problem, that the new terms of reference for the Coordinating Committee for Europe be left in abeyance, for further consideration by the Coordinating Committee for Europe at its next session and by the Commission at its 15th session.

163. In the light of the above statement made by the Coordinator for Europe, the Commission decided not to pursue the matter further, at this time, and requested the Secretariat to prepare, for consideration by the Executive Committee and by the Commission at its next session, a paper on Rule VI.3.

164. The Delegation of Poland stated that there was no reference in the revised Procedure for the Elaboration of Codex Standards to the power of the Commission to hold standards at Step 8. The Commission agreed that a sentence should be included in the Introduction to the Procedure to cover this point.

165. The Commission adopted the Revised Procedure for the Elaboration of Worldwide and Regional Codex Standards, as set forth in Appendix II of ALINORM 81/33, with the inclusion in the Introduction of a sentence to cover the point made above by the Delegation of Poland.

Format of Codex Standards and Related Question of Acceptance

166. The Commission agreed with the conclusions of the Codex Committee on General Principles on this subject which were as follows:

- i. It is better to consider all the relevant detail and agree in an international standard on what it should be than to exclude the detail from the standard and leave it to national legislation.
- ii. Codex Committees are the competent bodies to determine how much detail there should be in each draft standard, which can vary with the product being considered.
- iii. The suggestion that certain parts of a standard could be mandatory and other parts optional is not accepted, and Codex Committees should not be asked to consider this.

Instead, when considering how much detail there should be in the standards they are elaborating, the attention of the Codex Committees should be drawn to the importance of paying close attention to the work priorities criteria, and also to the possibility for participating countries to submit economic impact statements concerning any or all of the provisions of the standards.

- iv. Governments should address the question of acceptance of Codex standards with a sense of urgency. Where a Government cannot accept a standard or some provisions of a standard, it should indicate what will be its attitude to products which are in conformity with the standards. The possibility of free circulation for products in conformity with the standards should be given urgent consideration.

Question of Need for Guidelines for Governments in Connection with Acceptance of Milk Product Standards

167. The Commission agreed with the recommendation of the Committee as set forth in paragraph 26 of its report.

Consideration of the Question of General Provision for Other “Styles” in Codex Standards

168. The Commission agreed with the recommendations of the Committee as set forth in paragraphs 38–40 of the Committee's report.

Improved Terminology to Replace “Non-Acceptance”

169. The Commission adopted the recommendations of the Committee, as set forth in paragraph 45 of the Committee's report. The Commission agreed that this matter should be brought to the attention of subsidiary bodies developing standards.

Status of Specifications for the Identity and Purity of Food Additives

170. The Commission noted that it was the intention to deal with this matter under the item of the agenda relating to the Codex Committee on Food Additives.

Other Business - Methods of Analysis

171. The Delegation of Austria referred to the query posed in paragraph 50b of the report, namely whether it was appropriate to establish methods of analysis for parameters not provided for in standards. The Codex Committee on General Principles had reaffirmed its view that there was no need for nor requirement on the part of the Commission to elaborate such methods. The Delegation of Austria agreed that this was true for most products, but that in the case of natural mineral water there was a need for such methods. The Delegation of Austria indicated that it wished to have its view on this matter recorded in the report.

Confirmation of Chairmanship

172. The Commission confirmed under Rule IX.10 that the Codex Committee on General Principles should continue to be under the Chairmanship of the Government of France.

CODEX COMMITTEE ON FOOD LABELLING

173. The Commission had before it the Report of the 15th Session of the Codex Committee on Food Labelling (ALINORM 81/22).

174. The Chairman of the Committee, Mr. R.H. McKay (Canada), introduced the report and outlined the work undertaken since the last session of the Commission. He confirmed the date and venue for the Sixteenth Session of the Committee (13–21 May 1982, Ottawa).

175. The Chairman drew attention to the decision of the Committee to establish two ad hoc working groups to consider the guidelines on nutrition labelling as well as the revised text of the General Standard for the Labelling of Prepackaged Foods in the light of government comments and to recommend to the full Committee further amendments to the two texts as appropriate. The working groups would be meeting during 13 and 14 May, followed by a 5 day session of the full Committee. The Government of Canada would be in a position to provide full interpretation in the three working languages, English, French and Spanish.

Matters arising from the Report of the Codex Committee on Food Labelling (ALINORM 81/22)

176. The Commission was informed that the Committee, which had endorsed the labelling provisions contained in the Standards at Step 8, had, however, requested the originating Committee of several of the standards to bring the date-marking provisions into line with the revised guidelines on date-marking and to introduce provisions for the labelling of non-retail containers after the respective guidelines had been finalized by the Committee on Labelling.

177. The Commission pointed out that in addition to further consideration of the Draft Guidelines on Nutrition Labelling and the revised text of the General Standard for the Labelling of Prepackaged Foods, the Committee would examine, at its next session, the Draft Guidelines on Non-Retail Containers, having regard to a working group's report (Appendix VIII of ALINORM 81/22) and further government comments thereon. The future work programme would also include the elaboration of additional guidelines complementary to the revised General Standard on Labelling, which had been briefly discussed at the 15th session of the Committee.

Consideration of the Revised Text of the General Standard for the Labelling of Prepackaged Foods at Step 5 (Appendix VII of ALINORM 81/22)

178. The Chairman pointed out that the revision of this standard was of the utmost importance and extended, on behalf of the Committee, thanks to the consultant, Mr. L.J. Erwin of

Australia, who had prepared an excellent working paper on which the Committee's deliberations had been based.

179. The Delegation of Norway drew attention to Section 5.5 of the revised text which dealt with the labelling requirements for foods and ingredients which had been irradiated. The delegation pointed out that the practice of treating condiments and spices with ethylene oxide gave rise to preoccupation for health reasons, and that the authorities concerned would prefer irradiation treatment. However, the detailed labelling requirements to declare this treatment might, in fact, decrease consumer acceptance and discourage producers from using irradiation. It was also noted that treatment with ethylene oxide, despite its adverse effects, would not need to be declared on the label. The view that this matter should be reconsidered by the Codex Committee on Food Labelling was supported by the delegations of Denmark, Finland and Sweden. The Commission agreed that this matter should be discussed at the next session of the Committee.

180. The Delegation of Argentina recalled that it had adopted the General Standard for the Labelling of Prepackaged Foods with specified deviations mainly because of the options in the provision for the declaration of the country of origin, and had, therefore, noted with satisfaction the proposal to make this declaration mandatory.

181. The Delegation of Spain pointed out that “container” should be translated as “envase”.

182. The Delegation of Switzerland suggested that the Committee should elaborate a definition for Net Contents to assist the Committee on Methods of Analysis which was giving consideration to Sampling Plans for Net Contents. The Delegation of Cuba emphasized the need to make the SI (“Système International”) System of Measurement mandatory to permit the optional use of any other measurement system if that would be required by national legislation.

183. Several other delegations expressed their particular interest in the revision of the standard and indicated that they would submit further technical comments to the next session of the Committee.

Status of the Revised Text of the General Standard for the Labelling of Prepackaged Foods

184. The Commission decided to advance the Revised Text of the General Standard for the Labelling of Prepackaged Foods to Step 6 of the Procedure. The Commission agreed that, in view of the fundamental importance of the standard, due consideration should be given to a satisfactory text of all provisions before the revised text of the standard is advanced to Step 8 and submitted for adoption to the Commission.

Consideration of Proposed Draft Guidelines on Nutrition Labelling at Step 5 (Appendix VI of ALINORM 81/22)

185. The Chairman of the Committee informed the Commission that, despite the extensive amendment of these guidelines, the Committee had decided to advance them to Step 5. This was in order to be able to place this important subject before the Commission and thus increase the awareness of Governments that further comments were needed to proceed with the elaboration of the text.

186. The Commission agreed with a proposal from the Delegation of Austria to include in the guideline reference to kilojoules as measurement for energy in the same way as had been done in the provisions for nutrition labelling in the standards for Foods for Special Dietary Uses, and instructed the Secretariat to do so.

Status of the Guidelines

187. The Commission decided to advance the Draft Guidelines on Nutrition Labelling to Step 6 of the Procedure.

Adoption of Revised Guidelines on Date-Marking for Use in Codex Committees (Appendix IV of ALINORM 81/22)

188. A summary of the amendments elaborated by the Committee was presented on page 2 of ALINORM 81/21. In particular, Section 5 (Instructions to Codex Committees) was amended to state that justification to the Committee might be provided also in cases where the date of minimum durability was not chosen. It had also been agreed to include a new section 6 on the presentation of date-marking in Codex standards. The Committee had decided to retain two categories of foods depending on their shelflife: (a) food that would not keep for more than three months and (b) all other foods; and to accept an all-numeric scheme in the order day/month/year. Products with a shelflife of more than three months would require the declaration of month and year only.

189. The Commission agreed with a proposal by the Chairman of the Committee to clarify the meaning of the last sentence of Section 6.1 and instructed the Secretariat to amend the guidelines accordingly.

190. The Chairman of the Committee pointed out that appropriate date-marking provisions in conformity with these guidelines would be included in the revised text of the General Standard for the Labelling of Prepackaged Foods. The Secretariat was instructed to align Section 1.1 of the Spanish text to correspond with the correct English version.

191. The Delegation of Egypt was of the opinion that in addition to the date for minimum durability an expiry date should be indicated. The Delegation of Thailand stated that Thailand could not accept the concept of a minimum durability date and required an expiry date for perishable foods and a date of manufacture for other foods.

192. The Representative of the EEC reiterated his proposal not to require the indication of the year for products with a shelflife of less than three months, since, due to the nature of these

products they could not be kept more than one year. He requested that this question be re-examined within the context of the revision of the General Standard for the Labelling of Prepackaged Foods.

193. The Delegation of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya stressed the importance of date-marking for food control purposes and consumer protection. He further drew attention to the difficulties in establishing appropriate storage instructions which would safeguard the quality of the food and which were valid under a wide variety of storage conditions, having regard to different climatic zones and other conditions for storage.

194. The Commission concluded that adequate provisions were included in the Guidelines.

Status of the Revised Guidelines

195. The Commission adopted the Revised Guidelines on Date-Marking for Use of Codex Committees which would also be used in elaborating date-marking provisions for the General Standard for the Labelling of Prepackaged Foods.

Statement by the International Office of Wines (OIV)

196. The Rapporteur of the OIV informed the Commission of the membership of his organization, which included producer as well as wine consuming countries, which were also members of the Codex Alimentarius Commission.

197. He also informed the Commission of the work on a General Labelling Standard for Wines which had been started after the Commission, at its 10th Session, had decided not to deal with this matter. The standard under elaboration by OIV, which was based on the General Standard for the Labelling of Prepackaged Foods, included, however, additional provisions which were specific for wines. The Representative of the IWO stated that OIV would keep the Commission informed about their activities. The Chairman expressed the Commission's appreciation for this offer.

Confirmation of Chairmanship

198. The Commission confirmed under Rule IX.10 that the Committee on Food Labelling should continue to be under the Chairmanship of the Government of Canada.

CODEX COMMITTEE ON FOOD ADDITIVES

199. The Commission had before it the Report of the Fourteenth Session of the Codex Committee on Food Additives (ALINORM 81/12).

200. The Chairman of the Committee, Mr. A. Feberwee (Netherlands) reported on the work accomplished by the Committee since the last session of the Commission and referred in particular to the "Specifications of Identity and Purity of Food Additives" at Step 5 and a

number of other matters arising from the report of the 14th Session of the Codex Committee on Food Additives (CCFA).

Consideration of Specifications of Identity and Purity of Food Additives at Step 5 of the Procedure for the Elaboration of Codex Specifications

201. The Commission adopted the specifications contained in Appendix VII (Category I from Food and Nutrition Papers Nos 4 and 7) of ALINORM 81/12 as recommended Codex specifications.

202. The Commission was informed of the discussions on the “Status of Food Additive Specifications” in respect of food additive provisions in Codex Standards that had taken place at the 7th Session of the Codex Committee on General Principles. The Codex Committee on General Principles had concluded that while Codex specifications per se were advisory and were not subject to acceptance, there was clearly an obligation on the part of Governments not to use food additives unless they met the minimum safety requirements laid down in the specifications for the additives, which had been evaluated by the expert toxicologists and chemists of JECFA. The Commission noted that advice had been sought from JECFA on what constituted the safety aspects of their specifications. This would be considered by the CCFA and reported on to the next session of the Commission.

203. The Commission agreed with the conclusion of the Codex Committee on General Principles and the action initiated by the Codex Committee on Food Additives. The Commission reaffirmed that the specifications per se were advisory and not subject to government acceptance. The Commission agreed to consider the subject of the role of the specifications in relation to food additive provisions in Codex Standards at its next session, when the guidance from JECFA and CCFA would be available.

204. The Delegation of the UK drew attention to paragraph 49 of the Report of the Committee on General Principles (ALINORM 81/33) and in particular to the need to refer also the proposed procedures to the Secretariats of JECFA and the Codex Committee on Food Additives. The Commission agreed to this action.

205. Some delegations drew the attention of FAO and WHO to the need for timely publication and distribution of JECFA Specifications and the “Guide to the Safe Use of Food Additives” which according to them were extremely useful publications.

Consideration of Views of the Committee concerning the Philosophy Governing the Use of Food Additives

206. The Chairman of the Committee informed the Commission of discussions on the above subject at the 14th Session of the Committee (paras 44–51 of ALINORM 81/12). The Commission noted with satisfaction that, as a follow up, the Committee was preparing Guidelines for the Codex Commodity Committees on the type of information required by the Committee in order to ensure that the use of the additives was adequately justified from

technological and other points of view. The kind of information required by the Committee would include brief summaries of the purposes of the additive provided for, why other additives also suitable for the intended purpose had not been selected, and the consequences of not using such additives.

207. The Commission agreed to the action taken by the Committee to prepare guidelines for commodity committees.

208. The Delegation of Egypt suggested that particular consideration should be given to (i) strict control of the use of food additives such as food colours and flavours which might mask hygienic and organoleptic qualities and (ii) possible restriction of the length of lists of food additives in Commodity Standards.

Other Matters arising from the Report of the Fourteenth Session of the Committee Initiation of Step 9 Amendments to the Code of Practice for Smoked Fish

209. The Commission noted that the Committee, as requested by the Thirteenth Session of the Commission, considered the definition of “Smoke” in the Code of Practice for Smoked Fish (Section 2.23), which in the opinion of the delegations of the United Kingdom and the Federal Republic of Germany did not prohibit the use of sawdust containing extraneous material such as plastic (paras 21–23, ALINORM 81/12).

210. The Committee had agreed upon the following definition of “smoke” for submission to the Commission as an amendment to the Code of Practice of Smoked Fish (Section 2.23).

“Smoke” means volatile products derived from the combination of wood (including sawdust) or woody plants in the natural state, excluding wood or plants which have been impregnated, coloured, gummed or painted or treated in a similar manner. The raw material used for the generation of smoke shall be free from extraneous material such as plastic. The term “smoke” shall include derivatives obtained by condensation or absorption of smoke in a suitable food grade liquid. A dip which will impart a smoky flavour to fishery products can be prepared by diluting an appropriate quantity in potable water.

211. The Delegations of the Federal Republic of Germany and Austria expressed concern at the inclusion of smoke fluids in the definition of smoke and suggested that the smoke flavours be treated separately. The Commission noted that the question raised by the delegations had not been referred to by the Committee on Food Additives for consideration, and suggested that the delegations raise this matter at the next session of the Codex Committee on Fish and Fishery Products.

212. The Commission adopted the definition of smoke submitted by the Committee as an amendment at Step 9 to the Code of Practice for Smoked Fish. The amendments made in the revised definition of “smoke” were not considered to be substantive.

Amendment to the Recommended International Standard for Irradiated Foods

213. The Commission noted the recommendation of the Committee that certain new findings and developments in the field of Food Irradiation reported by the Joint FAO/IAEA/WHO Expert Committee on Wholesomeness of Irradiated Foods (WHO Technical Report Series No. 659) called for amendments of (i) the Recommended International General Standard for Irradiated Foods (CAC/RS 106-1979) and (ii) the Recommended International Code of Practice for the Operation of Radiation Facilities for the Treatment of Foods (CAC/RCP 19-1979). The Commission further noted that consequential amendments to the standard and the Code were already in the process of elaboration by a scientific sub-committee convened by FAO/IAEA/WHO. The Commission agreed to the initiation of the procedure for the amendment of the Standard on Irradiated Foods and the Code of Practice for the Operation of Radiation Facilities, and also that the amendments proposed by the scientific sub-committee should be sent to Governments for comments at Step 3.

Other Matters

Setting up of Priorities for Evaluation of Flavouring Substances

214. The Delegation of Belgium drew the attention of the Commission to paragraph 135 of the Report of the Committee (ALINORM 81/12) and enquired about developments, if any, on implementing the recommendations for setting priorities for the evaluation of flavouring substances as laid down in the 20th Report of JECFA.

215. The Representative of WHO informed the Commission that it was not possible to implement the recommendation because of limitations of funds and referred to activities of other organizations such as the Council of Europe. He advised that it might be possible for JECFA to consider these matters gradually over the next couple of years.

216. The Representative of the International Organization of the Flavour Industry informed the Commission that IOFI was already collecting data on natural and nature-identical flavouring substances and hoped to provide information which would help in determining priorities for the evaluation of flavouring substances.

217. The Commission took note of the fact that no working group had been established for setting up of priorities for evaluation of flavouring substances, and recommended that efforts be made by JECFA, with assistance possibly from the IPCS, to establish such a group at an early date.

Study of Substances Coming into Contact with Food

218. The Delegation of Spain considered it very important for CCFA and JECFA to embark on new activities embracing studies of substances coming directly in contact with food, for example packaging materials and other materials coming into contact with food during its

preparation. A reference was made to the great interest of consumer organizations in Spain in studies on materials that came into direct contact with the mouth.

219. The Representative of WHO informed the Commission that packaging materials had been dealt with in general terms at the last session of JECFA, but that much work still remained to be done.

220. The Commission noted that these subjects were on the CCFA's list of future activities.

Confirmation of Chairmanship

221. The Commission confirmed under Rule IX.10 that the Codex Committee on Food Additives should continue to be under the Chairmanship of the Government of the Netherlands.

CODEX COMMITTEE ON PESTICIDE RESIDUES

222. The Commission had before it the report of the 12th Session of the Codex Committee on Pesticide Residues held in The Hague in June 1980 (ALINORM 81/24 and Add. 1) and proposed amendments to draft maximum residue limits at Steps 5 and 8 (ALINORM 81/37-Parts I and II). It noted that the report of the 13th Session of the Committee held in June 1981 would be considered at the next session of the Commission. The report was introduced by the Chairman of the Committee Ir. A.J. Pieters (Netherlands), who gave an account of the work accomplished by the Committee since the last session of the Commission.

223. The Commission was informed that interest in the work of the Codex Committee on Pesticide Residues (CCPR) was great and growing as evidenced by an increasing participation by governments and international organizations at sessions of the Committee. Not only did more developing countries attend sessions of the CCPR and its working groups, but the activities of the Working Group on Problems relating to Pesticide Residues in Developing Countries were gathering momentum. It was becoming obvious that strengthening the capabilities of developing countries in pesticide residue control was a necessary pre-requisite to an effective participation by those countries in the work of the Commission.

Consideration of Draft Maximum Residue Limits at Step 5 and 8

224. The Commission agreed that there was no need to enter into detailed discussion of the maximum residue limits at Step 5 and decided to advance them en bloc to Step 6 of the Procedure (see ALINORM 81/24-Add.1, MRLs marked as being at Step 5). The pesticides involved are bromophos (4) (bran), captan (7), DDT (21), dimethoate (27), lindane (48) (cocoa butter, cocoa mass), cyhexatin (67), chlorothalonil (81), phosmet (103), propargite (113) and tecnazene (115).

225. As regards maximum residue limits at Step 5 where the CCPR had recommended the omission of Steps 6 and 7, the Commission agreed that these steps should not be deleted where doubt existed concerning the acceptability of previously evaluated toxicological data, as indicated in the written comments of Canada (see ALINORM 81/37-Part I). Similarly the Commission decided that the MRLs for such pesticides and their residues at Step 8 of the Procedure should not be sent to governments for acceptance until the doubt concerning the acceptability of certain toxicological data were resolved. The pesticides indicated in the Canadian comments are the following: captafol, captan, diquat, fenitrothion, paraquat, disulfoton, chlorothalonil, fenamiphos, acephate, carbofuran, dialifos, methamidophos and propargite. The Commission also noted that other pesticides, besides those indicated in the Canadian comments, might be involved and authorized the Secretariat not to send these to governments for acceptance. The JMPR was requested to reconsider its evaluation of the pesticides in question as a matter of urgency. The Representative of WHO indicated that the 1981 JMPR would deal with this question. It was noted that new data on these pesticides could be expected in the foreseeable future and that these data would be evaluated by the JMPR.

226. As regards MRLs for pesticides not referred to in the previous paragraphs, the following is a summary of points raised during the discussion of document ALINORM 81/21-Add. 1 and decisions taken.

General Remarks

227. The Delegations of the Netherlands and of the Federal Republic of Germany indicated that they had submitted comments in writing to the Secretariat, but that these were not included in the documents before the Commission. The Commission was informed that the comments had not been received by the Secretariat.

Bromophos (4)

228. The Delegation of the Netherlands expressed the opinion that the mixing of bromophos with cereals led to relatively high residues in processed cereals, such as wholemeal bread which were consumed in high amounts in that country. These residues were not acceptable and, therefore, reserved their position concerning the proposed MRLs in cereals and cereal products. Other delegations expressed a similar view.

229. The Commission adopted the MRLs at Step 8 of the Codex Procedure and decided that they be sent to governments for acceptance.

Carbaryl (8)

230. The Delegation of the Netherlands, supported by other delegations and by the Representative of the EEC, made remarks similar to those made in connection with bromophos (see para. 228). The Commission adopted the MRLs at Step 8 of the Codex Procedure and decided that they be sent to governments for acceptance.

D.D.T. (21)

231. The Commission noted that the MRL for grapes (2 mg/kg) had been erroneously omitted in document ALINORM 81/24-Add. 1. The MRLs were advanced to Step 6 (see para. 224).

Lindane (48)

232. The Commission noted that the MRL for carrots should read 0.2 mg/kg and not 2 mg/kg. The Delegation of the Federal Republic of Germany expressed the opinion that, considering the Codex and EC sampling procedures, an MRL of 0.1 mg/kg might suffice. The Commission adopted the MRLs for spinach and carrots at Step 8 of the Procedure and decided that they be sent to governments for acceptance.

Thiophanate-methyl (77)

233. The Commission noted that this item had been erroneously omitted from ALINORM 81/24-Add.1. It decided to adopt the MRLs (0.1 mg/kg in chicken fat and chicken meat, at or about the limit of determination) at Step 8 of the Procedure and decided that they be sent to governments for acceptance.

Pirimiphos-methyl (86)

234. The Delegation of the Federal Republic of Germany was of the opinion that an MRL of 1 mg/kg would suffice for cabbage, cauliflower and lettuce and 2 mg/kg for spinach. The Delegation of the Netherlands, supported by other delegations, made remarks similar to those made in connection with bromophos (see para. 228). The Commission adopted the MRLs at Step 8 of the Codex Procedure and decided that they be sent to governments for acceptance.

Chlorpyrifos-methyl (90)

235. The Delegation of the Netherlands, supported by other delegations made remarks similar to those made in connection with bromophos (see para. 228). The Commission adopted the MRLs at Step 8 of the Codex Procedure and decided that they be sent to governments for acceptance.

Acephate (95) and Methamidophos (100)

236. For reasons indicated in para. 223 and since the CCPR had under review those pesticides which are also metabolites of other pesticides (e.g. in this case the pesticide methamidophos is a metabolite of acephate), the Commission decided to return the MRL to Step 7 of the Procedure.

Chlordimeform (13), Trichlorfon (66), Sec-Butylamine (89), Pirimicarb (101), Triforine (116), Guazatine (114)

237. The Commission agreed to omit Steps 6 and 7 and adopted the MRLs at Step 8 of the Procedure and decided that they be sent to Governments for acceptance.

Other Pesticides submitted to the Commission at Step 8

238. The Commission noted that written comments had been received on some of the MRLs, but that they were generally acceptable. In the absence of specific discussions the Commission adopted the MRLs for bromophos-ethyl (5), diphenylamine (30), malathion (49), parathion-methyl (59), thiabendazole (65), thiometon (76), dichlorfluanid (82), cyanofenphos (91), ethiofencarb (107), fenbutatin oxide (109), imazalil (110), and prodione (111) at Step 8 of the Procedure and decided that they be sent to governments for acceptance.

Consideration of Proposed Amendments to Step 9 Maximum Residue Limits

239. The Commission had before it amendments of a substantive as well as non-substantive nature proposed by the CCPR to maximum residue limits before governments for acceptance. These are given in Part A of Appendix VI to ALINORM 81/24.

240. The Commission adopted the non-substantive amendments in connection with fenitrothion (37), inorganic bromide (47), methidathion (51) and thiometon (76). It agreed with the conclusion of the CCPR that the general MRL for demeton-S-methyl (73) in animal feeds adopted at Step 8 at the last session should not be sent to governments for acceptance as this general limit would shortly be replaced by MRLs in individual animal feeds.

241. As regards the substantive amendments in connection with carbaryl (8), chlorpyrifos (17) and trichlorfon (66) the Delegation of the Federal Republic of Germany repeated its observation concerning residues arising from the use of carbaryl on cereals (see para. 228). The Delegation of the USA referred to its written comments in ALINORM 81/37-Part II concerning the desirability of including 1-naphthol in the definition of carbaryl residue and 3,5,6-trichloro-2-pyridinol in the definition of chlorpyrifos. Noting that these questions had been considered by the CCPR, but also noting that there were a significant number of technical comments in documents ALINORM 81/37-Parts I and II, the Commission decided to advance the draft amendments in the Codex procedure but not to omit Steps 6 and 7.

242. The Commission advanced the proposed amendment of the MRL for bromophos (4) in blackberries, as given in Part B of Appendix VI to ALINORM 81/24 to Step 6 noting that this amendment had been advanced to Step 5 of the Procedure by the 1981 session of the CCPR.

Consideration of the “Portion of Commodities to which Codex Maximum Residue Limits apply and which is analyzed”

243. The Commission had before it the above document contained in Appendix III to ALINORM 81/24 and comments thereon in ALINORM 81/37, Parts I and II. In introducing this subject the Delegation of the Netherlands indicated that the document in question served to

clarify, for the purpose of analysis, the part of a product to which the MRL applied. It questioned whether this sort of guidelines should follow the Codex Step Procedure. As at the last (June 1981) session of the CCPR the desirability of omitting Steps 6 and 7 had been questioned and as there were some technical comments on the document, the delegation suggested that Steps 6 and 7 not be omitted.

244. The Delegation of Australia was of the opinion that the document was of great importance and was urgently needed for the enforcement of Codex MRL and questioned whether it should once again be returned to the Commission. The Delegation of Spain supported by the Delegations of the Ivory Coast and Egypt wished the document to be sent to Step 6 of the Procedure in order to have further opportunity to consider questions such as how to deal with fruits and inedible peel. The Delegation of the United Kingdom noted that the document required continuing updating and agreed with the remarks of the Delegation of Australia. It also questioned whether it was necessary for the document to follow the Step Procedure.

245. The Secretariat indicated that the document served to clarify the exact meaning of Codex MRLs in relation to enforcement, but contained information which per se need not be subject to the Acceptance Procedure. Once finalized it will be included in publications on pesticide residues limits. The Delegation of Spain was against the development of mandatory provisions as to what parts of food MRLs should supply.

246. The Commission decided to send the document to Step 6 and requested the CCPR to discuss the procedures which should be followed in the further elaboration of the document.

Other Matters arising from the Report of the 12th Session of the Committee

247. The Commission was informed that the CCPR had expressed its willingness to consider certain environmental and industrial contaminants showing chemical or other similarities to pesticides (e.g. PCB, HCH, dioxine, etc.). The Committee had indicated that such additional activity might require supporting facilities and would necessitate the amendment of the terms of reference of the Committee (see paras 10–13 of ALINORM 81/24).

248. The Commission noted that it was not expected that the extent of work on these contaminants by the CCPR would be significant in the near future. As regards supporting facilities the Commission was informed that, in the event of this additional work assuming significant proportions, the Codex Secretariat would find it difficult to accommodate such additional work within the budgetary and manpower resources available. The Representative of WHO indicated that, at this stage, no mechanism existed for the generation and evaluation of data on the basis of which the CCPR could base appropriate recommendations. The Delegation of the Netherlands informed the Commission that the Netherlands would continue to provide supporting facilities to the CCPR at the present level.

249. A number of delegations were of the opinion that it was necessary to define better the types of contaminants which would be handled by the CCFA and by the CCPR by referring to the origin of the contaminants concerned.

250. The Commission discussed whether to amend at the present session the terms of reference of the CCPR with respect to environmental and industrial contaminants or whether the matter should be referred to the CCPR. After full discussion and noting that the CCPR would in any event consider individual contaminants on their merits in relation to its own work and priorities, the Commission adopted the following wording, based on the report of the CCPR, to be added to the terms of reference of the Committee:

“To establish maximum limits for environmental and industrial contaminants showing chemical or other similarity to pesticides, in specific food items or group of food”.

251. The Commission also adopted the revised terms of reference as proposed by the CCPR in para. 16, ALINORM 81/24 noting that it reflected work actually carried out by the Committee.

252. The Delegation of Finland was of the opinion that the CCPR should also deal with residues originating from drugs used in veterinary practice such as thiabendazole, which left residues in meat or milk products.

253. The Delegation of UK raised a matter relating to the inclusion of reference to Codex maximum limits for pesticide residues in Codex Commodity standards. It was agreed to discuss this question when discussing the draft standard for maize.

Confirmation of Chairmanship

254. The Commission confirmed under Rule IX.10 that the Codex Committee on Pesticide Residues should continue to be under the Chairmanship of the Government of The Netherlands.

CODEX COMMITTEE ON FOOD HYGIENE

255. The Commission had before it the Report of the 17th Session of the Codex Committee on Food Hygiene (ALINORM 81/13).

256. The Commission agreed, before discussing the Report, to discuss item (c) “General Principles for the Establishment and Application of Microbiological Criteria for Foods” as the first item.

257. The Report was introduced by the Rapporteur, Dr. R.W. Weik (USA).

General Principles for the Establishment and Application of Microbiological Criteria for Foods

258. The Commission was informed that the above had been formulated by a Joint FAO/WHO Expert Consultation in 1977 as a result of a request of the Codex Committee on Food Hygiene, and had since been examined and amended by successive meetings of that Committee and by the FAO/WHO Working Group.

259. Work on the criteria had now been completed and the Committee had agreed to submit the text, as contained in ALINORM 81/13, Appendix II, to the Commission for approval and adoption at Step 8. The Commission noted that the text had been originally intended for inclusion in the Procedural Manual as an advisory text, but that because the need for the document was urgent and because it contained both technical as well as procedural guidance, the Committee had recommended that it should be prepared and distributed as soon as possible as a separate publication. At a later date the text could be included either verbatim or by reference in the Procedural Manual.

260. The Delegation of Switzerland expressed concern that even though the text was advisory, the provisions could be applied by both official authorities and by industry and that their interpretations might be different. Certain provisions referring to action to be taken when a product failed to meet a criterion might result in the unnecessary condemnation of the food.

261. The Delegation of Egypt was of the opinion that minimum advisory specifications were insufficient to protect the health of the consumer from contaminated food and that specifications should be compulsory.

262. The Delegation of the United Kingdom, noting the long and careful consideration that had been given to the development of the General Principles, pointed out that these were both advisory and mandatory criteria. The latter were to deal with the serious health hazards such as the presence of pathogens. However, food could contain many micro-organisms which are quite harmless, but which could give some indication of the general level of hygiene. It was these organisms which were included in the advisory specifications to be attached to an advisory code of practice. These advisory specifications were intended to be applied at the point of production, to assist in ensuring that hygiene requirements of production had been achieved. They were only a part of the total system of control of every stage of the process and every part of the factory, which included many other aspects, all equally important, such as intensive periodic inspection, proper training of the workers, control of temperature, correct heat processing. Failure to meet the specifications did not necessarily mean that the food was unsafe, but before a decision was made there should be a careful investigation of the factory, of the process and of the product. The failure to meet a specification might simply be due to the natural variation in microbiological testing. Thorough investigation might reveal no abnormalities and the inspector had the discretion to release the food for human consumption if he were satisfied. However, if there were, for example, significant numbers of salmonellae in food for infants which were to be consumed without heat treatment, the inspectors would condemn that food or at least have it so treated as to kill the pathogens. Relying solely on

end-product specifications, without proper inspection and process control, and control of hygienic distribution and sale, could never guarantee that the food was safe. Specifications associated with a code of hygienic practice for food production were not intended to be applied to the food at other points in distribution and sale where some microbial characteristics might have altered, though the food would still be safe and organoleptically satisfactory. A survey of infant foods had been conducted in Canada using the Codex microbiological specifications. This revealed that a significant number of samples of infant foods on sale did not pass all the tests. However, no pathogens had been found in any of the samples nor was there any evidence of illness associated with consumption of the batches of foods from which the samples had been taken. Using these specifications as legal standards would have led to the destruction of a great deal of satisfactory food. It was pointed out at the last session of the Codex Committee on Food Hygiene that criteria might sometimes be based on what could be achieved with the most sophisticated manufacturing practices, and not on the minimum that needed to be achieved to produce an acceptable level of safety and wholesomeness. One of the roles of Codex standards, codes of practice and microbiological criteria was to assist in the production of food that is fully and freely acceptable in international trade. In conclusion, the delegation pointed out that not all the requirements of codes etc. might be necessary for the production of a food that is fully safe and acceptable for the domestic market of the producing country.

263. The Delegation of Switzerland, on the basis of the discussion, stated that it was prepared to accept the text of the General Principles. It pointed out, however, that the great majority of incidents due to food contamination occurred through improper handling in the home.

264. The Delegation of Chile was of the opinion that the text could serve as guidelines for governments. The delegation pointed out that as the criteria were advisory, governments were free to use them as they wished.

265. The Commission noted that the text had general approval and agreed with the recommendation of the Committee to publish the criteria as a separate document as soon as possible. It was also agreed that the text would be included verbatim in the next edition of the Procedural Manual.

Microbiological Specifications for Foods for Infants and Children and Methods for Microbiological Analysis for Foods for Infants and Children

266. The Commission had before it ALINORM 81/13 Appendix VII which contained the above specifications and methods. It noted that the main Code of Hygienic Practice for Foods for Infants and Children had already been adopted by the 13th Session (ALINORM 79/38, para. 196), but that the specifications and methods had been returned to Step 6 for further consideration, since the decision on whether the criteria should be mandatory or advisory depended on the outcome of discussions on the General Principles for and Application of Microbiological Criteria for Foods (see also paras 258 – 265 of this Report).

267. At its 17th Session the Codex Committee on Food Hygiene had stated that the Microbiological Specifications were strictly of an advisory nature and that there should be a preface to this effect, which now appears in Appendix VII.

268. The Commission noted that there was some concern among countries, where microbiological specifications for foods for infants and children were mandatory, about including microbiological limits for pathogens in advisory texts. The delegation of Norway was of the opinion that even if the microbiological specifications for foods for infants and children were to be advisory texts, specifications for pathogenic microorganisms should be mandatory.

269. The Delegation of Egypt pointed out that children were more at risk to Salmonella infections and that the sample specified in the present specification should be increased to take account of this. The Delegation of Egypt stressed the importance of also referring to the absence of E. coli in coliform count standards. The Delegation of Poland was of the opinion that the microbiological criteria were too lenient from the health point of view, and that they should include, amongst other things, the requirements as regards Staphylococcus aureus. The Commission noted that other delegations also had comments of a technical nature which required consideration by the specialized body concerned, that is the Codex Committee on Food Hygiene.

270. The Commission noted that there was a pressing need for the Code to be completed by the addition of microbiological specifications especially in view of the complementary nature of this Code to the Code of Marketing of Breastmilk Substitutes which had been recently adopted as a Recommendation by the World Health Assembly in May 1981. In addition, reference was made to the Code of Hygienic Practice in the three Codex Standards for Foods for Infants and Children which had been adopted by the Commission at its 11th Session.

271. The Commission noted that countries having mandatory provisions for these microbiological specifications could specify this as a deviation when accepting the Codex Standards for Foods for Infants and Children.

Status of the Microbiological Specifications and Methods of Analysis

272. The Commission decided to adopt the Microbiological Specifications for Foods for Infants and Children and Methods of Microbiological Analysis for Foods for Infants and Children at Step 8 of the Procedure. It also decided to refer the technical comments made by the delegations to the Codex Committee on Food Hygiene for further consideration.

Draft Code of Hygienic Practice for the Processing of Frog Legs

273. The Commission considered the above draft Code contained in ALINORM 81/13 Appendix VI. It noted that the revised sections 7.4 and 7.5 dealing with packaging had been agreed by the Committee and that the Code was now submitted for adoption at Step 5 of the Procedure.

Status of the Draft Code of Hygienic Practice for the Processing of Frog Legs

274. The Commission decided to advance the Draft Code of Hygienic Practice for the Processing of Frog Legs to Step 6 of the Procedure.

Confirmation of Chairmanship

275. The Commission confirmed that under Rule IX.10 the Codex Committee on Food Hygiene should continue to be under the Chairmanship of the Government of the United States of America.

CODEx COMMITTEE ON METHODS OF ANALYSIS AND SAMPLING

276. The Commission had before it the Report of the above Committee (ALINORM 81/33). Dr. K. Suto of the Delegation of Hungary introduced the report of the Committee. He informed the Commission that the Committee had placed special emphasis on sampling at its last session and had made significant progress in that field. In the field of analysis, the Committee had recognized the need to review Codex methods in the light of the new definitions of Codex methods and had prepared guidelines for Codex Commodity Committees on how such a review could be initiated. The Committee had excellent cooperation in the field of analysis and sampling with international organizations through interagency meetings held prior to sessions of the Committee. Dr. Suto enumerated the work carried out by the 12th session of the Committee and concluded by thanking FAO/WHO, the Codex Secretariat and other international organizations for their support. In response, the Chairman of the Commission expressed his thanks to the Government of Hungary for the support given to the work of the Committee.

277. The Commission noted with satisfaction that the Committee had under consideration the question of sampling in an endeavour to review the purpose of Codex sampling plans and procedures, and their status in respect of their acceptance by governments. It was expected to put firm proposals before the 15th session of the Commission as an addition to the General Principles for the Establishment of Codex Methods of Analysis (see Appendix II, ALINORM 79/23 and Appendix II, ALINORM 81/23). The Delegation of Egypt was of the opinion that sampling procedures should also cover the handling of sampling prior to analysis.

General Methods for the Determination of Metallic Contaminants at Step 5

278. The Commission had before it general reference as well as alternative methods for the determination of mercury, lead, arsenic, cadmium, copper, zinc and tin in foods (see Appendix IV ALINORM 81/23), with a recommendation for some of the methods that Steps 6 and 7 be omitted.

279. The Delegation of Austria indicated that the methods measured total metal content and suggested that this fact be mentioned in an introduction to the general methods. The

delegation noted that the method for mercury applied only to fish and sea-food and pointed out that other methods now existed which were generally applicable. The Delegation of Norway pointed out that rapid methods were suitable for monitoring, but might not be appropriate in official food control. It also pointed to the rapid development of instrumentation which led to a need to revise standardized methodology rather frequently.

280. The Delegation of the Netherlands was of the opinion that as difficulties had been experienced in the Committee regarding the method for lead determination, Steps 6 and 7 should not be omitted. As regards the harmonization of collaborative testing (see para. 65, ALINORM 81/23), the Delegation of Spain was of the opinion that it is necessary to harmonize analytical terminology for the presentation of results.

281. The Commission decided that the various remarks be referred to the Codex Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling. The Commission also decided to adopt the recommendations of the Committee regarding the general methods for contaminants, as contained in Appendix IV, ALINORM 81/23, including the indication that the methods measured total metal content, and without the omission of Steps 6 and 7 in the case of the reference method for lead.

Confirmation of Chairmanship of the Committee

282. The Commission confirmed under Rule IX.10 that the Codex Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling should continue to be under the Chairmanship of the Government of Hungary.

PART VI

COORDINATING COMMITTEE FOR AFRICA

283. The Commission had before it the Report of the 5th Session of the Coordinating Committee for Africa (ALINORM 81/28). In the absence of the Coordinator for Africa, Dr. T. N'Doye, the Codex Secretary of the Coordinating Committee introduced the report. He informed the Commission that the Committee had been well attended by countries from the African Region and by other countries. Attendance by African Regional Organizations had been less than expected and the Coordinating Committee had made arrangements in the hope of improving participation by regional organizations. The Secretary informed the Commission of the good progress made by the Coordinating Committee and the excellent facilities provided by the Government of Senegal.

284. The Commission expressed its appreciation to the Government of Senegal for hosting sessions of the Committee and to the outgoing Coordinator for Africa, Dr. N'Doye, for his long and valuable contribution to the work of the Commission.

Draft African Regional Standard for Gari at Step 5

285. The Commission had before it the above standard (Appendix III, ALINORM 81/28) and was informed that this product, especially if fortified to improve its nutritional quality, was likely to become an important item in trade within the Region of Africa. In any event gari was already an important dietary item in Africa.

Status of Standard

286. The Commission decided to advance the Draft African Regional Standard for Gari to Step 6 of the Procedure for the Elaboration of Regional Standards.

Proposals of the Committee concerning the Elaboration of African Regional Standards

Sorghum and Millet

287. The Commission was informed that the Coordinating Committee intended to send to Step 3 proposed draft African regional standards for sorghum grains, millet grains and millet flours, following the adoption by the Commission of the shortened new Procedure and following the agreement of the Commission.

288. The Delegation of Ghana questioned whether, in view of the existence of a worldwide Codex Committee dealing with cereals and cereal products, it was appropriate to elaborate such regional standards. The Secretariat informed the Commission that, on the basis of an extensive study of world trade in various cereal products, the 1st Session of the Codex Committee on Cereals and Cereal Products had raised no objection to regional standards being elaborated for sorghum and millet.

289. The Commission agreed that the above three standards be advanced to Step 3 of the Procedure for the Elaboration of Regional Standards.

Grain Legumes

290. The Commission recalled its decision concerning the elaboration of standards for pulses by the Codex Committee on Cereals and Cereal Products (para 155). It also noted that the Coordinating Committee had expressed its interest in elaborating regional standards for those pulses which were of significance in intra-African trade, but which, in the opinion of the Commission, did not move in significant quantities in worldwide trade. The Coordinating Committee had also indicated that cowpeas, earthpeas and kidney beans were important items especially in west African trade, and should be given high priority. On the suggestion of the Delegation of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, the Commission decided to await developments in the Codex Committee on Cereals and Cereal Products, in order to see what pulses might be the subject of Regional African Standards.

Other Questions

291. The Delegation of Kenya drew the Commission's attention to the opinion of the Coordinating Committee that groundnut paste should be standardized, and that the Secretariat had been requested to prepare a working paper on the subject. The Commission noted that the paper would include information as required by the Codex Work Priorities Criteria and that, furthermore, the opinion of the Codex Committee on Cereals and Cereal Products would be sought on the issue as to what products should be standardized and whether the standard should be worldwide or regional.

292. The Commission noted that the Coordinating Committee was exploring the possibility of elaborating regional standards for various fruits and vegetables. The Secretariat indicated that, in addition to the request of the Executive Committee to prepare a paper on the subject of fruit and vegetable products of interest to developing countries, it had also been requested to prepare a similar paper on these products of interest to African countries. One paper covering both matters would be prepared.

293. The Delegation of Australia, referring to para. 20 of ALINORM 81/28 which dealt with the sale of pesticides and the problems resulting from their use, drew a distinction between two situations relating to the exportation of pesticides not registered for use in the country of origin. These were pesticides the safety and agricultural utility of which had been evaluated but which had not been subject to a registration procedure in the country of origin because of the high cost of registration, limited possibilities of application and other such reasons. Other pesticides, on the other hand, might not have been fully evaluated or not permitted for use for reasons of doubts regarding safety. The delegation also pointed to activities within FAO on registration procedures, where these matters could be discussed. Australia was exploring the possibility of offering technical assistance to developing countries in order to ensure the safe and proper use of pesticides.

294. The Delegations of Ghana and Cameroon underlined the statement of the Delegation of Australia and expressed the hope that other countries would consider similar assistance. The Delegation of Kenya also indicated that residues in food following the incorrect use of pesticides could create difficulties for export trade. The Secretariat pointed to the work of the Working Group on Problems in Developing Countries in relation to Pesticide Residues (within the framework of the CCPR) and undertook to refer this matter to that Group. It also pointed out that Coordinating Committees were excellent fora where real problems of this sort should be discussed leading to technical assistance in the various fields. It was for this reason that the agenda of the Coordinating Committees normally included items dealing with problems relating to the need for strengthening infrastructures, manpower resources in developing countries and the promotion of technical cooperation among developing countries (TCDC) in food control.

Other matters arising from the Report of the Coordinating Committee for Africa

295. The questions relating to honey and mango juice (see paras 16–17 and 25–26, ALINORM 81/28) were deferred to items 38 and 24 (c) respectively.

Appointment of a Coordinator for Africa

296. The Commission noted that the Coordinating Committee for Africa had unanimously nominated Dr. J.K. Misoi of Kenya as Coordinator for Africa. The Delegation of Kenya confirmed that Dr. Misoi was in a position to accept the nomination. In accordance with Rule II.4(b) of the Rules of Procedure of the Commission, the Commission appointed Dr. J.K. Misoi (Kenya) as Coordinator for Africa, to serve from the end of the Fourteenth Session to the end of the Fifteenth Session of the Commission.

COORDINATING COMMITTEE FOR ASIA

297. The Commission noted that there was no Report of the Committee before it for consideration, because the Committee had not met since the last session of the Commission.

298. Dr. D.S. Chadha (India), who had been appointed Coordinator for Asia, had made all the arrangements for holding a session of the Committee in India, in consultation with his authorities, who had agreed to host the session. However, India had to withdraw from hosting the session because of certain difficulties. India had further indicated that it would not be in a position to host a session of the Regional Coordinating Committee for Asia in the near future. The Secretariat had therefore contacted different Governments in the Asian Region as to the possibility of hosting the Coordinating Committee for Asia. The Government of Sri Lanka had expressed its willingness to chair and host the 3rd session of the Regional Coordinating Committee for Asia during February 1982.

299. The Delegation of the Republic of Korea, as the Representative of Asia in the Executive Committee, expressed, on behalf of the Region, regret that it had not been possible for the Coordinating Committee to meet, and expressed the Region's appreciation of the offer made by the Government of Sri Lanka.

Appointment of Coordinator for Asia

300. On a proposal of the Members of the Region of Asia attending the Session, the Commission, in accordance with Rule II.4(b) of the Rules of Procedure, appointed Professor A. Bhumiratana (Thailand) as Coordinator for Asia, to serve from the end of the Fourteenth session to the end of the Fifteenth session of the Commission.

301. The Commission wished to place on record its appreciation for the work of the outgoing Coordinator Dr. D.S. Chadha in promoting the work of the Commission in Asia.

COORDINATING COMMITTEE FOR EUROPE

302. The Commission had before it the Report of the Coordinating Committee for Europe (ALINORM 81/19) and additional information on matters for action contained in ALINORM 81/21.

303. The Coordinator for Europe, Professor Dr. H. Woidich gave an account of the work accomplished by the Coordinating Committee for Europe since the last session of the Commission. The Coordinator also recalled that the idea of a worldwide Codex Alimentarius had developed from the Codex Alimentarius Europaeus, in which Austria had participated very actively. Over the years, whilst the Coordinating Committee for Europe had considered and elaborated regional standards for several products, the Committee had endeavoured to take into account comments from non-European countries in order to avoid the creation of regional trade barriers. The Committee had, in some instances, been, and still remained, willing to provide a forum for the elaboration of worldwide standards if it should be requested to do so by the Commission. All members of the Commission would be able to participate fully and would have equal rights. The Commission noted that the period of office of Dr. Woidich as Coordinator for Europe continued until the end of the 15th Session of the Commission and expressed its appreciation to Austria for continuing to host the Committee.

304. The Commission noted that the Coordinating Committee for Europe was placing emphasis on the need for countries of the region to accept more Codex standards. He pointed out that those problems which arose in this respect especially in countries with very detailed food legislation might be resolved through assistance of the Coordinating Committee. The Committee was actively involved in comparative studies of food standard matters of various economic groupings in Europe, in order to facilitate their harmonization. The Commission was informed that the Committee had examined a survey of food control and inspection services which had been prepared jointly by the Regional Office of WHO for Europe and Hungary. The survey would be up-dated periodically as the data became available.

305. The Coordinator gave a brief account of such matters as amendments to the standard for fruit cocktail and the size grading of canned peas which would be discussed further in the light of additional information. The Committee had examined the draft standard on food grade salt which was of importance to the European region. In this connection comments had been submitted to the Codex Committee on Food Additives. The Commission was also informed about the future work programme of the Committee as outlined in paragraphs 145-150 of the Committee's report. In particular this would include a revised draft of a European Regional Standard for mayonnaise and mayonnaise-like products.

Consideration of Proposed Draft European Regional Standard for Vinegar at Step 5 (Appendix II)

306. The Commission noted that, in the opinion of the Delegations of Portugal and Spain, the term "vinegar" unqualified must mean wine vinegar only. In the definitions of the different vinegars, the term "wine" must refer only to products of viticultural origin. The Commission also noted that these comments had already been presented to the Coordinating Committee and suggested that they might be further discussed at the next session of the Committee.

Status of the Standard

307. The Commission decided to adopt the above standard at Step 5 and to advance it to Step 6 of the Procedure.

Consideration of Need to Amend the European Regional Codex Standard for Honey (CAC/RS 12-1969)

308. The Commission decided to consider this matter under item 38 (see paras 528–531).

European Regional Codex Standard for Natural Mineral Waters

309. The Coordinator reported on the progress of work on Sections 5 (Hygiene) and 8 (Methods of Analysis and Sampling) which had still to be finalized. The standard as such had already been adopted at the 12th Session of the Commission with the proviso to postpone its publication pending finalization of the above sections.

310. The Commission noted that a number of methods had already been finalized and adopted by the Commission at its 13th Session. The same was the case for the hygiene provisions with the exception of section 5.2 (Microbiological Requirements). The Commission was informed that ad hoc working groups had been established to collect and analyse additional data on the above matters and to prepare appropriate documentation for submission to the Codex Committees on Food Hygiene and Methods of Analysis. The Delegation of Switzerland supported this action. The Coordinating Committee for Europe was of the opinion that the standard was of great importance to its member countries and had therefore requested the Commission to agree to publication with an appropriate footnote.

311. The Delegation of the United Kingdom expressed concern that publication of the standard might deter progress on the pending matters. The Delegation of the United Kingdom also drew the attention of the Commission to the decisions taken by the Codex Committee on General Principles and approved by the Commission that (a) if possible no alternative methods should be included in the standard and (b) no methods should be elaborated for parameters not mentioned in the standard. The Delegation of Egypt advised the Commission that Egypt could not agree with several provisions in section 5.2 as presently drafted. It was pointed out that member countries could submit further technical comments on section 5.2 (Microbiological Requirements) to the Codex Committee on Food Hygiene. The Delegation of Egypt pointed out that the subject of mineral waters should have been considered by the international committees selected for elaborating the guidelines for drinking water and not by the Codex Committee on Food Hygiene.

312. The Commission decided that the standard was important for trade and health reasons and should, therefore, be published with an appropriate note on the pending provisions. The Commission further recommended that the finalization of the outstanding matters should be carried out expeditiously.

COORDINATING COMMITTEE FOR LATIN AMERICA

313. The Commission had before it the Report of the Second Session of the above Committee which had been held in Montevideo from 9 to 15 December 1980 (ALINORM 81/31).

314. The Report was introduced by the Coordinator, Dr. A.M. Dovat, who outlined briefly the main points discussed at the session and indicated the matters on which action was required by the Commission.

315. The Commission noted that, following a request by the Codex Committee on Cereals and Cereal Products at its first session, the Coordinating Committee had considered which cereals were of importance within the region and, noting that more detailed information was required on intra-regional production, trade and consumption of such products, had decided to give the matter more detailed examination at its next session.

316. There had been detailed discussion on the FAO/WHO Food Control Strategy contained in document HCS/78.I. The Committee had given full support and encouragement to the proposed strategy and to its further development. The Coordinator suggested that the collaborative network between Latin American countries (RECLAIN) and the Spanish American Cooperation Institute supported by FAO would be of use in developing food control in the region.

317. In discussing pesticide residues in foods, the Committee, aware of the danger that misuse of pesticides could present to the health of the consumer, had decided to request FAO, WHO and other international organizations to support pilot projects at national level to detect a quantity residue in foods, water and soil and to determine the most effective solutions.

318. The Coordinator also emphasized problems relating to food and nutrition which were causing increasing concern in that they affected both the health and the economy of countries of the region. He indicated that the Committee had made a general recommendation to FAO and other international organizations that prompt assistance should be given to any country of the region asking for help to correct serious deficiencies in food control facilities.

319. With regard to cooperation in the field of food standardization, the Commission was informed that COPANT (Pan American Commission of Technical Standards) had been represented at the session by its General Secretary who had agreed to make a comparative study of Codex standards and those developed by COPANT for its 22 member countries, with the aim of adjusting the regional COPANT standards to the corresponding worldwide standards.

320. The Coordinating Committee had also discussed work priorities for the region and had decided to give consideration at the next session to the question of developing codes of practice or standards for carbonated soft drinks in view of the high consumption of these

products by children. The Committee also agreed to consider whether regional Codex standards for alcoholic beverages were required.

Recommended European Regional Standard for Honey

321. The Commission noted that the Coordinating Committee had recommended that the above standard should be developed in future on a worldwide basis and that the matter would be discussed fully at a later point in the Agenda.

Nomination and Appointment of Coordinator for Latin America

322. On a proposal of the Delegation of Argentina and with the support of all the members of the Region for Latin America attending the session, the Commission agreed, without dissent, to suspend Rule II.4 to permit the appointment of Dr. E.M. Brivio of Uruguay who had not been able to be present at the session. The Commission appointed Dr. Brivio to be the Coordinator for Latin America to serve from the end of the 14th to the end of the 15th Session of the Commission. The Commission placed on record that the suspension of Rule II.4 in accordance with Rule XIII.2 was to meet exceptional circumstances and should not be regarded as a precedent. The Commission considered that there were good reasons as to why Rule II.4 required a nominee to be present at the session for appointment to the position of Coordinator.

323. The Commission expressed its appreciation to the Government of Uruguay for hosting the Second Session of the Committee and also its appreciation to Dr. A.M. Dovat, Coordinator, for his valuable contribution in promoting the work of the Commission in Latin America.

PART VII

CODEX COMMITTEE ON FATS AND OILS

324. The Commission had before it the Report of the 11th Session of the Codex Committee on Fats and Oils (ALINORM 81/17 and Corrigendum).

325. The Report was introduced by Dr. J.R. Park of the United Kingdom Delegation on behalf of the retired Chairman, Mr. A.W. Hubbard. Dr. Park also informed the Commission that Dr. P. Bunyan had been nominated Chairman of the Codex Committee on Fats and Oils, and that the next session of that Committee was scheduled to be held from 19 to 23 April 1982 in London.

326. The Chairman recalled the valuable and constructive chairmanship of Mr. Hubbard who had also greatly contributed to the work of the Joint Expert Committee on Food Additives and, as an FAO consultant, had advised member countries on food contamination problems.

Speaking on behalf of the Commission, the Chairman conveyed to Mr. Hubbard his sincere thanks for his excellent work and best wishes for many happy years of retirement.

Matters arising from the Report of the Codex Committee on Fats and Oils (ALINORM 81/17)

327. The Commission noted that the Committee was continuing its work on proposed draft standards for vegetable ghee, and mixed vegetable and animal ghee. Further comments at Step 3 had been requested on the two standards contained in Appendices VI and VII. Further information was especially needed on the name of the product and on certain compositional requirements. The Commission was also informed of the decision of the Committee not to develop at this time a standard for ghee substitutes consisting solely of animal fats. Governments were, however, requested to submit information which would demonstrate that these products were important food items.

328. Dr. Park reported on the progress of work on the amendment of the Codex standard for Rapeseed Oil, in order to make the standard applicable to all rapeseed oils except low erucic acid rapeseed oil for which a separate Codex standard had been adopted.

329. It was noted that the Committee had requested comments at Step 3 on a proposed amendment to the Codex standard for Olive Oils concerning the level of β - sitosterol and appropriate methodology. In connection with this standard, the Commission was informed that the Committee was considering an amendment to introduce a requirement for fatty acids at position 2, pending approval of limits by the International Olive Oil Council. IOOC had now finalized its work on this matter. The Commission authorized the Committee to commence amending the Codex standard for Olive Oils in accordance with the appropriate procedure. The Committee was still awaiting the evaluation of collaborative trials on methods of analysis for tocopherols. Other matters on methods of analysis under consideration by the Committee included a general review of methods of analysis in Codex standards for fats and oils. This review will be further continued, having regard to the advice from the Codex Committee on Methods of Analysis and to additional comments from governments. The Commission agreed that the Committee could proceed rapidly with purely editorial amendments.

330. The Commission was further informed that the Committee had decided, at this time, not to introduce mandatory sterol ranges into standards for edible oils due to insufficient data available to develop meaningful ranges.

331. Governments had also been requested to advise on the content and format of a possible compendium of Codex standards for fats and oils. Data were being collected on processing aids and their residue limits for inclusion into a list of processing aids with the understanding that this list would be an open one and purely advisory. On this matter close liaison would be maintained with the Codex Committee on Food Additives.

332. The Commission noted that the Committee was considering extending the scope of Codex standards for fats and oils as the majority of oils in world trade was now outside the

scope, since these products required further processing in order to render them fit for human consumption. However, certain identity characteristics, in particular GLC ranges for fatty acid composition, were applicable to these products. Government comments were being sought on this matter.

Consideration of Draft Standard for Minarine at Step 8 (Appendix III)

333. The Commission had also before it proposals for Step 8 amendments and comments as contained in ALINORM 81/37, Parts I and III. The Commission was informed that this standard, in effect, covered products which were sold as alternatives to margarine and which had a fat content of 39–41%. Comments on food additives submitted to the 11th Session of the Committee had been tabulated in Appendix IV.

334. The Commission noted that the provisions for food additives, contaminants, hygiene, labelling and methods of analysis had been endorsed with the exception of the group of thickening agents (pending sufficient technological justification) and polyglycerol esters of interesterified ricinoleic acid (lower level of 5 mg/kg suggested due to low ADI). The Commission agreed with the latter and noted that a working group, by correspondence, was already working on the technological justification for thickening agents.

335. The Rapporteur point out that, in general, all amendment proposals of a technical nature had been already considered by the Committee and suggested not to take any further action. The Delegation of Belgium indicated that certain editorial adjustments were needed and that the French version of the standard had to be aligned with the English text. The Secretariat was requested to take care of this.

336. The Delegation of Egypt expressed its reservation on the use of marine oils and drew attention to the fact that labelling provisions stating the absence of pork fats were necessary for products which were sold in Moslem countries.

337. The Delegation of Norway, supported by the Delegation of Denmark, expressed the view that it would be more appropriate to provide for a positive label declaration, i.e. to declare that the fat component was in fact of vegetable origin only. It was noted that this matter was of a general nature and would also be considered by the Codex Committee on Food Labelling in connection with the revision of the General Standard.

338. The Delegation of the USA, supported by the Delegation of Portugal, expressed concern about developing a standard which, in its opinion, covered a propriety product characterized by its narrow range of 39–41% fat content, when the Committee was also developing a standard for similar fat spreads with fat contents ranging from 35–70%. The latter standard could include minarine with separate labelling provisions. The Delegations of Thailand and New Zealand, supported this view and explained their reasons for opposing the standard which were also given in their written comments.

339. The Delegations of Switzerland and Denmark supported the adoption of the standard since the product was well defined in their countries. In Switzerland a standard would soon be submitted for adoption by the authorities in this respect. The Representative of the International Federation of Margarine Associations indicated that indeed minarine was widely accepted as a reduced fat spread which provided in a convenient manner a lower energy intake. The Representative of IFMA stated also that, in his opinion, there was no need for a standard covering products with a widened range of 40 – 70%, since production of these products was limited and they did not appear in international trade. A wide range of products with different fat contents might even be confusing for the consumer or might lead to deceptive practices and be misleading as to the value of the products.

Status of the Draft Standard for Minarine

340. The Commission decided to adopt the above standard at Step 8 of the Procedure. The Delegation of Thailand reiterated its statement that minarine was not permitted in Thailand.

Consideration of Proposed Draft Standard for / Fat Spreads/Spreadable Table Fats / at Step 5 (Appendix V)

341. The Rapporteur indicated that this standard covered products of different fat contents for which the name and the exact fat content range were still under discussion. The standard was being elaborated to recognize the fact that such products were being developed. He pointed out that the provisions for food additives were similar to the standard for minarine. The Rapporteur indicated that the Codex Committee on Fats and Oils would take into consideration the views of the United States in connection with the Standard for Minarine.

342. The Delegation of the Federal Republic of Germany, supported by Belgium, expressed the opinion that, since the minarine standard had been adopted, there was no need to elaborate this standard.

Status of the Proposed Draft Standard for / Fat Spreads/Spreadable Table Fats /

343. The Commission adopted the above standard at Step 5 and advanced it to Step 6 of the Procedure.

Confirmation of Chairmanship

344. The Commission confirmed under Rule IX.10 that the Codex Committee on Fats and Oils should continue to be under the Chairmanship of the Government of the United Kingdom.

CODEX COMMITTEE ON PROCESSED FRUITS AND VEGETABLES

345. The Commission had before it the Report of the 15th Session of the Codex Committee on Processed Fruits and Vegetables (ALINORM 81/20) and government comments on the

Step 8 standards, contained in ALINORM 81/37-Part II. Further written comments had been received during the session. Dr. R. Weik of the Delegation of the United States of America introduced the various items arising from the report of the Committee.

Consideration of the Draft Standard for Dried Apricots

346. The Delegation of the United Kingdom indicated that it had reservations concerning some of the provisions for defects in the Draft Codex Standard. The Delegation of Australia indicated that it had similar reservations and also expressed the opinion that it would be difficult for producing countries to meet the requirements of the standard especially in respect of insect damage and mouldy product. In the opinion of both these delegations, the draft Codex standard should, therefore, not be adopted as a Codex standard.

347. The Commission noted these remarks but considered that the draft standard represented the best compromise between the interests of importing and those of exporting countries which could be achieved at this time.

Status of the Draft Standard for Dried Apricots

348. The Commission adopted the Draft Standard for Dried Apricots at Step 8 of the Procedure for the Elaboration of Worldwide Codex Standards. The Delegations of the UK and Australia opposed this decision.

Consideration of the Draft Standard for Unshelled Pistachio Nuts

349. The Delegation of Turkey was of the opinion that certain aspects of the draft standard such as classification by varietal type and size classification required further consideration and suggested that the draft standard be returned to Step 7. It informed the Commission that studies were in progress in that country on these aspects and that results were to be expected within two years.

350. The Commission noted these remarks and indicated that the standard could be revised at a later stage in the light of new information to be supplied by Turkey.

Status of the Standard for Unshelled Pistachio Nuts

351. The Commission adopted the Draft Standard for Unshelled Pistachio Nuts at Step 8 of the Procedure for the Elaboration of Worldwide Codex Standards. The Delegation of Turkey opposed this decision.

Consideration of the Draft Standard for Canned Apricots

352. The Delegations of the Federal Republic of Germany and France indicated that they wished to propose several technical amendments to the standard. Furthermore, they objected to the provision on flavours, as this made possible the use of inferior fruit ingredients, the

organoleptic properties of which could be improved through the use of various synthetic or natural flavouring preparations.

353. The Commission noted that these objections had been considered by the Codex Committee during the elaboration of the draft standard.

Status of the Draft Standard for Canned Apricots

354. The Commission adopted the Draft Standard for Canned Apricots at Step 8 of the Procedure for the Elaboration of Worldwide Codex Standards. The Delegations of the Federal Republic of Germany and France disagreed with this decision.

Consideration of the Draft Standard for Dates

355. The Delegation of Iraq indicated that there were substantive changes which Iraq, as a major producing country, wished to propose to the draft standard. These proposed changes had not been previously considered by the Committee. The Delegation of Iraq indicated that the standard, if adopted without the changes referred to, would have a negative economic impact for a number of developing countries which produced and exported a large part of the world production of dates. For these reasons it proposed that the draft standard be returned to the Committee. The Delegation of Tunisia drew attention to a number of proposed changes of a technical nature relating to aspects such as moisture content, definitions of defects, and indicated that these should be considered by the Committee. The Delegations of Saudi Arabia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Cameroon and Egypt were in full support of the proposal of Iraq.

356. The Commission received a statement from the FAO Secretariat, Dr. H. El Haidari, concerning FAO's activities in the field of production and marketing of dates as part of an FAO regional project. The Representative of ASMO indicated that the Organization had elaborated a standard for dates and that this should also be taken into account in the elaboration of a worldwide standard.

357. The Commission noted the opinion of these Members regarding the draft standard and the view that there was a need for further changes to the standard, in the light of the technical comments received, as well as further information to be supplied by interested countries and international organizations. The Commission expressed the hope that the revision of the draft standard for dates would be carried out through a joint effort of interested producing and importing countries and the interested international organizations. In this connection it was stressed that it would be necessary for the interested parties to submit technical comments well in advance of the next session of the Codex Committee on Processed Fruits and Vegetables which should consider these comments. It was also imperative that the countries and organizations concerned attend the Session of the Committee in order to represent their interest effectively.

Status of the Draft Standard for Dates

358. The Commission decided to return the Draft Standard for Dates to Step 6 of the Codex Procedure.

Consideration and Status of the Proposed Draft Standards for Canned Palmito, Canned Mangoes and Mango Chutney

359. The Commission noted that these products were of special interest to a number of developing countries and that it was essential for those countries to submit further comments and/or participate at the next session of the Committee. The Commission decided to advance the above three Proposed Draft Standards to Step 6 of the Codex Procedure.

Consideration and Status of the Amendment to the Recommended International Standard for Canned Pears

360. The Commission had before it the Proposed Draft Amendments, at Step 5 (see Appendix II, ALINORM 81/20), to the Recommended International Standard for Pears (CAC/RS 61-1972) with the recommendation that Steps 6 and 7 be omitted. Noting that the amendments were uncontroversial the Commission decided to omit Steps 6 and 7 and adopted the amendments at Step 8 of the Codex Procedure for the Elaboration of Worldwide Codex Standards.

Matters arising from the Report of the Codex Committee on Processed Fruits and Vegetables

361. The Commission was informed that the Committee had agreed, in order to overcome difficulties in Chile's international trade resulting from the exclusion of nectarine varieties of Prunus persica L. from the Recommended International Standard for Peaches (CAC/RS 14-1969, Rev. 1), that a footnote should be added to Section 1.1 of the Recommended International Standard as follows:

“The exclusion of nectarines has been applied only for reasons of processing”.

362. The Commission adopted the footnote as requested by the Committee and requested the Secretariat to bring it to the attention of governments. It was noted that this clarification was effective forthwith and could be used to resolve any difficulties in trade in nectarines.

363. The Commission noted that the Committee was considering changes to the Sampling Plans for Prepackaged Foods and that it had had discussions concerning certain other basic issues which needed to be resolved (see paras 112–117, ALINORM 81/20, and CL 1980/26, A(4)).

364. The Commission agreed that the Codex Committee on Processed Fruits and Vegetables should commence and handle the amendment of the Sampling Plans in conformity with the Codex Step Procedure. This should, however, be done in cooperation with the Codex Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling, in view of the fact that the revision of the

Sampling Plans, which were of general application, also involved consideration of a number of general issues which related to the work of the CCMAS.

Confirmation of Chairmanship

365. The Commission confirmed under Rule IX.10 that the Codex Committee on Processed Fruits and Vegetables should continue to be under the Chairmanship of the Government of the United States of America.

JOINT ECE/CODEX ALIMENTARIUS GROUP OF EXPERTS ON STANDARDIZATION OF FRUIT JUICES

366. The Commission had before it the Report of the Fourteenth Session of the Group of Experts (ALINORM 81/14) and documents ALINORM 81/37-Part I and Part III containing the observations of governments on the several Draft and Proposed Draft Standards under discussion.

367. The report was introduced by Dr. C.C. van der Meys of the Delegation of the Netherlands, on behalf of the Chairman of the Group of Experts, Prof. Dr. W. Pilnik (Netherlands), who was unable to be present at the session. The delegation drew attention to the matters of general interest discussed by the Group of Experts and particularly referred to the work being undertaken on the juices of certain tropical fruits, which were of interest to several developing countries. It was also noted that the Joint Group would be considering problems of contaminants and labelling (date marking) as general issues at its next session. It was expected that this work would require at least two further sessions for completion, and that any decision to extend the programme of the Group of Experts would depend on requests of Governments for it to undertake additional work.

Consideration of the Draft Standard for Nectars of Certain Citrus Fruits preserved exclusively by physical means at Step 8

368. In considering the adoption of this standard, the Commission noted the reservation of the Delegation of Egypt concerning the maximum level of ethanol permitted to be present in the product and on the proposals for date marking. The Delegation of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya stressed the importance of maintaining the level of fruit ingredient and of elaborating a suitable method for determining that ingredient. The Representative of the EEC repeated the Community's reservations concerning "Name of the Food" in cases where more than one type of juice was used, and on the proposed provisions for date marking.

369. The Commission noted that the Group of Experts would be reviewing the matter of date marking at its next session and adopted at Step 8, without change, the Draft Standard for Nectars of Certain Citrus Fruits Preserved Exclusively by Physical Means.

Consideration of the Proposed Draft Standard for Pulpy Mango Nectar preserved exclusively by physical means at Step 5

370. A number of delegations expressed dissatisfaction with the proposed draft standard particularly in so far as the fruit content was concerned. It was noted that considerable confusion had arisen and could continue to arise over the presence in international trade of this product, and the product commonly known as “mango juice”, but which was in fact prepared from pulp and added water. The Coordinating Committees of Africa, Asia and Latin America, in examining this issue at the request of the Group of Experts had considered that the product commonly known as “mango juice” should be allowed to be sold under that name in regions where this name was traditionally known. Other delegations were of the opinion that a product to which water had been added should not be sold as a fruit juice. The Delegation of Cuba after having indicated the problems concerning the designation “mango juice” also expressed the view that no suitable method of analysis was available for the determination of fruit content.

371. The Commission recognized that much of the present discussion concerned the Proposed Draft Standard for Mango Juice Preserved Exclusively by Physical Means which had been retained by the Group of Experts at Step 4. In order to clarify the relationship between these two Proposed Draft Standards the Commission directed that they both be returned to Step 3 for further comment and that their further elaboration be considered in tandem.

Consideration of the Proposed Draft Standard for Concentrated Pineapple Juice preserved exclusively by physical means at Step 5

372. The Commission noted reservations of the Representative of the EEC and advanced the Proposed Draft Standard to Step 6 of the Codex Procedure.

Consideration of the Proposed Draft Standard for Concentrated Pineapple Juice with Preservatives for Manufacturing at Step 5

373. The Representative of the EEC noted that organization's reservations concerning the development of this standard and the use of this product in general. The Commission noted, however, that the product was in international commerce and that it was of particular interest to producer countries. It was further noted that the product was not sold directly to the consumer, nor was it intended as an ingredient in fruit juices and nectars.

374. The Commission advanced the Proposed Draft Standard to Step 6 of the Codex Procedure.

JOINT ECE/CODEX ALIMENTARIUS GROUP OF EXPERTS ON STANDARDIZATION OF QUICK FROZEN FOODS

375. The Commission had before it the Report of the Fourteenth Session of the Group of Experts as contained in ALINORM 81/25, and the comments of governments on aspects of the several draft standards (ALINORM 81/37-Part III, 81/38 and 81/38-Add. 1; and LIM 6). In the absence of the Chairman of the Group of Experts, Dr. T. van Hiele (Netherlands), the report was introduced by the Representative of the UN/ECE Secretariat.

Consideration of the Draft Standard for Quick Frozen Corn-on-the-Cob at Step 8

Consideration of the Draft Standard for Quick Frozen Whole Kernel Corn at Step 8

376. The Commission adopted both Draft Standards at Step 8 of its Procedure for the Elaboration of Worldwide Codex Standards. In doing so, it noted that some of the Provisions for the methods of analysis and sampling required completion and endorsement.

Consideration of the Draft Standard for Quick Frozen Carrots at Step 7 and 8

377. It was noted that the Group of Experts had made a considerable number of alterations to the Draft Standard for Carrots and had requested comments on this text to be sent to the Rapporteur (Mr. W.G. Aldershoff, Netherlands) for a revised Draft Standard to be prepared for discussion at the present session. The Commission had before it the revised text, ALINORM 81/38-Add. 1, and additional comments in Conference Room Document LIM 6. Consultations during the course of the Commission's session revealed that several delegations which had commented on the earlier draft remained unsatisfied with the revised text.

378. The Commission returned the Draft Standard to Step 6 of the Procedure, and in view of the fact that the Joint Group of Experts had agreed to adjourn sine die, (see paragraph 386 below) asked the Joint Secretariat and the Rapporteur to obtain further comments and to prepare a new revised text for consideration at Steps 7 and 8 at the next session of the Commission.

Consideration of the Proposed Draft Code of Practice for the Handling of Quick Frozen Foods during Transport at Step 5

379. The Commission advanced the Draft Code of Practice to Step 6 of the Procedure, noting that the Code, when finalized, would be published as Annex II to the Recommended International Code of Practice for the Processing and Handling of Quick Frozen Foods (ref. CAC/RCP 8-1976).

380. In view of the adjournment sine die of the Group, the Commission agreed to the following procedure for the further elaboration of the Code:

- a. the draft Code will be sent to governments for comments at Step 6 and the comments received will be collated by the Joint Secretariat;

- b. the International Institute of Refrigeration (IIR) will act as Rapporteur and will prepare a revised draft Code;
- c. the Commission at its Fifteenth Session will consider the Code at Steps 7 and 8.

381. The Commission noted the view of the Group of Experts that the Draft Code, when finalized, should be used as a basis for further discussion on the Agreement on the Carriage of Perishable Foodstuffs and on the Special Equipment to be Used for Such Carriage (ATP), currently under revision by the UN/ECE.

Consideration of Proposed Amendments to the Recommended International Code of Practice for the Processing and Handling of Quick Frozen Foods (CAC/RCP 8-1976 and Addendum 1-1978)

382. The Commission accepted the proposals of the Joint Group to amend the Recommended International Code of Practice as follows:

- Section 5.2 of CAC/RCP 8-1976: delete the words “due to unforeseen circumstances”;
- Section 5.5 of CAC/RCP 8-1976: amend to read “Before loading the vehicle as indicated in 5.1 and after entering the cold store, the product temperature should be checked”; and
- Section 6.2 of Addendum 1-1978 to CAC/RCP 8-1976: amend to read “The internal product temperature shall be measured at a point in the product which is 2.5 cm below the centre of the largest surface”.

383. The Commission noted that the second of these amendments was substantive in nature, but accepted the view of the Group of Experts that it was urgently required. Considering that the Code was of an advisory nature and that the Group of Experts had adjourned sine die, it exceptionally adopted the proposed amendment.

384. The Delegation of Switzerland drew the Commission's attention to the footnote to sections 5.6 and 6.3 of the Code of Practice and to the fact that they were out-of-date. The Commission agreed to change the footnotes to read:

“The provisions of this Section are subject to reconsideration by the Codex Alimentarius Commission at a future date”.

385. The Commission noted the conclusion of the Group of Experts that no system of mandatory date marking was at present applicable to quick frozen foods, and also noted the technical studies which had led the Group to this conclusion. It agreed with the Group of Experts that no “sell by”, “minimum durability” or “use by” dates should be permitted without home storage instructions which were consistent with the design of commonly available frozen food storage compartments or food freezers. It was noted that this matter would need to be reviewed following future developments in manufacturing techniques and in design of industrial, retail and domestic cold storage appliances.

Future Work of the Group of Experts

386. The Commission accepted the decision of the Group of Experts to adjourn sine die, in view of the completion of its present work programme, and noted that any discussion to reconvene the Group would probably be in about five years' time, in the light of the need to undertake new work or to consider revisions of the texts already elaborated, especially in regard to date marking.

387. It was noted that several issues under consideration by the Group of Experts remained to be resolved; these concerned amendments to the Step 9 standards on the provisions concerning sampling (at Step 3), and the finalization of methods of analysis for Quick Frozen Fried Potatoes. The Commission agreed to the recommendation of the Group of Experts that the further consideration of these matters should be taken over by the Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling. The Delegation of Egypt requested that the question of re-sampling of consignments should also be considered.

388. The Commission entrusted the work of the Joint ECE/Codex Alimentarius Group of Experts on Standardization of Quick Frozen Foods to its Joint Secretariat until such time as the Group was reconvened and a new Chairman elected.

389. The Commission noted the retirement of the Chairman of the Group of Experts, Dr. T. van Hiele of the Sprenger Instituut of the Netherlands and recalled his many years of association with the Codex Alimentarius Commission. Dr. van Hiele had been Chairman of the Joint Group of Experts from its Eighth Session in 1973 until its last. The Commission expressed its thanks to Dr. van Hiele and extended its best wishes to him in his retirement.

CODEx COMMITTEE ON FISH AND FISHERY PRODUCTS

390. The Report of the 14th Session of the Codex Committee on Fish and Fishery Products was presented by the Chairman, Dr. O.R. Braekkan of Norway.

391. Dr. Braekkan informed the Commission that work was in progress on the following subjects:

- Revision of the Recommended International Standard for Canned Pacific Salmon
- Draft Standard for Quick Frozen Blocks of Fillets and Minced (Separated) Fish Flesh and Mixtures of Fillet and Minced Fish
- Draft Standard for Quick Frozen Fish Sticks (Fish Fingers) and Fish Portions Breaded or in Batter
- Draft Code of Practice for Frozen Battered and/or Breaded Fishery Products
- Microbiological Specifications for Shrimps and Prawns
- Harmonization of Recommended Defects Tables in Standards for Quick Frozen Fish Fillets

392. The Commission also noted that the Committee was examining the feasibility of developing a standard for Frozen Block of Whole, Headless and Gutted Fish and the need for a Codex Code of Practice for Food Grade Fish Concentrates.

393. Dr. Braekkan also informed the Commission that the following Draft Codes of Practice had been examined both by the Committee on Fish and Fishery Products and the Codex Committee on Food Hygiene and were submitted to the Commission at Step 5, i.e.

- Draft Code of Practice for Minced Fish (ALINORM 81/18, Appendix VIII), and
- Draft Code of Practice for Crabs.

Status of the Codes

394. The Commission noted that no Government comments had been received on the above Codes and agreed to advance them to Step 6 of the Procedure.

Future Work Programme of the Committee

395. The Chairman informed the Commission that the Committee had a full programme of work in progress and that it was likely that at least two sessions would be required for its completion.

Confirmation of Chairmanship

396. The Commission confirmed under Rule IX.10 that the Codex Committee on Fish and Fishery Products should continue to be under the Chairmanship of the Government of Norway.

CODEX COMMITTEE ON FOODS FOR SPECIAL DIETARY USES

397. The Commission had before it the Report of the 12th Session of the Codex Committee on Foods for Special Dietary Uses (ALINORM 81/26). Dr. W. Holzel of the Delegation of the Federal Republic of Germany, speaking on behalf of Dr. H. Drews, Chairman of the Committee, introduced the Report and gave a brief account of the work currently undertaken by the Committee.

398. The Commission was informed that, after full discussion, the Committee had made a large number of substantial amendments to the General Standard for the Labelling of and Claims for Prepackaged Foods for Special Dietary Uses. For this reason, the standard had been retained at Step 7 to give Governments the opportunity to consult and to discuss this amended text at the next session of the Committee.

399. In connection with discussing the above standard, the Committee recognized that medical foods might need different or additional provisions from other foods for special dietary

uses and had accepted an offer from the Delegation of the United States to elaborate a first draft of appropriate guidelines.

400. The Commission noted that a working group had met prior to the session of the Committee on Foods for Special Dietary Uses to discuss the need for a standard or guidelines for foods for special dietary uses which were suitable for use in the prescribed dietary regimen for diabetics. The Committee had agreed with the recommendation by the Working Group to elaborate such a standard and discussed a first draft of it. The standard had been advanced to Step 3 of the Procedure and Government comments thereon had been requested. The Commission further noted that the Committee had given consideration to a first draft of a standard for energy-reduced foods. A redraft would be circulated to Governments prior to the next session of the Committee.

401. The Rapporteur gave an outline of the new developments concerning a standard for follow-up and supplementary foods. It had been agreed that these were two different type of foods; in addition to a standard for follow-up foods, the Committee had decided to examine and up-date, as appropriate, PAG Guideline No. 8 (Protein-Rich Mixtures for Use as Supplementary Foods), provided the Commission could agree to extend the Committee's terms of reference. Since the Commission had agreed that the Committee on Foods for Special Dietary Uses should review its terms of reference in the light of the discussions on the nutritional aspects of Codex work under Item 8 (see para 18.iv), the Commission was informed that it was intended that a Working Group should convene prior to the next session of the Committee to carry out such a revision concerning the standard for follow-up foods and the PAG Guideline No. 8. The Commission agreed with this proposal.

402. The Rapporteur informed the Commission that the next session of the Committee on Foods for Special Dietary Uses was scheduled to be held from 16 to 24 September 1982 in Bonn-Bad Godesberg. The 16 and 17 September would be devoted to the meeting of the Working Group.

Revised Terms of Reference of the Committee

403. The Rapporteur pointed out that the Committee on Foods for Special Dietary Uses had indicated that it would like to be consulted on nutritional aspects of foods, having regard to the involvement of the Codex Alimentarius Commission in nutrition matters. In this particular case, the request related to guidelines on nutrition labelling developed by the Codex Committee on Food Labelling and to the review of the PAG Guideline No. 8 (see para. 401 above). The Committee had, therefore, requested the extension of its terms of reference accordingly. For the Commission's discussion and conclusions on this matter please see paragraphs 120 and 121.

International Code of Marketing of Breastmilk Substitutes

404. The Assistant Director-General of WHO, Dr. D. Tejada-de-Rivero informed the Commission of developments which had led to the elaboration of an International Code of

Marketing of Breastmilk Substitutes and indicated those areas related to the Code where WHO would expect assistance from the Codex Alimentarius Commission.

405. Dr. Tejada-de-Rivero stated that since 1969 many meetings and consultations of expert bodies had recommended that action be taken to promote breastfeeding and to regulate the promotion and marketing of breastmilk substitutes and other products which were offered as such.

406. At the request of one Member Country of WHO, a joint WHO/UNICEF Meeting on Infant and Young Child Feeding, held in October 1979, as part of the two Organizations' on-going programmes on the promotion of breastfeeding and improvement of infant and young child nutrition, brought together representatives of government, United Nations agencies, nongovernmental organizations, the infant food industry and specialists in related disciplines. The recommendations adopted by consensus at this meeting included:

“ ... marketing of breastmilk substitutes and weaning foods should be designed not to discourage breastfeeding.

There should be no sales promotion, including promotional advertising to the public, of products to be used as breastmilk substitutes or bottle-fed supplements and feeding bottles.

There should be an international code of marketing of infant formula and other products used as breastmilk substitutes”.

407. The draft International Code developed on this basis had been the subject of numerous and lengthy consultations with all interested parties - governments, agencies of the United Nations system, non-governmental organizations, the infant food industry and experts in related disciplines. As the Executive Committee had been informed last October, the Code had drawn upon the work of the Codex for the development of suitable definitions and called for food products within the scope of the Code to conform with the quality, nutritional, hygienic and labelling requirements of Codex Standards and Codes of Practice concerning Infant Foods.

408. Since then the draft International Code had been submitted to the WHO Executive Board at its Sixty-Seventh Session in January 1981, in conformity with the Assembly's request made in May 1980. The Board had recommended unanimously to the Health Assembly that the Code be adopted in the form of a Recommendation; its Resolution (EB 67.R12) to this effect had contained the draft of a further Resolution (WHA 34.22) by which the Assembly subsequently had approved the Code in the form of a Recommendation at the close of its deliberations in May 1981. Copies of Resolution WHA 34.22, together with the Code which appears in Annex, had been made available to Members of the Commission.

409. Dr. Tejada-de-Rivero drew the Commission's attention to operative paragraph 4 of this Resolution whereby the Assembly “REQUESTS the FAO/WHO Codex Alimentarius Commission to give full consideration, within the framework of its operational mandate, to

action it might take to improve the quality standards of infant foods, and to support and promote the implementation of the International Code". It had been the Assembly's position that the Codex Alimentarius Commission should continue its collaboration with WHO in promoting the achievement of the aim of the Code which is the provision of safe and adequate nutrition for infants. In addition to fostering increased acceptance and application of existing standards, there was a number of areas where action by the Codex would be most welcome.

410. The first of these concerned labelling. In WHO's view, it was important that the labelling provisions (Section 10) of the Recommended International Standards for Foods for Infants and Children (CAC/RS 72/74 – 1976) be reviewed in the light of Article 9 on the same subject of the International Code. This would be particularly relevant with respect to "pictures or text which may idealize the use of infant formula" and paragraph 10.10, Optional Labelling in the Codex standard.

411. A second point, not directly related to the Code itself, concerned the suggestion that had been made in the past concerning the promotion of standardized measurements for the preparation of infant formula, whether in powdered or liquid form. The purpose of such common units of measurement would, no doubt, be to facilitate the correct use of these products for those infants and young children who need them, and to reduce the danger of "underfeeding". The opinion of the Commission on the utility of such an exercise and the anticipated variables involved would be appreciated.

412. The last point concerned the "nutritional value and safety of products specifically intended for infant and young child feeding" in the Resolution WHA 34.23. Standards concerning the composition of infant formula had already been defined and include, for example, date marking and storage instructions (paragraph 10.8) in the Recommended International Standards for Foods for Infants and Children. However, relatively little was known of the specific tolerances of these products to the effects of storage and distribution that occur over time and under different climatic conditions, particularly in arid and tropical regions. It would be particularly useful if the Codex Alimentarius Commission could review Resolution WHA 34.23 and make specific suggestions on ways it would be prepared to cooperate with WHO for the successful carrying out of studies to assess changes in nutritional value and safety.

413. Dr. Tejada-de-Rivero requested the Commission to give consideration to the areas mentioned above to assist WHO in a task which was even greater than that of developing the Code within the overall aim to achieve "Health for all by the Year 2000".

414. The Chairman thanked Dr. Tejada-de-Rivero for the excellent report on the developments concerning the development of the International Code of Marketing of Breastmilk Substitutes, and invited Members of the Commission to make recommendations as to how to respond to the request of WHO to assist in the implementation of certain matters indicated in the Code.

415. The Delegation of the Netherlands expressed its appreciation to WHO for developing the Code. The Delegation stated that, as the final text was now available, the Government of the Netherlands had already commenced work to examine possible action to implement the Code. Especially the Codex Committee on Food Labelling would have to consider the effect of the Code on the labelling provisions included in the standards for foods for infants and children. The delegation pointed out that other matters in the Code were of great importance and that it was important to assist WHO in implementing the Code.

416. The Delegation of Brazil stated that Brazil had voted in favour of the Code and was promoting knowledge of the Code in its country. The Delegation also expressed the view that more advice was needed in the form of a guideline, to identify all types of products which were covered by the Code. Countries would also need assistance to establish adequate national codes and standards. The Delegation of Brazil emphasized the importance of promoting the use of safe and potable water in connection with the preparation of these products.

417. The Observer from Angola stated that Angola was fully supporting the Code. The observer urged countries to adopt the Code as soon as possible, especially in view of the fact that food control and legislation covering imported foods was not always well developed in many countries and also the application of international food codes could not offer full protection.

418. The Delegation of Sudan expressed its concern that the use of the term "breastmilk substitutes" in the Code would be interpreted as an official confirmation that these products would in fact substitute breastmilk and could therefore contribute to the promotion of the products concerned.

419. The Delegation of Thailand informed the Commission that Thailand could not accept the Codex standards for infant formula and cereal based products and had therefore difficulty with Article 10 of the Code. These products, if they had to comply with all of the requirements in the standards, could become too expensive. In fact the high price would prevent these products reaching the low income groups in the country. Thailand was developing products based on locally available raw materials which would take into account the different needs of populations living in different regions of the country and which could be sold at a reasonable price.

420. The Delegation of Switzerland stated that Switzerland entirely endorsed the philosophy of the Code and that Switzerland had voted for its adoption. With regard to paragraph 4 of the Resolution WHA 34.22, the Delegation of Switzerland recommended that the Codex Alimentarius Commission consider all possibilities to assist countries in the implementation of the Code. The delegation further underlined that the quality criteria contained in the Codex standards already elaborated were fully satisfactory and could not constitute any risk. The delegation expressed its full confidence in the work of the Codex Committee on Foods for Special Dietary Uses on standards for foods for infants and children, especially concerning those provisions which guarantee the safety of the products. However, that Committee could consider a review of certain provisions for labelling and instructions for use and storage of

foods for infants and children. The Commission agreed with the views expressed by the Delegation of Switzerland.

421. The Delegation of Kenya recognized that the Code provided valuable guidance on many important aspects and informed the Commission that action was already taken to implement the Code. The Delegation of Kenya underlined the importance of products made from indigenous ingredients and the need to take into account local requirements.

422. In conclusion, the Chairman expressed the Commission's appreciation to WHO and UNICEF for having taken into account the work of the Commission on standards and codes for foods for infants and children.

423. Whereas the Committee on Foods for Special Dietary Uses had indeed developed comprehensive standards to safeguard the quality of these products, it would be appropriate to review the sections dealing with labelling, advertising and instructions for use, having regard to the relevant articles of the Code. In the first instance this work should be carried out by the Committee on Foods for Special Dietary Uses. Subsequently the Codex Committee on Food Labelling would exercise its endorsement function. Further matters for consideration by the Codex Committee on Foods for Special Dietary Uses might relate to the nutritional value of the products and especially effects of storage time and conditions on this nutritional value. The Chairman invited Member Countries to submit their comments on this matter to the next session of this Committee to ensure a full discussion. The Commission concluded that the Codex Committee on Foods for Special Dietary Uses should consider all these matters on which the WHO had asked for assistance (see paras 410–412).

424. The Commission noted that Member Countries could obtain technical assistance from the Food Policy and Nutrition Division of FAO concerning the development of infant foods based upon locally available materials. Such assistance could cover the technological, marketing and nutritional aspects of such foods. The Secretariat of the ACC Sub Committee on Nutrition also had available to it information from the specialized agencies and nutrition units of the UN System which could be made available to member governments.

425. The Delegation of Switzerland informed the Commission that it was submitting new data to the Committee for inclusion in the advisory list for vitamin compounds for foods for infants and children.

Confirmation of Chairmanship

426. 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 PROCESSED MEAT AND POULTRY

PRODUCTS

427. The Commission had before it the Report of the Eleventh Session of the Committee on Processed Meat and Poultry Products as contained in ALINORM 81/16 and documents ALINORM 81/37-Part III and LIM 7, containing comments received from Denmark and the Federal Republic of Germany on Annex C entitled “Sampling and Inspection Procedures for Microbiological Examination of Meat Products in Hermetically Sealed Containers” to the Recommended International Code of Hygienic Practice for Processed Meat Products (CAC/RCP 13-1976) at Step 8.

428. The Chairman of the Committee, Mrs Anne Brincker (Denmark), gave an account of the work accomplished by the Committee since the last session of the Commission. She also introduced the various Codes at Steps 8 and 5 of the Procedure and matters arising from the Report of the Codex Committee on Processed Meat and Poultry Products.

Consideration of Annex C entitled “Sampling and Inspection Procedure for Microbiological Examination of Meat Products in Hermetically Sealed Containers” to the Recommended International Code of Hygienic Practice for Processed Meat Products (CAC/RCP 13-1976 at Step 8)

429. The Chairman of the Committee reviewed briefly the history of Annex C, (ALINORM 81/16, Appendix II) and informed the Commission that it was not reviewed by the Codex Committee on Food Hygiene at its last session since the detailed documentation was not available in time.

430. The Commission was also informed that while the comments received from Denmark were editorial in nature, the comments from the Federal Republic of Germany to the effect that the product be subjected to microbiological examination in all cases (Section B: non shelf stable meat products, heat treated after packaging), were substantial in nature.

431. Taking into consideration that the sampling and inspection procedures were intended to be used only in cases where the controlling authorities had reason to suspect that the lot contained defectives, it appeared that there was much to commend in the proposal from the Federal Republic of Germany.

432. The Commission noted that the proposals made by the Federal Republic of Germany were new proposals that had not been considered previously by the Committee and that further, the Federal Republic of Germany did not propose any text that could be considered by the Commission.

433. The Commission agreed with the proposal made by the Chairman that Annex C be held at Step 7, that it be referred to the next session of the Codex Committee on Food Hygiene and returned to the Committee on Processed Meat and Poultry Products for re-examination of the two proposals made by Denmark and the Federal Republic of Germany.

Status of Draft Annex C

434. The Commission retained the Draft Annex C at Step 7 of the Codex procedure.

Consideration of a Proposed Draft Code of Practice for the Production, Storage and Composition of Mechanically Separated Meat and Poultry intended for Further Processing at Step 5 (ALINORM 81/16, Appendix III)

435. The Commission noted that the Committee faced no major issues with the elaboration of the Code, except for fixing a limit for the calcium content of mechanically separated meat, which is put into square brackets.

Status of the Draft Code

436. The Commission advanced the Code to Step 6 of the procedure.

Other Matters arising from the Report of the Eleventh Session of the Committee

Proposed Draft Code of Hygienic Practice for Dry and Semi-Dry Sausages

437. The Commission was informed that the main reason for the elaboration of a Code of Hygienic Practice for dry and semi-dry sausages was that new production techniques introduced for manufacturing the product might give rise to health hazards because of the short processing times, often combined with higher fermentation temperatures which might result in formation of staphylococcal enterotoxins during the process.

438. The Commission noted that in view of the restricted international trade in the particular type of dry and semi-dry sausages concerned and of the lack of evidence that the products covered by the code were of public health concern, the Committee suspended its work on the elaboration of the Code. The Committee, however, expressed its willingness to continue the development of the Code if there was considerable support to do so.

439. The Commission, noting that there was very little interest among the delegations present for the elaboration of the Code of Hygienic Practice for Dry and Semi-Dry Sausages, confirmed the decision of the Committee to suspend the work on the Code until such time that substantial evidence proved that the Code is important from the point of view of the Codex Alimentarius Commission.

Consideration of Draft Guidelines for Use of Vegetable Proteins in Processed Meat and Poultry Products

440. The Commission noted that the Committee had agreed to develop guidelines for the use of vegetable proteins in processed meat and poultry products under the Codex Steps Procedure.

441. The Delegation of Norway felt that the development of guidelines for use of vegetable proteins in different commodities might pose a problem if it resulted in the elaboration of

different labelling provisions for products containing vegetable proteins, but expressed concern about aspects related to the labelling of products containing vegetable proteins.

442. The Commission agreed with the proposal of the Committee on Processed Meat and Poultry Products to elaborate draft guidelines for use of vegetable protein and instructed the Committee to proceed with this work in close collaboration with the Codex Committee on Vegetable Proteins. The Committee on Vegetable Proteins was developing general guidelines for the use of vegetable proteins in food. The guidelines being developed by Commodity Committees should be consistent with the general guidelines being developed by the Codex Committee on Vegetable Proteins having regard to the specific circumstances of individual products. Any departures from general guidelines would need to be justified. The Commission further considered that the labelling aspects would be important and would have to be endorsed by the Codex Committee on Food Labelling.

443. The Commission noted with satisfaction the close collaboration between the Codex Committee on Processed Meat and Poultry Products and the Codex Committee on Vegetable Proteins.

444. The Delegation of Mexico considered that there was a need to develop similar guidelines for the use of other proteins including such products as milk powder, casein and caseinates in meat and poultry products. The Commission agreed that the Committee should examine the question of whether there is a need for developing such guidelines at a future session.

Recommended International Code of Hygienic Practice for Processed Meat Products

445. The Commission noted the wish of the Committee to revise the above Code, the provisions of which were derived from the work done in the mid-1960s, and was informed that an ad hoc Working Group had met at WHO Headquarters in March 1981 to initiate the revision. The Commission approved the proposed revision of the Recommended Code of Practice.

Confirmation of Chairmanship

446. The Commission confirmed under Rule IX.10 of the Procedure that the Codex Committee on Processed Meat and Poultry Products should continue to be under the Chairmanship of the Government of Denmark.

CODEX COMMITTEE ON MEAT HYGIENE

447. The Codex Committee on Meat Hygiene held its 4th Session in London from 18 to 22 May 1981. The report of the session was introduced by Ms. S. Cottrell (New Zealand).

448. The Commission noted that this was the first meeting of the Committee since 1974 when it had adjourned sine die. At its 12th session, the Commission had agreed to reactivate the Committee in order to develop two further codes of practice in the field of meat hygiene, a Code of Hygienic Practice for Game and a Code of Practice for the Ante-Mortem and Post-Mortem Judgement of Slaughter Animals and Meat. The former Code had been considered first by the Codex Committee on Processed Meat and Poultry Products before being passed to the Codex Committee on Meat Hygiene for further elaboration. The Committee had examined the Code in detail and had decided to advance it to Step 5 (see also ALINORM 81/15, paras 91–137). The Delegation of Egypt did not agree with some views in the report which minimized the importance of small numbers of superficial Salmonellae contamination, and stressed that at least the known virulent types of Salmonellae should not be neglected in that respect.

Status of the Code

449. The Commission agreed with the recommendation of the Codex Committee on Meat Hygiene and decided to advance the Code of Hygienic Practice for Game to Step 6.

Future Work of the Committee

450. The Commission noted that the Committee had developed the draft Code of Practice for Ante-Mortem and Post-Mortem Judgement of Slaughter Animals up to Step 3 at the 4th session of the Committee. The completion of work on the two Codes would probably require two further sessions of the Committee.

Confirmation of Chairmanship

451. The Commission confirmed under Rule IX.10 that the Codex Committee on Meat Hygiene should continue to be under the Chairmanship of the Government of New Zealand.

CODEX COMMITTEE ON CEREALS AND CEREAL PRODUCTS

452. The Commission had before it the Reports of the First and Second Sessions of the Committee (ALINORM 81/29 and 81/29A).

453. Dr. R. W. Weik of the Delegation of the United States introduced the above Reports on behalf of Mr. D.R. Galliart, Chairman of the Codex Committee on Cereals and Cereal Products.

454. The Commission noted that both sessions of the Committee had been very well attended and, in particular, that 17 developing countries had participated at the Second Session.

455. Dr. Weik gave a brief account of the work carried out by the Committee.

456. The Committee had confirmed at its First Session its terms of reference which had been elaborated at the 12th Session of the Commission, namely: to elaborate worldwide standards and/or Codes of practice, as may be appropriate, for cereals and cereal products.

Programme of Work

457. One of the major tasks carried out by the Committee at its first session had been the establishment of a programme of work for the Committee. The Committee had agreed, for the time being, to limit its activities to grains and milled grains and to give more consideration to composite products at a future session.

458. The Committee had decided to start its work by elaborating worldwide standards for wheat flour, maize grains and whole and degermed maize meal and grits. The Committee had, however, considered a much wider range of products of importance. On a number of products, including semolina, rolled oats and milled rice, no conclusive decision had been made and additional information in accordance with the Work Priority Criteria had been requested from Governments and Coordinating Committees. The Committee had recognized that several products, such as sorghum, millet and their milled products, although they moved in worldwide trade, were used as an important staple food mainly in the region of Africa. The Committee had therefore recommended to the Coordinating Committee for Africa to consider the development of regional standards for these products. The Commission took note of these decisions. Finally, the Committee had decided not to commence the elaboration of codes of practice or standards for certain other products including wheat grains, rye and rye products, barley and barley products, oats. Details of the programme of work can be found in para. 155 of ALINORM 81/29.

459. Having regard to the importance of the products as staple foods, the Committee had requested member governments to give further consideration to the programme of work of the Committee and to examine and comment on the decisions made so far. The Delegation of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya drew the Commission's attention to the pressing need for the elaboration of a worldwide standard for wheat, and further informed the Commission that barley was also an important food in North African countries and that it was, therefore, in favour of a standard for barley either of regional or worldwide coverage.

460. Several delegations pointed out that it was necessary to reconsider the need for a standard for wheat. The decision of the first session of the Committee not to elaborate such a standard had been made on the request of only a few countries. To consider this matter fully, more detailed information should be provided, including data on different production-, harvest- and storage conditions and on such areas which were important health matters, e.g. pathogenic moulds, etc.

461. The Delegation of Australia, supported by several other delegations, reiterated the view that the Committee should evaluate the data strictly on the basis of the Codex work priority criteria. The delegation also stated that the grain trade was normally well regulated by buyer-seller contracts, by national grain board regulations and by international arrangements

such as the FAO promoted Plant Protection Convention. The Delegation of Australia considered that there was scope, if various delegations saw problems in the trade, for a reconsideration of the matter by the Committee. However, countries should be requested to provide specific and full details of actual problems they had experienced, so that the Committee could determine what solutions, if any, were appropriate. The Committee could not legitimately be expected to change its earlier decision if detailed information was not made available to it. Likewise, although standards or codes of practice might be the answer to these problems, it would be pointless to develop them if other solutions, such as greater attention to contracting procedures, were a more appropriate solution. This view was supported by the Delegation of Canada and by several other delegations.

462. The Representative of ISO drew attention to the specification for wheat grains which had been developed in the Sub-Committee on Cereals and Pulses of ISO/TC/34. The Representative of ISO made reference to a policy statement which had been agreed between ISO and Codex to avoid duplication of work. Under this agreement, the Codex Alimentarius Commission would elaborate standards for products intended for human consumption, while ISO would consider specifications for agricultural commodities. The Delegation of Hungary recalled that Hungary provided the Secretariat for ISO/TC/34 and stressed the good cooperation between the two organizations. The Chairman drew the attention of the Commission to a discussion on international cooperation at the Second Session of the Committee which was reflected in paras 26–30 of ALINORM 81/29A. Several delegations underlined the need for international organizations to avoid duplication of work.

463. The Delegation of Thailand supported the view of the Delegation of Australia on trade in grains especially in rice, and drew attention to the work of ISO on a specification for rice which did not cover the agricultural commodity (paddy) rice, but the processed products, including milled rice.

464. A number of delegations were of the opinion that in determining the work programme, the Codex work priority criteria should be equally applied to all commodities. In their view the agreement to elaborate a standard for maize grain justified also the elaboration of a standard for wheat grains which were at least of equal importance to maize.

465. The Secretariat gave a brief summary of the documentation which had been prepared for the two sessions of the Committee, including information both on matters related to work priority criteria and on the activity of other international organizations. The Commission concluded that it was necessary to obtain more detailed information on specific problems and on the requirements of individual countries, in order to review the programme of work of the Committee. The Secretariat was instructed to issue a Circular Letter which should reflect the discussion of the two sessions of the Committee and of the Commission and to request governments to comment thereon and to indicate specific problems and requirements concerning the standardization of cereals and cereal products.

Draft Standard for Maize (Corn) at Step 8 (Appendix II)

466. The Rapporteur outlined briefly the action taken by the Committee concerning the elaboration of the above standard. He recalled that the Commission, at its 13th Session, had adopted at Step 5 a Regional African Draft Standard for Maize (Corn). The Commission had further decided that the standard for maize should have worldwide coverage and had therefore recommended to the Committee to consider whether the regional African standard was suitable for transformation into a worldwide standard. The Committee had taken over the regional standard and had, after thorough examination at two sessions of the Committee, advanced the amended text to Step 8.

467. It was noted that due to the timing of the sessions, Governments had not had the customary period of time available to submit proposals for Step 8 amendments. The Delegation of Nigeria, supported by the Delegations of Kenya, Spain, Ghana and Switzerland and by the Delegation of the United Kingdom speaking on behalf of the Member States of the EEC, proposed that the standard should not be advanced at this time, in view of the substantial changes which had been made to the text of the standard at the Second Session of the Committee.

468. The Delegation of Switzerland expressed concern about the absence of levels for mycotoxins.

469. The Delegation of Argentina reiterated its comments made at the Second Session of the Committee that Sections 5.3 (a) and (b) as drafted would present problems in worldwide trade, since the requirements concerning absence of microorganisms and toxins derived therefrom were of a general nature and open to interpretation. The delegation proposed to introduce numerical limits and to provide for appropriate supporting methodology. The Delegation of Argentina stated furthermore that the detailed labelling requirements should apply to small packs only and not to sacks, since this might create difficulties in international trade.

Status of the Standard for Maize (Corn)

470. The Commission decided to return the above standard to Step 6 of the Procedure, in order to enable governments to give more consideration to the substantial changes made to the text.

Proposed Draft Standard for Wheat Flour at Step 5 (Appendix III)

471. The Delegation of Portugal expressed its particular interest in this standard and wished to submit to the Committee a proposal to include in the standard quality characteristics for flours which were related to their end use; e.g. cooking or baking, and some technical comments on certain additives.

Status of the Standard for Wheat Flour

472. The Commission adopted the above standard at Step 5 and advanced it to Step 6 of the Procedure.

Provision for Pesticide Residues in Codex Standards for Cereals and Cereal Products

473. The Delegation of the United Kingdom expressed the view that the Codex standards for cereals and cereal products should not include, by reference, provisions relating to pesticide residue limits adopted by the Codex Alimentarius Commission. The delegation further pointed out that inclusion of such provisions could lead to confusion concerning the acceptance procedures for pesticide residue limits and those for commodity standards. This view was supported by the Delegation of Spain.

474. The Secretariat pointed out that the “Format for Codex Standards” in the Procedural Manual had foreseen provision by reference for pesticide residues, in commodity standards but it had been the practice in Commodity Committees and the Commission not to do this for the reasons given by the Delegation of the United Kingdom.

475. The Rapporteur informed the Committee that the provision on pesticide residues in the standard for maize had been taken over from the original regional standard for maize. It was pointed out by the Delegation of Ghana that difficulties encountered with pesticide residues in Africa had been the motivating reason to establish the regional standard for maize. The Commission considered that it would be wise to omit such references but, nevertheless, agreed that further government comments were needed on this matter which should be further discussed by the Committee on Cereals and Cereal Products.

Amendment of Terms of Reference and Work on Pulses

476. The Commission recalled that it had agreed earlier in the Session that the Codex Committee on Cereals and Cereal Products should be charged with the responsibility for developing standards for pulses.

477. The Commission decided, therefore, to change the name of the Committee to “Codex Committee on Cereals, Pulses and Legumes” and to amend its terms of reference to read as follows: “to elaborate worldwide standards and/or codes of practice as may be appropriate for cereals, pulses, legumes, and their products.”

478. The Commission agreed that a background document should be prepared, reflecting the information on pulses available, to enable the Committee to extend its programme of work in accordance with its revised terms of reference and to review its work priorities.

479. It was further agreed that the work already undertaken by the UNECE Working Group on Pulses should be taken into account, especially in the preparation of the draft standards. In order to avoid duplication of work, the Commission recommended to the UNECE Secretariat to request member governments to refrain from continuing the work on the ECE recommendations for pulses.

Confirmation of Chairmanship

480. The Commission confirmed under Rule IX.10 that the Codex Committee on Cereals, Pulses and Legumes should continue to be under the Chairmanship of the Government of the United States.

481. The Commission expressed its appreciation to the Government of the United States for having hosted the first two sessions of the Committee in order to advance this important work.

CODEX COMMITTEE ON VEGETABLE PROTEINS

482. The Codex Committee on Vegetable Proteins held its first session in Ottawa, 3–7 November 1980.

483. The Report of the session was introduced by the Chairman, Dr. N.W. Tape (Canada) who reviewed the work programme established by the Committee and the progress made at the first session.

484. The Commission noted that the Committee had examined and revised the proposed draft standards for vegetable protein flours, concentrates and isolates and had issued them for comments to governments at Step 3 of the procedure.

485. The preparation of draft guidelines for the use of vegetable proteins was also considered. Although there was some question as to whether it was possible to prepare guidelines covering the wide range of commodity applications and economic situations affecting utilization as well as the varying roles for protein, levels of use, nutritional considerations and labelling, it had been agreed to prepare general guidelines, including labelling aspects, for consideration at the next session of the Commission.

486. The Committee had also discussed the advisability of having general group standards (e.g. flours, concentrates and isolates) or specific standards for each protein (e.g. soy, groundnut, cottonseed). The Committee had agreed that general standards were preferable and that specific protein standards would only be developed as required. In this regard the Committee had decided to develop a proposed draft standard for gluten.

487. The Committee had established two working groups, one to review the adequacy of methods to determine the biological quality of protein and to identify the best available methods of measurement, and another to review methods of analysis of vegetable protein in a mixture with animal protein.

488. The Committee had also agreed that a background paper on the toxicity of Lysino alamine (LAL) should be prepared for the next session of the Committee.

489. Dr. Tape further informed the Commission that in line with the Commission's decision to place increased emphasis on the needs and concerns of developing countries, it had been unanimously agreed to place the collective expertise of the Committee at the disposal of

Member Countries - particularly developing countries - which might wish to have guidance and advice on such matters as processing technology, safety and nutritional value on, for example, the use of indigenous vegetable proteins in staple foods. The Committee agreed that it would be willing if requested to establish a working group within the Committee to keep under review current research and developments in the vegetable protein field and provide advice, where required.

490. The Commission expressed its satisfaction at the Committee's offer to form such a Working Group and noted that a Circular Letter had already been issued inviting governments to make use of the Committee's expertise and to so inform either the Secretariat or the Chairman of the Committee.

491. With regard to the intention of the Committee to elaborate general guidelines for the use of vegetable protein products in food, the Commission noted that work had been in progress for some time within the Codex Committee on Processed Meat and Poultry Products, specifically to prepare draft guidelines for the use of vegetable proteins in meat and poultry. It also noted that other Committees such as the Codex Committee on Fish and Fishery Products might find it necessary to develop guidelines for use in certain products. The Commission agreed that all such guidelines should be prepared in close collaboration and consultation with the Codex Committee on Vegetable Proteins.

Confirmation of Chairmanship

492. The Commission confirmed under Rule IX.10 that the Codex Committee on Vegetable Proteins should continue to be under the Chairmanship of the Government of Canada.

CODEX COMMITTEE ON EDIBLE ICES

Reconsideration of the Draft Standard for Edible Ices and Ice Mixes

493. The Commission had before it document ALINORM 81/11 and Add. 1 thereto, containing the conclusions of the Codex Committee on Food Additives concerning the food additives included in the standard and comments from governments to the proposal of Ireland to provide for a minimum milk fat content of 5% in products grouping 3 of Section 3.3 of the standard contained in Appendix I to ALINORM 79/11.

Section 4 - Food Additives

494. The Commission noted that the Codex Committee on Food Additives had reconsidered the food additives provided for in the standard and had reconfirmed its previous endorsement (see paras 92–98, ALINORM 81/12). During the discussion of this question the Delegations of the Federal Republic of Germany, France, Poland, Austria, Egypt, Chile, USSR and Italy expressed the view that the list included in the standard was unduly long. The Delegation of Egypt also considered that a food which is consumed by children should not contain synthetic

colours or flavours. In the opinion of these delegations the use of many of the food additives included in the standard could not be justified. The Delegations of Belgium and Sweden indicated that, having regard to the list of additives as well as their maximum limits, their countries could only accept the standard with a certain number of specified deviations.

495. The Delegation of the United Kingdom, supported by the Delegations of Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, New Zealand, USA, Finland, Brazil and Denmark pointed out that the arguments made by the previous speakers did not contain any new element which had not been considered by the Commodity Committee and by the Codex Committee on Food Additives. These delegations were of the opinion that the list of food additives represented a compromise and that it should be adopted by the Commission.

496. The Commission noted that the list of food additives included in Codex standards were indicative in the sense that the use of the individual additives was optional. They served to restrict the use of additives to those which had been evaluated from a point of view of safety and the use of which was technologically justified for certain products within the maximum levels specified. Lists of additives in an international standard were bound to be longer than was possible to establish at the national level in order to allow governments a choice from among internationally evaluated substances. The point was also made that it was certainly to be expected that only a very few of the additives would be used in a given product at one time.

497. The Delegation of Finland drew the attention of the Commission to the finding of the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC), that Fast Green FCF, included in the standard, had been shown to be a carcinogen and that, therefore, Finland had reservations concerning this colour. The Commission noted that JECFA had this additive under review.

498. The Commission noted the above remarks and decided that the section on food additives as contained in document ALINORM 81/11 should be adopted. It noted that the section could be revised at a future date in the light of the acceptances received.

Proposal by Ireland to amend Section 3.3

499. The Commission considered an amendment proposed by Ireland (see para. 500) in the light of government comments. These indicated that while there was no strong objection to the Irish amendment, most of the comments received indicated that there was no support for the amendment.

500. The Delegation of Ireland submitted a Conference Room Document indicating the rationale in putting forward the amendment which proposed the inclusion in Section 3.3 of the standard of a product containing a minimum of 5% butterfat in a mixed fat ice cream. The Conference Room Document also indicated the economic impact which the standard, as drafted, would have on trade in that country. Furthermore, the delegation was strongly of the opinion that the standard for edible ices and ice mixes was defective in a number of ways and that it should be returned to Step 7 for reconsideration. The Delegations of Australia and Canada generally supported this view, and indicated that the present standard was too much

of a compromise and that it covered far too many types of products. In their opinion it was very unlikely that the standard would find acceptance by Governments and suggested that it be abandoned, so that other subjects of more importance could be considered.

501. The Commission noted that these arguments had been considered by the Commodity Committee which had adjourned sine die. There seemed to be no advantage to be gained from setting up a special group to reconsider the standard or from holding it in abeyance. The standard contained a number of provisions such as those relating to hygiene, additives and to labelling, which were useful items for international agreement. Furthermore, it was desirable to finalize the standard so as to free resources to be used for other subjects of importance. As regards the amendment proposed by Ireland, the Commission did not adopt it.

Status of the Draft Standard for Edible Ices and Ice Mixes

502. The Commission adopted the Draft Standard for Edible Ices and Ice Mixes at Step 8 of the Procedure for the Elaboration of Worldwide Codex Standards. The Delegations of Australia, Canada and Ireland opposed this decision.

Confirmation of Chairmanship of the Committee

503. 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.

CODEX COMMITTEE ON SOUPS AND BROTHS

504. The Commission had before it documents ALINORM 81/37 and Addendum 1.

Acid Hydrolyzed Vegetable Proteins

505. The Chairman of the Committee, Professor Dr. E. Matthey (Switzerland) introduced the above documents which contained a first draft of a standard for acid hydrolyzed vegetable proteins and government comments thereon.

506. The Commission recalled the history of this standard (paras 1–5 of ALINORM 81/32) and noted that the Executive Committee at its 27th Session had decided to request government comments on a first draft of a standard for acid hydrolyzed vegetable proteins (see Appendix I to ALINORM 81/32) to be submitted to this session of the Commission. The Executive Committee had noted with appreciation the offer of the Government of Switzerland to develop the standard within the Codex Committee on Soups and Broths, should the Commission decide to continue work on this standard. The written comments contained in the above documents were not conclusive and it became apparent that it would be appropriate to clarify the scope and to receive more information on the nature of the products covered by the standard. This was especially desirable in order to define which types of products were sold directly to the consumers. Whereas the Delegation of the United Kingdom reiterated the

opinion that the products were mostly destined for further processing and hardly moving in international trade, the Delegation of Nigeria indicated that it was not a producer but that there was a steeply increasing consumption of these products and a standard was necessary to protect the consumer.

507. A considerable number of delegations expressed themselves in favour of a standard. A large number of delegations stated that they were not opposed to elaborating the standard, but considered that this matter was of low priority and that more information was needed in accordance with the Codex Work Priority Criteria.

508. Delegations speaking against the development of a standard for acid hydrolyzed proteins, since the work priority criteria could not be complied with, expressed the view that the Commission's efforts should be directed to products of more importance.

509. The Commission decided that more information on hydrolyzed proteins should be requested from governments by Circular Letter, having regard to the views expressed above. The Circular Letter should request also specific comments on the scope of the standard as set forth in Appendix I to ALINORM 81/32. It was hoped that a decision on this matter could be made at the next session of the Commission.

Confirmation of Chairmanship

510. The Commission confirmed under Rule IX.10 that the Codex Committee on Soups and Broths should continue to be under the Chairmanship of the Government of Switzerland. The Commission noted that the Committee had adjourned sine die.

CODEX COMMITTEE ON COCOA PRODUCTS AND CHOCOLATE

511. The Commission had before it the Report of the 14th Session of the Codex Committee on Cocoa Products and Chocolate (ALINORM 81/10). The Chairman of the Committee, Professor Dr. E. Matthey (Switzerland) introduced the report and reviewed the progress made with regard to the two Draft Standards examined by the Committee, i.e. the Draft Standard for Composite and Filled Chocolate and the Draft Standard for [Composite Cocoa Butter] [Cocoa Butter Confectionery] which would be further considered by the Committee at its next session at Step 6 of the Procedure.

512. The Commission noted that the possibility of recommencing work on the Draft Standard for Cocoa Beans, Cocoa Nibs, Cocoa Press Cake and Cocoa Dust for use in the manufacture of chocolate products had also been discussed and that the Committee had urged FAO to organize a meeting of the Working Party on Grading of the Study Group on Cocoa at the earliest opportunity, so that work on the above draft standard could be completed in the light of a revised Model Ordinance.

513. The Commission noted that no such meeting of the Working Party would be organized in the foreseeable future and that the Committee had hoped to complete its programme of work at its next session. It was proposed that in these circumstances the Committee should itself endeavour to undertake the amendment and completion of the Draft Standard. A number of producing countries represented at the Commission's session, including Brazil, Cameroon, Ghana, Ivory Coast and Nigeria, supported by the Representative of COPAL, did not agree with the proposal.

514. The Delegation of the Ivory Coast informed the Commission that the question of the Model Ordinance and Code of Practice was a matter which was solely the responsibility of the FAO Secretariat. In fact, FAO had elaborated the Model Ordinance and Code of Practice, which it had submitted to the producer countries. The latter, after application, should inform FAO of their observations in order to have a definitive document established. Meanwhile, the FAO Working Party had ceased its activities, thus suspending the entire procedure for the elaboration of the final document. COPAL had written to FAO so that FAO might re-activate the activities of its Working Party. The request had been supported by the Codex Committee on Cocoa Products and Chocolate at its 14th Session. Consequently the Delegation of the Ivory Coast requested the Commission to await the reply of the FAO Secretariat to the COPAL request. The Delegation of the Ivory Coast considered, furthermore, that for the moment, the Committee did not constitute the appropriate framework for dealing with this question.

515. The Delegation of Cameroon stated that after the meeting of its Working Party, which took place in Paris from 27 to 30 May 1969, FAO had requested its Members to apply the Model Ordinance and Code of Practice on Cocoa Beans, Cocoa Nibs, Cocoa Mass, Cocoa Press Cake, and Cocoa Dust for use in the manufacture of chocolate products. Cameroon had done this, since it had drawn on the Model Ordinance and Code of Practice for the elaboration of its national legislation in this field. However, FAO was to have reconvened its Working Party in 1974, in order to evaluate the application of this draft standard and possibly revise it. Cameroon now requested FAO, through the Codex Alimentarius Commission, to reconvene its Working Party, in order to revise, if possible, its Model Ordinance and Code of Practice, to enable the Codex Committee on Cocoa Products and Chocolate to pursue its work of elaborating a standard for cocoa beans, cocoa nibs, cocoa mass, cocoa press cake, and cocoa dust for use in the manufacture of chocolate products.

516. The Representative of ISO informed the Commission that ISO had already issued a Standard on Specifications for Cocoa Beans (ISO 2451) which had been prepared at the request of FAO.

517. The Commission agreed that work on the Draft Standard should not be pursued at the present time. It was also agreed that the Codex Secretariat should draw COPAL's request to the attention of the competent unit in FAO.

Confirmation of Chairmanship

518. 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 SUGARS

519. The Commission had before it ALINORM 81/27. Miss M. Coales, acting as Rapporteur for the United Kingdom, informed the meeting that the Codex Committee on Sugars, which had adjourned sine die, had two outstanding matters to deal with, the updating of methods of analysis and the establishment of agreed maximum levels for lead.

520. On methods of analysis, the UK Secretariat was still awaiting the results of work on certain methods of analysis being done by ISO, on receipt of which they would produce a paper for comments by Governments.

521. On lead levels, the Codex Committee on Food Additives at its last session had endorsed the limits for lead proposed by the UK Secretariat following consultation. These were 0.5 mg/kg for fructose and 1.0 mg/kg for the other sugars, and had been submitted to the Codex Committee on Food Additives by the 13th Session of the Commission. Although they had endorsed the limits, the Codex Committee on Food Additives thought that they were still too high and that further information on the feasibility of lowering them was required. They had also recommended that details of sufficiently sensitive methods of analysis should be sought. A circular letter (CL 1981/24 (Sugars)) had been issued in May 1981, requesting comments by 31 October, to enable the UK Secretariat to make an assessment and to present a paper to the next session of the Codex Committee on Food Additives.

522. The Commission heard a progress report from the ISO on the elaboration of methods of analysis.

523. The Delegation of Egypt stated that lead intake had a cumulative effect and expressed the view that even a limit of 1 mg/kg was still too high.

524. The Commission decided to await the outcome of the work on lead levels before publishing any amendments to the standards.

Confirmation of Chairmanship

525. 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. It was noted that the Committee would remain adjourned sine die.

CODEX COMMITTEE ON NATURAL MINERAL WATERS

Confirmation of Chairmanship of the Committee

526. 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. It noted that the Committee would remain adjourned sine die.

CODEX COMMITTEE ON MEAT

Confirmation of Chairmanship

527. 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. It noted that the Committee would remain adjourned sine die.

PART VIII

CONSIDERATION OF NEED TO AMEND THE EUROPEAN REGIONAL

STANDARD FOR HONEY AND TO ESTABLISH A WORLDWIDE

STANDARD

528. The Commission had before it document ALINORM 81/36 and Add. 1 giving a resume of events leading to the reconsideration of the above standard and containing comments from governments on (a) whether there is a need to amend the standard, (b) whether the standard should be a worldwide standard, and (c) what would be an appropriate body to handle the amendments. The Secretariat, in introducing the subject, informed the Commission that most countries that had replied had indicated that the standard needed revision and should be elaborated as a worldwide standard. This had been the view also of the Coordinating Committees for Latin America, Africa, and Europe. As regards the Committee which might undertake this work, the Secretariat had received suggestions for the Codex Committees on Sugars, Processed Fruits and Vegetables and the Coordinating Committee for Europe.

529. In connection with the question as to whether a regional body could elaborate worldwide standards, the Commission was informed that this was possible under the Rules, as the Procedure for the Elaboration of Worldwide standards would apply giving all participating countries equal status including voting rights should this prove necessary.

530. The Commission had detailed discussion on the issues mentioned above. All delegations which spoke were in favour of elaborating a worldwide standard. As regards the Committee which should undertake the task of amending the European standard with a view to converting it into a worldwide standard, the delegations expressed the view that either the

Codex Committee for Sugars or the Codex Committee on Processed Fruits and Vegetables could undertake the work. The Delegation of Egypt suggested that it would be more appropriate to entrust the work to a specialized international body. The Commission was informed that it would be difficult for the United Kingdom to reconvene the Codex Committee for Sugars and, in any event, attendance by countries might be a problem considering that there would be one item only on the agenda.

531. The Commission agreed that there was a need to amend the European Regional Standard for Honey and decided that the standard be developed as a worldwide standard by the Codex Committee on Processed Fruits and Vegetables. On the advice of the Secretariat and WHO Legal Counsel, the Commission agreed that the Regional Standard should be sent to Governments at Step 3 with a request for technical comments which should be presented to the next session of the Codex Committee on Processed Fruits and Vegetables. The Secretariat was requested to ensure a timely issue of a Circular Letter requesting Government comments.

OTHER BUSINESS

Question of Amending the Codex Standard for Table Olives

532. The Commission was informed by the Secretariat and by the Representative of the International Olive Oil Council (IOOC) that the IOOC had recently amended the IOOC standard for table olives, in order to take account of the development of new processing techniques and present day market requirements and commercial practices. Whilst the IOOC Standard contained various quality grades, it also specified certain minimum quality requirements. As a result of the recent amendment, there were now some differences between the minimum requirements of the IOOC standard and the minimum requirements of the Codex Standard for Table Olives.

533. The Commission was also informed that the IOOC, by a unanimous decision in plenary session on 22 May 1981, had proposed that the Codex Alimentarius Commission be requested to initiate the amendment procedure with a view to amending the Codex standard. The Commission was also informed that the IOOC had indicated that it would be prepared to formulate, in collaboration with the Codex Secretariat, proposals aimed at harmonizing the IOOC and Codex standards for consideration at the next IOOC meeting from 23 to 27 November 1981 in Madrid.

534. The Commission decided to proceed as follows:

- i. The Commission accepted with appreciation the offer of the IOOC Secretariat to formulate, in collaboration with the Codex secretariat, proposals aimed at harmonizing the IOOC and Codex standards at its meeting from 23 to 27 November 1981.
- ii. Following the above meeting, proposals of the IOOC for the amendment of the Codex standard would be sent to Member Countries of FAO and WHO for their views on

whether, in the light of the amendments proposed, there was a need to amend the Codex standard.

- iii. The replies in response to (ii) above should be referred to the July 1982 session of the Executive Committee, which would be asked to decide, in the light of the replies, whether to authorize the setting in motion of the amendment procedure.
- iv. If the Executive Committee decided to initiate the amendment procedures, comments would be sought from governments at Step 3 on the proposed amendments.
- v. Subject to agreement with the IOOC, the proposed amendments and the government comments thereon would be referred for examination to the IOOC at Step 4. In this connection the Commission decided, under Step 1 of the Procedure for the Elaboration of Worldwide Codex Standards, to designate the IOOC as an appropriate “other body” for the purpose of dealing with amendments to the Codex standard.
- vi. Invitations to attend the IOOC meeting at which the amendment of the Codex standard would be discussed should be sent to Member Countries of FAO and WHO, and the IOOC should provide for the working languages of the Commission at the meeting - French, Spanish, and English.
- vii. The IOOC would report to the Fifteenth Session of the Commission concerning progress on the amendment of the Codex standard.

APPENDIX I
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LISTE DES PARTICIPANTS
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* The heads of delegations are listed first; alternates, advisers and consultants are listed in alphabetical order.

Les chefs de délégations figurent en tête et les suppléants, conseillers et consultants sont énumérés par ordre alphabétique.

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

APPENDIX II

OPENING ADDRESS BY THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF WHO

FAO/WHO CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION Fourteenth Session

29 June - 10 July 1981, Geneva
10.00 am, 29 June 1981

Mr Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of the Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and my colleagues at the World Health Organization I extend to you all a very warm welcome to Geneva.

This is the first time since 1971 that WHO has hosted a session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission in Geneva. In this connexion I should like to thank the Geneva Cantonal authorities for their very generous action in offering the excellent facilities of the International Conference Centre of Geneva.

The occasion provides an opportunity to confirm the World Health Assembly's continued recognition of the importance of the Organization's collaboration with the FAO in supporting the aims of the Codex Alimentarius Commission, particularly the protection of consumers against possible health hazards in food. I should like to take this opportunity to bring to your attention the place of the work of the Commission in the broader field of WHO's endeavours.

The Member States of the World Health Organization have determined the main goal of the Organization for the next two decades. This is "the attainment by all the citizens of the world of a level of health that will permit them to lead a socially and economically productive life", commonly referred to as "Health for All by the Year 2000". The Member States have further identified primary health care as the key to reaching this goal.

In 1978 the International Conference on Primary Health Care spelled out the essential elements of primary health care. One of these is the "promotion of food supply and proper nutrition...". Food is essential if people are to live socially and economically productive lives. Proper nutrition is essential for health, and like health, both contributes to and is contributed to by general socio-economic development.

Another example of WHO's endeavours with regard to the Codex Alimentarius Commission is the adoption by the World Health Assembly of the WHO/UNICEF Code on Marketing of Breastmilk Substitutes, which contains provisions recommending the application of Codex

standards and the Code of Hygienic Practice for Foods for Infants and Children to food products intended to be governed by the Code.

In promoting food supply and proper nutrition, several factors have to be considered. There is, first of all, the availability of food in sufficient amounts and of the right nutritional content in relation to such factors as age, occupation and climate. This food, however, has to be not only available but also acceptable to people, taking their different cultural backgrounds into consideration. Secondly, this food has to be safe, which implies that its consumption should not give rise to foodborne diseases whether from infections or intoxications. These, and many additional factors have to be taken into account in preparing national food and nutrition policies and strategies which, unfortunately, have been prepared by too few countries. For example, in many developing countries too much emphasis is laid on cash crops rather than on food crops, to the detriment of the people in the country, including those working in agriculture. In this respect I note with satisfaction that the Commission is concentrating on those foods of particular nutritional importance to the people in developing countries. This new direction of the work of the Commission should be vigorously pursued.

As you can see, it is difficult to separate the different nutritional, economic and social factors involved in promoting food supply and proper nutrition. You are dealing with important matters such as the establishment of codes of practice and recommended standards - which contribute greatly towards ensuring the safety of food. In establishing the codes and recommended standards a wide range of factors is included: the water used in irrigation, pesticides used in agriculture, chemicals used in food, methods of storing food, food preservation, distribution and marketing, hygiene in marketing places and food stores. But the benefits of the work of the Codex Alimentarius Commission are very largely restricted to foods moving in international trade. Millions of people, especially in developing countries, live on foods not subject to any form of control, be it for health or trade. In addition, there are health problems related to food safety occurring during the handling and preparation of food in homes, canteens and restaurants.

WHO has to deal with two aspects relating to all of these factors, that is the acquisition or generation of information and the provision of support to countries in absorbing this information and using it properly. So, if your job is to define food standards and recommended codes of practice for food, WHO has the additional task of translating your technical standards into public health measures.

To facilitate this transformation and to deal with many of the other factors involved in food safety, WHO plans to hold, early in 1983, an Expert Committee on Food Safety which will have the task of reviewing available resources and issuing guiding principles for ensuring food safety.

Mr Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen, I thought it would be useful if I tried to explain briefly some important highlights of food safety in the hope that this would help you to see the work of the Codex Alimentarius Commission in a broader perspective. Proper food and nutrition are so important for attaining the goal of health for all and food safety is so important for proper

nutrition, that there is no need for me to justify the work of your Commission or emphasize its importance. I can only assure you that the World Health Organization, in collaboration with the Food and Agriculture Organization, continues to be deeply involved and interested in the work of the Commission.

I take the opportunity of expressing the appreciation of the FAO and WHO to those governments which have so generously hosted sessions of the Commission's subsidiary bodies since the last session in 1979.

I should also like to convey WHO's appreciation to FAO for the efficient administration of the joint FAO/WHO Secretariat of the Commission.

Mr Chairman, I believe this is the first Commission at which you preside and I extend my sincere and best wishes to you.

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

APPENDIX III

REPLY BY THE CHAIRMAN OF THE CODEX

ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION

TO OPENING SPEECH BY THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF WHO

Mr. Director-General,

It is a great honour and pleasure for me to express, on behalf of all the Members of the Codex Alimentarius Commission assembled here today, our thanks to you for having come here this morning to open the Fourteenth Session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission.

In my opinion this is a rather special occasion. It is special firstly because we are meeting here in the beautiful city of Geneva, after what I may call a long absence, and secondly because it brings us physically closer to WHO, and has enabled us to have the privilege of hearing from you, Sir, the thoughts of WHO on the role and work of the Codex Alimentarius Commission in the world today. I mentioned the beautiful city of Geneva, but I must also mention the excellent facilities provided for us in this International Conference Centre by the Geneva Cantonal authorities. I would like to join with you, Sir, in expressing, on behalf of the Commission, our sincere thanks and appreciation to the Cantonal authorities for their generosity.

An absence of 10 years is a long time, but I can tell you that there are quite a number of people here today, including myself, who participated in the 1971 Session of the Commission in Geneva.

Ten years ago 89 countries were Members of the Codex Alimentarius Commission. That number has now grown to 121 Member countries. This, I think, reflects the sustained and growing interest in Codex work. Indeed the size of the gathering here today also demonstrates that interest. Four more countries have become Members since the last Session. I would like, therefore, to take this opportunity to extend a particularly warm welcome to those who are participating at a Session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission for the first time.

The Codex Alimentarius Commission and its subsidiary bodies have now developed some 180 international standards and close on 40 codes of hygienic practice covering a very wide range of food products of importance in international developing countries. A vast number of international maximum limits for pesticide residues in foods have also been developed. Many specifications for the identity and purity of food additives have received the stamp of approval of the Commission. In the area of food chemicals, the Commission has also published a Guide to the Safe Use of Food Additives, a Guide to Codex Maximum Limits for Pesticide Residues and a List of Recommended Maximum Levels for Contaminants in Food. A Code of Ethics for International Trade in Food, aimed at preventing countries which do not yet have adequate food control infrastructures from being the recipients of possibly hazardous, or falsely labelled, or otherwise sub-standard food products, has very recently been published by the Commission, as has also a Code of Hygienic Practice for Foods for Infants and Children. A General Standard for Irradiated Foods accompanied by a Code of Practice for the Operation of Radiation Facilities used for the Treatment of Food have also been published by the Commission. There are many other topics of interest which the Commission is working on and for which recommendations can be expected in the future, such as, for example, nutrition labelling and claims for foods. The Code of Marketing of Breastmilk Substitutes, recently adopted by the WHO Assembly, contains several references to the technical work of the Codex Alimentarius Commission in the area of standards for foods for infants and children. I mention all these things to show how extensive is the range of activities of the Commission.

The aim of the Commission's work is to protect the consumer against possible health hazards in food, to ensure fair practices in the food trade and to facilitate international trade in food through the removal, or at least the alleviation, of those non-tariff barriers to trade represented by differing national food legislations.

It is one thing to produce international standards, but it is quite another thing to have them accepted and implemented by Governments. How successful have we been in this regard so far? About 60 countries have notified acceptance of some of the standards and maximum limits for pesticide residues. Acceptances are continuing to be received - there is a steady progress all the time - but we would like to see more. We would also like to see Governments which, for one reason or another, find difficulty in accepting some of the standards, give more consideration to the possibility of permitting free entry of products in conformity with Codex

standards. This would be achieving one of the main objectives, namely the facilitation of international trade. This, of course, is a subject which we shall be considering during our session. There is one point, however, in connection with the subject of acceptances, which in my opinion and also, I know, in the opinion of others, deserves greater acknowledgement, and that is that the work and recommendations of the Codex Alimentarius Commission have a very considerable influence on food legislation throughout the world, both at national level and within economic groupings, irrespective of the actual number of acceptances received. Many countries have told us - both developed and developing - that in preparing new food legislation or in amending existing legislation the recommendations of the Commission are seriously studied.

We know from statements made at Commission Sessions by observers from the European Economic Community that several Community Directives have drawn much of their inspiration from Codex work. We know from statements made by observers from the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance that Codex work is followed closely by the CMEA also. Indeed I was particularly pleased to note from the Report of the Coordinating Committee for Europe that a comparative study of Codex standards and CMEA standards will be undertaken, with a view to achieving greater harmonization. I also note from the Report of the Coordinating Committee for Latin America that the Secretary General of the Pan American Commission on Technical Standards, better known perhaps as COPANT, which has 22 Member countries, has undertaken to prepare a comparative study of the differences between CODEX and COPANT standards, with the aim of adjusting, as far as possible, the regional COPANT standards to the worldwide CODEX standards. Codex standards, codes of practice and recommendations in the area of food safety are increasingly being used as a basis for legislation in developing countries. I think it would be fair to say that most countries and many important economic groupings in the world today contemplating introducing new food legislation or making changes in existing legislation would look to see whether Codex had issued any relevant standards, codes of practice or recommendations or had any under development. The influence of Codex cannot be measured, therefore, solely in terms of the number of acceptances received.

Every organization must, from time to time, ask itself whether its programme of work and its priorities continue to meet the current needs of all its Member countries. The Codex Alimentarius Commission has recently reviewed its programme of work and its priorities in order to place greater emphasis on the needs and concerns of developing countries. Safeguards have now been written into the Codex procedures for developing and amending standards to protect the economic interests of all countries.

A number of developing countries proposed to the Commission that steps be taken to shorten the time it takes to develop a standard. New measures designed to achieve this and to streamline the Procedure are before the present session for adoption.

The Regional Coordinating Committees have had their Terms of Reference widened. Some of them are developing standards for products of importance in intra-regional trade as well as for staple items of traditional diets. All of them are providing very useful fora for determining food

quality and safety control needs and for promoting technical cooperation among developing countries within the regions. The Coordinating Committees have had and continue to have a very significant impact on the work programme of the Commission.

Two new Codex Committees have been established which should be of particular interest to developing countries, both from the point of view of trade and nutrition: I refer to the Codex Committee on Cereals and Cereal Products, hosted by the USA and the Codex Committee on Vegetable Proteins, hosted by Canada.

There are many activities in WHO and FAO which strongly support the work of this Commission. Much is happening in both Organizations, very often on a joint basis, in the fields of food safety and food control, which is indispensable to the work of the Commission. I need only refer to the Expert Groups in the fields of food additives and pesticide residues, and the expert consultations in the field of food hygiene to illustrate this. We are very pleased that the International Programme on Chemical Safety will result in strengthening the technical work in many areas of great interest to the Commission and Member Governments of WHO and FAO.

I think it is worthy of special mention that the Commission, at its last Session, decided that a review of the nutritional aspects of Codex work should be a standing item on agendas of the Commission. There is a paper on this subject before the present Session. This is a very important topic and I do hope that the paper will stimulate a fruitful discussion.

We have noted with particular interest your views on the place of the work of the Commission in the broader field of WHO's endeavours, and the need for promoting an adequate supply of safe and nutritious food. I was particularly pleased - and I am sure the Commission was also - to hear you stress the importance of Codex standards, codes of practice and other recommendations of the Commission in contributing towards ensuring the safety of food.

We were also pleased to hear that WHO, in collaboration with FAO, will continue to be deeply involved and interested in the work of the Commission. You mentioned, Sir, that millions of people especially in developing countries, live on foods not subject to any form of control, either in respect of health or trade, and we fully share your concern. The Codex Alimentarius Commission can only make its own particular contribution towards ensuring a safer and sounder food supply, and towards ensuring a harmonized approach to food regulations. The Commission cannot, of course, pretend to be able to cure all the ills of the world in the field of food safety; the Codex can make its own modest contribution, but in the final analysis it is really only Governments themselves with technical advice and assistance from organizations such as WHO, FAO and others, who can tackle problems of this magnitude. In so doing, there is clear evidence that the end products of the Commission's endeavours are of great value to all Member Nations in developing their national infrastructures to protect the health of consumers.

In conclusion, may I thank you, Sir, for your good wishes. I, for my part, am convinced that your presence here today and the presence of the Codex Alimentarius Commission here in

Geneva will serve to strengthen further the interest and involvement of WHO in the work of the Codex Alimentarius Commission.

Thank you.