



REPORT OF THE
SEVENTEENTH SESSION
OF THE
JOINT FAO/WHO CODEX
ALIMENTARIUS
COMMISSION

Rome, 29 June - 10 July 1987

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REPORT OF THE SEVENTEENTH SESSION

OF THE

JOINT FAO/WHO CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION

INTRODUCTION

1. The Seventeenth Session of the Joint FAO/WHO Codex Alimentarius Commission was held at FAO Headquarters, Rome, from 29 June to 10 July 1987. The Session was attended by 321 participants, including the representatives and observers of 60 countries and observers from 31 international organizations (see Appendix I for List of Participants).
2. The Commission was presided over by its Chairman, Mr. E.F. Kimbrell (USA) and from Item 25 of the agenda by Dr. E.R. Méndez (Mexico), one of its Vice-Chairman. The Joint Secretaries were Dr. A.W. Randell (FAO/WHO) and Dr. F. Käferstein (WHO).
3. The Session was opened by the Director-General of FAO, Mr. Edouard Saouma, the text of whose address is contained in Appendix II of this Report. The response of the Chairman is contained in Appendix III.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND TIMETABLE

4. The Commission noted that Item 21(c) of the Provisional Agenda "International Maximum Limits for Radionuclide Contamination of Foods" had been cancelled by FAO and WHO and that the report of the FAO Expert Consultation on Recommended Limits of Radionuclide Contamination of Food would be presented and discussed under Item 8. The Commission adopted the amended Provisional Agenda and Timetable.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS OF THE COMMISSION AND MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

5. During the Session, the Commission elected Dr. E. Méndez (Mexico) as Chairman of the Commission to serve from the end of the Seventeenth to the end of the Eighteenth Session. The Commission also elected Dr. J.K. Misoi (Kenya), Dr. N. Tape (Canada), and Prof. F.G.

Winarno (Indonesia) as Vice-Chairmen of the Commission to serve from the end of the Seventeenth to the end of the Eighteenth Session.

6. The following Members of the Commission were elected to represent the geographical locations described in Rule III. 1 of the Rules of Procedure of the Commission to hold office from the end of the Seventeenth to the end of the Nineteenth Session: Cameroon - Africa; Thailand - Asia; The Netherlands - Europe; Cuba - Latin America and the Caribbean; United States of America - North America; Australia - South West Pacific.

Appointment of Regional Coordinators

7. The following persons were appointed as Regional Coordinators for: Africa - Mr. Tawfic Zagloul (Egypt); Asia - Prof. F.G. Winarno (Indonesia); Europe - Dr. H. Woidich (Austria); Latin America and the Caribbean - Lic. Maria Eugenia Chacón Moroux (Costa Rica).

REPORT BY THE CHAIRMAN ON THE THIRTY-THIRD AND THIRTY-FOURTH SESSIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

8. In introducing the reports of the Thirty-Third and Thirty-Fourth Sessions of the Executive Committee contained in documents ALINORM 87/3 and ALINORM 87/4, respectively, the Chairman indicated that all items considered by the Executive Committee would be dealt with by the Commission under agenda items relating to the matters concerned.

MEMBERSHIP OF THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION

9. The Commission had before it a List of Members of the Codex Alimentarius. The Membership is set out in Appendix V to this report. The Commission noted that since its last session Saint Lucia had become a member of the Commission, bringing the total membership to 130.

10. The Commission requested the Secretariat to intensify its efforts to complete the membership and to stress the benefits of participation in Codex work.

PROGRESS REPORT ON THE PUBLICATION OF THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS AND ON DISTRIBUTION ARRANGEMENTS

11. The Commission had before it document ALINORM 87/2 which outlined the status of the publication of the Codex Alimentarius. It was noted that Seventeen volumes of food standards and nine volumes of recommended international codes of hygienic and/or technological practice had been published and distributed in English, French and Spanish. It was also noted that some of the texts adopted by the Sixteenth Session of the Commission had not yet been published and distributed, due principally to financial difficulties, but that these texts would become available in 1988.

12. The Commission recalled that, at its Sixteenth Session, it had asked the Secretariat to review the procedures for the distribution of Codex documents including the merits of making the various volumes available as priced publications through FAO and WHO sales agents. The Commission was informed that there were difficulties in proceeding with plans to distribute final Codex texts free of charge to sales agents who would then sell them for a nominal handling charge, although FAO and WHO were seeking solutions to this problem. In any case all working documents, reports of Codex sessions and final Codex documents would continue to be provided to Codex Contact Points, free of charge, as in the past. The Commission expressed the wish that this practice be continued.

13. A number of delegations drew attention to the length of certain reports of Codex Sessions which, in their opinion, were too long and were often accompanied by annexes containing lengthy statements, consultants' reports or reports of Working Parties. Other delegations also drew attention to the late arrival of working papers which meant that delegations were unable to brief themselves adequately before meetings. The Commission noted that the Secretariat and the Chairmen of Codex Committees had already taken steps to make reports as concise as possible while still paying adequate attention to technical and policy considerations, and to incorporate the reports of working parties into the main body of the report wherever feasible. The Commission also noted that the Secretariat had made efforts to ensure that documents for meetings were distributed in all languages in a timely fashion, but that delays in postal, pouch or national distribution after arrival in the country still posed some problems.

PROGRESS REPORT ON COMPUTERIZATION OF CODEX MAXIMUM LIMITS FOR PESTICIDE RESIDUES AND ACCEPTANCES

14. The Commission had before it a brief report by the Secretariat on the above subject (ALINORM 87/5). It noted that a tested computer programme had been developed which was designed to store and process maximum residue limits and their acceptances by Governments and print notifications of acceptances ready for publication in the three working languages of the Commission.

15. The Secretariat hoped that Codex maximum residue limits, reviewed on the basis of the Codex "Classification of Foods and Animal Feeds", would be computerized in FAO in the near future, together with acceptances received so far, including clarification of a small number of acceptances previously received from Governments. Once the existing information had been computerized, the Secretariat expected to be able to provide information to Governments on acceptances of Codex maximum residue limits, on a more regular basis and also to provide information on acceptances in respect of individual commodities or groups of commodities, of given pesticides or of individual countries.

16. In answer to question, the Secretariat indicated that the FAO main computer could technically provide direct and automated information on acceptances, but that such a service was not yet available at FAO.

17. The Commission noted that the computerization of Codex maximum residue limits and other related information had been done by the Netherlands and that this had greatly facilitated the work of the Codex Committee on Pesticide Residues and the efforts of the Secretariat concerning the computerization of acceptances. It thanked the Government of the Netherlands for this assistance and also commended the Secretariat for its efforts in introducing automation into the work of the Commission.

**PROGRESS REPORT ON ACCEPTANCES OF CODEX STANDARDS AND CODEX
MAXIMUM LIMITS FOR PESTICIDE RESIDUE LEVELS AND ON ACTION TAKEN IN
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18. The Commission had before it ALINORM 87/2 and ALINORM 87/2-Addendum containing detailed information on acceptances of Codex Standards and Codex Maximum Limits for Pesticide Residues. This document supplemented the information presented to the Sixteenth Session of the Commission and was based on replies received from Argentina, Canada, China, Costa Rica, Cuba, Czechoslovakia, Finland, Guatemala, Hungary, India, Madagascar, Mauritius, Mexico, New Zealand, Norway, Switzerland, Thailand, U.S.A, Venezuela and Zimbabwe. In addition, the Commission was informed that Finland had accepted the Codex Standard for Gluten-Free Foods (CODEX STAN 118-1981) with specified deviations.

19. The delegation of Brazil stated that it had accepted the Maximum Residue Levels for 40 pesticides and the Recommended Code of Practice for Canned Fish. The formal acceptance would be conveyed in due course.

20. The delegation of Switzerland stated that it had recently completed a comparative study of 111 Codex Standards with regulations in force in that country. This report had recently been forwarded to the Secretariat. Unfortunately, not all standards could be accepted due to problems in accepting provisions on food additives, labelling and methods of analysis and sampling.

21. The delegation of Argentina stated that a number of milk product standards had been accepted with specified deviations.

22. The delegation of Thailand stated that Codex Standards were used as a reference point for establishing standards in that country. In particular, the Codex General Standard for Irradiated Foods and Recommended International Code of Practice for the Operation of Radiation Facilities Used for the Treatment of Foods had been applied so as to allow introduction of the process in Thailand. In general, foods conforming to Codex Standards were allowed free entry into Thailand provided that they were in conformity with Thai regulations.

23. The delegation of India stated that the elaboration of national maximum residue levels for pesticides first required that the pesticides be registered under the Pesticides Act and then considered under the Food Law. To date, maximum residue levels for 31 pesticides had been established and those for a further 30 were being studied.

24. The delegation of Cuba provided details on the acceptance of a number of cereals and cheese standards, and noted that these brought to 92 the number of Codex standards accepted by Cuba.

25. The delegation of China stated that it had established Maximum Residue Levels for 16 pesticides in foods.

26. The delegation of Finland stated that it would provide notification of acceptance of a number of Maximum Residue Levels for pesticides in the course of the year.

27. The delegation of the Republic of Korea stated that a study was being carried out by the government on pesticide residue levels in food and agricultural products as well as on heavy metals such as lead, cadmium and mercury in fish and shellfish on the basis of results obtained under the FAO/WHO Food Contamination Monitoring Programme. On this basis, the Republic of Korea was preparing to accept Codex Maximum Residue Levels for Pesticide Residues. Translated Codex publications were being made available to research institutes, food manufacturers and others for their up-to-date information. Furthermore, the government was proceeding with a programme to convert national food standards to the Codex format.

28. The Commission restated that it was important for all members of the Commission to communicate to the Secretariat their position on acceptances, and that if formal acceptance was not possible, then countries should give favourable consideration to notifying the Secretariat that products in conformity with Codex standards would be permitted free entry into and distribution within their territorial jurisdictions. If this presented a problem, then countries should consider notifying the Secretariat that products in conformity with Codex Standards would be allowed entry subject to certain conditions.

29. The Secretariat was requested to give priority to revising and publishing the complete "Summary of Acceptances" (CAC/Acceptances, Parts I and II) so that member countries would be in a position to take positive action with regard to acceptances in the light of the positions taken by others.

REPORT ON THE FINANCIAL SITUATION OF THE JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME FOR 1986/87 AND 1988/89

30. The Commission had before it ALINORM 87/7 which summarized the FAO/WHO funding of the Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme for the biennia 1984/85, 1986/87 and the proposed budget for 1988/89. In presenting this document, and relevant sections of ALINORMS 87/3 AND 87/4, the Thirty-Third and Thirty-Fourth Executive Committee reports, the FAO/WHO Secretariat pointed out that the Joint Programme funding over the past several years was a zero growth budget which was adequate to cover FAO/WHO operating expenses related to the Programme. The Commission was informed of the continued full support by FAO and WHO, of the Programme as a high priority activity by the Director-General of FAO, Mr. E. Saouma, in his opening statement and by the Secretariat in introducing this item. It was pointed out in ALINORM 87/7 that FAO and WHO share the Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards

Programme expenses on 75/25% basis respectively, and that additional FAO contributions to the budget brings total contributions to a ratio of about 80%/20% overall, respectively. The WHO Joint Secretary informed the Session that the WHO 1988/89 budget had been approved by the May 1987 World Health Assembly so that 1988/89 contributions by WHO would continue at the same level unless unexpected serious shortfalls in pledged contributions occurred.

31. In response to a question, the Session was assured that FAO and WHO support to expert committee activities under the budget of the regular programme was scheduled to continue in 1988/89 at a level which should be adequate to support all requests from the Codex Alimentarius Commission or its committees for expert assessment and advice on various topics such as food additives, pesticide residues, veterinary drug residues in foods, or other contaminants.

32. In summarizing the discussions on this agenda item, the Commission noted possible overall budgetary problems the two agencies are facing. However it urged FAO and WHO to continue to give high priority and full funding support to the Codex Alimentarius Commission FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme and to related expert committees and ad hoc consultation advisory mechanisms since the results of such work were of extreme importance to all member countries of the Commission.

REPORT ON ACTIVITIES WITHIN FAO AND WHO COMPLEMENTARY TO THE WORK OF THE COMMISSION

33. The Commission had before it document ALINORM 87/8 which reported on Joint FAO/WHO Activities; FAO Activities; and WHO Activities separately. As agreed during the adoption of the Agenda, item 21(c) International maximum limits for radionuclide contamination of foods had been cancelled, and therefore the Report of the FAO Expert Consultation on Recommended Limits for Radionuclide Contamination of Foods would be discussed first under the present item.

Report on Developments Concerning Radionuclide Contamination of Foods

FAO

34. The FAO Representative provided background on the activities within the Organizations and highlighted the efforts and coordination between major international agencies since the accident at the Chernobyl nuclear facility. He noted that as a result of numerous requests from member countries for assistance, Mr. E. Saouma, FAO Director-General, addressed this matter in his remarks to the World Food Council (June 1986), the 90th FAO Council (November 1986) and the 91st FAO Council; that the Director-General had indicated to these bodies his concern; and that he had requested the Codex Alimentarius Commission to consider the matter. It was pointed out that both the 90th and 91st Sessions of the FAO Council had urged the setting of international agreed standards. In addition the 9th Session of the Committee on Agriculture called upon FAO to establish recommended standards for foods

as they relate to contamination with radionuclides. He noted that an FAO Expert Consultation on Recommended Limits for Radionuclide Contamination of Foods, the report of which had been distributed as document ESN/MISC/87/1 to all member countries and Codex Contact points as well as other international organizations, had been discussed by the Nineteenth Session of the Codex Committee on Food Additives. This Committee had recommended consideration of the report by the Commission together with the establishment of a special ad hoc working group of government experts, if necessary, to consider certain technical details of the report. The levels in the report were considered to be interim and applicable to international shipments and not necessarily to food in countries more immediately affected by contamination from an accident. However, in view of recent discussions between FAO and WHO it had been agreed that pending the outcome of current WHO work to establish derived intervention levels for health, the FAO report of the Expert Committee would be submitted to the Commission for information purposes only. FAO appreciated that the limits relating to international trade would have to be considered separately from intervention levels needed to protect consumers in the immediate vicinity of nuclear accidents, or in areas where contamination was high.

35. The Commission was informed that the recommendations of the FAO Expert Consultation report were based on the recommendations of the International Commission on Radiological Protection (ICRP) and that the findings were admittedly conservative but that food protection agencies in several countries have used similar, or even more conservative assumptions in setting radionuclide contamination levels for foods; that in the absence of such guidelines many importing countries were now requiring lot certifications of foods imported as one method of insuring that contaminated foods were not being imported; that there continued to be a problem in many countries in international trade with regard to possible radionuclide contamination of foods, and that FAO continues to receive requests from member countries for assistance. The Commission was informed that FAO was currently involved with the aid of a consultant in preparing a training manual and syllabus for food control officials on sampling techniques and analytical methodology for determining levels of radionuclide contamination of foods and that work in this area would continue. In addition, FAO was considering the possibility of providing necessary laboratory equipment and training to member countries so as to assist the food control officials in carrying out their work.

WHO

36. The WHO Joint Secretary informed the Commission that, following the Chernobyl accident, WHO had also received numerous requests for guidance concerning acceptable levels of radionuclide contamination of food. As a result, and because radionuclide contamination of foods is of health concern, WHO, in collaboration with other international organizations, was now in the process of preparing WHO Guideline Values on Derived Intervention Levels. These would represent levels of radioactivity in food (and possibly other media) below which intervention was not justified. This approach was based on minimizing the health detriment and at the same time ensuring the judicious use of limited resources. The approach took into account not only the cost to society from the health risk, but also from the imposition of counter measures. It was the application to accident situations of the

optimization principle developed by the International Commission on Radiological Protection (ICRP).

37. The plans for development of these guidelines were proposed in the autumn of 1986 and further discussed during an inter-agency meeting in November 1986 with the participation of IAEA, FAO, The Nuclear Energy Agency of OECD, and EEC, to assure their collaboration. A progress report was submitted to and discussed by WHO's Executive Board in January 1987. The approach for the development of the guideline values had been agreed upon by a WHO Expert Group on Derived Intervention Levels in April 1987 which also prepared a draft of the guideline document. (A summary report on this meeting had been made available to the delegations as WHO document PEP/87.4). This draft of the guideline document had meanwhile been sent to selected Member States in all WHO regions and to International Organizations such as FAO for review and comments. It would be discussed and finalized by a further WHO Expert Group meeting in September 1987 together with the comments received.

38. The matter was also raised by several delegations to the 40th World Health Assembly, May 1987, when the WHO Secretariat was requested to pursue its plans, as described above, and that the matter be further reviewed by WHO's Executive Board at its 81st Session in January 1988.

39. During an FAO/WHO intersecretariat meeting in May 1987 it was agreed that WHO would await the discussions on the subject by its Executive Board, January 1988, and that thereafter there would be a further intersecretariat meeting of the two Organizations in early 1988 to consider further actions to be taken and to agree on a joint approach for making recommendations to Codex concerning radionuclides in food.

IAEA

40. The observer from IAEA pointed out that IAEA has been active for some years in developing standards for safety and radiation protection. Some of these jointly with WHO and FAO and other international organizations. However, it was pointed out that the majority of the work carried out had dealt with primary intervention levels at which counter-measures or protection actions should be introduced. In December 1987 a document "Derived Intervention Levels for Application in Controlling Radiation Doses to the Public in the Event of a Nuclear Accident or Radiological Emergency", which presents a methodology for obtaining numerical values for derived intervention levels, was published.

41. The Commission was informed that an Advisory Group was convened in February 1987 and reviewed in the light of the Chernobyl experience the entire guidance given by the Agency on intervention levels. The recommendations of the Advisory Group is intended to be published in late 1987. In addition, IAEA is expected to publish by the end of 1988 a complete revision of its documents dealing with derived intervention levels and will try to develop a consistent approach for the very different situations which may prevail: (a) the situation in the immediate vicinity of the accident site; (b) the situation where a country is affected by direct

deposition of a radioactive material and (c) the situation where the sole contribution to the radiation doses received within the country is via imported foods.

Need for Action by the Codex Alimentarius Commission

42. The Commission's attention was drawn to ALINORM 87/4, Report of the Thirty-Fourth Session of the Executive Committee of the Codex Alimentarius Commission 25–26 June 1987, para 28 as follows:

43. The Executive Committee recommended that the Commission:

- i. take note of the Report of the FAO Expert Consultation on Recommended Limits of Radionuclide Contamination in Foods;
- ii. note that WHO had confirmed that the levels recommended in the FAO report presented no unacceptable hazards to health;
- iii. note that the FAO report was available for use by countries as required.

44. Several delegations expressed disappointment that the FAO report would not be considered by the Commission for decision and that a joint FAO/WHO proposal was not available for consideration.

45. Several delegations indicated that the Codex Alimentarius Commission was the official international body that should be responsible for establishing guidelines for levels of radionuclide contamination in foods in international trade.

46. The delegations of Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, Egypt, Federal Republic of Germany, Italy, Kenya, Nigeria, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey and USA expressed their appreciation for FAO acting promptly to deal with a very difficult situation and recognized the need to provide guidance and advice to countries, especially as it would relate to trade issues.

47. The delegations of Finland, France and the United Kingdom although appreciating the efforts of FAO, indicated their disagreement with the approach used and the recommendations made in the FAO Expert Consultation. They supported the view that no decision be made on the issue until WHO has issued the recommendations currently in preparation.

48. Several delegations pointed out that the FAO Report could be misunderstood because the experts were listed under the names of their countries. In fact, they were present in their personal capacity and not as official representatives of their country or organization.

49. Several delegations expressed the need that the future work in this area should be coordinated with all involved international agencies, especially the work being conducted by FAO and WHO.

50. The delegation of Australia expressed surprise that the original agenda had been amended and that there would not be a decision made on adopting the FAO report and further suggested that the Commission might consider a resolution to adopt the report as it stands, at least until better guidelines became available. Several delegations requested the Commission to adopt the FAO report, if only on an interim basis.

51. The delegation of Turkey referred to the recently held FAO Inter-governmental Working Group on Tea and explained that the Group had been informed that the FAO Expert Consultation Report made it clear that in the case of diluted beverages such as tea, the levels proposed in the Report applied to the beverage as consumed. The delegation expressed its support for the FAO document, especially as it referred to the first year levels.

52. The delegation of India stated that, in calculating derived intervention levels, the dietary patterns of the developing countries should be taken into account, and the delegation of Egypt expressed its opinion that attention should be paid to the effects of contamination on under-nourished individuals.

53. The Commission agreed that there were no guidelines available for radionuclide contamination of food in international trade except for those provided by FAO, and that there was WHO agreement that the FAO guidelines offered no unacceptable risk to health. However, the Commission expressed disappointment that there had been no joint FAO/WHO proposal available for consideration. The Commission concluded that the FAO report, although not adopted, is readily available for use by countries. The Commission further called for speedy joint action by FAO and WHO in arriving at a joint proposal which could be reviewed by the 35th Session of the Executive Committee of the Commission to be held in mid-1988 and if possible earlier by the Codex Committee on Food Additives or another appropriate committee and for a report on the action taken to be presented to the next session of the Commission.

REPORT ON JOINT FAO/WHO ACTIVITIES

Joint Meeting on Pesticide Residues (JMPR)

54. The FAO Representative informed the Commission that the JMPR had held two sessions since the Commission's last session in 1985 and had evaluated six new compounds and had re-evaluated 93 compounds. For most of these compounds, Maximum Residue Levels (MRLs) and Acceptable Daily Intakes (ADIs) could be estimated and/or re-confirmed. Guideline Levels were recommended for 19 compounds. Following a review of toxicological data the ADIs of 3 compounds were withdrawn in 1985 (captafol, propineb, thiram).

55. Cooperation with the Codex Committee for Pesticide Residues had been excellent. Most of the matters referred to the JMPR by the Committee had been considered by JMPR at the earliest opportunity. Reports and Monographs of the JMPR were published shortly after its sessions and had been made available for further consideration by the Committee at the session immediately following the JMPR.

56. The Joint Meeting in 1986 had considered the question of consumer exposure to pesticide residues in relation to MRLs, in an attempt to facilitate the acceptance of MRLs. It had considered Guidelines on the subject being elaborated by WHO in collaboration with the Codex Committee on Pesticide Residues and had recommended that an FAO/WHO meeting of experts be convened to consider further the question of consumer exposure. Both the 1985 and 1986 JMPR sessions had also considered the revised Codex Classification of Foods and Animal Feedstuffs, now fully implemented and used by the JMPR as the basis for commodity descriptions in proposing MRLs. The 1986 JMPR had also considered guidelines on animal studies designed to develop residue data for the establishment of MRLs in foods of animal origin.

Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Food Additives

57. The Secretariat informed the Commission that three meetings of the Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Food Additives (JECFA) had been held since the Commission's last session. Of these, two had been devoted to the evaluation of food additives and contaminants and one was devoted exclusively to the evaluation of residues of some veterinary drugs in foods.

58. In regard to food additives, the Commission noted that 59 substances had been evaluated and specifications for identity and purity were considered for a further 37 substances by the 30th and 31st meetings of JECFA. Antioxidants, enzyme preparations, some natural food colours and other miscellaneous additives were considered. Monosodium glutamate (MSG) had been reviewed in the light of a request from the Codex Committee on Food Additives and a "non-specified" Acceptable Daily Intake allocated. Lead, with special reference to intake by infants and children, and aflatoxins were considered. Reports of the meetings are published in the WHO Technical Report Series. The specifications of identity and purity are published in the FAO Food and Nutrition Paper Series. The toxicological monographs prepared by JECFA are published separately in the WHO Food Additive Series.

Residues of Veterinary Drugs in Foods

59. The Commission was informed about the 32nd Meeting of JECFA which took place in Rome 15–23 June 1987. Following the recommendation of the Codex Committee on Residues of Veterinary Drugs in Food (October 1986) for the provision of independent scientific advice this was the first JECFA meeting devoted exclusively to the safety evaluation of residues of veterinary drugs. The Committee discussed and made recommendations on the following items: (a) Principles and approaches specific to the safety evaluation of veterinary drugs, to be used in future for the submission of data and the assessment of drugs; (b) Criteria and requirements for the analytical methods used in the determination of residues; (c) Evaluation of compounds, suggested as having priority by the Codex Committee on Residues of Veterinary Drugs in Food. No ADI was established for the antibiotic chloramphenicol, and it was recommended that its use should be discontinued; ADIs and acceptable residue limits were established for the xenobiotic growth promoters, trenbolone acetate and zeranol, although both the ADI and the acceptable residue level for trenbolone

acetate were temporary. No ADIs were considered necessary for the endogenous growth promoters estradiol-17 β , testosterone and progesterone. Their residues should pose no hazard to human health when the drugs are applied in accordance with good animal husbandry practice. The report will be published in the WHO Technical Report Series and summaries of the residue data in the FAO Food and Nutrition Papers. Toxicological monographs on chloramphenicol and the two xenobiotic growth promoters will be published in the WHO Food Additive Series.

Food Irradiation

60. The Commission recalled that an International Consultative Group on Food Irradiation had been established in 1984 under the auspices of IAEA, FAO and WHO. The objective of this Group was, *inter alia*, to evaluate global developments in the field of food irradiation and to provide a focal point of advice on the application of food irradiation to Member States and the Organizations. The membership of the Group had grown to 26 countries which donated resources for the implementation of its activities, such as the convening of Task Forces on trade promotion of irradiated food, on the use of irradiation as a quarantine treatment, on marketing/public relations of food irradiation, on assessment of economic feasibility of food irradiation and on the use of irradiation to ensure hygienic quality of food and a Workshop on food irradiation for food control officials. The reports on all but the task force meeting on hygienic quality of food were available from the Food Preservation Section of the Joint FAO/IAEA Division in Vienna, Austria. The report on the task force meeting on the use of irradiation to improve hygienic quality of food was available from the Food Safety Unit of WHO, Geneva.

61. The Commission was also informed of an International Conference on the Acceptance and Control of, and Trade in Irradiated Food, co-sponsored by FAO, IAEA, WHO and ITC-UNCTAD/GATT, which would be held in Geneva from 12–16 December 1988. The aim of the Conference was to establish an internationally agreed document for the acceptance and control of international trade in irradiated foods among Member States. The Secretariat called upon the Codex Contact Points to take an active role in coordinating national activities in preparation for the Conference.

62. The Commission was further informed of the publication, by WHO, of a fact sheet on food irradiation (In Point of Fact: food irradiation) which was available from WHO's Media Service in English and French.

63. Finally, the Commission received a report on the publication of a WHO book on food irradiation, co-sponsored by FAO, which would contain factual information on the process and its benefits and limitations. The book was expected to be available by the end of 1987 or early 1988.

64. The Regional Office for Europe of WHO had convened a Working Group on Health Impact and Control of Irradiated Food, in Neuherberg, Federal Republic of Germany, from 17–21 November 1986. The main objective of this meeting was to bring together researchers from

different parts of the world who work on test methods to verify that a given food had or had not been irradiated. The report of this meeting will be available from WHO's Regional Office for Europe in Copenhagen.

Guiding Principles on the Evaluation of Programmes to Ensure Food Safety

65. The above guidelines have been developed by WHO and FAO to assist Member States in programme monitoring and evaluation to assure that the activities undertaken are those which yield substantial results. The guidelines were at present available as a provisional edition, the final edition was expected to be published as a WHO offset publication in early 1988. The Secretariat hoped that Codex Coordinating Committees would find these guidelines useful for their work in relation to monitoring national food safety and food control activities.

Joint FAO/WHO Food Contamination Monitoring Programme

66. The Joint FAO/WHO Food Contamination Monitoring Programme had been established under the Global Environmental Monitoring System (GEMS) of the United Nations Environment Programme to coordinate and stimulate monitoring activities at national, regional and global levels for the early detection and control of pollution in the environment. A description of the Programme's activities was contained in ALINORM 87/8. It was noted that there were at present 26 collaborating centres and 12 participating institutions collaborating in the Programme. The Commission was informed of the work on monitoring levels of certain pesticides, heavy metals and aflatoxins and also the publication of Guidelines for the Study of Dietary Intakes of Chemical Contaminants which had been prepared under the auspices of the Programme. It was noted in particular that the data collected under the Programme were available to the subsidiary bodies of the Commission for use in establishing maximum levels of contaminants in commodity standards. The Commission was informed of the valuable assistance provided by the Governments of Sweden and the United Kingdom and the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) in the provision of reference materials being used in the laboratory quality assurance aspects of the Programme.

Joint Publications

67. The commission was informed that a publication entitled "Guidelines for Can Manufacturers and Food Canners", which was intended to assist food processors in developing countries to control problems of contamination of canned processed foods by lead and tin had been prepared and published in the FAO Food and Nutrition Papers Series.

Joint FAO/WHO Expert Consultation on Food Protection for Urban Consumers, Rome, 1–5 December 1986

68. The main issues addressed by the Consultation concerned the lack of infrastructure at the local level to provide adequate and safe food supply in rapidly expanding urban situations. The need for assistance to local food control agencies from both the international and national

authorities had been recommended as one means of improving the situation. The report of the Consultation was expected to be ready for distribution in late 1987.

Second FAO/WHO/UNEP Conference on Mycotoxins

69. The Commission was informed that the first FAO/WHO/UNEP Conference on Mycotoxins was held in Nairobi in 1977 and since that meeting a number of new developments and information had been accomplished in the field of identification and control of mycotoxins. The second conference was scheduled to be held, with the assistance of the Government of Thailand, in Bangkok, Thailand from 28 September - 3 October 1987. All member Governments of FAO and WHO had been invited to participate.

70. The delegation of Norway supported the work of both organizations and recommended that a better means be found to provide information to the Codex Contact Points concerning meetings, conference and other information. The Commission noted with keen interest the joint activities of the two organizations and requested it be kept fully informed on these issues.

REPORT ON FAO ACTIVITIES

71. The Commission was informed of specific activities relating to cooperation with member governments particularly those of developing countries, which were described in detail in Part B of ALINORM 87/8 and which were carried out by the FAO Food Quality and Consumer Protection Group in the Food Quality and Standards Service.

Food Control Assistance to Developing Countries including promotion of coherent national food quality control systems and the organization of national food control strategy workshops remained a high priority. Increased attention was being paid to programmes dealing with export and import certification of food and agriculture products and where applicable Codex Standards were being recommended. It was planned to conduct a short seminar prior to the next Regional Committee for Asia in January 1988 dealing with regional problems associated with export and import of food products.

Food Contamination Surveys and Training in Food Contamination Control were carried out within the overall efforts to strengthen food control systems in developing countries. They also supported the activities of the FAO/WHO Food Contamination Monitoring Programme. Regional activities in Asia and Africa had been supplemented by additional activities in specific developing countries.

Training continued to receive high priority. A regional network of training centres has been established in the Asian Region to strengthen various food inspection activities such as inspection of low acid canned foods. The countries of Canada, France, Netherlands, Sweden and the USA were cited for their excellent cooperation and assistance in providing training to individuals from FAO projects.

Food Control laboratories in several countries had received assistance in strengthening their national capabilities and programme. The Commission's attention was drawn to the Food Laboratory Newsletter which had been developed by the Swedish Food Administration and which was distributed free of charge to developing countries. This publication was cited for the information it contained relating to the work of the Commission, as well as various activities including meetings of FAO and WHO.

Street Foods

FAO has continued supporting activities to determine the types and levels of contaminants found in street foods which in some countries was the major source of some of the populations. Work to improve the conditions under which these foods were being sold is being undertaken. Although these problems appear to be national rather than international, regional workshops have been held so as to coordinate these activities regionally.

Radionuclides

The Committee was informed that FAO would continue to recommend to member countries the use of the limits for radionuclides which had been reviewed by the Expert Consultation. In addition training, equipment and supplies would be provided where possible to assist food control officials in member countries to determine if food products were contaminated and if so at what level. The Commission was informed that the World Food Programme was now using the FAO Report as its guideline and had informed their suppliers that future shipment of foods would require a certificate stating that the shipments do not contain foods with levels of radionuclides above those recommended by the FAO Consultation. In addition, FAO intended to use the interim guidelines in training programmes at least until that time when there might be something available for revising the recommendations. The Commission was thanked for its comments regarding FAO action taken following the accident and was advised that FAO would do all possible to arrive at a joint FAO/WHO proposal for consideration as recommended earlier.

Publications

The Commission was informed regarding the brochure describing the work of the Food Quality and Consumer Protection Group (ESNSp) that had recently been prepared in English, French and Spanish and widely distributed. In addition, recent publication and distribution of manuals concerning food control laboratories had been accomplished.

International Code of Conduct on the Distribution and Use of Pesticides

Action as outlined in ALINORM 87/8 has been taken to give effect to the International Code of Conduct on the Distribution and Use of Pesticides which was unanimously adopted by the FAO Conference in November 1985. This action included the distribution of the code and technical guidelines in Arabic, Chinese, English, French and Spanish; collection of baseline data on the current activities; development of syllabus for a model national training course; technical assistance to member countries and both regional and sub-regional workshops have been conducted to harmonize pesticide regulation requirements.

REPORT ON WHO ACTIVITIES

72. The Commission was informed that it would receive a report only on the global WHO activities, implemented by WHO Headquarters. A report on country and regional activities, implemented by WHO's Regional Offices, would be presented to the respective Codex Regional Coordinating Committees.

73. WHO, during the last years, had made considerable efforts to integrate food safety into Primary Health Care (PHC). In this context, the support from food and related industries and from bilateral funding agencies had been received. A first pilot project had been started in the Dominican Republic and a second one in Pakistan was in the pipeline. In support of these efforts, several publications had been or were being prepared such as:

- i. Guide for persons concerned with food safety at PHC level (available 1988);
- ii. Examples of health education material on food safety (available late 1987);
- iii. International Source List of Audiovisual Material on Food Safety (available);
- iv. Guidelines for Safe Food Handling in Hotels, Restaurants and similar Establishments (available late 1987).

74. A WHO Consultation on Health Education in Food Safety was held in Geneva in April 1987 to advise, among others, on the optimal integration of food safety education into PHC particularly, but not exclusively, in developing countries. This consultation had stressed the need for behavioral changes and had called upon all sectors of society (governments, industry, agriculture, commerce, education, mass-media, consumers', women's, youth, religious and rural groups) to commit themselves to mounting long-term campaigns in food safety education. The report of this consultation would be available from the Food Safety Unit, WHO.

75. Recent outbreaks of foodborne listeriosis had caused considerable concern to public health authorities and to the food, particularly dairy, industry. As a consequence, WHO convened in December 1986 a Consultation on Listeriosis which concluded, inter alia, that food products were the major vehicle of transmission of listeriosis to man. The report on this meeting was available from the Veterinary Public Health Unit of WHO.

76. In order to address the specific food safety aspects of the listeriosis problem and to provide guidance to public health authorities and to the food industry as to how to ensure safeguarding the consumer, WHO gave now consideration to the convening of a further working group in early 1988.

77. The International Programme on Chemical Safety continued to produce most useful information which was also of interest to food safety and control personnel. In this context, special reference was made to the Environmental Health Criteria Document series. A listing of titles of particular interest to the above personnel was contained in a list of WHO and Joint FAO/WHO publications and documents which had been made available to the delegations.

78. The Commission was also informed that WHO continued its International Digest of Health Legislation series which contained legal texts and summaries/reviews on national legal

actions, including the area of food safety and food control. This publication was also available from WHO.

United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UN/ECE)

79. The UN/ECE observer expressed this Organization's appreciation for the good cooperation which existed between Codex and the UN/ECE within the Joint ECE/Codex Groups of Experts on Standardization of Fruit Juices and Quick Frozen Foods, as well as in other areas of mutual interest. As agreed in the past, Codex standards were routinely taken into account when UN/ECE standards were being elaborated in an effort to ensure that Class II requirements of the commercial ECE standards were equivalent to the Codex minimum requirements. This practice served to emphasize the complementary relationship of UN/ECE and Codex standards. Current UN/ECE activities, as reported in document AGRI/WP.1/R.140*, were briefly summarized. It was reported that the UN/ECE Committee on Agricultural Problems had endorsed the efforts of the Working Party on Standardization of Perishable Produce to establish a new Group of Experts on Standardization of Meat.

80. The Committee and Working Party had also expressed their desire to avoid any duplicating of the responsibilities of UN/ECE and Codex and had requested that the Codex Secretariat ensure that UN/ECE countries be fully involved in any elaboration of international commercial standards for fresh fruits and vegetables, including those of tropical origin. The UN/ECE observer drew attention to Annex II of the document AGRI/WP.1/R.140 which included an agreement for coordination of the programme of work of the Working Party on Standardization of Perishable Produce and Codex which had been approved by the UN/ECE Committee on Agricultural Problems and the Executive Committee of the Codex Alimentarius Commission (ALINORM 85/3, paras. 152–153).

ISO Activities of interest to the Commission

81. The Representative of the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) presented a brief survey of relevant activities of this Organization. He mentioned that a comprehensive report on the work of Technical Committee ISO/TC 34 "Agricultural Food Products" had been prepared by the Hungarian Secretariat and distributed to participants. This report included information on published standards, standards in preparation, the organizational structure of the ISO Technical Committee, as well as on the general policy of ISO with respect to its collaboration with other international organizations, including the Codex Alimentarius Commission. In emphasizing the close working relations which existed between the various sub-committees of ISO/TC 34 and the subsidiary bodies of the Commission, the Representative of ISO assured the participants that his Organization would make every effort possible to avoid duplication of work between the two organizations.

82. He also mentioned the work of the "Inter-Agency Meeting", a body which acted as an advisory group to the Codex Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling. The "Inter-Agency Meeting" comprised representatives of all international or broadly-based regional organizations active in the development and validation of methods of analysis and

sampling required by the Commission. The ISO Central Secretariat had assumed the Secretariat function of the “Inter-Agency Meeting” which met regularly in connection with the Codex Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling.

83. The Representative of ISO also referred to the work of some other ISO Technical Committees which prepared standards of interest to the Commission, i.e. ISO/TC 93 “Starch (including derivatives and by-products)”, ISO/TC 147 “Water quality”, ISO/TC 47 “Chemistry”, and ISO/TC 54 “Essential oils”.

84. The Commission noted with satisfaction the good collaboration which existed between the two organizations and ISO's efforts to avoid duplication of work.

85. The delegation of Hungary, on behalf of the Secretariat of ISO/TC 34, expressed its appreciation for the support given to this Technical Committee both by the Codex and the ISO Central Secretariat.

* Available from United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, Palais des Nations, 1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland.

PROGRESS REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CODE OF ETHICS FOR INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN FOOD

86. The Secretariat introduced document ALINORM 87/9 which contained a summary report on statements made by governments in regard to the implementation of the Code of Ethics for International Trade in Food (CAC/RCP/20) through their national food regulations. It was noted that under Article 7 of the Code, governments were responsible for the Code's implementation, and that under Article 10 would be required from time to time to notify the Secretariat of the Codex Alimentarius Commission on actions taken to implement the Code. It was also noted that the Code of Ethics had been amended by the Sixteenth Session of the Commission.

87. It was noted that, since the Sixteenth Session of the Commission, the governments of Benin and the United Kingdom had informed the Secretariat of the Commission of their position regarding the Code of Ethics.

88. The delegation of the Republic of Korea noted that the Code of Ethics had been amended to take into account the WHO Code on the Marketing of Breast-Milk Substitutes, and that the Code of Ethics would be introduced into general practice in this country.

89. The delegation of Argentina noted that the aim of the Code of Ethics was to protect the consumer, and therefore had been reviewed once again by the authorities of that country. Argentinian law had taken up the principles of the Code and there were no problems in implementation.

90. The delegation of China noted that the principles of the Code were reflected in the national law of 1982 on food hygiene. Article 3 of this law contained provisions covering aspects of food production and handling.

91. The delegation of Hungary noted that a national Committee for the Code of Ethics had been established and that a revision of the Food Act was being undertaken which would take the principles of the Code of Ethics into account. The Government hoped to be able to make a statement on its implementation of the Code in the near future.

92. The delegation of the Netherlands stated that there were difficulties with the Code due principally to the nature of the food law in that country. The law, however, was being revised and the philosophy of the Code would be reflected.

93. The delegation of Poland stated that the principles of the Code were the same as in national law.

94. The delegation of India welcomed and supported the use of the Code of Ethics in International Trade but noted that there were certain difficulties in implementing some parts of the Code, especially with regard to maximum levels for pesticide residues which were different in India to those prepared by the Commission.

95. The delegation of Indonesia stated that the Code was of great value and was being reflected and implemented in the national food law. It noted, however, that in regard to exports, the requirements of the importing countries were considered to be most important.

96. The Commission noted the importance of the Code of Ethics in export and import trade and asked the Secretariat to continue its efforts to obtain statements from governments regarding the implementation of the Code. It noted the commitment to the joint goals of consumer protection and the ensuring of fair practices in trade of those countries who had provided information on the implementation of the Code.

REPORT ON VIEWS OF FAO'S COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE ON PAPER PREPARED FOR THE COMMITTEE CONCERNING THE ROLE OF FOOD QUALITY AND STANDARDS IN FOOD SECURITY, TRADE AND HEALTH and REPORT ON DISCUSSION OF THE WORK OF THE CAC BY THE EXECUTIVE BOARD AND THE WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY OF WHO

97. The Commission agreed to discuss both items together.

98. The secretariat introduced ALINORM 87/10 which summarized the discussions of the FAO Committee on Agriculture meeting on the role of food quality and standards in food security, trade and health. The Commission was informed that the FAO Committee on Agriculture had thoroughly discussed this topic under the Committee's biannual agenda item devoted to nutrition and gave high priority to FAO's work in this area.

99. The FAO Committee on Agriculture stressed the importance of the FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme in removing non-tariff trade barriers to international trade and in promoting consumer protection in the area of both quality and safety. It endorsed the lead role of FAO in assisting countries in strengthening national food control systems and pointed out that improved quality control mechanisms for government institutions and food industry could reduce the large volume of trade problems caused by food contamination and non-compliance with recommended national food standards. The FAO Committee on Agriculture called upon member governments to increase their formal acceptances of Codex standards and contaminant limits and encouraged the Codex Alimentarius Commission to emphasize work on food additives, pesticide residues, food contaminants and food labelling. The FAO Committee on Agriculture gave full support to the following recommendations to governments and FAO:

Governments

- a. recognize the positive impact of an effective food control system on market growth, product acceptability and consumer protection;
- b. ensure that within a national food control system Codex standards, codes of practice, maximum limits for pesticides, etc. are accepted and implemented as fully as possible;
- c. ensure that government food control bodies foster and support improved food handling and quality assurance practices in the food production, processing, distribution and marketing sectors, as well as conducting normal compliance procedures;
- d. encourage and assist food producers and processors to develop adequate quality control practices that assure consistent marketability of food products;
- e. coordinate food control activities among agriculture, trade, health and environmental bodies in order to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of food trade and consumer protection programmes based on a sound strategy for food quality and safety;
- f. develop extension and educational activities to promote food protection and safety for all population groups.

FAO

- a. promote and support food quality and standards as important elements linking food security, trade and health;
- b. maintain continuous support to developing countries for national strategies for quality and safety, food control systems and contamination monitoring programmes;
- c. enhance collaboration with WHO and other agencies to strengthen food quality and standards programmes, including avoidance of duplication of effort and maximizing resource utilization; and
- d. promote enhanced acceptance and implementation of Codex standards, codes of practice, etc. by member governments as essential actions to improve world food security, facilitate trade, and protect consumers;
- e. develop and promote extension and education activities to encourage improved food protection programmes for rural and urban consumers.

100. The Secretariat informed the Commission that the FAO Council, which met in June 1987 and reviewed the report of the Committee on Agriculture, gave strong support to FAO work in this area. It gave high priority to continued work on food contamination, particularly radionuclides in foods and commended the Commission for its valuable work.

101. In discussing this item several delegations complimented the FAO Secretariat on the excellent paper prepared for the Committee on Agriculture and expressed the hope that it would lead to the development of new programmes and strengthen existing activities to better protect consumers and promote trade of good quality and safe foods. The Commission took note of the recommendations of the Committee on Agriculture and expressed its desire for continued adequate financial support for the FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme and FAO work in food quality and standards.

102. Introducing document ALINORM 87/16 on the discussion of the work of the Codex Alimentarius Commission by the WHO Executive Board and the World Health Assembly, the WHO Joint Secretary informed the Commission that, at the request of a member of the WHO Executive Board, the Director-General of WHO had prepared a paper on the Codex Alimentarius Commission for consideration by the Executive Board during its 79th Session in January 1987. Several members of the Executive Board recognized the important role of the Codex Alimentarius Commission for the promotion of food safety and the facilitation of international food trade and commended the Director-General for its support to the work of the Codex Alimentarius Commission. In conclusion, the Executive Board recommended to the 40th World Health Assembly the adoption of a resolution on the Codex Alimentarius Commission. During its 40th Session, May 1987, the Assembly reviewed this resolution. Several delegations spoke and again highlighted the contribution of the Codex Alimentarius Commission for food safety and thus for health promotion and disease prevention and the 40th World Health Assembly adopted the resolution (Appendix IV).

103. In discussing these items the Commission recognized the importance of the support received from the governing bodies of FAO and WHO and accepted the recommendations of action made by both of them. It encouraged governments to inform all potential users of Codex documents about the information contained in them, and stressed the need for governments to promote the use of Codex standards in international trade

FUTURE DIRECTION OF WORK OF THE JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME

(a) General Direction of Work

104. The Commission had before it a paper prepared by Mr. G.O. Kermode, WHO Consultant, which had been presented to the Eighth Session of the Codex Committee on General Principles (CX/GP 86/10). It also had available the following opinions on this paper:

- the 33rd Session of the Executive Committee (ALINORM 87/3, paras 137–142)

- the 8th Session of the Committee on General Principles (ALINORM 87/33, paras 57–66)
- the 6th Session of the Coordinating Committee for Latin America and the Caribbean (ALINORM 87/36, paras 151–156)
- the delegation of Finland (LIM 13)
- the delegation of the Netherlands (LIM 16)

105. The Commission noted that one of the principal issue for discussion was the proposed establishment of a Committee to deal specifically with environmental contaminants.

106. The delegation of Finland, drew attention to the opinion of the Executive Committee which had twice stated that environmental contaminants should be accorded a high priority by the Commission. Without in any way wishing to express dissatisfaction with the work of the Codex Committee on Food Additives, the responsibility of which included environmental contaminants (Procedural Manual, 6th Edition, page 78), the Finnish Delegation supported the establishment of a separate Committee on Food Contaminants citing the heavy workload in regard to food additives which remained an important field of activity and which prevented due attention being paid to environmental contaminants. Also because the significance of food contaminants as health hazard and therefore as a potential barrier to trade was increasing, the Finnish Delegation stated that a clear separation of food additives and food contaminants would be beneficial for all parties concerned. The delegation stated that the Finnish Government had offered to host a Codex Committee on Environmental Contaminants, should the Commission agree to establish such a Committee.

107. The delegations of Argentina, Kenya, Kuwait, Norway, Republic of Korea, Sweden, Switzerland, Tanzania and the United Kingdom spoke in favour of the proposal to establish a new committee. Several of these delegations pointed out the need to maintain a clear separation between food additives, which were intentionally added to food, and contaminants, which were unintentionally present. They stressed that equal importance should be given to the consideration of contaminants and the consideration of additives.

108. The delegations of the Federal Republic of Germany and Sweden suggested that, if no new committee was to be established, then the work of the Codex Committee on Food Additives should be divided into two parts; one for additives and one for contaminants.

109. The delegation of the Netherlands stated that a Committee on Environmental Contaminants should only be established if the work could not be dealt with efficiently by existing committees, which did not appear the case. It noted that substantial progress had been made in considering the endorsement of contaminant provisions in Codex standards; the consideration of substances migrating from plastic packaging materials; the consideration of the establishment of guideline levels for mercury in fish; and in establishing levels for aflatoxins. It also noted that certain aspects of work relating to food additives was equally applicable to contaminants, especially consideration of the toxicological evaluations made by the Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Food Additives and the study of dietary intakes.

110. The delegations of Belgium, Canada, China, Egypt, France, Federal Republic of Germany, India, Japan, Kuwait, Poland, Spain, Switzerland and USA, generally supported the opinion of the Netherlands or else felt that to propose the establishment of a new Committee at the present time would be premature. Several of these delegations mentioned the need to coordinate and concentrate programmes of work and avoid potential duplication.

111. The Commission agreed that there was no need to establish a new Committee at this time. It requested the Codex Committee on Food Additives to take into account the present discussion and to make the necessary changes which would respond to some of the concerns expressed. It also agreed that the name of the Committee should be changed to "Codex Committee on Food Additives and Contaminants", but noted that neither of these two decisions would be with prejudice to future discussions concerning the separation of the two activities. It also noted that some contaminants, for example PCB's, would continue to be dealt with by the Codex Committee on Pesticide Residues.

112. The Commission expressed its sincere appreciation to the Government of Finland for its generous offer to host a Committee on Environmental Contaminants and the commitment of Finland to further the work of the Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme.

(b) Consideration of improved working arrangements

113. The commission endorsed the proposal of the Coordinating Committee for Latin America and the Caribbean to improve the working mechanisms of the Commission through the development of a description of the programme of work of the Codex Alimentarius Commission. This would facilitate participation in the work of the Commission by indicating details of ongoing activities. The Secretariat was requested to prepare a summary of the Commission's work following each session of the Commission in consultation with the Chairman of the individual Codex committees, to keep this list up-to-date and to distribute it to Contact Points on a regular basis.

114. The Commission also requested the Secretariat to consider the preparation of a summary of policy decisions taken over the past 25 years which had not been included in the Procedural Manual. It was recommended that such a summary, in the form of a manual, should be considered by the next session of the Committee on General Principles.

115. The delegation of the United Kingdom referred to a paper for the 8th Session of the Committee on General Principles and enquired whether action had been taken on the proposal to establish a Joint Expert Committee on Nutrients to advise on Recommended Daily Allowances for vitamins and minerals (RDA's) for labelling purposes and other specific nutritional matters of interest to Codex.

116. The Commission was informed that the Committee on Food for Special Dietary Uses had, at its 15th Session, confirmed the need to revise the RDA's presently included in the Codex Guidelines on Nutrition Labelling which were considered by a number of delegations as not being suitable for the expression of micronutrients in the declaration of nutrients on the label.

The Committee had requested the two parent organizations to give urgent consideration to convening a joint expert consultation or to establishing a new expert committee. It was noted that the Committee on Food Labelling had fully supported these views.

117. The Commission noted that this request had been conveyed to the two organizations and that the committees concerned would be kept informed of further developments.

118. The Commission noted that other matters concerning the future direction of the Programme of Work would be discussed in conjunction with the report of the Eighth Session of the Committee on General Principles (see para 146).

REPORT ON CASE STUDIES CONCERNING THE ECONOMIC IMPACT OF CODEX WORK ON TWO SELECTED MEMBER COUNTRIES

119. The Commission had before it reports on the economic impact of Codex work on two selected member countries; Brazil (ALINORM 87/11, Part I and Appendix) and USA (ALINORM 87/11, Part II and Appendix). The reports were introduced by the Secretariat which noted that the proposal for developing such case studies had arisen during the sessions of the Inter-American Conference on Food Protection, held in Washington DC, in August 1985. Both reports highlighted the usefulness of applying Codex standards to commodities moving in international trade.

120. The delegation of Brazil expressed its appreciation of the initiative of the Secretariat in undertaking the case studies and stated that they were worthwhile documents and a beneficial guiding tool for countries which wished to undertake similar studies. The delegation noted, nevertheless, that the government had not been consulted in the preparation of the Brazilian case study. The delegation reserved the right to express a full opinion at a later date, as the document had only been received two weeks before the opening of the Commission's present session.

121. The Commission noted the reports and opinion of the Executive Committee that the reports showed the need for countries to accept and use Codex standards in order to realize fully the benefits of participation in the Commission's work. They also showed how the impact of Codex work could be evaluated and what future actions might be envisaged at the national level. The Commission expressed satisfaction at the generally positive conclusions in the reports and proposed that they might be combined and presented as an information document for use by governments. The Commission encouraged delegations to forward comments on these documents to the Secretariat.

INFORMATION BOOKLET ON CODEX WORK

122. The Chairman introduced the newly-published information booklet entitled "Introducing Codex", copies of which were distributed to delegations in limited quantities. The booklet describes, in layman's terms, the impact of Codex work on economic development and trade, and for the consumer.

123. The delegation of New Zealand, endorsing the efforts of the Secretariat to make the work of Codex more widely known, proposed that a suitable theme for the a future “World Food Day” would be “Food Quality and Standards”. The delegation of Canada stressed the importance of including items on the work of the Codex Alimentarius Commission in the food science and technology curricula of higher educational institutes.

124. The Commission expressed its wish that governments and the Secretariat should distribute the booklet to industries and consumer groups, and make it available to schools, universities and libraries. It was noted that the French and Spanish versions of the booklet were in preparation.

REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF AD HOC INTERGOVERNMENTAL CODEX CONSULTATION CONVENED TO EXAMINE WHETHER THERE IS A NEED FOR INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS FOR TROPICAL FRESH FRUITS AND VEGETABLES (MEXICO CITY, FEBRUARY 1987)

125. The Commission had before it ALINORM 87/35 containing the Report of an Ad hoc Intergovernmental Consultation held in Mexico City to examine the need for International Standards for Tropical Fresh Fruits and Vegetables.

126. Introducing the Report, the delegation of Mexico informed the Commission that an extensive survey on international trade in tropical fresh fruits and vegetables had been carried out prior to the Consultation and expressed the view that establishment of a new Codex Committee on Tropical Fresh Fruits and Vegetables as recommended by the Consultation would result in increased export of commodities from developing countries and would have a significant impact on the economy of those countries. Further there would be considerable improvement in the quality standards for the products.

127. The observer for UN/ECE, introducing Conference Room Document LIM 4, reminded the Commission of the long experience of the ECE Working Party on Standardization of Perishable Produce in the harmonization of commercial standards for fresh fruits and vegetables based on the Geneva Protocol and on a generally agreed standard layout. The ECE Region, being by far the most important market for internationally traded fresh tropical produce (with about 80 percent of world imports) would obviously be interested in the commercial standardization of such produce. Replies to a questionnaire sent out to delegations of the ECE Working Party revealed that they were not in favour of establishing a new Codex Committee for Standardization of Tropical Fresh Fruits and Vegetables that would work independently of the UN/ECE Working Party. Similar views were expressed by the European Union of Wholesalers of Fresh Fruits and Vegetables (CIMO). The observer requested that, if the new Codex Committee is formed, ways and means should be considered to achieve a smooth and operative cooperation with the ECE Working Party on Standardization of Perishable Produce for the benefit of consumers, producers and traders of fresh tropical produce and cited the Codex UNECE Group of Experts on Fruit Juices as an illustration of the practical possibilities. The observer of the OECD offered the fullest

cooperation of his organization with the new Codex Committee if set up, but expressed the view that the responsibilities of each of the organizations should be spelt out.

128. The delegation of Thailand shared the views of USA as expressed in para 49 of ALINORM 87/35 that more thought should be given to the question of a need for establishing a new Codex Committee as recommended by the Consultation. It held the view that duplication of efforts should be avoided and that if a new Committee is established it should cooperate with UN/ECE and OECD. A number of delegations questioned the real need for establishing a new Committee and expressed the view that the objective of the new Committee could be achieved by the existing bodies. They also considered that the standardization of fresh tropical fruits and vegetables would be more efficiently covered by extending the terms of reference of UN/ECE.

129. The delegations of Argentina, Brazil, Cuba and France supported the establishment of a new Codex Committee for the standardization of tropical fruits and vegetables, since in their view the growth in consumption and international trade of this produce necessitated its standardization. Careful thought should, however, be paid to the avoidance of duplication of work and to the close cooperation of the new Committee if established with the UN/ECE and OECD which are already active in the field of standardization of fresh fruits and vegetables. Moreover, consideration should be given to the fact that the standards for fresh fruits and vegetables that would be elaborated by the new Committee would be quality standards which are entirely different from Codex standards which are mainly for prepackaged foods which have traditional provisions for food additives, hygiene requirements and methods of analysis. Establishment of a Joint Codex/ECE Committee as an alternative was also proposed.

130. The Commission recognized the urgent need for quality standards for fresh tropical fruits and vegetables and agreed to establish a new Codex Committee for Standardization of Tropical Fresh Fruits and Vegetables in Mexico City with the understanding that efforts will be made to avoid duplication of work and that the new Committee will work in close collaboration with UN/ECE and OECD.

131. The Commission agreed to the following terms of reference for the new Committee:

- i. to elaborate world wide standards and codes of practice as may be appropriate for tropical fresh fruits and vegetables which are grown exclusively in tropical zones;
- ii. to consult with the UN/ECE Working Party on Standardization of Perishable Produce in the elaboration of world wide standards and codes of practice with particular regard to ensuring that there is no duplication of standards or codes of practice and that they follow the same board format;
- iii. to consult as necessary with other international organizations which are active in the area of standardization of fresh fruits and vegetables.

132. The Commission accepted the generous offer of the Government of Mexico to provide the Chairmanship of the new Committee under Rule IX.1(a). The Commission noted with

pleasure that this would be the first Committee to be hosted by the Government of a developing country.

CODEX COMMITTEE ON GENERAL PRINCIPLES

133. The Commission had before it the Report of the 8th Session of the Codex Committee on General Principles (ALINORM 87/33). The report was introduced by the Chairman of the Committee, Professor J. Bernier (France). Following a general introduction of the conclusions of the Committee, the Commission proceeded to discuss the Report under the following general headings:

Acceptance and Review of Codex Standards and other Texts

134. The Commission noted the difficulties developing countries experienced in giving full acceptance to Codex standards in view of lack of adequate infrastructures for the application of the recommendations of the Commission. It agreed with the Codex Committee on General Principles that FAO and WHO should continue to give attention to this problem.

135. The Commission concurred with the view of the Codex Committee on General Principles that the number of acceptances of Codex standards received was not an appropriate measure of the success of the work of Codex, since Codex standards and other Codex recommendations were being used extensively by governments and traders alike.

Acceptance of Codex standards by Regional Economic Groupings of States and Role of Observers at Codex Meetings

136. The Commission agreed to discuss these two related topics together. The observer for the EEC gave an outline of discussions between the Secretariats of the Codex and of the EEC Commissions concerning the matter of the EEC giving formal acceptance to Codex standards. He recalled that the EEC had, in the past, notified the Codex Secretariat on existing situations in the EEC concerning the application of the Codex standards for fruit juices and nectars and maximum limits for pesticide residues. This was done following attempts to notify formal acceptance of the Codex standards for sugars. The observer for the EEC informed the Commission that the EEC had considered in detail the proposal of the Codex Committee on General Principles to amend the Codex Procedures for the Elaboration of Codex Standards which would have the effect of referring Codex standards to International Organizations to which competence in the matter of acceptance of Codex standards had been transferred by the member states. It had been found that the procedure as proposed still did not allow the Community as such to formally accept Codex standards. The EEC would, therefore, continue to indicate the conditions under which products could be traded within the EEC rather than the acceptance of Codex standards (i.e. give an indication of the “free distribution” where possible). The observer for the EEC then gave information concerning differences between Codex standards and EEC directives on labelling, chocolate products, jams, marmalades and fruit jellies and maximum residue limits.

137. On the subject of the role of observers at Codex session, the observer for the EEC stated that EEC observers at Codex session spoke on behalf of the EEC, except that occasionally they spoke on a personal basis on certain technical issues.

138. The Commission endorsed the conclusions of the Codex Committee on General Principles and of the FAO and WHO Legal counsels concerning the role of observers at Codex meetings (see para 54 and 56, ALINORM 87/33). It also agreed that the question of acceptance by regional economic groupings of states should be reconsidered by the Codex Committee on General Principles which should work out a suitable amendment in consultation with the EEC for submission to the next session of the Commission. The EEC was encouraged to consider Codex recommendations favourably in order to facilitate the distribution of food conforming with Codex standards.

Acceptance of Codex Methods of Analysis

139. The Commission noted that the Codex Committees on Methods of Analysis and Sampling and General Principles had agreed on a text describing the obligations which a country assumes in accepting the various types of Codex methods of analysis included in Codex standards (see Appendix IV, ALINORM 87/33, para 22). The Commission endorsed the recommendations concerning methods of analysis.

Trade Barriers Created by the Existence of National Labelling Requirements Additional to the Provisions Contained in the General Standard for the Labelling of Prepackaged Foods

140. In discussing this topic the Commission noted that there were three issues involved: (a) urging governments to use the General Standard as a basis for their national legislation and to keep difference to an absolute minimum especially those of detail or minutiae; (b) requesting governments to indicate, when notifying acceptance of the standard, any provisions concerning the presentation of mandatory information on the label not covered by the Codex General Standard and (c) the introduction of a footnote to the Scope of the Codex General Standard, requesting governments to indicate such additional provisions.

141. The Commission endorsed the recommendations of the Codex Committee on General Principles as contained in paras 47 to 49 of ALINORM 87/33. The Commission noted that these three issues were covered in the Revised Guidelines prepared by the Codex Committee on General Principles concerning the acceptance of Codex standards (see Appendix IV, ALINORM 87/33 paras. 19–21) and that, therefore, this matter would be rediscussed.

Guidelines for Acceptance of Codex Standards

142. The Commission noted that the revised Guidelines for Acceptance of Codex Standards had been prepared by the Secretariat on the basis of a text considered by the Codex Committee on General Principles and a number of points agreed by that Committee to be included in the Revised Guidelines by the Secretariat (Appendix III, ALINORM 87/33). While endorsing the Revised Guidelines, the Commission agreed that they should be sent to

governments for comments and that the Codex Committee on General Principles should reconsider them on the basis of comments received and resubmit them to the Commission.

143. The Commission noted the views of the Codex Committee on General Principles that there was no need for changes in the Acceptance Procedures of the Commission.

Review of Codex Standards, Codes, Maximum Residue Limits and Other Recommendations

144. The Commission noted that there was a need to keep under review Codex standards and other texts to ensure that they reflect current technological and scientific practices and also reflect more closely current regulatory situations in the various countries. It also noted that this represented a significant task both for the national and Codex secretariats and also for governments and interested International Organizations.

145. The Commission agreed with the conclusions of the Codex Committee on General Principles concerning the review of Codex standards etc. and that there was no need to set up an “Omnibus” Committee (see paras 38, 39 and 66(iii), ALINORM 87/33).

Future Direction of the Work of the Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme

146. The Chairman of the Codex Committee on General Principles, Professor J. Bernier gave a detailed account of the discussions concerning future work in that Committee. The Commission noted the conclusions of the Codex Committee on General Principles concerning the need for giving greater emphasis to horizontal committees (labelling, food additives, etc.), rather than the standardization of new food commodities; revision of Codex standards and Codes of Hygienic Practices, including street-vended foods; the creation of a new Coordinating Committee for the Middle East; the separation of the Codex Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling into two committees; and the need to pay due attention to the needs of developing countries which are given in para 66 of the Report of the Codex Committee on General Principles. The Commission concurred with the views of the Committee and also noted that the questions relating to contaminants, nutritional considerations and strengthening the working procedures of the Commission had been dealt with under other items of its agenda (see paras 104–118).

Holding of Working Group Sessions

147. The delegation of Sweden referred to discussions on this question in the Codex Committee on General Principles (see paras 75–78, ALINORM 87/33). The delegation expressed the view that, while working groups might be useful in facilitating the work of Codex Committees, they were not always necessary. Furthermore, the use of working groups created problems especially if they were not held at the same place or at the same time as the Codex session. Delegations consisting of one person were placed at a disadvantage and the absence of interpretation also caused difficulties. The delegation requested that the Commission should ask the Secretariat to consider the problem concerning working groups

since a number of these appeared to be quasi sub-committees rather than ad hoc arrangements intended to facilitate the work of Codex Committees.

148. The Commission noted the above remarks and the conclusions of the Codex Committee on General Principles and agreed that the Secretariat, in consultation with the Chairmen of Codex Committees, should review the question of the use of working groups at Codex sessions so that they would be in accordance with the Rules of the Commission.

Composition of the Executive Committee

149. On a proposal from its Chairman, the Commission also requested the Committee on General Principles to consider composition and procedures of the Executive Committee, especially with regard to regional representation.

Confirmation of Chairmanship

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

CODEX COMMITTEE ON PESTICIDE RESIDUES

151. The Commission had before it the Reports of the 18th and 19th Sessions of the Codex Committee on Pesticide Residues (CCPR) (ALINORM 87/24 and 24A). It also had before it draft maximum residue limits (MRLs) from both sessions at steps 5 and 8 of the procedure included in Addendum 1 to ALINORM 87/24A. In addition it considered document ALINORM 87/38 Part VI and a Conference Room Document (LIM 3) containing observations from governments on MRLs at step 8 and at step 5, where the omission of steps 6 and 7 had been recommended by the Committee. Finally, the Commission had before it a Conference Room Document (LIM 1) summarizing proposed amendments to Codex MRLs.

152. The Reports of the Codex Committee on Pesticide Residues and the various working documents mentioned above were introduced by the Chairman of the Committee, Ir. A.J. Pieters (The Netherlands). He gave a general account of the work of the Committee's last two session indicating the sustained interest of governments in work on pesticide residues. He stressed the close cooperation between the Committee and the Joint FAO/WHO Meeting on Pesticide Residues (JMPR) and the positive effect which early issue of the documents arising from JMPR sessions had on progress. The Committee had discussed many sensitive issues and had attempted to keep abreast of developments by a continuous process of revision of its recommendations. In order to promote more acceptances of Codex MRLs the Committee had developed guidelines on regulatory practices and was taking other steps in this regard such as giving additional attention to Good Agricultural Practices, through the holding of a half-day seminar during the next session of the Committee. The Committee was also giving due attention to the question of pesticide residue intake and was developing guidelines, together with WHO in this connection. The holding of an FAO/WHO Consultation to consider this matter further had been recommended. Finally Ir. Pieters drew the Commission's attention to

the output of the Committee in the form of over 2000 Codex MRLs and a set of useful publications on various related topics.

153. The Commission noted the above remarks and requested the Codex Committee on Pesticide Residues to ensure that the following recommendations of the Codex Committee on General Principles directed to it and the JMPR be given full consideration:

- a. consider how guidelines might be developed in order to encourage the development of good agricultural practices which would ensure that residues at harvest, in foods to be offered for sale, would be the lowest possible leading to the lowest possible legal limits;
- b. fully consider health aspects for the consumer when setting Codex MRLs, bearing in mind the requirements of good agricultural practice in various regions and in an endeavour to secure the maximum number of acceptance by governments;
- c. consider the significance of food commodities in international trade before setting Codex MRLs and also their importance for dietary intakes of residues by the consumer; and
- d. to consider whether further advice, additional to that contained in the “Recommended National Regulatory Practices” (CAC/PR 9-1985) should be developed in order to assist governments in implementing Codex recommendations on pesticide residues.

Draft MRLs at Steps 5 and 8 of the Procedure

154. The Commission agreed to consider all draft MRLs and proposed amendments to Codex MRLs at Steps 5 and 8 together, on the basis of document ALINORM 87/24A Add. 1. It also agreed to consider only those MRLs on which written comments had been received.

047. Inorganic Bromide

155. The Commission noted that residues arising from the use of pesticides containing bromine would be re-evaluated by the JMPR in 1988. The Commission decided to advance the MRLs to Step 6 of the Procedure.

100. Methamidophos

156. The Commission noted reservations by Sweden concerning the high values of most of the MRLs in relation to the ADI and the suggestion of the Netherlands that this pesticide be considered together with acephate, of which methamidophos was a metabolite. It agreed to return the draft MRLs to Step 7 so that the Committee could rediscuss them together with the draft MRLs for acephate.

103. Phosmet

157. The Commission noted the comments from Sweden that certain MRLs were too high in relation to the ADI. Noting that this had been discussed by the Committee it decided to

advance the draft MRLs forward in the Codex Procedure and to omit Steps 6 and 7 for a number of draft MRLs. The delegation of Sweden reserved its position concerning this decision.

120. Permethrin

158. The Commission noted the comments of the Netherlands that the MRL of 10 mg/kg for head lettuce represented a compromise which was neither acceptable to those countries which required higher than 10 mg/kg or to countries where less than the proposed figure was considered sufficient. It was noted that this question was due to widely diverging Good Agricultural Practices which should be resolved by the Committee. The Commission decided to return all draft MRLs for permethrin at Step 8 to Step 7 and to advance those at Step 5 to Step 6.

All other Draft MRLs at Steps 5 and 8

159. As no written comments had been received on these MRLs, the Commission agreed that they should be advanced in the Codex Step Procedure, as indicated in document ALINORM 87/24A Add. 1.

160. The delegation of the Federal Republic of Germany made a general reservation indicating that time between the last session of the Committee and the present session of the Commission had been too short to enable the Federal Republic to consider the draft MRLs in sufficient detail. Furthermore, the Federal Republic had certain objections to some of the MRLs either on toxicological ground or in relation to Good Agricultural Practice considerations. These comments had been previously submitted in writing to the Committee.

161. The delegation of Spain indicated its satisfaction with the Committee having adopted certain MRLs for chlorfenvinphos and fenitrothion required by Spanish agriculture. However it considered the proposed MRL of 20 mg/kg captan for kiwi fruit excessive. (Note by the Secretariat: the 1987 session of the Committee had withdrawn this proposed limit).

Proposed Amendments to Codex MRLs

162. The Commission discussed Room Document LIM 1 containing proposed changes to Codex Maximum Limits considered by the Committee to be non-substantial and proposals to withdraw Codex MRLs as a consequence of the withdrawal of the respective ADIs, changes in Good Agricultural Practices or for other reasons. The Commission adopted all the changes included in Room Document LIM 1 with the following corrections:

- a. the Codex MRL for trichlorfon in bananas (pulp) should not be deleted;
- b. the Codex MRL for azinphos methyl for almond hulls should be deleted;
- c. the commodity description "raisins, sultanas, currants (dried products)" for propargite should be changed to "dried grapes (currants, sultanas and raisins)".

The Commission also noted that the temporary ADI for folpet, which had been withdrawn by the 1982 JMPR, had been reinstated by the 1986 JMPR until 1988. In view of the fact that folpet was still on the agenda of the JMPR, the Commission decided not to take any further action on folpet.

Other Matters Arising from the Reports of the 18th and 19th Sessions of the Codex Committee on Pesticide Residues

163. The Commission considered a question, raised at its 16th Session, by the delegation of India, relating to the need for providing information on the identity and levels of pesticide residues in exported foods, in order to facilitate the analysis of imported food products. The Commission noted that this matter had been considered in detail both by the Codex Committee on Pesticide Residues, and the Codex Committee on Food Labelling and by the 34th Session of the Executive Committee (see paras 48 to 51, ALINORM 87/4). The Commission was informed that the recommendations of the Executive Committee would apply equally to developing countries exporting food commodities and could cause difficulties in trade for these countries.

164. The Commission therefore agreed with the view of the Executive Committee that Coordinating Committees should be asked to consider the question further in the light of paragraphs 50 and 51 of the Report of the Executive Committee. The Commission wished to be informed of further developments.

Confirmation of Chairmanship

165. The Commission expressed its appreciation to the Government of the Netherlands for its support of the Commission's work on pesticide residues. 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 RESIDUES OF VETERINARY DRUGS IN FOODS

166. The report of the First Session of the Committee (ALINORM 87/31) was introduced by the Rapporteur Dr. A. Somogyi (Federal Republic of Germany) on behalf of the Chairman of the Committee, Dr. L.M. Crawford (U.S.A.). Professor Somogyi expressed satisfaction that 31 countries and 10 international organizations had participated at the meeting and had enabled the Committee to establish its programme of work, aided by the excellent facilities provided by the Host Government.

167. The Commission noted that the Committee had taken decisions on a number of fundamental issues as follows:

- proposals to amend the terms of reference
- adoption of definitions for “veterinary drug” and “residues of veterinary drugs”
- establishment of criteria for the selection of veterinary drugs for evaluation

- priority list of veterinary drugs
- agreement on working arrangements with other Codex Committees and the Joint Expert Committee
- establishment of a working group on methods of analysis and sampling.

168. The Committee had also agreed to look into the monitoring of dietary intakes, a code for the use of veterinary drugs, and regulatory aspects related to residues of veterinary drugs in foods as the need arose.

169. The Commission was informed that the countries from the African Region had drawn attention to the specific problems of these countries with animal husbandry and consequentially veterinary drugs. The Committee had, therefore, placed trypanocides on its priority list and had strongly supported a request that FAO and WHO should consider holding seminars or workshops to assist African countries to resolve their problems. The Commission fully supported the request of the Committee; and expressed its appreciation for the steps taken by the Committee and encouraged it to continue to take into account regional concerns.

170. The Commission was informed that, in response to the request of the First Session of the Committee to hold a second session in the biennium 1986/87 in order to deal with the urgent matters before the Committee, the Host Country and the Secretariat had agreed that such a session should be convened. The Commission approved holding this session from 30 November to 4 December 1987.

171. The agenda will include the following items:

- Summary report of the 32nd Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Food Additives (JECFA)
- Procedures for the elaboration and implementation of Codex Residue levels
- Glossary of Terms
- Good Veterinary Practice
- Survey of dietary intake studies
- Review of Priority List
- Code of Practice for Use of Veterinary Drugs in food producing animals

172. The Observer of the EEC repeated the position of EEC on the use of hormones, that is meat with residues of hormonal growth promoters, presently determined on the final product, may not be traded within and imported into the EEC countries. Consideration should be given to the general philosophy of the control of veterinary drug residues.

173. The Delegation of the United States expressed strong disagreement with the EEC Observer's statement that hormones were banned in member states. The delegation stated several reasons for these views.

(i) Proposed Amendments to the Terms of Reference of the Committee Clause (b)

174. The Committee considered at great length the type of residue level which should be elaborated and adopted by the Commission. It agreed that the MRL concept followed by the Committee on Pesticide Residues was not suitable for veterinary drugs and that health considerations should have a determining impact on the residue levels. The Committee proposed a new term “acceptable residue level” pending further advice by JECFA. The Commission decided that this term could lead to confusion, especially with the concept of ADI and that the Codex residue levels should include a notion of a maximum limit. The Commission did not agree to amend clause (b).

Clause (d)

175. The Commission agreed with the view of the Committee that it was the appropriate body to develop methods of analysis and sampling for the determination of residues of veterinary drugs in foods and that, similar to pesticide residues, it was not necessary to submit these methods to the Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling for endorsement. The Commission approved the amendment to clause (d) of the terms of reference.

176. The Delegation of Argentina informed the Commission that it had participated at the Working Group on Methods of Analysis and Sampling.

(ii) Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Residues of Veterinary Drugs

177. The Commission strongly supported the request of the Committee that FAO and WHO should explore every possible means to establish such a committee. If such an action could not be taken at the present time, special session of JECFA should be convened as an interim measure, to deal exclusively with the evaluation of veterinary drugs.

178. The delegation of India drew attention to the need to take into account the WHO recommendations on banning certain drugs in human medicine for public health reasons, when evaluating residues of the same drugs for veterinary purposes. It was agreed that this matter should be brought to the attention of the Committee as well as JECFA.

Confirmation of Chairmanship of the Committee

179. The Commission confirmed under Rule IX.10 that the Codex Committee on Residues of Veterinary Drugs in Foods should continue to be under the Chairmanship of the Government of the USA.

CODEX COMMITTEE ON FOOD LABELLING

180. The Commission had before it ALINORM 87/22, the Report of the 19th Session of the Committee. In introducing the Report, Mr. R.H. McKay of Canada, the Chairman of the Committee, observed that the emphasis of the current work programme of the Committee was shifting towards revision and endorsement of labelling provisions in standards as a

consequence of the acceptance of the revised General Standard for the Labelling of Prepackaged Foods.

181. To alleviate the enormous workload, the Chairman had proposed to the 34th Session of the Executive Committee amendments to and recommendations on format and endorsement of labelling provisions. He expressed his satisfaction with the decision of the Executive Committee that the national and the Codex secretariats should examine the proposals and prepare a paper on the matter for the 35th Session of the Executive Committee.

182. The Commission was informed that the Committee had pursued the revision of the General Guidelines on Claims. It had also taken up comments on advertising as instructed by the 16th Session of the Commission. The Committee had also decided that the Guidelines on Claims should be an independent document and not be considered an appendix to the General Labelling Standard. Comments at Step 3 were being requested on the revised text of the guidelines.

183. The Commission noted a statement from the delegation of India that a Code for advertising should be developed.

184. The Commission was also informed of the Committee's appreciation to the Committee on General Principles for adding a footnote to the Scope Section of the General Labelling Standard as a means of resolving a long standing issue on trade barriers created by the existence of national labelling provisions additional to the General Labelling Standard. The footnote had already been included in the Second Edition of Volume VI of the Codex Alimentarius.

185. The Chairman presented a detailed report on endorsements of individual labelling provisions which had made it necessary to take fundamental decisions on such matters as the labelling of irradiated foods and of non-retail containers.

186. The Commission noted the endorsements and agreed with the request by the Committee that care should be taken to incorporate into the standards the changes made by the Committee.

187. The Commission was informed that the Working Group on Methods of Analysis in Nutrition Labelling was continuing its work, and that the Committee was strongly supporting the request to FAO/WHO to convene an Expert Consultation on Recommended Daily Allowances for labelling purposes.

188. The Commission was also informed that the International Consultative Group on Food Irradiation of FAO/WHO/IAEA had submitted proposals for the amendment of Section 5.2 of the General Labelling Standard, dealing with irradiated foods, which will be discussed in detail at the next session of the Committee having regard to comments thereon.

189. Future work included a summary paper on the interrelationship of different labelling documents which have been developed during the last twenty years.

190. The Commission commended the Committee and its Chairman for their excellent work.

191. Referring to other labelling issues, the delegation of Argentina reiterated that in its country the declaration of the country of origin was mandatory.

192. The delegation of Kuwait drew attention to certain trade practices, such as less restrictive date marking of foods for exports and the occurrence of organoleptic inferior products which were not of the same quality as similar products sold in the exporting country. The Commission stated that countries should observe the Code of Ethics which contained specific requirements on the quality of foods for exports. The delegation of Egypt expressed the view that the date of manufacture should always be declared.

193. The delegation of Switzerland reiterated that it could not agree with para 173 of the report concerning the country of origin for cheeses.

Editorial Amendments to the General Standard for the Labelling of Prepackaged Foods

194. The Commission agreed to replace in Section 4.2.2.3 the term “flour improver” by the term “flour treatment agents” since flour improvers covered only a part of the substances used to treat flour.

The Commission also adopted, as an editorial amendment, the introduction of a footnote to Section 4.3.3 - Drained weight indicating that the drained weight declaration should be related to the compliance with an average quantity control system.

Editorial Amendments to the Guidelines on Labelling Provisions in Codex Standards

195. The Committee had also proposed to amend Section 5.3 of the Guidelines dealing with non-retail containers by including into the preamble reference to Section 8.1.3 of the General Labelling Standard to take care of clear shrink wraps. Furthermore it had proposed a footnote indicating that Codex committees should determine in individual standards to which types of non-retail containers these labelling provisions should apply. After a discussion on whether the footnote should make such a consideration optional the Commission adopted the two above amendments as proposed by the Committee and requested the Secretariat to make the appropriate changes in the Procedural Manual.

Confirmation of Chairmanship of the Committee

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

CODEX COMMITTEE ON FOOD ADDITIVES

197. The Commission had before it the reports of the 18th and 19th Sessions of the Codex Committee on Food Additives (ALINORMs 87/12 and 87/12A). The reports were introduced by Mr A. Feberwee (Netherlands), Chairman of the Committee.

198. Mr Feberwee informed the Commission that the Committee, in addition to endorsement of provisions for food additives and contaminants in commodity standards, was carrying out work on the following subjects:

- Food additive intake
- Consideration of flavours
- International numbering system of food additives
- Specifications for food additives
- Consideration of processing aids
- Industrial and environmental contaminants in food
- Migrants from food packaging materials

and introduced the matters arising from the two reports of the Codex Committee on Food Additives that were of interest to the Commission.

Misleading Information Concerning the Use of Food Additives in Food

199. A number of delegations informed the Commission of their deep concern about misleading information on food additives in food being given to consumers. They referred to the efforts of their governments in making documentation available to the public to counteract such misleading information and expressed the view that a positive statement or the extensive circulation of a brochure prepared by the Commission or the international organizations would help in this regard.

200. The Commission recognized that the responsibility for providing adequate information to its subjects on the safety of food additives lies with the countries and that international organizations, including the Commission, can only assist countries to achieve their task.

201. The Commission noted that the documents of Codex and the Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Food additives (JECFA) provided adequate information on the safe use of food additives and that governments could use this information in an appropriate way. The Commission was aware of certain brochures and pamphlets prepared by some governments in this regard and asked the Regional Coordinating Committee for Europe to study the different documentation at its next session and to consider a coordinated approach.

Maximum Tin Content in Foods

202. The delegation of Thailand brought to the attention of the Commission recent research carried out in Thailand and other parts of the world which had shown that consumption of canned food containing 250 mg tin/kg had not resulted in any adverse symptoms in human

volunteers, and asked the Commission to recommend to FAO and WHO that the subject of acute toxicity of tin be considered by JECFA at its next meeting.

203. The Commission was informed that the subject of acute toxicity of tin was on the agenda for the thirty-third meeting of JECFA, to be held in March 1988.

Regular Reviews of Food Additive Provisions in Codex Standards (ALINORM 87/12A, paragraph 25)

204. The Commission noted that the Codex Committee on Food Additives had agreed in principle with the need to institute a system of regular reviews of the food additive provisions in Codex Standards as proposed by the Codex Committee on General Principles.

Consideration at Step 5 of the Revised Text of the Principles Relating to the Carry-Over of Food Additives into Food (ALINORM 87/12 Appendix IX)

205. The Committee at its 18th Session had finalized the text of the Principles relating to the Carry-Over of Food Additives into Food and advanced the text to Step 5 with a recommendation for the omission of Steps 6 and 7.

206. The Principles relating to the Carry-Over of Food Additives into Food were discussed and adopted as final texts both at the 11th (ALINORM 76/44, para 121) and the 13th (ALINORM 79/38, paras 154–156) Sessions of the Codex Alimentarius Commission with the result that the texts were located in two reports. The object of the redraft finalized by the 18th Session of the Committee was to combine the various texts adopted by the Commission into a single consolidated statement, which would be more suitable for inclusion in that section of Codex Alimentarius devoted to food additives.

Status of the Carry-Over Principles

207. The Commission adopted the redrafted Carry-Over Principles at Step 8 as an advisory text.

Consideration at Step 5 of Draft Specifications of Identity and Purity of Food Additives

208. The Commission adopted the specifications of Identity and Purity of Food Additives in Categories I and II of Appendix XI to ALINORM 87/12 as advisory texts not subject to acceptance.

Other Matters Arising from the Reports of the 18th and 19th Sessions of the Committee

209. The Commission had before it ALINORM 87/21 containing in pages 5–7 a report on other matters arising from the Reports of the 18th and 19th Sessions of the Committee, which were of interest to the Commission and ALINORM 87/38 - Part III (FA) containing Step 8 comments from governments on contaminant provisions in the standard for Food Grade Salt.

Publication of Codex Advisory Specifications Separately in a Uniform Volume

210. The Commission noted that the Committee at both its 18th and 19th sessions recommended that Codex Advisory Specifications be published separately in a uniform volume, preferably as loose leaf. The discussions of the Committee on the subject were contained in ALINORM 87/12, paras 13–14, 198–199 and ALINORM 87/12A, para 218. The reasons cited for requesting the separate publication were given in ALINORM 87/12, Appendix XI, para 2, while the 34th Session of the Executive Committee had also given consideration to the topic ALINORM 87/4, paras 21–24.

211. The Commission noted that the Codex Secretariat was updating Codex Alimentarius Vol. XIV, with cross references to JECFA specifications recommended as Codex Advisory Specifications along with any editorial corrections proposed by the Committee, and that FAO was exploring the possibilities of preparing a consolidated publication, updated each five years, of all JECFA specifications which could be annotated to indicate the JECFA reviews of each substance and their status as Codex Advisory Specifications. The Commission expressed the view that until this publication was available and had been used by Codex member countries and the food chemical industries along with the cross referencing system mentioned above, separate publication of Codex Advisory Specifications was not justified and would result in duplication of existing materials and unnecessary costs to the Programme. The Commission expressed the hope that the consolidated publication would be made available soon in order to meet the needs of governments and industry.

Action Resulting from Change in ADI Status of Food Additives

212. The Commission agreed with the action taken by the Codex Committee on Food Additives (ALINORM 87/12, para 92, Appendix III - Part II and ALINORM 87/12A, para 135, Appendix IV - Part II) to change the endorsement status of certain food additives to be in line with their revised ADI status.

Maximum Permitted Levels of Lead in Sugar (ALINORM 87/12, paras 109–110)

213. The Commission noted that the existing maximum level of lead for all sugars excepting white sugar and fructose had been 2 mg/kg and that the Committee at its 18th Session had temporarily endorsed a lower maximum level of lead of 1 mg/kg for all sugars and 0.5 mg/kg for fructose. The Commission endorsed this action.

214. The delegation of Switzerland agreed in principle with the action of the Commission but expressed the view that efforts of countries should continue to reduce the lead content in sugars to levels of 0.5 mg/kg.

Contaminant Provisions in the Standard for Food Grade Salt

215. The Commission noted that at its 16th Session it had adopted the Draft Standard for Food Grade Salt at Step 8 of the procedure with the proviso that the provisions on

contaminants be included later into the standard, when finalized by the Codex Committee on Food Additives.

216. The Committee, at its 18th Session, proposed maximum levels for contaminants in food grade salt as below (ALINORM 87/12, para 183, 185).

- Arsenic: not more than 0.5 mg/kg expressed as As
- Copper: not more than 2 mg/kg expressed as Cu
- Lead: not more than 2 mg/kg expressed as Pb
- Cadmium: not more than 0.5 mg/kg expressed as Cd
- Mercury: not more than 0.1 mg/kg expressed as Hg

217. The Commission adopted these levels of contaminants in food grade salt.

218. The delegations of the USA and Thailand reserved their position on acceptance of a level of Arsenic of 0.5 mg/kg in food grade salt.

General Requirements for Natural Flavourings (ALINORM 87/12A, Appendix VI)

219. The Committee at its 19th Session had finalized the text for the General Requirements for Natural Flavourings and agreed that the text be referred to the Commission for endorsement and publication in the appropriate Codex document as an Advisory Text.

220. The Commission noted that the text had been submitted twice to governments for comments before its finalization and adopted it as an advisory text.

221. The delegation of Belgium drew the attention of the Commission to certain shortcomings in the French text and agreed to provide a new text to the Secretariat.

Guideline Levels for Mercury in Fish (ALINORM 87/12A, paras 236-237)

222. The Codex Committee on Food Additives had agreed to undertake the work on establishing levels of mercury in fish since in its view, groups of populations with a high proportion of fish in their diet might be at risk. The Committee had recommended guideline levels for mercury in fish and fish products at its 19th Session (0.5 mg/kg for all fish, except for predatory fish such as shark, swordfish, tuna and pike for which the levels should be 1 mg/kg) and had agreed to submit them to governments for comments at Step 3 if the Commission agreed.

223. The Chairman of the Codex Committee on Fish and Fishery Products informed the Commission of the views of this as outlined in the report of its 17th Session (ALINORM 87/18, paras 263–272) that the establishment of guideline levels for mercury in fish did not seem to be the most appropriate way to protect the consumer. The Chairman of the Codex Committee on Fish and Fishery Products referred to the fact that a toxicological review of mercury would be undertaken by JECFA at its next session in March 1988 and proposed that a decision on

whether or not to send the guideline levels for mercury in fish proposed by the Codex to governments for comments at step 3, be delayed till the new evaluation on mercury was available. This proposal was supported by the delegation of the U.S.A.

224. The Commission agreed that a decision on this matter be postponed until the new JECFA evaluation on mercury was available.

Aflatoxin in Foods and Feeds (ALINORM 87/12A, paras 238–244)

225. The Committee at its 19th Session had responded to the request of the FAO Intergovernmental Group on Oilseeds, Oils and Fats to initiate, as soon as possible, the establishment of internationally agreed limits for aflatoxin in food and feed, together with recognized methods of analysis and sampling and methods for the reduction of contamination either at the production level or by detoxification. The Committee had noted that guidance in the form of guidelines and methods for the reduction of contamination with aflatoxin either at the production level or by detoxification was readily available in existing FAO documents.

226. Regarding maximum levels for aflatoxins in food and feed, the Committee had proposed guideline levels for aflatoxins in food and feed (para 240 of ALINORM 87/12A) that should be sent out for consideration and comments by governments at Step 3. The Commission agreed with this action.

227. The Commission was also informed that the Codex Committee on Cereals, Pulses and Legumes was carrying out a survey on the aflatoxin content of cereals, pulses and legumes, the results of which would be available in 1988. The Commission asked the Chairman of the Codex Committee on Cereals, Pulses and Legumes to provide the survey data to the Codex Committee on Food Additives and Contaminants when available.

Confirmation of Chairmanship

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

CODEX COMMITTEE ON FOOD HYGIENE

229. The Commission had before it the reports of the 21st and 22nd sessions of the above Committee (ALINORM 87/13 and 87/13A) which were introduced by Dr. Charles W. Cooper (U.S.A.).

Consideration of Revised Draft Code of Hygienic Practice for Low-Acid and Acidified Low-Acid Canned Foods at Step 5 (ALINORM 87/13A, Appendix VII)

230. The Commission was informed that the revision of this Code had constituted a major part of the Food Hygiene Committee's work for about four years and Governments had had at

least two opportunities to review this revision. The Code was considered to be an excellent example of the Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point principles, although its origins predated the formulation of this concept.

231. Three documents which were originally intended to be appendices to the Code were reconsidered by the Committee at its 22nd Session and it was recommended that these documents be taken out of the step procedure and published separately when completed. The documents were:

1. Code of Practice for the Salvaging of Canned Foods Suspected of Having Been Contaminated;
2. Guideline Procedures to Establish Microbiological Causes of Spoilage in Canned Foods;
3. Classification of Visual Can Defects.

Status of the Revised Draft Code

232. The Commission adopted the Revised Draft Code of Hygienic practice for Low-Acid and Acidified Low-Acid Canned Foods at Step 5 and advanced it to Step 6.

Other matters arising from the Reports of the 21st and 22nd Sessions of the Committee

233. The Commission had before it ALINORM 87/21 containing in pages 7–9, a report on other matters arising from the Report of the 21st and 22nd sessions of the Committee which were of interest to the Commission.

Definition of Pasteurization (ALINORM 87/13A, Appendix IV, Annex 2)

234. The Codex Committee on Food Hygiene, at its 18th Session, completed work on the Code of Hygienic Practice for Dried Milk except for a definition of Pasteurization. The Commission, at its 15th Session, adopted this Code at Step 8 on the understanding that an agreed definition of Pasteurization would be added after consideration by the Committee and the International Dairy Federation. The 22nd Session of the Committee proposed a definition for pasteurization and some minimum temperature/time combinations for pasteurization and recommended to the Commission that the definition of pasteurization as amended for inclusion in the Recommended Code of Hygienic Practice for Dried Milk (CAC/RCP 31-1983), be adopted at Steps 5 and 8 of the Procedure with the omission of Steps 6 and 7.

235. The delegation of the Federal Republic of Germany informed the Commission that it reserved its opinion in regard to accepting the definition of pasteurization, since it lacked reference to the use of milk alkaline phosphatase as an important indicator. Inactivation of the enzyme in milk would indicate that pasteurization was complete.

236. The Commission therefore advanced the definition of pasteurization only to Step 6.

Consideration of Proposed Draft Code of Hygienic Practice for Spices and Herbs at Step 4
(ALINORM 87/13A, paras. 131–138)

237. In view of the difficulties involved in developing a General Code for the Harvesting and Handling and Processing of Spices and the wide variety of treatments required for the use of spices in various food products, the Committee decided not to proceed with the elaboration of this Code (ALINORM 87/13, App. VIII and XI), but to recommend to the Commission that the Codex Committee on Processed Meat and Poultry Products (CCPMPP) develop a Code of Practice for its own specific needs. If required, the Committee would be ready to advise the CCPMPP on specific provisions of such a proposed Code.

238. The delegation of Denmark, speaking on behalf of the Chairman of the CCPMPP, stated that an important aspect of spices in relation to meat products was the need for spices of good bacteriological quality, for use as ingredients in meat and poultry products moving in international trade and that therefore the Committee would undertake to develop a Code of Practice for the treatment of spices.

239. The Commission agreed that the Code of Practice on Spices to be elaborated by the Codex Committee on Processed Meat and Poultry products would follow the step procedure, but without further need for endorsement by the Codex Committee on Food Hygiene.

Hazard Analysis of Critical Control Points (HACCP) (ALINORM 87/13A, paras. 91–95 and Appendix VI)

240. The Executive Committee at its 31st Session agreed that Committees should examine their Codes of Practice with the objective of incorporating the HACCP approach into their texts. The Committee attempted this exercise when elaborating the Code of Hygienic Practice for Pre-cooked and Cooked Foods in Mass Catering and came to the conclusion that Codex Codes were general texts in which Critical Control Points could not be readily identified. A general text was therefore prepared explaining the HACCP approach and the reasons why the system was not applicable to the Codex Codes of Hygienic Practice. The text was recommended for adoption and incorporation as an addendum to the General Principles for the Establishment of Microbiological Criteria for Foods in the next edition of the Procedural Manual.

241. Introducing Conference Document LIM 15, the delegation of Denmark informed the Commission that it was not in agreement with the proposal of the Committee. In its view the HACCP concept would be applicable to several Codes related to commodities, for example the Code of Hygienic Practice for Processed Meat and Poultry Products. Furthermore, the Committee seemed to consider the HACCP system in relation to pathogenic organisms only, and not for spoilage organisms for which it may also be applicable. In fact, many of the provisions of Codes of hygienic practice for commodities were related to spoilage organisms. The delegation proposed that the text be sent to governments and relevant commodity committees for comments.

242. The Commission, recognizing that the immediate adoption of the text might have implications in the future agreed with the proposal of Denmark.

Amendment of the Code of Hygienic Practice for the Collection, Processing and Marketing of Natural Mineral Waters (ALINORM 87/13A, paras. 48–51)

243. The Committee at its 22nd session recommended to the Commission that section 3.7 of the Code, “Protection of the extraction area” be amended as follows:

“3.7 Protection of the extraction area In the immediate surroundings of springs and wells, precautionary measures should be taken to guarantee that no pollutant whatsoever can enter the extraction area. The extraction area should be inaccessible to non-authorized people by providing adequate devices (e.g. enclosure). Any use not aiming at the collection of natural mineral water should be forbidden in this area.”

Status of the Amendment

244. The Commission adopted the amendment under its procedure for amending Codex texts.

Confirmation of Chairmanship

245. The Commission confirmed under Rule IX.10 that the Codex Committee on Food Hygiene should continue to be under the Chairmanship of the Government of the U.S.A.

CODEx COMMITTEE ON METHODS OF ANALYSIS AND SAMPLING

246. The Commission had before it the report of the 15th Session of the Codex Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling (ALINORM 87/23). The report was introduced by Dr. I. Oláh (Hungary). He informed the Commission that the Codex Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling had the consideration of “simple” methods of analysis on its agenda as a permanent item. This was done in order to assist developing countries which did not have sophisticated equipment required by modern methods of analysis. As regards the question of separating the Committee into one on sampling and another on methods of analysis, Hungary agreed with the conclusions of the Commission that this should not be done.

247. Dr. Oláh wished to inform the Commission of the working procedures of the Committee. He stressed that the Committee did not elaborate methods of analysis but selected appropriate methods of analysis on the basis of established criteria from among methods elaborated and tested for performance by appropriate international organizations. This is why the “Inter-agency Meeting”(IAM), which assisted the Codex Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling in the performance of its task, had been set up. The IAM held its sixth session prior to the last session of the Committee and interest in that Meeting was evidenced

by an increasing membership. While the areas of methods of analysis and methods of sampling were related, they represented areas requiring different sets of experts. This is why during sessions of the Committee discussions of these two topics had been separated. As regards the selection of methods of analysis as mentioned above, this required a small group of persons who had the necessary technical know-how in the subject. This is why a working group was being used for this purpose, although all issues relating to analysis and sampling were discussed in plenary session.

248. Dr. Oláh pointed out that the work of the Committee involved the work of all Codex Commodity Committees and, therefore, required support by the Codex Secretariat. He expressed his appreciation for the assistance provided to the Committee by the Codex Secretariat and expressed the hope that this assistance would continue. The Committee had, at its last session, developed instructions on Codex sampling procedures directed to Codex Committees in selecting sampling plans for Codex standards. These Instructions had been referred to the Commission for endorsement. The Committee had also considered various other topics related to sampling and had endorsed the Codex Sampling Plans for Pre-packaged Foods included in various Codex standards for checking quality criteria. In the field of analysis, the Committee had examined a number of the issues of a general nature and had, with the assistance of the Working Group mentioned above, endorsed a large number of methods of analysis in Codex standards.

249. The delegation of Egypt was of the opinion that simple methods required additional confirmatory methods which should be developed by Codex. He also expressed the view that methods of harmonal assay (for example for poultry products) and methods for the determination of radionuclides should be developed by Codex. The Chairman of the Commission informed the delegation that such methods would be considered by the Codex Committee on Residues of Veterinary Drugs in Foods and the Codex Committee on Food Additives and Contaminants, as these subjects came to the attention of these Committees.

250. The delegation of China expressed the opinion that all provisions for contaminants (e.g. heavy metals, aflatoxins, antibiotics, pesticide residues) and other provisions (e.g. vitamins) should be expressed on the whole product basis, especially for the analysis of pesticide residues in canned meat. This was important in relation to sampling and preparation of sample for analysis. The Commission agreed that the remarks of China be brought to the attention of the Codex Committees concerned.

251. The delegation of the Netherlands stated that, while it had no objections to the Commission adopting the Instructions on Sampling, difficulties could arise in its application since "lot" had not been defined in the Instructions. This matter should be given consideration in applying the Instructions on Sampling, since sampling plans only applied to identifiable, homogenous lots. The Commission agreed that this matter be considered by the appropriate Codex Committees.

252. The delegation of India drew the Commission's attention to the need to develop Codex methods for the estimation of individual oils or fats in mixtures of oils. It was important to

ensure that the quality of the product corresponded to the claims made in connection with it and also to identify and measure particular types of fats in mixtures of fats and oils. The Commission was informed that the Codex Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling had considered this matter in detail, but that it had not been able to identify methods of analysis for this purpose. The question, therefore, had been referred to the Inter-agency Meeting with the request that the interested International Organizations develop appropriate methods. The delegation of the United Kingdom confirmed that the Codex Committee on Fats and Oils had reached the same conclusions. The Commission requested International Organizations to take note of the need for the determination, whether qualitatively or quantitatively, of individual fats and oils in mixtures of these and to arrange, if possible, for the development of such methods.

Confirmation of Chairmanship

253. 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.

CODEX COORDINATING COMMITTEE FOR AFRICA

254. The Commission noted that there was not a report of the Committee before it for consideration because the Committee had not met since the last Session of the Commission.

255. With the support of all the members of the Region of Africa attending the Session, the Commission appointed Dr. Tawfic Zagloul Morad Abd Alla of the delegation of Egypt to serve as Coordinator for Africa from the end of the 17th to the end of the 18th Session of the Commission.

CODEX COORDINATING COMMITTEE FOR ASIA

256. The Commission had before it the Report of the Fifth Session of the Coordinating Committee for Asia (ALINORM 87/15) which had been held in Yogyakarta, Indonesia from 8–14 April 1986.

257. The Report was introduced by Professor F.G. Winarno of Indonesia who had chaired the session. He emphasized the interest of the countries of the Region of Asia in the work of the Coordinating Committee and reviewed the topics which had been dealt with by the Committee.

258. The main topics discussed by the Coordinating Committee for Asia were: (a) status of the existing food control infrastructures in the region, and ways and means to develop a strategy for increasing awareness at a high level, of the need to strengthen the infrastructures in the interest of increasing food availability and promoting food exports; (b) importance of training facilities for food inspection; (c) possible role for the Committee as an instrument for promoting the concept of primary health care through safe food; and (d) report on Codex

activities generally and on those aspects of Codex work of particular interest in the region, including work in the area of pesticides and their residues in food.

259. The Commission noted that the Committee, recognizing the needs existing in the region, endorsed the concept of a regional conference of food control and requested that FAO and WHO develop a proposal in this regard that could be submitted for consideration by donors, including the developed countries that participate in the work of the Committee (Japan and Australia). The Commission also noted that member countries expressed unanimous support for the proposal to establish an Asian regional network of food inspectors' training centres, and recommended that UNDP provide the necessary funds to implement the project.

260. As regards the joint FAO/WHO activities in the field of food safety and food control, the countries of the region gave high priority and proposed that the various proposals for integrating food safety into primary health care delivery systems should be acted upon. Some countries, however, expressed their reservations on that subject.

261. During discussions at the session on the assistance to increased participation by developing countries in the Codex Region of Asia in the work of the Codex Alimentarius Commission, the Representative of the WHO Regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean drew attention to the very scant attendance of countries in the Middle East (or Western Asia) at sessions of the Coordinating Committee for Asia over the years. The Committee agreed that this matter be brought to the attention of the Executive Committee and the Commission, in order to see how members of the Commission in the Middle East could be induced to be associated with and participate in the sort of Codex work carried out at the regional level. The Commission noted that the subject had been discussed by the 33rd and 34th Sessions of the Executive Committee of the Codex Alimentarius Commission (ALINORM 87/3 paras 132–136, ALINORM 87/4 paras 32–34).

262. The Commission noted that the Committee, while reviewing activities regarding pesticides and their residues in foods, commended the elaboration of the International Code of Conduct on the Distribution and Use of Pesticides by FAO. The observer from the International Organization of Consumer Unions (IOCU) offered to be of assistance in monitoring the implementation of the Code. There was support from some of the delegations for the activities in the Codex Committee on Pesticide Residues for standardization of simplified methods of analysis for pesticide residues suitable for use by developing countries. Development of such methodology would facilitate monitoring of pesticides.

263. The delegation of Australia, which participated at the 5th Session of the Committee as observer, commended the way the meeting in Indonesia was organized and the business conducted, and expressed the view that increased attendance by countries from outside the region in meetings of the Regional Coordinating Committees would promote the Codex activities in the Region.

Appointment of Coordinator for Asia

264. The Commission was informed that the Coordinating Committee for Asia had unanimously nominated Prof. F.G. Winarno (Indonesia) for appointment as Coordinator for Asia by the Commission at its 17th Session, and that this nomination had the support of the Indonesian authorities.

265. In accordance with Rule II.4(b), the rules of procedure of the Commission and on the unanimous proposal of the Coordinating Committee for Asia, the Commission appointed Prof. F.G. Winarno (Indonesia) as Coordinator for Asia from the end of the 17th Session to the end of the 18th Session of the Commission.

266. The Commission was informed by the delegation of Indonesia, that the Government of Indonesia had officially agreed to host the Sixth Session of the Coordinating Committee for Asia in Denpasar (Bali), Indonesia from 26 January to 1 February 1988.

CODEX COORDINATING COMMITTEE FOR EUROPE

267. The Commission had before it ALINORM 87/19, the Report of the 15th Session of the Committee. The Report was introduced by Mr. Pierre Rossier, the Coordinator for Europe and the Chairman of the Committee. Mr. Rossier informed the Commission of the Committee's different activities which included the elaboration of regional standards, coordination of food control and food standard activities in countries of the Codex region of Europe and matters arising from the work of FAO and WHO in the field of food safety and related public health aspects.

Consideration at Step 8 of Draft European Regional Standard for Vinegar (ALINORM 87/19, Appendix II)

268. The Coordinator reminded the Commission that it had, at its 16th Session, returned the Standard to Step 6 of the Procedure, in view of the serious concerns by non-European countries about the possible negative economic impact of the Standard. The Committee had been requested to reconsider the relevant sections of the Standard, having regard to these comments.

269. The Coordinator pointed out that products obtained by other processes, such as fermented products from alcohol or diluted acetic acid were used in many countries including those belonging to the region of Europe, mainly as ingredients in pickles and other acidified foods. It was not the intention to prevent the use of these products, provided they were not denominated "vinegar". The Coordinator was of the opinion that it was important to provide the consumer with correct information and to promote product transparency.

270. The Observer of the International Organization of Consumer Unions supported the view expressed by the Coordinator that the use of other products should not be prevented, but that these products should be clearly labelled to facilitate the choice by the consumer.

271. The Coordinator also informed the Commission that the Committee had thoroughly discussed other matters such as total acid content, raw materials of sylvicultural origin and limiting the term “vinegar” to products derived from wine. He stated that the Committee had not been in a position to make substantial changes to the Standard and requested the Commission to consider its adoption at Step 8.

272. The delegation of the United States drew attention to the objections it had raised on the Draft Standard at the 16th Session of the Commission and requested that the Standard not be adopted. The delegation pointed to the large amounts of vinegar produced outside countries of the region of Europe which did not conform to the Standard. It was of the opinion that vinegar should not be the subject of a regional standard and that the existence of such a standard resulted in unnecessary and unwanted trade restrictions.

273. The concerns of the United States were shared by the delegations of Australia, Canada and Argentina. The latter also provided detailed technical comments on compositional requirements.

274. The Chairman recalled that the elaboration of the Standard had been approved by the 12th Session of the Commission. He concluded that the regional scope of the Standard was not acceptable to a number of countries and proposed to hold it in abeyance at Step 8, to request the views of governments on a world-wide standard for vinegar, including technical comments and to convene a working party in connection with the next session of the Commission. The working party could examine the comments and advise the Commission whether a world-wide standard should be elaborated. He noted, however, that no appropriate committee seemed to exist to take on the work.

275. The delegations of Argentina, Canada and the United States supported these proposals.

276. The delegations of Kenya and Tanzania were in favour of transforming the regional standard into a world-wide standard and recalled that this had been done in other cases such as honey or maize, at different steps of the procedure.

277. The delegation of Belgium drew attention to para 343 of the Report of the 16th Session of the Commission which outlined, that, whereas it is a matter for the Commission as a whole to decide whether a regional standard be elaborated, it was a matter for the countries of the region concerned to adopt a regional standard according to the Procedure for the Elaboration of Regional Codex Standards. The delegation requested that the Commission should adhere to its procedures and that the countries of the European region should decide on the adoption of the Standard. This was supported by the delegations of Austria, Denmark, France, Federal Republic of Germany, Hungary, Ireland, Netherlands, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and the United Kingdom.

278. The Delegation of the USA pointed out that paragraph 343 also concluded that the Commission could override a regional Coordinating Committee if it chose to do so; i.e., the will of the Commission would always prevail.

279. The delegation of New Zealand agreed with the statement of Belgium concerning the procedures and expressed the opinion that this did not detract from the view held by countries outside the Region of Europe that a world-wide standard should have been elaborated.

Status of the Standard

280. The Commission adopted the Regional European Standard for Vinegar at Step 8 of the Procedure.

Consideration at Step 5 of the Proposed Draft European Regional Standard for Mayonnaise (ALINORM 87/19, Appendix III)

281. The Coordinator informed the Commission that good progress had been made in the elaboration of this Standard. Further consideration, however, had to be given to certain compositional criteria, labelling matters as well as methods of analysis and especially to the section on food additives. The Coordinator proposed that the Standard be adopted at Step 5 of the Procedure.

282. The delegation of the United States stated that it could not support the development of a regional standard for mayonnaise since these products were not traded exclusively in one region only and the compositional requirements were too restrictive for world-wide application. This problem was aggravated by the fact that the section on raw materials required vinegar to be in conformity with the Codex (European Regional) Standard for Vinegar, which was not acceptable. The delegation expressed the view that the elaboration of such a standard was contrary to the aims of the Codex and created barriers to trade. This view was supported by the delegations of Argentina, Canada and New Zealand.

283. The delegation of Tanzania drew attention to the fact that Codex standards were used in many developing countries as a model for their own national standards and/or regulations, and regional standards were not suitable for this purpose.

284. The delegation of Mexico, supported by Cuba, urged the Commission to prevent the establishment of barriers to trade through Codex standards. It further noted that these standards were often used in trade disputes between countries and therefore regional standards should only be prepared for products produced and traded exclusively in the Region.

285. The delegation of Canada recognized the difficulties with this particular standard, but felt that the real problem requiring resolution was a conceptional one, arising from the procedures permitting the elaboration of regional standards versus the mandate of the Codex Alimentarius Commission.

286. The Commission recalled that it had, at its 16th Session, decided on an interpretation of Rule VI.3. This decision, as set forth in para 85 of ALINORM 85/47, establishes clearly that

the Commission as a whole decides whether a regional initiative was compatible with its overall programme and its aims and purposes under Article I of the Statutes.

287. The representative of the Legal Counsel of FAO, referring to paragraphs 85 and 343 of ALINORM 85/47 concerning the interpretation of Rule VI. 3 of the Rules of the Commission, underlined that a distinction must be drawn between the adoption of a regional draft standard and a decision by the Commission as a whole on the compatibility of a regional initiative with the provisions of Article 1 of the Statutes of the Commission. As concerns the proposed draft European regional standard for mayonnaise, the Commission would seem to have reached the adoption stage rather than the stage of initiating work on the standard and consequently the decision was subject to the provision that “only Members belonging to that region ... may take part in the voting”. That interpretation was agreed to by the Commission.

Status of the Standard

288. The Commission adopted at Step 5 of the Procedure the Draft European Regional Standard for Mayonnaise. The Commission also decided to refer the problems related to regional standards as identified during this Session of the Commission to the Codex Committee on General Principles and the Executive Committee for consideration and advice, recognizing that the resolution of these problems might involve amendments of Codex procedures.

289. The delegation of the United States reserved its position on this decision since the Committee on General Principles was not scheduled to meet during the next biennium, and the Coordinating Committee for Europe was in the meantime proceeding with the elaboration of the Standard.

Report on Pilot Study concerning the Acceptability of Codex Standards

290. The Coordinating Committee had decided to carry out a survey, limited to three standards, to verify the status of acceptance of these standards in countries of the European region and to identify the exact reasons which impede formal acceptance of Codex standards by these countries. The Coordinator noted that this activity was complementary to the work of the Committee on General Principles. The Committee could not arrive at a definitive conclusion. It became, however, clear that the preferred form of acceptance was “free circulation” often under specified conditions. Food additive provisions were quoted as the major obstacles. The Coordinator informed the Commission that the Committee would, continue its efforts concerning acceptances.

Proposed Amendments of the Terms of Reference of the Committee

291. The Commission was informed that the Committee had given further consideration to its terms of reference which, at present, did not contain a clause on the development of regional standards. The Coordinator stated that the Committee had re-affirmed its previous view that the clause in force for the other committees, relating to products traded exclusively in the

intra-regional trade, was not appropriate for this Committee. He held the view that the European region needed less restrictive provisions, since no product moved exclusively in this region only. Given the interpretation of Rule VI.3, the Commission was, however, in a position to control any regional initiatives detrimental to the overall aim of the Commission.

292. In view of the problems encountered with the regional standards for vinegar and mayonnaise, the Coordinator proposed that the terms of reference be referred to the Committee on General Principles for consideration in connection with the problems of regional standards in general (see para 288).

293. The delegation of the United States stated its concern about the negative effects of regional standards on the trade if these products were not limited to a particular region only.

294. The Commission agreed with the proposal made by the Coordinator for Europe and decided that the Committee on General Principles should consider the specific clause of the Committee's terms of reference dealing with regional standards at its next session.

Matters arising from the Report of the 15th Session of the Committee

295. Mr. Rossier informed the Commission that a comprehensive paper on methods of analysis and sampling and on chemical and microbiological parameters for natural mineral waters had been made available through the cooperation with GESEM and EEC for consideration by the next session of the Committee.

296. The Commission also noted that a survey on cooperation and implementation of food legislation in European countries had been very helpful to identify matters of common concern and to recommend ways and means to improve, in particular, the work of Codex Contact Points.

297. The Commission was informed that the Committee had appreciated the detailed documentation provided by WHO concerning the promotion of primary health care and the monitoring of national policies, programmes, services and institutions related to food safety. The Coordinator expressed satisfaction with active participation of representatives of WHO in the work of the Committee and hoped that the cooperation with WHO would continue at an even increased level.

298. The delegation of Norway stated that the activities of the Committee to assist WHO in implementing that Organization's work on the integration of food safety into primary health care were most desirable and were a good example of the coordinating role of the Committee.

299. The WHO Joint Secretary expressed his appreciation for the good response which the Coordinating Committee for Europe had given to the initiatives of WHO and hoped that the other coordinating committees would take the same interest.

Appointment of Coordinator for Europe

300. The Commission was informed that the Committee had noted Mr. Rossier's ineligibility after having served a second term of office. Each term had been limited to the period between two sessions of the Commission only. The Committee had unanimously agreed to extending Mr. Rossier's second term as Coordinator for Europe and to request the Commission to reconsider its decision on the duration of the second term, in view of the fact that Rule II.4(b) defined one term of office as covering the period up to the end of maximal the third succeeding regular session of the Commission.

301. The representative of the Legal Counsel of FAO advised that Rule II. 4(b) of Rules of the Commission provided in very clear terms that Coordinators held office from the end of the Session at which they were elected "until not later than the end of the third succeeding regular session, the precise term being determined by the Commission in each instance". On election Mr. Rossier's second term had been fixed at one session. Consequently, if the Commission wished to re-appoint Mr. Rossier for an additional period it would be necessary for it to suspend Rule II.4(b) as provided for in Rule XIII.2. The Commission appointed Professor Dr. H. Woidich of Austria as Coordinator for Europe, noting that Professor Woidich had been nominated by the Committee in case Mr. Rossier's term could not be extended. The Commission decided that Professor Woidich's term of office should be from the end of the 17th Session to the end of the 18th Session of the Commission.

302. The delegation of Austria informed the Commission that it would host the 16th Session of the Coordinating Committee for Europe in Austria, at a place yet to be determined.

303. The Commission expressed its appreciation to the Government of Switzerland for the excellent host facilities and to Mr. Rossier for his efficient work as Coordinator.

CODEX COORDINATING COMMITTEE FOR LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

304. The Commission had before it the report of the Fifth Session of the Codex Coordinating Committee for Latin America and the Caribbean (ALINORM 87/36) held in Havana, Cuba, from 11 to 16 February 1987, and also the documents ALINORM 87/21 and LIM-11.

305. The reports were presented by the Coordinator, Minister Ramón Darías Rodés, who touched on the most important points of these reports. He informed the Commission that this Committee, founded in 1976, had held five meetings, three of which had been in Havana, Cuba.

306. Between the Fourth and Fifth Sessions, the Committee's main activities were as follows:

- A comparative study of 200 Codex standards and 106 standards of the Pan-American Commission of Technical Standards (COPANT) and 287 standards of the Central American Institute for Research and Industrial Technology (ICAITI).
- Diagnosis of the needs for, and possibilities of, technical cooperation among countries in the region in standardization and quality. In this connection, a proposal was made for the creation of a Technical Cooperation Network in this field.

- Visit to 15 countries to elaborate the provisional agenda of the Fifth Session.
- The holding, in collaboration with PAHO/WHO and the State Committee for Standardization of Cuba, of the Third Workshop on Standardization of Food and Health for Latin America and the Caribbean, where the following items were discussed: the present situation of residues of veterinary drugs in foods, the importance and use of foods based on vegetable proteins, and the application of the hazard analysis and determination of critical control points in the improvement of quality and safety of foods.

307. At the Fifth Session of the Committee the following agreements were reached:

- To establish a regional data bank on standardization, certification and quality of food.
- To continue with the second stage of the programme of harmonization of regional and sub-regional standards.
- To continue procedures for the establishment of a regional Technical Cooperation Network on food standardization.
- To elaborate a Code of Hygienic Practice for Aquaculture and a World-wide Standard on Dried Shark Fins.
- To elaborate a Code of Hygienic Practice for Street-vended Foods.
- To propose to the Commission the elaboration of a world-wide standard for Raw Sugar.
- To propose to the Commission some improvements in Codex procedures and future work.

308. The Commission noted that in the week immediately preceding the Fifth Session of the Regional Coordinating Committee, the Fourth Session of the Codex Committee on Vegetable Proteins had been held in Cuba, and that this was the first time that a Codex Committee had met in a country other than the host country. In this regard, the Regional Coordinating Committee expressed its gratitude to the Canadian government and hoped that other host governments for Codex Committees would give consideration to the possibility of holding other meetings in developing countries.

309. The Commission was informed that, during the four years of the present Coordinating Office, the work of the Codex Alimentarius at national and regional level had been considerably intensified, the Coordinator expressed his gratitude for the efforts made by countries in the area.

310. The Commission noted that, at the Fifth Session of the Committee, mention was made of progress achieved by FAO and PAHO in the implementation of a Plan of Action for intensification of food protection activities in the Latin American and Caribbean region. This Plan of Action was agreed at the Inter-American Conference on Food Protection held in 1985. Funds have been requested from the United Nations Development Programme for the implementation of the first phase.

311. Various delegations from the region emphasized the importance of this activity and requested FAO and PAHO/WHO to continue their work to achieve immediate implementation of the Plan.

312. The Commission supported the work of FAO and PAHO in conducting this action, which would undoubtedly benefit Codex Alimentarius work in the area.

World-wide Standard for Raw Sugar

313. In discussing this item, the Commission had before it the documents ALINORM 87/21 and ALINORM 87/36.

314. The Secretariat of the Committee informed the Commission that, as a result of the decision adopted by the Commission at its Sixteenth Session, the Coordinating Committee for Latin America and the Caribbean had conducted a study on the need to elaborate a world-wide Codex standard for raw sugar. The data obtained confirmed the need for this standard, and it was therefore proposed to the Commission that the relevant work be started by the Coordinating Committee for Latin America and the Caribbean, with advice from the host government of the Committee on Sugars (the United Kingdom), whose meetings have been adjourned sine die.

315. The delegations of the United States and Thailand expressed their opposition to the elaboration of a world-wide standard for this product, since they considered it was an intermediate product that could be used for industrial processing, in which case standardization was difficult, or else it could be used for direct human consumption, but in proportions that perhaps did not justify the elaboration of a world-wide standard.

316. The delegations of Argentina, Austria, Cameroon, Cuba and Mexico supported the elaboration of a world-wide standard, since raw sugar for direct human consumption was a commercially important commodity in various regions, and its standardization would facilitate the elimination of non-tariff barriers against it. It was noted that raw beet sugar would be excluded from the standard.

317. The delegation of the United Kingdom reminded the Commission that the Committee on Sugars had, at previous sessions, agreed not to elaborate a standard for raw sugar used as an intermediate product. The delegation was of the opinion that any new standard, if elaborated, should be limited to raw sugar intended directly for human consumption. Moreover, it was necessary to have sufficient information on the scale of trade in this commodity in order to justify the elaboration of such a standard.

318. The United Kingdom, as Secretariat of the Codex Committee on Sugars, would be prepared to start work on the elaboration of the standard by correspondence.

319. The delegation of Cuba explained that the proposed standard was limited to raw cane sugar intended both for industrial processing and direct human consumption. The standard

would cover the composition of the product and other quality characteristics, and would be prepared in close collaboration with the Codex Committee on Sugar; it was not thought necessary for the Committee to hold a session merely to start work on this standard. The delegation of Cameroon said that, although the standard would start at regional level, following Codex procedures it would shortly be established as a world-wide standard, since this was what was wanted.

320. The Commission agreed that Steps 1, 2 and 3 of the elaboration of a World-Wide Standard for Raw Sugar be commenced under the auspices of the Coordinating Committee for Latin America and the Caribbean, then the proposed draft standard be submitted to the Codex Committee on Sugar at Step 4 for study and distribution to member countries. The delegation of the United Kingdom requested that the report record its reservation on this procedure; it considered that the Codex Committee on Sugars should be responsible for the whole elaboration of the standard.

Appointment of Coordinator for Latin America and the Caribbean

321. At the Fifth Session of the Coordinating Committee for Latin America and the Caribbean it had been unanimously agreed to propose Lic. Maria Eugenia Chacón Moroux, of Costa Rica, as the new Coordinator. The delegation of Costa Rica stated that personal reasons had prevented Lic. Chacón at the last minute from being present at the Session, but expressed on her behalf acceptance of the appointment as Coordinator of the Regional Committee, and, on behalf of the Government of Costa Rica, the desire to host the Sixth Session of the Regional Committee. The Commission agreed unanimously to suspend Rule II.4 (a) of the Rules of the Commission to allow the appointment of Lic. Chacón.

322. The Commission expressed its thanks to the Government of Cuba for hosting the Committee for three Sessions and thanked the Coordinator, Minister R. Darías Rodés, for his valuable contribution to promoting the work of the Commission in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Formation of a new Regional Committee

323. The delegation of the United States informed the Commission of its desire to explore the formation, together with Canada and other countries, of a Codex Regional Coordinating Committee for North America, and requested the collaboration of the Secretariat in initiating the relevant formalities.

CODEX COMMITTEE ON FATS AND OILS

324. The Commission had before it the report of the 13th Session of the Codex Committee on Fats and Oils (ALINORM 87/17 and Corrigendum). The Report was introduced by the Chairman of the Committee, Dr. W.H.B. Denner (United Kingdom).

Consideration at Step 8 of Draft Standards for (i) Specified Vegetable Fat Products and (ii) Specified Animal or Mixed Animal and Vegetable Fat Products (ALINORM 87/17, Appendix II and III)

325. The Commission noted that the standards covered all solid and semi-solid products consisting of (i) an edible vegetable fat or a blend of edible vegetable oils and fats and (ii) edible animal including marine fats with or without the addition of vegetable oils or fats, sold as an alternative to ghee. Because of the variety of common names used for these products in various countries, the Draft Standards were titled “Specified Vegetable Fat Product” and “Specified Animal or Mixed Animal and Vegetable Fat Products”, and, in the Section on Labelling a clause had been included to the effect that the product shall be designated in accordance with the laws and customs in the country in which the product is sold in a manner so as not to mislead the consumer.

326. The delegations of Egypt, India and Tanzania were not in agreement with certain clauses of the Standards. In the view of the delegation of Egypt, the acid value and peroxide value of the products should not exceed 0.4 mgKOH/g and 5 milliequivalents of peroxide oxygen/kg respectively. The delegations of India and Tanzania proposed that the slip point should not exceed 41°C, and that provision should be made under labelling section of the standards for declaration of fat or fats used in the product and that specific provision should be made that the products should not resemble ghee in their colour and flavour.

Status of the Draft Standards

327. The Commission adopted the two standards at Step 8 of the procedure as Codex standards and agreed that the title of the “Standard for Specified Vegetable Fat Product” should be amended to read as “Standard for Specified Vegetable Fat Products”. The amendment was considered editorial. The delegations of India and Tanzania reserved their position on the provisions for slip point, colour and flavour; and labelling in the standard (see also Para. 326).

Consideration of Proposed Amendments to Food Additive Provision in Codex Standards for Fats and Oils (Consequential Amendments)

328. A summary of amendments to the food additive provisions to all Codex Standards for Fats and Oils consequential to the adoption of Standards for (i) Specified Vegetable Fat Products and (ii) Specified Animal or Mixed Animal and Vegetable Fat Products was contained in Paragraph 30 of ALINORM 87/17. The Commission noted that the Codex Committee on Food Additives at its 19th Session had endorsed the proposed amendments to food additive provisions.

Status of Proposed Amendments to Food Additive Provisions

329. The Commission agreed to the amendments to the food additive provisions in Codex Standards for Fats and Oils noting that they were consequential to the adoption of the new

standards on (i) Specified Vegetable Fat Products and (ii) Specified Animal or Mixed Animal and Vegetable Fat Products. The Commission noted that these amendments did not apply to the Codex Standard for Olive Oil (CODEX STAN 33-1981).

Considerations at Step 8 of Amendments to the Codex Standard for Edible Rapeseed Oil (CODEX STAN 24-1981) (ALINORM 87/17 Appendix V, Paras. 34–40)

330. The Commission noted that following the adoption of a Standard for Low Erucic Acid Rape Seed Oil, it had decided to amend the existing Codex Standard for Edible Rape Seed Oil. Amendments considered were in (i) Scope: to the extent that the standard was not applicable to low erucic acid rape seed oil, (ii) Saponification Value, (iii) Crismer Value, (iv) Content of Brassicasterol, (v) Erucic Acid Content and (vi) GLC Ranges.

331. The delegation of Egypt informed the commission that in its country rape seed oil containing more than 5% erucic acid was not considered edible and consequently it was opposed to the adoption of the amendments which included a provision for erucic acid which ranged from 5 - 60%. The views of the delegation of Egypt were supported by the delegation of Tanzania and the delegation of Argentina stated that Argentinian regulations required the level of erucic acid to be less than 5%. The delegation of India brought to the attention of the Commission the problem of adulteration of rape seed oil with argemone oil in its country and proposed that the Commission should elaborate through the appropriate Codex Committee an effective method for qualitative and quantitative determination of argemone oil, when blended with rape seed oil. The Commission noted that the control of adulteration rested with national food control authorities.

332. The delegation of China informed the Commission of the work carried out in its country both in experimental animals and humans that demonstrated that rape seed oil containing high levels of erucic acid is safe for use. It asked the Commission to recommend to FAO and WHO to undertake an epidemiological study to determine the safety of use of high erucic acid rape seed oil.

Status of the Amendments

333. The Commission adopted the amendments to the Codex Standard for Edible Rape Seed Oil as in ALINORM 87/17, Appendix V at Step 8 of the Procedure.

Consideration at Steps 5 and 8 of Proposed Amendments to Codex Standard for Olive Oil (CODEX STAN 33-1981) (ALINORM 87/17, Appendix VIII)

334. The Commission noted that it approved the initiation of the amendments of the Codex Standard for Olive Oil at its 16th Session in order to bring the minimum quality criteria of the Codex Standard into line with minimum quality criteria of the trading standard for Olive Oil. The trading standard differed from the Codex Standard for Olive Oil particularly as regards the limits for certain fatty acids, the inclusion of limits for campesterol and cholesterol among the sterols, peroxide value for refined oil and date of minimum durability.

Status of the Amendments

335. The Commission noted that most of the amendments to the Codex Standard for Olive Oil (CODEX STAN 33-1981) were editorial and adopted them at Step 8. It noted that the amendments to food additive provisions for other Codex Standards for oils and fats (paras. 341–346) were not applicable for olive oil and asked the Secretariat to correct the error in Section 3.1.2.13 of the French and Spanish versions of the standard. It also noted the comments submitted for information, by the delegation of Thailand (LIM 14).

Amendments to the Method for the Determination of Fatty Acids at Position 2 in Olive Oil (ALINORM 87/17, paras 11–13)

336. The International Olive Oil Council (IOOC) had pointed out an error in the method of expression of the results for Saturated Fatty Acids in position 2 in the Codex Standard for Olive Oil (CODEX STAN 33-1981), and had proposed that this section should read: “The saturated fatty acids at position 2 means the sum of palmitic (16:0) and stearic (18:0) acids expressed as a percentage (m/m) of the total fatty acids at position 2”.

337. After having reviewed the comments received from governments and those of the Codex Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling, it was proposed that an amendment be made to the standard at Step 5 and proposed the omission of Steps 6 and 7.

Status of the Amendments

338. The Commission adopted the amendment at Step 8.

Consideration at Steps 5 and 8 of Draft Code of Practice for the Storage and Transport of Edible Oils and Fats in Bulk (ALINORM 87/17, Appendix VII)

339. The draft Code submitted to governments at Step 3 for comments, was elaborated by Malaysia. The Committee, at its 13th Session, advanced the Code to Step 5 with a recommendation that Steps 6 and 7 be omitted. It was noted that the scope of the Code should be enlarged in the future to include problems arising from the potential contamination of oil by previous and cotransported cargoes and other sources. The Federation of Oils, Seed and Fats Association which was already studying the problem had agreed to coordinate future work on this aspect.

Status of the Code of Practice

340. The Commission adopted the Code of Practice at Step 8 of the Procedure noting that it was the only one of its kind existing. The Commission attached considerable importance to the future enlargement of the Code to extend the Section on contamination.

Consideration at Step 8 of Amendments to Codex Standards for Individual Fats and Oils (ALINORM 87/17, Appendix III)

GLC Fatty Acid Ranges

341. The Commission at its 15th session had not accepted the mandatory application of fatty acid ranges, proposed by the Committee at its 12th Session for two reasons: firstly, the manipulation of germ plasm might lead to oils having different fatty acid compositions; and secondly, that many developing countries did not have the equipment or trained technicians to determine GLC fatty acid ranges (ALINORM 83/43, para. 284).

342. The Committee at its 13th Session considered that fatty acid ranges should not be advisory for the reasons stated in detail in para. 69 of ALINORM 87/17 and asked the Commission to reconsider its expressed opinion on the advisory status of the GLC fatty acid ranges.

343. The delegations of U.S.A., Canada and France supported the view of the Committee and expressed the view that GLC fatty acids ranges of fats and oils were objective criteria without which the standards could not be applied in practice. The delegations of India, Cameroon and Switzerland held the view that GLC fatty acid ranges should not be mandatory. Furthermore, the delegations of India and Cameroon noted that developing countries would face problems in international trade if mandatory character of the GLC fatty acid ranges was accepted by the Commission.

Status of GLC Fatty Acid Ranges

344. The Commission agreed to the mandatory nature of GLC Fatty Acid Ranges included in Codex Standards for Fats and Oils.

345. The Commission adopted the following amendments to Codex Standards for Individual Fats and Oils in order to apply the provisions for GLC Fatty Acid Ranges:

- a. The following to be included in Section 3 of all Codex Standards for individual fats and oils.

“Raw Materials

Oils used as a raw material for the manufacture shall comply with the GLC fatty acid ranges as specified in Section 3.”

- b. The following footnote to be added to Section 3 Identity Characteristics of all Codex Standards for individual fats and oils:

“Samples falling outside the GLC fatty acid ranges are not in compliance with the Standard. Supplementary non-mandatory criteria may be employed if it is considered necessary to confirm that a sample is in compliance with the Standard.”

Consideration at Steps 5 and 8 of Amendments to the GLC Fatty Acid Ranges as Given in ALINORM 79/17, Appendix XI and in the Standard for Low Erucic Acid Rape Seed Oil (ALINORM 87/17, Appendix X)

346. The Committee at its 13th Session recommended that the amendments to GLC Fatty Acid Ranges be adopted at Step 5 and that Steps 6 and 7 be omitted. At that session the delegation of Thailand had reserved its opinion on any changes to the current fatty acid ranges (para. 66 of ALINORM 87/17).

Status of the Amendments to GLC Ranges

347. The Commission noted the written reservations expressed by the delegation of Thailand (LIM 9, 14) to the adoption of the amendments to GLC ranges and adopted the amendments at Step 5 and advanced them to Step 6.

Determination of Erythrodiol Content of Grapeseed Oil (ALINORM 87/12, para.72)

348. The Committee at its 13th Session agreed to the inclusion of the IUPAC method (which had been collaboratively tested) in the Codex Standard for Edible Grape Seed Oil (CODEX STAN 127-1981) at Section 8.6 subject to its endorsement by the Codex Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling. The Committee noted that precision of the method was improved when the erythrodiol content was expressed as a percentage of beta-sitosterol rather than on the basis of total sterols. The Committee agreed that section 3.1.6 of the Standard be amended to read:

“3.1.6 Erythrodiol Content - not less than 3% of the beta-sitosterol content”

Status of the Amendment

349. The Commission adopted the amendment to express the erythrodiol content as a percentage of beta-sitosterol subject to endorsement by the Codex Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling.

Elaboration of Standard for Blackcurrant Seed Oil (ALINORM 87/17, paras. 41–43)

350. The Commission noted that the Committee considered it premature to embark upon elaboration of a separate standard for blackcurrant seed oil, since the work priorities criteria of the Codex were not met. The Commission noted that the General Standard for Fats and Oils would be applicable to blackcurrant seed oil and agreed to consider the need for elaboration of a separate standard for blackcurrant seed oil if appropriate, at some future date.

Proposal of the Committee to adjourn sine die (ALINORM 87/17, para. 84)

351. The Commission noted that the Committee had satisfactorily completed all the work it had on hand and noting that a mechanism existed within the Codex procedure for any

outstanding areas of work to continue, agreed with the Committee's proposal that it should adjourn sine die.

Confirmation of Chairmanship

352. 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

353. The Commission had before it the Report of the 18th Session of the codex committee on Processed Fruits and Vegetables (ALINORM 87/20) containing draft standards for honey, canned mangoes and mango chutney at Step 8 of the Procedure. The Commission also had before it amendments proposed by governments to these draft standards contained in documents ALINORM 87/38 - Part IV and Add 1 as well as comments tabled by the delegation of the Federal Republic of Germany (LIM 19). The Report of the Committee was introduced by Dr. D. Houston (USA) on behalf of the Chairman of the Committee, Mr. G.R. Parlet.

Draft Standard for Honey (ALINORM 87/20, Appendix IV)

354. In introducing the Standard for Honey, Dr. Houston informed the Commission that the Committee, after a lengthy and detailed discussion had arrived at a compromise and had recommended the adoption of the draft Standard at Step 8. Regarding the comments and proposals for amendment before the Commission, the Committee had taken these into consideration, except for the proposal by Israel to include the AOAC method for the determination of HMF.

355. The Commission noted that ISO had been requested by the Codex Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling to develop a method using reagents which were not hazardous to health, and also noted that the AOAC method (14th Edition, 1984) would be a satisfactory method for the determination of HMF. The Commission agreed that the AOAC method be included in the Standard for Honey and that this be brought to the attention of the Codex Committee of Methods of Analysis and Sampling.

356. The delegations which spoke on the subject of honey were in general agreement with, or strongly supported, the draft world-wide Standard for Honey.

357. The delegation of India was of the opinion that HMF content depended on temperature and other conditions during storage. Under tropical conditions HMF content increased and was above the limit specified by Codex after about three months of storage. This provision was likely to cause problems in trade for developing countries with tropical climates. The delegation also thought that the limit for mineral (ash) content could be reduced to 0.5%.

358. The delegation of Argentina expressed its satisfaction that a world-wide Codex Standard had been developed and indicated its agreement with most of the provisions of the Standard. The delegation of Argentina confirmed its previous comments in respect of the standard for Honey concerning apparent reducing sugar content; moisture content; apparent sucrose content; hydroxymethylfurfural (HMF) content; and hygiene where it should be added that the product must not have fermented; and the mandatory declaration of the country of origin and methods of analysis.

359. The delegation of Switzerland wished to reserve its position on certain provisions of the Standard, e.g. those for moisture content and HMF. The delegation of Spain stated that its national requirements for honey provided for a maximum HMF content of 40 mg/kg, and not 80 mg/kg as provided for in the draft Codex standard. The delegation of Egypt stated that a classification on the basis of colour should be included in the standard, and that the use of ascorbic acid as an antioxidant should be minimized. It also referred to the provisions on date marking.

360. The delegation of Poland expressed its interest in the Codex world-wide Standard for Honey but wished an exception to the provision for acidity to be included for buckwheat honey, which could have a natural titratable acidity of 47 milliequivalents. The delegation also proposed that the Standard should include maximum limits for specified heavy metal contaminants.

361. The delegation of Hungary indicated that the provisions for HMF and diastase activity included in the European Regional Standard had been accepted by Hungary and in the Standard of the CMEA. It expressed a preference for these figures rather than those included in the present draft standard.

Status of the Standard

362. The Commission adopted the Draft Standard for Honey at Step 8 of the Procedure as a World-wide Codex Standard and also agreed, as proposed by the representative of the Legal Counsel of FAO, that the existing Codex European Regional Standard for Honey was, consequently, superseded.

Draft Standard for Canned Mangoes (ALINORM 87/20, Appendix V)

363. The draft standard was introduced by Dr. Houston (USA) who informed the Commission that the comments received at Step 8 on this Standard had been discussed at a previous session of the Codex Committee on Processed Fruits and Vegetables. There was an editorial amendment to be made in the section on food additives, i.e. to change the provision for “pectin and amidated pectin” to “pectins”. The Commission accepted this editorial change.

364. The Commission considered the proposal of the delegation of the Federal Republic of Germany that the use of irradiated mangoes should not be permitted, in view of fact that the standard required that canned mangoes be prepared from fresh fruit and that irradiated

mangoes could not be considered to be fresh mangoes. The Commission noted that the introduction of such a provision in the standard, while not making a similar restriction in the other Codex standards for canned fruits and vegetables, would be prejudicial to this product. It was also noted that the codex committee on Food Labelling had considered the question of labelling of ingredients which had been treated by irradiation and that this question was covered in Section 7.9.2 of the standard. The Commission further noted the proposal of the Federal Republic Germany that the maximum limit for lead should be reduced to 0.4 mg/kg and that for tin be reduced to 100 mg/kg. The Commission was informed that the limits included in the Draft Standard for Canned Mangoes and in other Codex Standards for processed fruits and vegetables had been temporarily endorsed and were under review pending further data on levels of contaminants becoming available.

Status of the Standard

365. The Commission adopted the Draft Standard for Canned Mangoes at Step 8 of the Procedure.

Draft Standard for Mango Chutney (ALINORM 87/20, Appendix VI)

366. In introducing this Standard, Dr. Houston (USA) informed the Commission that all written comments at Step 8 had been considered by the Codex Committee on Processed Fruits and Vegetables. He drew the Secretariat's attention to certain editorial matters relating to the Spanish version and to the comments of the Federal Republic of Germany concerning the use of irradiated ingredients which also applied to this product. The delegation of the Federal Republic of Germany understood that would exclude the use of irradiated products automatically.

367. The delegation of Tanzania referred to section 2.1 of the Draft Standard which provided for minimum mango fruit ingredient and questioned as to how such a provision could be verified. Furthermore, the delegation pointed out that the Standard neither included precise provisions for organoleptic properties nor methods of organoleptic examination. The Secretariat drew attention to the work of ISO on sensory analysis of foods and confirmed that the Codex Committee on Processed Fruits and Vegetables had not been able to suggest a method of analysis for mango fruit ingredients or at least a provision for drained weight for the basic ingredients. On the other hand a minimum requirement for total soluble solids had been included for the finished product. The delegation of Tanzania expressed the view that this represented a weakness of the standard and suggested that the matter be examined.

Status of the Standard

368. The Commission adopted the Draft Standard for Mango Chutney at Step 8 of the Procedure.

369. The delegation of Cuba drew attention to technical comments submitted to the Codex Committee on Processed Fruits and Vegetables on Canned Mangoes and Mango Chutney

and noted that these had not been included in the Report of the Codex Committee. These comments had been resubmitted at Step 8 of the Procedure and were included in document ALINORM 87/38 - Part IV.

Standardization of Cashew Kernels

370. The Commission was informed by Dr. Houston that the Codex Committee on Processed Fruits and Vegetables, at its last Session, had decided to abandon further consideration of this product and had recommended that the existing proposed draft standard (ALINORM 85/20 Add 1) together with government comments received (CX/PFV 86/3) and all available material and any additional comments to be supplied by the USA, be referred to the ISO or to another appropriate body for review. The Committee had reached this decision in the absence of representation from the major producing countries and in the absence of expertise in this product during the session of the Committee.

371. The Commission agreed with the recommendation of the Committee.

Amendment of the Codex Standard for Canned Pineapple

372. The Commission was informed that the Committee had considered the matter referred to it by the last session of the Commission concerning the allowance in sub-section 2.2.4 of the Codex Standard for Canned Pineapple for “core material”. The matter had been raised by the delegation of Thailand which had indicated that the use of certain varieties of pineapple in the preparation of the canned product would cause difficulties in meeting either the provision for core material or for drained weight. The Codex Committee on Processed Fruits and Vegetables had recommended that an explanatory note should be added in section 2.2.4 of the canned pineapple standard to define core material as follows: “the hard fibrous centre portion of the fruit”.

373. The Commission adopted the proposed explanatory note for inclusion in the Standard for Canned Pineapple.

Revision of the Section on Labelling of Codex Standards for Processed Fruits and Vegetables

374. Dr. Houston informed the Commission that, following the adoption of the General Standard for the Labelling of Prepackaged Foods and guidelines on labelling directed to Codex Committees, the Codex Committee on Processed Fruit and Vegetable had reviewed the standards elaborated by it with the assistance of a Working Group. As the task had proved to be rather onerous requiring the examination of each individual Codex standard, the Committee had recommended that a consultant be engaged to prepare a detailed paper setting forth the wording of the amendments for each standard. This working paper would be handled by the Secretariats of the Committee and of the Commission in accordance with the adopted procedures, should the Committee adjourn sine die. The Commission was informed that a consultant had prepared such a paper and that a few minor amendments to be made by the Secretariat were required prior to its implementation.

375. The Commission agreed with the Procedure recommended by the Codex Committee on Processed Fruits and Vegetables for the review of the labelling provision in Codex Standards on processed fruits and vegetables.

Provision for Sulphur Dioxide in the Codex Standard for Raisins

376. The Commission noted that the Codex Committee on Food Additives and the Codex Committee on Processed Fruits and Vegetables had reviewed the technological justification for the use of sulphur dioxide for certain types of bleached raisins. As regards the maximum limits which had originally been proposed it had been agreed that it would be desirable to add an explanatory note in the Codex Standard indicating that the maximum limit was applicable immediately following treatment.

377. The Commission concurred with the recommendation of the Committee that such a note be included in the Codex Standard for Raisins.

Adjournment of the Committee Sine Die

378. Dr. Houston gave an outline of the work and history of the Codex Committee on Processed Fruits and Vegetables. He expressed the view that the Committee had been very productive and had contributed to international standardization of processed fruits and vegetables. It had agreed at its last session that its work assignment had now been completed and that it should be adjourned sine die.

379. The Commission expressed its appreciation to the Committee and to the Government of the USA for the valuable work on processed fruits and vegetables and concurred that the Committee be adjourned sine die.

Confirmation of the Chairmanship of the Committee

380. 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 USA.

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

381. The Commission had before it the Report of the 17th Session of the Group of Experts (ALINORM 87/14, AGRI/WP.1/GE.4/16) and amendments proposed by governments to and comments on draft standards at Step 8 as contained in ALINORM 87/38, part II (FJ). The report was introduced by the Chairman of the Group of Experts, Professor Dr. W. Pilnik (Netherlands).

Consideration at Step 8 of Draft General Standard for Fruit Nectars Preserved Exclusively by Physical Means (ALINORM 87/14, Appendix II)

382. The Commission noted that the above Standard was developed with a view to providing those fruit nectars which were not covered by individual Standards. The Commission also noted that the Draft General Standard for Nectars included (i) a provision for sugar as an optional ingredient in nectars and (ii) provision for the declaration of use of concentrated fruit ingredient in the list of ingredients. The Commission was informed by Dr. Pilnik, Chairman of the Group of Experts, that certain developments in the field of nutrition had influenced the Group of Experts to make the provision for sugars optional in the general standard for nectars.

383. The delegation of Switzerland expressed the view that making the provision for sugar as an optional ingredient in the general standard for fruit nectar might significantly change the nature of fruit nectars. Also this would result in two classes of nectars: (i) nectars with sugars, and (ii) nectars without sugars which, in the opinion of the delegation should be described as "diluted fruit juices". This view was supported by the delegation of Belgium.

384. While in general agreement with the standard, the delegations of Mexico, Thailand, India, Cuba, Argentina and Brazil informed the Commission that Clause 3.1 Minimum Fruit Content was not acceptable to them. The delegation of Brazil held the view that the minimum fruit content in nectars should not be established since it would vary significantly, dependent on the physical and chemical properties of fruits that might be used.

385. The observer of the European Community informed the Commission on Community directives on nectars with regard to (a) Minimum Fruit Content, (b) Sugar and (c) Labelling, and stated that the Community was presently considering to review its general standard for nectars with regard to sugar.

386. The delegations of Thailand and India brought the attention of the Commission to the forthcoming review of JECFA on the acute toxicity of tin at its next meeting to be held in 1988 and expressed the view that the tin content of fruit nectars and juices should be held at a level of 250 mg/kg until the new JECFA review was available. The delegation of the Federal Republic of Germany expressed its reservation for the tin content of 200mg/kg. In its view it should be 100 mg/kg.

387. The delegation of Argentina informed the Commission that in its view the country of origin should be included in the information contained on the label.

Status of the Standard

388. The Commission returned the Standard to Step 6 for further comments by governments and review.

Consideration at Step 5 of Draft General Standard for Fruit Juices preserved exclusively by Physical Means (ALINORM 87/14, Appendix III)

389. The Commission noted that the Group of Experts was developing the above Standard with a view to providing for those Fruit Juices which were not covered by individual Codex

Standards. A significant difference from the earlier standards of fruit juices was in Provision 8.1.3 requiring the declaration of the use of concentrated fruit juice to make single strength juice not only in the list of ingredients but also in direct proximity of the name of the food or in another prominent position on the label.

390. The observer of the EEC informed the Commission that Community directives on fruit juices with regard to the use of sugar allowed the addition of sugar to fruit juices to correct acidity only. If sugar was used for sweetening of fruit juice, the resulting product should be labelled as “sweetened fruit juice”. The delegation of Switzerland was of the opinion that the Draft General Standard should not permit the addition of sugars.

Status of the Standard

391. The Commission advanced the Standard to Step 6 of the procedure and referred the technical comments received to the Group of Experts for consideration at its next session.

Consideration at Steps 5 and 8 of proposed Amendments to the Codex Standard for Apricot, Peach and Pear Nectar (CODEX STAN 44-1981) (ALINORM 87/14, Appendix IV)

392. The Commission noted that the Group of Experts sought comments from governments and international organizations on the proposed amendment to delete the provisions for hydroxymethylfurfural and related methodology from the Codex Standard for Apricot, Peach and Pear Nectar (CODEX STAN 44-1981) at Step 3 by CL 1985/43-FJ. The Group of Experts recommended that the amendment be adopted at Step 8 with the omission of Steps 6 and 7.

Status of Amendment

393. The Commission agreed with the views of the Group of Experts that hydroxymethylfurfural could not be used as a criteria to assess the quality of nectars and related products and adopted the amendment at Step 8 with the omission of Steps 6 and 7.

Proposals for the Elaboration of a General Standard for Vegetable Juice (ALINORM 87/14, paras 165-173a)

394. On the basis of background material on vegetable juices provided by the Fruit and Vegetable Association of the EEC, Federal Republic of Germany and Switzerland, a proposed Draft General Standard for Vegetable Juices and Vegetable Nectars (Appendix V, ALINORM 87/14) had been prepared by the Group of Experts which agreed to send it to governments for comments at Step 3, if the Commission approved that such a General Standard be elaborated.

395. The delegation of Belgium brought to the attention of the Commission the fact that the proposed draft standard elaborated by the Group of Experts (ALINORM 87/14, Appendix V) was applicable to both vegetable juices and vegetable nectars. The delegation stated that it would only support the elaboration of a general standard for vegetable juice. The delegations

of Netherlands and Austria justified the need for elaboration of a general standard for vegetable juice since, in their view, international trade in vegetable juices was on the increase and time was ripe enough for elaboration of the standard on vegetable juices, the non-availability of which could at this stage hamper the growing trade.

396. The delegations of the United Kingdom and the USA opposed the elaboration of a standard for vegetable juices since in its view it did not meet the Codex criteria for establishment of work priorities. It pointed out to the Commission that elaboration of standards for vegetable juices was not within the terms of reference of the Joint UNECE/Codex Alimentarius Group of Experts on Standardization of Fruit Juices.

Status of the Standard

397. The representative of the Legal Counsel of FAO advised the Commission that pursuant to Part I, Steps 1, 2 and 3 of the Procedure for the Elaboration of Codex Standards, etc., the Commission decided which “subsidiary body or other body should undertake the work” of elaborating a World-wide Codex Standard. Whilst the Group of Experts was not a subsidiary body under the rules of the Commission, it was certainly an “other body” and thus the Commission could decide to assign to it the task of elaborating a standard which did not fall within the specific terms of reference of the Group. The Commission agreed that the Draft General Standard for Vegetable Juices and Vegetable Nectars elaborated by the Group of Experts at its 17th Session (ALINORM 87/14, Appendix V) be sent to governments and international organizations for comments at Step 3.

CONSIDERATION OF THE NEED FOR A CODEX STANDARD FOR FRUIT (BASED) DRINKS WITH A HIGH CONTENT OF FRUIT JUICE

398. The Commission had before it a paper ALINORM 87/32 containing the views and recommendations of Drs. F.M. Clydesdale and R. Sharon (Consultants) on the subject. It had been prepared in response to the proposal recorded in paragraphs 419–420 of the Report of the Sixteenth Session of the Commission (ALINORM 85/47). The Commission had also before it ALINORM 87/37, ALINORM 87/37 - Add 1 and LIM 2 which contained the comments of governments and international organizations on the paper ALINORM 87/32.

399. The Commission noted significant differences of opinion between the two Consultants.

400. The Commission noted that the paper prepared by Dr. Clydesdale considered fruit-based drinks as soft drinks in which juice was an ingredient, and brought attention to the earlier decision of the Commission that work on the elaboration of standards for soft drinks need not be undertaken by the Codex. The main thrust of the paper was that a standard for fruit-based drinks would be unenforceable. The paper emphasized that if a standard could not be enforced, then it would serve no purpose to elaborate it. It also noted that if there were a wish for the consumer to know about the presence of fruit juice in a soft drink, the mechanism was already provided since there was an option of voluntarily labelling juice percentage.

401. In the paper prepared by Dr. Sharon, the Commission noted that trade in fruit-based drinks had been increasing during recent years. Many countries had elaborated national standards or specific legislation for fruit-based drinks while others had no regulations. The paper acknowledged that there would be problems as regards standardization and enforcement of any standard for fruit-based drinks. The paper pointed out that the development of the fruit-based drink industry was expected to have a beneficial impact on the economy of the developing countries since many tropical juices which found use in fruit-based drinks were produced and exported by developing countries.

402. The need for a Codex Standard for fruit-based drinks with a high content of fruit juice did not receive support from the delegations at the session. With the exception of the delegation of Switzerland, the views presented by Dr. Clydesdale were supported by all other delegations which spoke (Belgium, Canada, Finland, Ireland, Italy, New Zealand, Nigeria, Poland, United Kingdom, U.S.A., Union of European Soft Drink Manufacturers).

403. The delegation of Switzerland supported the elaboration of a standard for fruit based drinks since in its view, the main components of the drink, fruit juice, nectar and/or concentrate were already standardized and that it was only necessary to reach a minimum agreement on the fruit content, additives and labelling of such products.

404. The Commission agreed that the proposed standard for fruit-based drinks with a high fruit content did not meet the criteria for the establishment of work priorities; drew attention to the difficulties in enforcing the standard; and expressed the view that such products should be considered as soft drinks. The Commission decided not to proceed with the elaboration of a standard for fruit-based drinks with a high fruit content.

CODEX COMMITTEE ON FISH AND FISHERY PRODUCTS

405. The Commission had before it ALINORM 87/18 Parts I and II, the report of the 17th Session of the Committee. Mr. John Race, the Chairman of the Committee, informed the Commission that Dr. Braekkan, the former Chairman of the Committee, was making progress with his illness and sent his best wishes to his friends. Dr. Braekkan was recently made a knight of the Order of St. Olaf, an award for distinguished public service (St. Olavs Orden). The Commission expressed its great appreciation for Dr. Braekkan's work and wished him all the best.

406. The Commission was informed that the Committee had agreed to elaborate a code of Practice for Aquaculture which would concentrate on hygienic practices of importance for final product quality and matters related to consumer protection. Guidance on technical matters would be provided where necessary. The Commission noted that a background paper on aquaculture was under preparation by the FAO Fisheries Department and that the matter had also been discussed by the Coordinating Committee for Latin America and the Caribbean, which would provide comments directly to the Fisheries Department of FAO.

407. As regards the development of a standard for shark fins, the Committee had agreed that, as the product was traded in more than one region, a world-wide standard should be developed. The Commission noted that Cuba had prepared a draft world-wide standard for consideration by the Regional Coordinating Committee which it would present for consideration to the Codex Committee on Fish and Fishery Products.

408. The Commission was also informed that the Committee had decided to commence work on the inclusion of the Hazard Analysis of Critical Control Points (HACCP) concept into the Code of Practice for Shrimps and Prawns. The Chairman of the Committee pointed out that this was in line with the decision of the Commission not to endorse the views of the Codex Committee on Food Hygiene on the application of HACCP at the present time.

409. Another important question discussed was the inclusion of new fish species in the Codex Standard for Canned Sardines and Sardine-type Products. Because no species description for Sardine sardinella could be found, the proposal for inclusion had not been pursued. On the other hand, it had been decided that the comparative study procedures previously endorsed by the Commission should be applied, for the first time, with regard to the proposal by Cuba to include the species Ophystonema oglium in the standard. Four testing laboratories had been nominated, of which three had been selected in this particular case, and their reports on samples of the product would be discussed at the Committee's next session. Cuba was providing the necessary samples.

410. The discussions in the Committee on the question of possible international guideline levels for mercury in fish had already been referred to in connection with the report of the Codex Committee on Food Additives (see para 223).

411. With regard to labelling provisions in fish standards the Committee had agreed these should be aligned with the revised text of the General Labelling Standard. Concerning the justification for not including date-marking provisions in the revised Codex Standard for Canned Pacific Salmon, the Committee had reconfirmed its previous view that such provisions were not required (ALINORM 87/18, Appendix XII). The Commission agreed with this view and noted the opinion of the Chairman of the Committee that para 148 of ALINORM 87/22, the report of the Committee on Food Labelling, was not very clear.

412. The Commission was informed that the agenda for the Committee's next session would include the following:

- A proposed draft standard for Quick Frozen Squid
- Microbiological specifications for frozen cooked crabmeat
- A proposed annex to the Code of Practice for salted fish on the final quality of salted herring
- A working paper on methods of analysis and sampling in fish standards
- Technological justification of food additives
- A working paper on amendments to quick frozen fillets standards
- A paper on surimi products.

413. As regards the latter subject, the Committee had agreed that the Committee on Processed Meat and Poultry Products should be informed of the potential for incorporation of surimi into meat products in context with that Committee's work on the use of non-meat protein products in processed meat and poultry products.

414. The Commission noted that although it had been agreed to initiate the elaboration of a standard for frozen blocks of whole headless and gutted fish no delegation had offered to elaborate a first draft. The Committee had therefore postponed further work on this standard.

415. The Commission also noted that further comments at Step 6 were being requested on the Draft Standard for Dried Salted Fish.

Consideration at Step 8 of Harmonized Defect Tables in the Codex Standards for Quick Frozen Fillets (ALINORM 87/18, Appendix II)

416. The Commission was informed that this matter had been considered by a Working Group which had met in Bremerhaven in Federal Republic of Germany, immediately prior to the Session of the Committee. The Chairman of the Committee thanked the Federal Republic for hosting the meeting and Dr. Houwing of the Netherlands for chairing the Working Group. The plenary session had agreed with the Harmonized Defect Tables proposed by the Working Group to the standards for cod and haddock, ocean perch, flat fish and hake, and had been of the opinion that the tables would greatly enhance the usefulness of these standards. The Chairman of the Committee proposed adoption at Step 8 of the harmonized tables.

417. The delegation of the Federal Republic of Germany proposed that the tables be retained at Step 7 until the same defects had been further considered in the other quick frozen fish standards. The delegation was of the opinion that at a future meeting universally applicable tables could be elaborated.

418. The delegation of Denmark supported adoption of the presently elaborated harmonized tables in view of their importance in the standards.

Status of the Harmonized Defect Tables

419. The Commission adopted the above Harmonized Defect Tables at Step 8, noting that the adoption of the harmonized tables would require further consequential amendments to the standards, and agreed that the Committee should review the standards and possibly combine them into a single standard.

Consideration at Step 5 of the Draft Standards for (i) Quick Frozen Blocks of Fish Fillets, Minced Fish Flesh and Mixtures of Fillets and Minced Fish Flesh (ALINORM 87/18, Appendix III) and (ii) Quick Frozen Fish Sticks (Fish Fingers) and Fish Portions, Breaded or in Batter (ALINORM 87/18, Appendix IV)

420. The Chairman of the Committee pointed out that good progress had been made on the two standards which were being developed together since fish sticks and fish portions were manufactured from frozen fish blocks and the decisions on one standard had an impact on the other.

421. With regard to the fish blocks standard, the Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling had endorsed a sampling schedule which constituted the first example of a commodity applying the "Instructions on Sampling" just endorsed by the Commission. Other important work related to the standardization of control and inspection measures and procedures and for this purpose an "Inspection Technique for Quick Frozen Fish Blocks" was being elaborated. The Commission was requested to adopt the above standards at Step 5 of the Procedure.

Status of the Standards

422. The Commission adopted the above standards at Step 5.

Consideration at Step 5 of the Draft Code of Practice for Cephalopods (ALINORM 87/18, Appendix VII)

423. The Commission adopted the above Code at Step 5.

Other Matters Arising from the Report of the 17th Session of the Committee

424. The Commission noted that decisions had to be made on the following matters:

(i) Amendments to Standards

425. In line with the Commission's view that Codex Standards should be kept under review, the Chairman of the Committee asked the Commission's approval for initiating amendment procedures for (a) the four standards mentioned in 32(a) and (b) the Standard for Canned Shrimps and Prawns (CODEX STAN 37-1981). The Committee intended to amend the latter standard to make it more consistent with current industry and trade practices in the production, canning and trading of canned shrimp, especially with regard to size ranges.

(ii) Amendment of the Code of Practice for Salted Fish

426. The Committee had decided that the specifications for salt used in the production of dried salted fish which differed in some respects from those for food grade salt should be deleted from the Draft Standard for Dried Salted Fish and introduced in the Code of Practice for Salted Fish. Furthermore, the Committee was considering objective matters of determining the final quality of salted herring during prolonged storage with a view to appending it to the above Code.

427. The Commission approved the course of action proposed under (i) and (ii).

Confirmation of Chairmanship of the Committee

428. 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.

FAO/COFI Sub-Committee on Fish Trade - Statement by the Representative of the FAO Fisheries Department

429. The representative of the FAO Fisheries Department informed the Commission that a Sub-Committee on Fish Trade had been established by the FAO Committee on Fisheries (COFI) to serve as a multilateral framework for consultations on international trade in fishery products in line with the Strategy and Programmes of Action endorsed at the 1984 World Fisheries Conference. The report of the First Session of the Sub-Committee had been distributed to delegations (FAO Fisheries Report No. 375).

430. It was noted that the work of the Sub-Committee would include among others formulation of recommendations for the promotion of international quality standards and harmonization of quality control and inspection procedures and regulations in conjunction with the FAO/WHO Codex Alimentarius Commission.

431. The Sub-Committee had identified certain matters having a negative economic impact on trade in fishery products. It had recognized that improvement in fish quality required considerable additional training efforts at all levels including processing plant workers and factory management and well as the government staff engaged in the registration of processing plants and in pre-shipment inspection. In this regard the Sub-Committee had endorsed the proposal for an Inter-Regional Training Programme on Quality Assurance of Fish and Fishery Products which had now been submitted to UNDP for consideration.

432. Many countries had stressed the value of the International Standards and Codes of Practice prepared by the Codex Committee on Fish and Fishery Products and had urged that this work should continue, with due consideration given to incorporation of the hazard analysis of critical control point concept (HACCP) in the Codes of Practice. It had been emphasized that the Codex Standards were intended at the minimum requirements for international trade.

433. The Sub-Committee had also recognized that the main problems particularly facing developing countries were to make improvements in the following areas:

- lack of in-plant quality assurance programmes, particularly to raw material quality,
- poor hygienic conditions,
- insufficient government food inspection.

434. The representative of the FAO Fisheries Department outlined the many activities of FAO complementary to the work of the Codex Alimentarius Commission.

CODEX COMMITTEE ON FOODS FOR SPECIAL DIETARY USES

435. The Commission had before it the report of the 15th Session of the Codex Committee on Foods for Special Dietary Uses (ALINORM 87/26). The report of the Committee was introduced by the Chairman of the Committee, Dr. G. Pahlke (Federal Republic of Germany), who outlined the work of the Committee.

Draft Standard for Follow-up Formula(ALINORM 87/26, Appendix III)

436. The Commission noted that this standard had been discussed extensively by the Committee taking into consideration the views of the 1986 World Health Assembly. The World Health Assembly had concluded that, on nutritional grounds, such products were not necessary in the feeding of infants. However, as explained by the WHO representative to the Committee, this did not mean that a standard could not be elaborated to ensure the appropriateness of the essential composition and quality factors of the product. The Commission also noted that the title of the standard had been changed to “follow-up formula” and that the minimum age limit for the use of the product had been increased to the period from the 6th month onwards.

437. The delegation of Australia stated that it would be indeed difficult to justify the use of follow-up formula on nutritional grounds. Considering, however, that there was a considerable international trade in this product, the delegation of Australia did not oppose the adoption of the Draft Standard for Follow-up Formula. However, the delegation wished to have clarification as to whether follow-up formula was covered by the WHO International Code of Marketing of Breast-milk Substitutes. The delegation of India stated its opinion that the product was not covered by the Code.

438. A number of delegations supported the view expressed by the delegation of Australia, while other delegations strongly supported the adoption of the Draft Standard for Follow-up Formula. The delegation of Norway opposed the development of the standard and indicated that Norway would pursue the matter of bringing the marketing of the product under appropriate discipline.

439. The WHO Joint Secretary informed the Commission that the Standard for Follow-up Formula covered only products that were intended as part of infants weaning diet and, therefore, did not fall under the WHO Code of Marketing mentioned above. The product would, however, be covered by the Code of Ethics for International Trade in Foods.

440. Various delegations made comments of a technical nature. The delegation of Denmark indicated that it objected to certain aspects of the sections on food additives and vitamins. The delegation of Italy was of the opinion that the product could be used for infants from the age of four months onwards. The delegation of India was of the opinion that follow-up formula could be mistaken by the consumer to be a breast-milk substitute and that the label of the product should, therefore, make it quite clear that this was not so. The delegation of Egypt was of the view that the provision for minimum protein content should be of 4.5 g. The delegation of

Hungary was of the opinion that vitamin D should not be added to this product, since administration of vitamin D was done in Hungary as a public health measure by other means and the consumption of follow-up formula containing vitamin D could give rise to an overdose of the vitamin. The delegation of Argentina indicated that it had difficulties in accepting all the food additives included in the standard. The international Pectin Producers Organization suggested that, in section 4.1.8, the words in brackets following the provision for “pectins” should be deleted. The Commission concurred with such deletion. The delegation of Mexico provided information to the Secretariat concerning corrections to the Spanish text of the standard.

Status of the Standard

441. The Commission adopted the Draft Standard for Follow-up Formula at Step 8 of the Procedure.

Draft Guidelines for Use by Codex Committees on the Inclusion of Provisions on Nutritional Quality in Food Standards and Other Codex Texts (ALINORM 87/26, Appendix IV)

442. The Chairman of the Committee, Dr. Pahlke, informed the Commission that the Committee had finalized the Guidelines and had recommended its adoption at Step 8. However, the concept of nutrient density had not yet been finalized and would be reconsidered at the next session. The delegation of Brazil indicated that the definitions in Sections 3.5 and 3.6 appeared to be not complete as they did not cover situations where nutrients were added in the concept of nutritional policies.

Status of the Guidelines

443. The Commission adopted the Guidelines at Step 8 of the Procedure.

General Principles for the Addition of Essential Nutrients to Foods (ALINORM 87/26, Appendix V)

444. The Commission was informed that the Committee had changed the title of the General Principles by introducing the term “Essential” in relation to nutrients. As with the Guidelines mentioned above, the question of nutritional density required further consideration. The Committee had recommended that the Commission approve the General Principles and had expressed the opinion that the Step Procedure need not be followed.

445. The delegation of the Netherlands indicated that it had problems accepting Section 5.2 of the General Principles which indicated that a food should be considered to be a significant source of an essential nutrient if it was consumed in amounts equal to or greater than 10%. As this was a rather basic provision which had not yet been finalized by the Committee, the delegation expressed the view that the General Principles should not be adopted but should be reconsidered by the Committee.

446. The delegation of Switzerland referred to para. 148 of the Committee's report and stressed the need for developing two further definitions, one for the term "Standardization" and another for "Supplementation". As the Committee had deferred discussion of this matter, the delegation shared the view expressed by the delegation of the Netherlands that the General Principles be returned to the Committee for further consideration.

Status of the General Principles

447. The Commission noted that some matters were still under review by the Committee, but decided to adopt the General Principles for inclusion in the appropriate Volume of the Codex Alimentarius.

Proposed Amendments to the Codex Standards for Infant Foods at Step 8 of the Procedure (ALINORM 87/26, Appendix VII)

448. The Commission had before it a number of draft amendments to the Codex Standards for Processed Cereal-Based Foods for Infants and Children and for Canned Baby Foods concerning provisions for food additives. It also considered an amendment to the requirement for vitamin D in the Codex Standard for Infant Formula.

449. The delegation of China was of the opinion that a number of the Codex methods for the determination of vitamins in Codex Standards for Infants and Children should be amended in the light of developments in the field of analysis. It agreed to make available information to the Codex Committee on Foods for Special Dietary Uses. Regarding the Codex Standard for Infant Formula, the delegation of China was of the opinion that the product produced in conformity with the Codex Standard for Infant Formula was expensive and, therefore, not easily available to all consumers. There was a need, therefore, for a standard for infant formula which could be prepared using indigenous raw materials and which would be suitable for developing countries.

450. The Chairman of the Committee, Dr. Pahlke, undertook to bring the questions raised by the delegation of China to the attention of the Codex Committee on Foods for Special Dietary Uses.

451. The Commission adopted the amendments contained in Part 4 of Appendix VII at Step 8.

Guidelines on the Development of Formulated Supplementary Foods for Older Infants and Young Children (ALINORM 87/26, Appendix VI)

452. The Commission advanced the above Guidelines to Step 6 of the Procedure.

Other Matters Arising From the 15th Session of the Committee

453. The Commission considered a number of issues included in document ALINORM 87/21 as follows:-

The Name of the Committee

454. On the proposal of the Committee, the Commission agreed to amend the name of the Committee to read “Codex Committee for Nutrition and Special Dietary Uses” in order to take into account the extended terms of reference as approved by the 15th Session of the Commission.

Consideration of the Elaboration of Recommended Daily Allowances for Labelling Purposes

455. The Commission noted that the Committee had discussed the need to elaborate, by a Joint FAO/WHO Expert Consultation, recommended daily allowances for various nutrients for labelling purposes. The Director of the FAO Food Policy and Nutrition Division, Dr. P. Lunven, outlined the activities of FAO and WHO in the field of allowances for essential nutrients and energy from food. He expressed the opinion that the development of recommended daily allowances for nutrients, such as vitamins and minerals, represented a delicate and difficult question. This was so, since such allowances depended on a number of factors, such as age, sex and other considerations. He especially pointed out that there was lack of agreement among scientists even at the national level. Holding of a Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee on this question would be preferable following agreement at the scientific level.

456. A number of delegations were of the opinion that FAO should take initiative in collecting information on recommended daily allowances and other relevant information in preparation for possibly convening an expert group to discuss the matter. The suggestion was made that, if an expert group could not be convened to consider the question of recommended daily allowances, the collecting of information on recommended daily allowances should be considered, probably by engaging a consultant to prepare a report on the subject.

457. The Commission noted para. 54 of the report of the Codex Committee for Foods for Special Dietary Uses in which the recommendations of the Committee and the procedure to be followed regarding the establishment of recommended daily allowances was clearly stated. It requested the Secretariat to take appropriate steps, e.g. through the distribution of a Circular Letter, to obtain information on recommended daily allowances as requested by the various delegations and the parent organizations to explore the possibility of convening an expert group to consider the matter.

Amendment of the Advisory Lists of Mineral Salts and Vitamin Compounds for Use in Foods for Infants and Children

458. The Commission concurred with the proposal of the Committee concerning the procedure to be followed for the amendment of the Advisory Lists as outlined in paras. 178–181 and Annex I to Appendix XII, ALINORM 87/26.

Proposed Draft Standard for the Labelling of and Claims for, Pre-Packaged Foods Claimed to be Suitable for Diabetics

459. The Commission was informed that the above standard had been under consideration for a number of years. In view of extensive differences in the approach to dealing with the subject, no agreement could be reached by the Committee on the format and content of a standard. The Committee had, therefore, recommended that the development of a standard in the area of labelling with reference to diabetic foods be postponed. The Commission concurred with the decision of the Committee.

460. The observer from the International Society of Dietetic, including all Infant and Children Food, Industries informed the Commission that his organization, in cooperation with WHO, was developing a scientific platform for discussions of diabetic foods. Following further developments in this forum, it might be possible to take up the question of labelling of diabetic foods at a later stage.

Confirmation of Chairmanship

461. The Commission confirmed under Rule IX.10 that the Codex Committee on Nutrition and Foods for Special Dietary Uses should continue under the Chairmanship of the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany.

CODEX COMMITTEE ON CEREALS, PULSES AND LEGUMES

462. The Commission had before it ALINORM 87/29 the Report of the Fifth Session of the Committee. In introducing the Report the Chairman of the Committee, Mr. D.R. Galliard informed the Commission that good progress had been made on the draft standards under discussion and that several of these standards were being submitted to the Commission for adoption at Steps 5 or 8.

Milled Rice

463. Mr. Galliard informed the Commission that ISO was in the process of finalizing the specification for rice which included milled rice. In accordance with the decisions of the 33rd Session of the Executive Committee and following the procedure approved by the Commission, the Secretariat would submit the ISO specification to the coordinating committees for comments. Subsequently, the Committee on Cereals, Pulses and Legumes would examine the specification together with the views of the coordinating committees and recommend to the Commission whether the Codex Standard for Milled Rice should be elaborated.

Sorghum Grains

464. The Chairman of the Committee recalled that the 16th Session of the Commission had referred the Draft African Regional Standard for Sorghum Grains to the Committee for further elaboration as a world-wide standard. Prior to the Session of the Committee a revised version had been prepared which could not take into account government comments due to late arrival of these comments. The Committee had considered the Standard and had decided that

it should be returned to Step 6 of the Procedure in view of the extensive changes and the need to have more comments on important provisions of the Standard. The Commission agreed with this decision.

Durum Wheat Flour and Semolina

465. The Commission was informed that the Committee had examined a background paper and a first draft of a Standard for Durum Wheat Flour and Semolina and had decided to develop such a standard. Presently, comments were requested at Step 3 of the Procedure.

Consideration at Step 8 of Draft Standard for Certain Pulses (ALINORM 87/29, Appendix II)

466. The Chairman of the Committee informed the Commission that comments and proposals for amendment to the above Standard had been submitted and were available in documents ALINORM 87/38 Part I, LIM 18 and two papers presented by the International Pulse Trade and Industry Confederation.

467. Mr. Galliard pointed out that the Standard had been thoroughly discussed at the Fifth Session of the Committee. The detailed sections on defects and tolerances had been the subject of discussion by a technical working party. He informed the Commission that the sections requiring endorsement had been submitted to the respective committees.

468. Referring to the comments submitted to the Commission, the Chairman of the Committee stated that it had not been possible to resolve the question of moisture content to the full satisfaction of the Committee as a whole, since the moisture contents of products which were not processed, such as pulses, depended on local conditions. Concerning the comments from the International Pulse Trade and Industry Confederation on the country of origin the Committee had after a lengthy debate agreed not to deviate from the General Labelling Standard. The Chairman of the Committee appreciated the information provided by the Confederation on nomenclature and stated that he would take this matter up at the next Session of the Committee. Mr. Galliard informed the Commission that the Committee had recognized the problems with the nomenclature of, and common names for, pulses and had therefore not included detailed provisions in the Standard. The listing in para 166 was intended to provide some guidance on these matters. The Chairman of the Committee proposed that the Standard be adopted at Step 8 of the Procedure.

469. The delegation of Brazil indicated that pulses represented an important staple food in Brazil and that it attached special importance to this Standard. Three major aspects of the Standard should be further considered, namely: moisture content, definitions of defects and quality tolerances. With regard to moisture content, the maximum levels presently included in the Standard were not appropriate under the climatic conditions in tropical countries and promoted the formation of moulds. On the other hand artificial drying resulting in cracks and other defects would make the product susceptible to the development of aflatoxins. The delegation was of the opinion that most tropical countries might be able to accept maximum moisture levels of 14%.

470. The statement of the delegation of Brazil was supported by the delegations of Argentina, Cuba, Tanzania, Mexico and India. The latter country proposed maximum levels of 14% for lentils and 16% for other pulses.

471. The delegation of France informed the Commission of certain errors in the French version of the draft standard concerning nomenclature. The Commission agreed that these comments should be sent in writing to the Secretariat.

Status of the Standard

472. The Commission decided to return the Draft Standard for Certain Pulses to Step 6 of the Procedure in view of the comments made by governments. The Chairman of the Committee recognized the difficulty of establishing maximum levels for moisture content in unprocessed products and indicated that the Committee might have to consider developing an appropriate concept for the establishment of such parameters not only in this standard but also in standards of other products such as sorghum grains.

Consideration at Step 5 of the Proposed Draft Standard for Sorghum Flour (ALINORM 87/24, Appendix IV)

473. The Chairman of the Committee recalled that this Standard had been transferred from the Coordinating Committee for Africa and that its scope had been extended to world-wide coverage. The Committee had given consideration to a revised draft which included updated labelling provisions and a revised section on methods of analysis. Mr. Gallart requested that this Standard should be adopted at Step 5 of the Procedure.

474. The Commission decided that the detailed technical comments from Brazil and Tanzania should be considered by the Committee at its next session.

Status of the Standard

475. The Commission advanced the Proposed Draft Standard for Sorghum Flour to Step 6 of the Procedure.

Matters Arising from the Report of the 5th Session of the Committee

(i) Labelling

476. The Commission was informed that the Committee had revised the labelling provisions in the finalized standards as well as those under elaboration to align them with the Revised General Labelling Standard. The amendments contained in Appendix XI had been classified as editorial and consequential, and had been submitted to the Committee on Food Labelling for endorsement. The Commission agreed with the request of the Chairman of the Committee that the Secretariat should take action on these amendments as appropriate.

(ii) Fat Acidity

477. The Commission was informed that the present value for fat acidity in Section 3.3.3 of the Codex Standard for Wheat Flour was not acceptable to many countries. The Committee had agreed that the value should be raised to 50 mg KOH retaining the present Type I Method. The Commission approved the initiation of the amendment procedure.

(iii) Food Additives

478. The Chairman of the Committee recalled that a number of food additives originally included in the standard for wheat flour had not been endorsed by the Committee on Food Additives due to lack of a technological justification. The 5th Session of the Committee on Cereals, Pulses and Legumes had prepared a comprehensive justification paper for submission to the 19th Session of the Committee on Food Additives. The paper had been made available to that Committee but had not been distributed to delegates. The Commission requested the Committee on Food Additives to reconsider the endorsements in the light of the technological justifications provided.

479. Mr. Galliard also informed the Commission that enzyme preparations from Aspergillus oryzae had not been included in the published text of the standard for wheat flour since they had at that time not been evaluated by JECFA. The 31st Session of JECFA had, however, evaluated these enzymes and it was expected that they would now be endorsed by the Committee on Food Additives. The Commission agreed that it was not necessary in this case to follow the amendment procedure.

480. Mr. P. Rossier of Switzerland informed the Commission that the survey on contaminants in cereals and pulses was continuing and that a new circular letter (CL 1987/17) had been issued. He invited governments to submit their data as soon as possible.

481. The representative of the International Association for Cereal Science and Technology (ICC) offered the Association's continuing collaboration with the work of the Committee on Cereals, Pulses and Legumes. A report of ICC activities was contained in paragraphs 28–32 of ALINORM 87/29.

Confirmation of Chairmanship

482. 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 of America.

COMMITTEE ON VEGETABLE PROTEINS

483. The Commission had before it the report of the 4th Session of the Codex Committee on Vegetable Proteins (ALINORM 87/30) and the Draft Standard for Wheat Gluten (Appendix VII, ALINORM 87/30) at Step 8. The Chairman of the Committee, Dr. N. Tape (Canada), introduced the report of the Committee. He indicated that the last meeting was unique in that it was the first time that a Codex Committee had been held in a developing country, i.e. Cuba.

Dr. Tape expressed his thanks for the excellent facilities which the Government of Cuba had made available to the Committee.

Draft Standard for Wheat Gluten (Appendix VII, ALINORM 87/30)

484. The Commission noted that the Codex Committee on Vegetable Proteins had agreed on a figure of 80% for minimum protein content and had made certain consequential changes in the labelling section of the Standard. Dr. Tape recalled that the original draft of the Standard had been prepared by Finland.

Status of the Standard

485. The Commission adopted the Draft Standard for Wheat Gluten at Step 8 of the Procedure.

Various Matters Arising from the Report of the Committee

486. Dr. Tape summarized the various matters discussed at the last session of the Committee and the conclusions reached.

Draft International General Standard for Vegetable Protein Products (ALINORM 87/30, Appendix V)

487. The Commission was informed that the above General Standard had been reviewed and that the relationship between this General Standard and the various specific Vegetable Protein Standards had been clarified. Since there were a number of matters still to be finalized, e.g. food additives, contaminants and other matters, the Committee had decided to return the General Standard to Step 6 for further government comments.

Draft Standard for Soy Protein Products (ALINORM 87/30, Appendix VI)

488. The Commission was informed that, as in the case of the General Standard above, a number of matters still required further consideration. This included provisions for food additives and contaminants and setting limits and methods of analysis for trypsin inhibitors in soy protein. The Committee had therefore decided to return this Standard to Step 6 of the Procedure.

Draft General Guidelines for the Utilization of Vegetable Protein Products in Foods (ALINORM 87/30, Appendix IV)

489. The Commission was informed that the Committee at its 4th Session had made a number of changes to the Draft General Guidelines and had resolved the only remaining substantive matter which concerned the labelling of an animal food product in which a part or all of the animal protein had been substituted by a vegetable protein product. In particular, Section 3 on Definitions and Section 6 on the Uses of Vegetable Protein Products Intended to Increase the Content of Utilizable Protein had been discussed in response to a request by the

Codex Committee on Foods for Special Dietary Uses. It was the intention of the Committee that they be submitted to that Committee for comment and that the Guidelines be further considered at the next session in the light of the comments of the Codex Committee on Foods for Special Dietary Uses and comments from governments at Step 6.

Vegetable Protein Production

490. The Commission was informed that the Committee had up-dated the report prepared in 1978 on the request of the Commission describing the global status of vegetable protein production and utilization. As several delegations had undertaken to provide further information, the Committee had agreed to review the report at its next session.

Protein Quality Measurement

491. The Committee had received further information regarding the development of a more rapid and less expensive method for the determination of protein quality. It had also agreed that it was premature to recommend a change to the traditional PER method and decided to consider a report on this topic at its next session.

Quantitative Methods for the Differentiation of Vegetable and Animal Proteins.

492. The Commission noted that the Committee had discussed developments in the method of determination of these proteins in food, but had noted that it was still extremely difficult to achieve an analytical differentiation. It had decided to monitor developments in this area.

Guidelines Concerning the Use of Vegetable Proteins and Milk Proteins in Processed Meat and Poultry Products

493. As requested by the 15th Session of the Commission, the Committee had reviewed the Draft Guidelines being developed by the Codex Committee on Processed Meat and Poultry Products. The Committee had recommended that these Guidelines should be reviewed by that Committee in the light of the General Guidelines for the Utilization of Vegetable Protein Products in Foods, in order to prevent the introduction of inconsistencies. The Commission concurred with the conclusion of the Committee.

Future Programme of Work

494. The Commission noted that the Committee had sufficient future work and also noted that the conclusions of the Committee that there was no need for the elaboration of a standard for potato protein and soya-based beverages.

Confirmation of Chairmanship

495. 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.

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

496. The Report of the 21st Session of the Joint FAO/WHO Committee of Government Experts on the Code of Principles Concerning Milk and Milk Products (CX 5/70 - 21st Session) was introduced by one of the Vice-Chairmen of the Committee, Mr. G.A. Bastin (Federal Republic of Germany), who gave an outline of the main achievement of the 21st Session of the Committee.

497. The Committee had embarked upon the elaboration of Group Standards for Cheeses in brine, which because of their keeping quality under adverse conditions were of special interest to developing countries. In addition it had undertaken work on the elaboration of a standard for low fat dairy spreads, fresh casein and whey powder. The Committee was also revising standard No. A-2 Milk Fat Products including ghee which was of considerable interest to developing countries.

498. The Committee had agreed to elaborate a Code of Practice on Raw Milk Preservation using the Lactoperoxidase System, which could be used for preservation of raw milk and which could prove useful especially to the developing countries in the early stage of development of a dairy industry. The Commission noted that the first draft of the Code of Practice would soon be finalized and sent to governments for comments.

499. The Committee agreed that it should not concern itself with elaboration of Guidelines for the Use of Milk Proteins in Non-Milk Products, however, it declared itself willing to assist other committees in the preparation of such guidelines, if needed. The Committee adopted a definition for Milk Protein Products (para 120) to meet the requirements of the Codex Committee on Processed Meat and Poultry Products, which is presently elaborating guidelines for the use of Vegetable Protein Products and Milk Protein Products in Processed Meat and Poultry Products.

500. On the subject of methods of sampling and methods of analysis, the Committee had received a report from representatives of IDF/ISO/AOAC on their work done in this field. The Committee had been impressed with the excellent work carried out by these organizations in the field of analysis and sampling and noted that the tripartite cooperation between the organizations, which had been initiated some 20 years ago had become a model of cooperation. The Commission noted that the numerous methods agreed on at the Session might shortly be published.

501. The delegation of Egypt stated that in its country, for all standards concerning milk products, a complete list of ingredients must be declared; the country of manufacture must be stated; and for non-retail containers the date of manufacture and the period of minimum durability must be stated.

502. The Commission noted that the Committee stressed the need to pay attention to health considerations (e.g., contamination by toxic residues) relating to milk and milk products, and

noted especially that the recent accident involving a nuclear power plant had demonstrated the lack of an agreed approach to dealing with scientific and health aspects of radioactive contamination of food. The Committee recommended that FAO, WHO and Codex should give consideration to dealing with the contamination of food with radionuclides.

503. The Commission noted that the Milk Committee had its own procedures for elaboration of standards/codes of practice and was autonomous as regards their adoption. It noted the technical comments of the various delegations on the programmes of work of the Milk Committee and asked the Secretariat to transmit them directly to the Committee.

Matters Arising from the Report of the 21st Session of the Committee Working arrangements to facilitate and expedite work decided upon by the Committee in between the Committee's Sessions:

504. The Commission noted that at its 16th Session it had decided that the Milk Committee need not adjourn sine die but that it could meet no more frequently than once every second FAO financial biennium should, in the opinion of the Commission, such a session be warranted (ALINORM 85/47, paras 139–144).

505. The Milk Committee at its 21st Session agreed that there was a need to provide for a mechanism to facilitate and expedite work decided upon by the Committee in between the Committee's sessions. It therefore agreed to establish a Steering Group consisting of the Chairman, the two Vice-Chairmen and the Secretariat for this purpose. It also recommended that the Steering Group meet on an annual basis.

506. The Terms of Reference of the Steering Group were defined as follows:

- a. To arrange for the execution and follow-up of the work decided upon by the Milk Committee, including reviewing of comments and developing an appropriate response; and
- b. To coordinate the development of documents and to ensure their distribution involving the Milk Committee, other Codex Committees concerned and the IDF.

507. The Commission endorsed the mechanism suggested by the Milk Committee to expedite its work in between the Committee's sessions on the understanding that it should not result in additional costs to the Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme.

REPORT ON THE OUTCOME OF A MEETING CONVENED BY THE INTERNATIONAL OLIVE OIL COUNCIL (IOOC) TO CONSIDER AMENDMENTS PROPOSED TO THE CODEX STANDARD FOR TABLE OLIVES

Consideration at Step 8 of Draft Revised Text of Codex Standard for Table Olives (ALINORM 87/28, Appendix I)

508. The Commission had before it the above Report as contained in ALINORM 87/28 and the revised text of the Codex Standard for Table Olives (CODEX STAN 66-1981) in Appendix I. A Corrigendum had been issued to align the editorial differences in the different language versions and to clarify the status of the defect tables and quality classification which form an Appendix to the above Standard.

509. The paper was introduced by Mrs. B. Pajuelo, the Representative of the IOOC. Mrs. Pajuelo recalled that the 15th Session of the Commission had decided on amending the Standard for Table Olives to bring it into line with the IOOC trade standard. The IOOC had kindly agreed to carry out the revision of the Codex Standard through special meetings with representatives of Codex member countries under Codex procedures.

510. The 54th Session of the International Olive Oil Council which had met in April 1986 had advanced the revised Standard to Step 8 of the Procedure after full consideration by the Third Special Meeting of the IOOC Expert Committee on Table Olives with representatives of Codex member countries. Mrs. Pajuelo informed the Commission that the sections on food additives, contaminants, hygiene, labelling and methods of analysis and sampling had been endorsed by the respective committees with the exception of very few provisions which would not be included in the final standard in accordance with Codex customs. The Representative of IOOC requested the Commission to adopt the revised Standard at Step 8 of the Procedure.

511. The delegation of Argentina presented written comments concerning a number of provisions which were in conflict because of their complexity and indicated that it considered the Standard to be excessively detailed especially concerning presentation and the defect tables, furthermore, ferrous lactate and the flavour enhancers were not authorized in Argentina.

Status of the Standard

512. The Commission adopted at Step 8 the Revised Text of the Codex Standard for Table Olives. The Commission expressed its appreciation for the excellent work done by the International Olive Oil Council in assisting the Commission to harmonize Codex standards with the standards developed by bodies dealing with specific commodities.

CODEx COMMITTEE ON SUGARS

Progress Report on Methods of Analysis and Sampling and on Contaminants in Codex Standards for Sugars

513. The Commission had before it the above progress report as contained in ALINORM 87/27 and additional information on lead limits in Codex standards for sugars arising from the 17th Session of the Codex Committee on Food Additives (LIM 24). Mr. Charles Cockbill of the United Kingdom introduced the progress report which had been prepared by the UK Secretariat of the Committee. The Committee on Sugars had adjourned sine die in 1974 and work on several matters was continuing by correspondence.

514. Mr. Cockbill pointed out that a revised paper on methods of analysis for sugars was being prepared and would be distributed to governments for comments. The paper and the comments would be submitted to the next session of the Codex Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling for endorsement. He indicated that if the latter Committee also suggested the revision of sampling procedures in sugar standards, the UK Secretariat would prepare the necessary paper.

515. Part B of ALINORM 87/27 concerning lead levels in sugar referred to the work undertaken by the Codex Committee on Food Additives on lead levels in sugars. The Commission noted that the levels included in the existing standards had been endorsed temporarily. The revised, reduced lead levels proposed by the Committee on Food Additives had also been endorsed temporarily. It was noted that agreement was needed on a suitable method which would permit the detection of very small amounts of lead in sugars. The Commission was also informed that provisional levels for lead had been established by JECFA on a temporary basis.

516. The Commission decided that the UK Secretariat should initiate the amendment procedure to include the revised lead levels in the standards for sugars since lead levels in sugars were considered to have public health implications. It was expected that by the time the amendment had progressed appropriate methodology would be available for inclusion in the standards concerned.

517. The Commission was informed that the UK Secretariat in cooperation with the Codex Secretariat would start the revision of the labelling provisions in Codex standards shortly, according to the procedure confirmed earlier during this session.

518. Mr. Cockbill confirmed that in accordance with the decisions of the Commission to elaborate a world-wide standard for sugars the United Kingdom had retained the view that this matter is appropriate for the Committee on Sugars. Even though the elaboration of Steps 1, 2 and 3 for this Standard will be carried by the Coordinating Committee for Latin America and the Caribbean, the Committee on Sugars would be handling the elaboration of the Standard from Step 4 onward as decided on in Item 27.

519. The Observer of ISO informed the Commission that ISO/TC 93 on Starch Hydrolysis Products would organize a meeting soon and offered its cooperation in the field of methods of analysis for starch hydrolysis products.

520. The delegation of India indicated that problems had arisen from the presence of iron filings in sugars and, in particular, imported products. It pointed out that this was a public health problem to which attention should be given by the Committee. The Commission noted that this problem might be of a general nature and in order to determine in which subsidiary body it could be considered the delegation of India was invited to provide detailed information to the Codex Secretariat.

Confirmation of Chairmanship of the Committee

521. The Commission confirmed under Rule IX.10 that the Codex Committee on Sugars should continue to be under the Chairmanship of the United Kingdom.

CODEX COMMITTEE ON PROCESSED MEAT AND POULTRY PRODUCTS

522. The Commission confirmed, under Rule IX.10, that the Codex Committee on Processed Meat and Poultry Products should continue under the Chairmanship of Denmark.

CODEX COMMITTEE ON MEAT HYGIENE

Confirmation of Chairmanship of the Committee

523. The Commission confirmed, under Rule IX.10, that the Codex Committee on Meat Hygiene should continue under the Chairmanship of New Zealand. It noted that the Committee remained adjourned sine die.

524. The delegation of the U.S.A. noted that changes in practices applied to meat inspection and hygiene may require that the Committee be convened in the near future.

CODEX COMMITTEE ON COCOA PRODUCTS AND CHOCOLATE

525. The Commission was informed by the delegation of Switzerland that the International Office of Cocoa, Chocolate and Sugar confectionery was planning to review its standard methods of analysis included in certain Codex Standards. The International Office would liaise with the Secretariat of the Committee so that a review of the Codex Standards for Cocoa Products and Chocolate could be carried out with respect to methods of analysis.

Confirmation of Chairmanship of the Committee

526. The Commission confirmed under Rule IX.10 that the Codex Committee on Cocoa Products and Chocolate should continue under the Chairmanship of Switzerland. It noted that the Committee remained adjourned sine die.

CODEX COMMITTEE FOR SOUPS AND BROTHS

Standard for Bouillons and Consommés (Codex STAN 117-1981)

527. The Commission noted that the following methods of analysis included in the standard had been endorsed by the Fifteenth Session of the Codex Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling:-

- 9.2 Determination of Creatinine
- 9.3 Determination of Total Nitrogen
- 9.4 Determination of Amino Nitrogen

528. The Commission adopted the above methods and instructed the Secretariat to issue an amendment to the standard published in Volume IV of the Codex Alimentarius.

Confirmation of Chairmanship of the Committee

529. The Commission confirmed under Rule IX.10 that the Codex Committee on Soups and Broths should continue under the Chairmanship of Switzerland. It noted that the Committee remained adjourned sine die.

CODEX COMMITTEE ON EDIBLE ICES

Confirmation of Chairmanship of the Committee

530. The Commission confirmed under Rule IX.10 that the Codex Committee on Edible Ices should continue under the Chairmanship of Sweden. It noted that the Committee remained adjourned sine die.

CODEX COMMITTEE ON NATURAL MINERAL WATERS

Confirmation of Chairmanship of the Committee

531. The Commission confirmed under Rule IX.10 that the Codex Committee on Natural Mineral Waters should continue under the Chairmanship of Switzerland. It noted that the Committee remained adjourned sine die.

FUTURE WORK

532. Delegations raised the following proposals for future work:

- elaboration of standards for tea, coffee, spices and condiments such as vanilla and pepper (Indonesia)
- studies of the impact of food additives and contaminants on different under-nourished groups in the population (Egypt)
- examination of the use of organic bromides used as fumigants (India)
- elaboration of standards for alcoholic beverages and wines (Tanzania)
- standardization of iodine content in iodized salt (India)
- impact of standards for infant formula and nutritional standards for infant feeding (Kuwait)
- exchange of information on the practical application, control and enforcement of Codex standards (Sweden)
- control of products rejected by one country but offered for import into another country (Indonesia)
- harmonization of provisions for certification of foods moving in trade (Norway)
- development of procedures for the formal adoption, by the Commission, of the reports of its subsidiary bodies (Norway, United Kingdom).

533. Referring to the proposal to elaborate standards for tea, coffee, spices and condiments, the Commission noted the work of ISO in this area and that ISO Standard 3720 "Black Tea - Specifications" had been considered by both the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and the FAO Inter-governmental Group on Tea.

534. The Commission referred the matter of nutritional status in relation to toxicological studies of food additives and contaminants to FAO and WHO for consideration by the appropriate expert groups. It also referred the matter of organic bromides to the Codex Committee on Pesticide Residues; and the subject of iodine in iodized salt and questions relating to infant feeding to the Codex Committee on Nutrition and Foods for Special Dietary Uses.

535. Several delegations reiterated points made during the discussion by the Eighth Session of the Committee on General Principles on the advisability of elaborating standards for alcoholic beverages and, noting the problems associated with elaborating standards for such a diverse range of products, the Commission confirmed the view of the Committee that such products should not be the subject of standards elaborated by the Commission.

536. The Commission encouraged Regional Coordinating Committees to continue to act as focal points on exchange of information concerning the practical application, control and enforcement of Codex standards through effective national food control systems, and noted the work of FAO and WHO which supported such programmes at the national level.

537. The Commission concluded that questions relating to trade documentation were best handled by other responsible agencies such as the Customs Cooperation Council, the Customs Union, and the Committee on the Development of Trade of the UNECE.

538. Referring to the proposal for the development of procedures for the formal adoption of reports, the Commission noted the views of the delegations of Cuba and the Federal Republic of Germany that such a practice could lead to difficulties in the preparation of reports and would tend to restrict the inclusion of valuable technical information. It would also create an anomalous situation when the Commission might be asked to adopt texts which were not yet considered suitable for adoption by the subsidiary body. There seemed to be scope to extend the current information document on "Matters of Interest" (see for example ALINORM 87/21) to take such considerations into account. The Commission agreed to refer this matter to the Executive Committee for general consideration.

PROVISIONAL TIMETABLE OF CODEX SESSIONS FOR 1988-89

539. The Commission had before it document ALINORM 87/45 containing the provisional timetable for 1988/89. It noted that in addition to the meetings in this period the second session of the Codex Committee on Residues of Veterinary Drugs in Foods would be held in Washington, D.C. from 30 November to 4 December 1987.

540. The Commission was informed that:

- the Sixth Session of the Coordinating Committee for Asia would be held at Denpasar, Bali, 26 January to 1 February 1988;
- the Twentieth Session of the Codex Committee on Food Additives would be held in The Hague, 4 – 12 March 1988;
- the Eighteenth Session of the Codex Committee on Fish and Fishery Products would be held at Bergen, 2 – 6 May 1988;
- the Twenty-First Session of the Codex Committee on Pesticide Residues would be held in The Hague, 10–17 April 1989.

541. The delegations of Australia and New Zealand requested the Secretariat and the host governments of the Committees on Food Additives, Food Labelling and Food Hygiene to see what could be done to hold sessions of these Committees in consecutive weeks wherever possible so as to minimize costs of participation of delegations from this distant region.

542. The delegation of Mexico stated that it would hold discussions with the Secretariat to hold the First Session of the Codex Committee on Fresh Tropical Fruits and Vegetables in early 1988.

543. The delegation of Australia, noting the importance of the subjects referred to the Committee on General Principles for its consideration, proposed that the Ninth Session of the Committee should be held in advance of the Thirty-Fifth Session of the Executive Committee.

544. Several delegations, drawing attention to the problems of holding sessions of the Commission in July, especially when the session was held in Rome, proposed that forthcoming sessions be held in the period September/November. The Secretariat agreed to take this into account when planning for the 1990/91 biennium.

OTHER BUSINESS

545. None.

VALEDICTION

546. The Commission recorded its sincere appreciation to the Chairman, Mr. E. Kimbrell, for his strong personal contribution to the work of the Commission during his tenure of office as Chairman, and for his guidance in a period in which the Commission had decided to change the direction of its programme of work. It also extended its sincere condolences to Mr. Kimbrell for the sad death of a member of his close family which required him to be absent for the latter part of the Session.

547. The Commission also recorded its sincere appreciation to two former members of the Joint FAO/WHO Secretariat who had recently retired; Mr. H.J. McNally, former FAO Joint Secretary to the Commission, and Mr. J. Hutchinson. Both had held positions of senior responsibility and had provided valuable guidance to the Commission and its subsidiary bodies over many years. The Commission wished them well in their future activities.

548. The Commission also expressed its appreciation of the work of Dr. E. Mendez, who as Vice-Chairman of the Commission had taken responsibility for a major part of the Session at short notice when, for family reasons, the Chairman was absent.

APPENDICES

APPENDIX I

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS*

LISTE DES PARTICIPANTS

LISTA DE PARTICIPANTES

CHAIRMAN

PRESIDENT

PRESIDENTE

Mr. E.F. KIMBRELL
Deputy Administrator
Agricultural Marketing Service
United States Department of Agriculture
Washington, D.C. 20250

* The heads of delegations are listed first; alternates, advisers and consultants are listed in alphabetical order

Les chefs de délégation 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.

MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION

MEMBRES DE LA COMMISSION

MIEMBROS DE LA COMISION

ALGERIA

ALGERIE

ARGELIA

Mostefa ALEM
Sous-Directeur de la Réglementation
Ministère du Commerce
44 Boulevard Belouizdad
Alger, Algérie

Ferhat MEKIDECHE
Chef de Bureau
Ministère du Commerce
44 Boulevard Belouizdad
Alger, Algérie

ARGENTINA
ARGENTINE

A.M. SANCHEZ
Coordinador General Codex
Secretaria Comercio Exterior
Avda. Julio A. Roca 651 (5o Piso 13)
Buenos Aires
Argentina

D.F. MARSICO
Ministro Consejero Agricola
Embajada Argentina
Via Margutta 1-A, Roma

AUSTRALIA
AUSTRALIE

B.A. SCHICK
Senior Assistant Director
Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service
Department of Primary Industry
Broughton Street
Barton ACT 2600, Australia

W.A. LANGSFORD
Regional Medical Director
Department of Health
Australian Embassy
Paris, France

G.J. MURPHY
Assistant Secretary
Food and Environment Protection Branch
Commonwealth Dept. of Health
P.O. Box 100, Woden ACT 2606
Australia

AUSTRIA
AUTRICHE

W. STEIGER
Director
Federal Chancellery
Radetzkyst.2
A-1030 Vienna, Austria

N. KINZEL
Permanent Representative
Via dei Colli della Farnesina 78
00194 Rome, Italy

H. NEUKIRCHEN
Genussmittelindustrie
1030 Wien
Zaunerg 1-3, Austria

R. WILDNER
Fachverband der Nahrungs-und Genussmittelindustrie
Elisabethstr. 1
A-1010 Wien, Austria

H. WOIDICH
Lebensmittelversuchsanstalt
Blaasstrasse 29
A 1190 Wien, Austria

Mrs Hedwig WOGERBAUER
Councillor
Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry
Stubenring 1
A-1010 Wien, Austria

BELGIUM

BELGIQUE
BELGICA

C. CREMER
Inspecteur Chef de Service
Ministère de la Santé Publique
Inspection des denrées alimentaires
Cité Administrative de l'Etat

Quartier Vésale
1010 Bruxelles, Belgium

P. BALDUCK
Director Reglementation Alimentaire
FIA
Av. Cortenbergh 172
B-1040 Bruxelles, Belgique

T. BIEBAUT
Conseiller-Adjoint
Ministère des Affaires Economiques
Rue du Commerce 44
1040 Bruxelles, Belgique

M. FONDU
Co-Director
Food Law Research Center
Institute of European Affairs
Free University of Brussels
39 Franklin Roosevelt Lane
B1050 Brussels, Belgium

G. KAYAERT
Technical Adviser
N.V. Jacky
Fabrieksstraat 39
B9350 Dendermonde-Baasrode
Belgium

G. YSEBAERT
Ingénieur
Ministère de l'Agriculture
Av. du Boulevard 21
1210 Bruxelles, Belgique

BRAZIL

BRESIL

BRASIL

J.A. MEDICIS
Ambassador
Permanent Representative to FAO
Ministry of External Relations

32 Via Santa Maria dell'Anima
Rome, Italy

F. BEZERRA DA SILVA
Coordenador/Codex/MA
Ministerio da Agricultura
Secretaria Nacional de Defesa Agropecuária - SNAD
Brasilia/DF-CEP 70043
Brasil

L. BICK
Brazilian Confederation of Industries
Technical Director
ABIA - Brazilian Food Manufacturers Association
Avenida Brigadeiro
Faria Lima 2003, 11o
CEP 01451, São Paulo
Brazil

Sra M.M. BORGES
Engo. Agronomo
Ministerio Agricultura
Brasilia DF, Brazil

P. FERNANDEZ
ABIA - Brazilian Food Manufacturers Association
Avenida Brigadeiro
Faria Lima 2003, 11o
CEP 01451, São Paulo
Brazil

C.A. FERREIRA-GUIMARAES
Department for International Agencies
Ministry of External Relations
Brasilia, Brazil

M. GARCIA
Foreign Trade Advisor
Departamento de Productos Agropecuários
Banco do Brasil Carteira de Comercio Exterior
Praça Pio X, 54
Brazil

M. KILLNER
ABIA - Brazilian Food Manufacturers Association

Avenida Brigadeiro
Faria Lima 2003, 11o
CEP 01451, São Paulo
Brazil

I. KIPMAN
Alternate Permanent Representative of Brazil to FAO
Via de Santa Maria dell'Anima 32
Rome, Italy

Sra M. MATOSSIAN
Coordinateure du Comite de Coordination Bresilienne du Codex Alimentarius
Ministère de l'Industrie et du Commerce
Pça. Mauá 7/13 piso
INMETRO
Rio de Janeiro - RJ
Brazil

C.A.C. MENEZES
ABIA - Brazilian Food Manufacturers Association
Avenida Brigadeiro
Faria Lima 2003, 11o
CEP 01451, São Paulo
Brazil

Sra F.M. de MENEZES
Economista
Brasilia DF, Brazil

R.H. MORETTI
Advisor
ABIA - Brazilian Food Manufacturers Association
Avenida Brigadeiro
Faria Lima 2003, 11o
CEP 01451, São Paulo
Brazil

G. NAZARIO
Advisor
Ministry of Health - DINAL
Brasilia DF, Brazil

CAMEROON
CAMEROUN
CAMERUN

B. MBOUNDJA MISSE
Inspecteur de Commercialisation
Ministère du Commerce et Industrie
ONCPB BP 378 Douala
Cameroun

CANADA

B.L. SMITH
Chief, Food Regulatory Affairs
Health Protection Branch Canada
Tunneys Pasture
Ottawa, Canada

R.H. MCKAY (Chairman CCFL)
Director, Consumer Products Branch
Dept. of Consumer and Corporate Affairs
Place du Portage
Hull, Quebec
Canada K1A 0C9

G.H. MUSGROVE
Permanent Representative to FAO
Canadian Embassy
Via Zara 30
00198 Rome, Italy

C. RANDALL
Assistant Director L.S.D.
Agriculture Canada
Bldg. 22 CEF
Ottawa, Ontario
Canada K1A 0C6

N.W. TAPE (Chairman CCVP)
Director
Food Research Centre
Agriculture Canada
Ottawa, Canada

CAPE VERDE
CAP-VERT
CABO VERDE

A. PIRES
Ambassadeur du Cap-Vert auprès de la FAO
Viale Algeria 85
00144 Rome, Italy

A. SPENCER LOPES
Conseiller
Viale Algeria 85
00144 Rome, Italy

CHILE
CHILI

G. CARRASCO
Representante Permanente de Chile
Via Nazionale 54
Rome, Italy

CHINA
CHINE

X. KAN
Deputy Director
Department of Health and Epidemic Prevention
Ministry of Public Health
Beijing
People's Republic of China

Z.Y. CHENG
Division Chief
Ministry of Commerce
P.R.C. Beijing
People's Republic of China

Y. DAI
Director, Institute of Food Safety Control and Inspection
Ministry of Public Health
29 Nan-Wei Road
Beijing
People's Republic of China

W.K. HUANG
Senior Engineer
Bureau of Commodity Inspection of Shanghai
People's Republic of China

H. SHI
Chief Engineer
Chemical Industry Ministry
Beijing
People's Republic of China

J.F. SONG
Division Chief
Ministry of Agriculture
Beijing
People's Republic of China

Mrs. J.S. ZUO
Senior Engineer
Ministry of Light Industry
175 Ping Wu Road
Shanghai
People's Republic of China

COLOMBIA
COLOMBIE

Sra. O.C. FERNANDEZ
Primer Secretario
Embajada de Colombia
Viale G. Pisanelli 4
Roma, Italia

COSTA RICA

C. DI MOTTOLA
Embajador
Representante Permanente
Via Siacci 2B
Roma, Italia

Sra. Y. GAGO
Representante Alterno
Via Siacci 2B
Roma, Italia

F. MORA
Delegado Alterno 1
Via Germanico 107
Roma, Italia

COTE D'IVOIRE

D. TOURE

Ingenieur Agronome

Comité national pour l'alimentation et le développement

B.P. V190 Abidjan

Côte d'Ivoire

CUBA

R. DARIAS RODES

Ministro

Comité Estatal de Normalización

Egido No. 610 entre Gloria y Apodaca

Habana 1, Cuba

J. ACOSTA ALEMANY

Director Relaciones Internacionales

Comité Estatal de Normalización

Egido No 610 entre Gloria y Apodaca

Habana 1, Cuba

Leopoldo ARIZA HIDALGO

Embajador

Misión Permanente de Cuba ante FAO

Via Licinia 7

Roma, Italia

Sra. M. INZAULGARAT GARCIA

20 Secretario

Representante Perm. Alterno

Misión Permanente de Cuba ante FAO

Via Licinia 13-A

Rome, Italia

Gabriel LAHENS ESPINOSA

Ingeniero

Ministerio de Comercio Exterior

Infanta Nr. 16, esq. 23

Habana, Cuba

Sra. M.E. LINARES FONTS

J'Dpto. Normalización

Ministerio de la Industria Pesquera

Barlovento, Santa Fé, Playa
Habana, Cuba

A. MARRERO-TERRERO
Head, International Organization Dept.
Comité Estatal de Normalización
Egido No. 610 entre Gloria y Apodaca
Habana 1, Cuba

CZECHOSLOVAKIA
TCHECOSLOVAQUIE
CHECOSLOVAQUIA

A SZABO
Head of Section
Foreign Department
Ministry of Agriculture and Food
Tesnov 17
Prague 1, Czechoslovakia

J. BUCHTOVA
Head of Section
Ministry of Agriculture and Food
Tesnov 17
Prague 1, Czechoslovakia

DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF KOREA
REPUBLIQUE POPULAIRE DEMOCRATIQUE DE COREE
REPUBLICA POPULAR DEMOCRATICA DE COREA

HAN GYU OUN
Foodstuff Institute
P.O. Box 901 - Ryong Buk II Dong
Pyongyang (Dae Suong Ott.)
Democratic People's Rep. of Korea

CHO OYN OEN
Foodstuff Institute
P.O. Box 901 - Ryong Buk II Dong
Pyongyang (Dae Suong Ott.)
Democratic People's Rep. of Korea

CHA CHOL MA
Attaché of the Permanent Representation of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to
FAO

Viale Libano 28
00144 Rome, Italy

DENMARK

DANEMARK

DINAMARCA

Mrs. Inga GALAMBA
Head of Section
Ministry of Agriculture
Copenhagen, Denmark

Mrs. A. BUSK-JENSEN
Deputy Director
Federation of Danish Industries
H.C. Andersens B. 18
DK-1596 Copenhagen V
Denmark

H. FEILBERG
Senior Principal
Ministry of Agriculture
Christians Brugge 12A
DK-1219 Copenhagen K
Denmark

J. FREDSTED
Head of Division
National Food Agency
Moerkhoej Bygade 19
2860 Soeborg, Denmark

K. HAANING
Senior Veterinary Officer
Veterinary Services Laboratory
Kongensgade 16
Postbox 93
DK-4100 Ringsted, Denmark

Ms. Ulla HANSEN
Scientific Officer
National Food Agency
Mørkhøj Bygade 19
DK- 2860 Søborg, Denmark

Poul Fr. JENSEN
Director
Fish Inspection Service
Ministry of Fisheries
Dronningens Tvaergade 21
P. O. Box 9050
DK-1022 Copenhagen K
Denmark

Ms. Laila LUNDBY
Food Scientist
Danish Dairy Board
Frederiksallé 22
8000 Århus C, Denmark

Peter MADSEN
Head of Division
Federation of Danish Industries
H.C. Andersens Boulevard 18
DK 1596 Copenhagen K
Denmark

Lars POULSEN
Principal
Ministry of Fisheries
Stormgade 2, 1470
Copenhagen, DK-Denmark

Bente STAERK
Head of Section
Danish Meat Products Laboratory
Ministry of Agriculture
Howitzvej 13
2000 Frederiksberg, Denmark

ECUADOR
EQUATEUR

Raul E. PAZ
Ing. Químico
Escuela Superior Politécnica
Rocafuerte y Soja
Ecuador

EGYPT
EGYPTE
EGIPTO

TAWFIC ZAGLOOL MORAD ABALLA
Chairman, Tanta Oil & Soap Co.
P.O.B. 15 (and 13 Elsalam Street)
Tanta, Egypt

Gamal El Din GHALI
Chairman Arab Medical Packing
Ministry of Health
P.O.B. 137
Quba Garden
Cairo, Egypt

Hamed ROUSHDY EL KADY
President, Atomic Energy Authority
Ministry of Energy
101 Kasr El Eini St.
Cairo, Egypt

Hassa Khamis SOLIMAN
Director General
Alex. Oil and Soap Co.
Ministry of Industry
P.O. Box 402
Alexandria, Egypt

FINLAND
FINLANDE
FINLANDIA

Juhani PAAKKANEN
Chief Inspector
Ministry of Trade and Industry
Aleksanterinkatu 10
00170 Helsinki, Finland

Mrs Anna-Liisa KOSKINEN
Chief of Food Division
National Board of Trade and Consumer Interests
Box 5
00531 Helsinki, Finland

Jorma KUMPULAINEN
Laboratory Director
Finnish Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry
ARC, Central Lab.
31600 Jokioinen, Finland

Pekka PAKKALA
Senior Health Officer
National Board of Health
Box 220
Helsinki 53, Finland

Erkki PETÄJÄ
Customs Counsellor
Board of Customs
Erottajank 2
00100 Helsinki 10
Finland

Mrs. Pirkko M. RAUNEMAA
Head of Department of Consumer Affairs
National Board of Trade and Consumer Interests
Box 5
00531 Helsinki, Finland

Kalevi SALMINEN
Head of the Division of Food Hygiene
Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry
Box 232
00171 Helsinki, Finland

Vesa TUOMAALA
Secretary General
Codex Alimentarius Committee of Finland
Box 5
00531 Helsinki, Finland

FRANCE
FRANCIA

Jean-Jacques BERNIER
Président Comité Français Codex Alimentarius
Ministère de l'Economie et Finances
13 Rue St. Georges
Paris IX, France

Mme Nicole BÉCARUD
Chef du service Scientifique et Technique
Association nationale des Industries agro-alimentaires (ANIA)
52 rue du Faubourg Saint-Honoré
75008 Paris, France

Paul BOEDA
Inspecteur Général sous Directeur
Direction Générale de la Concurrence, de la Consommation et de la Repression des Fraudes
Ministère de l'Economie et Finances
13 Rue St. Georges
Paris 9e, France

Mrs Catherine BOUVIER
Vétérinaire Inspecteur en chef
Ministère de l'Agriculture
175 Rue du Chevaleret
75 013 Paris, France

Mme Dominique BUREL
Chef du Service technique
Fédération nationale des Coopératives laitières (FNCL)
34 rue Godot de Mauroy
75009 Paris, France

Félix DEPLEDT
Institut national de la Consommation
80 rue Lecourbe
75732 Paris Cedex 15, France

Mme Claudine JORANT
Secrétaire générale
Syndicat national de l'industrie de la viande (SNIV)
186 Bourse du Commerce
2 rue de Viarme
75040 Paris Cedex 01, France

Jean-Paul LEBONDIDIER
Délégué du Syndicat des Fabricants de Produits surgelés
3 rue de Logelbach
75847 Paris, France

Jean-Pierre MARESCHI
Directeur Relations Scientifiques Administratives
BSN

7, Rue de Téhéran
75008 Paris, France

Jean-Yves MARTIN
Direction Générale de la Concurrence, de la Consommation et de la repression des fraudes
Ministère de l'Economie et Finances
13 rue St. Georges
75009 Paris, France

Etienne NOUAT
Ingénieur, AFNOR
Tour Europe Cedex 7
92080 Paris la Défense, France

Guy PICLET
Chercheur Directeur
Station-Institut Français de Recherches et d'Exploitation de la Mer
Secrétariat d'Etat à la Mer
13 rue du Roudouic
29110 Concarneau, France

Jean Pierre POLY
Représentation Permanente de la France
52 Corso Rinascimento
Rome, Italie

Jean-Blaise ROCHETTE DE LEMPDES
Directeur de la Recherche
Société Diététique Gallia
52/58 Avenue Maréchal Joffre
92000 Nanterre, France

F. SAINT-GUILHEM
SOPAD Nestlé
17-19 Quai du Président Paul Doumer
92400 Courbevoie, France

Mlle Michèle STERVINO
Direction générale de la Santé
Ministère de la Santé
PGE/1D, 1 Place de Fontenoy
75700 Paris, France

Pierre-Marie VINCENT
Food Legislative Manager

Roquette Frères
62136 LESTREM, France

GABON

Mme Germaine AVORE-OYONO
Conseiller technique
Ministère de la Santé publique et de la Population
B.P. 50 Libreville, Gabon

Jean Pierre NGOUA
Secrétaire principal chargé du Comité national gabonais du Codex Alimentarius
Ministère de l'Agriculture, de l'Elevage et de l'Economie rurale
Commission nationale gabonaise de la FAO
B.P. 551 Libreville, Gabon

GERMANY, FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF ALLEMAGNE, REPUBLIQUE FEDERALE D'
ALEMANIA, REPUBLICA FEDERAL DE

Dieter ECKERT
Ministerialdirigent
Ministerium für Jugend, Familie, Frauen und Gesundheit
Kennedy-Allee
D-5300 Bonn 2
Federal Republic of Germany

Gustav A. BASTIN
Ministerialrat
Ministerium für Ernährung, Landwirtschaft und Forsten
Bonn 1
Federal Republic of Germany

Friedrich FREDE
Geschäfts Führer
Bundesverband der diätetischen lebensmittelindustrie
Kelkheimer Strasse 10
638 Bad Homburg
Federal Republic of Germany

W. HÖLZEL
Regierungsdirektor
Bundesministerium für Jugend, Familie, Frauen und Gesundheit
Kennedy-Allee
D-5300 Bonn 2
Federal Republic of Germany

Günter PAHLKE
Director and Professor
Federal Health Office of the Federal Republic of Germany
P.O.B. 330013
D-1000 Berlin 33
Federal Republic of Germany

Arpad SOMOGYI
Director, Department of Drugs, Animal Nutrition and Residue Research
Federal Office of Health
Nordrufer 20
D-1000 Berlin 65
Federal Republic of Germany

Mrs Elisabeth TEGGE
Regierungsdirektorin
Bundesministerium für Ernährung, Landwirtschaft und Forsten
Rochusstrasse 1
Bonn, Federal Republic of Germany

H.B. TOLKMITT
Schwanenwik 33
D-2000 Hamburg 76
Federal Republic of Germany

GHANA

Mrs Kate ABANKWA
Minister Counsellor, Chargé d'Affaires
Ghana Embassy
Via Ostriana 4
00199 Rome, Italy

GREECE

GRECE

GRECIA

Mrs I. LAGOYDAKI-CHATIPI
General Chemical State Laboratory
Ministry of Finance
Tsoha 16
115 22 Athens, Greece

Mrs. Penelope MANOLITSAKIS BATZIA
Agronomist

Permanent Representation to FAO
Viale Liegi 33
00198 Rome, Italy

HUNGARY
HONGRIE
HUNGRIA

Kálmán SÜTÖ
President
Hungarian National Codex Committee
Hungarian Office for Standardization
Budapest IX
Üllői u. 25
1091 Hungary

Zoltan KALMAN
Assistant to the Permanent Representative
Via Luigi Lilio, 59 c/3
00143 Rome, Italy

I. OLÁH
Head of Department for Agriculture and Food Industry
Hungarian Office for Standardization
Budapest IX.
Ülloi út. 25 - 1091
Hungary

INDIA
INDE
INDIA

S.V. SUBRAMANIYAN
Joint Secretary
Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
Ministry of Health
Nirman Bhawan
New Delhi 110011, India

J.C. JAISANI
Assistant Director General
Directorate General of Health Services
Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
Nirman Bhawan
New Delhi 110011, India

V.K. SIBAL
Deputy Permanent Representative of India to FAO
Indian Embassy
Rome, Italy

INDONESIA
INDONESIE

Wisnu KATIM
Director of Food Control
Ministry of Health
J.L. Percetakan Negara I
Jakarta - Indonesia

Amir BASIR
Assistant Director General, FDA
Department of Health
Pl. Kimia Farms
Budi Utomo I
Jakarta, Indonesia

Midian SIRAIT
Director General for Food and Drugs
Ministry of Health
Jakarta, Indonesia

Florentinus WINARNO
Coordinator
Codex Alimentarius Coordinating Committee for Asia
Adviser to The Junior Minister of Food Crop
P.O. Box. 61
Bogor, Indonesia

IRELAND
IRLANDE
IRLANDA

Thomas M. O'Toole
Food Scientist
Department of Agriculture and Food
Kildare Street
Dublin 2, Ireland

ISRAEL
ISRAEL

Reuven KNOBIL
Secretary of Israel Codex Committee
Ministry of Industry and Trade
P.O.B. 299
65789 Jerusalem, Israel

ITALY
ITALIE
ITALIA

Riccardo MONACELLI
Chemist
Soc. Ital. Scienza Alimentazione
Via Tiberio Imperatore 65
00145 Roma, Italia

Paolo AURELI
Dirigente ricerca
Istituto Superiore Sanità
Viale Regina Elena 299
00161 Roma, Italia

Sig. ra Rosa BARRA BERNARDINO
Ministero dell'Agricoltura e
delle Foreste
Via XX Settembre 20
00187 Roma, Italia

Sig.ra Adriana BOCCA
Ricercatore
Istituto Superiore Sanità
Viale R. Elena 299
00161 Roma, Italia

Valerio BORDONI
Via P. Verri 8
Milano, Italia

Ottavio CAGIANO DE AZEVEDO
Secrétaire général
Comité permanent italien vinaigrière
Via Mentana 2/B
00185 Roma, Italia

Cesare CALVANI
Segretario
Comitato Nazionale Italino Codex
Ministero dell'Agricoltura e delle Foreste
Via Sallustiana 10
00187 Roma, Italia

Sig.na Emilia CARNOVALE
Istituto Nazionale della Nutrizione
Via Ardeatina 546
00179 Roma, Italia

Lucio CICCARDINI
Federchimica
Via Accademia 33
20131 Milano, Italia

Sra Luciana CROCI
Ricercatore
Istituto Superiore di Sanità
Viale Regina Elena 299
00161 Roma, Italia

Raimondo CUBADDA
Director, Laboratory for Cereal Study
Istituto Nazionale della Nutrizione
Via Ardeatina 546
00179 Roma, Italia

Giordano DE FELIP
Dirigente Ric.
Istituto Superiore di Sanità
Viale Regina Elena 299
00161 Roma, Italia

Giuseppe DE GIOVANNI
Dirigente
Ministero dell'Industria
Via Molise 19
00187 Roma, Italia

Salvatore FRULLANI
Professore
Istituto Superiore di Sanità

Viale Regina Elena 299
00161 Roma, Italia

Enrico GALEOTA
Ministero Sanità
Piazza Marconi 25
00144 Roma, Italia

Sig.ra Silvana GIZZARELLI
Istituto Superiore Sanità
Viale Regina Elena 299
00161 Roma, Italia

Luigi LESTINI
Quality Assurance Manager
Via Paolo di Dono 3A
00146 Roma, Italia

Sig.na Claudia LINTAS
Research Chemist
Istituto Nazionale Nutrizione
Via Ardeatina 546
00179 Roma, Italia

Agostino MACRI
Istituto Superiore di Sanità
Viale Regina Elena 299
00161 Roma, Italia

Alessandro MICARDI
Delegato del CONFINDUSTRIA
c/o PLADA
Via Cadolini 26
20137 Milano, Italia

Sig.ra Marina MIRAGLIA
Ricercatore
Istituto Superiore di Sanità
Viale Regina Elena 299
00161 Roma, Italia

Sig.ra Elena ORBAN
Istituto Nazionale Nutrizione
Via Ardeatina 546
00179 Roma, Italia

Sig.na Laura PIZZOFERRATO
Ricerca scientifica
Istituto Nazionale della Nutrizione
Via Ardeatina 546
00179 Roma, Italia

Giovanni QUAGLIA
Istituto Nazionale Nutrizione
Via Ardeatina 546
00179 Roma, Italia

Sig.ra Enrica QUATTRUCCI
Istituto Nazionale Nutrizione
Via Ardeatina 546
00179 Roma, Italia

Carmelo RAGUSA
Ministero Sanità, Dept. Alimenti
Piazza Marconi 25
00144 Roma, Italia

Fausto RATTO
Amministratore Associazione Nazionale Importatori ed Esportatori Ortofrutticoli ed Agrumi
Via Velletri 49
00198 Roma, Italia

Paolo SAVI
Ministero dell'Agricoltura
Via Lago di Lesina 22
00199 Roma, Italia

Bruno SCARPA
Funzionario medico
Ministero della Sanità
Piazza Marconi 25
00144 Roma, Italia

Sra Giulia TOSCANI
Ministero Sanità
Divisione Gen. Veterinari
Piazza Marconi 25
00144 Roma, Italia

Marino VIOLA
Chimico
Federalimentari

Tonino ZELINOTTI
Direttore Lab. Dogane
Ministero delle Finanze
Via Marco Brento 16
Milano, Italia

JAPAN

JAPON

Rentaro ITO
Technical Officer
Ministry of Health and Welfare
Tokyo, Japan

Tomofumi KUME
First Secretary, Alternate Permanent Representative to FAO
Embassy of Japan
Via Q. Sella 60
00187 Rome, Italy

Shoroku NAGATA
Food Standards Specialist
Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries
Tokyo, Japan

Sumiji NAKAZAWA
Counsellor
Japanese Embassy
Via Q. Sella 60
00187 Rome, Italy

Eiji SATO
Advisor
Japan Food Additives Association
1-2-16 Nihonbashi
Horidome-Cho
Chuo-Ku, Tokyo 103
Japan

Hisayoshi TAKEUCHI
Technical Advisor

Japan Association of Dietetic and Enriched Foods
Tokyo, Japan

Satoshi WAKUNO
First Secretary, Alternate Permanent Representative to FAO
Embassy of Japan
Via Quintino Sella 60
00187 Rome, Italy

Tatsuo YAMADA
Technical Adviser
Japan Association of Dietetic and Technical Foods
Tokyo, Japan

KENYA

Joseph K. MISOI
Assistant Director
Kenya Bureau of Standards
Ministry of Industry
P.O. Box 54974
Nairobi, Kenya

Stanley M. GUANTAI
Counsellor (Agriculture), Alternate Permanent Representative to FAO
Permanent Representation of Kenya to FAO
Via Icilio 14
00153 Rome, Italy

Norman M. MASAI
Chief Public Health Officer
Ministry of Health
P.O. Box 30016
Nairobi, Kenya

J.M. NGANGA
Chief Hygiene Officer
Ministry of Livestock Development
Veterinary Laboratories
P.O. Kabete
Kenya

KOREA, REPUBLIC OF
COREE, REPUBLIQUE DE
COREA, REPUBLICA DE

Duck Woo BAIK
Director of Hygiene Department
National Institute of Health
Ministry of Health and Social Affairs
5-Nok Bon Dong
Seoul, Republic of Korea

KUWAIT

KOWEIT

Khalid S. Abdulaziz ALHASAWI
Director, Chest Hospital
P.O. Box 13165 Keifan
71952 Kuwait

Adnan SHIHAB-ELDIN
Scientist
KISR
P.O. Box 24885
Kuwait

MADAGASCAR

Raphaël RABE
Représentant permanent adjoint auprès de la FAO
Ambassade de Madagascar
Via Riccardo Zandonai 84/A
00194 Rome, Italie

MEXICO

MEXIQUE

José A. SANCHEZ
Director de Normalización
Ministerio de Comercio y Fomento Industrial
Av. Puente de Tecamachalco No. 6
C.P. 53950
Mexico D.F., Mexico

Srta Margarita LIZARRAGA N.
Consejero para Asuntos Pescueros
Representación Permanente de Mexico ante la FAO
Viale Pasteur 65 Int. 8
00144 Roma, Italia

Eduardo R. MENDEZ
Asesor, Dirección General de Normas
Secretario de Comercio
Apdo. Postal 24-322
Mexico D.F. 06700
Mexico

Arturo RINCON VILLANUEVA
Normas Alimentarias
Ciá. Nestlé SA de CV (CANACINTRA)
Av. Ejercito Nacional 453
Miguel Hidalgo 11520
Mexico D.F., Mexico

MOROCCO

MAROC

MARRUECOS

Abdellatif DAHMANI
Ingénieur Chef de Service
Ministère de l'Agriculture
DRF, 25 avenue des Alaoviyines
Rabat, Maroc

Mohamed MAJDI
Chef du Service de la Réglementation et du Contentieux
Ministère de l'Agriculture et de la Reforme agraire
25 avenue de la Victoire
Rabat, Maroc

NETHERLANDS

PAYS-BAS

PAISES BAJOS

Pieter BERBEN
Chief Health Officer
Ministry of Health (W.V.C.)
Rijswijk
Netherlands

Alfred FEBERWEE
Chairman, Codex Committee on Food Additives/Deputy Director, Nutrition and Quality Affairs
Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries
Bezuidenhoutseweg 73
The Hague, Netherlands

Otto C. KNOTTNERUS
Adviser
Central Commodity Board for Arable Products
Post Pox 29739
The Hague, Netherlands

Jan J.L. MEES
Manager
V.A.I. Dutch Food Industry Association
UNILEVER
Burgm. S'Jacobplein 1
Rotterdam, Netherlands

Anton E. PENNING
Adviser
Royal Netherlands Dairy Federation
P.O. Box 5831
2280 HV Rijswijk
Netherlands

Albert J. PIETERS
Deputy Chief Health Officer
Ministerie van WVC
Sir Winston Churchillaan 362
2280 HK Rijswijk
Netherlands

Walter Pilnik
Agricultural University
Department of Food Science
De Dreijen 12
6703 BC Wageningen
Netherlands

Constant C.J.M. VAN DER MEYS
Director, Nutrition and Quality Affairs
Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries
Bezuidenhoutseweg 73
The Hague, Netherlands

Antoinette VAN DER VEEN
Secretary, Codex Alimentarius Contact Point
Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries
P.O. Box 20401

2500 EK The Hague
Netherlands

Barend F. VAN WOELDEREN
Advisor
Postbox 1
2700 MA Zoetermeer
Netherlands

NEW ZEALAND
NOUVELLE-ZELANDE
NUEVA ZELANDA

G.H. BOYD
Senior Agricultural Economist
Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries
Private Bag
Wellington
New Zealand

NICARAGUA

Edgar FONSECA L.
Segundo Secretario
Representación Permanente ante la FAO
Via Panama 12, Int. 9
00198 Roma, Italia

NIGERIA
NIGERIA

Benjamin ADDISON
Director
Food and Drugs Administration
Federal Ministry of Health
P.M.B. 12525
Lagos, Nigeria

George O. BAPTIST
Managing Director
Baptist Consulting and Analytical Services Ltd.
P.M.B. 2033, Sabo
Yaba, Lagos
Nigeria

Mrs Sherifat F. ADEBIYI
Chief Scientific Officer
Federal Ministry of Health
Food and Drug Administration
P.M.B. 12525
Lagos, Nigeria

NORWAY
NORVEGE
NORUEGA

John RACE
Food Control Board
P.O. Box 8139 - Dep
0033 Oslo 1
Norway

Atle ORBECK SÖRHEIM
Assistant Deputy Director General
Directorate of Health
Box 8128 - Dep
Oslo 1, Norway

Magne STUBSJOEN
Director General
Ministry of Agriculture
Box 8007 - Dep
0030 Oslo 1
Norway

Per A. ROSNESS
Director, National Quality Control Authority for Processed Fruits and Vegetables, SKVK
P.O. Box 6399 Etterstad
0604 Oslo 6
Norway

Mrs Kirsten E. AABY
Head of Division
Directorate of Health
Box 8128 - Dep
Oslo 1, Norway

Heine BLOKHUS
Director of Control
Ministry of Fisheries

P.O. Box 185
5001 Bergen, Norway

Odd EGEDE-NISSEN
Senior Executive Officer
Ministry of Trade
P.O. Box, Oslo, Norway

PANAMA

José-Manuel WATSON
Embajador, Representante Permanente ante la FAO
Representación Permanente de Panamá ante la FAO
Via dei Gracchi 161
00192 Roma, Italia

Alfredo ACUÑA
Representante Permanente Alterno ante la FAO
Representación Permanente de Panamá ante la FAO
Via dei Gracchi 161
00192 Roma, Italia

Horacio MALTEZ
Representante Permanente Alterno
Representación Permanente ante la FAO
Via dei Gracchi 161
00192 Roma, Italia

PHILIPPINES

FILIPINAS

Horacio CARANDANG
Agricultural Attaché
Alternate Permanent Representative to FAO
Philippine Embassy
Via S. Valentino 12
00197 Rome, Italy

Mrs Luz MARIANO
Attaché, Alternate Permanent Representative to FAO
Philippine Embassy
Via S. Valentino 12
00197 Rome, Italy

POLAND
POLOGNE
POLONIA

Mrs. H. SADOWSKA
Assistant Professor
Ministry of Health and Social Welfare
Miodowa 15
00-923 Warsaw, Poland

PORTUGAL

G.P. MARTINS
Directeur du Service d'Analyses
Ministère de l'Industrie et du Commerce
Azinhaga dos Lameiros
à Estrada Paço do Lumiar
1600 Lisboa, Portugal

Mme M.H. DUARTE
Vétérinaire
Ministère de Agriculture, Peches et Alimentation
Estrada de Benfica 701
1500 Lisboa, Portugal

Mme H. LOPES
Directeur du Service de Réglementation et Normalization
Instituto de Qualidade Alimentar
R. Alexandre Herculano No. 6-3º
Lisboa, Portugal

SENEGAL

C. KANE
Directeur
Institut sénégalais de normalisation
Ministère du Plan et de la Coopération
B.P. 4010 Dakar
Sénégal

SPAIN
ESPAGNE
ESPANA

I. DIAZ YUBERO

Representante Permanente de España ante la FAO
Via de Monte Brianzo 56
00186 Roma, Italia

Srta. Margarita BORREGON

Jefe de Sección C.E.N.A.N.
Representación CIOA
Ministerio Sanidad y Consumo
Centro Nacional de Alimentación y Nutrición
Ctra. Majadahonda - Pozuelo Km. 2
Madrid, España

Sra. M. Dolores DELGADO SANZ

Técnico/Secretaría General de la CIOA
Punto Contacto Codex
Ministerio de Sanidad y Consumo
Paseo del Prado 14
28071 Madrid, España

Armando DEL RIO

Jefe Normalización
Ministerio de Agricultura
Paseo Infanta Isabel 1
Madrid, España

Candido EGOSCOZABEL

Subdirector General Comercio Interior
Ministerio de Economía y Hacienda
Castellana 162
Madrid, España

José Luis GOMEZ LOPEZ

Consejero Técnico
Ministerio de Asuntos Exteriores
Palacio de la Trinidad
Francisco Svela 82
Madrid, España

Eladio OTEIZA

Jefe de Servicio de Análisis Oferta y Normalización
Ministerio de Agricultura, Pesca y Alimentación
Paseo Infanta Isabel 1
28014 Madrid, España

Sra Rosa SANCHIDRIAN
Subdirectora General de Control y Analisis de Calidad
Ministerio de Sanidad y Consumo
Avda Cantabria
Barajas (Madrid), España

SWEDEN

SUEDE

SUECIA

A. KARDELL
Director General
Swedish National Food Administration
Box 622
S-75126 Uppsala, Sweden

O. AGREN
Technical Officer
SIS-Swedish Standards Institution
Box 3295
S-10366 Stockholm, Sweden

Mrs. B. BLOMBERG-JOHANSSON
Head
International Secretariat
Swedish National Food Administration
Box 622
S-75126 Uppsala, Sweden

A. EDHBORG
Manager
Food Law Research, Quality and Nutrition
Box 500
S-26700 BJUV
Sweden

Rune HENRIKSSON
Deputy Director General
Swedish National Food Administration
S-75126 Uppsala, Sweden

D. JOHANSSON
Agronomist
Ruriksvag 8

S-18600 Vallentuna
Sweden

SWITZERLAND

SUISSE

SUIZA

P. ROSSIER
Head of Codex Alimentarius Section
Ministry of Public Health
Haslerstrasse 16
CH-3008 Berne, Switzerland

Y. SIEGWART
Chef du Contrôle des denrées alimentaires
Office fédéral de la santé publique
Haslerstrasse 16
CH-3008 Berne, Switzerland

Mme. I. DU BOIS
NESTEC S.A.
55, Av. Nestle
CH-1800 Vevey, Switzerland

Gerd HUSCHKE
Chemist, Adviser
Hoffmann-La Roche AG.
CH-4000 Basel, Switzerland

B. SCHMIDLI
Hoffmann-La-Roche & Co. AG
CH-4002 Basel, Switzerland

TANZANIA

TANZANIE

F. MASAGA
Senior Standards Officer
Head, Agriculture and Food Section
Tanzania Bureau of Standards
P.O. Box 9524
Dar-Es-Salaam, Tanzania

THAILAND
THAILANDE
TAILANDIA

P. POTHISIRI
Deputy Secretary General
Food and Drug Administration
Ministry of Public Health
Samsen Road
Bangkok 10200, Thailand

Vivat CHARANVAS
Director
235/9 Asoke Road
Bangkok 10110, Thailand

Mrs. M. HOTRABHAVANANDA
Director
Ministry of Industry
Office of National Codex Alimentarius Committee
Thai Industrial Standards Institute
Rama VI Street
Bangkok 10400, Thailand

Vanrob ISARANKURA
Agricultural Counsellor and
Permanent Representative to FAO
Royal Thai Embassy
Via Zara 9
00198 Rome, Italy

P. LUETONGCHARG
First Secretary and Alternate Permanent Representative of Thailand to FAO
Office of the Agricultural Counsellor
Royal Thai Embassy
Via Zara 9
00198 Rome, Italy

Mrs. P. NARANGSI
Senior Expert on Standardization
Thai Industrial Standards Institute
Ministry of Industry
Rama VI Road
Bangkok, Thailand

A. SIHAPITAK
Third Secretary
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Royal Thai Embassy
Via Nomentana 132
00162 Rome, Italy

TUNISIA
TUNISIE
TUNEZ

Tarek AMAMOU
Chef de laboratoire
Office national de l'huile
10 Avenue Mohamed V
Tunis, Tunisie

Mohamed Raouf ZMERLI
Chef du Service agro-alimentaire
INNORPI
Ministère de l'Industrie et du Commerce
10 bis rue Ibn El Jazzar
Lafayette 1002 Tunis Belvédère
Tunisie

TURKEY
TURQUIE
TURQUIA

Y. SAYILIR
Ministry of Finance and Customs
Maliye ve Admish Bahantigu
Ankara, Turkey

Erdemer BIROL
Head of Radiobiology Department
Cekmece Nuclear Research Center
Turkish Atomic Energy Com.
P.K.1 Havaalani
Istanbul, Turkey

S. KÖKSAL
Directeur
Codex Alimentarius
Ministre Agriculture, forestry and Rural Affairs

Akay ed. No. 3
Bakanliklar
Ankara, Turkey

H. OGUT
Alternate Permanent Representative to FAO
Permanent Representation of Turkey
Via Palestro 28
00185 Rome, Italy

H. VANLI
Director
Tea Institute
Turkish State Tea Board
Rize, Turkey

UNITED KINGDOM
ROYAUME-UNI
REINO UNIDO

C. COCKBILL
Head of Standards Division
Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food
Great Westminster House
Horseferry Road
London SW1P 2AE
United Kingdom

H. DENNER
Head of Food Composition and Information Unit
Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food
Great Westminster House
Horseferry Road
London SW1P 2AE
United Kingdom

K. MILLAR
Senior Executive Officer
Standards Division
Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food
Great Westminster House
Horseferry Road
London SW1P 2AE
United Kingdom

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
ETATS-UNIS D'AMERIQUE
ESTADOS UNIDOS DE AMERICA

D. HOUSTON

Administrator
Food Safety and Inspection Service
U.S. Department of Agriculture
Room 331-E, Administration Building
Washington, D.C. 20250, USA

R.J. RONK

Deputy Director
Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition
Food and Drug Administration
Department of Health and Human Services
200 C Street S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20204, USA

K. GILLES

Assistant Secretary for Marketing and Inspection Services
U.S. Department of Agriculture
14th & Independence Ave. S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20250, USA

Mrs. R. NALLY

Executive Officer for Codex
Food Safety and Inspection Service
U.S. Department of Agriculture
14th & Independence Ave.
Washington, D.C. 20250, USA

D. GALLIART

Deputy Administrator
Federal Grain Inspection Service
U.S. Department of Agriculture
Rm. 1094 South Building
Washington, D.C. 20250, USA

C.W. COOPER

Assistant Director
Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition
U.S. Food and Drug Administration
200 C Street S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20204, USA

J. BROOKER
Technical Adviser
Department of Commerce
1825 Connecticut Ave N.W.
Washington D.C. 20235, USA

J. HARTY
Director
International Affairs Staff
U.S. Food and Drug Administration
5600 Fishers Lane
Rockville, MD 20857, USA

Mrs. J.C. HOWELL
Manager
Regulatory Submissions
The Coca-Cola Company
310 North Avenue
Atlanta, Georgia 30301, USA

B.A. LISTER
Vice President
Regulatory, Consumer & Public Affairs
Nestle Foods Corporation
100 Manhattanville Road
Purchase, N.Y. 10577, USA

M. MARCUS
Director of Regulatory and Trade Affairs
Ralston Purina Company
Protein Technologies Group
Checkerboard Square
St. Louis, MO 63164, USA

S. GARDNER
Vice President
Science & Technology
Grocery Manufacturers of America, Inc.
1010 Wisconsin Ave.
Washington, D.C. 20007, USA

A. MATTHYS
Director
Regulatory Affairs
National Food Processors Association

1401 New York Avenue
Washington, D.C. 20005, USA

W. SCHWECKE
Vice President
General Mills, Inc.
9200 Wayzata Boulevard
Minneapolis, MN 55426, USA

P.F. HOPPER
Corporate Director
Scientific Affairs
General Foods Corporation
250 North Street
White Plains, N.Y. 10625, USA

J.T. CRAIG
Director, Corp. Regulatory and Scientific Affairs
International Minerals and Chemical Corporation
1401 S. 3rd Street
Terre Haute, IN. 47802, USA

C. FELDBERG
Vice President
Health, Safety and Quality Assurance
CPC International, Inc.
International Plaza
Englewood Cliffs, NJ 07632, USA

R.J. TARLETON
Executive Vice President
American Association of Cereal Chemists
3340 Pilot Knob Road
St. Paul, MN 55121, USA

T.M. JACKSON
Special Issues Director
Carnation
1511 K Street N.W.
Suite 100
Washington, D.C. 20005, USA

T.B. HOUSE
President
American Frozen Food Institute

1764 Old Meadow Lane
Suite 350
McLean, VA 22102, USA

W.J. COOK
Director
Corporate Quality Assurance
Hershey Foods Corporation
Technical Center
1025 Reese Ave.
Hershey, PA 17033-0805, USA

J.C. KIRSCHMAN
Scientific Coordinator
RJR - Nabisco
Bowman Gray Technical Center
Winston-Salem, N.C. 27102, USA

T.W. LITTLE
Food Marketing Institute
1750 K Street N.W.
Suite 700
Washington, D.C. 20006, USA

O. EASTERDAY
Vice President
Chief Product Safety Assurance Officer
International Flavors & Fragrances
1515 State Highway No. 36
Union Beach
New Jersey 07735-3597, USA

Mrs. R. VAN HAEFTEN
Agricultural Attaché Designate
Food and Agricultural Affairs
U.S. Mission to the U.N. Agricultural Agencies
FODAG
U.S. Embassy, Rome

YEMEN, PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF
REP. DEMOCRATIQUE POPULAIRE DU YEMEN
REP. DEMOCRATICA POPULAR DEL YEMEN

A.M. KHALED
Ambassador

Permanent Representation of Yemen to FAO
Via E. Albanese 45, Int. 7
00149 Rome, Italy

OBSERVER COUNTRIES
PAYS OBSERVATEURS
PAISES OBSERVADORES

HONDURAS

Sra M. REINA
Agregado
Embajada de Honduras
Via Andrea Bafile 5
00195 Roma, Italia

INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS
ORGANISATIONS INTERNATIONALES
ORGANIZACIONES INTERNACIONALES

ASSOCIATION OF OFFICIAL ANALYTICAL CHEMISTS (AOAC)

R.J. TARLETON
Executive Vice President
American Association of Cereal Chemists
3340 Pilot Knob Road
St. Paul, MN. 55121, USA

APIMONDIA

S. CANNAMELA
Secretary General
International Federation of Beekeepers' Association
Corso Vittorio Emanuele 101
00186 Rome, Italy

CONFEDERATION EUROPEENNE DE COMMERCE DE DETAIL (CECD)

A. VAN EWIJK
Confédération européenne de
commerce de détail
Av. de la Joyeuse Entrée 11
Bruxelles, Belgique

CONFEDERATION DES INDUSTRIES AGRO-ALIMENTAIRES DE LA CEE (CIAA)

P. MOUTON
Director
Rue Joseph II, 40
B-1040 Brussels, Belgium

CIMSCEE

Michel COENEN
Directeur
Association belge Industries alimentaires
Avenue de Cortenbergh 172
B-1040 Bruxelles, Belgique

COUNCIL OF EUROPE

José A. CREMADES
Administrator
Council of Europe
B.P. 431 R6
67006 Strasbourg Cedex
France

EUROPEAN COMMITTEE FOR THE STUDY OF SALT/COMITE EUROPEAN D'ETUDE DU SEL (ECSS/CEES)

Jacques ENJALBERT
Président de la Commission des Sels Alimentaire du CEES
51 rue d'Anjou
75008 Paris, France

Bernard MOINIER
Secrétaire général du CEES
11/bis avenue Victor Hugo
75116 Paris, France

EUROPEAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY (EEC)

E. GAERNER
Chef de Division Adjoint
Direction Générale du Marché Intérieur et des Affaires Industrielles
Commission des Communautés Européennes
200 rue de la Loi
1049 Bruxelles, Belgique

A.P. ALLO
Administrateur principal
Relations Extérieurs
Commission du CEE
200 rue de la Loi
1049 Bruxelles, Belgique

Mme. O. DEMINE
Administrateur principal
Direction Générale du Marché Intérieur et des Affaires Industrielles
Commission des Communautés Européennes
200 rue de la Loi
1049 Bruxelles, Belgique

Daniel RENAERS
Fonctionnaire
Secrétariat général Conseil des CEE
200 rue de la Loi
1049 Bruxelles, Belgique

Sergio VENTURA
Head of Division
Commission of European Communities
200 rue de la Loi
1049 Bruxelles, Belgique

EUROPEAN FOOD LAW ASSOCIATION (EFLA)

G.O. KERMODE
President
European Food Law Association
Boulevard de la Cambre 3
Boîte 34
B-1050 Brussels, Belgium

A. GERARD
Secrétaire-Général
European Food Law Association
Boulevard de la Cambre 3
Boîte 34
B-1050 Brussels, Belgium

J.H.N. BYRNE
European Food Law Association
"Mijas" Southside

Steeple Aston
Oxon OX5-3RU
United Kingdom

F. CAPELLI
European Food Law Association
Boulevard de la Cambre 3
Boîte 34
B-1050 Brussels, Belgium

EUVEPRO

Arnold VAN HECKE
Secretary General
Leuvensestraat 29
B-1800 Vilvoorde
Belgium

FEDERATION INTERNATIONALE DES INDUSTRIES ET DU COMMERCE EN GROS DE VINS,
SPIRITEUX, EAUX-DE VIE ET LIQUEURS (FIVS)

S. VALVASSORI
Directeur du Comité Etudes Aromes
Via San Secondo 67
Torino, Italia

INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF BOUILLONS AND SOUP INDUSTRIES (AIIBP)

Hans-J. MÜRAU
Secretary-General
Bundesverband der Deutschen Feinkostindustrie e.V.
Reuterstrasse 151
53 Bonn, F.R. Germany

Ernst RAPP
Director
E. Claeslaan 4
B-1980 Tervuren, Belgium

INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF CEREAL SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (ICC)

G. FABRIANI
Honorary President
International Association of Cereal Science and Technology

Via dei Monti di Pietralata 238
00157 Rome, Italy

INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY (IAEA)

Mrs. A. SALO
Section Head
International Atomic Energy Agency
Wagramerstrasse 5
P.O. Box 100
A-1400 Vienna, Austria

INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF FRUIT JUICE PRODUCERS (IFFJP)

Hans REINTJES
President IFU
c/o STAR Spa.
Via Matteotti 142
20041 Agrate Brianza (MI)
Italy

INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF GROCERY MANUFACTURING ASSOCIATIONS
(IFGMA)

Sherwin GARDNER
Vice President Science & Technology
Grocery Manufacturers of America
1010 Wisconsin Avenue
Washington DC 20007, USA

INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF MARGARINE ASSOCIATIONS (IFMA)

Alain LEON
Technical Advisor to IFMA
Unilever Research Laboratories
Olivier van Noortlaan 120
Vlaardingen, Netherlands

INTERNATIONAL HYDROLYZED PROTEIN COUNCIL (IHPC)

B.A. LISTER
President, IHPC
1625 K Street
Washington, D.C., USA

INTERNATIONAL LIFE SCIENCES INSTITUTE (ILSI)

Daniel SERRUYS
ILSI
21 Toutefois
9720 De Pinte, Belgium

INTERNATIONAL OLIVE OIL COUNCIL (IOOC)

Mme Bernadette PAJUELO
Chef de Service adjoint
COI
Juan Bravo 10
28006 Madrid, Spain

INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION OF CONSUMERS' UNIONS (IOCU)

Ms. D.H. GROSE
International Organization of Consumers' Unions
14 Buckingham Street
London WC 2
United Kingdom

INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION OF THE FLAVOUR INDUSTRY (IOFI)

Friedrich GRUNDSCHOBBER
Secretary General, IOFI
8 rue Ch. Humbert
Geneva, Switzerland

INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR STANDARDIZATION (ISO)

K.G. LINGNER
Technical Group Manager
Standards Development
ISO Central Secretariat
1, rue de Varembe
CH-1211 Genève 20
Switzerland

INTERNATIONAL PECTIN PRODUCERS ASSOCIATION (IPPA)

Walter PILNIK
Agricultural University
Department of Food Science

De Dreijen 12
6703 BC Wageningen
Netherlands

INTERNATIONAL PULSE TRADE AND INDUSTRY CONFEDERATION (IPTIC/CICILS)

Jacques GAUTHIER
Délégué général
CICILS
Bureau 286
Bourse de Commerce
F 75040 Paris Cedex 01
France

INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY OF DIETETIC INDUSTRIES (ISDI)

Johan GANZEVOORT
Secretary General
ISDI
194 rue de Rivoli
75001 Paris, France

MARINALG INTERNATIONAL (WORLD ASSOCIATION OF SEAWEED PROCESSORS)

Jean-Jacques PIOT
Adviser
85 Boulevard Haussmann
75008 Paris, France

ORGANIZATION OF AFRICAN UNITY ORGANISATION DE L'UNITE AFRICAINE
(OAU/OUA)

Nazaire NKOUKA
Secrétaire scientifique adjoint du CPI/OUA
Conseil phytosanitaire interafricain
B.P. 4170 Yaoundé, Cameroun

OECD/OCDE

Gilbert DENISE
Administrateur Principal
Chateau de la Muette
2 André Parcal
75016 Paris, France

UNION DES ASSOCIATION DE BOISSONS GASEUSES DES PAYS MEMBRES DE LA
CEE (UNESDA)

P.E. FOSSEPREZ
Secretary General
UNESDA
51 Avenue Général de Gaulle
1050 Brussels, Belgium

UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE (UNECE)

M. CANON
Food Standards Officer
United Nations Economic Commission
for Europe
Palais des Nations
Geneva, Switzerland

CHIEF, FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME
CHEF, PROGRAMME MIXTE FAO/OMS SUR LES NORMES ALIMENTAIRES
JEFE, PROGRAMA CONJUNTO FAO/OMS SOBRE NORMAS ALIMENTARIAS

J. LUPIEN
Chief, Food Quality and Standards Service
Food Policy and Nutrition Division
FAO
00100 Rome, Italy

JOINT SECRETARIES
CO-SECRETAIRES
COSECRETARIOS

F. KAFERSTEIN
Manager
Food Safety Unit
Division of Environmental Health
WHO
1211 Geneva 27, Switzerland

A. RANDELL
Officer-in-Charge
FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme Group
Food Policy and Nutrition Division
FAO
00100 Rome, Italy

LEGAL COUNSEL
CONSEILLER JURIDIQUE
ASESORIA JURIDICA

A.G. ROCHE
Legal Counsel
FAO
00100 Rome, Italy

C.H. VIGNES
Legal Counsel
World Health Organization
1211 Geneva 27, Switzerland

R.M. STEIN
Senior Legal Officer
FAO
00100 Rome, Italy

JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME PERSONNEL
PERSONNEL DU PROGRAMME MIXTE FAO/OMS SUR LES NORMES ALIMENTAIRES
PERSONAL DEL PROGRAMA CONJUNTO FAO/OMS SOBRE NORMAS ALIMENTARIAS

Mrs. B. DIX
Food Standards Officer
FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme Group
FAO
00100 Rome, Italy

L.G. LADOMERY
Food Standards Officer
FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme Group
FAO
00100 Rome, Italy

N. RAO MATURU
Food Standards Officer
FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme Group
FAO
00100 Rome, Italy

Mrs. C. DUDGEON-BETTONI
Documents Officer
FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme Group

FAO
00100 Rome, Italy

D. BYRON
Associate Professional Officer
FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme Group
FAO
00100 Rome, Italy

FAO PERSONNEL
PERSONNEL DE LA FAO
PERSONAL DE LA FAO

P. LUNVEN
Director
Food Policy and Nutrition Division
FAO
00100 Rome, Italy

R.J. DAWSON
Senior Officer
Food Quality & Consumer Protection Group
Food Policy and Nutrition Division
FAO
00100 Rome, Italy

Ms. M.L. COSTARRICA
Nutrition Officer
Food Quality & Consumer Protection Group
Food Policy and Nutrition Division
FAO
00100 Rome, Italy

G.K. GHEORGHIEV
Nutrition Officer
Food Quality & Consumer Protection Group
Food Policy and Nutrition Division
FAO
00100 Rome, Italy

A. SRIBHIBHADH
Chief, Fish Utilization & Marketing Service
Fishery Industries Division
FAO
00100 Rome, Italy

APPENDIX II

Statement by the Director-General of FAO to the Seventeenth Session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen:

It is indeed a pleasure for me to greet you here in FAO Headquarters in Rome and to extend to you, also on behalf of the Director-General of the World Health Organization, a warm welcome to the Seventeenth Session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission.

25 years of the Commission

The Codex Alimentarius Commission was established in 1962 by decisions of the Conference of FAO and the Executive Board of WHO with the purpose of ensuring fair practices in international trade and protecting the health of the consumer. It has in the intervening period established itself as the international forum for elaborating standards for foods moving in international trade and for providing guidance to countries wishing to create their own national food laws and regulations. The Commission is now entering its 25th year and is able to look back on the elaboration of more than 200 individual commodity standards, 35 codes of hygienic and technological practice and approximately 2,000 Maximum Residue Limits for pesticides. The impact of this work on the quality and safety of foods has helped to upgrade food manufacturing and processing standards all over the world.

Over these 25 years, the Commission has shown great flexibility in its approach to problems. For example, it changed its rules of procedure for the elaboration of standards to take into account the economic impact that individual standards may have, especially upon the commerce of the developing countries. It has discontinued the meetings of committees which have completed their tasks and created new ones to address new problems and priorities. It has established Regional Coordinating Committees, whose task is to define the problems and needs of each region concerning food standards and food control. The Regional Coordinating Committees have been given the prime responsibility of promoting the coordination of all food standards works undertaken by inter-governmental and non-governmental organizations within the region in accordance with the Commission's Statutes. The Regional Committees have proved to be an important element in extending the work of the Commission to developing countries, and ensuring that the developing countries are not excluded from the decision-making process of the Commission.

The Commission, in 25, years has grown from the original 30 countries which were present at its First Session, to 130 member countries today. I would like to recommend the Commission to complete its membership, by inviting those few remaining countries that are eligible to join

to do so. The benefits obtained through membership of the Commission are considerable. Through membership of the Commission, the smaller and least-developed countries have access to the combined experience and knowledge of experts throughout the world, and can clearly inform all other countries of the levels of food quality and safety they are willing to accept.

Future directions

Appropriately, in its 25th year, the Commission is examining its future direction of its work, and its impact on the important areas of food security, trade and health. During the course of this year, your Secretariat has submitted reports to FAO's Committee on Agriculture and to the World Health Assembly. In both cases the activities of your Commission were warmly supported, and the Commission was called upon to strengthen its work in the major areas which are common to all foods, such as the use of food additives, and the control of pesticide residues, residues of veterinary drugs and contaminants from all sources. Equally, reference was made to the application of harmonized food labelling requirements, the use of acceptable hygienic practices during processing, storage and distribution of foods, and the coordination of work on appropriate methods of food analysis and sampling. Most of you will be aware of the trend in many countries towards reducing the emphasis on individual standards of identity and purity for foods, and should consider how this will affect the nature of the Commission's work in the future, and how the work on general subject areas can be strengthened.

Increasing participation of developing countries

It has been heartening to note that the participation of developing countries in the work of the Commission is constantly increasing, even more so in the past few years. This is a reflection on the Commission's increased attention to the problems of developing countries and the realization by these countries of the importance of food quality and standards programmes in their national development programmes. To underline this realization, a developing country, Mexico, has offered, for the first time, to accept the financial and administrative responsibilities involved in taking up the Chairmanship of a Codex Committee. This marks a major new step forward in extending the work of your Commission to take into account the interests of agricultural producers at a world-wide level. Standards cannot be genuinely agreed and accepted if there is no real opportunity for producers and exporters to meet and discuss their problems with consumers and importers in a common forum. This has been a basic principle of the Codex Alimentarius Commission over the past 25 years, and I applaud the initiative of the Mexican Government to extend this to the commercial standardization of fresh tropical fruits and vegetables.

Need for adequate food control infrastructure

Mr. Chairman, FAO recognizes that international standards and codes will not in themselves achieve the desired objectives when most of the developing part of the world lacks an adequate food control infrastructure to implement them. Many developing countries have inadequate capability to apply standards, and protect their consumers and food supply.

Because national food control programmes are an essential part of food security programmes and national development strategies, FAO has taken the lead in helping countries build up their systems for food control, particularly the establishment or updating of food laws and regulations, strengthening food laboratories and inspection services, and the formulation of national strategies for the control of food quality, human resource development, the monitoring of food contaminants, improving food protection and related educational activities. These activities have been and will continue to be important components of FAO's programme. I should also like to emphasize the importance of the Codex Regional Coordinating Committees in providing a link between the work of the Commission and FAO's assistance to developing member countries.

Role of food standards in food security and trade

Access to safe food is equally important as physical and economic access to food. Contaminated, adulterated or infested foods can cause significant health and nutrition problems or consumer rejection leading in extreme cases to social unrest and distrust. Food control programmes, including food standards development, are considered as essential elements in national strategies for achieving the major goal of food security. Another important element for establishing food security is free and equal access to world commercial markets. The FAO Conference in 1983 adopted a resolution calling on all countries to work for a liberalization of trade and a reduction of protectionist measures. The Codex Alimentarius Commission plays a vital role in combatting technical barriers to trade through the development of an international consensus on standards. This role is formally recognized by the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) and in fact, the Commission is the only international body specifically mentioned in the GATT Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade in this regard.

Formal acceptance of Codex standards

Both the GATT Agreement and the Commission's own rules call upon countries to notify formal acceptance of Codex standards. This is an integral part of the Commission's work and must not be neglected. Both the Committee on Agriculture and the World Health Assembly urged that greater efforts be made in regard to acceptance through the formal acceptance procedures. Although I am aware that the Commission's work has provided the basis for the development of standards in many countries, which, of course, was always foreseen, it is the formal acceptance by countries which is the real marker of the success of the Commission in achieving its stated objectives. There are many reasons which have been given for not accepting Codex standards and most of these do not include, or even imply, a rejection of these standards or a fundamental disagreement with the aims of the Codex Alimentarius. Why then, is it not possible to achieve greater cooperation in the acceptance of Codex standards? It is paradoxical that many of the countries which have been most active in the Commission in proposing and elaborating new standards, and in ensuring that the provisions of the standards take into account their own national situation have failed to accept the output of this work. I call upon this session of the Commission to consider this problem seriously and to propose new and innovative measures which will lead to a greater realization of the

benefits of accepting Codex Standards by those governments which have already invested a great deal of time and money in reaching consensus on the individual requirements recommended by the Commission.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

You are all aware of the financial crises which have shaken the United Nations system. FAO and WHO have not been untouched by these problems, but FAO's financial commitment to the Commission remains unchanged. I am pleased to give you this assurance, dependent as it is on the final decision of the FAO Conference. There will, of course, be a need for savings because of the substantial changes in currency alignments over the past two years which have very much decreased the purchasing power of the US Dollar in Italy. I am sure that you realize that expenses in Italian Lire form a very large proportion of the costs of producing, printing and distributing Codex working documents and reports. Your Secretariat will be seeking to reduce the size and number of these documents and reports in the next biennium, which will result in needed savings and allow increased emphasis to be placed on the publication of final Codex texts and the notification of acceptances.

Radionuclides contamination of food

The past year has also seen significant problems created in international agricultural and food trade by the explosion and fire at the nuclear power plant at Chernobyl. Most of these problems were due to the lack of clear and coherent international guidelines for the control of radionuclide contamination of foods. Following the requests of many member nations for advice on actions to be taken, especially in regard to imports of food from the affected areas, FAO convened an Expert Consultation on Recommended Limits for Radionuclide Contamination of Foods. Experts in radiological protection, food control and analysis, and export inspection certification met to determine if a simple, uniform set of guidelines could be recommended for use in international trade. The interim International Radionuclide Action Levels for Foods, which were recommended by the Expert Consultation are being presented for your information at this meeting. These interim levels have already found use in international trade, and are being used by the World Food Programme to facilitate their operations. Although none of us would wish for another accident with the impact that Chernobyl had on food and agricultural trade, it is important that we are not faced once again with the chaotic situation of 1986. The Codex Alimentarius Commission is the world-wide body responsible for food standards, including maximum levels for food contaminants, and I call upon you to make special efforts to provide the necessary guidance to member countries in this regard.

The challenges facing this, the Seventeenth Session of the Commission are substantial. I invite you to consider and discuss them in an constructive and innovative manner. I wish you a most successful Session.

APPENDIX III

REPLY BY THE CHAIRMAN OF THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION TO THE OPENING ADDRESS BY THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF FAO

Mr. Director-General:

It is both an honour and a pleasure for me to express on behalf of all the members of the Codex Alimentarius Commission, our thanks to you for having been kind enough to address this Seventeenth Session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission.

I join you, Sir, in extending a warm welcome to all participants at this session, particularly those who are attending for the first time.

As you have pointed out, the Codex Alimentarius Commission is about to complete 25 years of service to its member governments and to its sponsoring organizations, FAO and WHO. The Commission is not planning any special events to mark this unique occasion. There is no intention to look back or to congratulate ourselves on our work over the past quartercentury. Instead, the Commission is planning, at this Session, to examine its future. We are fortunate, indeed, to have the advice of FAO's Council, its Committee on Agriculture, and the Resolution of the 1987 World Health Assembly to guide us. It is heartening that the Commission's work received such warm overall approval in these important forums, and I am sure that the Commission will wish to note and take action on those areas where a concern was raised.

Like you, Sir, I am concerned that the formal acceptance of Codex standards and other important recommendations have not been forthcoming. The Commission has prepared more than 200 standards, and nearly 4 000 recommendations for maximum levels of pesticide residues in foods. These standards have been sent to governments by the Directors-General of our parent Organizations, with the recommendation that Governments accept them in accordance with the Procedures established by the Commission. The Commission has, on several occasions, amended its acceptance procedure to make it easier for countries to announce formally their commitment to the Codex Alimentarius. We have had some success. I believe that we will see a major change in the attitudes of many of those countries which have devoted much time, effort and money in contributing to the elaboration of the Standards, but which, until now, have been unable to indicate formally the acceptance which completes the picture. I shall constantly remind this session of the Commission of your expressed concern in this area, and hope that countries will pursue the matter of Codex acceptances with even greater enthusiasm in the next two years.

I am also pleased, Mr. Director-General, that you have called our attention to the importance of the Codex Alimentarius to the developing countries. Especially, Sir, how the work of the

Codex is implemented through national food control programmes as part of overall development strategies and national plans for achieving food security. In reply I would also like to emphasize how important the developing countries are, and have been, to the work of this Commission. The Regional Coordinating Committees for Africa, Asia, and Latin America and the Caribbean have been responsible for making significant changes to the Commission's programme of work, and the approaches it has taken to its work. It was, for example, the Regional Coordinating Committee for Africa which initiated work in the Commission in relation to cereals, pulses and legumes.

I was interested to hear your remarks, Sir, concerning the need to develop the infrastructure of national food control programmes in many countries if the Commission's work is to have its full effect in promoting food security, trade and health. I know that this is a topic which is constantly raised at meetings of the Regional Coordinating Committees. Many countries do not have adequate or effective coordination of food quality and safety activities in ministries of agriculture, health, commerce and industry, or between these ministries and food producers, processors and marketing personnel. The contributory role of educational institutions for training professionals, technicians, and educating consumers is often neglected. I am aware of FAO's highly effective programmes to assist developing countries in this regard, and I am pleased that they are being brought to the attention of the Commission for information, and in connection with our reflections on the paper prepared for the Committee on Agriculture on the "Role of Food Quality and Standards in Food Security, Trade and Health".

The Regional Coordinating Committees have become essential to the Commission's work, and I have taken particular care to attend as many of their meetings as I could during my period of office as Chairman of this Commission. This has allowed me to have a better appreciation of the socio-economic impact of the Commission's work. More importantly, it has provided the opportunity for many delegates to take up some of their problems directly with me, and has encouraged them to become more active in the Commission's work as a result. I am personally pleased to see the increased attendance by delegates from developing countries at all of our sessions, and I shall continue to encourage their active participation in our discussions.

Sir, it would be inappropriate not to raise some of the problems which will affect the work of the Commission over the coming years. Our thoughts immediately turn towards the financial problems facing FAO and WHO at the present time, and it is comforting to have your assurance that no reduction in FAO's contribution to the Food Standards Programme is being contemplated. I personally agree with you that much more emphasis has to be paid to the publication of final Codex texts and summaries of acceptances. Not only is this an obligation of the Commission in accordance with its Statutes, I see it as one of the ways of encouraging more acceptances. The Executive Committee of the Commission has already discussed the need to present the work of the Commission in a more readable and attractive form. An information booklet has been prepared, and I understand that the special audio-visual presentation which was prepared for the Committee on Agriculture will be shown to the Commission this week. Such publications cost money and the re-issuing of the Codex Alimentarius in a new format will cost even more. I shall constantly be drawing this to the

attention of the Commission as we discuss various committee reports, and will encourage the Chairmen of the Committees and the Secretariat to produce more concise Committee working documents and reports to enable meeting costs of publishing the Codex Alimentarius.

Another problem which we face, Mr. Director-General, is that of environmental contaminants, and how to deal with them. The accident at Chernobyl clearly drew our attention to this important aspect of our programme of work. I am certain that all of the members appreciate your prompt action following the accident in convening the FAO Expert Consultation on Recommended Limits for Radionuclides in Foods and in disseminating the report quickly to all member countries and international organizations. I am looking forward to hear of the status of the report in member countries and its impact in inter- national trade. The Commission, Sir, will be considering the subject of environmental contaminants within the framework of its general discussion of the future direction of its programme of work. Regardless of the procedures which the Commission may decide upon for dealing with contaminants within its structure, I am certain that the subject will remain a priority one for many years to come, affecting as it does, aspects of trade, food security and health at all levels, in all countries.

Mr. Director-General, the delegations to the Codex Commission itself reflect the multi-sectorial nature of the Commission's work; some come from Ministries of Agriculture, others from Health, or Commerce, or Industry. Different traditions, and different legal structures mean that the principle authorities responsible for food control and standards can be found in any one of these Ministries. Nevertheless, wherever this responsibility is located at the national level, governments look to the Codex Alimentarius Commission for advice when it comes to food standards. At an international level the Commission has always had the responsibility of promoting the coordination of all food standards work undertaken by international governmental and non-governmental organizations. This one aspect of the Commission's work has been most successful. The Commission is recognized, as you have said yourself, as THE international body responsible for food standards. This special status has also been recognized by the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade. The number of international organizations which attend sessions of the Commission and its subsidiary bodies shows how much this rôle is appreciated, and how important it is that the Codex Commission is seen to be the central focal point for all food standards work. I very much appreciate the strong support which you have given to us in this regard.

Mr. Director-General, I should like to join you in expressing sincere thanks to those member governments who so generously host sessions of Codex Committees. This is not a light burden, and is a tangible measure of the strong support which the Commission enjoys in countries around the world. I should also like to thank your staff, Sir, who have put many hours of work into the preparation of this meeting.

Thank you Sir for your interest in and support our work.

APPENDIX IV

RESOLUTION OF THE WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY

FORTIETH WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY

WHA40.20

Agenda item 32.2

15 May 1987

THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION

The Fortieth World Health Assembly,

Having studied the first report by the Director-General on the Codex Alimentarius Commission¹ and the discussions during the seventy-ninth session of the Executive Board;

Recognizing the role of the Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme and the Codex Alimentarius Commission for the promotion of food safety and the facilitation of international trade;

Recognizing the essential role of sufficient and safe food for health promotion and disease prevention;

Aware of the benefits to all countries to be derived from the work of the Codex Alimentarius Commission;

1. CALLS UPON Member States:

1. to participate actively, particularly their health sectors, in the work of the Codex Alimentarius Commission and its committees;
2. to make all appropriate efforts to adopt Codex standards, and to fully utilize the recommendations of the Commission for the promotion of food safety and the international food trade;
3. to promote active collaboration on the part of both the public and private sectors and nongovernmental organizations in national Codex work;

2. REQUESTS the Director-General:

1. to continue to collaborate with FAO in support of the Commission;
2. to maintain appropriate technical and financial support of the Commission;
3. to collaborate with Member States in strengthening their infrastructure for food safety in order to facilitate the implementation of Codex standards and recommendations;

3. RECOMMENDS the Codex Alimentarius Commission:

1. to give priority consideration to the work of the general subject committees and the regional coordinating committees, which are responsible for food safety and consumer information;
2. to encourage Member States to fully utilize and implement Codex standards and recommendations;

3. to invite Member States which have not yet joined the Commission to do so without delay.

Twelfth plenary meeting, 15 May 1987
A40/VR/12

¹ Document EB79/1987/REC/1, Annex 12.

APPENDIX V

MEMBER COUNTRIES OF THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION

1. Algeria
2. Argentina
3. Australia
4. Austria
5. Bahrain
6. Bangladesh
7. Barbados
8. Belgium
9. Benin
10. Bolivia
11. Botswana
12. Brazil
13. Bulgaria
14. Burkina Faso
15. Burma
16. Burundi
17. Cameroon
18. Canada
19. Cape Verde
20. Central African Republic
21. Chad
22. Chile
23. China
24. Colombia
25. Congo
26. Costa Rica
27. Cote d'Ivoire
28. Cuba
29. Cyprus
30. Czechoslovakia

31. Democratic Kampuchea
32. Democratic People's Rep. of Korea
33. Denmark
34. Dominican Republic
35. Ecuador
36. Egypt
37. El Salvador
38. Ethiopia
39. Fiji
40. Finland
41. France
42. Gabon
43. Gambia
44. Germany, Fed. Rep. of
45. Ghana
46. Greece
47. Grenada
48. Guatemala
49. Guinea
50. Guinea Bissau
51. Guyana
52. Haiti (W.I.)
53. Hungary
54. Iceland
55. India
56. Indonesia
57. Islamic Rep. of Iran
58. Iraq
59. Ireland
60. Israel
61. Italy
62. Jamaica
63. Japan
64. Jordan
65. Kenya
66. Kuwait
67. Lebanon
68. Lesotho
69. Liberia
70. Libya
71. Luxembourg
72. Madagascar
73. Malawi
74. Malaysia

75. Malta
76. Mauritius
77. Mexico
78. Morocco
79. Mozambique
80. Nepal
81. Netherlands
82. New Zealand
83. Nicaragua
84. Nigeria
85. Norway
86. Oman, Sultante of
87. Pakistan
88. Panama
89. Paraguay
90. Peru
91. Philippines
92. Poland
93. Portugal
94. Qatar
95. Republic of Korea
96. Romania
97. Samoa
98. Santa Lucia
99. Saudi Arabia
100. Senegal
101. Seychelles
102. Sierra Leone
103. Singapore
104. Spain
105. Sri Lanka
106. Sudan
107. Suriname
108. Swaziland
109. Sweden
110. Switzerland
111. Syria
112. Tanzania
113. Thailand
114. Togo
115. Trinidad and Tobago
116. Tunisia
117. Turkey
118. Uganda

- 119. U.S.S.R.
- 120. United Arab Emirates
- 121. United Kingdom
- 122. U.S.A.
- 123. Uruguay
- 124. Viet Nam
- 125. Venezuela
- 126. Yemen, People's Dem. Rep. of
- 127. Yugoslavia
- 128. Zaire
- 129. Zambia
- 130. Zimbabwe