



REPORT OF THE TWENTY-FIRST SESSION OF THE JOINT FAO/WHO CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION

Rome, 3 – 8 July 1995

[TABLE OF CONTENTS](#)

Summary and Conclusions

- agreed to advise FAO/WHO that the presence of consumers and other organizations as observers in meetings of the Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Food Additives and the Joint FAO/WHO Meetings on Pesticide Residues would improve transparency of decision-making (paragraph 90); and
- recommended that countries which had not yet established a national Codex Committee with consumer representation should do so as a matter of priority (paragraph 90).

**FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS
WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION
Rome, 1995**

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Summary and Conclusions

Introduction

In Memoriam

Adoption of the Agenda

Election of Officers of the Commission and Members of the Executive Committee and Appointment of Regional Coordinators

Report on the Financial Situation of the Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme for 1994/95 and 1996/97

Implementation of the Medium-Term Plan of the Codex Alimentarius Commission

(a) Report on Progress in Achieving the Medium-Term Plan

(b) Strategies for Achieving the Medium-Term Plan

Implementation of the Uruguay Round of Multilateral Trade Negotiations

(a) Working Arrangements Between the Codex Alimentarius Commission and the World Trade Organization

(b) Acceptance of Codex Standards in Relation to the SPS and TBT Agreement

Consideration of Proposals to Base Codex Standards and Other Recommendations on Scientific Principles and the Extent to Which Other Factors Need to Be Taken into Account

Risk Assessment/Risk Analysis in Codex: Recommendations of a Joint FAO/WHO Expert Consultation

Cooperation with the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) in the Elaboration of Worldwide Standards for Fresh Fruits and Vegetables

Consideration of Amendments to the Procedural Manual of the Codex Alimentarius Commission

Rules of Procedure

- Rule IV.6 - Quorum

- Rule II - Officers

Guidelines for Codex Committees and General Principles of the Codex Alimentarius

Consideration of Draft and Proposed Draft Standards and Related Texts for General Application

Food Additives

- Draft Preamble to the Codex General Standard for Food Additives

- Amendments to the International Numbering System

Pesticide Residues

- Maximum Residue Limits

- General comments on the work of the Codex Committee on Pesticide Residues

Residues of Veterinary Drugs

- Draft Maximum Residue Limits for 5 Growth Hormones at Step 8
- Draft Maximum Residue Limits for Bovine Somatotropins at Step 8
- Food Labelling
 - Proposed Draft Guidelines for the Use of Health and Nutrition Claims, including the Table of Conditions for Claims for Nutrient Contents
- Food Hygiene
 - Draft (Regional) Code of Hygienic Practice for the Preparation and Sale of Street-Vended Foods - Latin America and the Caribbean
 - Proposed Draft (Regional) Code of Hygienic Practice for Street Foods -Africa
 - Proposed Draft (Revised) International Code of Practice: General Principles of Food Hygiene
- Methods of Analysis and Sampling
 - Recommended Protocol for the Design, Conduct and Interpretation of Method Performance Studies and Harmonized Protocol for the Proficiency Testing of (Chemical) Analytical Laboratories
 - Methods of Analysis and Sampling Endorsed by the Codex Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling
- Import/Export Inspection and Certification Systems
 - Draft Principles for Food Import and Export Inspection and Certification

Consideration of Draft and Proposed Draft Standards and Related Texts for Specific

Commodities

Fish and Fishery Products

- Draft Standard for Quick Frozen Shrimps or Prawns
- Draft Standard for Canned Crab
- Other Matters

Fats and Oils

- Draft Standard for Palm Olein and Draft Standard for Palm Stearin
- Proposed Draft Standard for Olive Oil and Olive Pomace Oils
- Proposed Draft Standard for Products Sold as an Alternative to Ghee
- Proposed Draft Standard for Fat Spreads
- Proposed Draft Standard for Mayonnaise
- Proposed Draft Code of Practice for the Storage and Transport of Edible Oils and Fats in Bulk

Milk and Milk Products

- Draft Standard for Whey Powders
- Draft Standard for Edible Casein Products

Tropical Fresh Fruits and Vegetables

- Litchi
- Avocado
- Mangosteen

Cereals, Pulses, Legumes and Derived Products

- Wheat Flour
- Edible Cassava Flour

- Certain Pulses
- Guideline Level and Sampling Plan for Total Aflatoxins in Peanuts Intended for further Processing
- Adjournment of the Committee on Cereals, Pulses and Legumes *sine die*
- Foods for Special Dietary Uses
- Sugars and Honey
- Revised Codex Standard for Sugars and Honey
- Soups and Broths
- Draft Revised Codex Standard for Bouillons and Consommés
- Other Products

Consideration of Proposals to Elaborate New Standards and/or Related Texts

Matters Arising from Codex Committees

Confirmation of Chairmanship of Codex Committees

Other Business

- Consumer Involvement in the Work of Codex
- Status of Potential European Community Membership of the Codex Alimentarius Commission
- Standards for Coconut Products
- Duration of Commission Sessions

APPENDICES

Appendix 1 List of Participants

Appendix 2 Four Statements of Principle Concerning the Role of Science in the Codex Decision-Making Process and the Extent to Which Other Factors Are Taken into Account

Appendix 3 Amendments to the Rules of Procedure of the Codex Alimentarius Commission

Revision of the Procedural Manual: Amendments to the General Principles of the Codex Alimentarius, Guidelines for Codex Committees and Relations Between Codex Commodity Committees and General Committees

Provisions to be Amended in the Procedural Manual to Remove Gender-Specific References (English Only)

Appendix 4 List of Standards and Related Texts Adopted by the 21st Session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission

Appendix 5 Confirmation of Chair of Codex Committees under Rule IX.10

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7. The following persons were appointed as Regional Coordinators:

Africa	Mr. David Nhari (Zimbabwe)
Asia	Dr. Yuzo Hayashi (Japan)
Latin America and the Caribbean	Dr. Galdos Ugarte (Uruguay)
Europe	Prof. S. Slorach (Sweden)
North America and the South-West Pacific	Mr. P.J. O'Hara (New Zealand)

REPORT ON THE FINANCIAL SITUATION OF THE JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME FOR 1994/95 AND 1996/97⁴ (Agenda Item 3)

8. The Commission:

- noted the financial situation of the Programme for 1994/95, especially the fact that the Programme was operating effectively within its budgeted resources;
- noted that the level of the Joint FAO/WHO budget for 1996/97 would remain at the same level as for 1994/95, subject to confirmation by the parent agencies in the light of budgetary constraints to which both organizations were being subjected;
- endorsed the proposal to establish a new Professional post within the Secretariat and within the existing budget for collecting and disseminating technical information on the scientific and technical bases for Codex Standards and other recommendations;
- noted the reduction by \$US100 000 of additional Codex funds provided by FAO for documentation and called for continued effort to reduce costs in this and other areas;
- requested the Secretariat to report on the cost implications of providing documentation and interpretation in the Arabic language;
- requested the Secretariat to report on the implications of establishing innovative mechanisms (such as trust fund) with contributions from external partners for the purpose of strengthening the work of the Commission, at the national and international level and particularly participation of developing countries in the various aspects of work of the Codex;
- endorsed the recommendation of the Executive Committee that future reports should also provide estimates of the financial support provided by Host Governments.

⁴ ALINORM 95/5 and ALINORM 95/5, Revised (page 4 only).

⁵ ALINORM 95/6.

⁶ See Item 11 of the Agenda.

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE MEDIUM-TERM PLAN OF THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION⁵ (Agenda Item 4)

(A) REPORT ON PROGRESS IN ACHIEVING THE MEDIUM-TERM PLAN

(B) STRATEGIES FOR ACHIEVING THE MEDIUM-TERM PLAN

9. The Commission expressed its satisfaction on the progress made in achieving the Medium-Term Plan adopted at its 20th Session (1993). It noted that some areas of work were proceeding more slowly than expected. However, in the programmed review and revision of standards it was noted that a considerable number of draft revised standards were being submitted for adoption at Step 8. ⁶ The Commission endorsed the recommendations and conclusions of the Executive Committee in regard to the need for flexibility in adjusting to problems not foreseen in the Medium-Term Objectives and for urgent work on some specific microbiological concerns.⁷

10. The Commission agreed that work on biotechnology, including safety, labelling and nutrition aspects, being undertaken by relevant Codex Committees should be co-ordinated by the Executive Committee and that no new Committee would need to be established. Support was expressed for the initiative of holding a second Joint FAO/WHO Consultation on safety of food produced by biotechnology. The Commission noted the initiatives of OECD in the area of biotechnology and was assured that contact was maintained with that organization in order to avoid duplication of efforts.

11. With regard to the programme area on "Participation", the Commission welcomed proposals to hold sessions, especially of General Subject Committees in developing countries or in the Headquarters of the parent organizations so as to facilitate attendance by developing countries.

12. The Commission approved the strategic planning approach for implementing the Medium-Term Plan. It approved the Project Plans⁸ submitted to it and agreed to also include work on aflatoxins. The Commission requested the relevant Committees to take immediate action as required in respect of the Project Plans.

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE URUGUAY ROUND OF MULTILATERAL TRADE NEGOTIATIONS (Agenda Item 5)

(A) WORKING ARRANGEMENTS BETWEEN THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION AND THE WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION⁹

13. The Commission noted the recommendations made by the 41st Session of the Executive Committee on the orientation of Codex activities in the perspective of the WTO Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) and Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) Agreements and the action taken so far in this area, and the views of the 42nd Session of the Executive Committee¹⁰. The Commission also noted that in order for Codex recommendations in the area of chemical contamination and food safety in general to be of use under the SPS Agreement, they would continue to be reviewed regularly on the basis of scientific evaluation.

14. The Commission noted the specific provisions of the SPS and TBT Agreements to facilitate their implementation by developing countries, and also that regional workshops were being organized in cooperation with WTO to explain the privileges and obligations under the Agreements for member countries.

⁷ ALINORM 95/4, paras. 4 and 5

⁸ ALINORM 95/6, Appendix II

⁹ ALINORM 95/7 Part 1 (Revised)

¹⁰ ALINORM 95/4, paras. 12–16.

15. The Commission noted with satisfaction the working arrangements which had been established between WTO and itself. There was general consensus on the need for Codex to retain its own objectives and procedures while co-operating closely with WTO, in order to avoid duplication of work and to optimize resource utilization.

16. The general recommendations contained in paragraphs 5 and 6 of the working paper were endorsed in principle and the Commission requested the Codex Committee on General Principles to develop guidance on the modalities to be used for the implementation of these recommendations. The Commission called upon WTO, FAO and WHO to pursue their efforts to develop the awareness of governments as to their obligations and to facilitate the implementation of the Agreements, especially by developing countries.

(B) ACCEPTANCE OF CODEX STANDARDS IN RELATION TO THE SPS AND TBT AGREEMENT¹¹

17. The Commission expressed its appreciation for the paper which examined the present system of notification by Member governments of the acceptance, in its varied specified forms, of Codex standards; explored the relationship between Codex acceptances and the new disciplines provided by the SPS and the TBT Agreements; and considered proposals on developing a revised system of notification by Member governments of their use or otherwise of Codex standards and related texts which would meet the needs of Codex Members and might also meet the needs of the World Trade Organization (WTO) Members under the SPS and TBT Agreements.

18. In examining the implications of the WTO Agreements the Commission noted that the new role for Codex standards and related texts is a significant recognition of the importance of the work of the Commission, the international standing of the Codex standards and related texts and the role they play in furthering international harmonization and facilitating international

trade. In regard to the current revised approaches to some commodity standards, it was suggested that the Commission may need to accord more importance on the objective in the Statutes of ensuring fair practices in the food trade so that words, including quality and trade descriptions, if used in international trade, would have internationally consistent and clearly understood meanings.

19. The Commission agreed in principle to revise the form of notification of acceptance by Codex Members of Codex standards to include information about the use of Codex standards and related texts, to meet the needs of Codex Members and also the needs of the WTO Members under the SPS Agreement and to make consequential revisions to the Guidelines for the Acceptance Procedure for Codex Standards.

¹¹ ALINORM 95/7 - Part 2 introduced by Ms. Gae Pincus (Australia).

20. The Commission further agreed that:

- The revision be taken up as a high priority by the Committee on General Principles under Item 1b of the Medium Term Programme of Work - Adoption of improved acceptance procedures.
- The Committee on General Principles should also consider whether further minor revision of the section on Acceptance of Codex Standards in the General Principles of the Codex Alimentarius might be needed.
- The Committee on General Principles should develop the format of a revised notification scheme, with assistance from the Secretariat, to report to the 44th Session of the Executive Committee and the 22nd Session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission in 1997, after consultation with Members of the Commission, on the format and substance of the proposed requirements. The Committee should also advise on priorities and a time-frame for Members reporting under the revised notification scheme.

21. The Commission agreed to refer the question of which Codex standards and related texts have major trade impact to the Regional Coordinating Committees which would report to the next sessions of the Executive Committee and the Commission. The Commission noted that the Regional Coordinating Committees will need guidance from the Secretariat on this matter.

22. Bearing in mind that until a new scheme is ready, Members should continue to notify acceptance of Codex standards to the Secretariat under the current scheme. The Commission also agreed to remind Members:

- of their existing obligations under the General Principles and the Guidelines for the Acceptance Procedure for Codex Standards to respond to the Secretariat on every issue of new or amended standards, including giving detailed responses as to local requirements where Codex standards are not formally accepted, and the reasons for those differences; and

- of the need to keep this information up to date when national laws or practices are later changed.

CONSIDERATION OF PROPOSALS TO BASE CODEX STANDARDS AND OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS ON SCIENTIFIC PRINCIPLES AND THE EXTENT TO WHICH OTHER FACTORS NEED TO BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT (Agenda Item 6)

23. The Commission examined the paper¹² summarizing the background of the recommendations by the Executive Committee at its 41st Session (June, 1994) to set out four statements of principle which confirmed the pre-eminent role of science in Codex decision-making processes while allowing for other factors to be taken into account.

24. The Commission had a lengthy and exhaustive debate on the recommendations by the Executive Committee, including all the four statements of principle contained in Paragraph 20 of the paper. The Delegation of Spain, on behalf of the member countries of the European Community, submitted at the session a proposal to amend these statements as follows¹³:

1. The food standards, guidelines and other recommendations of Codex Alimentarius shall be based on the principle of ~~[sound]~~ scientific analysis and evidence, involving a thorough review of all relevant information, in order that the standards assure the protection of consumers' health and the quality and safety of the food supply.
2. When elaborating and deciding upon food standards Codex Alimentarius will have regard, where appropriate, to other legitimate factors relevant for the ~~[health protection of]~~ consumers and for the promotion of fair practices in food trade, assessed in a transparent manner.
3. In this regard it is noted that food labelling can play an important role in furthering ~~[both of]~~ these objectives.
4. Fourth paragraph deleted.

¹² ALINORM 95/8.

¹³ The Commission did not accept the presentation of a proposal from the Commission of the European Community during discussion under Item 6 because a point of order was raised by the Delegation of the United States with regard to the fact that Observers may not submit proposals. The Spanish Delegation asked the Secretariat of the Commission whether it had received the document which the Commission of the European Community had wished to submit as a proposal to the Session. The Commission was informed that the said document had not been received officially by the Secretariat of the Codex Alimentarius Commission.

25. The Commission overwhelmingly confirmed that Codex standards and other texts should be based on the principle of sound science. The wording of the fourth statement was also discussed extensively but inconclusively by a working group. Following intensive discussions on proposed amendments the Commission adopted the four statements of principles as originally drafted (Appendix 2) for the guidance of the work of Codex. Spain, on behalf of the Member Countries of the European Community, expressed its opposition to the Commission's decision.

26. In order to strengthen the role of science in the Codex decision-making process, the Commission asked the Secretariat to draw the attention of the Directors-General of **FAO** and **WHO** to the Commission's desire to increase transparency in the working procedures of expert panels, specifically **JECFA** and **JMPR**, including procedures for the selection of experts, declaration of interest, and assurance of adequate geographical representation of experts.

RISK ASSESSMENT/RISK ANALYSIS IN CODEX: RECOMMENDATIONS OF A JOINT FAO/WHO EXPERT CONSULTATION¹⁴ (Agenda Item 7)

27. The 42nd Session of the Executive Committee¹⁵ considered the report of the Joint FAO/WHO Expert Consultation on the Application of Risk Analysis to Food Standards Issues, which was held in Geneva, Switzerland from 13–17 March 1995. The Consultation had defined risk analysis terms, reviewed current practices in the CAC and FAO/WHO committees and addressed the issues on risk assessment of chemical and biological agents in food and the problems related to uncertainty and variability in risk analysis. Subsequent to the Consultation, FAO and WHO suggested a number of minor modifications to these definitions, based on existing definitions in the wider risk analysis context. The efforts of other international organizations in the elaboration of similar definitions, and the importance of eliminating conflict between these definitions, were also stressed.

28. The Commission expressed its appreciation to FAO and WHO for holding the Consultation and endorsed the recommendations arising from the Consultation in principle, especially in regard to the importance of further work on the review of methodology and guidelines currently used for predicting dietary intake, particularly on a regional basis. It noted that there was need for further clarification of terms and definitions used for risk analysis and asked that the proposal contained in Annex V of ALINORM 95/9 be circulated for government comments. It was decided to draw the attention of governments to amendments proposed for the terms risk communication (to include explicit reference to consumers) and to risk analysis, risk assessment, (to include reference to severity of effects) and risk characterization (to include reference to probability). The importance of transparency in communicating with consumers was also stressed.

29. The Commission also recommended further work to address risk management, risk communication and defining the roles and responsibilities of the different bodies involved in the risk analysis process as well as on uncertainty and variability in risk analysis in relation to standard setting and food regulation.

30. The Commission agreed that the Report and recommendations of the Consultation should be examined by relevant Codex Committees especially the Committee on General Principles so that the risk analysis concept would be incorporated into the Codex procedures and in the list of terms and definitions for Codex purposes. The Commission noted the need for taking into consideration the problems of developing countries in regard to implementing the risk analysis approach into their food regulations.

¹⁴ ALINORM 95/9 and WHO/FNU/FOS/95.3

¹⁵ ALINORM 95/4, paras. 25–28

COOPERATION WITH THE UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE (UNECE) IN THE ELABORATION OF WORLDWIDE STANDARDS FOR FRESH FRUITS AND VEGETABLES¹⁶ (Agenda Item 8)

31. The Commission recalled that at its 20th Session the request of the Codex Committee on Tropical Fresh Fruits and Vegetables (CCTFFV) to change its terms of reference to cover the standardization of all fresh produce was postponed pending consultations between the Codex, FAO and UNECE to arrive at a workable solution to the coordination of standardization activities between Codex and the Working Party on Standardization of Perishable Produce and Quality Development of UNECE. The 42nd Session of the Executive Committee¹⁷ had noted the opinion of the United Nations Under-Secretary for Legal Affairs that UNECE as a “regional commission” did not have the authority, unless explicitly so authorized by the Economic and Social Council, to establish subsidiary bodies which are anticipated to elaborate worldwide standards or which are instituted to transfer regional standards into worldwide standards.

32. The Commission adopted a revision proposed by the Executive Committee to the Terms of Reference¹⁸ of the Codex Committee on Tropical Fresh Fruits and Vegetables to cover the standardization of all fresh fruits and vegetables by deleting the word “Tropical” throughout. Several delegations opposed this decision. The Commission stressed that the newly named Codex Committee on Fresh Fruits and Vegetables should continue to cooperate and coordinate with the UNECE towards the elaboration of harmonized standards without duplication of effort, and noted that the present decision should allow the Codex Alimentarius Commission to use UNECE standards and recommend them for worldwide application. The Secretariat and the Executive Committee were requested to monitor work in this area, particularly as regards duplication.

CONSIDERATION OF AMENDMENTS TO THE PROCEDURAL MANUAL OF THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION¹⁹ (Agenda Item 9)

RULES OF PROCEDURE

• Rule IV.6 - Quorum

33. The Commission decided to retain the present quorum specified in Rule IV.6. However, recognizing the difficulties to reach a quorum, the need to maintain the rights of all Members, the need to encourage greater participation and the necessity to proceed efficiently with its work, the Commission requested the Committee on General Principles and Coordinating Committees to study mechanisms which might facilitate the expression of consensus.

• Rule II - Officers

34. As the quorum was constituted, the Commission agreed to amend Rule II - Officers, as proposed in order to clarify the role of the Chairman, Vice-Chairmen and Coordinators. The amended Rule will be submitted to the Directors-General of FAO and WHO for their approval as required by Rule XIII.1 of the Rules of Procedure.

¹⁶ ALINORM 95/10

¹⁷ ALINORM 95/4, para. 29–32.

¹⁸ CAC/LIM 8

¹⁹ ALINORM 95/14.

GUIDELINES FOR CODEX COMMITTEES AND GENERAL PRINCIPLES OF THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS

35. The Commission adopted the amendments to the Guidelines for Codex Committees in order to clarify the relationship between commodity and general committees, and other working arrangements.

The Commission noted that specific attention should be paid to the way in which referral from one Committee to another should be organized. It adopted an amendment to the General Principles of the Codex Alimentarius to emphasize the need for transparency in the process of revision of its standards and related texts. The Commission also adopted a number of changes to the English version of the Procedural Manual to remove gender-specific expressions.

36. Regarding para. 7 (a) of the Guidelines for Codex Committees, the Commission was assured that the provisional agendas of the Codex Committees and Coordinating Committees will be prepared in close cooperation between FAO and WHO.

37. The amendments to the Procedural Manual are attached as Appendix 3.

CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT AND PROPOSED DRAFT STANDARDS AND RELATED TEXTS FOR GENERAL APPLICATION (Agenda Item 10)²⁰

38. Appendix 4 to this report contains a list of Draft and Proposed Draft Standards and Related Texts for General Application considered by the Commission at Steps 8 and 5 respectively. Decisions of the Commission in regard to the adoption of texts are tabulated in this Appendix. The remainder of this part of the report contains certain specific observations on the texts under consideration.

FOOD ADDITIVES²¹

- Draft Preamble to the Codex General Standard for Food Additives²²

39. The Commission asked the Codex Committee on Food Additives and Contaminants to reconsider and examine those provisions related to the carry-over of food additives into foods.

- Amendments to the International Numbering System

40. The Commission, after discussions and on the basis of a majority decision, decided to close the list of speakers and allocated INS Number 407(a) to Processed *Eucheuma* Seaweed (thickener/stabilizer). The Commission noted the reservations the Delegation of Chile expressed concerning the procedure used in adopting the allocated number which it considered to be contrary to the Rules of Procedure of the Commission. The Commission also allocated INS number 956 to *alitame* (sweetener). It noted that a previous proposal to assign INS Number 275 to *calcium behenate* had been withdrawn.

PESTICIDE RESIDUS²³

- Maximum Residue Limits

41. The Delegation of Spain expressed reservations on certain MRLs for parathion, phorate, cyfluthrin, flusilazole and profenofos at Step 8 and for piperonyl butoxide, triazophos and benalaxyl at Step 5/8 as they were either different from those of Spain or the EC, or too high in relation to the ADIs. The Delegation of Germany expressed reservations on Part 1 and Part 2 of ALINORM 95/24A-Addendum, due to health concerns of certain MRLs.

²⁰ ALINORM 95/21 - Part I

²¹ ALINORM 95/12; ALINORM 95/12A; ALINORM 95/21 - Part I, Addendum 5 (CRD)

²² ALINORM 95/12, Appendix II

²³ ALINORM 95/24; ALINORM 95/24A; ALINORM 95/24A-Addendum; ALINORM 95/21 - Part 1; ALINORM 95/21 - Part I, Addendum 6 (CRD)

- General comments on the work of the Codex Committee on Pesticide Residues

42. The Commission also noted the opinions of some delegations that the shortened meeting of the Committee could have serious implications for its work taking into consideration its heavy workload. The Commission encouraged the development of guidelines for minimum data requirements for establishing MRLs and Good Agricultural Practice (GAP) and welcomed the revision of existing guidelines for predicting the dietary intake of pesticide residues.

RESIDUES OF VETERINARY DRUGS²⁴

- Draft Maximum Residue Limits for 5 Growth Hormones at Step 8

43. The Commission was split into two opinions: (1) in favour of adopting these MRLs at Step 8 without delay; and (2) in favour of postponing the consideration to the next session of the Commission awaiting an international conference organized by the EC scheduled later this year to study this issue.

44. After a lengthy debate on the issue in relation to whether to base a decision on currently available scientific evidence or to take into account factors other than health concerns, the Delegation of Spain, on behalf of the member countries of EU, proposed a roll-call vote on the

adjournment of debate on the adoption of certain growth-promoting hormones at Step 8. The result of the vote was:

In favour of adjournment:	Algeria; Austria; Belgium; Cyprus; Denmark; Finland; France; Germany; Greece; India; Iraq; Ireland; Italy; Kenya; Latvia; Malta; Netherlands; Norway; Poland; Portugal; Romania; Russian Federation; Slovak Republic; Spain; Sweden; Switzerland; Turkey; United Kingdom
Against adjournment:	Australia; Botswana; Brazil; Canada; Chile; China; Costa Rica; Egypt; Ghana; Hungary; Indonesia; Islamic Republic of Iran; Israel; Japan; Lebanon; Malaysia; Mexico; New Zealand; Nigeria; Paraguay; Peru; Philippines; Qatar; Republic of Korea; Saudi Arabia; Singapore; South Africa; Sudan; Tanzania; Thailand; United States of America
Abstaining:	Burkina Faso; Cuba; Uganda; Senegal; Zimbabwe
Tally:	28 votes in favour; 31 votes against; 5 abstentions
Result:	The motion for adjournment failed.

45. A majority of Member countries voted to proceed by the use of a secret ballot, as requested by the Delegation of the United States. As a result of the secret ballot, the Commission adopted the MRLs for growth-promoting hormones (33 votes in favour of adoption, 29 votes against adoption, and 7 abstentions).

²⁴ ALINORM 95/31 and Corr.1; ALINORM 95/21, Part I, Annex I

46. The Observer of the European Community commented that it was regrettable that this important and far-reaching decision was made by a secret ballot which was contradictory to the Commission's decision to increase transparency. He further noted that it cast doubts on the validity and value of Codex work and standards and that consequences would be grave including the European Community's rethinking of participation in Codex work. The Delegations of The Netherlands, Sweden, and Finland stressed that the latter statement by the Observer was made on behalf of the European Commission but not on behalf of the European Union or its member countries and dissociated themselves from the latter statement. The Delegation of Spain, on behalf of the European Union, recalled the right of the Commission of the European Community to make as many comments as it felt necessary as an observer, but also dissociated itself from the latter statement. The Delegation of the United Kingdom dissociated itself from the entire statement.

- Draft Maximum Residue Limits for Bovine Somatotropins at Step 8

47. The Delegation of Spain, on behalf of the Member States of the European Union, proposed a roll-call vote on the adjournment of debate on the adoption of maximum residue limits for bovine somatotropins at Step 8. The result of the vote was as follows:

In favour of adjournment:	Algeria; Austria; Belgium; Burkina Faso; Cameroon; Cyprus; Denmark; Finland; France; Germany; Greece; Guinea; Hungary; India; Ireland; Islamic Republic of Iran; Italy; Latvia; Lebanon; Lithuania; Luxembourg; Malta; Netherlands; Norway; Poland; Portugal; Republic of Korea; Romania; Russia; Slovak Rep; Spain; Sweden; Switzerland
Against adjournment:	Argentina; Australia; Brazil; Canada; Cape Verde; Chile; China; Cuba; Egypt; Ghana; Indonesia; Iraq; Israel; Japan; Kenya; Malaysia; Mexico; New Zealand; Nigeria; Pakistan; Peru; Saudi Arabia; Singapore; South Africa; Sudan; Tanzania; Thailand; Uganda; USA; UK; Zimbabwe
Abstaining:	Botswana; Ecuador; Lesotho; Philippines; Senegal; Tunisia
Tally:	33 votes in favour; 31 votes against; 6 abstentions
Result:	The motion for adjournment passed.

48. The Commission adjourned the debate until its next sitting. The Chairperson of the Codex Committee on Residues of Veterinary Drugs in Foods expressed his disappointment at the Commission's decision to postpone the debate.

FOOD LABELLING²⁵

- Proposed Draft Guidelines for the Use of Health and Nutrition Claims, including the Table of Conditions for Claims for Nutrient Contents

49. The Commission emphasized the importance of keeping under regular review provisions relating to nutrition claims in the light of new scientific information including aspects of fats and oils and noted that further work would be necessary on the Guidelines, inclusive of the Table of Conditions for Claims and Nutrient Contents, while recognizing that the present Conditions for Claims resulted from thorough consideration by the Codex Committee on Nutrition and Foods for Special Dietary Uses. The Commission adopted the proposed draft Guidelines at Step 5, but requested the Committee on Food Labelling and the Committee on Nutrition and Foods for Special Dietary Uses to consider all comments made by Member countries for re-evaluation of the Table of Conditions at their next sessions.

²⁵ ALINORM 95/22; ALINORM 95/26, Appendix III; ALINORM 95/21 - Part I; ALINORM 95/21 -Part I, Addendum 2 and Addendum 2/1 (CRD)

FOOD HYGIENE²⁶

- Draft (Regional) Code of Hygienic Practice for the Preparation and Sale of Street-Vended Foods - Latin America and the Caribbean

- Proposed Draft (Regional) Code of Hygiene Practice for Street Foods - Africa

50. The Commission noted that these Codes would need to be amended in the near future to incorporate the new approach contained in the revised General Principles of Food Hygiene and the use of the Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point (HACCP) System.

- Proposed Draft (Revised) International Code of Practice: General Principles of Food Hygiene

51. The Commission noted that the Draft (Revised) Code considered risk analysis and the HACCPbased approach in the revised Code and that relevant provisions in other Codes would be amended in light of this Code.

METHODS OF ANALYSIS AND SAMPLING²⁷

- Recommended Protocol for the Design, Conduct and Interpretation of Method Performance Studies and Harmonized Protocol for the Proficiency Testing of (Chemical) Analytical Laboratories

52. The Delegation of France considered that adoption at Step 8 of the two Protocols was not timely because their content was not in conformity with ISO texts.

- Methods of Analysis and Sampling Endorsed by the Codex Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling

53. The Commission noted that the references to AOAC methods were unchanged in the 16th Edition of the Official Methods of Analysis. The Commission also noted that the Committee had recognized that both SI and other units were in use in Member countries.

IMPORT/EXPORT INSPECTION AND CERTIFICATION SYSTEMS²⁸

- Draft Principles for Food Import and Export Inspection and Certification

54. The Commission deleted the phrase “or risk of contamination” at the end of paragraph 9 of the Principles, and asked the Committee to give further consideration to the implications of this phrase.

CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT AND PROPOSED DRAFT STANDARDS AND RELATED TEXTS FOR SPECIFIC COMMODITIES²⁹ (Agenda Item 11)

55. Appendix 4 to this report contains a list of Draft and Proposed Draft Standards and Related Texts for Specific Commodities considered by the Commission at Steps 8 and 5 respectively. Decisions of the Commission in regard to the adoption of texts are tabulated in this Appendix. The remainder of this part of the report contains certain specific observations on the texts under consideration.

²⁶ ALINORM 95/13 and Corr. (English only); ALINORM 95/36, Appendix II; ALINORM 95/28, Appendix II.

²⁷ ALINORM 95/23; ALINORM 95/21 - Part I, Addendum 4

²⁸ ALINORM 95/30; ALINORM 95/30A; ALINORM 95/21 - Part I, Addendum 1

²⁹ ALINORM 95/21, Part II

56. The Commission considered the status of trade-related quality provisions of an advisory nature, which had been transferred to “advisory” appendices in several standards³⁰. It confirmed that only essential aspects subject to acceptance should be included in the main body of the standard. It further agreed that, as the provisions included in the annex were not subject to Codex acceptance, a statement to this effect should be retained at the beginning of the standards under consideration, as follows:

Appendix 1 to this standard contains provisions which are not intended to be applied within the meaning of the acceptance provisions of Section 4.A (I)(b) of the General Principles of the Codex Alimentarius.

57. The Commission also noted that the advisory provisions constituted a “standard” under the definitions in the TBT Agreement. The Commission agreed to request the Committee on General Principles to consider this important issue.

58. The Commission agreed that Provisions concerning Food Additives should be included as an integral part of the standards until such time as the General Standard for Food Additives was finalized. In the meantime, food additive provisions should continue to be endorsed in accordance with present procedures.

FISH AND FISHERY PRODUCTS³¹

59. The Commission recalled that the standards had been revised in accordance with the recommendations of the Commission for the simplification of Codex standards, especially through the transfer of quality provisions of an advisory nature to the codes of Practice, currently under review.

- Draft Standard for Quick Frozen Shrimps or Prawns

60. The Commission noted the concern expressed concerning the use of sulphites and agreed that the Committee might reconsider this question.

- Draft Standard for Canned Crab

61. The Commission amended the Scope of the standard to include other edible parts of crab so as to reflected current trade practices.

- Other Matters

62. The Commission invited countries wishing to include additional species to the Definitions for Shrimps and Prawns; Sardines; Tuna and Bonito to submit relevant data on taxonomy, resources and processing technology to the Committee on Fish and Fishery Products. It also asked the Committee to give further consideration to the size designation of canned shrimps. The Commission agreed that the Accelerated Procedure should be used for the addition of species to the relevant standards.

FATS AND OILS³²

- Draft Standard for Palm Olein and Draft Standard for Palm Stearin

63. The Commission noted that a number of technical comments had been made and that the Standards would ultimately be integrated into the General Standard for Named Vegetable Oils. This would allow for further consideration of the issues raised. The Delegation of Germany did not support the adoption of these two standards.

³⁰ ALINORM 95/21, Part II, Addendum 7 (CAC/LIM 2)

³¹ ALINORM 95/18, ALINORM 95/21 - Part II; ALINORM 95/21 - Part II, Addendum 2

³² ALINORM 95/14, ALINORM 95/21 - Part II; ALINORM 95/21 - Part II, Addenda 1 and 1/1

- Proposed Draft Standard for Olive Oil and Olive Pomace Oils

64. The Commission noted amendments might still be proposed by the International Olive Oil Council and that these would to be taken into account when finalizing the standard.

- Proposed Draft Standard for Products Sold as an Alternative to Ghee

65. The Commission noted the objections raised in relation to the need for and the name of the standard. It was suggested to retain and update the current standards for related products instead of combining them. The Commission returned the Proposed Draft Standard to Step 3 for further consideration by the Committee on Fats and Oils.

- Proposed Draft Standard for Fat Spreads

66. The Commission endorsed the recommendation of the Executive Committee that the Committee on Milk and Milk Products should retain responsibility for the provisions concerning butter and cooperate with the Committee on Fats and Oils in the elaboration of the Fat Spreads Standard. In view of a number of objections raised to the scope and definitions, the Commission agreed that the standard should be returned to Step 3 for further consideration.

- Proposed Draft Standard for Mayonnaise

67. The Commission asked the Committee on Fats and Oils to give careful consideration to the issues of fat content and the content of egg yolk.

- Proposed Draft Code of Practice for the Storage and Transport of Edible Oils and Fats in Bulk

68. The Commission noted objections of the Delegation of Malaysia to the present text, in view of its possible implications for international trade.

MILK AND MILK PRODUCTS³³

69. The Commission noted that buffalo milk was commonly used as well as cow milk in various milk products and therefore asked that consideration might need to be given to this in the section concerning the labelling of milk other than cow milk. This matter was referred to the Committee on Milk and Milk Products.

- Draft Standard for Whey Powders

70. The Delegation of France expressed its reservation on the adoption of the standard, stating that the pH which distinguished whey powder from acid whey powder should be 5.8 rather than 5.1.

- Draft Standard for Edible Casein Products

71. The commission agreed to delete the word “acid” in square brackets in the Scope and to increase the maximum pH of caseinates from 7.5 to 8.0.

TROPICAL FRESH FRUITS AND VEGETABLES³⁴

- Litchi

72. The commission agreed that comments on the Provisions concerning Sizing (Section 3) would be considered by the Sixth Session of the Committee on Fresh Fruit and Vegetables.

³³ ALINORM 95/11; ALINORM 95/21 - Part II; ALINORM 95/21 - Part II, Addenda 5 and 5/1

³⁴ ALINORM 95/35; ALINORM 95/21 - Part II; ALINORM 95/21 - Part II, Addendum 4

- Avocado

73. The Commission added “Syn. *Persea gratissima* Gaertn” to the botanical description of the species, in order to take account of large avocado varieties.

- Mangosteen

74. The Commission agreed that comments related to Provisions on Hygiene (Section 8) would be considered by the 6th Session of the Codex Committee on Fresh Fruits and Vegetables.

CEREALS, PULSES, LEGUMES AND DERIVED PRODUCTS³⁵

75. The Delegation of France reserved its position on these Standards, stating that their optional provisions could be used as a reference for WTO³⁶ and that these provisions should therefore be reviewed with this approach in mind.

- Wheat Flour

76. The Delegations of Austria, Belgium, France, Germany, Greece and Italy reserved their position on sections 4.2.6 to 4.2.9 of the Standard. The Observer of the European Community opposed adoption.

- Edible Cassava Flour

77. The Commission confirmed that the Scope of the standard did not include cassava starch.

- Certain Pulses

78. The Delegation of Japan referred to the importance of developing guidelines for consumers on the processing and handling of pulses, especially in view of potentially high levels of cyanogenic glucosides.

- Guideline Level and Sampling Plan for Total Aflatoxins in Peanuts Intended for further Processing

79. The Commission was informed that the 27th Session of the Codex Committee on Food Additives and Contaminants postponed the endorsement of the proposed guideline level, pending JECFA evaluation of aflatoxins B, G and M in February 1996. The commission adopted the text at Step 5, with the understanding that future work on the establishment of a guideline level will be handled through the Codex Committee on Food Additives and Contaminants. The Delegations of France, Sweden and the United Kingdom reserved their positions on the level quoted in the text.

- Adjournment of the Committee on Cereals, Pulses and Legumes *sine die*.

80. The Commission concurred that the Committee be adjourned *sine die*.

FOODS FOR SPECIAL DIETARY USES³⁷

81. The Commission adopted at Step 8 the Draft Standard for Formula Foods for Use in Very Low Energy Diets for Weight Reduction, with the understanding that provisions for vitamins and minerals should be subject to regular review.

³⁵ ALINORM 95/29; ALINORM 95/28 and Addendum; ALINORM 95/21 - Part II; ALINORM 95/21 -Part II, Addenda 3, 3/1 and 8

³⁶ See the discussion reported under Agenda Item 5 and ALINORM 95/7.

³⁷ ALINORM 95/26; ALINORM 95/21 - Part II

SUGARS AND HONEY³⁸

- Revised Codex Standard for Sugars and Honey

82. The Commission, noting that substantial late comments had been submitted for consideration, adopted the Draft Standards at Step 5, but not at Step 8. It agreed that further revision by the Host Secretariat should be carried out through correspondence.

SOUPS AND BROTHS³⁹

- Draft Revised Codex Standard for Bouillons and Consommés

83. The Commission adopted the Standard at Step 8 as proposed and noted that a revision of the Standard in light of late substantive comments would be initiated immediately. The Delegation of Germany expressed its reservation on the adoption of the Standard.

OTHER PRODUCTS

84. The Delegation of Sweden informed the Commission that the revision of the Standard for Edibles Ices had been initiated; however, as these products did not appear to be of relevance for international trade, it was suggested to discontinue work on the standard as well as the activities of the Committee. The Commission agreed that a study should be provided on the subject, for consideration by the next session of the Executive Committee.

CONSIDERATION OF PROPOSALS TO ELABORATE NEW STANDARDS AND/OR RELATED TEXTS⁴⁰ (Agenda Item 12)

85. The Commission endorsed the proposals made by the Executive Committee⁴¹ on the elaboration of new standards and or related texts at step 1, which were found to meet the Medium-Term Objective of the Commission and to be within the mandate of the Commission.

86. It also noted the recommendations made by the Executive Committee on items for which work should not be undertaken, including: the development of Guidelines for Consumer Education in Food Hygiene, and Consideration of Dietary Modelling.

87. Proposals were made by the delegations of Egypt, China and Iran for new work on: the evaluation of two sweeteners (Thaumatococcus and Monellin); plants and herbs for medicinal use; pesticide residues in honey; MRLs of pesticides and maximum levels of contaminants in fish and low-fat meat; foods for athletes; and on packaging. The Commission noted that plants and herbs for medicinal use were not within the mandate of the Commission. The Secretariat was asked to prepare a study on the matter of packaging for the consideration by the

Executive Committee and the Commission's next sessions. The Commission referred the other proposals to the relevant Committees for consideration.

MATTERS ARISING FROM CODEX COMMITTEES⁴² (Agenda Item 13)

88. The Commission noted that these matters had been effectively dealt with by the Executive Committee⁴³ or else under previous items on the present Agenda. The Commission regretted that provision had not been made for a more in-depth consideration of the matters discussed by Regional Coordinating Committees.

³⁸ CL 1995/5 - S; ALINORM 95/21 - Part II; ALINORM 95/21 - Part II, Addenda 6, 6/1 and 6/2; CAC/LIM 12

³⁹ ALINORM 95/20; ALINORM 95/21 - Part II; ALINORM 95/21 - Part II, Addenda 9 and 9/1

⁴⁰ ALINORM 95/21 - Part 3

⁴¹ ALINORM 95/4, Appendix.

⁴² ALINORM 95/21 - Part 4.

⁴³ ALINORM 95/4, paras. 35–41

CONFIRMATION OF CHAIRMANSHIP OF CODEX COMMITTEES⁴⁴ (Agenda Item 14)

89. In accordance with Rule IX.10 of the Rules of Procedure, the Commission confirmed the Chairmanship of the Codex Committees hosted by Member governments, as listed in Appendix 5, and expressed its appreciation to the support provided by the respective Host Governments to its work.

OTHER BUSINESS (Item 15)

CONSUMER INVOLVEMENT IN THE WORK OF CODEX⁴⁵

90. The Commission regretted that it had insufficient time to consider in detail the valuable paper prepared by Consumers International.⁴⁶ It reiterated its strong support for greater consumer involvement in Codex matters, in particular it:

- agreed that this working paper should be considered by the next Session of the Committee on General Principles and that a paper on consumer involvement in Codex should be considered as a specific item early in the Agenda at the Commission's next Session;
- agreed to advise FAO/WHO that the presence of consumers and other organizations as observers in meetings of the Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Food Additives and the Joint FAO/WHO Meeting on Pesticide Residues would improve transparency of decision-making;
- noted that consumers' and other organizations would be invited to nominate potential experts for scientific panels, but that final decision on selection would remain the prerogative of the Directors-General of FAO and WHO in consultation with Member governments; and

- recommended that countries which had not yet established a national Codex Committee with consumer representation should do so as a matter of priority.

STATUS OF POTENTIAL EUROPEAN COMMUNITY MEMBERSHIP OF THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION⁴⁷

91. The Commission noted the current status of the informal consultations with the European Commission to consider the legal implications of European Community membership and the modalities of its participation. Since only a preliminary request for membership had been made at this stage, whatever action might be taken in the future would be contingent on further information received from the European Community, especially on the essential question of competence.

⁴⁴ ALINORM 95/14

⁴⁵ CAC 21/INF-2

⁴⁶ Consumers International stated that whilst frequent reference was made to transparency in Codex procedures and the necessity for consumers confidence in them, in Consumers International's opinion neither of these things had been improved by this Session, both in the conclusions reached and in the way in which some decisions were made.

⁴⁷ CAC 21/INF-3

STANDARDS FOR COCONUT PRODUCTS

92. The Commission noted that the Asia and Pacific Coconut Council had begun an extensive programme of standardization of coconut products. While encouraging the development of standards in this area, the Commission agreed that this work should be co-ordinated with its own work and asked that the matter be considered by the Regional Coordinating Committee for Asia.

DURATION OF COMMISSION SESSIONS

93. The Commission noted that the shortened Agenda for the present Session had been recommended by the 41st Session of the Executive Committee on an experimental basis. It expressed concern that the time allocated did not provide for adequate debate of all of the significant issues before the Commission, especially when many issues required extended debate in light of the new relevance of Codex standards within the context of the WTO Agreements. It requested the Executive Committee to take this into consideration when reviewing proposals for the Provisional Agenda and the time allocated for the commission's 22nd Session.

APPENDICES

APPENDIX I

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

LISTE DES PARTICIPANTS

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¹ 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.

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APPENDIX 2

STATEMENTS OF PRINCIPLE CONCERNING THE ROLE OF SCIENCE IN THE CODEX DECISION-MAKING PROCESS AND THE EXTENT TO WHICH OTHER FACTORS ARE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT

1. The food standards, guidelines and other recommendations of Codex Alimentarius shall be based on the principle of sound scientific analysis and evidence, involving a thorough review of all relevant information, in order that the standards assure the quality and safety of the food supply.
2. When elaborating and deciding upon food standards Codex Alimentarius will have regard, where appropriate, to other legitimate factors relevant for the health protection of consumers and for the promotion of fair practices in food trade.
3. In this regard it is noted that food labelling plays an important role in furthering both of these objectives.
4. When the situation arises that members of Codex agree on the necessary level of protection of public health but hold differing views about other considerations, members may abstain from acceptance of the relevant standard without necessarily preventing the decision by Codex.

APPENDIX 3

AMENDMENTS TO THE RULES OF PROCEDURE OF THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION

*Adopted by the Commission at its 21st Session 1995 Subject to approval by the
Directors-General of FAO and WHO*

Rule II - Officers

1. Amend Rule II.1 by the insertion of the following sentences after the second sentence:

The Chairman and Vice-Chairmen may remain in office only with the continuing endorsement of the respective Member of the Commission of which they were a delegate at the time of election. The Directors-General of FAO and WHO shall declare a position vacant when advised by the Member of the Commission that such endorsement has ceased.

2. Amend Rule II.4(c) to read as follows:

(c) The functions of the Coordinators shall be:

- i. to assist and coordinate the work of the Codex Committees set up under Rule IX.1(b)(i) in their region or group of countries in the preparation of draft standards, guidelines and other recommendations for submission to the Commission.*
- ii. to assist the Executive Committee and the Commission, as required, by advising them of the views of countries and recognized regional intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations in their respective regions on matters under discussion or of interest.*

3. Amend Rule II.4(d) and add new Rule II.4(e) as follows:

(d) Where a Coordinating Committee has been set up under Rule IX.1(b)(ii), the Coordinator of the region involved should be the Chairman of the Committee.

(e) Where a Coordinator is not able to carry out the functions of office, the Member of the Commission of which the Coordinator was a delegate at the time of appointment shall inform the Secretary of the Commission accordingly and shall appoint an interim Coordinator until such time as the Coordinator is able to resume those functions or until the next session of the Commission.

REVISION OF THE PROCEDURAL MANUAL: AMENDMENTS TO THE GENERAL PRINCIPLES OF THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS, GUIDELINES FOR CODEX COMMITTEES AND RELATIONS BETWEEN CODEX COMMODITY COMMITTEES AND GENERAL COMMITTEES

GENERAL PRINCIPLES OF THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS (Procedural Manual, Section D)

Revision of Codex Standards (New text)

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

A. GUIDELINES FOR CODEX COMMITTEES

Introduction

1. By virtue of Article 7 of the Statutes of the Codex Alimentarius Commission and Rule IX.1(b)(i) of its Rules of Procedure, the Commission has established a number of Codex Committees to prepare standards in accordance with the Procedure for the Elaboration of Codex Standards and Coordinating Committees to exercise general coordination of its work in specific regions or groups of countries. The Rules of Procedure of the Commission shall apply, *mutatis mutandis*, to Codex Committees and Coordinating Committees.

Composition of Codex Committees

Membership

2. Membership of Codex Committees is open to Members of the Commission who have notified the Director-General of FAO or WHO of their desire to be considered as members thereof or to selected members designated by the Commission. Membership of Regional Coordinating Committees is open only to Members of the Commission belonging to the region or groups of countries concerned.

Organization and Duties

Chairmanship

5. A member country to which a Codex Committee has been assigned is responsible for providing all conference services including the secretariat. The secretariat should have adequate administrative support staff able to work easily in the languages used at the session and should have at its disposal adequate word processing and document reproducing equipment. Interpretation, preferably simultaneous, should be provided from and into all languages used at the session, and if the report of the session is to be adopted in more than one of the working languages of the Committee, then the services of a translator should be available. The Committee secretariat and the Joint FAO/WHO (Codex) Secretariat are charged with the preparation of the draft report in consultation with the rapporteurs, if any.

Duties and Terms of Reference

6. The duties of a Codex Committee shall include:

- a. the drawing up of a list of priorities as appropriate, among the subjects and products within its terms of reference,
- b. consideration of the types of safety and quality elements (or recommendations) to be covered, whether in standards for general application or in reference to specific food products,

- c. consideration of the types of product to be covered by standards, e.g., whether materials for further processing into food should be covered,
- d. preparation of draft Codex standards within its terms of reference,
- e. reporting to each session of the Commission on the progress of its work and, where necessary, on any difficulties caused by its terms of reference, together with suggestions for their amendment,
- f. the review and, as necessary, revision of existing standards and related texts on a scheduled, periodic basis to ensure that the standards and related texts within its terms of reference are consistent with current scientific knowledge and other relevant information.

SESSIONS

Invitations and Provisional Agenda

7. (a) Sessions of Codex Committees and Coordinating Committees will be convened by the Directors-General of FAO and WHO in consultation with the chairman of the respective Codex Committee. The letter of invitation and provisional agenda shall be prepared by the Chief, Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme, FAO, Rome, in consultation with the chairman of the committee for issue by the Directors-General to all Members and Associate Members of FAO and WHO or, in the case of Coordinating Committees, to the countries of the region or group of countries concerned, Codex Contact Points and interested international organizations in accordance with the official mailing lists of FAO and WHO. Chairmen should, before finalizing the drafts, inform and consult with the national Codex Contact Point where one has been established, and, if necessary, obtain clearance from the national authorities concerned (Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Health, or as the case may be). The invitation and Provisional Agenda will be translated and distributed by FAO/WHO in the working languages of the Commission at least four months before the date of the meeting.

(b) Invitations should include the following:

- i. title of the Codex Committee,
- ii. time and date of opening and date of closing of the session,
- iii. place of the session,
- iv. languages to be used and arrangements for interpretation, i.e., whether simultaneous or not,
- v. if appropriate, information on hotel accommodation,
- vi. request for the names of the chief delegate and other members of the delegation, and for information on whether the chief delegate of a government will be attending as a representative or in the capacity of an observer.

Replies to invitations will normally be requested to be sent to reach the chairman as early as possible and in any case not less than 30 days before the session. A copy should be sent also to the Chief, Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme, FAO, Rome. It is of the utmost

importance that by the date requested a reply to invitations should be sent by all those governments and international organizations which intend to participate. The reply should specify the number of copies and the language of the documents required.

(c) The Provisional Agenda should state the time, date and place of the meeting and should include the following items:

- i. adoption of the agenda,
- ii. if considered necessary, election of rapporteurs,
- iii. items relating to subject matter to be discussed, including, where appropriate, the step in the Commission's Procedure for the Elaboration of Standards at which the item is being dealt with at the session. There should also be reference to the Committee papers relevant to the item,
- iv. any other business,
- v. consideration of date and place of next session,
- vi. adoption of draft report.

The work of the Committee and the length of the meeting should be so arranged as to leave sufficient time at the end of the session for a report of the Committee's transactions to be agreed.

Organization of Work

8. A Codex or Coordinating Committee may assign specific tasks to countries, groups of countries or to international organizations represented at meetings of the Committee and may ask member countries and international organizations for views on specific points. *Ad hoc* working groups established to accomplish specific tasks shall be disbanded once the tasks have been accomplished as determined by the Committee. Reports of *ad hoc* working groups shall be distributed to all members of the Committee and observers in time to allow full consideration of the working groups' recommendations. A Codex or Coordinating Committee may not set up standing sub-committees, whether open to all Members of the Commission or not, without the specific approval of the Commission.

9. (e) Consecutive reference numbers in suitable series should be assigned to all documents of Codex Committees. (End of the paragraph unchanged).

Conduct of Meetings

10. (a) Meetings of Codex and Coordinating Committees shall be held in public unless the Committee decides otherwise. Member countries responsible for Codex and Coordinating Committees shall decide who should open meetings on their behalf. The chairman should invite observations from members of the Committee concerning the Provisional Agenda and in the light of such observations formally request the Committee to adopt the Provisional Agenda or the amended agenda. Meetings should be conducted in accordance with the Rules of Procedure of the Codex Alimentarius Commission. Attention is particularly drawn to Rule

VI.7 which reads: “The provisions of Rule XII of the General Rules of FAO shall apply *mutatis mutandis* to all matters which are not specifically dealt with under Rule VI of the present Rules.” Rule XII of the the General Rules of FAO, a copy of which will be supplied to all chairmen, of Codex and Coordinating Committees, gives full instructions on the procedures to be followed in dealing with voting, points of order, adjournment and suspension of meetings, adjournment and closure of discussions on a particular item, reconsideration of a subject already decided and the order in which amendments should be dealt with.

Reports

(c) The Joint FAO/WHO Secretariat should ensure that, as soon as possible and in any event not later than one month after the end of the session, copies of the final report, as adopted, are sent to all participants, and all Codex Contact Points.

Drawing-up of Codex Standards and Related Texts

12. A Codex committee, in drawing up standards and related texts, should bear in mind the following:

- a. The guidance given in the General Principles of the Codex Alimentarius;
- b. that all standards and related texts should have a preface containing the following information:
 - i. the description of the standard or related text,
 - ii. a brief description of the scope and purpose(s) of the standard or related text,
 - iii. references including the step which the standard or related text has reached in the Commission's Procedures for the Elaboration of Standards, together with the date on which the draft was approved,
 - iv. matters in the draft standard or related text requiring endorsement or action by other Codex Committees.
- c. that for standards or any related text for a product which includes a number of sub-categories, the Committee should give preference to the development of ~~may-either draft~~ a general standard or related text with specific provisions as necessary for sub-categories with different requirements;
- d. ~~that, in general, it should not be necessary to change the name of a food solely because of the presence of a permitted food additive. However, in some instances, where the additive results in a significant change in the product, appropriate labelling may be required in addition to the listing of the additive among the declaration of ingredients.~~

RELATIONS BETWEEN COMMODITY COMMITTEES AND GENERAL COMMITTEES

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

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

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

The following amendments apply to the procedures for endorsement of provisions relating to Food Labelling, Food Additives, Food Hygiene:

Food Labelling: Delete the first paragraph, which is now covered by the general description of the endorsement procedures above. The remainder of this section, adopted by the Commission in 1991, remains unchanged.

Food Additives: This section is temporarily retained pending clarification on how Commodity Committees would be able to interact with the Committee on Food Additives and Contaminants within the framework of the Draft General Standard for Food Additives in the course of elaboration.

Food Hygiene: Delete the first paragraph, which is now covered by the general description of the endorsement procedures above. The remainder of this section, adopted by the Commission in 1993, remains unchanged.

PROVISIONS TO BE AMENDED IN THE PROCEDURAL, MANUAL TO REMOVE

GENDER-SPECIFIC REFERENCES (English Only)¹

Present terminology

Proposed terminology

CHAIRMAN, VICE-CHAIRMEN

CHAIRPERSON, VICE-CHAIRPERSONS

Section I

Chapter A Statutes of the Codex Alimentarius Commission

1. art. 9[7]²;

Chapter B Rules of Procedure of the Codex Alimentarius Commission

1. four times in rule II.1[9];
2. five times in rule II.2[9–10];
3. ten times in rule II.3[10];
4. rule II.4(c) [11];
5. rule II.4(d) [11];
6. twice in rule III.1 [11];
7. rule III.2 [12];
8. four times in rule III.3 [12];
9. rule III.4 [12];
10. rule IV.1 [12];
11. rule V.1 [13];
12. rule V.5 [14];
13. rule VI.5 [15];
14. rule VI.6 [16];
15. rule IX.6(a) [19];
16. rule IX.6(b) [19];
17. rule IX.6(c) [19];
18. rule IX.7 [19];
19. rule XI.3 [21]³;

Chapter C Part 3 - Guide to the consideration of Standards at Step 8 of the Procedure for the elaboration of Codex Standards including consideration of any statements relating to economic impact

1. three times in paragraph 4 [34];

Arrangements for the amendment of Codex Standards elaborated by Codex Committees which have adjourned *sine die*

1. paragraph 3. (ii) [38];

Section II

Chapter G Guidelines for Codex Committees

1. four times in paragraph 4 [66];
2. five times in paragraph 7.(a) [67–68];
3. paragraph 7.(b), final part [68];
4. paragraph 9.(a) [70];
5. paragraph 9.(b) [70];
6. paragraph 9.(e) [70];
7. paragraph 9.(f) [71];
8. twice in paragraph 10.(a) [71–72];
9. three times in paragraph 10.(b) [72];

Section III

Chapter K List of Subsidiary bodies of the Codex Alimentarius Commission

Part B

- 1 body 1, under “Terms of reference” [127];

Part C

1. body 3, under the heading “Membership” [156];

¹ The numbers in square brackets refer to the page numbers of the Procedural Manual, Eighth Edition.

² “chairmanship” in the third line, should be replaced by “the Chair”.

³ “chairmanship” should be replaced by “the Chair”.

APPENDIX 4

LIST OF STANDARDS AND RELATED TEXTS ADOPTED BY THE 21ST SESSION OF THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION

Part I. Standards And Related Texts Adopted at Step 8

Standard or Related Text	References	Decision
General Standard for Food Additives:	ALINORM 95/12	Adopted. See paragraph 39.

Preamble	Appendix II	
Specifications for the Identity and Purity of Food Additives	ALINORM 95/12 Appendix IV ALINORM 95/12A Appendix IV	Adopted.
Amendments to the International Numbering System for Food Additives	ALINORM 95/12 Appendix V	Adopted.
General Standard for Contaminants and Toxins in Foods: Preamble	ALINORM 95/12A Appendix VI	Adopted.
Recommended Method of Sampling for the Determination of Pesticide Residues in Milk, Milk Products and Eggs	ALINORM 95/24A Appendix II	Adopted.
Revised List of Methods of Analysis for Pesticide Residues	ALINORM 95/24A Appendix II	Adopted.
Maximum Residue Limits for Pesticides	ALINORM 95/24A- Add.1	Adopted. Including the deletion and amendment of certain Codex MRLs as contained in the reference.
Maximum Residue Limits for the following Veterinary Drugs: Estradiol 17-β Progesterone Testosterone Zeranol Trenbolone Acetate Sulfadimidine Flubendazole Thiabendazole Isometamidium	ALINORM 91/31 Appendix IV ALINORM 93/31 Appendix II ALINORM 95/31 Appendix II	Adopted. Adopted. Adopted.
Code of Hygienic Practice for Spices and Dried Aromatic Plants	ALINORM 95/13 Appendix II	Adopted.
(Latin America and Caribbean Regional) Code of Hygienic Practice for the Preparation and Sale of Street-Vended Foods	ALINORM 95/36 Appendix II	Adopted. See also para. 50.

Codex General Methods of Analysis for Contaminants	ALINORM 95/23 Appendix III	Adopted.
Recommended Protocol for the Design, Conduct and Interpretation of Method Performance Studies	ALINORM 95/23 Appendix V	Adopted.
Harmonized Protocol for the Proficiency Testing of (Chemical) Analytical Laboratories	ALINORM 95/23 Appendix V	Adopted.
Principles for Food Import and Export Certification and Inspection	ALINORM 95/30A Appendix II	Adopted with minor amendments: see para. 54.
Guidelines for the Exchange of Information in Food Control Emergency Situations	ALINORM 95/30A Appendix III	Adopted.
General Statement on Provisions concerning Inspection and Certification in Codex Standards	ALINORM 95/30A paras. 96	Adopted for inclusion in Procedural Manual.
General Standard for Quick Frozen Fish Fillets	ALINORM 95/18 Appendix II	Adopted with editorial changes.
Standard for Quick Frozen Raw Squid	ALINORM 95/18 Appendix III	Adopted.
Revised General Standard for Quick Frozen Blocks of Fish Fillets, Minced Fish Flesh and Mixtures of Fillets and Minced Fish Flesh	ALINORM 95/18 Appendix IV	Adopted.
Revised Standard for Quick Frozen Finfish, Eviscerated or Uneviscerated	ALINORM 95/18 Appendix V	Adopted.
Revised Standard for Quick Frozen Lobsters	ALINORM 95/18 Appendix VI	Adopted.
Revised Standard for Quick Frozen Fish Sticks (Fish Fingers), Fish Portions and Fish Fillets - Breaded or in Batter	ALINORM 95/18 Appendix VII	Adopted with editorial changes.
Revised Standard for Quick Frozen Shrimps or Prawns	ALINORM 95/18 Appendix VIII	Adopted.
Revised Standard for Canned Crab Meat	ALINORM 95/18 Appendix IX	Adopted with amendments. See para. 61.
Revised Standard for Canned Finfish	ALINORM 95/18	Adopted.

	Appendix X	
Revised Standard for Canned Salmon	ALINORM 95/18 Appendix XI	Adopted with an editorial changes.
Revised Standard for Sardines and Sardine-Type Products	ALINORM 95/18 Appendix XII	Adopted with an editorial change.
Revised Standard for Canned Shrimps or Prawns	ALINORM 95/18 Appendix XIII	Adopted.
Revised Standard for Canned Tuna and Bonito	ALINORM 95/18 Appendix XIV	Adopted.
Revised Standard for Salted Fish and Dried Salted Fish of the <i>Gadidae</i> Family of Fishes	ALINORM 95/18 Appendix XV	Adopted at Steps 5 & 8 with omission of Steps 6 & 7.
General Standard for Edible Palm Olein	ALINORM 95/17 Appendix II	Adopted.
General Standard for Edible Palm Stearin	ALINORM 95/17 Appendix III	Adopted.
Standard for Whey Powders	ALINORM 95/11 Appendix II	Adopted.
Standard for Edible Casein Products	ALINORM 95/11 Appendix III	Adopted with minor amendments; see para. 71.
Standard for Litchi	ALINORM 95/35 Appendix II	Adopted.
Standard for Avocado	ALINORM 95/35 Appendix III	Adopted with minor amendment; see para. 73.
Code of Practice for the Packaging and Transport of Tropical Fresh Fruit and Vegetables	ALINORM 95/35 Appendix VII	Adopted.
Standard for Rice	ALINORM 95/29 Appendix III	Adopted.
Standard for Wheat and Durum Wheat	ALINORM 95/29 Appendix IV	Adopted.
Standard for Peanuts	ALINORM 95/29 Appendix V	Adopted.
Standard for Oats	ALINORM 95/29 Appendix VI	Adopted.
Standard for Couscous	ALINORM 95/28-	Adopted.

	Appendum	
Standard for Wheat Flour	ALINORM 95/29 Appendix VII	Adopted at Steps 5 & 8 with ommission of Steps 6 & 7.
Standard for Maize (Corn)	ALINORM 95/29 Appendix VIII	Adopted at Steps 5 & 8 with ommission of Steps 6 & 7.
Standard for Whole Maize (Corn) Meal	ALINORM 95/29 Appendix IX	Adopted at Steps 5 & 8 with ommission of Steps 6 & 7.
Standard for Degermed Maize (Corn) Meal and Maize (Corn) Grits	ALINORM 95/29 Appendix X	Adopted at Steps 5 & 8 with ommission of Steps 6 & 7.
Standard for Certain Pulses	ALINORM 95/29 Appendix XI	Adopted at Steps 5 & 8 with ommission of Steps 6 & 7.
Standard for Sorghum Grains	ALINORM 95/29 Appendix XII	Adopted at Steps 5 & 8 with ommission of Steps 6 & 7.
Standard for Sorghum Flour	ALINORM 95/29 Appendix XIII	Adopted at Steps 5 & 8 with ommission of Steps 6 & 7.
Standard for Durum Wheat Semolina and Durum Wheat Flour	ALINORM 95/29 Appendix XIV	Adopted at Steps 5 & 8 with ommission of Steps 6 & 7.
Standard for Gari	ALINORM 95/29 Appendix XV	Adopted at Steps 5 & 8 with ommission of Steps 6 & 7.
Standard for Whole and Decorticated Pearl Millet Grains	ALINORM 95/29 Appendix XVI	Adopted at Steps 5 & 8 with ommission of Steps 6 & 7.
Standard for Pearl Millet Flour	ALINORM 95/29 Appendix XVII	Adopted at Steps 5 & 8 with ommission of Steps 6 & 7.
Standard for Edible Cassava Flour	ALINORM 95/29 Appendix XVIII	Adopted at Steps 5 & 8 with ommission of Steps 6 & 7.
Standard for Formula Foods for Use in Very Low Energy Diets for Weight Reduction	ALINORM 95/26 Appendix II	Adopted.
Revised Standard for Bouillons and Consommés	ALINORM 95/20 Appendix I	Adopted. See also para. 83.

PART II. DRAFT STANDARDS AND RELATED TEXTS ADOPTED AT STEP 5

Standard or Related Text	References	Decision
General Standard for Food Additives: Annex A - Guidelines for the Estimation of Appropriate Levels of Use of Food Additives	ALINORM 95/12A Appendix III	Adopted at Step 5 and advanced to Step 6.

General Standard for Contaminants and Toxins in Foods: Criteria for the Establishment of Maximum Levels in Foods Procedure for Risk Management Decisions Format of the Standard	ALINORM 95/12A Appendix VII, Annexes I, II and III	Adopted at Step 5 and advanced to Step 6.
Draft Maximum Residue Limits for the following Veterinary Drugs: Levamisole Diminazene	ALINORM 95/31 Appendix IV	Adopted at Step 5 and advanced to Step 6.
Draft Guidelines on the Use of Health and Nutrition Claims; and Draft Table of Conditions for Claims for Nutrient Contents	ALINORM 95/22 Appendix III ALINORM 95/26 Appendix III	Adopted at Step 5 and advanced to Step 6. See also para. 49.
Draft Guidelines for the Use of the Term <i>Halal</i>	ALINORM 95/22 Appendix IV	Adopted at Step 5 and advanced to Step 6.
Draft (African Regional) Code of Hygienic Practice for Street Foods	ALINORM 95/28 Appendix II	Adopted at Step 5 and advanced to Step 6.
Draft (Revised) International Code of Practice: General Principles of Food Hygiene	ALINORM 95/13 Appendix II	Adopted at Step 5 and advanced to Step 6.
Draft Guidelines for the Exchange of Information between Countries on Rejections of Imported Food	ALINORM 95/30A Appendix IV	Adopted at Step 5 and advanced to Step 6.
Draft Standard for Edible Fats and Oils not Covered by Individual Standards	ALINORM 95/17 Appendix V	Adopted at Step 5 and advanced to Step 6.
Draft Standard for Named Animal Fats	ALINORM 95/17 Appendix VII	Adopted at Step 5 and advanced to Step 6.
Draft Standard for Named Vegetable Oils	ALINORM 95/17 Appendix VIII	Adopted at Step 5 and advanced to Step 6.
Draft Standard for Olive Oils and Olive Pomace Oils	ALINORM 95/17 Appendix X	Adopted at Step 5 and advanced to Step 6.
Draft Standard for Mayonnaise	ALINORM	Adopted at Step 5 and

	95/17 Appendix XI	advanced to Step 6.
Draft Revised Code of Practice for the Storage and Transport of Edible Oils and Fats in Bulk	ALINORM 95/17 Appendix IV	Adopted at Step 5 and advanced to Step 6.
Draft Revised Standard for Butter	ALINORM 95/11 Appendix IV	Adopted at Step 5 and advanced to Step 6.
Draft Revised Standard for Milkfat Products	ALINORM 95/11 Appendix V	Adopted at Step 5 and advanced to Step 6.
Draft Revised Standard for Evaporated Milks	ALINORM 95/11 Appendix VI	Adopted at Step 5 and advanced to Step 6.
Draft Revised Standard for Sweetened Condensed Milks	ALINORM 95/11 Appendix VII	Adopted at Step 5 and advanced to Step 6.
Draft Revised Standard for Milk and Cream Powders	ALINORM 95/11 Appendix VIII	Adopted at Step 5 and advanced to Step 6.
Draft Revised Standard for Cheese	ALINORM 95/11 Appendix IX	Adopted at Step 5 and advanced to Step 6.
Draft Revised Standard for Whey Cheese	ALINORM 95/11 Appendix X	Adopted at Step 5 and advanced to Step 6.
Draft Standard for Mangosteen	ALINORM 95/35 Appendix V	Adopted at Step 5 and advanced to Step 6.
Draft Guideline Levels and Sampling Plans for Total Aflatoxins in Peanuts [Intended for Further Processing]	ALINORM 95/29 Appendix II	Adopted at Step 5 and advanced to Step 6.
Draft Standard for Sugar	CL 1995/5-S Annex I	Adopted at Step 5 and advanced to Step 6.
Draft Standard for Honey	CL 1995/5-S Annex II	Adopted at Step 5 and advanced to Step 6.

APPENDIX 5

CONFIRMATION OF CHAIR OF CODEX COMMITTEES UNDER RULE

IX.10

<u>Committee</u>	<u>Chair</u>
Codex Committee on General Principles	France
Codex Committee on Food Additives and Contaminants	The Netherlands
Codex Committee on Food Hygiene	United States of America
Codex Committee on Food Labelling	Canada
Codex Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling	Hungary
Codex Committee on Pesticide Residues	The Netherlands
Codex Committee on Residues of Veterinary Drugs in Foods	United States of America
Codex Committee on Food Import and Export Inspection and Certification Systems	Australia
Codex Committee on Nutrition and Foods for Special Dietary Uses	Germany
Codex Committee on Cocoa Products and Chocolate	Switzerland
Codex Committee on Sugars	United Kingdom
Codex Committee on Processed Fruits and Vegetables	United States of America
Codex Committee on Fats and Oils	United Kingdom
Codex Committee on Meat Hygiene	New Zealand
Codex Committee on Processed Meat and Poultry Products	Denmark
Codex Committee on Fish and Fishery Products	Norway
Codex Committee on Edible Ices	Sweden
Codex Committee on Soups and Broths	Switzerland
Codex Committee on Cereals, Pulses and Legumes	United States of America
Codex Committee on Vegetable Proteins	Canada
Codex Committee on Fresh Fruits and Vegetables	Mexico
Codex Committee on Milk and Milk Products	New Zealand
Codex Committee on Natural Mineral Waters	Switzerland

MEMBER COUNTRIES OF THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION

Albania
Algeria
Angola
Antigua and Barbuda
Argentina
Armenia
Australia
Austria
Bahrain
Bangladesh
Barbados
Belgium
Belize
Benin
Bolivia
Botswana
Brazil
Bulgaria
Burkina Faso
Burundi
Cambodia
Cameroon
Canada
Cape Verde
Central African Republic
Chad
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China
Colombia
Congo
Costa Rica
Côte d'Ivoire
Croatia
Cuba
Cyprus
Czech Republic
Democratic People's Rep. of Korea
Denmark
Dominica
Dominican Republic
Ecuador
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El Salvador
Equatorial Guinea
Estonia
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Federated States of Micronesia
Fiji
Finland
Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia
France
Gabon
Gambia
Germany
Ghana
Greece
Grenada
Guatemala
Guinea
Guinea Bissau
Guyana
Haiti
Honduras
Hungary
Iceland
India
Indonesia
Iraq
Ireland
Islamic Rep. of Iran
Israel
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Sudan
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Sweden
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Thailand
Togo
Trinidad and Tobago
Tunisia
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Uruguay
Venezuela
Viet Nam
Yemen
Yugoslavia
Zaire
Zambia
Zimbabwe