

codex alimentarius commission

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE
ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED
NATIONS

WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION

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ALINORM 95/4
June 1995

**JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME
CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION
*Twenty-First Session, FAO Headquarters, Rome, 3-8 July 1995***

**REPORT OF THE FORTY-SECOND SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE CODEX
ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION
*Rome, 28-30 June 1995***

INTRODUCTION

1. The Executive Committee of the Codex Alimentarius Commission held its 42nd Session at FAO Headquarters, Rome from 28 to 30 June 1995, under the Chairmanship of Professor F.G. Winarno (Indonesia), Chairman of the Codex Alimentarius Commission. The list of participants at the Session is given in Appendix 1. The Session was opened by Mr. Hartwig de Haen, Assistant Director-General, FAO Economic and Social Department on behalf of the Directors-General of FAO and WHO.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA¹ (Agenda Item 1)

¹ CX/EXEC 95/42/1

2. The Executive Committee adopted the Provisional Agenda as the Agenda for its Session.

**REPORT ON THE FINANCIAL SITUATION OF THE JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD
STANDARDS PROGRAMME FOR 1994/95 AND 1996/97²** (Agenda Item 2)

² ALINORM 95/5

3. The Executive Committee:

- 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 cost-sharing budget for 1996/97 would remain at the same level as for 1994/95, subject to confirmation by the parent agencies;
- 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 which took into account more cost-effective Codex documentation procedures introduced in 1994-95, and the

possibility of a reduction in the WHO contribution, and stated that a reduction in the level of the budget was contrary to the expectations of governments in the follow-up to the Uruguay Round;

- noted with appreciation, the substantial financial contribution made by Host Governments towards the holding of Codex Committee sessions and asked that an estimate of these contributions be made in future reports; and
- suggested that consideration might be given to establishing a trust fund with contributions from external donors.

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE MEDIUM-TERM PLAN OF THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION³ (Agenda Item 3)

³ ALINORM 95/6

(a) Report on progress in achieving the medium-term plan

4. The Executive Committee noted the progress made towards the achievement of the Medium- Term Objectives as outlined in Appendix 1 to the paper under discussion. It expressed its general satisfaction with the progress achieved, but drew attention to the fact that certain key areas of work were developing more slowly than expected. The Committee noted that there should be flexibility in responding to the Medium-Term Objectives whenever the need arose.

5. The Executive Committee stressed the urgency of work related to microbiological contamination of food, especially in regard to *Listeria monocytogenes* and enterohaemorrhagic *Escherichia coli* and stated that high priority should be given to the revision of the principles for establishing microbiological criteria for foods.

6. Consideration of biotechnology was considered to be of high priority and within the Medium- Term Objectives, especially in regard to issues of safety. The Executive Committee noted that food safety aspects would be considered by FAO/WHO committees outside the Codex system, and that other aspects of foods produced by biotechnology (e.g., labelling) would have to be considered by several Codex Committees within their areas of competence. The Executive Committee noted that no new committee would need to be established on biotechnology for the time being, but that coordination of the work undertaken by various Committees on biotechnology would be the responsibility of the Executive Committee.

7. It was agreed that the document on improved participation by consumers' organizations⁴, should be discussed by the Commission, under "Any Other Business".

⁴ CAC 21/INF-2

(b) Consideration of proposals to elaborate new standards and/or related texts

8. The Executive Committee discussed proposals for new standards and or related texts at Step 1, on the basis of two criteria: (i) whether they met the Medium-Term Objective of the Commission and (ii) whether they were within the mandate of the Commission. The Executive Committee's recommendations are summarized in Appendix 2.

9. On the proposal for Guidelines for Consumer Education in Food Hygiene, the reason for not recommending the activity was that the Executive Committee was informed that FAO was preparing guidelines for consumer education in food handling and food safety and that WHO had published materials to promote health education in

food safety and would continue to do so. It was suggested that the Commission might wish to recommend to FAO and WHO that the issue was of high priority.

10. Although the proposal for Consideration of Nutritional and Quality Descriptors met the Medium-Term Objectives, it was agreed that any descriptors used for milk and milk products should be consistent with the general Codex texts and endorsed by the CCFL and CCNFSDU. Similarly, it was felt that the proposal by CCNFSDU, for Consideration of Dietary Modelling did not appear to be consistent with the Commission's mandate and further clarification by the CCNFSDU was required. The Committee was informed that the FAO/WHO Expert Consultation on Application of Risk Analysis to Food Standards Issues had recommended that dietary exposure assessment should be dealt with by FAO/WHO committees rather than Codex Committees as it was primarily a scientific matter.

11. The Committee agreed that work on the elaboration of a Code of Practice for all Foodstuffs Transported in Bulk should be initiated by the CCFH in collaboration with CCFAC and other Committees which have interest in this area.

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE URUGUAY ROUND OF MULTILATERAL TRADE NEGOTIATIONS (Agenda Item 4)

(a) General Implications for the CAC and Working Arrangements with WTO⁵

⁵ ALINORM 95/7 - Part 1(Revised) and 75/7 Part 2.

12. The Executive Committee noted with satisfaction the working arrangements which have been established between the Secretariat and the WTO SPS and TBT Committees and encouraged active cooperation to avoid duplication in those areas of common interest between the WTO and the Codex Alimentarius Commission.

13. The Executive Committee also noted that the Codex Secretariat played an educational role about the relationship between the WTO Agreements and the role of Codex through Workshops and Seminars held in some regions. It also expressed the view that the responsibility for education of industry, consumer and government agencies about the WTO Agreements rested primarily with WTO Member governments. Members of the Executive Committee drew attention to the significant responsibilities of the WTO in education particularly in some developing countries which may not be aware of the implications of the SPS and TBT Agreements, and in relation to the notification requirements of both Agreements.

14. The Executive Committee also noted that the requests for information from Codex by WTO Committees and WTO Members was increasing the Codex workload.

15. The Executive Committee recommended that the Commission endorse its previous recommendations as outlined in paragraphs 5 and 6 of ALINORM 95/7 - Part 1, noting the progress on many of the issues which is already occurring. The Executive Committee also recommended that the Commission note the progress of the Secretariat in those matters where action was requested of the Secretariat, detailed in paragraphs 7 and 10 of ALINORM 95/7 - Part 1.s

16. The Executive Committee also recommended that the Commission, whilst appreciating and supporting the new international focus on and status of Codex standards and related texts, should maintain its own focus and priorities. The Executive Committee recommended that the Commission support Codex working closely with the SPS and TBT Committees to promote the work of the Commission and to avoid duplication and waste of limited resources

(b) Acceptance of Codex Standards in Relation to the SPS and TBT Agreements⁶

⁶ ALINORM 95/7 Part 2, introduced by Ms. Gae Pincus (Australia).

17. The Executive Committee examined the present system of notification by Member governments of the acceptance, in its various specified forms, or otherwise, of Codex standards; explored the relationship between Codex acceptances and the new disciplines provided by the SPS Agreement and the TBT Agreement; 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 the World Trade Organization (WTO) Members under the SPS and TBT Agreements.

18. The Executive Committee focused on those provisions of the SPS and TBT Agreements which establish Codex standards, guidelines and recommendations as the reference points or benchmarks for the resolution of international trade disputes; which promote transparency of standard setting in Members' own jurisdictions by notification procedures; and which provide for monitoring of international harmonization.

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

20. The Executive Committee expressed its appreciation to the consultant for the paper which clarified a number of issues in relation to acceptance of Codex standards, the role of Codex standards and related texts under the SPS and TBT Agreements, and the potential impact of these Agreements on the work of the Codex Alimentarius Commission.

21. The Executive Committee recommended to the Commission that:

- The Commission agree in principle to take up as a high priority the review and revision of the form of notification of acceptance or otherwise by Codex Members of standards to include information about the use or otherwise of Codex standards, to meet the needs of Codex Members and needs of the World Trade Organization Members under the SPS Agreement; and to include similar information on the use or otherwise of Codex related texts; and also make consequential revisions to the Guidelines for the Acceptance Procedure for Codex Standards.
- The Committee on General Principles should also consider if further minor revision of 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 and 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.
- Recognizing the large task for Members that such a revised notification scheme would entail, the Committee on General Principles should also

advise on priorities and a time-frame for Member reporting under the revised notification scheme.

22. The Committee also recommended that the Commission refer the question of which Codex standards and related texts on sanitary matters are considered to have major trade impact, to the Regional Coordinating Committees for consideration and request advice to the next Sessions of the Executive Committee and the Commission.

23. The Committee also recommended that the Commission 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
- the need to keep this information up to date when national laws or practices are later changed.

24. To this end the Executive Committee recommended that the Secretariat take necessary action as quickly as possible.

RISK ASSESSMENT/RISK ANALYSIS IN CODEX: RECOMMENDATIONS OF A JOINT FAO/WHO EXPERT CONSULTATION⁷ (Agenda Item 5)

⁷ ALINORM 95/9 and WHO/FNU/FOS/95.3

25. At the request of the 41st Session of the Executive Committee FAO/WHO held an Expert Consultation on the Application of Risk Analysis to Food Standards Issues in Geneva, Switzerland from 13-17 March 1995. The Consultation defined risk analysis terms, reviewed current practices in 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 assessment. 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.

26. The Executive Committee expressed its appreciation to FAO and WHO for holding the Consultation and endorsed the recommendations arising from the Consultation in principle, while noting that the recommendation concerning the review of the methodology and guidelines currently used for predicting the dietary intake of pesticide residues was already being addressed.

27. In view of the Consultation's limited time, it primarily examined the risk assessment component of risk analysis. The Executive Committee therefore 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; e.g., FAO and WHO committees, Codex Committees and national bodies, as well as specific policy guidelines for risk analysis. The importance of transparency in developing such guidelines was highlighted as being critical for risk communication, particularly to consumers. The Executive Committee also recommended that further work should be done on the topic of uncertainty in risk analysis in relation to standard setting and food regulation.

28. The Executive Committee recommended that those definitions contained in Appendix 5 to ALINORM 95/9 should be circulated for government comment, with the understanding that the definition for "risk communication" would be amended to include an explicit reference to consumers.

COOPERATION WITH THE UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE IN ELABORATION OF WORLDWIDE STANDARDS FOR FRESH FRUITS AND VEGETABLES AND RELATED PRODUCTS⁸ (Agenda Item 6)

⁸ ALINORM 95/10

29. The Executive Committee recalled that the 20th Session of the CAC placed 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 in abeyance pending consultations between the Codex, FAO and UNECE to arrive at a workable solution to the problem of duplicative standardization activities between Codex and the UNECE. The Executive Committee was also informed that FAO had discontinued formal support for the Joint FAO/ECE Agriculture and Timber Division, which provides the Secretariat to the UNECE meetings related to the standardization of fresh produce.

30. The Executive Committee noted that the United Nations Under-Secretary General for Legal Affairs had informed the ECE that as a "regional commission" it did not have the authority, unless explicitly so authorized by the ECOSOC, to establish subsidiary bodies which are anticipated to elaborate worldwide standards or which are instituted to transfer regional standards into worldwide standards. The UNECE Working Party on Standardization of Perishable Produce and Quality Development thus concluded that it was in favour of maintaining the *status quo* with improvements in the working arrangements between the two bodies to ensure that duplication would not occur. The Secretariat's recommendation in the working paper supported this conclusion.

31. The Executive Committee that the Codex Alimentarius Commission was the only international body responsible for the elaboration of worldwide food standards, which included promoting the coordination of all food standards work undertaken by international governmental and non-governmental organizations. The difficulty in differentiating between tropical and non-tropical produce was also highlighted, as was the potential of trade distorting effects of standards developed by bodies with limited membership.

32. The Executive Committee recommended that the terms of reference for the Codex Committee on Tropical Fresh Fruits and Vegetables should be expanded to cover the standardization of all fresh fruits and vegetables. It agreed therefore that the word "tropical" should be deleted from the name of the Committee and throughout the terms of reference. Every effort should be made to maintain cooperation with the UNECE in accordance with the current Terms of Reference. It was stressed that the valuable work of the UNECE must be taken into account by the Committee in order to arrive at harmonized and complementary standards where and if it was determined that the elaboration of a similar Codex standard was required.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE REPORTS OF CODEX COMMITTEES⁹ (Agenda Item 7)

⁹ ALINORM 95/21, Part IV.

(a) Ninth Session of the Codex Coordinating Committee for Asia¹⁰

33. Food Irradiation: The Executive Committee noted that the International Consultative Group on Food Irradiation was providing assistance and advice on the matter of acceptance of irradiated food by consumers. A seminar had been held for the ASEAN countries on acceptance of food irradiation in June 1995.

34. Street Foods: FAO and WHO were actively involved in "street food" matters and WHO was in the process of issuing a document¹⁰ focusing on the application of HACCP approach to street-vended food.

¹⁰ *Street-Vended Food: A HACCP-Based Food Safety Strategy for Governments*, WHO/FNU/FOS/95.5.

35. Conversion of regional standards to world-wide standards: The Executive Committee noted that all comments received from Member countries should be taken into account to ensure that the standards would have global validity and that regional standards would not be imposed on other regions. The Executive Committee was informed that the Codex Committee on Natural Mineral Waters would meet in September 1996.

(b) Eighth Session of the Codex Committee on Residues of Veterinary Drugs in Foods

36. Criteria for the Inclusion of Substances on the Priority List: The Executive Committee considered that this matter was internal to the working procedures of the Codex Committee on Residues of Veterinary Drugs in Foods.

(c) First Session of the Codex Committee on Milk and Milk Products

37. Endorsement of methods of analysis and sampling: The Executive Committee recommended that the Commission make the appropriate changes to the Terms of Reference of the Codex Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling to enable it to consider methods of analysis proposed by the CCMMP.

38. Elaboration of a World-Wide Standard for Butter: The Executive Committee endorsed the proposal that the CCMMP retain responsibility for the elaboration of the Codex Standard for Butter and retain an interest in the elaboration of standards for other milk fat products and mixtures of milk-fat and other fats.

(d) Nineteenth Session of the Codex Committee on Nutrition and Foods for Special Dietary Uses

39. Name of the Committee: The Executive Committee recommended that until such time as appropriate Terms of Reference were available the name of the Committee should remain unchanged. It was stressed that although nutrition had impact on Codex work, Codex should only deal with nutritional aspects of foods but not nutritional policy and this should be reflected in new Terms of Reference deal with nutritional aspects of foods but nutritional policy and this should be reflected in Terms of Reference

40. Biotechnology: The Executive Committee agreed that the Committee should consider nutritional aspects of biotechnology but not general aspects.

(e) Ninth Session of the Coordinating Committee for Latin America and the Caribbean

41. Quorum: The Executive Committee noted that the difficulties faced by developing countries to attend Codex meetings should be taken into account and that the interests of those countries which could not attend the Commission should be protected. It agreed to bring the concerns expressed to the attention of the Commission and proposed that the Secretariat and the Legal Advisers of FAO and WHO be requested to put forward alternative proposals, in the case that no consensus could be reached.

OTHER BUSINESS (Agenda Item 8)

(a) Status of Potential European Community Membership of the Codex Alimentarius Commission¹¹

¹¹ CAC 21/INF-3

42. The Executive Committee noted the current status of the consultations with the European Commission to consider the legal implications of European Community membership and the modalities of its participation. The Representative for Europe pointed out that the question whether the European Commission could make a general declaration of competence with respect to Codex matters was still under discussion within the European Community.. The Secretariat indicated that at this stage, only a preliminary request for membership had been received, and that 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.

(b) Codex Documents: Working Papers and Reports¹²

¹² CAC 21/INF-4.

43. The Executive Committee noted the need for further streamlining of the working papers and the necessity of limiting the number of words in body of reports to less than 6,400 words due to FAO provisions of documentation. The Executive Committee noted proposals set out in the paper to this end and requested that the effect of these restrictions on the efficiency and transparency of the Codex process be monitored. The Secretariat would consult Host countries concerning the preparation and distribution of papers and reports.

(c) Codex Alimentarius on CD-ROM¹³

¹³ CAC 21/INF-5.

44. The Executive Committee noted that the CD-ROM version of *Codex Alimentarius* was being developed, which would contain all Codex texts adopted by the Commission up to and including its 21st Session in three languages. However, the expected release date might be delayed due to technical difficulties.

(d) Determination, Interpretation and Application of Residue Limits

45. The Executive Committee was informed of problems in trade encountered in relation to the determination, interpretation and application of residue limits.. These problems include that actions taken were not always proportional to the seriousness of the violation or in proportion to the potential health impact and could cause significant costs to be incurred. It was noted that these concerns related to a variety of substances including pesticide residues, residues of veterinary drugs, contaminants and food additives and that there were no clear Codex guidelines on how such concerns should be addressed by member countries. Several members stressed the importance of risk

communication to consumers, especially the meaning and significance of violation of such limits. It was emphasized that the establishment of regulatory limits should be based on good science.

46. The Executive Committee asked that a paper on this matter, which would also incorporate related problems on the regulation of other contaminants and substances in foods, be prepared for consideration at its next session. It asked that the paper be prepared in consultation with the Chairpersons of the relevant Codex Committees.

(e) FAO and WHO Activities in the area of HACCP Application

47. The Executive Committee was informed of the conclusions of the FAO Expert Technical Meeting on the Use of HACCP Principles in Food Control (Vancouver, Canada, December 1994), which focused on HACCP management, training and practical application, especially in developing countries. While recognizing that certain committees were currently integrating the HACCP approach in their work, the Executive Committee agreed that a general recommendation to that effect should be directed to all concerned committees.

48. The Committee also received a report on the WHO Consultation on HACCP: Concept and Application, which had been followed by a Workshop on training in HACCP (Geneva, May 1995). Both events had to be seen in the context of WHO's long-standing efforts to develop and promote the application of HACCP. The Codex Committee on Food Hygiene will be invited to consider the proposals for amendment of the Codex Guidelines proposed by the Consultation at its next Session.

A TRIBUTE TO THE CHAIRMAN OF THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION

49. The Executive Committee expressed its sincere thanks to its Chairman of the past four years, Professor F.G. Winarno of Indonesia, for the manner in which he had facilitated discussions and established a truly collegial approach to the Committee's decision-making.

**ATTENDANCE AT THE 42ND SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE
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**RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ON PROPOSALS FOR NEW STANDARDS
AND OR RELATED TEXTS AT STEP 1**

Standard or Related Text	Responsible Committee	Recommendation
Worldwide Codex Standards for Guava, Chayote, Longan and Fresh Coconut	CCTFFV	Proposals meet the Medium-Term Objectives and Criteria; approval recommended.
Consideration of Objective Indices of Maturity	CCTFFV	Proposal meets the Medium-Term Objectives and Criteria; approval recommended.
Consideration of the Application of Quality Tolerances at import	CCTFFV	Proposal meets the Medium-Term Objectives and Criteria; approval recommended..
Guidelines for Consumer Education in Food Hygiene	CCFH	Proposal is not consistent with the Medium-Term Objectives. The subject only partly falls within mandate of the CAC but is within the direct responsibilities of FAO and WHO; approval not recommended.
Code of Hygienic Practice for Bottled Water	CCFH	Proposal meets the Medium-Term Objectives and Criteria; approval recommended.
Code of Practice for All Foodstuffs Transported in Bulk ¹	CCFH/CCFAC	Proposal meets the Medium-Term Objectives and Criteria; approval recommended for elaboration by CCFH.
Fermented Milk Products (with and without heat treatment after fermentation)	CCMMP	Proposal meets the Medium-Term Objectives and Criteria; approval recommended.
Consideration of Heat Treatment Definitions	CCMMP	Proposal meets the Medium-Term Objectives and Criteria; approval recommended.
Review of Code of Principles concerning Milk and Milk Products	CCMMP	Proposal meets the Medium-Term Objectives and Criteria; approval recommended.
Consideration of Nutritional and Quality Descriptors	CCMMP	The proposal meets the Medium-Term Objectives, however any descriptors used for milk and milk products should be consistent with general Codex texts and endorsed by the CCFL and CCNFSDU.
Guidelines for the Development of Agreements Between Exporting and Importing Countries	CCFICS	Proposal meets the Medium-Term Objectives and Criteria; approval recommended.

Harmonization of Analytical Terminology in Accordance with International Standards	CCMAS	Proposal meets the Medium-Term Objectives and Criteria; approval recommended.
Uniform Criteria for the Reporting of Test Results	CCMAS	Proposal meets the Medium-Term Objectives and Criteria; approval recommended.
Application and Reporting of Test Results Corrected for Recovery Factors	CCMAS	Proposal meets the Medium-Term Objectives and Criteria; approval recommended.
Amendment to the Standard for Infant Formula (Vitamin B12) ²	CCNFSDU	Proposal meets the Medium-Term Objectives and Criteria; approval recommended.
Revised Guidelines for the Inclusion of Provisions on Nutritional Quality in Food Standards and Other Codex Texts	CCNFSDU	Proposal meets the Medium-Term Objectives and Criteria; however, these Guidelines should be developed as General Guidelines and not as instructions to Commodity Committees, as recommended by the Committee on General Principles: approval recommended.
Revision to the Standard for Infant Formula	CCNFSDU	Proposal meets the Medium-Term Objectives and Criteria; approval recommended.
Consideration of Dietary Modelling	CCNFSDU	The proposal as worded in the Committees report does not appear to be consistent with the Commissions Mandate as given in the Statutes. See para. Clarification required.
Levels of Vitamins and Minerals in Foods for Special Medical Purposes	CCNFSDU	Proposal meets the Medium-Term Objectives and Criteria; approval recommended.
Model Certificate for Fish Inspection Purposes	CCFFP/CCFICS	Proposal meets the Medium-Term Objectives and Criteria; approval recommended.
Implications of Biotechnology for Food Labelling	CCFL	Proposal meets the Medium-Term Objectives and Criteria; approval recommended.
Food Additives and Contaminants Proposed for Priority Evaluation by JECFA:	CCFAC	Proposals meet the Medium-Term Objectives and Criteria; approval recommended.
Maximum Limits for Pesticide Residues (including Revised MRLs)	CCPR	Proposals meet the Medium-Term Objectives and Criteria; approval recommended.
Revision of Recommended Methods of Sampling for the Determination of Pesticide Residues	CCPR	Proposal meets the Medium-Term Objectives and Criteria; approval recommended.

Revision of the Codex Standard for Processed Cereal-Based Foods for Infants and Children	CCNFSDU	Proposal meets the Medium-Term Objectives and Criteria; approval recommended.
Revision of Codex Standards for Cocoa Products and Chocolate	CCCP	Proposal meets the Medium-Term Objectives and Criteria; approval recommended.

¹ The Executive Committee recommended that the CCFH take first action on this matter, and should cooperate with the CCFAC and other Committees which had an interest in the matter such as CCFO.

² Recommended for adoption under Accelerated Procedures.

New Proposals, not arising from Codex Committees

Revision of the Codex Standard for Pineapple	CCTFFV	Proposed by the Europe/Africa/Caribbean/Pacific Liaison Committee for the Promotion of Tropical Fruits, Off-Season Vegetables, Flowers, Ornamental Plants and Spices (COLEACP) Proposal meets the Medium-Term Objectives and Criteria; approval recommended.
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Proposals for the deletion or discontinuation of work items

Standard or Related Text	Responsible Committee	Recommendation
Glossary of Scientific and Common Names for Fresh Fruits and Vegetables	CCTFFV	Proposal to discontinue in view of nomenclature lists published by other international organizations and because such work appeared to fall outside the Committee's terms of reference.
Glossary of Terms and Definitions for Fresh Fruits and Vegetables	CCTFFV	Proposal to discontinue the above work in view of nomenclature lists published by other international organizations and because of the importance of focusing the Committee's efforts on the elaboration of standards for fresh tropical produce.
Maximum Levels for PBBs, Tetrachlorobenzyltoluene, Phthalates and Ethyl Carbamate	CCFAC	The Committee proposes to discontinue the work as it considers that the establishment of maximum levels is unnecessary.
Glossary of [Food Import/Export Inspection and Certification] Terms based on Internationally Accepted Definitions	CCFICS	The Committee proposes to discontinue the work in view of other international initiatives in this area. The Committee also decided that the Australian Secretariat would revise and maintain the

		Glossary for use by the Committee as a future reference source if and when required.
General Guidelines for Claims on the Use of the Term "Natural"	CCFL	Proposal to discontinue this work in view of the difficulty in establishing a strict definition for "natural" and criteria for "minimal processing" at the international level, and in consideration of existing national regulations and consumer perceptions in this regard
Guideline Levels for Arsenic and Mercury in Cereals, Pulses and Legumes	CCCPL	Proposal to discontinue work as there is no indication of high levels of arsenic or mercury in cereals, pulses and legumes and therefore, these contaminants do not pose problems in international trade.