

Report of the 37th Session of the Codex Committee on Food Labelling

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< Summary >

The 37th Session of the Codex Committee on Food Labelling was held on May 4 – 8, 2009 in Calgary, Canada. The session was chaired by Mr. Paul Mayers from this year in succession to Dr. Anne MacKenzie. It was attended by 201 delegates representing 63 member countries, one member organization (EC), and 24 international non-governmental organizations. ILSI was represented by Messrs. S. Iwata and H. Hamano from ILSI Japan.

• **Implementation of the WHO Global Strategy on Diet, Physical Activity and Health:**

- (a) A draft list of nutrients that should always be declared on a voluntary or mandatory basis was developed, with some nutrients left in square brackets for further consideration at the next session at step 3: 3.2.1.2. The amounts of protein, available carbohydrate, fat, saturated fat, [trans-fatty acids], [sodium/salt], total sugars, [added sugars], and [dietary fiber];
- (b) Issues related to mandatory nutrition labelling were discussed. There was no agreement to recommend mandatory nutrition labelling at the Codex level.
- (c) Proposed draft recommended principles and criteria for legibility of nutrition labelling was discussed. The work continued with emphasis placed on the need for flexibility at the national level. It was returned to step 3 for further consideration at the next session.
- (d) Discussion on labelling provisions dealing with the food ingredients identified in the WHO Global Strategy will continue with focus limited to the ingredients identified by the WHO: fruits, vegetable and legumes, whole grains, nuts, free sugars and salt (sodium).

• **Draft Amendment to the Guidelines for the Production, Processing, Labelling and Marketing of Organically Produced Foods:**

- (a) Table 2 of Annex 2: Advanced to step 5A with retaining Rotenone with its restricted use.
- (b) Annex 1: Inclusion of Ethylene for other products was returned to step 6 for further consideration at the next session

• **Draft Amendment to the General Standard for the Labelling of Prepackaged Foods: Definitions on GM/GE Foods were retained at step 7 and Proposed Draft Recommendations for the Labelling of Foods and Food Ingredients Obtained through Certain Techniques of GM/GE were returned to step 3 for further consideration at the next session.**

• **Matters referred to CCNFSDU for consideration:**

- (a) inclusion of saturated fat and sodium in relation to NRVs for nutrients associated with risk of NCDs
- (b) establishment of claims for use for labelling relating to salt, trans-fatty acids and added sugars
- (c) development of principles for countries to evaluate criteria 1 “the ability of nutrition labelling to address public health issues” when addressing balancing national and global health issues