

## 31st Meeting of the Codex Contact Points in the Arab Region

### PREPARATION OF THE 47<sup>th</sup> SESSION OF CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION (CAC47)

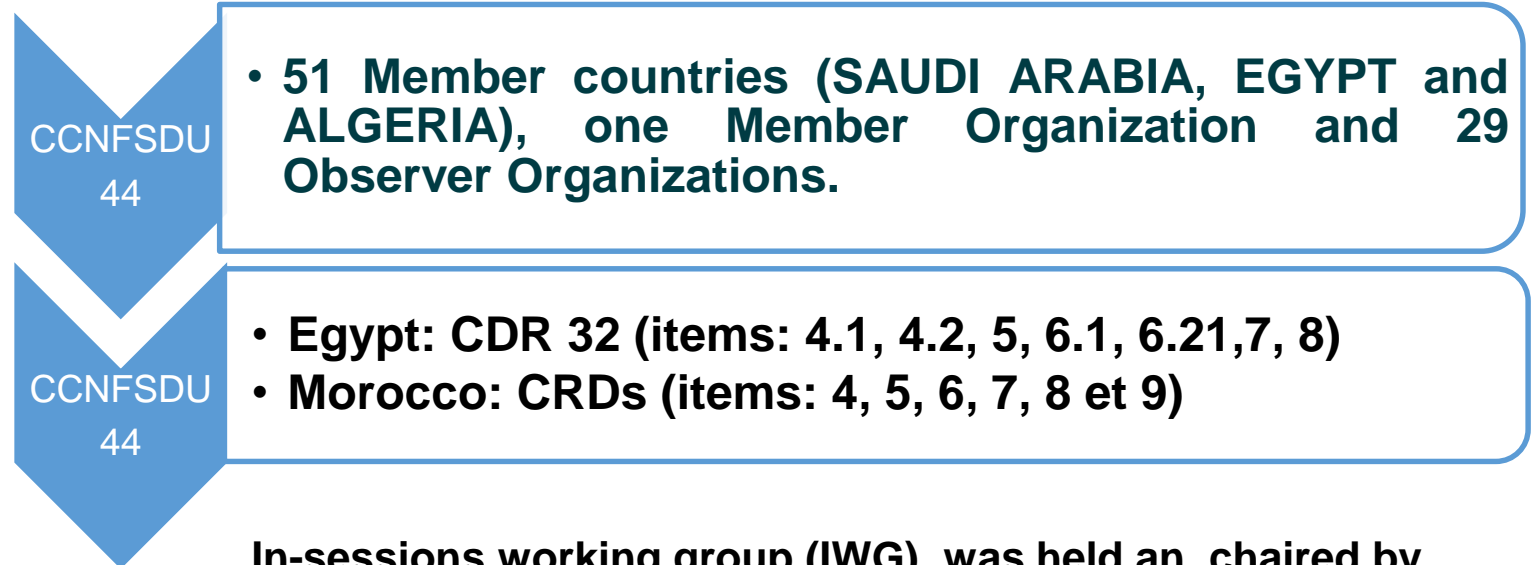
*The main outcomes of  
44th Session of the Codex Committee on Nutrition and Foods for Special  
Dietary Uses (CCNFSDU44)*

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The forty-fourth Session of the Codex Committee on Nutrition and Foods for Special Dietary Uses (CCNFSDU44) was held in person in Dresden, Germany, from 2 to 6 October 2024.



***Ms Martine Püster and Dr Carolin Bendadani, served as Chairperson and co-Chairperson of the Session.***



**In-sessions working group (IWG), was held and chaired by the United States of America (USA):**

To provide recommendations regarding the suitability of the methods for submission to CCMAS for review.

To consider proposals for analytical methods published in CRD05

## The agenda of CCNFSDU44 included 10 topics/items



Agenda item	Topic
Agenda item 2	Matters Referred to the Committee by the Codex Alimentarius Commission and/or Other Subsidiary Bodies
Agenda item 3	Matters of Interest Arising from FAO and WHO
Agenda item 4	NRVs-R for persons aged 6 – 36 months
Agenda item 4.1	<b>General principles for the establishment of NRVs-R for persons aged 6 –36 months (at Step 7)</b>
Agenda item 4.2	<b>NRVs-R for persons aged 6 – 36 months (at Step 4)</b>
Agenda item 5	<b>Technological justification for several food additives</b>
Agenda item 6	<b>Prioritization mechanism / emerging issues or new work proposals</b>
Agenda item 6.1	<b>Guideline for the preliminary assessment to identify and prioritize new work for CCNFSDU</b>
Agenda item 6.2	<b>Proposals for new work/emerging issues (replies to CL 2024/52-NFSDU)</b>
Agenda item 6.21	<b>Discussion paper on harmonized probiotic guidelines for use in foods and food supplements)</b>
Agenda item 7	<b>Review of texts under the purview of CCNFSDU)</b>
Agenda item 8	<b>Discussion paper on use of fructans, beta-carotene, lycopene in Standard for infant formula and formulas for special medical purposes intended for infants</b>
Agenda item 9	<b>Discussion paper on methods of assessing the sweetness of carbohydrate sources in the Standard for follow-up formula</b>
Agenda item 10	<b>Other business</b> <b>Methods of analysis</b>

## Finalized Work



- New General Principles for establishing **Nutrient Reference Values - Requirements (NRVs-R)** for children aged 6–36 months.
- First set of NRV-Rs for this age group.
- Stepwise approach for developing new NRV-Rs.
- Editorial amendments to infant formula regarding energy conversion factors, with no changes to nitrogen-to-protein conversion factors, but an important note added to the method.



## OTHER DECISIONS MADE



- Postponed work on **Guidelines on Nutritional Equivalence of Plant-Based Foods** until the FAO report is available.
- Discontinued work on updating the **Codex definition of "Dietary Fibre"** and decided to keep the current definition.
- Stopped work on **Guidelines on Probiotics**, urging FAO and WHO to update outdated documents.
- Proposed revocation of outdated analysis methods (e.g., dietary fibre method) and cessation of work on a sensory sweetness method by comparison.

## Ongoing Work:



- Progress on NRV-Rs for Vitamin C, Vitamin B12, Vitamin K, and folate.
- Four nutrient carriers sent for technological justification assessment as additives.
- Third batch of food additives justifications started.

# CCNFSDU44's PROPOSITIONS SUBMITTED FOR ADOPTION TO CAC47

## Standards and related texts submitted for final adoption

Step 8	➤ General principles for establishing Nutrient Reference Values - Requirements (NRVs-R) for persons aged 6 – 36 months (inclusion in CXG 2-1985 as Annex 1, Part B);
Step 5/8	➤ NRVs-R for persons aged 6 – 36 months: Vitamins A, B6, D and E, thiamin, riboflavin, niacin, pantothenic acid, calcium, copper, iodine, potassium, zinc and protein;
Adoption	➤ Amendments to the Standard for infant formula and formulas for special medical purposes intended for infants;
Adoption	➤ Inclusion of the nitrogen to protein conversion factor for follow-up formula for older infants and products for young children in the annex in CXS 234-1999

# CCNFSDU44 PROPOSITIONS FOR CAC47 PROPOSAL OF NEW WORK

## The development of a standard for foods for older infants and young children

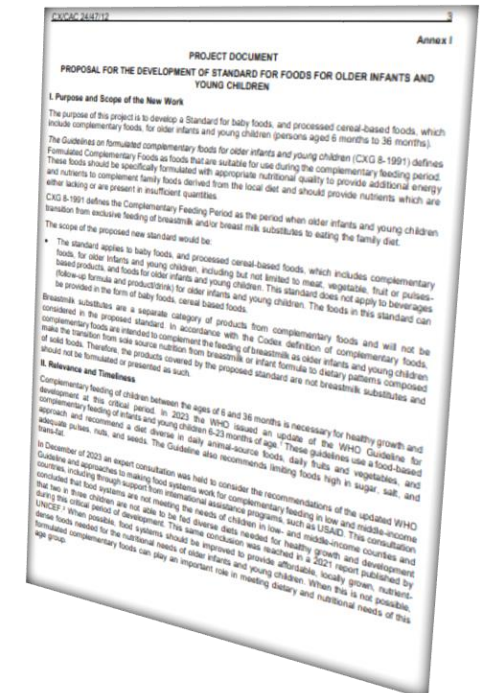
*The Commission is invited to consider this proposal in the light of its **Codex Strategic Plan 2020-2025** and the Criteria for the establishment of work priorities and Criteria for the establishment of subsidiary bodies of the Codex Alimentarius Commission.*

### Purpose and Scope of the New Work

The project aims to develop a standard for baby foods and processed cereal-based foods for older infants and young children (6–36 months), including complementary foods. The proposed standard applies to baby foods and cereal-based foods, excluding beverages and breastmilk substitutes.

### Proposed Timeline

To complete the work in four (4) sessions, with final adoption at Step 8 by 2029.







## **SUMMARY OF DISCUSSIONS AND DECISIONS MADE DURING THE SESSION FOR INFORMATION AND FOLLOW UP**

**CCNFSDU44 noted the information provided by FAO and WHO .  
The main feedback activities presented by FAO / WHO are ( 1/2 )**

- 1. Literature Review on Plant-Based Proteins:** FAO completed a review assessing the nutritional composition of plant-based protein foods designed to replace animal-based products. The findings, expected by the end of 2024, will inform new guidelines for the new proposed work on “Guidelines including General Principles for the Nutritional Composition of Foods and Beverages made from Plant-based and other Alternative Protein Sources“.
- 1. Background Reviews on Alternative Animal Source Foods (A-ASFs):** FAO commissioned reviews examining the benefits and risks of A-ASFs, focusing on nutrition, environmental impact, socio-economic factors, and food safety.
- 1. Launch of FAOSTAT "Food and Diet" Domain:** FAO introduced a new "Food and Diet" section on FAOSTAT, its corporate statistical database, to provide more detailed data on food and agriculture.
- 1. FAO/IAEA Collaboration on Protein Digestibility:** FAO, in collaboration with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), held meetings over the past two years to develop a joint database on ileal digestibility of protein and individual amino acids in foods.

# AGENDA ITEM 3: MATTERS OF INTEREST ARISING FROM FAO AND WHO

## The main activities presented by FAO / WHO are ( 2/2 )

### **Nutrient Intake Values (NIVs) Update:**

for infants and young children (birth to three years)

has been completed for calcium, vitamin D, and zinc and will be presented in a guidance document to be released for public consultation in early 2025, with the final publication scheduled for later in 2025.

### **Ongoing Work on Other Nutrients:**

FAO and WHO completed scoping reviews for iron, vitamin A, folate, and magnesium. A mechanism and resources for evaluating the remaining nutrients are still being explored.

### **Other Joint FAO/WHO Activities:**

**Joint FAO/WHO Statement on Healthy Diet Principles:**  
**IAEA/FAO/WHO Meeting on Human Energy Requirements:**  
A meeting was held in June 2024 to review human energy requirements.  
**•FAO/UNICEF/WHO Healthy Diets Monitoring Initiative:**  
Released its guidance in June 2024 to monitor progress on healthy diets.

## AGENDA ITEM 3: MATTERS OF INTEREST ARISING FROM FAO AND WHO

Activity	Consistance
<b>Published WHO Guidelines</b>	<b>Four guidelines</b> (Diet and Health) have been published since the last CCNFSDU meeting, covering: Total fat intake, saturated and trans-fatty acids intake, carbohydrate intake, use of non-sugar sweeteners
<b>Guidelines Under development</b>	<b>Three WHO</b> guidelines are currently being developed on:Use of lower-sodium salt substitutes, Polyunsaturated fat intake and Tropical oil consumption
<b>New Guidelines in Early Stages</b>	<b>Two new</b> WHO guidelines are in early stages:Optimal intake of animal-source foodsConsumption of ultra-processed foods
<b>Nutrition Policy Guidelines:</b>	<b>Two guidelines</b> on nutrition policies were recently published (Food marketing and Fiscal policies) <b>Two more</b> are forthcoming (Nutrition labeling policies :currently under public consultation) and School food nutrition policies

# AGENDA ITEM 3: MATTERS OF INTEREST ARISING FROM FAO AND WHO

Activity	Consistance
<b>Complementary Feeding Guideline</b>	The WHO guideline on complementary feeding for infants and young children (6-23 months) was published in October 2023, highlighting key recommendations.
<b>International Code of Marketing of Breast-Milk Substitutes:</b>	WHO provided technical support on the implementation of the Code, co-organized the Global Congress on its implementation with UNICEF in June 2023, and shared the 2024 Code Status Report.
<b>Guideline on Management of Wasting and Nutritional Oedema:</b>	<p>The WHO guideline on preventing and managing wasting and nutritional oedema (acute malnutrition) in infants and children under 5 was published in December 2023.</p> <p>Ready-to-Use Therapeutic Foods (RUTF) were included in the WHO Model List of Essential Medicines for treating severe wasting and/or nutritional oedema in children older than 6 months.</p>



# Agenda Item 4: Nutrition intake value (NRVS-R) FOR PERSONS AGED 6 – 36 MONTHS

## CCNFSDU44 agreed to:

1. Advance the NRVs-R for Vitamins A, B6, D and E, thiamin, riboflavin, niacin, pantothenic acid, calcium, copper, iodine, potassium, zinc and protein [to Step 8 for adoption by CAC47](#) and inclusion in CXG 2-1985.



Nutrient	Older Infants (6-12 months)	Young Children (12-36 months)	6-36-months age group
Vitamin A (µg RAE or RE)*	250	300	275
Thiamin (mg)	0.3	0.5	0.4
Riboflavin (mg)	0.4	0.6	0.5
Vitamin B <sub>6</sub> (mg)	0.3	0.6	0.5
Protein (g)	11	13	12
Vitamin E (mg)*	5	7	6
Niacin (mg NE)*	4	6	5
Pantothenic acid (mg)	3	3	3
Copper (µg)	220	300	260
Iodine (µg)	80	95	90
Potassium (mg)	725	850	790
Calcium (mg)**	390	590	490
Vitamin D (µg)**	10	10	10
Zinc (mg)**	3.6	4.8	4.2

2. Request the Codex Secretariat to publish the Stepwise Process as an information document on the Codex website for internal use by CCNFSDU;
3. Return to Step 2/3 the remaining NRVs-R for Vitamins C, B12, and K, folate, biotin, selenium, manganese, magnesium, phosphorous and iron for development using the stepwise process through an EWG chaired by Ireland and co-chaired by the United States of America and Costa Rica;
4. Inform CCEXEC of the deadline for completing the work should be extended to 2026
5. Possibility to convene a PWG prior to the next session to review comments and prepare a revised proposal for CCNFSDU45.

## CCNFSDU44 conclusion

- Noted that *gum arabic, silicon dioxide, amorphous, mannitol, and sodium ascorbate* would be included as batch 6 in the work plan for future technological justification appraisal.
  
- Agreed to inform CCFA that:
  - 1) there was no technological need for the use of *guar gum, distarch phosphate, phosphated distarch phosphate, acetylated distarch phosphate and hydroxypropyl starch* in foods conforming to CXS 72-1981 and request that CCFA take appropriate actions;
  
  - 2) also CXS 73-1981 permitted the use of the food additives listed in CXG 10-1979 Part D as nutrient carriers.

# AGENDA ITEM 5: TECHNOLOGICAL JUSTIFICATION FOR SEVERAL FOOD ADDITIVES

**Agreed to establish an EWG, chaired by the EU, working with the following ToRs:**

➤ **To collect information from the applicants:**

1. on the use and use levels in foods conforming to CXS 72-1981 and confirmation to provide data on the safety assessment for infants below 12 weeks of age on the following additives:

***lactic acid, L-, D-, and DL-, lecithins, citric acid and citrates, mono- and diglycerides of fatty acids and methacrylate copolymer, basic (BMC)***

2. using the framework for considering technological justification:

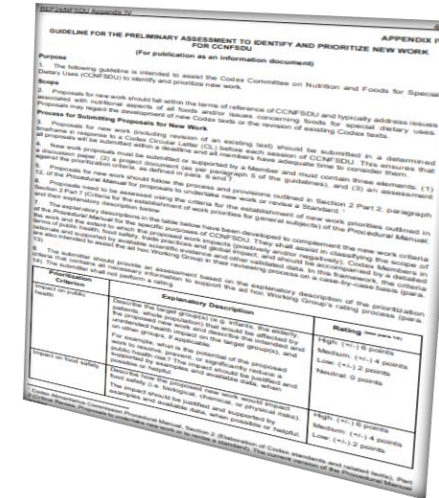
- ✓ on use in CXS 72-1981 for additives for which the use, use levels and commitment to provide the data is confirmed;
- ✓ for use of methacrylate copolymer, basic (BMC) (INS 1205) in CXS 156-1987; CXS 73-1981; CXS 74- 1981; and Guidelines for ready-to-use therapeutic foods (RUTF) (CXG 95-2022);

➤ **To review the information provided and provide recommendations to CCNFSDU45 on the technological justification of each food additive use.**

# AGENDA ITEM 6: PRIORITIZATION MECHANISM / EMERGING ISSUES OR NEW WORK PROPOSALS

## CCNFSDU44 agreed:

- ✓ to request the Codex Secretariat to issue a Circular Letter requesting for proposals for new work and emerging issues for consideration at CCNFSDU45;
- ✓ The possibility to establish an ad-hoc PWG, chaired by Germany and co-chaired by Canada, with the ToR to Identify and Prioritize New Work for CCNFSDU as set in the Guideline for the Preliminary Assessment
- ✓ To meet prior to CCNFSDU45 or in-between sessions, to develop recommendations for consideration by CCNFSDU45.







# AGENDA ITEM 6: PRIORITIZATION MECHANISM / EMERGING ISSUES OR NEW WORK PROPOSALS

## Agenda item 6.2 PROPOSALS FOR NEW WORK/EMERGING ISSUES

### Agenda item 6.21 DISCUSSION PAPER ON HARMONIZED PROBIOTIC GUIDELINES FOR USE IN FOODS AND FOOD SUPPLEMENTS: 4 proposals

PROPOSALS	CCNFSDU44 DECISIONS
Amendment of the 2009 Codex definition of dietary fibre included in the Guidelines on nutrition labelling : <i>Submitted by the Calorie Control Council</i>	✓ Endorsement of the PWG's recommendation to <b>reject the proposal</b> ; (The current definition is satisfactory as it stands and should not be changed)
Harmonized probiotic guidelines for use in foods and food supplements: <i>Submitted by Argentina, Malaysia and China</i>	✓ Request FAO and WHO to conduct a review of the documents " <b>Health and Nutrition Properties of Probiotics in Food including Powder Milk with Live Lactic Acid Bacteria</b> " (2001) and " <b>Guidelines for the Evaluation of Probiotics in Food</b> " (2002), incorporating a literature review of scientific evidence on probiotics; ✓ Encourage Members to provide resources to support FAO and WHO to conduct this review; and ✓ Once the review of the two documents were completed, a new work proposal on probiotics could be submitted in response to the CL and could be reconsidered by CCNFSDU.

# AGENDA ITEM 6: PRIORITIZATION MECHANISM / EMERGING ISSUES OR NEW WORK PROPOSALS

## Agenda item 6.2 PROPOSALS FOR NEW WORK/EMERGING ISSUES

### Agenda item 6.21 DISCUSSION PAPER ON HARMONIZED PROBIOTIC GUIDELINES FOR USE IN FOODS AND FOOD SUPPLEMENTS: 4 proposals

PROPOSALS	CCNFSDU44 DECISIONS
<b>General guidelines and principles for the nutritional composition of foods formulated with protein from non-animal sources: Submitted by Canada and the USA</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>✓ Return the proposal to the submitters for further development, emphasizing the need to consider the forthcoming FAO publication;</li><li>✓ Revised proposal could be submitted in response to the Circular Letter for new work proposals</li></ul>
<b>New work proposal to develop a standard for formulated complementary foods for older infants and young children: Submitted by the United States of America</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>✓ Forward the project document to CAC47 for approval as new work (Appendix V);</li><li>✓ Establish an EWG, chaired by the USA and co-chaired by EU, Kenya and Panama, <b>and subject to approval of CAC47</b>, to prepare the proposed draft standard for circulation for comments at Step 3 and consideration at CCNFSDU45;</li><li>✓ keep open the possibility of a PWG to meet prior to CCNFSDU45.</li></ul>

# AGENDA ITEM 7: REVIEW OF TEXTS UNDER THE PURVIEW OF CCNFSDU

## CCNFSDU44 agreed to:

- ✓ Use the existing procedures to review standards under the purview of CCNSFDU;
- ✓ Encourage Members (and Observers) to propose revisions / amendments to existing standards, and to flag emerging issues in response to CL requesting new work proposals;
- ✓ Request the host country Secretariat to include the existing standards developed by CCNFSDU in the inventory of proposals and potential areas of work as proposed in the “Process for compiling new work proposals” of the Guideline for the preliminary assessment to identify and prioritize new work for CCNFSDU; and
- ✓ Request the Codex Secretariat to submit the consequential and editorial amendments identified for CXS 72-1981 **for adoption by CAC47 (Appendix VI).**



Amendment	For CXS 72-1981	Amendment to CXS 72-1981
Amendment 1	CXS 72-1981	CXS 72-1981
Amendment 2	CXS 72-1981	CXS 72-1981
Amendment 3	CXS 72-1981	CXS 72-1981
Amendment 4	CXS 72-1981	CXS 72-1981
Amendment 5	CXS 72-1981	CXS 72-1981
Amendment 6	CXS 72-1981	CXS 72-1981
Amendment 7	CXS 72-1981	CXS 72-1981
Amendment 8	CXS 72-1981	CXS 72-1981
Amendment 9	CXS 72-1981	CXS 72-1981
Amendment 10	CXS 72-1981	CXS 72-1981
Amendment 11	CXS 72-1981	CXS 72-1981
Amendment 12	CXS 72-1981	CXS 72-1981
Amendment 13	CXS 72-1981	CXS 72-1981
Amendment 14	CXS 72-1981	CXS 72-1981
Amendment 15	CXS 72-1981	CXS 72-1981
Amendment 16	CXS 72-1981	CXS 72-1981
Amendment 17	CXS 72-1981	CXS 72-1981
Amendment 18	CXS 72-1981	CXS 72-1981
Amendment 19	CXS 72-1981	CXS 72-1981
Amendment 20	CXS 72-1981	CXS 72-1981
Amendment 21	CXS 72-1981	CXS 72-1981
Amendment 22	CXS 72-1981	CXS 72-1981
Amendment 23	CXS 72-1981	CXS 72-1981
Amendment 24	CXS 72-1981	CXS 72-1981
Amendment 25	CXS 72-1981	CXS 72-1981
Amendment 26	CXS 72-1981	CXS 72-1981
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Amendment 99	CXS 72-1981	CXS 72-1981
Amendment 100	CXS 72-1981	CXS 72-1981

# AGENDA ITEM 8: DISCUSSION PAPER ON USE OF FRUCTANS, BETA-CAROTENE, LYCOPENE IN STANDARD FOR INFANT FORMULA AND FORMULAS FOR SPECIAL MEDICAL PURPOSES INTENDED FOR INFANTS (CXS 72-1981)

## CCNFSDU44 agreed to:

- ✓ Discontinue discussion on this item;
- ✓ To inform CCMAS that it was withdrawing its request to endorse methods of analysis for beta-carotene, fructans and lycopene;
- ✓ To only consider proposals for methods of analysis for which there are clear provisions in standards under the purview of the Committee.

# AGENDA ITEM 9: DISCUSSION PAPER ON METHODS OF ASSESSING THE SWEETNESS OF CARBOHYDRATE SOURCES IN THE STANDARD FOR FOLLOW-UP FORMULA

## CCNFSDU44 agreed to:

- ✓ CCNFSDU44 took note of the Chairperson's proposal regarding the availability of ISO 5495 and the decision not to submit the method to CCMAS;
- ✓ The committee agreed to discontinue the consideration of the analysis method for assessing the sweetness of carbohydrate sources.



# AGENDA ITEM 9: OTHER BUSINESS

## CCNFSDU44 agreed to:

Methods of analysis	Decision of CCNFSDU
<p><b>Method for dietary fibre</b></p> <p><i>“Isolated, purified, and/or synthetic fibres captured by AOAC that do not meet the Codex definition of dietary fibre in the Guidelines on Nutrition Labelling should be subtracted from the final measurement, where deemed appropriate by competent authorities.”</i></p>	<p><b>CCNFSDU44 agreed to request CCMAS to:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Endorse AOAC 2022.01/ICC Standard 191/AACC 32-61.01 as Type I for the determination of insoluble and soluble dietary fibres of higher and lower molecular weight in food that may or may not contain resistant starches.</li> <li>✓ Revoke AOAC 2011.25/AACC 32-50.01 for use with the same provision.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Methods of analysis in the CXS 72-1981, Section A and CXS 156-1987, Section A</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Endorse the methods listed in Table 1 for review, (re)typing, revocation and endorsement as Type II/Type III methods for the determination of nutrients in infant formula and follow-up formula.</li> <li>✓ Consider revoking/retyping of methods for follow-up formula currently listed in CXS 234-1999 as follows : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o retype/revoke AOAC for iodine;</li> <li>o retype/revoke AOAC 974.29, AOAC 992.04, AOAC 992.06 for vitamin A; and</li> <li>o retype AOAC 992.07 for pantothenic acid.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>



# AGENDA ITEM 9: OTHER BUSINESS

## CCNFSDU44 agreed to:

Methods of analysis	
<b>Measurement of Crude Protein</b>	<b>CCNFSDU44 agreed to request CCMAS to:</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>✓ to endorse the method for crude protein in follow-up formula as Type I method.</li></ul>
<b>Other matters related to methods of analysis</b>  “The Chairperson noted that CCNFSDU there was no specific mechanism for considering the new proposals, leading to their publication in CRDs immediately before sessions, which gave delegates limited time to prepare for discussion.”	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>✓ To follow a more systematic approach to addressing methods of analysis by having for the foreseeable future a standing agenda item dedicated to methods of analysis and;</li><li>✓ To establish an EWG chaired by the United States of America, to consider existing methods of analysis in CXS 234-1999 for standards falling under its remit to check their fitness for purpose and to make proposals for additional methods/ replacement methods, other corrections/ revocations.</li></ul>

# AGENDA ITEM 9: OTHER BUSINESS

**CCNFSDU44 agreed to:**

## NITROGEN TO PROTEIN CONVERSION FACTORS

- ✓ **Forward the nitrogen conversion factor for follow-up formula for older infants and products for young children to CAC47 for inclusion in the Annex listing nitrogen conversion in CXS 234-1999 (Appendix VII, Part C);**
- ✓ **Consider whether to retain the conversion factors in the Standard for infant formula and formulas for special medical purposes intended for infants (CXS 72-1981) and the Standard for follow-up formula for older infants and products for young children (CXS 156-1987) at CCNFSDU45;**
- ✓ **Inform CCMAS accordingly.**

