

review of pesticide registration which will take at least 12 months to complete.

- (b) FAO's evolving role in the conservation of plant genetic resources due to the consolidation of its global framework comprising:
 - (i) the International Undertaking, a legal framework to ensure the conservation, use and availability of these resources;
 - (ii) the Commission, a unique intergovernmental forum, where countries which were donors or users of germ-plasm, funds and technology, could seek consensus on subjects of global interest; and
 - (iii) the International Fund, a financial mechanism which would permit the implementation of the principles of the International Undertaking, to the equitable benefit of both the countries which contributed germ-plasm, and those which contributed funds and technology.

Canada has not adhered to the Undertaking, nor joined the Commission, nor contributed to the Fund, and has communicated its concerns over specific provisions formally to FAO, noting our willingness to reassess our position in light of any new developments.

- (c) Ongoing work of the joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme (Codex Alimentarius) which develops worldwide quality control and standards for food products to facilitate trade and to protect the health of consumers. Particularly important to Canada is the work of the Codex Alimentarius Commission in prevention and elimination of non-tariff trade barriers by the development and adoption of international food standards, codes of practice, residue limits, etc. Currently, over 230 food product standards have been determined, 40 codes of practice and guidelines have been developed and adopted, over 2000 pesticide residue limits for over 100 major pesticides have been adopted and maximum levels for over 400 food additives established.