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COMMITTEE FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND
ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT

Working Party on Standardization of
Perishable Produce and Quality Development

Specialized Section on Co-ordination of
Standardization of Fresh Fruit and Vegetables
(Forty-sixth session, 23-26 May 2000, Geneva)

Item 4 of the provisional agenda

DRAFT UN/ECE STANDARD
FOR PINEAPPLES

Transmitted by South Africa

Note by the Secretariat : The following proposal is reproduced in the form in which it was submitted by South Africa.

COMMENTS ON INITIAL DRAFT STANDARD FOR PINEAPPLES AS PROPOSED BY CAMEROON
(TRADE/WP.7/GE.1/1999/14)

2.1 MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS

• **Crown length/Trimming of crowns**

The proposed crown length of between 80 - 120mm represents an approximate ratio where the crown length is approximately 60% of the fruit length. If this proposal is implemented South African producers will be forced to utilize growth regulators to control crown size and this is not in the interest of progress. The South African fruit industry, being geographically much more south than other global producers, is well recognized as producers of naturally smaller plants and crowns. A large percentage of pineapples are used for decorative purposes and trimmed crowns are neither attractive if cut nor remain intact for long if plucked out. Currently we are implementing the Draft Codex standard in this regard which specifies that the crown length "shall be between 50% and 150% of the length of the fruit". We thus therefore propose that this standard be used instead of the proposed 80 - 120mm crown length.

• **Minimum sugar content/Hollow eyes**

In South Africa, pineapples are produced throughout the year but are subjected to internal quality deviations according to the seasons. In winter the total soluble solids content tends to go down and subsequently, and also due to the fact that the Draft Codex standard for pineapples prescribes a total soluble solids content of 12 "Brix", we want to propose that it be fixed at 12 "Brix".

2.2 CLASSIFICATION

Provision should be made for Class 2 requirements.

5.3 PRESENTATION

Horizontal/Vertical arrangement

We propose that this be deleted as it is too prescriptive and not in the interest of free trade.