



# Codex Alimentarius (CCFICS) proposal for new work on "monitoring performance of national food control systems"

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## Background

- *Cairns, Australia 17-21 October 2011 - United States' 1<sup>st</sup> proposal on new work*
- *Questionnaire to Member Countries in order to take stock of existing measurement tools*
- *Followed up in Chiang Mai, Thailand 18-22 February 2013 → more work on scoping needed*
- *Two workshops: Costa Rica in December 2013 and Brussels in February 2014 → positive outcome*



## Background - continued

- *EU – QUAD discussions on systems equivalence – how to determine food safety outcomes of two different control systems...*
- *Principles and guidelines for national food control systems – CAC/GL 82-2013 → section 4.4 on monitoring and system review (implies some level of measurement)*
- *FAO project on evaluation tool started in February 2013 → work on-going*



## Outcome of workshops

*A lot of concerns:*

- *Trade implications*
- *Premature – need more time to gather experience*
- *Potential misinterpretation/misuse of metrics/indicators*
- *Difficulties in developing common metrics for a whole range of different systems*
- *Too ambitious – are we able to finish the work?*



## Outcome of workshops

### *Benefits:*

- *Opportunities for improvement*
- *Communication with internal and external stakeholders*
- *Potentially a good management tool*
- *A lot of work already going on and a good opportunity to provide for harmonisation*
- *Potential for reducing foreign audits/inspections*



## Workshops – "light-bulb moments"

- *To get where we want to go, we first need to know where we are*
- *Despite the diversity of efforts, there are lots of similarities (more than differences?)*
- *Shift the focus away from compliance and move towards a continuous improvement framework*
- *Measurement is about reducing uncertainty*



## The way forward

- *There seems to be a consensus building up*
- *A future document should be about principles and guidance on **how** – not about prescribing indicators*
- *Focus should be on self-assessment and using measurements as continuous improvement tool*
- *Appropriate metrics/indicators may in future facilitate determination of (system) equivalence*
- *Should be mainly guidance on how to implement section 4.4 of CAC/GL 82-2013*



## Next steps

- *Feed-back from the two workshops to be carefully considered by US*
- *United States to re-draft the proposal*
- *New project document to be presented for the next session in Brisbane, 13-17 October 2014*
- *What will be the EU position this time?*



Thank you