



## Heads of Food Agencies Meeting

**“Advancing the Enhancement of Food and Nutrition Safety through Collaborative Leadership”**



Monday 20 Jan 2020



Riyadh

### RIYADH DECLARATION

**“Advancing the Enhancement of Food and Nutrition Safety through Collaborative Leadership”**

Food regulators are called upon to act on a daily basis to address an increasing number of issues and respond to an ever-changing environment, aiming not only to meet the obligations of their mandate but also to act as the reference source of guidance to food business operators and consumers alike.

The fast pace of change in consumer behavior, in food production practices, in technologies and in environmental conditions impacting food safety and quality add further expectations on food regulators around the world to act swiftly, to adapt to such changes and ensure their decisions and the current food regulatory measures continue to support consumer protection and are commensurate to risks being characterized, while not creating trade impediments.

The food agencies undersigned (identified in this document as The Food Agencies) gathered at the inaugural meeting of the “Heads of Food Agencies Forum” convened in Riyadh, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, on 20 January 2020 acknowledge the importance of developing a sustainable environment of food regulatory cooperation to address emerging issues of food safety and nutrition, including the necessity to engage with each other:

- To foster information sharing on current and future work priorities of food safety and nutrition agencies.
- To establish a regular forum for information exchange and consultation between food agencies at the heads of agency level in order to enable such cooperation on a routine basis as part of dedicated meetings or leveraging opportunities of events attended by the food agency community.



- To develop opportunities of resource-sharing to address common challenges of food safety and nutrition through a structured agenda of collaboration.
- To leverage each other's efforts and capacities, and where relevant to work together towards consistent food assessment methodologies and convergent food regulatory measures, in accordance with the guidance offered by international organizations and in particular the Codex Alimentarius Commission.

The Food Agencies gathered in Riyadh have concurred on an initial agenda of collaborative action that includes: [This area to be developed in consultation with The Food Agencies who agree to join and will be subject to amendment up to the timing of the meeting].

- To work towards the development and refining of risk assessment methodologies.
- To focus on resource optimization in the implementation of food inspection programs through the development and application of enhanced risk-based approaches;
- To engage in collaborative initiatives to address challenges in communicating risks and benefits associated with food and the proliferation of misinformation related to food and food production practices; and
- To offer continued support to the Codex Alimentarius Commission and/or The joint FAO/WHO food safety scientific advice programs in order to serve as the forum that fosters food regulatory alignment internationally, along with enhanced investments in capacity development in food regulatory sciences around the world.

*Handwritten signatures and initials on a grid of dotted lines:*

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<i>Handwritten signature</i>	<i>Handwritten signature: P. Kawonkij</i>	<i>Handwritten signature</i>
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