Malaysia supports the proposal for new work on the establishment of harmonized guideline for probiotics for use as ingredient in food. As probiotics-containing foods are available in many countries across the globe, we are of the opinion that such a harmonized guideline will be beneficial to consumers, manufacturers and regulators.

The guideline is expected to provide guidance on the appropriate use of the term probiotics, the genus and strain of the probiotic cultures that have been demonstrated to give beneficial health effects and the related labelling requirements. Such a guideline would be useful in ensuring only legitimate probiotic-containing products are on the market, protecting the interest of consumers.

Based on this guideline, health care professionals may use the information to educate consumers in the identification of probiotics products.