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Agenda item 3

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JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE CODEx ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION

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CODEx STRATEGIC PLAN 2026-2031: PROPOSED MONITORING FRAMEWORK

(Submitted by the Coordinator for and Member from Latin America and the Caribbean supported by Argentina, Barbados, Belize, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Cuba, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, Peru and Saint Kitts and Nevis and Santa Lucía)

The countries submitting this document would like first to congratulate and thank the Codex Secretariat for the detailed work done in developing the proposed monitoring framework for the Strategic Plan 2026-2031. We recognize this document as an essential basis for the evaluation of our strategic plan.

In a spirit of full collaboration, and with the aim of strengthening the proposal to ensure that the monitoring system is robust, meaningful and useful for all Members, we present the following observations:

1. Suggested Principles for Strengthening the Monitoring Framework

We believe that the secretariat's proposal could be strengthened if the selection and refinement of indicators were guided by the following principles:

- a) **Focus on strategic results:** It is considered crucial to ensure that indicators focus on measuring progress towards final and concrete results (outcomes), which allows the impact of the work carried out to be reflected more clearly. This contributes to a more meaningful assessment of progress. The set of indicators that are defined to measure the achievement of an outcome may include complementary indicators linked to capacities or activities, but these cannot replace indicators aimed at measuring effective performance.
- b) **Viability and efficiency:** We value that the monitoring system is based on available data, which contributes to its realistic and efficient implementation. We fully support the use of existing data to minimize administrative burden. Along these lines, we suggest adding a dimension of efficiency in the use of resources. A robust monitoring framework should allow us, in the future, to evaluate not only the effectiveness of our actions, but also the cost associated with achieving those results, thus promoting the optimal use of resources for the benefit of the entire Codex community.
- c) **Meaningful measurement over time:** for monitoring to truly deliver strategic value, it is essential to go beyond simply tracking data. In this regard, we propose that the monitoring framework explicitly contemplates the definition of clear baselines, preferably taking the performance of the previous Strategic Plan as a reference. On this basis, realistic and challenging goals can be set to guide our work and allow for an objective assessment of progress over time.
- (d) **Indicators as a management tool:** We reaffirm the importance of the set of indicators providing a clear, complete and, fundamentally, measurable view of performance. The absence of an indicator can represent a valuable opportunity to review and refine the formulation of the result or explore innovative

approaches to measurement. This exercise strengthens Codex's ability to assess progress objectively and base its decisions on solid evidence.

2. Proposal and way forward

We reiterate our strong support for the development of a robust monitoring system.

At the next CCEXEC meeting, we will have the opportunity to explore modifications or additions to the set of indicators defined on the basis of the aforementioned principles, thus strengthening the excellent proposal of the secretariat.