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Australian Government  
Department of Agriculture,  
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# Vienna Food Safety Forum Outcomes

GABOR MOLNAR October 2023



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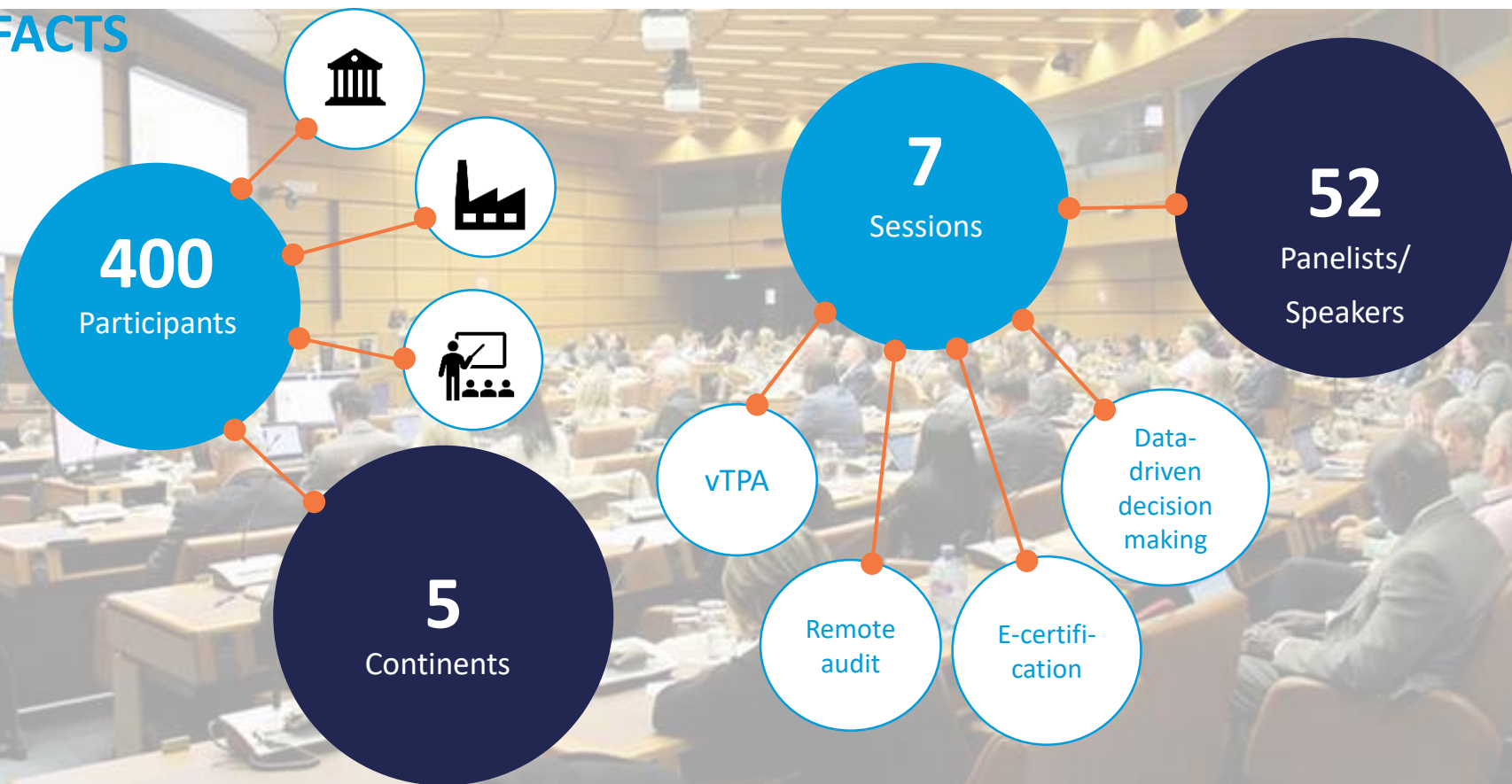
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## FACTS





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## Voluntary third party assurance programmes (vTPA)

Principles and Guidelines on the Assessment and Use of  
Voluntary Third Party Assessment (vTPA) (CXG 93-2021).



UK



Food  
Standards  
Agency



Germany

Case study built on  
the European Union  
(EU) Regulation  
2017/625 on official  
control



Belize

How the approach  
can be adapted and  
used in different  
countries



## Remote audit

COVID: Travel restrictions imposed have accelerated the use of remote audit and remote inspection



### Benefits

Allow some regulatory control and certification as the food industry continued working during the pandemic

Ability to visit several geographically dispersed premises in the supply chain

Saving in travel time and costs



### Constraints



Use of electronic communication can be too intensive and tiring

Inconsistent Internet connectivity

Currently no internationally accepted guidance on the use of remote practices



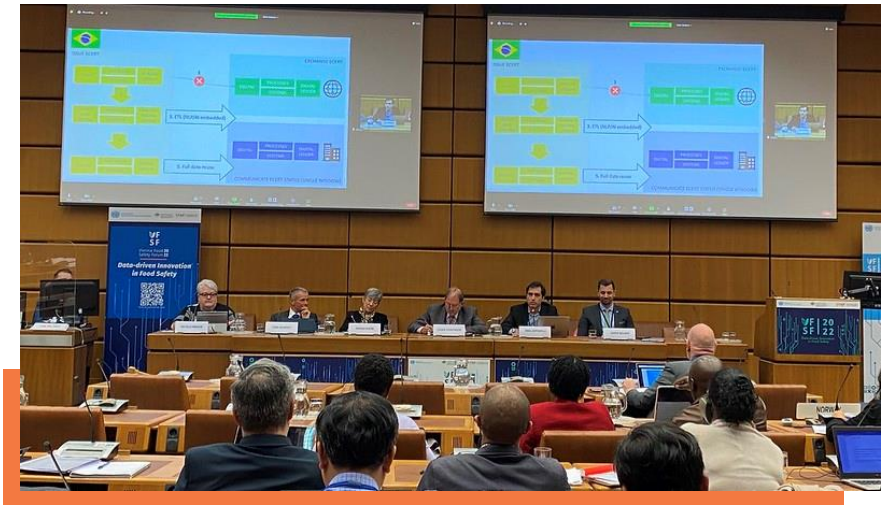
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## Electronic certification

Guidance on Paperless Use of Electronic  
Certificates (revision of CXG 38-2001)



The Covid-19 pandemic has contributed to the acceleration of electronic certificate, particularly in e-phyto



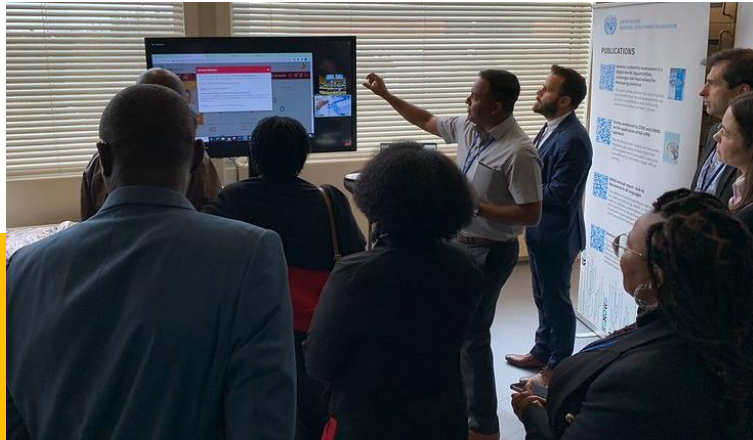
Brazil designed electronic certification and the development needed to move from analogue (human input, paper based) to digital format





## Data-driven decision making

Discussion topics: data quality, data ownership, confidentiality and enforcement



### Regulators

Acquiring accurate data in the correct timeframe to underpin decision making is critical for the regulators and could make data-sharing for food business also easier



### Industry

There should be a value proposition to incentivize data-sharing, ultimately resulting in higher revenue



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## Lessons learned



National authorities, food businesses and vTPA programme owners indicated how vTPA can enhance risk-based decision-making and information sharing

Blended or hybrid practices: most effective; documents and data evaluation to be done remotely, onsite mode to check compliance in premises.



Risk can be used to segment premises: appropriate to receive a remote audit / not appropriate to be subject to remote practices. Not to be used for initial audits.

There is a need for internationally accepted guidance on the use of remote practices, especially remote audit and remote inspection





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THANK YOU