Call for Expression of Interest

The Future of Food Safety
Transforming knowledge into action for people, economies and the environment

- The First FAO/WHO/AU International Food Safety Conference
  Addis Ababa, 12-13 February 2019
- The FAO/WHO/WTO International Forum on Food Safety and Trade
  Geneva, 23-24 April 2019

Participation of Representatives of Non-State Actors in the two events: Call for Expression of Interest

Ongoing changes in climate, global food production and supply systems affect consumers, industry and the planet itself. These changes can have an impact on food safety systems and pose sustainability and development challenges. This is a pivotal moment demanding urgent reflection on actions needed to bolster food safety - the impetus for the two international meetings.

At the Addis Ababa Conference, priorities will be discussed so that food safety strategies and approaches can be aligned across sectors and borders, reinforcing efforts to reach the Sustainable Development Goals and supporting the UN Decade of Action on Nutrition. The Geneva Forum will address the trade-related aspects and challenges of food safety.

Participants in the meeting will be representatives of governments, intergovernmental organizations and non-state actors. The term ‘non-state actors’ refers to civil society organizations; private sector entities (including philanthropic foundations); academia and research institutions; and cooperatives and producer organizations.

Representatives of non-state actors wishing to participate in the two or one of the announced international events can express their interest by following the instructions below:

1. How to express your interest to attend

If you are a representative of a non-state actor, please follow the below instructions to express an interest in attending the Addis Ababa Conference and/or Geneva Forum:

1. Download the expression of interest form and fill in.
2. Send the completed form on the expression of interest to the designated email accounts <food-quality@fao.org> and <foodsecurity@who.int>.

Please note that:

- The deadline for expression of interest is 14 December 2018, 23.59 UTC+1
- Emails to inform applicants whether their expression of interest to attend the conference has been approved or not, will be sent to them by the end of December 2018.
- The organizers do not envisage being able to fund representatives of non-state actors to participate in the meeting.
- The total number of places for representatives of non-state actors is limited.
- As a general principle only one representative per non-state actor will be considered
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2. The format and themes of the events

Strategic actions will be defined through (i) Ministerial panels involving Health, Trade and Agriculture officials and (ii) expert thematic sessions will cover the following themes:

- The burden of foodborne diseases and the benefits of investing in safe food
- Safe and sustainable food systems in an era of accelerated climate change
- Science, innovation and digital transformation at the service of food safety
- Empowering consumers to make healthy choices and support sustainable food systems

3. Criteria for participation

Common criteria for participation of representatives of different groups of non-state actors:

- Applicants’ work and/or mandate is relevant to the FAO’s and/or WHO’s mandates and to the theme of the events;
- Applicant has recognized expertise in food safety, specifically related to the areas covered by the symposium: investment and action in safe food, climate change, sustainable food systems, science and innovation, and/or consumer empowerment.
- Applicants are able to cover their travel and lodging costs and take care of related arrangements;
- Balanced representation in terms of geography (to ensure that the different parts of the globe are represented) and gender equality.

Specific criteria for the different groups of non-state actors include:

Private Sector

- Type of actor (to ensure that private sector associations/multinational/national companies are represented).
- Type of business (to ensure that the crop, livestock, fishery and forestry sectors are represented).

Civil Society, Producer Organizations and Cooperatives

- Representativeness: The organization is representative of one or more specific sectors of the population who share common interests, with particular reference to the most vulnerable and isolated groups.
- Independence: The work of the organization is autonomous and not subject to external influence. Its sources of funding are transparent and free from any stringent condition that could weaken its action and undermine its legitimacy as an independent actor of change.
- Transparency: The organization demonstrates a consistent pattern of making decisions and implementing actions in accordance with internal rules, norms and regulations that are known and understood by all concerned. Adequate information about decisions and actions is freely and constantly provided in accessible ways and in forms that are easily understood by all concerned.
- A balanced representation in terms of geography, gender, age and constituencies represented, in accordance with the organizer’s guidelines will be sought.
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Academia and research institutions

- Type of actor (ensure that different organizations, i.e., universities and research institutions are represented).
- Sector representation (i.e., agriculture production, animal production, fishery and/or forestry).
- Be an accredited institution of higher learning and research. Enjoy academic freedom, institutional autonomy and has transparency in its governance and funding.

4. Approval process

The approval process will be competitive-based and consider the compliance with FAO and WHO frameworks for engagement with non-State actors.

Organizers will inform the confirmed applicants by the end of December 2018 whether the expressed interest to attend the international conference has been approved and provide the registration link.

For more information about this call for representatives of non-state actors to express an interest in attending this regional meeting, please contact food-quality@fao.org and foodsafety@who.int.