International Forum on Food Safety and Trade

23–24 APRIL 2019  GENEVA, SWITZERLAND

PROGRAMME

ABOUT THE FORUM

The International Forum on Food Safety and Trade will be held at the World Trade Organization (WTO) with the participation of WTO Director-General Roberto Azevêdo, WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus and FAO Director-General José Graziano da Silva. The Forum will explore the trade-related aspects of food safety with Agriculture, Health and Trade officials and experts examining the challenges and opportunities arising from rapid technological change and digitalization in food systems. New technologies offer tools that can assist in managing food safety risks and help trade flow more smoothly. Discussions will explore how to ensure low- and middle-income countries can use and benefit from these tools.

The event will highlight the implications of digital innovation for food safety and trade, the importance of the coordinated advancement of the ‘food safety’ and the ‘trade facilitation’ agendas, and the fundamental role of Codex food standards in facilitating the harmonization of food safety regulatory frameworks as food systems evolve. The Geneva Forum will include a focus on low-income countries’ future participation in the global trading system. Speakers will emphasize the value of partnerships both at national and international level.

The thematic sessions will cover:

• Digitalization and its impact on food safety and trade;
• Ensuring synergies between food safety and trade facilitation;
• Promoting harmonized food safety regulation in a period of change and innovation.

Each of the three themes will feature presentations by experts, allowing for broad audience engagement. A pre-event session will precede the official start of the Forum.

THE FUTURE OF FOOD SAFETY

Transforming knowledge into action for people, economies and the environment

OBJECTIVES

Identify key actions and strategies to address current and future challenges to food safety and trade globally

Strengthen commitment at the highest political level to scale up food safety and trade globally in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
## 23 APRIL

### 10:00-13:00

**PRE-EVENT SESSION**

As a curtain raiser to the main event, FAO and WHO have organized the following presentations building on key issues discussed at the First FAO/WHO/AU International Food Safety Conference:

**Welcome by the Host**
- Alan Wm. Wolff, WTO Deputy Director-General

#### 10:00–11:30

**ESTIMATION OF THE NATIONAL BURDEN OF FOODBORNE DISEASES – AN INVESTMENT FOR BETTER FOOD SAFETY SYSTEMS**

**Welcome and Introduction**
- Kazuaki Miyagishima, Director, Food Safety and Zoonoses Department, WHO (Moderator)

**Keynote**
- Barbara Kowalcyk, Assistant Professor, Department of Food Science and Technology, Ohio State University, USA

**Panel themes**
- The burden of foodborne disease and estimating its impact – Global and national perspective
  - Rob Lake, Manager, Risk Assessment and Social Systems, Institute of Environmental Science and Research Limited, New Zealand

- Addressing the economic burden of foodborne disease
  - Delia Grace, Co-Leader, Animal and Human Health, International Livestock Research Institute

- Disease burden estimation in practice – A country perspective
  - Lindita Molla, Head, Food Safety & Nutrition, Health & Environmental Department, Institute of Public Health, Albania

**Questions from the floor**

**Closing remarks**
- Naoko Yamamoto, ADG, Healthier Populations, WHO

#### 11:30–13:00

**FOOD SAFETY, HEALTHY DIETS AND TRADE**

**Welcome and Introduction**
- Máximo Torero Cullen, ADG, Economic and Social Development Department, FAO (Moderator)

**Keynote**
- Naoko Yamamoto, ADG, Healthier Populations, WHO

**Panel themes**
- Effectiveness of policies targeted at promoting healthier diets
  - Mario Mazzocchi, Professor, Department of Statistical Sciences “Paolo Fortunati”, University of Bologna

- Critical issues on food safety and healthy diets at international trade fora
  - Erik Wijkström, Counsellor, Division on Trade and Environment, World Trade Organization, Secretary of the WTO Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) Committee

- Aligning national food safety policies to promote food security
  - Angela Parry Hanson Kunadu, Lecturer, Department of Nutrition and Food Science, University of Ghana

**Questions from the floor**

**Closing remarks**
- Máximo Torero Cullen, ADG, Economic and Social Development Department, FAO

### 15:30-17:15

**OPENING SESSION
FOOD SAFETY AND TRADE**

This session will open the event and make the link between the Addis Ababa and the Geneva meetings

- Roberto Azevêdo, WTO Director-General
- José Graziano da Silva, FAO Director-General
- Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, WHO Director-General
- Monique Eloit, Director General, World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE)

**Overview of the Addis Ababa Conference**
- Josefa Leonel Correia Sacko, African Union Commissioner for Rural Economy and Agriculture

**Statements by Ministers**

#### 17:30–18:30

**RECEPTION**

Participants are invited to a welcome drink in the WTO Atrium.
24 APRIL

10:00-11:30
THEMATIC SESSION 1
DIGITALIZATION AND ITS IMPACT ON FOOD SAFETY AND TRADE

Participants will learn about the potential and actual use of new technologies in the realm of food safety and trade; from e-commerce and electronic certification to big data and blockchain. Discussions will be framed in the context of today’s complex and evolving food systems considering both opportunities and obstacles of digitalization. Speakers will also explore the contributions of big data and computational tools for building consensus on science-based food safety regulations. Attention will be focused on challenges, in particular from the point of view of developing countries on issues such as the technology divide.

MODERATOR:
Ousmane Badiane, The Regional Director for Africa, International Food Policy Research Institute

SPEAKERS:
Frank Yiannas, Deputy Commissioner for Food Policy and Response, United States Food and Drug Administration
Enzo Maria Le Fevre Cervini, Senior Expert on International Relations at the Agency for Digital Italy - Presidency of the Council of Ministers
Lynn Frewer, Professor of Food and Society, Newcastle University
Simon Cook, Professor, Curtin University and Murdoch University

11:30-13:00
THEMATIC SESSION 2
ENSURING SYNERGIES BETWEEN FOOD SAFETY AND TRADE FACILITATION

This session will provide an overview of the different areas in which synergies between food safety and trade facilitation are possible. The way in which food safety measures are designed and enforced is key in this respect, including the use of science-based measures and international standards. Risk-based inspections and simplified procedures can help ensure that resources available for inspections and controls are focused where they have the biggest impact. Transparency assists producers and traders in finding information on relevant food safety measures and procedures. Cooperation among border agencies can ensure effective and efficient food safety controls, facilitating safe trade.

MODERATOR:
Evdokia Moise, Senior Trade Policy Analyst, Trade and Agriculture Directorate, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)

SPEAKERS:
France Pégeot, Executive Vice President, Canadian Food Inspection Agency
Tan Lee Kim, Director-General, Food Administration & Deputy Chief Executive Officer, Singapore Food Agency
Rajesh Aggarwal, Chief, Trade Facilitation and Policy for Business, International Trade Centre
Elizabeth Murugi Nderitu, Acting Director - Standards and SPS, TradeMark East Africa

15:00-17:00
THEMATIC SESSION 3
PROMOTING HARMONIZED FOOD SAFETY REGULATION IN A PERIOD OF CHANGE AND INNOVATION

Reiterating the importance of internationally harmonized food safety regulation based on Codex standards and scientific risk assessment from different perspectives, this session will also look at the future challenges for the Codex Alimentarius. The session will provide an opportunity for participants to discuss challenges and experiences in aligning food safety regulations across sectors using a One Health approach, adapting to innovation and change as well as in harmonizing regulations across borders and dealing with regulatory divergence.

MODERATOR:
Guilherme da Costa, Chairperson, Codex Alimentarius Commission

SPEAKERS:
Rebecca Jane Irwin, Head, Canadian Integrated Program for Antimicrobial Resistance Surveillance Division, Public Health Agency of Canada
Anne Bucher, Director-General, Directorate-General for Health and Food Safety (DG SANTE), European Commission
Anthony Huggett, Board Member, The Global Food Safety Initiative (GFSI)
Tetty Helfery Sihombing, Deputy Chairperson for Processed Food Control, National Agency of Drug and Food Control of the Republic of Indonesia

17:00-18:00
CLOSING SESSION

Presentations by rapporteurs from each thematic session will wrap up the proceedings, followed by closing remarks and farewell messages.
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Transforming knowledge into action for people, economies and the environment

ADDIS ABABA
12–13 February 2019
The First FAO/WHO/AU International Food Safety Conference

GENEVA
23–24 April 2019
WTO International Forum on Food Safety and Trade

WITH THANKS TO OUR DONORS

Government of Canada
United States
Government of Norway
Switzerland
Federal Ministry of Health
Federal Department of Home Affairs FDHA
Federal Food Safety and Veterinary Office FSVO
Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality of the Netherlands

Government of the United States