

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

# PROGRAMME

## ABOUT THE CONFERENCE

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The Conference will include technical panel presentations and discussions as well as ministerial panels involving Health, Trade and Agriculture officials and experts to address key food safety issues and strategic actions. Discussions will focus on sharing perspectives, emerging problems and best practice examples.

The thematic sessions will cover:

- 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.

Each of the four themes will feature five topics – with speakers giving short presentations during the Conference and publishing papers prior to the meeting. The background papers are available on the Conference website:

[www.who.int/food-safety/international-food-safety-conference](http://www.who.int/food-safety/international-food-safety-conference)

## THE FUTURE OF FOOD SAFETY

Transforming knowledge into  
action for people, economies  
and the environment

## OBJECTIVES

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

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Strengthen commitment at  
the highest political level to  
scale up food safety in the  
2030 Agenda for Sustainable  
Development



# 12 FEBRUARY

10:00-11:30

## OPENING SESSION

**Ibrahim Assane Mayaki**,  
Chief Executive Officer, New Partnership  
for Africa's Development (NEPAD) –  
Conference Chairperson

**Josefa Leonel Correia Sacko**,  
African Union Commissioner for Rural  
Economy and Agriculture

**José Graziano da Silva**,  
FAO Director-General

**Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus**,  
WHO Director-General

**Roberto Azevêdo**,  
WTO Director-General

**Moussa Faki Mahamat**,  
African Union Commission Chairperson

**Abiy Ahmed**,  
Prime Minister of Ethiopia

12:00-13:00

## OPENING MINISTERIAL PANEL OVERCOMING FOOD SAFETY CHALLENGES

**Oumer Hussein**, Minister of Agriculture,  
Ethiopia

**Noel Holder**, Minister of Agriculture, Guyana

**Datuk Seri**, Minister of Health, Malaysia

**Ezechiel Joseph**, Minister for Agriculture,  
Fisheries, Physical Planning, Natural  
Resources and Co-operatives, Saint Lucia

**Peter Bayuku Conteh**, Minister of Trade  
and Industry, Sierra Leone

**Sun Meijun**, Vice Minister, State  
Administration of Market Regulation, China

**Ashraf Esmael Mohamed Afifi**,  
First Deputy Minister - Chairman of the  
Board of the Egyptian Organization for  
Standardization and Quality, Egypt

**Erkinbek Choduev**, Deputy Minister of  
Agriculture, Food Industry and Melioration,  
Kyrgyz Republic

MODERATOR:

**Girum Chala**, Journalist, China Global  
Television Network (CGTN), Ethiopia

14:30-16:30

## THEMATIC SESSION 1

THE BURDEN OF FOODBORNE DISEASES  
AND THE BENEFITS OF INVESTING IN  
SAFE FOOD

**The public health burden of unsafe  
foods: a need for global commitment**

**Arie Hendrik Havelaar**, Professor,  
University of Florida, USA

**Economic case for investments in  
food safety**

**Steven Jaffee**, Lead Agricultural Economist,  
World Bank Group

**Leveraging private sector investment  
for safe value chains**

**Ed Mabaya**, Manager, African Development  
Bank

**People-focussed food safety  
investment in low- and middle-income  
countries**

**John McDermott**, Director of CGIAR  
Research Program on Agriculture for  
Nutrition and Health (A4NH), International  
Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI)

**The need for integrated approaches to  
address food safety risk – the case of  
mycotoxins**

**Chibundu Ezekiel**, Senior Postdoctoral  
Researcher, Babcock University, Nigeria

MODERATOR:

**Nathan Belete**, Agriculture Global Practice  
Manager, World Bank Group

16:30-18:30

## THEMATIC SESSION 2

SAFE AND SUSTAINABLE FOOD SYSTEMS  
IN AN ERA OF ACCELERATED  
CLIMATE CHANGE

**Climate change and implications for  
food safety**

**Cristina Tirado-von der Pahlen**, Director  
of International Climate Initiative, Loyola  
Marymount University, USA

**Safe, sustainable crop production:  
meeting the goals**

**Howard-Yana Shapiro**, Chief Agricultural  
Officer, Mars Inc., USA

**Safe and sustainable livestock  
production**

**Tim McAllister**, Principal Research Scientist,  
Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada

**Safe and sustainable aquaculture  
intensification**

**José Miguel Burgos**, Researcher, University  
of Chile and former Director Sernapesca

**Alternative food and feed products**

**Eva Maria Binder**, Chief Research Officer,  
ERBER Group, Austria

MODERATOR:

**Abebe Haile-Gabriel**, Assistant Director-  
General and Regional Representative for  
Africa, FAO

18:30-19:30

## PANEL DISCUSSION

CIVIL SOCIETY AND PRIVATE SECTOR

**Leon Gorris**, Head of Food Safety,  
International Union of Food Science and  
Technology (IUFOST)

**Cris Muyunda**, CSO Coordinator,  
Comprehensive Africa Agriculture  
Development Programme (CAADP)

**Samuel Godefroy**, Professor, Laval  
University, Canada

**Laura Fernández Celemin**, Director-  
General, European Food Information Council  
(EUFIC)

**Owen Fraser**, President, Association of  
Analytical Communities (AOAC International),  
Sub-Saharan Africa Section

**Greg S. Garrett**, Director, Food Policy and  
Financing, Global Alliance for Improved  
Nutrition (GAIN)

**Barbara Kowalczyk**, Co-founder and former  
CEO of the Center for Foodborne Illness  
Research & Prevention (CFI), USA

**David Crean**, Vice President, Corporate  
R&D, Mars Inc., USA

MODERATOR:

**Girum Chala**, CGTN Journalist, Ethiopia

19:30-21:30

## CONFERENCE RECEPTION

Multipurpose Hall

All events will be held in the **Nelson Mandela Hall** except where specified.

For updated and more extensive programme information, please visit:

[www.who.int/food-safety/international-food-safety-conference](http://www.who.int/food-safety/international-food-safety-conference)

# 13 FEBRUARY

9:00-11:00

## THEMATIC SESSION 3

SCIENCE, INNOVATION AND DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION AT THE SERVICE OF FOOD SAFETY

**Whole genome sequencing – paving the way forward globally to better understand food systems**

**Juno Thomas**, Head of the Centre for Enteric Diseases, National Institute for Communicable Diseases, South Africa

### Novel food production

**Aideen McKeivitt**, Professor, University College Dublin, Ireland

**Novel analytical methods and models for enhanced food safety**

**Steven Musser**, Deputy Center Director of Scientific Operations, Food and Drug Administration, USA

**Policy considerations for the development and adoption of technologies for local food value chains**

**Kennedy Bomfeh**, Food Scientist, University of Ghana

**Digital transformation of the food system**

**Mark Booth**, Chief Executive Officer, Food Standards Australia and New Zealand

MODERATOR:

**Robert van Gorcom**, Director of the Food Safety Research Institute (RIKILT), Wageningen University & Research, The Netherlands

11:30-13:30

## THEMATIC SESSION 4

EMPOWERING CONSUMERS TO MAKE HEALTHY FOOD CHOICES AND SUPPORT SUSTAINABLE FOOD SYSTEMS

**Understanding food safety risks and uncertainties and meeting citizens' expectations as food systems become more complex**

**Barbara Gallani**, Head of Communication, Engagement and Cooperation, European Food Safety Authority (EFSA)

**Effective communication and engagement with the public about food safety and quality issues in the digital age**

**Lynn Frewer**, Professor, Newcastle University, UK

**Dietary transitions and the triple burden of malnutrition necessitate action**

**Francesco Branca**, Director of the Department of Nutrition for Health and Development, WHO

**Harnessing market drivers of food safety**

**Stephen Mbithi**, Technical Advisor and former Chief Executive Officer of the Fresh Produce Exporters Association of Kenya

**Sharing responsibility for consumer empowerment**

**Rebecca Berner**, Institutional Development Director, Consumers International, Mexico

MODERATOR:

**Svetlana Akselrod**, Assistant Director-General, Non-Communicable Diseases and Mental Health, WHO

14:30-15:30

## SIDE EVENT:

AFRICAN UNION SPECIAL EVENT ON TRADE OF SAFE FOOD IN FREE TRADE AREAS

15:30-16:00

## SUMMARY OF THE THEMATIC SESSIONS

**Ibrahim Assane Mayaki**, Chief Executive Officer, New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) – Conference Chairperson

16:00-17:00

## PANEL DISCUSSION

POLICY MAKERS AND HEADS OF NATIONAL AGENCIES

**Pawan Agarwal**, Chief Executive Officer, Food Safety and Standards Authority of India, India

**Jorge Dal Bianco**, National Directorate for Food Safety and Quality (DNICA), Argentina

**Sètondji Epiphane Hossou**, Director General, Benin Food Safety Agency (ABSSA), Benin

**Zainab Jallow**, Director General, Food Safety and Quality Authority, Gambia

**Bernhard Kühnle**, Director-General for Food Safety and Animal Health, Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture, Germany

**Mohammad Mahfuzul Hoque**, Chairman, Bangladesh Food Safety Authority, Ministry of Food, Bangladesh

**Hussein Mansour**, Chairman of the National Food Safety Authority, Ministry of Agriculture and Land Reclamation, Egypt

**Pietro Noè**, Director, Directorate General for Food, Hygiene and Safety and Nutrition, Ministry of Health, Italy

**Vyacheslav Y. Smolenskiy**, Deputy Head of Rospotrebnadzor, Russian Federation

MODERATOR:

**Mary Lou Valdez**, Associate Commissioner for International Programs, Office of International Programs, Food and Drug Administration, USA

17:00-18:00

## PANEL DISCUSSION

PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS

**Jimmy Smith**, Director-General, International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI)

**Jean-Philippe Dop**, Deputy Director-General, Institutional Affairs and Regional Activities, World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE)

**Aurelia Patrizia Calabrò**, Representative and Director of the Regional Hub in Ethiopia, UNIDO

**Simeon Ehui**, Director of Food and Agriculture Global Practice, World Bank Group

**Matthew Hudson**, Director, DG Health and Food Safety, European Commission

**Stephanie Hochstetter**, Director-Rome Based Agencies Coordination, World Food Programme

MODERATOR:

**Girum Chala**, CGTN Journalist, Ethiopia

18:00-19:00

## CLOSING SESSION

Summary of key messages from the panels

Addis Ababa Statement on the Future of Food Safety

Closing remarks

# THE FIRST FAO/WHO/AU INTERNATIONAL FOOD SAFETY CONFERENCE EXHIBITION

Exhibitions will be held in “Lobby A” and “Lobby D” of the African Union Commission Headquarters on 12-13 February 2019 from 9:00 to 19:00. The following organizations will showcase their food safe initiatives and share information materials:

- African Regional Economic Communities
- African Union
- African Union Member States
- Ethiopia Ministry of Health
- European Union
- Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)
- FAO/WHO Codex Alimentarius
- FAO/WHO International Network of Food Safety Authorities (INFOSAN)
- Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI)
- Global Food Safety Partnership (GFSP)
- International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI)
- United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)
- World Bank Group
- World Health Organization (WHO)
- World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE)
- World Trade Organization (WTO) / Standards and Trade Development Facility (STDF)

THE FIRST FAO/WHO/AU INTERNATIONAL FOOD SAFETY CONFERENCE IS ORGANIZED IN PARTNERSHIP WITH



UNITED NATIONS  
INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION



WORLD BANK GROUP



WORLD ORGANISATION FOR ANIMAL HEALTH  
*Protecting animals, preserving our future*

WITH THANKS TO OUR DONORS



Government  
of Canada



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Federal Ministry  
of Health



Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and  
Food Quality of the Netherlands



Government  
of Norway

## THE FUTURE OF FOOD SAFETY

Addis Ababa, 12–13 February 2019  
The First FAO/WHO/AU International Food Safety Conference

Geneva, 23–24 April 2019  
The FAO/WHO/WTO International Forum on Food Safety and Trade



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