

CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



World Health
Organization

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JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME

FAO/WHO COORDINATING COMMITTEE FOR EUROPE

*30th Session, 3 – 7 October 2016
Astana, Kazakhstan*

OPENING SPEECH OF FAO

OPENING SPEECH OF MR BRANKO BULATOVIC, HEAD OF FAO LIAISON AND PARTNERSHIP OFFICE IN KAZAKHSTAN, ON BEHALF OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS, FAO, AT THE 30TH SESSION OF THE CODEX COORDINATING COMMITTEE FOR EUROPE (CCEURO)

Excellences – Minister of Economy of Kazakhstan, Ambassador of the Netherlands to Kazakhstan,

Distinguished Codex members delegates,

Ladies and gentlemen,

Dear FAO and WHO colleagues,

It is an honor to address you all today a warm welcome on behalf of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, FAO – one of the two parent organizations of the Codex Alimentarius Commission - on the occasion of the opening of the 30th biannual CCEURO session. And I would like to thank Kazakhstan and the Netherlands for co-hosting this meeting, for the excellent organization and hospitality.

The FAO is fully committed to the work of Codex as it is reflected in such areas of food safety programme of work, as provision of scientific advice and capacity development.

This session is the 1st one within the revitalization process of Regional Codex Coordinating Committees, which has been launched for the Codex European region in September 2014 in the Hague, the Netherlands – the CCEURO Coordinator. The revitalization process aims to raise the prominence of the Regional Codex Coordinating Committees and their role as fora for the discussion of critical and emerging food safety and quality issues for the regions to feed into the global Codex standard setting process. In this context I would like to stress the importance of this meeting with its rich Agenda, and the decisions that you will be making. Ensuring food safety is a complex task considering the challenges brought by globalization and intensive international food trade, increased demand for safer and better quality food, and threats that arise from new and intensification technologies of food production. Ensuring food safety can be achieved only by coordinated actions across sectors, mutual information and collaboration. Addressing antimicrobial resistance (AMR) - which is on the agenda of this meeting - is one examples of tasks which require close multi-sectorial collaboration for food safety through a One Health approach in raising awareness, developing

capacity for surveillance and monitoring of antimicrobial resistance and antimicrobials use, promoting good practices along the food chain and developing regulations and effective governance on AMR. And this should be done both at county and regional level. At the global, international level the FAO is fully committed to work closely with WHO and OIE (World Animal Health Organization) within the tripartite framework in combatting the AMR.

I am very pleased to see in this room representatives from various sectors who work on daily basis to bring safe and quality food to consumers.

Dear colleagues,

I warmly welcome you in Kazakhstan and wish a productive and successful deliberation and nice stay in Astana.

Thank you!