

CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



World Health
Organization

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Opening Remarks

CRD13

ORIGINAL LANGUAGE ONLY

JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME

AD HOC CODEX INTERGOVERNMENTAL TASK FORCE ON ANTIMICROBIAL RESISTANCE

Sixth Session

Opening Remark Dr. Jeffrey LeJeune, FAO

Excellencies,

Honoured guests,

Distinguished delegates

Ladies and gentlemen

On behalf of FAO, I am happy to have received such a warm welcome here in Busan, to see all of you here, and thank you in advance for your dedication to this effort.

The threat that antimicrobial resistance poses on human health, animal health and agriculture together with the complex issues in these areas can only be tackled in a true One Health manner. AMR is threatening to prevent us, all of us, from achieving sufficient progress on many of the all-important SDGs, notably 2, 3, 6 and 15 ensuring food security and health and a healthy environment. And yet the issue of AMR remains urgent and is not going away. The questions we are grappling with are important and the task before you is both complicated, that is it has many different components, and it is complex. I am certain, using a thoughtful, logical, and systematic approaches, you will be able to find suitable next steps in the development of sustainable solutions that are commensurate to the complicated nature of the problem. The complexity, or difficulty, of the problem stems from the multiple stakeholders involved, different perspectives, the interactions between interventions, and the trade-offs associated with possible solutions. The solutions you find may not be the only solutions or perfect solutions. Nevertheless, I encourage you to work collaboratively to reach the *best* solutions.

As the FAO Secretary of the Joint Expert Meeting on Microbial Risk Assessment (JEMRA) and the FAO representative for the joint FAO/WHO scientific advice program together with my colleagues from WHO and our collaborators from the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE), I am here to provide scientific advice, concerning the recent meeting we held at your request. While later in the program I will have the opportunity to speak more specifically to the outcomes of that meeting, I would already now like to thank you for the privilege and trust you have put in us to provide you with the best scientific advice possible to aid in your decision making process.

A special thanks to the numerous experts who gave freely of their time to research and write that report. It contains information that was collected and assembled in a transparent manner and is fully backed by science. Thus, when evidence exist, for example the role of fruits and vegetables in the epidemiology of foodborne disease outbreaks associated with antimicrobial resistant organism, it cannot be ignored.

For your deliberation over the course of the next few days I would like to urge you to find the appropriate balance between the overarching principles you wish to promote and the trap of becoming too prescriptive in your outcomes. I am much looking forward to aid you as necessary during the undoubtedly challenging discussions ahead of you and wish you all the best success in achieving your goals. Thank-you.