

Final Communiqué of the Co-chairs International Conference ‘Food Safety Risk Analysis and Antimicrobial Resistance ’

The International Conference "Food Safety Risk Analysis and Antimicrobial Resistance " was held in the city of Moscow (Russia) on 17-18 December 2019. It was organized jointly by Rospotrebnadzor and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), and supported by the Government of the Russian Federation.

The Conference gathered 146 delegates – including representatives of public authorities, specialized international organizations, the private sector and the world scientific community – from 23 countries worldwide. Over the course of the two days, international experts presented the latest knowledge and discussed new developments in the area of food safety risk analysis and antimicrobial resistance. The Conference is a follow-up of the International Conference on Food Safety and Risk Analysis that was held in Sochi, Russian Federation, on 18 and 19 May 2017. The Conference was built on the recommendations of the First FAO/World Health Organization/African Union International Food Safety Conference, held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, 12 - 13 February, 2019.

As in the Sochi Conference in May 2017, the large number of participants in this second international forum on these topics indicates significant interest in the subject matter, which is of vital importance to the European and Central Asia region.

The Conference contributed to the world community's efforts on the fight against the threat of antimicrobial resistance in the food and agriculture sectors and to the activities to assure safe, nutritious food for all, essential to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Participants emphasized the need for practical and implementable good practices aiming at attenuating the progress of antimicrobial resistance as well as good practices for food safety goals, emphasized at the First International Conference on Food Safety, and the Second International Conference on Nutrition (ICN2).

During the event, authorities representing public health, food safety and animal health sectors from participating countries in Europe and Central Asia region, as well other regions, exchanged experiences and best practices on how to reduce

antimicrobial resistance (AMR), recognizing it as a real and immediate global threat. They advocated strong regulatory frameworks, reduced and prudent use of antibiotics, avoidance of use of antibiotics as growth promoters, and stressed the importance of sharing knowledge and best practices. They recognized the paramount importance of good animal husbandry and hygienic practices along the farm to fork continuum.

All participants unanimously agreed that effective AMR governance, surveillance and awareness raising are best addressed in a One Health multidisciplinary approach, with close cooperation and interaction among representatives from government, academic and research institutions, and the private sector. Furthermore, international cooperation will play a pivotal role for shaping of new and innovative ideas for improved approaches and development of policies on both antimicrobial resistance and on food safety risk assessment and management.

Deliberations to assure safe food for all, recognized the need to understanding and manage multifaceted food safety risks, including well-known and emerging risks. Participants emphasized the importance of robust scientific risk assessment, which in turn provides a reliable and dependable platform for risk managers to formulate adequately health-protective and suitably trade-inclusive food safety standards. Preventive controls at all stages of food production are needed to avoid health risks due to microbiological and chemical contaminants. It requires enhanced multilateral dialogue, international and interregional sectoral cooperation, and promotion of partnerships between different stakeholders. The Conference recognized food safety is a shared responsibility, and the importance of public-private collaboration in order to understand each other's responsibilities and build common trust to face today's, and tomorrow's food safety challenges.

Organization of the event, which was conducted in both Russian and English languages and the quality and professionalism of its discussions, were highly appreciated by participants and guests of the Conference.

The Conference once again proved that in order to achieve practical results on strategic issues, it is important to establish platforms that promote interactions among a wide range of partners striving to jointly respond to new challenges in all areas of food safety. The efforts of the Tripartite FAO, WHO, OIE were recognized as a key partnership to harness global efforts and best practice in the fight against AMR.

The increasing involvement of the Russian Federation in global partnerships, and the development of cooperation between Russia and FAO, are set to become the basis for progress towards the goal of ensuring the safe and adequate nutrition as part of any food safety strategy.