



High Level Senior Food Regulators Meeting of African Food Competent Authorities

*Promoting Collaborative African Food Regulatory Frameworks, in Support of the
Implementation of the Food Safety Strategy for Africa 2022-36, and the Operationalization of
the African Food Safety Agency (AFSA)*

The Cairo Declaration

October 2023

African countries are demonstrating increasing commitment to modernizing and further enhancing their agricultural output and their food and agrifood production, with opportunities of development that can have important positive impacts on the economies of African countries and the continent.

The potential for growth of intra-continental trade of food and agri-food products is estimated to be exponential and needs to be further driven by enhanced alignment of African food regulatory frameworks, which requires the development of the relevant forum for Dialogue and collaboration between African food regulators.

The representatives of the African food regulatory authorities undersigned, with the leadership of the African Union Commission, and with the support of international partners, gathered at the inaugural meeting of the African Food Regulatory Authorities Forum (AFRAF), convened in Cairo, Arab Republic of Egypt from 11-13 October 2023:

- ❖ Acknowledge the imperative of developing a sustainable mechanism of collaboration between food competent authorities in Africa, to address an increasingly complex and interdependent health, food production and food trade environment, and
- ❖ Decided to create a network of African food competent authorities **at the heads of authority level**, known as the **African Food Regulatory Authorities Forum** or **AFRAF** with the aim to:
 - Serve as an information exchange, experience sharing and collaboration development Forum, between food competent authorities of member states of the African Union.
 - Shape an agenda of collaborative initiatives to contribute to the development of a path forward for **African food regulatory harmonization** and integration as part of the implementation of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) and to address common challenges faced by African food competent authorities and the food and agri-food production sector.
 - Contribute to the delivery of **commitments of the Food Safety Strategy for Africa (FSSA) - 2022-2036**, through supporting the operation of a science-based and efficient food regulatory environment in Africa.
 - Act as the General Assembly of the soon to be operationalized African Food Safety Agency (AFSA).

The Regulators gathered in Cairo agreed to adopt a Charter governing the membership and operations of the AFRAF and to use this mechanism as an engine to foster the development of food regulatory cooperation between food regulators in Africa, in a manner that supports the operationalization of AFSA and that is complementary to SPS coordination efforts carried out under the auspices of the Regional Economic Communities (RECs) of Africa.

Agreed in Cairo on 13 October 2023

Names of Present Participants Listed by Country

Names of Witnesses from International Organizations

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