



AGENDA

Third African Food Regulatory Authorities Forum (AFRAF)

Advancing Africa's Integrated Food Regulatory Future

30 September – 2 October 2026 • Cairo, Arab Republic of Egypt

Meeting Location: Skyline Ballroom – Le Méridien Cairo Airport, Egypt

HOSTED BY

The National Food Safety Authority of Egypt (NFSA)



WITH THE PARTNERSHIP AND PARTICIPATION OF

Africa's Regional Economic Communities

African Food Competent Authorities

The United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)



ORGANIZED BY

The Global Food Regulatory Science Society



Preliminary Agenda

The following agenda is indicative and continues to be updated based on input from partners:

- The National Food Safety Authority of Egypt (NFSA)
- The United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), as the implementation party of the Africa Trade, Competitiveness and Market Access (ATCMA) project
- AFRAF Working Groups
- The Steering Group of AFRAF

Hybrid participation is enabled for invited / confirmed participants through:

https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_Aa_dFNClQXGlu1hJtnhEsw#/registration

ATCMA Sessions are sessions organized in support of the implementation of the Africa Trade, Competitiveness and Market Access (ATCMA) Project.

Day 0 – The agenda for Preparatory/Technical Meetings (30 September 2026) is presented in a separate document.

Meeting Location: Skyline Ballroom – Le Méridien Cairo Airport, Egypt

DAY 1 • Thursday, 1 October 2026

Building Africa's Integrated Food Regulatory Future: Coordination, Modernization and Innovation

TIME	AGENDA ITEM
08:30 – 09:30	Registration and networking
09:30 – 09:45	Welcoming Remarks Dr. Tareq El-Houby , Chairman of AFRAF, host of the meeting and Chairman of the African Food Regulatory Authorities Forum
09:45 – 11:00	SESSION 1 Keynote Interventions – Key Leaders of Food Safety in Africa and Globally Moderator: Dr. Ruba Goussous , Director of Operations, Global Food Regulatory Science Society (GForSS) KEYNOTES • Dr. Gabor Molnar, Industrial Development Officer, UNIDO, Division of Agribusiness and Infrastructure Development, Food Security and Food Systems Unit; Project Manager, ATCMA — <i>Africa Trade, Competitiveness and Market Access (ATCMA) Programme</i> • Dr. Mamodou Bah, Director General, Food Safety and Quality Authority, The Gambia; Chair of CCAFRICA — <i>Africa's Codex Programs as an engine of food regulatory integration in Africa</i> • Dr. Sébastien Goux, Deputy Head of Unit, Multilateral International Relations (A4), DG SANTE — <i>Importance of Risk Analysis for Food Regulatory Integration</i> • Dr. Majlinda Lahaniatis, Deputy Director, International Affairs, German Federal Institute for Risk Assessment (BfR); Co-Chair, International Liaison Group on Methods for Risk Assessment of Chemicals in Food and Feed (ILMERAC) — <i>International Food Risk Assessment Networks Serving Africa's Capacity Development: the ILMERAC Example</i>

TIME	AGENDA ITEM
11:00 – 12:00	OFFICIAL OPENING Official Opening Ceremony of the Third Meeting of the African Food Regulatory Authorities Forum REPRESENTATIVES OF SUPPORTING ORGANIZATIONS • Prof. Samuel Godefroy, President and COO Global Food Regulatory Science Society (GFoRSS) • Ms. Gihan Bayoumi Attia, Deputy UNIDO Representative in Egypt • Dr. Sébastien Goux, Deputy Head of Unit, Multilateral International Relations (A4), DG SANTE, European Commission • Eng. Ashraf El Gazayerli, Chairman, Chamber of Food Industries, Egypt • Prof. Mojisola Christianah Adeyeye, Director General, National Agency for Food and Drug Administration and Control (NAFDAC), Nigeria • Dr. Mamodou Bah, Director General of the Food Authority of The Gambia; Chair of the FAO/WHO Coordinating Committee for Africa (CCAFRICA) • Dr. Tareq El-Houby, Chairman of AFRAF, host of the meeting and Chairman of the African Food Regulatory Authorities Forum
12:00 – 12:30	Break, official photograph and media briefing
12:30 – 13:30	SESSION 2 ATCMA SESSION Advancing SPS Integration in Africa: REC Achievements, Priorities and Opportunities for Collective Action This session will examine ongoing REC efforts to strengthen SPS coordination and cooperation structures and develop regional SPS strategies, including how concerted SPS action can reduce trade impediments and support greater regional and continental integration. Achievements, current initiatives, priorities and examples of successful SPS cooperation will be shared. Member States will discuss challenges, expectations from REC-level SPS initiatives, and examples where regional coordination and SPS strategies have contributed to positive trade and regulatory outcomes. REC PERSPECTIVES • Dr. Neamatalla Azzam, COMESA (in person) • Ms. Farida Aboutou, ECOWAS (<i>remote participation</i>) CONTINENTAL PERSPECTIVE • Dr. Diana Akullo Ogwal, Principal SPS Officer, Directorate of Trade in Goods and Competition, AfCFTA Secretariat (<i>remote participation</i>) • Dr. Mamodou Bah, Chair, FAO/WHO Coordinating Committee for Africa (CCAFRICA) MEMBER STATE PERSPECTIVES • Dr. Mary Johnson, Food Safety and Quality Authority, The Gambia • Dr. Raymonda A. B. Johnson, Assistant Director of Crops, Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security, Sierra Leone Moderator: Dr. Gabor Molnar, Industrial Development Officer, Food Security and Food Systems Unit, Division of Agribusiness and Infrastructure Development, UNIDO; Project Manager, ATCMA
13:30 – 14:30	Lunch

TIME	AGENDA ITEM
14:30 – 15:30	SESSION 3 ATCMA SESSION Modernizing Food Control Systems in Africa: Regulatory Innovation, Data and New Approaches to Oversight This session will explore practical approaches to modernizing food control systems in Africa, drawing on country experiences, case studies and emerging international practices. Discussions will consider how better use of regulatory data, digitalization, voluntary third-party assurance (vTPA), remote auditing and inspection, and modernization of food laws and regulatory approaches can strengthen the effectiveness and efficiency of food control systems. The session will also examine what is needed to enable and accelerate these changes and how AFRAF can foster cooperation, create synergies, facilitate exchange of experience and support the adoption of innovative regulatory approaches across African food regulatory authorities. PANELISTS • Mr. Hadi El Alem, Libyan National Centre for Standardization and Metrology (LNCMS), Libya • Mr. Hakim B. Mufumbiro, Head, Food and Agriculture Standards Division, Uganda National Bureau of Standards (UNBS), Uganda • Ms. Doreen Sakala Sianjani, Chief Environmental Health Officer – Food Safety; Codex Contact Point, Ministry of Health, Zambia • Dr. Mark Flanagan, Founder and CEO, Safe to Trade • Mr. Mahmoud Camara, Service central de liaison du Codex Alimentarius, Agence nationale de la sécurité sanitaire des aliments (ANSSA), Mali (<i>remote participation</i>) • Ms. Morag WEBB, Head of Science and Policy, Colead (<i>remote participation</i>) Moderator: Ms. Mirian Bueno, Industrial Development Expert, Food Security and Food Systems Unit, Division of Agribusiness and Infrastructure Development, UNIDO
15:30 – 16:30	SESSION 4 Stakeholders' Perspectives on SPS Coordination and Continental Food Regulatory Integration This session will gather stakeholder perspectives on ongoing continental and Regional Economic Community (REC)-led efforts to strengthen SPS coordination and food regulatory integration in Africa, with a focus on reducing trade impediments and improving regulatory predictability. Through short interventions followed by a panel discussion, contributors will address: • Key SPS and food regulatory challenges affecting trade across African markets. • Priorities for stronger coordination, regulatory convergence and harmonization at REC and continental levels. • Opportunities to improve the predictability, transparency and consistency of regulatory requirements and enforcement. • Practical approaches to facilitate market access, including regulatory cooperation, reliance and mutual recognition. • Stakeholder expectations regarding the role of RECs and AFRAF in supporting a more integrated African food regulatory environment. CONTRIBUTORS • Mr. Jean-Christophe Kremer, Secretary-General, International Special Dietary Foods Industries (ISDI) • Ms. Iddah Asin, Executive Director, Africa Regional Group, International Council of Beverages Associations (ICBA) • Eng. Shahat Selim, Chamber of Food Industries (CFI), Egypt • Dr. Mark Flanagan, Founder and CEO, Safe to Trade • Dr. Adel Ismail, Quality, Food Safety and Regulatory Affairs Director, Hero Middle East & Africa; Head, Special Food and Food Additives Sector, Chamber of Food Industries (CFI), Egypt

TIME	AGENDA ITEM
	• Prof. Christopher Elliott, Professor of Food Safety and Founder, Institute for Global Food Security, Queen's University Belfast Moderator: Prof. Samuel Godefroy, Université Laval, Canada; President & COO, Global Food Regulatory Science Society (GForSS)
16:30 – 17:30	SESSION 5 Food Science and Innovation Serving the Development of Integrated Food Regulation in Africa Innovation is pivotal to the development, competitiveness and transformation of Africa's food sector, requiring food regulatory systems to evolve alongside advances in food science, technologies, products and processes. This session will explore how food science expertise can support regulatory modernization and innovation, while connecting scientific communities more effectively with regulatory authorities. It will also make the case for an African Consortium of Food Science and Technology Organizations, connecting and strengthening national organizations and mobilizing African scientific expertise in support of AFRAF and the AFRAF Academy. The session will also report on the AFRAF Food Innovation Working Group, highlighting priority reforms and opportunities for regulatory cooperation to create a more enabling and predictable environment for food innovation. SUGGESTED INTERVENTIONS • Prof. Ogugua Charles Aworh, Emeritus Professor, University of Ibadan; Fellow, African Academy of Sciences; AFRAF Academy Mentor — <i>Mobilizing Food Science in Support of Food Regulatory Development in Africa</i> • Dr. Adenowo Bolanle Osinowo, Nigerian Institute of Food Science and Technology (NIFST) — <i>Towards an African Consortium of Food Science and Technology Organizations</i> • Mr. Ousmane Cissé, Côte d'Ivoire — <i>Report from the AFRAF Food Innovation Working Group and Priority Regulatory Reforms</i> • Dr. Amine Kassouf, Scientific Director, GForSS — <i>Enabling Food Innovation through Regulatory Modernization and Cooperation</i> Moderator: Prof. Samuel Godefroy, Université Laval, Canada; President & COO, GForSS Discussion: Connecting food science, innovation and regulation – identifying opportunities for AFRAF to mobilize scientific expertise, enable innovation and support more integrated and innovation-ready food regulatory systems across Africa.
19:00	Official Dinner – Skyline Ballroom Co-hosted by the Egyptian Chamber of Food Industries (CFI) and the Global Food Regulatory Science Society (GForSS)

DAY 2 • Friday, 2 October 2026**From Cooperation to Action: Building Capacity and Shaping the AFRAF Roadmap**

TIME	AGENDA ITEM
08:30 – 09:00	Recap and orientation Review of agenda and past accomplishments
09:00 – 10:30	SESSION 6 African Food Regulatory Leadership: AFRAF as a Catalyst for Cooperation among African Heads of Food Agencies This session will provide an opportunity to hear directly from the senior leadership of African food regulatory and standards authorities on recent developments and transformations within their national food control systems. Through short interventions followed by a leadership discussion, Heads of Agencies will share recent regulatory and institutional changes, investments and modernization efforts, emerging priorities, and future directions in their respective jurisdictions. The discussion will also explore how AFRAF can serve as a catalyst for stronger cooperation among Heads of Agencies, facilitating peer-to-peer exchanges, sharing of regulatory experience and solutions, joint initiatives, and greater regulatory convergence across Africa. SUGGESTED LEADERSHIP INTERVENTIONS • Dr. Tareq El-Houby, Chairman, National Food Safety Authority (NFSA), Egypt — <i>Egypt's Food Regulatory Transformation and NFSA Strategic Outlook 2026–2033</i> • Dr. Mohamed Hassen Ould Braika, Director General, Mauritanian Food Safety Authority (AMSSA), Mauritania • Mr. Stephen Y. Mambu, Director General/CEO, Liberia Standards Authority (LiSA), Liberia • Prof. Mojisola Christianah Adeyeye, Director General, National Agency for Food and Drug Administration and Control (NAFDAC), Nigeria • Dr. Mohamed Rabhi, Director General, National Authority for Food Safety (INSSPA), Tunisia • Dr. Mamodou Bah, Director General, Food Safety and Quality Authority, The Gambia. • Eng. Ali Ramadan Ben Zeitoun, Director General, Libyan National Centre for Standardization and Metrology (LNCSM), Libya • Dr. Raymonda A. B. Johnson, Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security, Sierra Leone • Dr. Ahmed Mze Ali, Director General, Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Handicrafts, Comoros. • Dr. Muntanga Kampengele Mapani, Executive Director, National Food and Nutrition Commission (NFNC), Zambia Co-Moderators: Prof. Samuel Godefroy, Université Laval, Canada; President & COO, GForSS, and Dr. Ruba Goussous, Director of Operations, GForSS

10:30 – 11:30	SESSION 7 Mainstreaming Risk Analysis in Africa: Building Sustainable Risk Assessment, Data and Scientific Capacity This session will examine how risk analysis, and particularly risk assessment, can be more systematically embedded within African food regulatory systems. It will draw on African and international experiences to identify practical approaches for strengthening access to data, scientific expertise, methodologies and networks of experts. The discussion will focus on sustainable capacity building, including knowledge transfer, communities of practice, institutional partnerships and international networks, and will explore how AFRAF can help connect African authorities with regional and international risk-assessment expertise and resources.
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TIME	AGENDA ITEM
	SUGGESTED INTERVENTIONS • Ms. Zeineb El-Bouchikhi, National Office for Food Safety (ONSSA), Morocco — <i>Morocco's Experience in Food Risk Management: Contributing to Capacity Building in Africa</i> • Dr. Timme van der Lugt, Netherlands Food and Consumer Product Safety Authority (NVWA) — <i>The xORA Initiative: Building International Networks and Cooperation for Risk Assessment</i> (remote participation) • Dr. Nicole Gollnick, Director, International Affairs, German Federal Institute for Risk Assessment (BfR), Germany — <i>International cooperation and sustainable risk-assessment capacity building</i> • Dr. Marianne Chemaly, Scientific Director for Food Safety, and Head of Hygiene and Quality of Poultry and Pig Products Unit, Ploufragan-Plouzané-Niort Laboratory, French Agency for Food, Environmental and Occupational Health & Safety (ANSES), France — <i>Scientific Expertise, Reference Laboratory Networks and Risk Assessment Capacity Building</i> (remote participation) • Dr. Salma Elreedy, Dr. Salma Elreedy, Director, European and International Affairs Department, French Agency for Food, Environmental and Occupational Health & Safety (ANSES), France — <i>Cooperation and partnerships for strengthening food safety risk assessment: the example of the European Food Safety Authority's (EFSA) network of National Focal Points</i> • Dr. Majlinda Lahaniatis, Deputy Director, International Affairs, German Federal Institute for Risk Assessment (BfR); Co-Chair, International Liaison Group on Methods for Risk Assessment of Chemicals in Food and Feed (ILMERAC) MODERATED DISCUSSION The panel will explore how African authorities can move from individual training activities toward sustainable institutional capacity, including stronger access to data and methods, development and retention of scientific expertise, cooperation between risk assessors and reference laboratories, expert networks and communities of practice, and strengthened approaches to risk communication. The discussion will also consider how AFRAF, xORA, BfR, ANSES, GFORSS and other partners can work together to support durable African risk-assessment networks and practical cooperation between authorities. Moderator: Prof. Samuel Godefroy, Université Laval, Canada; President & COO, GFORSS
11:30 – 12:00	Break
12:00 – 13:00	SESSION 8 Strengthening Codex Engagement in Africa: Cooperation between CCAFRICA and CCNE This session will explore opportunities for stronger cooperation between CCAFRICA and CCNE to enhance African participation and influence in Codex work. Discussions will focus on sharing expertise and resources, strengthening expert networks, coordinating common standards priorities, and developing more sustainable mechanisms to support national Codex programmes. Particular attention will be given to the potential for REC-based mechanisms to support the development of Codex positions, mobilize regional expertise and facilitate greater sharing of technical and scientific resources. The session will also consider opportunities for inter-regional cooperation, including lessons from the Arab Codex Initiative. CONTRIBUTORS • Dr. Mamodou Bah, Director General, Food Safety and Quality Authority (FSQA), The Gambia; Chair, FAO/WHO Coordinating Committee for Africa (CAFRICA) • Dr. Intisar Al-Gharibi, Director General, Food Safety and Quality Centre, Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Water Resources, Sultanate of Oman; Chair/Coordinator, FAO/WHO Coordinating Committee for the Near East (CCNE) • Mr. Hadi Alem, Codex Programme, Libya — <i>Arab Codex Initiative and Opportunities for Inter-Regional Cooperation</i> • Mr. Hakim B. Mufumbiro, Head, Food and Agriculture Standards Division, Uganda National Bureau of Standards (UNBS), Uganda

TIME	AGENDA ITEM
	• Dr. Raymonda A. B. Johnson, Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security, Sierra Leone Moderator: Dr. Amine Kassouf, Scientific Director, GForSS
13:00 – 14:30	Friday Prayer and Lunch Assistance will be provided to attend Friday Prayer – bus service will be arranged to the nearest mosque
14:30 – 15:45	SESSION 9 From Discussion to Action: Towards an AFRAF Roadmap This closing session will translate the outcomes of the Third AFRAF Meeting into concrete priorities and elements of an AFRAF Roadmap, identifying actions for AFRAF, RECs, Member States and partners. The session will include reports from Working Group Chairs and session leads, consolidating recommendations emerging from the meeting, particularly on: • Risk-Based Oversight – priorities and proposed interventions for more effective and proportionate regulatory oversight. • Food Innovation – priority reforms to enable innovation while maintaining consumer protection. • AFRAF Academy – priorities for a coordinated capacity-building and professional development agenda. • Food Risk Assessment – strengthening scientific capacity, data, expertise and African risk-assessment networks. • Food Science and Technology – mobilizing African scientific expertise and developing stronger networks of food science organizations in support of regulation. The session will conclude with agreement on priority actions, responsible structures, potential partners and next steps, providing the foundation for the development of an AFRAF Roadmap and work programme. Moderator: Prof. Samuel Godefroy, Université Laval, Canada; President & COO, GForSS
15:45 – 16:00	OFFICIAL CLOSING Closing Remarks Dr. Tareq El-Houby, Chairman, National Food Safety Authority of Egypt
16:00	Meeting adjourned