



AFRICAN FOOD REGULATORY AUTHORITIES FORUM (AFRAF)

Draft Resolutions

Third Meeting of the African Food Regulatory Authorities Forum (AFRAF)

FOR ADOPTION IN PLENARY | Cairo, Egypt | 1–2 October 2026

OVERVIEW OF THE RESOLUTIONS

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4	Development of an African Food Risk Assessment Hub
5	African Network of Food Science and Technology Institutes
6	Strengthening SPS Coordination Mechanisms in Africa

Followed by provisions on overall implementation and reporting.

Preamble

The members of the African Food Regulatory Authorities Forum (AFRAF), gathered at the Third AFRAF Meeting in Cairo, Egypt from 30 September to 2 October 2026, reaffirm their **commitment to strengthening cooperation among African food regulatory authorities** and to **advancing science-based, effective and increasingly coordinated food regulatory systems** across the continent.

Recognizing the important role of national competent authorities, Regional Economic Communities (RECs), continental institutions, scientific and academic organizations, development partners and other stakeholders in supporting this objective, AFRAF members consider the following resolutions as priority areas for continued action.

RESOLUTION 1

Regulatory Modernization to Support Food Innovation in Africa

AFRAF members endorse the recommendations of the **AFRAF Working Group on Regulatory Modernization to Support Food Innovation** in Africa and support the continued development of a **coordinated continental approach enabling safe food innovation**.

AFRAF members support, in particular:

- the development of a **comprehensive continental baseline** of **existing legal and regulatory frameworks, definitions, authorization** and notification pathways, safety assessment methodologies and other regulatory approaches applicable to food innovation;

- the **identification of opportunities for greater regulatory convergence**, harmonization, cooperation and reliance, while recognizing national and regional circumstances;
- the **development of common principles, approaches and practical guidance** supporting the safety assessment and regulatory oversight of innovative foods, ingredients, technologies and processes;
- the use of the **AFRAF Academy as a vehicle for strengthening regulatory competencies** and delivering targeted capacity building to African food regulatory authorities; and
- the establishment of an information-sharing mechanism and database enabling authorities to exchange regulatory approaches, assessments, decisions and experiences relating to food innovation.

RESOLUTION 2

Good Food Regulatory Practices and Regulatory Reliance

AFRAF members support the development of **guidance on good food regulatory practices and food regulatory reliance in Africa**, aimed at strengthening the quality, transparency, predictability, proportionality and effectiveness of food regulatory systems.

Such guidance should promote regulatory development, aligned with the **guidance of the Codex Alimentarius Commission, anchored in the principles of food risk analysis**, proportionate and evidence-informed regulatory interventions, and meaningful and inclusive engagement of relevant stakeholders throughout the regulatory development process.

The guidance should also address conditions supporting the **effective applicability and implementation of food regulations, including entry into force, appropriate transition periods**, implementation guidance, compliance considerations and other measures necessary to facilitate effective implementation.

AFRAF members further support the identification and promotion of appropriate opportunities for **regulatory cooperation and reliance**, enabling authorities, where appropriate, to make **effective use of assessments, inspections, regulatory decisions and other work** undertaken by trusted competent authorities and institutions.

RESOLUTION 3

African Food Regulatory Information-Sharing and Alert Mechanism

AFRAF members support the **exploration and development of an African food regulatory information-sharing mechanism facilitating timely exchange of information** among African food regulatory authorities.

The mechanism should support the sharing of information concerning:

- emerging food safety and food regulatory issues;
- significant regulatory developments and decisions across African jurisdictions;
- emerging hazards, incidents and safety concerns requiring timely attention by food regulatory authorities; and
- information supporting coordinated regulatory preparedness, risk management and response.

The mechanism should be designed to **complement and further support existing regional and international information-sharing and alert systems**, including INFOSAN and relevant rapid-alert mechanisms such as the European Union's RASFF, while avoiding unnecessary duplication.

AFRAF should explore opportunities for appropriate linkages, interoperability and exchange of information with existing mechanisms and networks.

RESOLUTION 4**Development of an African Food Risk Assessment Hub**

AFRAF members **support the development of the concept and implementation framework for an African Food Risk Assessment Hub**, operating within the **AFRAF framework** and bringing together available expertise, institutions, data and capacity-building initiatives across Africa.

The Hub should aim to:

- establish and support a **continental community and network of experts in food risk assessment** and, more broadly, food risk analysis;
- **strengthen competencies in food risk assessment** through training and professional development, including through the AFRAF Academy;
- **facilitate access to scientific expertise and cooperation** among African food regulatory authorities;
- **support the generation, collection, sharing and use of African food occurrence, food consumption and other data necessary for risk assessment**;
- facilitate **collaborative responses** to priority **risk-assessment needs identified** by African regulatory authorities;
- explore **mechanisms for benchmarking competencies** and qualifications in food risk assessment; and
- establish **linkages and cooperation with relevant African and international risk-assessment institutions**, initiatives and networks.

The initiative should build upon existing capacities and expertise and promote their greater accessibility to food regulatory authorities throughout Africa.

RESOLUTION 5**African Network of Food Science and Technology Institutes**

AFRAF members recognize the essential contribution of food science and technology to the development of food production and processing, innovation, food safety, scientific capacity and evidence-informed food regulatory decision-making in Africa.

AFRAF members **support the development of an African network bringing together national food science and technology institutes**, professional organizations and other relevant scientific institutions.

Building upon the experience developed by the Nigerian Institute of Food Science and Technology (NIFST) and relevant experiences in other African countries, including South Africa, Kenya, Tanzania and Ghana, AFRAF supports engagement with **NIFST and other interested institutions** to explore and operationalize the creation of an African Consortium or Federation of Food Science and Technology Institutes.

The initiative should seek to:

- strengthen cooperation among food scientists, technologists and institutions across Africa;
- foster scientific, technical and professional capacity;
- contribute to education and talent development in food science and technology;
- support food production, processing and innovation;
- strengthen the scientific foundations supporting food safety and regulatory decision-making; and
- **create stronger and more systematic interfaces between the African food science community and African food regulatory authorities.**

RESOLUTION 6**Strengthening SPS Coordination Mechanisms in Africa (to be further reviewed by the ATCMA Team)**

AFRAF members support the development of a **taking-stock study** and review of the current SPS coordination environment in Africa, building upon available data and existing studies, assessments and reviews and updating them where necessary.

The review should include an assessment of the status, mandates, structures and functioning of SPS coordination mechanisms within the Regional Economic Communities (RECs), with particular attention to food regulatory measures and food control systems.

It should examine, as appropriate:

- existing mechanisms for coordination of SPS and food regulatory matters within the RECs;
- interfaces between REC SPS structures, national competent authorities and relevant continental institutions;
- mechanisms for information exchange, regulatory consultation and coordination;
- existing initiatives supporting convergence, harmonization, equivalence, mutual recognition or regulatory reliance; and
- opportunities and challenges affecting the effective coordination and implementation of SPS and food regulatory measures.

In consultation and concertation with the RECs and their respective SPS coordination structures, the study should identify and develop recommendations to strengthen, modernize and, where appropriate, update existing coordination mechanisms.

The objective should be to enhance the capacity of REC SPS coordination structures to serve as effective engines and vehicles for broader continental SPS and food regulatory coordination, supporting greater coherence, convergence, predictability and effectiveness of SPS measures across Africa and contributing to enhanced intra-African trade and food safety.

Overall Implementation

AFRAF members invite the AFRAF Secretariat, relevant AFRAF Working Groups and the AFRAF Academy, working in collaboration with national competent authorities, Regional Economic Communities and interested technical and development partners, to translate these resolutions into appropriate workplans, technical activities and implementation proposals.

Implementation should, **wherever possible, build upon existing African, regional and international initiatives, avoid duplication, mobilize available expertise and promote sustainable African regulatory capacity.**

Progress in implementing these resolutions should be reported to AFRAF members and considered at subsequent AFRAF meetings, with a view to progressively translating the Forum's priorities into practical actions supporting stronger, science-based and increasingly coordinated food regulatory systems across Africa.