



**African Food Regulatory Authorities Forum
(AFRAF)**

Plenary Session • Third AFRAF Meeting



DRAFT RESOLUTIONS

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

*For adoption in plenary
Cairo, Egypt • 1–2 October 2026*

Preamble

AFRAF MEMBERS 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 & academic
organizations

Development partners

Other stakeholders

Six resolutions are put forward as priority areas for continued action



Six Resolutions at a Glance

RESOLUTION 1

Regulatory modernization for food innovation

Endorses the Working Group recommendations; a continental approach enabling safe food innovation

RESOLUTION 2

Good regulatory practices & reliance

Guidance anchored in risk analysis, proportionality and inclusive stakeholder engagement

RESOLUTION 3

Information-sharing & alert mechanism

Timely exchange among African authorities, complementing INFOSAN and RASFF

RESOLUTION 4

African Food Risk Assessment Hub

A continental network of expertise, competencies and data within AFRAF

RESOLUTION 5

Network of FST institutes

Building on NIFST and other African experience toward a Consortium or Federation

RESOLUTION 6

Strengthening SPS coordination

A taking-stock study of SPS coordination mechanisms within the RECs



Resolution 1: Enabling Safe Food Innovation

Regulatory Modernization to Support Food Innovation in Africa

AFRAF MEMBERS ENDORSE
**the recommendations of the
AFRAF Working Group**

and support a coordinated continental
approach enabling safe food
innovation

AFRAF members support, in particular:

Continental baseline — legal frameworks, definitions, authorization and notification pathways, safety assessment methods

Convergence & reliance — opportunities for harmonization, cooperation and reliance, recognizing national and regional circumstances

Common principles & guidance — for safety assessment and oversight of innovative foods, ingredients, technologies and processes

AFRAF Academy — targeted capacity building and stronger regulatory competencies

Information-sharing database — to exchange approaches, assessments, decisions and experience



Resolution 2: Good Practices and Reliance

Good Food Regulatory Practices and Regulatory Reliance

PURPOSE

Guidance on good food regulatory practices and reliance

Strengthening the quality, transparency, predictability, proportionality and effectiveness of food regulatory systems

ANCHORED IN

Risk analysis and proportionality

Proportionate, evidence-informed interventions and meaningful, inclusive stakeholder engagement throughout regulatory development

EFFECTIVE IMPLEMENTATION

Making regulations work in practice

Entry into force, appropriate transition periods, implementation guidance and compliance considerations

COOPERATION & RELIANCE

Using trusted work

Where appropriate, effective use of assessments, inspections and decisions of trusted competent authorities and institutions



Resolution 3: Information-Sharing and Alerts

African Food Regulatory Information-Sharing and Alert Mechanism

Timely exchange among African authorities on:

Emerging issues — in food safety and food regulation

Regulatory developments — significant decisions across African jurisdictions

Hazards & incidents — safety concerns requiring timely attention

Preparedness — coordinated risk management and response

An African mechanism

designed to complement existing systems — avoiding unnecessary duplication

INFOSAN International Food Safety Authorities Network

EU RASFF and other relevant rapid-alert mechanisms

Regional systems and existing networks

Linkages • interoperability • information exchange



Resolution 4: Food Risk Assessment Hub

Development of an African Food Risk Assessment Hub

WITHIN THE AFRAF FRAMEWORK

Concept and implementation framework for an African Food Risk Assessment Hub

Bringing together available expertise,
institutions, data and capacity-
building initiatives — building on
existing capacities

The Hub should aim to:

Expert network — a continental community in food risk assessment and risk analysis

Competencies — training and professional development, incl. the AFRAF Academy

Access to expertise — and cooperation among African authorities

African data — occurrence, consumption and other data for risk assessment

Collaborative responses — to priority risk-assessment needs

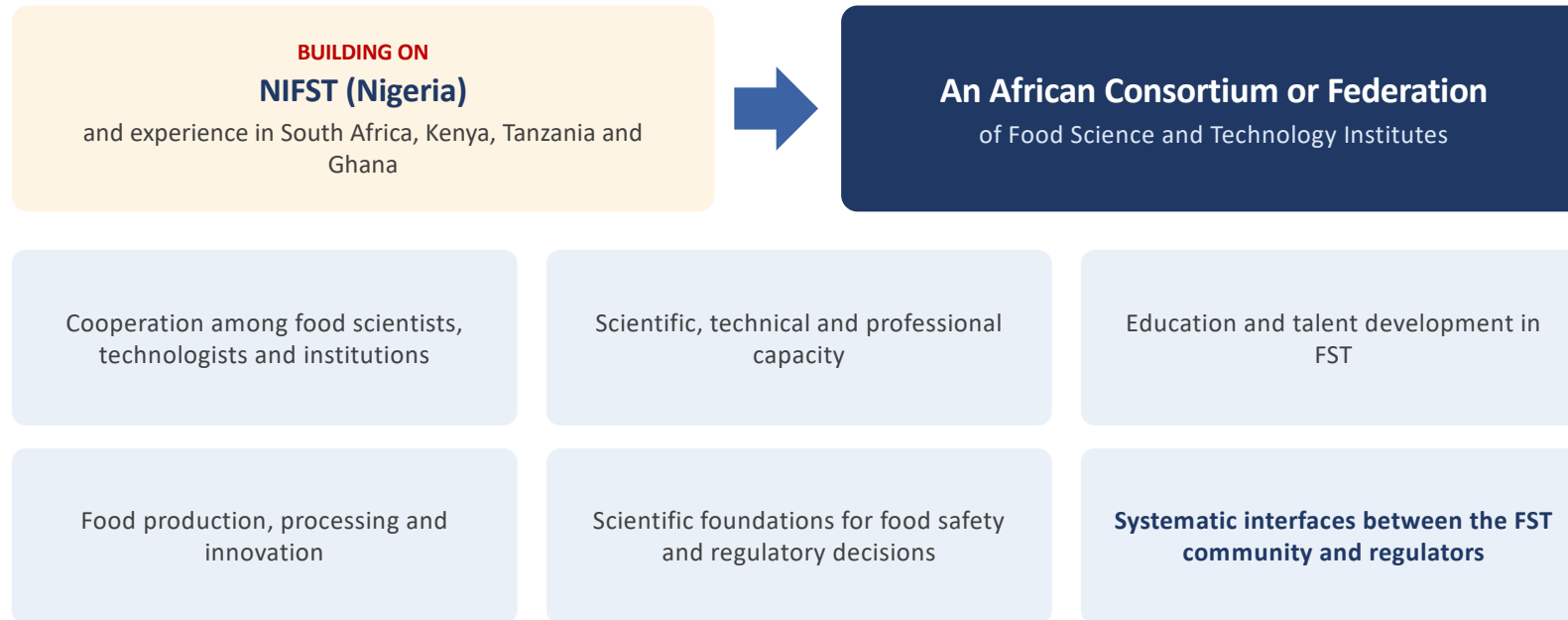
Benchmarking — competencies and qualifications in risk assessment

Linkages — with African and international institutions and networks



Resolution 5: Network of FST Institutes

African Network of Food Science and Technology Institutes



Resolution 6: Strengthening SPS Coordination

Strengthening SPS Coordination Mechanisms in Africa

A taking-stock study of REC SPS coordination, building on existing studies. It should examine:

Coordination mechanisms — for SPS and food regulatory matters within RECs

Interfaces — REC SPS structures, national authorities, continental institutions

Information exchange — regulatory consultation and coordination

Convergence initiatives — harmonization, equivalence, recognition, reliance

Opportunities & challenges — for effective implementation

IN CONCERTATION WITH THE RECs

Recommendations to strengthen, modernize and, where appropriate, update existing coordination mechanisms

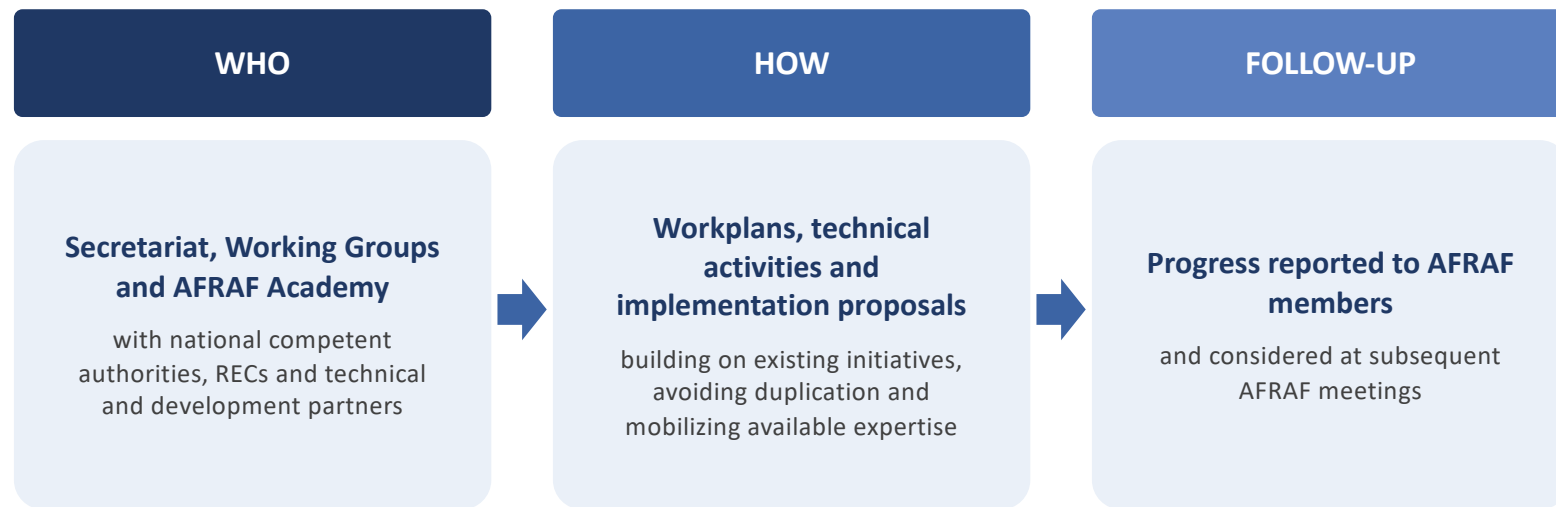
OBJECTIVE

REC SPS structures as engines for continental coordination

Coherence, convergence and predictability of SPS measures — enhancing intra-African trade and food safety



Overall Implementation



Goal: translate the Forum's priorities into practical actions for stronger, science-based and increasingly coordinated food regulatory systems across Africa



