

**150TH SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD OF THE WORLD
HEALTH ORGANISATION: JANUARY 24, 2022**

**AFRICAN REGIONAL STATEMENT DELIVERED BY KENYA ON
AGENDA ITEM 18: WHO IMPLEMENTATION FRAMEWORK FOR
BILLION 3 AND THE WHO GLOBAL STRATEGY FOR FOOD
SAFETY**

Thank you Chair.

1. Kenya is making this statement on behalf of the 47 Member States of the Africa Region.
2. We thank the Director General for the presenting the reports on WHO's implementation framework for Billion 3 as well as the updated draft WHO global strategy for food safety including the report on reducing public Health risks associated with sale of live wild animals of mammalian species in traditional food markets.
3. Regarding the implementation framework for the 3rd Billion under the GPW13, the African Member States take note of the progress made by the Secretariat, in particular the Division of Healthier Populations, in elaborating on the six objectives to be operationalized through 10 flagship initiatives reflecting the cross-cutting and multisectoral approach of Billion 3.
4. In this regard, the African Member States are also pleased to note that further work in this area will be based on a strong commitment to health equity as a foundation for enabling healthier populations.
5. The COVID-19 pandemic has reinforced this principle and reiterated the importance of building more resilience in our health systems including in investing in preventive and health promotive approaches.
6. We therefore look forward to implementation of the multi-year initiative established to support country action on social determinants of health and health equity in a transparent and inclusive manner.
7. **Chair**, now turning to the global strategy on food safety, we note with appreciation that the report EB150/25 was prepared in coordination with the Food and Agriculture Organisation and the World Organisation for Animal

Health. In 2015, WHO estimated that food safety hazards were responsible for approximately 137 000 deaths and 91 million illnesses annually in Africa, making it the Region with the world's highest per capita incidence of foodborne illness

8. We therefore welcome the updated draft strategy and are hopeful that it will serve as a blueprint to guide Member States in their efforts to strengthen their national food safety systems and promote regional and global cooperation.
9. We particularly welcome the commitment by WHO to support Member States as they tailor the strategies outlined above to their respective country situations through:
 - a. providing global leadership and fostering policy dialogues among stakeholders;
 - b. synthesizing evidence and generating normative guidance in food safety;
 - c. enhancing technical cooperation and building stronger capacities for countries, and
 - d. strengthening partnerships and fostering global collaboration.
10. Further, we are pleased to note that, in collaboration with the African Union Commission, WHO will support African countries to improve food safety within the African Continental Free Trade Area to facilitate safe food trade.
11. In conclusion, the Africa Region Member States support the forwarding of the updated global strategy to the Seventy-fifth World Health Assembly for its adoption.
12. We await the development of the implementation plan for the updated WHO global strategy for food safety to assess and strengthen the capacity of national food systems, particularly in low- and middle-income-countries and request the Secretariat to involve Member States in its development.
13. I thank you.