

Statement of I.R. Iran on WHO global strategy for food safety

First we would like to appreciate WHO for an important and influential preparation and presentation of global food safety strategy. Undoubtedly, food-borne diseases are one of the widespread and increasing problems in developed and developing human societies, which are caused by eating food contaminated with bacteria, toxins, viruses or parasites. Over 200 diseases in a continuum from diarrhea to cancer are transmitted through food.

Recalling the scope of WHO global strategy for food safety, in strengthening national food safety systems, which begins with establishment or improvement of critical infrastructures, the I.R. Iran has taken valuable measures to improve food safety and reduce the risks associated with the consumption of unsafe food. The national knowledge-based document of food safety is one of the important and influential frameworks that various relevant governmental and non-governmental organizations have collaborated to compile and notify it for implementation. This document contains important sections in a variety of areas including food availability, access, utilization, health, stability and sustainability.

In line with paragraph 81 of progress report, regarding FBD surveillance system, another action of the Iran's Ministry of Health, which has an important impact in reducing food consumption risks, is developing of an early warning system to control diseases outbreaks in the country with the aim of reducing the adverse effects of water and food-borne diseases outbreaks. The system is composed of various components in diagnosis, treatment, environmental control and has had an apparent impact on reducing the burden of food-borne diseases in society. Instructing people for self-control and self-reporting, and making food-safety monitoring smarter by using modern equipment, inter alia, are the most important activities of the Ministry of Health in the field of food safety.

Mr./madam Chairperson,

Once again, appreciating WHO and the international community for taking effective measures to improve food security, the I.R. Iran calls for increased regional and international actions and cooperation with the aim to increase the food safety for the international community.

Thank you