



Statement of Ireland

79th World Health Assembly

Agenda item 22 0 and Q

WHO global strategy for food safety and Decade of Healthy Ageing

21 May 2026

**Honourable Chair,
Distinguished Director-General,
Distinguished Delegates,**

Thank you Chair

Safe and nutritious food is key to sustaining life and promoting good health and Ireland welcomes the progress report on implementation of the WHO Global Strategy for Food Safety 2022–2030.

Ireland supports ongoing work by the WHO to strengthen food control systems, including surveillance of foodborne disease, rapid risk assessment and clear risk communication, and to advance multisectoral collaboration for food safety events through mechanisms such as INFOSAN.

Nationally, Ireland delivers risk-based controls across the food chain through the Food Safety Authority of Ireland and its official agencies.

We encourage continued development of practical tools, indicators and capacity-building to support implementation, particularly in low-resource settings and we recognise links between food safety, AMR and One Health.

Ireland stands ready to share experience and support global cooperation on safer food for better health.

Chair,

Ireland also particularly welcomes the WHO's continued leadership during the UN Decade of Healthy Ageing, given Ireland has one of the world's most rapidly ageing populations.

The improved health outcomes and extended life expectancy that have been achieved in recent decades should be acknowledged and celebrated.

Ireland is committed to investing in healthy, active and autonomous ageing throughout the life-course, as well as supporting older people to live independently in their homes and communities for as long as possible.

The implementation of strategies including the ongoing Sláintecare reform of our health and social care system and rollout of the 'Enhanced Community Care programme', help facilitate and encourage positive and healthy ageing, in line with the UN Decade and support communities to become health promoting for people of all ages and capacities.

Thank you Chair

Thank you.

