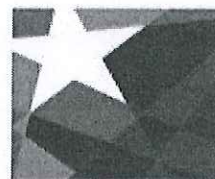




**Asia-Pacific
Economic Cooperation**



APEC
CHILE 2019

APEC Food Safety Cooperation Forum

STATEMENT

Viña del Mar, Chile, 10 May 2019

The APEC Food Safety Cooperation Forum (FSCF), a group of food safety regulators from APEC member economies as well as key international stakeholders, met for the seventh time, since its inception, on 10 May 2019, in Viña del Mar, Chile in the margins of the APEC Senior Officials Meeting 2 (SOM2). The 7th Conference of the FSCF highlighted progress made towards meeting its food safety priorities and restated its commitment to work collaboratively to strengthen food safety systems and encourage the harmonisation of food standards with international standards across the APEC region. These are consistent with member economies' commitment under the World Trade Organization's Agreements on the application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures and Technical Barriers to Trade to both protect public health and to facilitate trade of safe food in the APEC region.

1. We, members of the FSCF, acknowledge the leadership, support and direction given by APEC Sub-Committee on Standards and Conformance; APEC Committee on Trade and Investment; APEC Ministers Responsible for Trade; and APEC Leaders, since the inception of the FSCF.
2. We recognise and commend our host, Chile, for the extraordinary leadership and support they have given to enable this conference to be held successfully in Viña del Mar, Chile.
3. Further, we acknowledge the past and present members of the FSCF for their efforts in the pursuit of the commitment made to both protect public health and to facilitate trade in the APEC region.
4. We recognise the range of food safety capacity building activities that the FSCF and its Partnership Training Institute Network (PTIN) have undertaken since the 6th conference of the FSCF in Ha Noi, Viet Nam in 2017. We commend the membership's continued work in multiple areas since that meeting.
5. We recognise our ongoing collaboration with the World Bank Global Food Safety Partnership (GFSP) and the Standards and Trade Development Facility and acknowledge the efforts that these organisations have made in contributing to food safety capacity building in the region.
6. We commend member economies for continuing their efforts to identify mechanisms to streamline or reduce unnecessary export certificates, ensure that import requirements are science and risk-based, and explore trade facilitative alternatives to certification wherever possible.
7. We commend member economies for engaging in discussions on the use of a scientific risk-based approach to ensure food safety and facilitate trade in the APEC region as it relates to MRL compliance.

8. We commend member economies for their participation in a workshop which explored the issue of cross border e-commerce. The workshop highlighted the growth of e-commerce shipped by air, including food, which could bring new challenges to regulators. New, modified, or enhanced approaches may be needed to existing regulatory frameworks. We encourage member economies to pay close attention to this new issue.
9. We note that member economies endorsed the APEC Framework on Food Safety Modernisation. Economies are encouraged to utilise this tool in modernising or enhancing their food regulatory systems.
10. We commend member economies for the endorsement of the two Implementation Tools to support the uptake and implementation of the *APEC Import MRL Guideline for Pesticides* on possible approaches to achieve the alignment of MRLs between economies and with international MRLs.
11. Activities from 2017-2019 included workshops on strengthening food safety emergency systems; food safety modernisation; harmonisation of maximum residue limits for pesticides; antimicrobial resistance surveillance; the appropriate use of export certificates and ensuring a safer food supply through cross-border e-commerce.
12. We agreed to establish an eWG to develop a draft FSCF strategic plan, which aims to guide the work of the FSCF and its PTIN. It is aimed to submit an update to the SOM3 Sub-Committee on Standards and Conformance (SCSC). A co-chair's paper will be written with the assistance of the USA, Chile and other willing APEC economies.
13. As a formal sub-forum of the SCSC, we recognised the need for the development of a Terms of Reference (ToR) in an expeditious manner. This would replace the *Operating Principles* under which the FSCF has previously worked. We agreed that a co-chair's paper relating to this issue including a timeline, would be distributed for comment, with the aim of finalising the ToR before the 2021 FSCF. The paper will be written with the assistance of the USA and other willing APEC economies.
14. We note that proposed future priorities include *inter alia*: continuing to build capacity in antimicrobial resistance (AMR) risk management, import MRLs and MRLs compliance, and risk communication relating to AMR, import MRLs and to support food safety modernisation.
15. We urge our leaders to take note of the progress made and the relevance of this Forum in the APEC region.
16. We agreed to continue monitoring and reviewing the direction and future priorities of the FSCF and the FSCF's PTIN to ensure that the work carried out by the groups will continue to deliver tangible food safety improvements and trade benefits throughout the region.
17. We look forward to the next meeting of the FSCF in New Zealand in 2021.



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Co-Chair, Australia



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Co-Chair, China