

**Food safety, a shared responsibility
UNIDO's role and its partnership with CFDA**

SPEECH BY

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Your Excellency Mr. BI Jingquan, Minister of the China Food and Drug Administration,

Your Excellency Mr. Aart Jacobi , Ambassador, Embassy of the Netherlands to China

Colleagues and representatives of the Food and Agriculture Organization, the World Health Organization and the World Bank

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is an honor for me to participate in this 2015 International Food Safety Forum in Beijing and to have my organization, UNIDO, co-sponsoring this important event.

The world just celebrated the 2015 World Health Day with Food Safety being the theme of this year, and I would like to quote the statement made by our Secretary General, Mr. Ban Ki-moon, on this occasion:

“We all have a role to play in keeping food safe – from farm to plate and everywhere in between.”

With food supply chains stretching around the world, the need to strengthen food safety systems within and among countries is becoming more critical. Advancing and ensuring food safety matters to all of us, in our professional and in our personal lives. It is fundamental to the health and well-being of individuals and families, to the public health of nations, and is necessary to enable trade in food products among economies - trade which results in greater prosperity for all regions of the world. We recognize that the challenge of food safety is one of such magnitude and is so multi-dimensional that it requires a multi-player response

including governments, the business sector, international organizations and civil society.

Excellences, Ladies and Gentlemen,

This partnership approach has become an overriding principle at UNIDO. Please allow me to highlight some new developments at the Organization:

The Lima Declaration, adopted by UNIDO's Member States in December 2013, set the foundation for a new vision of inclusive and sustainable industrial development (ISID) for UNIDO and highlighted the role of industrialization as a driver for development.

While industrialization was not factored into the Millennium Development Goals framework, inclusive and sustainable industrialization now features strongly in the post-2015 development discourse. The UN Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) has proposed as goal 9 "Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation". This confirms the provisions of the Lima Declaration and the relevance of ISID for the new global development architecture.

ISID is credited with promoting value addition, realizing productivity gains and returns to scale, creating jobs and income, enhancing international competitiveness and trade, building efficient and effective productive capacities, supporting economic diversification, and building green industries. UNIDO's ISID mandate supports tackling the global issue of food safety by contributing to environmental sustainability, social inclusiveness and economic competitiveness.

Excellences, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Food safety is of special importance as it still is on the top of the agenda in almost all countries around the world.

Food safety is an issue of growing importance for China as well, for both the government and consumers: to address this problem, China's government has implemented a number of important measures, such as strengthening supervision, enacting and enforcing laws, improving food safety standards and raising public awareness. The creation of CFDA as a unified single agency to oversee the national food safety framework was a key milestone in this regard.

UNIDO has a strong track record in promoting food safety, working along the entire food processing value chain. This begins by upgrading the operations of agro-processors to meet relevant food safety standards. It further includes the strengthening the quality infrastructure, comprising such institutions as standards bodies, regulatory authorities, conformity assessment bodies, testing laboratories and providers of relevant inspection and certification services. All of these are indispensable to allow food producers and processors to receive the necessary certificates confirming that their products are safe for human consumption.

Over the past years, UNIDO has successfully assisted more than 230 food processing enterprises in Asia and Africa to become certified against international quality and food safety management system standards. UNIDO also has supported more than 200 agro-food testing laboratories to gain international accreditation.

At the country and regional level, UNIDO has supported countries such as Bangladesh, Egypt Iran Iraq, and Pakistan, to overcome export bans for their food products in the European Union, the United States or other regulated markets.

At global level, UNIDO has been actively involved as a member of the Global Food Safety Initiative (GFSI), a private-sector driven platform addressing food safety as a global non-competitive issue. UNIDO has been a key implementing agency for the GFSI food safety capacity building programme over the past six years, with projects implemented in a number of countries such as Egypt, India, Malaysia and Ukraine, in partnership with a number of GFSI company members such as Metro, AEON and Pick N Pay.

Furthermore, UNIDO is an active partner to the Global Food Safety Partnership (GFSP) since its inception and is working closely with the World Bank (WB) and GFSP partners such as Mars Incorporated, Waters, the Food Industry Asia (FIA) and the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to advance food safety collaboration. In its five-year plan, GFSP aims at being the Global Platform on food safety which brings together the public and private sector, academia and international organizations to deliver global solutions to food safety challenges and help scale-up its implementation through a multi-donor trust fund. We believe this is a true model of global partnership which we strongly support at UNIDO.

Excellences, Ladies and Gentlemen,

UNIDO has maintained good cooperation with China in the past 40 years, and has implemented hundreds of technical cooperation projects in the country in various fields. I am pleased to share with you that it was UNIDO that assisted China to

send the first group of senior officials of the State Council abroad, to learn the experience of other countries on the development of special economic zones. Nowadays, UNIDO is promoting the Programme for Country Partnerships (PCP), which in the cases of Senegal and Ethiopia, the two pilot countries, also includes the promotion of industrial parks and the strengthening of the food safety systems.

The ongoing UNIDO-China cooperation is focusing on two priority areas; one is Green Industry, the other one is Food Safety, based on the UNIDO-China Strategic Cooperation Framework (2014-2016) approved by the State Council in 2014.

Excellences, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Allow me to review the support provided by UNIDO to China during the past few years, which focused on supporting food enterprises to gain international certification for their food safety management systems. Four provinces (Guizhou, Yunnan and Shaanxi and Fujian) were supported to implement the ISO 22000 food safety management system standard leading to the first generation of ISO 22000 certified companies in China. A regional training base for food testing was set-up in Dali, Yunnan, to serve both China and the broader ASEAN region.

This week, UNIDO is signing an MOU with CFDA to further strengthen a cooperation programme on food safety. As of next week, UNIDO and CFDA will focus on building the food safety training system at CFDA and its institutions as a first phase of a future cooperation in food safety. The cooperation will start with the development of the CFDA food safety textbook system with focus on the dairy sector. A series of training courses including a Train the Trainer programme will be implemented in Heilongjiang, Inner Mongolia and Shandong.

UNIDO is committed to partner and support CFDA for achieving its mandate and mission of advancing the national food safety system in China and share international best practices.

Finally, I would like to thank and congratulate CFDA for organizing this Forum that allows us to broaden the discussion of food safety towards a new concept – a recognition that the challenges are not only many and varied, but are also inter-related, and, being inter-related, call for an integrated, cooperative response. I also wish to invite you to participate in the Food Safety Forum in Vienna in fall this year where we will further continue and intensify our discussions on food safety.

Global food safety is a shared responsibility which requires collaboration and partnerships among all concerned international organizations, countries and the business sector.

Thank you