World Food Safety Day – 7 June 2020

The Directors-General of the World Health Organization (WHO) and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) present their compliments to Member States and have the honour to inform them that the second World Food Safety Day, adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in December 2018, will be celebrated on 7 June 2020.

This year has not gone as expected and instead of coming together in public celebrations, the world is rapidly embracing new ways of working and celebrating together through online communities. Public life is interrupted in many countries to safeguard the health of all and to overcome the challenges caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Food safety is still “everyone’s business” and the current global crisis amply demonstrates this more than ever. This year’s celebrations are dedicated to all those who have ensured that the crisis has not interrupted supply chains and that safe food remains available, contributing to the consumption of healthy diets: from the workers in the fields to those in the supermarkets and to all those preparing food for others and themselves.

The successful 2019 campaign built on the momentum of the two International Conferences on Food Safety which were held in Addis Ababa and Geneva. The 2020 event will promote awareness and urge action by highlighting what everyone can do to ensure food safety, with a core focus on building and maintaining safe food in market places.

During this pandemic, Member States need to be supported more than ever in their efforts to provide enough safe food to all and ensure the populations’ trust in the safety of the food they eat to protect their health.

WHO and FAO are pleased to facilitate Member States’ efforts to celebrate World Food Safety Day 2020. Background and further details on World Food Safety Day and the tools available for outreach campaigns are available on the joint WHO/FAO website (http://www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/WFSD/en/) to facilitate online creativity, and in public spaces where possible, celebrating all those who keep our food safe.

In addition, WHO and FAO will hold a joint virtual celebration through Facebook live in Geneva at the WHO headquarters on Friday, 5 June 2020. The event will focus on the importance of building and maintaining healthy market places to provide the community with safe food contributing to the consumption of healthy diets. The broadcast will include messages from both Directors-General, voices from the regions and live Q&A sessions with the Facebook
audience. Further information will be provided closer to the date of the event and others planned around the world.

The Directors-General of the World Health Organization and the Food and Agriculture Organization take this opportunity to renew to Member States the assurance of their highest consideration.

GENEVA, 29 May 2020