

Innovation CATALYSEs Food Safety Bridging Science and Practice

World Food Safety Day 2026

Liebefeld-Bern, Switzerland
8th June 2026

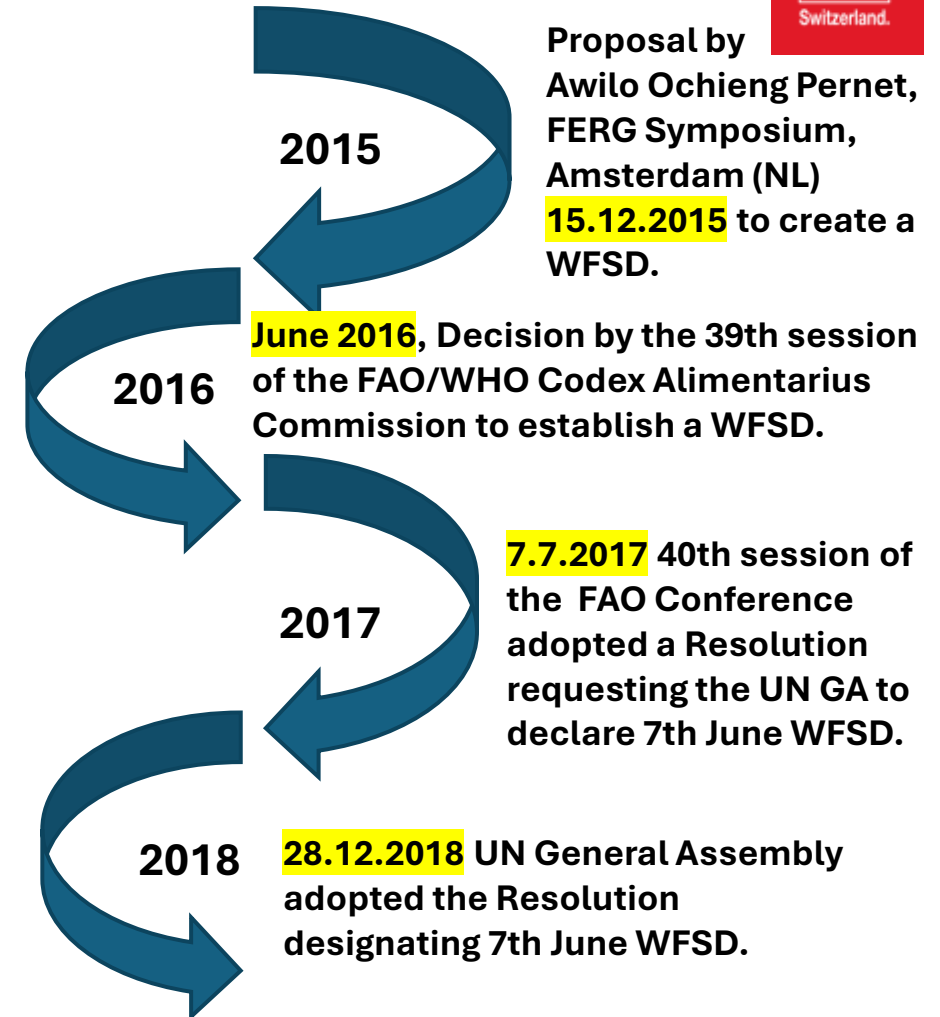
Awilo Ochieng Pernet

Food safety in a complex global food environment

Putting food safety on the global agenda:

Establishment of the UN World Food Safety Day 2015-2018

The **FAO/WHO Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC)** was established in **1963**. **Awilo Ochieng Pernet**, was elected Chairperson of the CAC in **2014**. In **2015**, she proposed to establish a WFSD. (The CAC had been in existence for **52 years**).





Awilo Ochieng Pernet addressing the FERG Symposium, Amsterdam (NL), 15.12.2015

Food safety: A Global Priority

Amsterdam (NL), FERG Symposium, **15.12.2015**

Call for the creation of a World Food Safety Day

The Codex Alimentarius Chairperson **Mrs Awilo Ochieng Pernet**, speaking at the event on Tuesday, called for

"the creation of a World Food Safety Day in order to raise awareness about the importance of food safety among all relevant stakeholders world-wide."

<http://www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/roster/detail/en/c/359179/>



The screenshot shows the top of a web page from the Codex Alimentarius website. The header is orange with the text 'CODEX ALIMENTARIUS INTERNATIONAL FOOD STANDARDS'. Below the header is a navigation menu with links: Home, About Codex, Codex Texts, Themes, Committees, Meetings, Resources, Publications, News and Events, and Login. The main content area has a title 'Call for World Food Safety Day' and a sub-header 'The Codex Alimentarius Chairperson Mrs Awilo Ochieng Pernet, speaking at the event on Tuesday, called for'. Below this is a quote: *"the creation of a World Food Safety Day in order to raise awareness about the importance of food safety among all relevant stakeholders world-wide."* There are also logos for the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the World Health Organization.

C O D E X A L I M E N T A R I U S

International Food Standards



World Health Organization



Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

Google Custom Search

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Codex Chair calls for creation of World Food Safety Day

FERG is the Foodborne Disease Burden Epidemiology Reference Group which is taking forward the work of the [World Health Organization initiative](#) to generate the first ever estimates of the global burden of foodborne disease (December 3 2015).

A FERG symposium entitled **'The Global burden of foodborne diseases - from data to action'** is currently being held in Amsterdam, The Netherlands, from 15-16 December 2015.

This symposium is organized by the World Health Organization ([WHO](#)) and the Local Organizing Committee at the [Dutch National Institute for Public Health and the Environment \(RIVM\)](#).

Call for World Food Safety Day

The Codex Alimentarius Chairperson **Mrs Awilo Ochieng Pernet**, speaking at the event on Tuesday, called for

"the creation of a **World Food Safety Day** in order to raise awareness about the importance of food safety among all relevant stakeholders world-wide."

Links

[FERG Symposium](#)

[WHO Global survey](#)

[Current UN International Days](#)

15/12/2015





FERG symposium report

**Global Burden of
Foodborne diseases**
from data to action

15-16 December 2015



FERG Symposium Report

Stakeholder and other presentations

Awilo Ochieng Pernet, Chair of the Codex Alimentarius Commission, called for establishment of a World Food Safety Day – to raise the profile of food safety. She suggested that representatives from the four pilot country studies present at the 39th session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission in Rome, June 2016

FSVO > About the FSVO > Partnerships > International institutions > World Food Safety Day

Partnerships

International institutions

World Food Safety Day

From this year, 7 June will be the "World Food Safety Day". The aim is to raise awareness of the importance of food safety in order to protect consumer health.



The 73rd session of the United Nations General Assembly in New York has adopted a resolution declaring 7 June **World Food Safety Day** every year.

This decision is the result of the initiative launched by Awilo Ochieng Pernet in 2015 when she was Chairperson of the Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC), followed by intensive negotiations within the CAC, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), and the World Health Organization (WHO). Costa Rica was the country leading the negotiations on this decision.

The consequences of unsafe food



Source: FSVO Website World Food Safety Day Accessed on 29.05.2026

BLV > Das BLV > Kooperationen > Internationale Institutionen > Internationaler Tag der Lebensmittelsicherheit

Kooperationen

Internationale Institutionen

Internationaler Tag der Lebensmittelsicherheit

Der 7. Juni ist seit 2019 der «Internationaler Tag der Lebensmittelsicherheit». Ziel ist es, stärker dafür zu sensibilisieren, welche Bedeutung der Lebensmittelsicherheit beim Schutz der Gesundheit der Konsumentinnen und Konsumenten zukommt.



Die 73. Generalversammlung der Vereinten Nationen in New York hat eine Resolution verabschiedet, mit der der 7. Juni zum jährlichen «Internationalen Tag der Lebensmittelsicherheit» (**World Food Safety Day**) erklärt wird.

Diesem Entscheid ging eine 2015 von der damaligen Präsidentin der Codex-Alimentarius-Kommission (CAC) Awilo Ochieng Pernet lancierte Initiative voraus. Es folgten intensive Verhandlungen innerhalb der CAC, der Ernährungs- und Landwirtschaftsorganisation der Vereinten Nationen (FAO) und der Weltgesundheitsorganisation (WHO). Den Lead der Verhandlungen zu diesem Entscheid übernahm Costa Rica.

OSAV > L'OSAV > Coopération > Institutions internationales > Journée internationale de la sécurité sanitaire des aliments

Coopération

Institutions internationales

Journée internationale de la sécurité sanitaire des aliments

Dès 2019, le 7 juin sera la « Journée internationale de la sécurité sanitaire des aliments ». L'objectif est de renforcer la sensibilisation à l'importance de la sécurité sanitaire des aliments afin de protéger la santé des consommateurs.



La 73^{ème} session de l'Assemblée générale des Nations Unies à New York a adopté une résolution proclamant le 7 juin de chaque année « Journée internationale de la sécurité sanitaire des aliments » (**World Food Safety Day**).

Cette décision est l'aboutissement de l'initiative lancée en 2015 par Awilo Ochieng Pernet pendant sa présidence de la Commission du Codex Alimentarius (CAC) suivie d'intenses négociations au sein de la CAC, de l'Organisation des Nations Unies pour l'alimentation et l'agriculture (FAO) et de l'Organisation mondiale de la santé (OMS). Le Costa Rica a été le chef de file des négociations qui ont abouti à cette décision.

USAV > L'USAV > Cooperazione > Istituzioni internazionali > Giornata mondiale della sicurezza alimentare

Cooperazione

Istituzioni internazionali

Giornata mondiale della sicurezza alimentare

Dal 2019, il 7 giugno si celebrerà la «Giornata mondiale della sicurezza alimentare». L'obiettivo è quello di accrescere la consapevolezza dell'importanza della sicurezza alimentare per proteggere la salute dei consumatori.



La 73^a sessione dell'Assemblea generale delle Nazioni Unite, tenutasi a New York, ha adottato una risoluzione che dichiara il 7 giugno la «Giornata mondiale della sicurezza alimentare» (**World Food Safety Day**).

Questa decisione è il risultato dell'iniziativa lanciata nel 2015 da Awilo Ochieng Pernet durante la sua presidenza alla Commissione del Codex Alimentarius (CAC) seguita da intensi negoziati a livello di CAC, dell'Organizzazione delle Nazioni Unite per l'alimentazione e l'agricoltura (FAO) e dell'Organizzazione mondiale della sanità (OMS). Il Costa Rica è stato il paese alla guida dei negoziati che hanno portato a



The UN proclaims World Food Safety Day!

20/12/2018

Today the United Nations General Assembly adopted a resolution proclaiming a World Food Safety Day. Starting in 2019, every 7 June will be a time to celebrate the myriad benefits of safe food.

"World Food Safety Day will be a chance for everyone to take a moment to think about something we often take for granted: food safety", said Codex Secretary Tom Heilandt. "Thanks to the widespread efforts of Codex Members and Observers, the international community will speak with one voice on 7 June to promote awareness and inspire actions for safer food", he said.

Unsafe food is a threat to human health and economies, disproportionately affecting vulnerable and marginalized people, especially women and children, populations affected by conflict and migrants. It also damages global trade leading to further food waste, which can no longer be tolerated in a world where many still suffer from hunger. The new annual observance, established thanks to concerted efforts led by Costa Rica, will draw attention and direct efforts to stopping the roughly 600 million cases of foodborne illnesses that occur annually.

- WFS-2025 Homepage
- Theme and Slogan
- Communications materials
- Food Safety leaflets
- How to participate
- Poster Competition
- Events
- News**
- Background



How the proposal came about

It all started at the FERG - the Symposium on the Global burden of Food borne diseases - in Amsterdam on 15 December 2015, when then Codex Alimentarius Commission Chairperson Awilo Ochling Pernet of Switzerland suggested the need for a World Food Safety Day. During her tenure as Chairperson, the idea became a concrete proposal set forth by Costa Rica. In 2016, the 39th session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission unanimously agreed to promote the proposal to establish a World Food Safety Day on a permanent basis within the framework of the United Nations.

The 40th Session of the FAO Conference in July 2017 adopted a resolution in support of a World Food Safety Day and the World Health Organization expressed their support in December 2017.

The proposal was then unveiled in New York at the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development at a July 2018 side event featuring Codex Members, Observers, parent organizations and the current and previous Commission Chairpersons.

The Twitter video campaign

The Codex community took part in a video campaign on Twitter, led by the Codex Secretariat from 17 September until 20 December 2018. Codex Members, Observer organizations and the general public joined in to express their support for creating a UN day dedicated to food safety: over 100 replies, including videos, photos and messages were received in the above-mentioned period for a total of over one million interactions.

See the World Food Safety Day section on the Codex Alimentarius website

Read more about the UN calendar

<https://www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/world-food-safety-day-2025/wfsd-news/news-details/en/c/1175473/> Accessed on 02.06.2026



Gaza City, West Bank and Gaza Strip - A beneficiary of a FAO Project tending to the vegetable garden he maintains on the rooftop of his home. © FAO/Marco Longari

Background

The road to World Food Safety Day

On 3 August 2020, the World Health Assembly passed a resolution WHA73.5 to recognize World Food Safety Day as an important milestone and a platform for raising awareness at all levels about the importance of food safety, and for promoting and facilitating actions to prevent foodborne diseases at local, national, regional and global levels, to strengthen global efforts for food safety to reduce the burden of foodborne disease.

On 20 December 2018 the United Nations General Assembly adopted [resolution 73/250](#) proclaiming a World Food Safety Day. As of 2019, every 7 June is a time to celebrate the myriad benefits of safe food.

A proposal to establish a World Food Safety Day went before the [Second Committee](#) of the 73rd session of the United Nations General Assembly. Following their October/November 2018 discussion, it was approved and went before the General Assembly for final adoption.

Costa Rica announced their intention to bring a resolution to the Second Committee of the General Assembly during a [meeting on sustainable development](#) at the United Nations in New York on 12 July 2018.

The [40th Session of the FAO Conference](#) in July 2017 adopted a resolution in support of a World Food Safety Day and the World Health Organization expressed their support in December 2017.

The Codex Alimentarius Commission at its [99th session](#), held in 2016, unanimously agreed to promote a proposal to proclaim a World Food Safety Day on a permanent basis within the framework of the United Nations.

Food Safety and the United Nations

Keeping food safe is a complex process that starts on the farm and ends with the consumer. All stages of the food chain, from production, harvest and storage to preparation and consumption, must be considered. The [Food and Agriculture Organization of United Nations \(FAO\)](#) is the only international organization overseeing food safety along all aspects of the food chain.

Through a longstanding partnership, FAO and the [World Health Organization \(WHO\)](#) support global food safety and protect consumers' health. FAO addresses food safety issues along the food chain during production and processing, while WHO typically oversees relationships with the public health sector. Safeguarding food, so that it is safe to eat doesn't stop with its purchase, though. At home, consumers have a part to play in making sure that what they eat remains safe.

Food Safety and Sustainable Development Goals

Food safety is key to achieving several of the [Sustainable Development Goals](#) and World Food Safety Day brings it into the spotlight, to help prevent, detect and manage foodborne risks. Safe food contributes to economic prosperity, boosting agriculture, market access, tourism and sustainable development.

Goal 2 – There is no food security without food safety. Ending hunger is about all people having access to safe, nutritious and sufficient food all year round.

Goal 3 – Food safety has a direct impact on people's health and nutritional intake. Foodborne diseases are preventable.

Goal 12 – When countries strengthen their regulatory, scientific and technological capacities to ensure that food is safe and of the expected quality throughout the food chain, they move towards more sustainable patterns of food production and consumption.

Goal 17 – A globalized world with annual food exports currently in excess of USD 1.6 trillion and complex food systems demands international cooperation across sectors to ensure food is safe. Food safety is a shared responsibility among governments, food industries, producers and consumers.

World Food Safety Day - Background | United Nations

Accessed on 29.05.2026



2016

CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



World Health
Organization

E

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REP16/CAC
July 2016

Costa Rica was very instrumental in the realisation of the WFSD initiative. Costa Rica's commitment, leadership and engagement were outstanding. **Our sincere and heartfelt gratitude to Costa Rica.**

JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME

CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION

Thirty-ninth Session

FAO Headquarters, Rome, Italy

27 June - 1 July 2016

263. The Commission welcomed and supported the proposal for the establishment of a World Food Safety Day on a permanent basis **as suggested by the Chairperson of the Commission, Mrs Awilo Ochieng Pernet, in December 2015 and re-proposed by Costa Rica at the current Session.** The Commission noted that the establishment of such a day would require the proposal by Codex Members for the decision of the FAO Conference and WHA as well as a decision at UN headquarter level with an estimated timeframe of three years.

Source: [Report of the 39th Session of the CAC](#), Paragraph 263

2017

On 7.7.2017, the 40th Session of the FAO Conference (Rome), adopted a Resolution requesting the United Nations General Assembly in New York to declare 7th June, World Food Safety Day.



联合国
粮食及
农业组织

Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations

Organisation des Nations
Unies pour l'alimentation
et l'agriculture

Продовольственная и
сельскохозяйственная организация
Объединённых Наций

Organización de las
Naciones Unidas para la
Alimentación y la Agricultura

منظمة
الأمم المتحدة
للزراعة
والزراعة

E

CONFERENCE

Fortieth Session

Rome, 3-8 July 2017

Observance of a World Food Safety Day (Draft Resolution)

Executive Summary

The Government of the Republic of Costa Rica, at the 70th World Health Assembly, held in Geneva (22-31 May 2017), referring to a decision of the 39th Session of the *Codex Alimentarius* Commission (July 2016) to propose the establishment of a World Food Safety Day, highlighted the importance of ensuring food safety.

Extracts from the 39th Session of the Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme of the Codex Alimentarius Commission, FAO, Rome, 27 June - 1 July 2016

259. The Commission discussed two proposals from Costa Rica aimed at promoting the work of Codex:

- The establishment of a recurrent "World Food Safety Day"; [...]

263. The Commission welcomed and supported the proposal for the establishment of a World Food Safety Day on a permanent basis **as suggested by the Chairperson of the Commission, Mrs Awilo Ochieng Pernet, in December 2015** and re-proposed by Costa Rica at the current Session. The Commission noted that the establishment of such a day would require the proposal by Codex Members for the decision of the FAO Conference and WHA, as well as a decision at UN headquarter level with an estimated timeframe of three years.

Suggested action by the Conference

The Conference may wish to approve the draft resolution in Annex and to **request the Director-General to transmit it to the Secretary-General of the United Nations with a view to having the General Assembly of the United Nations consider, at its next session, declaring 7 June as World Food Safety Day.**

2018

On 20.12.2018, the 73rd Session of the United Nations General Assembly in New York (USA) adopted a Resolution designating 7th June, World Food Safety Day.



Seventy-third session
Agenda item 26

**Resolution adopted by the General Assembly
on 20 December 2018**

[on the report of the Second Committee (A/73/544)]

73/250. World Food Safety Day

1. *Decides* to designate 7 June as World Food Safety Day;

Text of the Resolution is available at <https://undocs.org/A/RES/73/250>

2019

The **Inaugural World Food Safety Day** was celebrated all over the world on **7th June 2019**.



Global support for World Food Safety Day

<http://www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/news-and-events/news-details/en/c/1197349/>



 **Francois Pythoud** @FrancoisPyt... · 3h ✓
1st #WorldFoodSafetyDay celebration at @FAO. Time to remember the key role played by 🇨🇭 #AwiloOchieng former @FAOWHOCodex chair in launching this initiative to raise global awareness on the importance of #foodsafety for #sustainableFoodSystems @BLV_OSAV_USAV @WHO @GlobalSCP



Qatar



**Reasons for choosing the number 7 for the
celebration of the World Food Safety Day**

Every day should be a World Food Safety Day!



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



World Health
Organization

CODEx
ALIMENTARIUS

“The application and enforcement of food safety and quality standards by all relevant stakeholders along the entire food chain ensures that consumers have access to food that is safe and nutritious.”



Awilo Ochieng Pernet,
Codex Vice-Chairperson and
Chairperson, 2011-2017