RECOMMENDATIONS

STRONGER FOOD AND DRUG REGULATORY SYSTEMS ABROAD

LEVEL OF ACTION	TOPIC	ACTORS	RECOMMENDATION
Global	Food safety	FAO and WHO	The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the World Health Organization (WHO) should convene biennial meetings for food safety regulators.
	Medical products	WHO	The WHO should expand prequalification to include treatments for cancer, diabetes, and other diseases with a high global burden.
	Global health and development	Donor organizations working in health and development	Development partners should encourage countries' participation in regulatory benchmarking assessments, the development of institutional development plans, and reports on progress. Assistance should be targeted to priorities identified in benchmarking assessments.
			Development partners should support countries and organizations in pursuing greater collaboration for regulating food and medical products through harmonization and mutual recognition of data or standards, equivalence agreements, and regulatory reliance.
			Development finance institutions such as the United States International Development Finance Corporation, the International Finance Corporation (IFC), the UK CDC Group, and the European development finance banks, should create vehicles to finance producers, distributors, and retailers interested in meeting regulatory standards. This would involve advisory services and concessional financing.
			Development finance banks (see above) should provide advisory services and concessional financing to manufacturers of quality and safety screening technologies optimize manufacturing and create stronger distribution systems.
		NIH, FDA, and USAID	The National Institutes of Health, in collaboration with the FDA and the U.S. Agency for International Development, should develop a network of Global Centers of Excellence in Regulatory Science for research and capacity building.
National	Government and financing	National governments, their leaders	National governments should guarantee in legislation that national regulatory agencies be independent and financially viable, with statutes that encourage cooperation with other agencies and require a scientific basis for decision making.
Agency	Risk-based regulation, communication, and information	Food and drug regulatory agencies	National regulatory authorities should take a risk-based approach to the regulation of food and medicines. This includes: a. Developing effective data systems to systematically identify areas of greatest risk; b. Participating in research, data-sharing, technology adoption, and training activities with international partners; c. Growing capacity to assess the health and economic impacts of regulation, and using this information to inform actions to protect public health; d. Communicating about risks, including the uncertainty around them, especially during crisis; e. Communicating the ways regulations improves quality, safety, and access.
	Informal markets		National regulatory agencies should use evidence to guide strategies to reduce the risk posed by informal markets. Strategies include accreditation or licensing, consumer education, and increasing competition from regulated products.
	Management and collaboration		National regulatory authorities should take advantage of global tools to support regulatory actions. Examples include Resources from UN agencies (WHO prequalification and Codex standards) and the third-party standards increasingly used in food and agriculture.
			National regulatory authorities should determine which functions are most effectively and efficiently carried out directly by the agency and which can be delegated to state or local authorities.

Table 1 Recommended actions to be taken.
Some recommendations have been condensed. Full recommendations can be found in the report.