

Statement of conclusions from the World Grain Trade Forum in Beijing

On November 27, 2018, China National Association of the Grains Sector (CNAGS) and International Grain Trade Coalition (IGTC) hosted the first World Grain Trade Forum in Beijing with the subject of “Outlook of World Grain Trade Trend”. The Forum brought together stakeholders in grain supply and use from around the world to advance the need to provide a market and regulatory environment that avoids trade disruptions and supports the international trade of grain, oilseeds, pulses and derived products. Participants enjoyed a collegial exchange of information and ideas to maintain and strengthen the capable and effective global trade that provides a safe, timely, predictable, responsible, resilient, affordable and competitive supply, and thereby enhances food security. The very successful and much-appreciated Forum was supported by the International Grain Trade Coalition (IGTC - www.igtglobal.org). On November 28 CNAGS and IGTC also hosted the 2018 IGTC General Assembly.

After consideration of the current and future trading environment, as well as best practices in the sectors of grains, oilseeds, pulses and derived products that provide the foundation of nutrition and food security, the following conclusions emerged at the Forum:

1. *Opportunities should be pursued for further collaboration among representatives of the trade in grains, oilseeds, pulses and derived products.*

Food industry organizations of all countries and regions play an important and irreplaceable role in maintaining the international trade of food. Through partnership and collaboration, the grain trade is able to convene significant expertise and representation on the commercial requirements and economics of the world's food, feed and processing industries.

Planning for future collaboration and events is already beginning, including the potential for the next World Grain Trade Forum in 2020. Participation will be open for partners, stakeholders, international organizations and governments.

2. *Efforts should continue to maintain world food security and meet goals to eliminate hunger*

Food security is crucial for the survival of the human race, especially for the poor and those in areas of food shortage and food insecurity. Efforts at the national, regional and international level should be targeted to encourage and address the elimination of hunger.

The grains sector is recognized for its importance and value in contributing to global food security. Trade and investment are important elements of zero hunger strategies and can contribute to economic development and affordable nutrition.

3. *International rules-based trading systems, such as the World Trade Organization, are fundamental in ensuring stability and predictability in global grain trade flows. We are supposed to advocate free trade in food, resolutely safeguard the multilateral trading system and avoid trade disruption in the global market.*

Action is needed to continue to reform and improve relevant rules and dispute-resolution

processes that encourage free trade and result in the export and import of international food trade and sustainable growth.

The international movement of grain, oilseeds, pulses and derived products can be developed and facilitated with fair and reasonable regulations whilst serving farmers, growers, industry and consumers; and meeting the needs of the food, feed and processing industries.

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Signed:

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