

CALL TO BUENOS AIRES ACTION ON FOOD LOSS AND WASTE

Government delegates, private sector representatives, Cooperation and United Nations System Agencies, development banks, civil society representatives and the academia from the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean (hereinafter participants), gathered in Buenos Aires, from November 20 to 21, 2018, under the framework of the IV Regional Dialogue 'Latin American Solutions to Food Loss and Waste', held in the Week of Agriculture, these key actors express their support for this call on the prevention and reduction of food loss and waste (FLW), which has been born of the rapprochement between the public and private sectors, that has led to this instance.

Considering that:

- At a regional level, one of every three kilos of produced food – 127 million tons – is been lost or wasted somewhere in the production chain. More than half of the fruits and vegetables, a third of the seafood and one of every five kilos of dairy is been wasted.
- In Latin America and the Caribbean, most of the food waste (72% of the total volume), is produced before food reaches the consumer, causing monetary losses equivalent to US\$ 97 billion, generating 322 million tons of carbon dioxide, and consuming 250 km³ of water.
- Food loss and waste have important environmental, economic and social implications, and affect the sustainability of food systems.
- The reduction of food loss and waste represents a "triple victory": 1) increases the availability of healthy and quality food; 2) reduces greenhouse gas emissions and reduces the consequences linked to the inefficient use of natural resources, and; 3) improves the incomes of agricultural producers and companies, with positive impacts on national economies.
- A structural response to the problem must include, among others: the sustainable transformation of food systems; the management of natural resources; financing and investment in infrastructure; improvements in distribution, processing, availability and access to food; food education and consumer education; food safety; and the establishment of public-private partnerships that bring production closer to consumption.
- Faced with this challenge, all the actors of the food systems must act to reduce their loss and waste, first of all calling on responsibility of policy, followed by necessary contribution of economy, consumers and science.
- There are ongoing actions led by public and private actors that must be replicated on a larger scale to achieve a greater reduction of food loss and waste.

We agree and we call for action to:

- Join efforts and implement concrete actions in quantification, prevention and reduction from all areas to achieve the goal of halving food waste at the retail and household levels as well as reducing food loss at the entire value chain, such as indicated by the goal 12.3 of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) on responsible Production and Consumption for the Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development.
- Manage, invest and implement action plans created with the participation of the different actors in the food systems (producers, companies, civil society, associations, academia, legislators, education and consumers, among others). All this will allow progress towards reduction of the food losses and waste and promoting greater food systems sustainability, with positive economic, social and environmental impacts on the planet, the Region and its inhabitants.

WITNESSES OF HONOR



FAO

SECRETARIAT OF AGROINDUSTRY

INTER-AMERICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK

THÜNEN INSTITUTE

CONSUMER GOODS FORUM

GLOBAL FOOD BANKING NETWORK

Buenos Aires, November 21, 2018

