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Sustainable development

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 19 December 2019

[*on the report of the Second Committee (A/74/381)*]

74/209. International Day of Awareness of Food Loss and Waste

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming its resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015, entitled “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”, in which it adopted a comprehensive, far-reaching and people-centred set of universal and transformative Sustainable Development Goals and targets, its commitment to working tirelessly for the full implementation of this Agenda by 2030, its recognition that eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development, its commitment to achieving sustainable development in its three dimensions – economic, social and environmental – in a balanced and integrated manner, and to building upon the achievements of the Millennium Development Goals and seeking to address their unfinished business,

Reaffirming also its resolutions 53/199 of 15 December 1998 and 61/185 of 20 December 2006 on the proclamation of international years, and Economic and Social Council resolution 1980/67 of 25 July 1980 on international years and anniversaries, particularly paragraphs 1 to 10 of the annex thereto on the agreed criteria for the proclamation of international years, as well as paragraphs 13 and 14, in which it is stated that an international day or year should not be proclaimed before the basic arrangements for its organization and financing have been made,

Recalling resolution 11/2019 adopted by the Conference of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations at its forty-first session, held in Rome from 22 to 29 June 2019,¹

Recalling also resolution 4/2 of 15 March 2019 of the United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme, on promoting sustainable practices and innovative solutions for curbing food loss and waste,²

¹ See Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, document 2019/REP, appendix H.

² UNEP/EA.4/Res.2.



Recalling further that the ministerial declaration of the 2018 high-level political forum on sustainable development³ called upon all stakeholders to adopt a sustainable food systems approach and to develop effective strategies and innovations to reduce food losses and waste,

Reaffirming the commitment to achieve sustainable development in its three dimensions – economic, social and environmental – in a balanced and integrated manner, and recognizing that the urgent need to reduce the large quantities of food loss and waste taking place worldwide is clearly addressed in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including in Sustainable Development Goal 12, and specifically target 12.3,

Recalling that the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development calls for halving per capita global food waste at the retail and consumer levels and reducing food losses along production and supply chains, including post-harvest losses, by 2030,

Recalling also the global launch of the United Nations Decade of Family Farming (2019–2028), held in Rome on 29 May 2019, and stressing the important role of family farms in the production of more than 80 per cent of the world’s food in terms of value,

*Recalling further that, in *The State of Food and Agriculture in the World 2019: Moving Forward on Food Loss and Waste Reduction*, produced by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, food loss is defined as the decrease in the quantity or quality of food resulting from decisions and actions by food suppliers in the chain, excluding retail, food service providers and consumers, and food waste as the decrease in the quantity or quality of food resulting from decisions and actions by retailers, food services and consumers,*

Noting that, according to an initial estimate in 2011, one third of the food produced annually in the world for human consumption, equivalent to some 1.3 billion tons, was lost or wasted, while over 821 million people suffered from chronic undernourishment and nearly 151 million children under five years of age had stunted growth in 2018,⁴

*Noting also that the first estimates for the food loss index, as presented in *The State of Food and Agriculture in the World 2019*, measure food loss from post-harvest until – but not including – the retail level and indicate that around 14 per cent of food produced globally in 2016 was lost,*

Recalling that the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations leads international efforts to defeat hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition and is mandated to raise levels of nutrition and reduce food losses and food waste, taking into account sustainable production and consumption practices,

Noting the urgent need to address the issue of food loss and waste worldwide and the risks that this implies for climate change, agriculture sustainability, human livelihoods and food supplies,

*Noting also that the 2018 Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations study, *Gender and Food Loss in Sustainable Food Value Chains: A Guiding Note*, found that, in order to be effective and have a long-lasting impact, food loss reduction strategies and interventions should go beyond technological solutions by*

³ See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventy-third Session, Supplement No. 3 (A/73/3)*, chap. VI, sect. F.

⁴ Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, *The State of Food and Agriculture, 2019: Moving Forward on Food Loss and Waste Reduction* (Rome, 2019).

bringing to the forefront the underlying sociocultural factors of food value chains and mainstream a gender perspective,

Recognizing the fundamental role of sustainable food production that promotes food security and nutrition for the world's growing population and contributes to poverty alleviation, hunger eradication and human health,

Recognizing also the importance of addressing issues related to food loss and waste at all stages of the supply chain from producer to end user and of working towards sustainable consumption and production, including through collaboration with relevant stakeholders,

Recognizing further the food loss and waste happening in storing, transport and process, and in this regard inviting Member States and other relevant stakeholders to strengthen the capacity-building of developing countries to adopt innovative approaches and technology in combating food loss and waste,

Recognizing that efforts at the national and regional levels already exist to combat food loss and waste and that these efforts need to be sustained and supported in conjunction with civil society, the private sector and academia,

Acknowledging the urgent need to raise awareness at all levels and to promote and facilitate actions for the elimination of food loss and waste across the world and its importance for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals,

Recognizing that the observance of an International Day of Awareness of Food Loss and Waste by the international community would contribute significantly to raising awareness of the importance of the problem and its possible solutions at all levels and would promote global efforts and collective action towards meeting target 12.3 of the Sustainable Development Goals,

1. *Decides* to designate 29 September as the International Day of Awareness of Food Loss and Waste;

2. *Invites* all Member States, organizations of the United Nations system, other international and regional organizations and civil society, including non-governmental organizations, individuals and other relevant stakeholders, to observe the International Day, in an appropriate manner and in accordance with national priorities, including through education and activities aimed at raising awareness of the importance of reducing food loss and waste and the contribution of these actions to sustainable development;

3. *Invites* the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations to facilitate the observance of the International Day, in collaboration with the United Nations Environmental Programme and other relevant organizations, mindful of the provisions contained in the annex to Economic and Social Council resolution [1980/67](#) of 25 July 1980;

4. *Stresses* that the cost of all activities that may arise from the implementation of the present resolution should be met from voluntary contributions, including from the private sector;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General to bring the present resolution to the attention of all Member States, the organizations of the United Nations system and other relevant stakeholders for appropriate observance.

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