

11th Session

Agenda item: B

General Assembly
Responsible Consumption and Production for a Sustainable Economy
Reduction of food waste

The General Assembly,

Reconfirming that the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) revealed developing and industrialized Member States generate approximately the same amount of food waste, of 630 to 670 million tonnes per year, and the causes of food waste vary among the Member States,

Acknowledging with deep gratitude that the FAO launched the Global Initiative on Food Loss and Waste Reduction and has worked for “Capacity Building for Food Loss Reduction in the Near East”, for instance, to reduce food waste worldwide, with its regional and national offices,

Also acknowledging the four pillars of the Global Initiative on Food Loss and Waste Reduction, which are to raise awareness of the impact of food loss and waste, collaboration and coordination of worldwide initiatives on food loss and waste reduction, research on policy, strategy and program development for food loss and waste reduction, and support to programs and projects on food loss strategies implemented by private and public sectors to reflect on the complexity of food waste,

Noting with gratitude that the General Assembly highlighted the importance of FAO by welcoming resolution 7/2019 of the Conference of the FAO, entitled “Further integration of sustainable agricultural approaches in the future planning activities of FAO”,

Also noting that the voluntary contributions to FAO are provided to support governments for clearly defined purposes, which include the projects and activities to be implemented under the Global Initiative Food Loss and Waste Reduction,

Concerned with World Bank data showing that 2.01 billion tonnes of municipal solid waste thrown away annually, and 44 percent of them were considered as food and green waste,

Noting the low penetration of digital services in developing countries affects low public awareness on the issue of the culture of expendability as it results in people typically over-serving either at events or home and developing a distaste for eating leftover food,

Realizing the ample financial capacity of Member States to develop transportation infrastructure network to solve the issue of unstable domestic supply chain internationally,

Deeply concerned that flood, water shortages, or salt pollution triggered by climate change reduce food production,

Emphasizing the fact that 20 percent of avoidable household food waste is due to label confusion,

Aware that even in the most food waste-conscious households, there will always be uneaten food scraps, including inedible parts of food that are put to their best use if composted or anaerobically digested to transform organic waste into useful soil amendments,

Reaffirming the strict standards are excluding oddly shaped products and result in generating large quantities of food disposal from the food supply chain,

Emphasizing the fact that the many Member States are producing food loss at the trading process,

Recalling the fact that majority of food waste is produced from household and it is vital to raise the awareness to reduce the food waste from household by providing educational programs,

1. *Welcomes* Member States to collaborate with the projects and activities by FAO's Save Food Initiative through financial support;
2. *Requests* Member States to increase in devising innovative methods to allow longer food preservation safety and genetically modified crops, which are stronger against decay to extend the expiry date to reduce the production of household waste as food waste from household is the largest ratio;
3. *Calls for* further international cooperation between the Member States to extend community services including internet services to spread public awareness of Member States to reduce household food waste to consider the effect of the culture of the expendability of food waste;
4. *Requests* the Member States to develop infrastructure networks to formulate a stable supply chain from producers to consumers;
5. *Welcomes* collaboration of each Member State with UNICEF, FAO, World Food Programme, International Fund for Agricultural Development, or World Health Organisation to build sustainable markets to produce a variety of sustainable products;
6. *Encourages* technologically developed Member States to start a targeted public program to deliver information to the public about the amount of wasted food through social media, in order to raise the awareness of citizens to change their daily activities when they purchase and consume food;

7. *Encourages* all Member States to improve the labeling system so that citizens can be aware of expiration dates, and so people know the expiration dates to decrease the amount of food waste;
8. *Welcomes* the Member States that can afford to conduct curbside collection to collect food to compost to be used in the agriculture sector in order to recycle food and leads to the further development of agriculture;
9. *Recommends* all Member States with the strict standards to import and export food products to reconsider their standard classification system into classes based on the level of appearance in their guidelines;
10. *Recommends* all Member States to set or revise the national measurements positively to set amount of food trade to prevent increasing food loss;
11. *Recommends* the Member States to promote educational programs at all levels of the food system by:
 - a. Encouraging to development of intensive educational programs for households to learn about food storage methods and composting systems;
 - b. Recommending inclusion of food education in the teaching procedures in order to educate young people to value food and develop an interest in food waste issues;
 - c. Encouraging collaboration to develop educational programs that enable farmers to gain knowledge and prepare against natural disasters.