

# UNECE-FAO Conference

## Room XI, Palais des Nations, Geneva

### 13 November 2018



## REDEFINING THE FOOD LOSS CHALLENGE FOR SUSTAINABLE IMPACT:

**PREVENT | REUSE | REPURPOSE | REDISTRIBUTE**

### Background

Every year, 1.3 billion tonnes of food are wasted (FAO, 2011) and close to 821 million people go to bed hungry every night in the world (FAO 2018). Food loss or waste does not occur in one place. It takes place along the entire supply chain at almost every node of the chain such as post-harvest, handling and storage, processing, distribution, retail and consumption. This also means that food losses take place in both rural and urban areas. Impacts of such losses no matter where they occur are many; they include foregone income for the producers and reduction of food availability and food security, increased prices and environmental impacts. An analysis by the FAO revealed that the carbon footprint from global food loss and waste would place it as the third-largest greenhouse gas emitting country in 2011.

In this context, addressing food loss and waste requires a comprehensive approach as promoted in Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 12 on responsible consumption and production. Target 12.3, for example, stipulates halving per capita food waste by 2030. Other targets of SDG 12 are connected and relevant for reducing food loss. These targets promote reduction of waste generation through prevention, reduction, recycle and reuse, efficient use of natural resources, sustainable procurement practices or even improving technological capacity to move towards sustainable production and consumption patterns.

UNECE and the FAO Liaison office in Geneva have been working together to address the food loss issue for several years. The objective of this conference, jointly organized by these organizations, is to take stock of the progress in ameliorating food loss and waste as well as identifying good practices that provide practical solutions to food loss. Through exchange of knowledge and further dissemination of these solutions, it is expected that new initiatives will be encouraged and food loss and waste will decrease.

The conference will be held back to back with the seventy-fourth session of the Working Party on Agricultural Quality Standards on 12-14 November 2018.

# Programme

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15:00 – 15:30	<b>Opening Remarks:</b> Nicola Koch, Chef de Cabinet, UNECE Carolyn Rodrigues Birkett, Director, FAO Geneva Office
	<b>Moderators:</b> Kristina Mattsson, Swedish Board of Agriculture Salehin Khan, Economic Cooperation and Trade Division, UNECE
15:30 – 16:00	<b>Taking stock of the food loss scenario:</b> Björg Askelsdottir, Boston Consulting Group (BCG)
16:00 – 16:30	<b>Agro-trade, economic productivity and value additions – case of food loss:</b> Ahmad Mukhtar, Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO)
16:30 – 17:00	<b>Fighting food loss through a mobile app:</b> Lucie Rein, Too Good to Go
17:00 – 17:30	<b>Initiatives to fight food loss - what solutions do companies bring to the table:</b> Dalma Somogyi, World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD)
17:30 – 18:00	<b>Conclusion</b>

For more information and registration:

<https://www.unece.org/wp7-74th-2018.html>

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