

## **G20 Technical Experts Food Waste Meeting**

On Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> October 2021, sixteen G20 countries and the European Commission participated in a meeting to discuss cooperation on food waste reduction among the G20. The United Nations Environment Programme and Champions 12.3, a high-level coalition to halve food loss and waste by 2030, presented the case for action, the Food Waste Index global data, and the UN Food Systems Summit 'Food is Never Waste' Coalition. Two discussion topics were presented:

1. Interest in on-going exchange on halving food waste in G20 countries and modalities of engagement
2. Thematic areas where countries would like to share expertise or would appreciate support, via peer-to-peer learning and technical capacity building

There was a strong consensus that on-going exchange, closer cooperation and information-sharing among the G20 was useful, as long as duplication of initiatives was avoided. Specific messages of support from the USA, the European Commission, China, Australia and the UK. Comments included:

- G20 countries should commit to SDG 12.3, develop national strategies, and discuss the inclusion of food waste in NDCs
- It is useful to meet virtually, share expertise and experience to accelerate action
- A deep dive on specific topics would be helpful

Among the topics proposed for exchange were:

- Food waste measurement and reporting
- National strategies
- Policy and legal framework
- Public-private partnerships
- Consumer behaviour change
- Circular food systems and policies/measures to get food out of landfills

The USA noted that G20 countries are well-suited to lead on this topic and that SDG 12.3 provides common goal.

UNEP convenes Regional Food Waste Working Groups in four regions (Africa, Asia Pacific, Latin America & the Caribbean, and West Asia), providing capacity building and facilitating peer-to-peer learning on food waste measurement and reduction to 25 countries. The working groups meet every 1-2 months to address a specific topic (measurement in different sectors, food waste finance, and national strategy development, in the first year). A similar format could be adopted for a G20 food waste working group, responding to specific needs, sharing global best practice, and accelerating action among first movers and across the G20.

A member state has expressed interest in taking a leading role in this working group, securing its position on the G20 RE Dialogue agenda and providing continuity across G20 presidencies, to be confirmed.

List of countries participating:

Argentina

Australia  
Brazil  
Canada  
China  
Germany  
Italy  
Japan  
Russian Federation  
Saudi Arabia  
South Africa  
Singapore  
Spain  
Turkey  
United Kingdom  
United States of America  
European Commission