



Highlights

G20 “Resource Efficiency Dialogue”

8 June 2021

The Italian G20 Environment Presidency dedicated the first G20 RED meeting on the synergies between concepts of circular economy, resource efficiency and food waste reduction. A specific session was reserved for government representatives. Laura D'Aprile, Head of Department at the Ministry for Ecological Transition, chaired the Conference.

The first session focussed on preventing food waste through more conscious consumption. Martina Otto (UN Environment Programme) illustrated the benefits of food waste prevention and highlighted the importance of monitoring-related measurement in this domain.

Representatives from China, Australia, Italy, Brazil, Canada and the United Kingdom illustrated best practices to prevent food waste; Saudi Arabia provided updates on national initiatives; and Liz Goodwin, Champion of UN SDG 12.3, introduced the World Resources Initiative.

The Conference addressed a very relevant issue that involves the economic loss of about \$1 trillion every year. Of course, food waste also impacts on the use of water needed to grow it, and – it should be noted – is overall responsible for around 8% of global GHG emissions.

The Conference also provided a summary of the “G20 Circular Fashion” Conference held on 7 June 2021.

The session titled “Ways forward for the G20 RE Dialogue” was reserved for government representatives. G20 Delegates discussed the proposals set forth by Chair Laura D'Aprile as to possible actions the G20 could undertake on “Circular Fashion” and “Food Waste Prevention”. Delegates discussed current policies and several proposed solutions, voluntary agreements and future regulatory frameworks on the subject. Prevention and reduction of food waste requires coordination between various levels of national and international governments, and the private sector.

In its conclusions, the Italian Presidency highlighted the importance of food waste prevention and reduction, and underlined such issues should be considered, at global level, more as an economic and socio-environmental opportunity than as a problem to be solved.