

**Statement by Astrid Schomaker
Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity**

**International Day of Awareness of Food Loss and Waste
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The world produces enough food to feed everyone on the planet, but 757 million people remain food insecure and over 2.83 billion are unable to afford a healthy diet.

Notwithstanding the well-known facts, tons of food continue to be produced only to rot away in landfills, while millions go hungry.

Food production and, more broadly, agriculture remain among the main drivers of global biodiversity loss. Meanwhile, food waste is burning through the world's emissions budget: it is the source of between 8 and 10 per cent of global greenhouse gas emissions.

In a world grappling with the intertwined crises of climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution, food loss and waste constitute a dangerous extravagance that neither people nor nature can afford. The world must take urgent action.

The Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF), the world's masterplan to halt and reverse biodiversity loss adopted under the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), provides pathways:

- To sustainable agricultural production through Target 10.
- To the enhancement of nature's contributions to people through Target 11.
- And to reducing waste and overconsumption, including through halving global food waste by 2030 through Target 16.

These action targets of the KMGBF and others—23 in total—must be achieved by 2030.

At COP 16 of the CBD, which will take place from 21 October – 1 November in Cali, Colombia, Parties will consider an Action Plan on the interlinkages between biodiversity and health. The Action Plan addresses the impacts of waste and overconsumption on health and biodiversity.

In the lead-up to COP 16, Parties are aligning their National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) with the KMGBF. At the national level, the synergetic implementation of all Multilateral Environmental Agreements, including the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) can drive progress on curbing food loss and waste.

For instance, Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) should encompass efforts related to ending food loss and waste as one of the drivers of the environmental poly-crisis afflicting the planet.

We know that progress is possible, and that nature-based solutions and technology are on our side. Countries such as Japan and the United Kingdom have achieved substantial reductions in food waste: 31 per cent and 18 per cent, respectively.

We expect G20 countries to take a leading role in international cooperation and policy development to accelerate the implementation of SDG 12 on Responsible Consumption and Production and the achievement of the relevant action targets of the KMGBF.

As is the case with all the 23 actions targets of the KMGBF and the 17 overarching SDGs, a whole-of-government and a whole-of-society approach is needed.

Sustainable consumption and production patterns constitute a cornerstone of a future where humanity lives in harmony with nature.

Food loss and waste have no place in that future.