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Food and Agriculture
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Продовольственная и
сельскохозяйственная организация
Объединенных Наций

Organización de las
Naciones Unidas para la
Alimentación y la Agricultura

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الأغذية والزراعة
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COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

Twenty-eighth Session

18 - 22 July 2022

**Report on progress in the application of the Voluntary Code of Conduct for
Food Loss and Waste Reduction**

Queries on the substantive content of the document may be addressed to:

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I. Background

1. At its 26th Session in October 2018, the FAO Committee on Agriculture (COAG) requested FAO to take the lead in developing voluntary codes of conduct for the reduction of food loss and food waste. In response to the COAG request, FAO developed the Voluntary Code of Conduct for Food Loss and Waste Reduction,¹ which was endorsed by the 42nd Session of the FAO Conference in June 2021.

2. The Voluntary Code of Conduct for Food Loss and Waste Reduction (CoC) sets out a generic framework of actions and guiding principles that should be followed to reduce food loss and waste (FLW) and support the transformation of agrifood systems to be more efficient, more inclusive, more resilient and more sustainable. Governments can use the framework as a basis for the development of strategies, policies and legislations, which are critical elements of intervention packages aimed at effectively and sustainably reducing FLW. The framework can also serve for the formulation of programmes on FLW reduction and for the preparation of technical guidelines for use by practitioners.

II. Achievements and immediate next steps in application of the CoC

Publication

3. The CoC has been published in all FAO languages as a stand-alone publication that includes a foreword by the Director-General. The publication is available electronically on FAO's website and knowledge platforms, where it can be downloaded for use by various target audiences.

Strategies, roadmaps and FLW reduction programmes

4. With a view to develop a Near East and North Africa (NENA) regional framework of action for FLW reduction that is based on the CoC, FAO will organize regional technical consultations and validation workshops in mid-2022 to adapt the CoC to the needs and priorities of countries of the NENA region under their broader agrifood system transformation agenda. Based on this framework, FAO will develop strategies and programmes for FLW reduction at national level.

5. In the Africa region, FAO plans to adapt the CoC to the African Union Commission's African Continental Postharvest Management Strategy, in order to provide a framework for national, post-harvest, loss reduction strategies, and programmes for countries of the region. This will be followed by a webinar with regional and subregional organizations to introduce and validate the adapted CoC.

6. In the Asia-Pacific region, FAO will promote the CoC as the new Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (RAP) Food Loss and Waste Strategy is rolled out in 2022, including through an improved regional platform on FLW reduction. Based on this Strategy and the CoC, FAO will provide technical expertise and support to countries to expand the evidence base for improved policy making on FLW reduction.

7. In the Latin America and Caribbean region, FAO will promote the CoC within the framework of the Sustainable Food Systems to Provide Healthy Diets for All regional initiative, which has the prevention and reduction of FLW as a priority for 2022. FAO will provide technical expertise and support to countries to adapt the CoC in accordance with national FLW reduction strategies.

8. Many Members have expressed interest in working on FLW reduction, including within their programmes addressing the COVID-19 pandemic and climate change, as well as in the context of the follow-up to the United Nations Food Systems Summit 2021 and of a broader agrifood systems transformation. FLW also features in multiple Country Programming Frameworks (CPF) across the globe. As a result, FAO will provide demand-driven support to assist Members in all regions in developing strategies, policies, institutions, legislation and programmes for FLW reduction that follow the recommendations of the CoC.

¹ www.fao.org/3/nf393en/nf393en.pdf

Raising awareness

9. FAO has made presentations at various global, regional and national events in order to raise awareness about the CoC and promote its uptake and application. Notable among these are the Third All Africa Postharvest Congress and Exhibition (AAPHCE), the Second Food Loss and Waste Reduction Summit for Latin America and the Caribbean, and the Tenth Meeting of the European Union Platform on Food Losses and Food Waste. In 2022, FAO plans to present the CoC to the following: #SinDesperdicio, a platform for promoting FLW reduction in the Latin America and Caribbean region; regional organizations in Asia, such as the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN); and networks dealing with FLW in the Asia Pacific region.

10. A global online seminar will be organised to raise the awareness of the different potential users of the CoC – policy makers, parliamentarians, programme designers and others – about the document, its potential role and how it can be put into use. FAO also plans to organise similar events at regional level. Ahead of these events, FAO will prepare information materials on the CoC in relevant languages and formats.

Legislation

11. FAO is using the CoC as a basis for supporting legislative activities in the Eastern Europe and Central Asia region. This includes: assessment of the legal frameworks for FLW reduction in Azerbaijan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan; and supporting these countries to strengthen the frameworks in light of the recommendations outlined in the CoC. Furthermore, FAO is supporting the drafting of a framework law on FLW reduction in Georgia, implementing recommendations from the CoC.

12. In the Africa region, the above-mentioned regional webinar would include a session to deliberate upon the national, regional, and subregional legal and regulatory frameworks for the prevention and reduction of FLW. An important element of the session will be the participation of a variety of stakeholders, including parliamentary alliances and academia.

13. FAO has provided technical assistance to the Latin American Parliament (PARLATINO) on the drafting of a model law on FLW that is in line with the CoC. FAO is monitoring the process of approval of the model law and will provide PARLATINO with any assistance needed.

Knowledge Products

14. FAO has published a legal brief that draws heavily from the CoC. The legal brief outlines a set of key regulatory measures that can be adopted by countries in all regions to create an enabling environment for the prevention and reduction of FLW under an agrifood systems approach. FAO has also published a legal brief for parliamentarians of the Latin America and Caribbean region, which also draws on the CoC.

15. FAO plans to collaborate with the Right to Food Observatory for Latin America and the Caribbean, a multidisciplinary academic network, to conduct research on the promotion of access to healthy and safe diets, particularly through the prevention and reduction of FLW. The research will take the CoC into consideration.

Training

16. FAO plans to conduct training workshops at country and regional level on the main aspects, conceptual basis and application of the CoC as part of the efforts to strengthen the national and regional initiatives associated with FLW reduction. This exercise will target the various relevant beneficiaries, such as government actors (national, subnational, local and municipal authorities, and parliamentarians), regional organizations, academic institutions and representatives of the private sector. Training materials will be developed in appropriate formats and languages to support these workshops.