

Non-paper on Proposed Principles for *Preventing and Reducing Food Loss and Waste in APEC economies*

This non-paper outlines key elements for initiating a discussion of a proposed Principles for Preventing and Reducing Food Loss and Waste (FLW) (Principles Document). It also provides a draft Terms of Reference (TOR) for consideration by the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Policy Partnership on Food Security (PPFS) to guide plenary discussion of the proposed Principles Document (Attachment 1).

Purpose:

APEC has agreed to implement the APEC Food Security Roadmap Towards 2030 (Roadmap) for an open, fair, transparent, productive, sustainable and resilient APEC food system that ensures people always have access to sufficient, safe, affordable, and nutritious food to meet their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life.

The Roadmap considers minimizing and reducing food loss and waste as an action that improves and strengthens the productivity and sustainability of food systems. Digitalization and innovation can be used to achieve food security.

In line with the APEC 2024 priority - *Sustainable growth for resilient development* - to promote sustainable food systems, Peru proposes the adoption of a set of Principles for Preventing and Reducing Food Loss and Waste in APEC economies. This document will help economies to design and implement effective policies to reduce and prevent food losses and waste, strengthening their food systems.

According to the United Nations, remedying food losses and waste is essential in a world where the number of people affected by hunger has been slowly rising since 2014, and numerous tons of edible food are lost and/or wasted every day. Our food systems cannot be resilient if they are not sustainable, hence there is a need for integrated approaches being designed to reduce food loss and waste.

The Principles Document is aligned with the Roadmap, so it will contribute to its implementation and the achievement of food security in APEC economies. These principles will incorporate key elements, including:

- The use of technology and innovative approaches;
- Gathering disaggregated data;
- Domestic supply chain management strategies;
- Public-private partnership;
- Governance and institutionality; and
- Education, awareness and capacity building.

By fostering collaboration and knowledge exchange within the Asia-Pacific region, we envision a future where our collective commitment is reflected in these Principles, and we will significantly reduce levels of food loss and waste. This will help the economies of the region to meet their food security and nutrition needs of both current and future generations, to conserve natural resources, and to support the long-term sustainability of the agri-food systems, by ensuring a more sustainable and food-secure future for all.

Background:

The Policy Partnership on Food Security (PPFS) was established in 2011 as a public-private sector dialogue covering Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) matters related to food security. In 2014, the PPFS endorsed a multi-year guidance document titled APEC's Food Security Roadmap Towards 2020. In 2021, as APEC host and PPFS Chair, New Zealand developed the Food Security Roadmap Towards 2030 (Roadmap), which was endorsed by APEC Ministers responsible for food security.

The APEC Putrajaya Vision aims for an open, dynamic, resilient and peaceful Asia-Pacific community by 2040. One of the drivers to achieve this vision is "Strong, Balanced, Secure, Sustainable and Inclusive Growth", through the promotion of economic policies, cooperation and growth which support global efforts to comprehensively address all environmental challenges, including climate change, extreme weather, and natural disasters, for a sustainable planet.

The Roadmap outlines 6 key action areas: Digitalization and Innovation, Productivity, Inclusivity, Sustainability, Public Private Partnerships, and SMART Goals and the Food Security Roadmap Towards 2030 Implementation Plan.

As part of the Sustainability action area, the Roadmap assists economies in achieving their individual sustainability goals, through capacity building and best practice sharing workshops to support member economies to align with the UN Sustainable Development Goals 12.3, related to reducing food loss and waste along production and supply chains, including post-harvest losses.

Attachment 1: Draft Terms of Reference (TOR) for discussion and development of the proposed Principles for Preventing and Reducing Food Loss and Waste in APEC economies.

Objectives:

The proposed Principles Document will identify and articulate shared APEC views that underlie our approaches to reduce and prevent food loss and waste and strengthen the food system.

These principles will include key elements, but are not limited to:

- The use of technology and innovative approaches;
- Gathering disaggregated data;
- Domestic supply chain management strategies;
- Public-private partnership;
- Governance and institutionality; and
- Education, awareness and capacity building.

Development:

The discussion on the development of the Principles Document will be led by PPFS and will commence during SOM1 on Day 2 of the PPFS plenary session. Economies will be asked to consider, comment on, and endorse the proposed terms of reference, with Peru moderating the discussion.

Following the discussions at the PPFS plenary, Peru will use the input collected to develop a zero draft of a Principles Document for distribution and review by PPFS member economy representatives. Drafting sessions will be convened as necessary to undertake a series of reviews and produce a revised draft prior to the Second PPFS Plenary.

Peru proposes a holistic development approach and cross-fora collaboration that would enable review and comments from members from interested APEC fora and sub-fora that are directly related to agri-food systems that underpin food security. These include, but are not limited to, APEC's Agricultural Technical Cooperation Working Group (ATCWG), High-Level Policy Dialogue on Agricultural Biotechnology (HLPDAB), Ocean and Fisheries Working Group (OFWG), and the APEC Business Advisory Council (ABAC).

PPFS will finalize the Principles Document at the Second PPFS Plenary and then present the Principles Document at the PPFS Joint Meeting with ATCWG, HLPDAB, and OFWG. It will then be presented to the 2024 Food Security Ministerial Meeting for endorsement.

Timeline:

The process of developing these Principles will be as follows:

Date	Event	Action
24 February 2024	SOM1 PPFS Plenary Meeting Day 1	Introduction of the proposed PPFS 2024 Work Plan
25 February 2024	SOM1 PPFS Plenary Meeting Day 2	Introduction of the proposed outline for the Principles
March 2024	Circulation of Zero Draft	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Collection of first round of comments and suggestions ● Share it with the ATCWG, HLPDAB and OFWG
April 2024	First Drafting sessions for the Principles	Collection of comments and suggestions
May 2024	Second Drafting sessions for the Principles	Collection of comments and suggestions
June 2024	Third Drafting sessions for the Principles	Collection of comments and suggestions
July 2024	Fourth Drafting sessions for the Principles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Collection of comments and suggestions ● PPFS Consensus on final draft
August 2024	Finalization and Endorsement <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● PPFS Plenary ● Joint Meeting (PPFS, ATCWG, HLPDAB, OFWG) ● Ministerial Meeting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Present and endorse the final version during PPFS Plenary ● Presentation at the Joint Meeting ● Presentation at the Ministerial Meeting