



## **WORKING TOGETHER TO ACHIEVE SDG 12.3**

### **Concrete actions preventing food waste**

International Meeting  
organized by European Food Banks Federation  
in collaboration with Fondazione Banco Alimentare Onlus  
under the patronage of Alleanza Italiana per lo Sviluppo Sostenibile

**15 May 2019 | Rome, Italy**  
FAO, Sheikh Zayed Centre, Viale delle Terme di Caracalla, 00153 Rome

### **Opening remarks**

Jacques Vandenschrik, *President European Food Banks Federation*

15 May 2019, 14:00-14:30

Distinguished Guests,  
Dear Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my pleasure to welcome you here today, on behalf of the European Food Banks Federation. We are honoured to organize this very important International Conference on “Working together to achieve SDG 12.3 – Concrete actions preventing food waste”, in collaboration with Fondazione Banco Alimentare Onlus, with the technical support Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and under the patronage of Alleanza Italiana per lo Sviluppo Sostenibile.

First of all, I would like to spend a word of gratitude to the FAO for their great involvement and the possibility to organize this International Meeting in such a prestigious location, in particular Mr Maximo Torero Cullen (Assistant Director General) and Mrs Rosa Rolle (Senior Enterprise Development Officer) who unfortunately is not here with us today. A particular thank you to Alleanza Italiana per lo Sviluppo Sostenibile for their support and Prof Enrico Giovannini for being with us today. I would like to greet and thank for their presence the representatives of institutions – Ms Anne-Laure Gassin from the European Commission, Ms Maria Chiara Gadda from the Italian Parliament, representatives from Ministries and other representative from public authorities – representatives of the academia, of NGOs, and last but not least Mr Andrea Giussani, President of Fondazione Banco Alimentare Onlus. A special mention to all representatives of Food Banks, including Feeding America and the Global FoodBanking Network, who are here today to represent more than 30 countries.

Finally, I would like to thank the Università degli Studi Internazionali di Roma for the collaboration and the possibility to have translators who are interpreting in English, Italian and Portuguese.

On the occasion of our Annual Convention 2019, with the challenging title of “Towards the next decade, together”, we decided to organize this International Meeting as a concrete opportunity to take stock of many initiatives that have been implemented in the different countries by aggregating the results obtained and showing evidence of their impact on the community.

As we know, global food production must increase by 60% by 2050 in order to meet the demands of world population projected to reach 9.8 billion in 2050.<sup>1</sup> Yet, roughly one third of the food produced across the globe for human consumption every year – approximately 1.3 billion tonnes – is lost or wasted.<sup>2</sup> Food loss and waste occur at all stages of the value chain but waste usually occurs in manufacturing, distribution, food service and household sectors. Food loss and waste have substantial environmental, economic, and social impacts. In the EU while around 43 million people cannot afford a regular quality meal every second day, we waste approximately 20% of our food production.

Advancing together the 2030 Agenda and the SDG 12.3 is possible only if we renew our commitment whilst further investing in skills, innovation and emerging technologies, contributing to drive the transition of our society to a sustainable path.

The European Food Banks Federation (FEBA) is a European non-profit organization and works in collaboration with 24 members and 5 associate members in European countries. For 33 years, FEBA mission has consisted in representing its membership at European and international level, supporting and strengthening food banks in Europe by providing training, sharing best practice and knowledge, and developing partnerships, and fostering the creation of new food banks. FEBA brings together 421 food banks and branches which are committed to fight against food waste and to feed the most deprived. In 2018 our members redistributed 781,000 tons of food – equivalent to 4.3 million daily meals – to 9.3 million most deprived people through 45,700 charitable organizations thanks to the professionalism of 31,722 co-workers (84.5% volunteers). In addition to surplus food from the food supply chain, FEBA members also redistribute food from the Fund for European Aid to the most Deprived (FEAD) and the Fruits and Vegetables withdrawal scheme, as well as from individual donations during food drives.

In our modern world the food system, of which Food Banks are an essential element, is changing. The landscape for food redistribution is evolving due to many factors including a growing focus on circular economy, sustainability and corporate social responsibility, manufacturing advances and innovations, increased attention on nutrition and health, technology and digital transformation, and a stronger interest in public-private partnerships in order to build a more resilient food system.

Whether political, commercial, societal or technological, these issues deserve special attention. This is why FEBA wants to play a key role in the challenges ahead, focusing not only on each one of the issues individually but also on how they inter-relate, and how they affect and are affected by each other.

For a better future for all we need to act in real time and to develop forms of sustainable growth, based on the understanding and experience that we have acquired until now. We must take the lead and modernise our economies, secure our natural environment and improve the health and well-being of all generations. We must promote initiatives with a multi-stakeholder and multi-sectorial approach:

- Education, training, technology, research, innovation and digitisation: promoting and sharing knowledge can leverage the results.
- Corporate social responsibility: fostering socially and environmentally responsible businesses can lead to a long-term value for all.

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<sup>1</sup> United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division. 2017. *World Population Prospects: The 2017 Revision, Key Findings and Advance Tables*. Working Paper No. ESA/P/WP/248.

<sup>2</sup> FAO. 2011. *Global food losses and food waste – Extent, causes and prevention*. Rome.

- Governance and policy coherence: all actors – public sector, business, civil society and individuals – need to be on board.

In line with the food and drink hierarchy, the primary focus of food waste prevention should be to act at the source by limiting the generation of surplus food at each stage in the food supply chain (i.e. production, processing, distribution and consumption). However, when surplus food occurs, the best destination, which ensures the highest value use of edible food resources, is to redistribute these for human consumption. Then food no longer intended for human consumption should be valorised as animal feed.

We must act now, and we are already acting now in the different countries, to stop food waste and ensure that no one is left behind, especially the most disadvantaged people. This is our concrete opportunity not only to tackle food waste but also to contribute to the well-being of the planet and the cohesion of our society. The more a society is cohesive, the greater the chances of successfully facing current and future challenges. This is our positive and concrete opportunity to have an impact on the lives of all citizens, including those who are seeking a more dignified life.

As European Food Banks Federation we are eager to give our contribution at all different levels and with all stakeholders – international organizations like the FAO, European and national institutions, our membership, all the players of the food supply chain, NGOs, and the final beneficiaries.

I really look forward to listening to these several initiatives which are already happening in different parts of the world and which represent concrete examples of multi-stakeholder collaborations. Positive actions which demonstrates that it is possible to tackle food waste, we can do it together and each one of us can give her/his contribution. We can face present and future challenges together, for the benefit of present and future generation.



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