COP31 Declaration on Reducing Food Loss and Waste for Climate Action, Food Security and Resilient Food Systems

This declaration is open to national governments and non-governmental organizations
Endorse this declaration

Antalya, Türkiye — November 2026

We, national governments endorsing this Declaration,

1. *Recalling the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Paris Agreement, including the importance of strengthening the global response to climate change in the context of sustainable development and efforts to eradicate poverty;*

2. *Recalling also the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its interconnected objectives, including ending hunger, achieving food security and improved nutrition, ensuring sustainable consumption and production patterns, including target 12.3 on reducing food loss and waste by 2030, and taking urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts;*

3. *Recalling the United Arab Emirates Framework for Global Climate Resilience (decision 2/CMA.5), including its target on attaining climate-resilient food and agricultural production and supply and distribution of food, as well as equitable access to adequate food and nutrition for all;*

4. *Taking note of relevant international initiatives on methane mitigation, organic waste, and food loss and waste, including the COP26 Global Methane Pledge, the COP28 UAE Declaration on Sustainable Agriculture, Resilient Food Systems and Climate Action, the COP29 Declaration on Reducing Methane from Organic Waste, and the Declaration on Surplus Food Sharing and Redistribution championed by Ireland, and seeking to complement them by addressing food loss and waste reduction as a food systems measure that contributes to both climate action and food security;*

5. *Welcoming the priority that the COP31 Presidency has given to zero waste and methane reduction and to food security in its Action Agenda;*

6. *Recognizing the need for deep, rapid and sustained reductions in greenhouse gas emissions, including accelerated action to reduce methane and other super pollutants, and the significant role of the prevention of food loss and waste in mitigating these emissions;*

7. *Welcoming with appreciation the United Nations Environment Programme reports "Limiting Overshoot" and "Hidden Assets", the latter published with the Climate and Clean Air Coalition and noting with deep concern that global warming is set to exceed 1.5°C within the next few years and to peak at around 1.8°C*

even if current pledges are fully implemented, while global food production could fall by up to 14 per cent by 2050 without effective adaptation; recognizing their conclusions that urgent reductions in methane, which contributes around 0.5°C of current warming, including through low-cost reductions of food loss and waste, can significantly lower peak warming, and that integrated climate and clean air action returns around 15 dollars in benefits for every dollar invested;

8. *Acknowledging that food loss and waste entail considerable environmental, economic and social downsides, including avoidable greenhouse gas emissions, loss of food suitable for human consumption, as well as the wastage of the natural, economic and human resources used in its production, processing, transportation and distribution;*

9. *Recognizing that reducing food loss and waste contributes to methane mitigation, to food security and nutrition, and to the resilience of food systems to climate impacts, while delivering multiple benefits, including public health, livelihoods and employment opportunities, resource efficiency and circularity;*

10. *Recognizing the important contribution of non-Party stakeholders and actors that implement food loss and waste reduction across the food value chain in accelerating and scaling practical climate solutions;*

11. *Mindful of the importance of robust, transparent and credible data and measurement approaches for demonstrating the climate contribution of food loss and waste reduction, and supporting evidence-based policy, implementation and investment decisions;*

Commitments

We declare our intent to advance food loss and waste reduction as a climate and food-systems integrated solution and, mindful of national circumstances, priorities and capabilities, will work towards:

1. Ensuring the recognition of food loss and waste reduction in all relevant climate and food system policies and implementation frameworks, including, as appropriate, nationally determined contributions and associated implementation plans, Long-Term Low Greenhouse Gas Emission Development Strategies (often abbreviated as LTS or LT-LEDS), national adaptation plans, methane mitigation strategies, food loss and waste policies, circular-economy strategies and food-security policies, with reduction targets where appropriate, and the identification of the actors that implement it across the food value chain;

2. Prioritizing the prevention of safe and edible food from becoming waste, including by promoting policies and measures that enable its use for human consumption, consistent with applicable food-safety and public-health requirements;

3. Advancing the mitigation of methane and other super pollutants through food loss and waste reduction, keeping food out of waste-management and disposal streams, including open burning;

4. Improving the necessary conditions to support the actors that implement food loss and waste reduction across the food value chain, through appropriate policy and regulatory frameworks, institutional coordination, infrastructure, technology, capacity-building and partnerships;

5. Enabling food loss and waste reduction activities and the actors that implement them, at national and sub-national levels, to access appropriate sources of climate finance including for both mitigation and adaptation and other means of implementation, subject to the applicable eligibility and other requirements of relevant financial mechanisms, programmes and instruments;

6. Encouraging financial institutions, multilateral development banks, climate funds, philanthropic organizations, private-sector actors and other relevant partners to explore financing and investment approaches capable of supporting and scaling measurable food loss and waste reduction;

7. Reporting, as appropriate, the greenhouse gas emissions avoided through food loss and waste reduction measures as mitigation actions in biennial transparency reports, drawing on data generated by the actors that implement them;

8. Strengthening cooperation and knowledge-sharing across governments, actors implementing food loss and waste reduction, international organizations, financial institutions, research institutions, businesses and other relevant stakeholders, to identify and address legal, methodological, financial, technical and institutional barriers to scaling food loss and waste reduction;

9. Encouraging public and private partnerships that demonstrate how food loss and waste reduction enhances climate action, food security and resilient food systems while delivering cross-cutting environmental, social and economic benefits; and

10. Taking stock of progress in implementing this Declaration at COP32 and towards 2030, in cooperation with the Global Action Drive, and inviting other governments and partners to join.