

**Statement by  
David Cooper  
Acting Executive Secretary of the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity  
International Day of Awareness of Food Loss and Waste  
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“Reducing food loss and waste: Taking Action to Transform Food Systems”**

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Currently, almost a third of food produced is wasted, through post-harvest losses on farm and in the supply chain as well as through waste in homes, shops and restaurants.

At the same time, some 700 million people go hungry and many more suffer malnutrition, while agricultural and food systems have major impacts on the environment, contributing to biodiversity loss and climate change, including through land use change, overfishing and overharvesting and pollution.

Both the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (in its Target 12.3) and the [Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework](#) (in its [Target 16](#)) call for halving global food waste by 2030. Achieving these targets will contribute to food security while reducing negative impacts on the environment.

Implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework requires a whole-of-government, whole-of-society approach. Everyone must do their part: farmers, traders, retailers, and consumers. Businesses in the food sector have the responsibility to identify and disclose their impacts on biodiversity and to progressively reduce their negative impacts, and to provide information to enable sustainable choices by consumers. Governments have the responsibility to take measures to promote reductions in food waste, including through appropriate regulations and public information.

It is time to move from agreement to action. Through increased awareness and collective action, each one of us can help tackle hunger and shape a sustainable future here on Earth.