



# **Voluntary Code of Conduct for Food Loss and Waste Reduction**

by

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**Presented at**

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# FAO Committee on Agriculture (COAG) Request

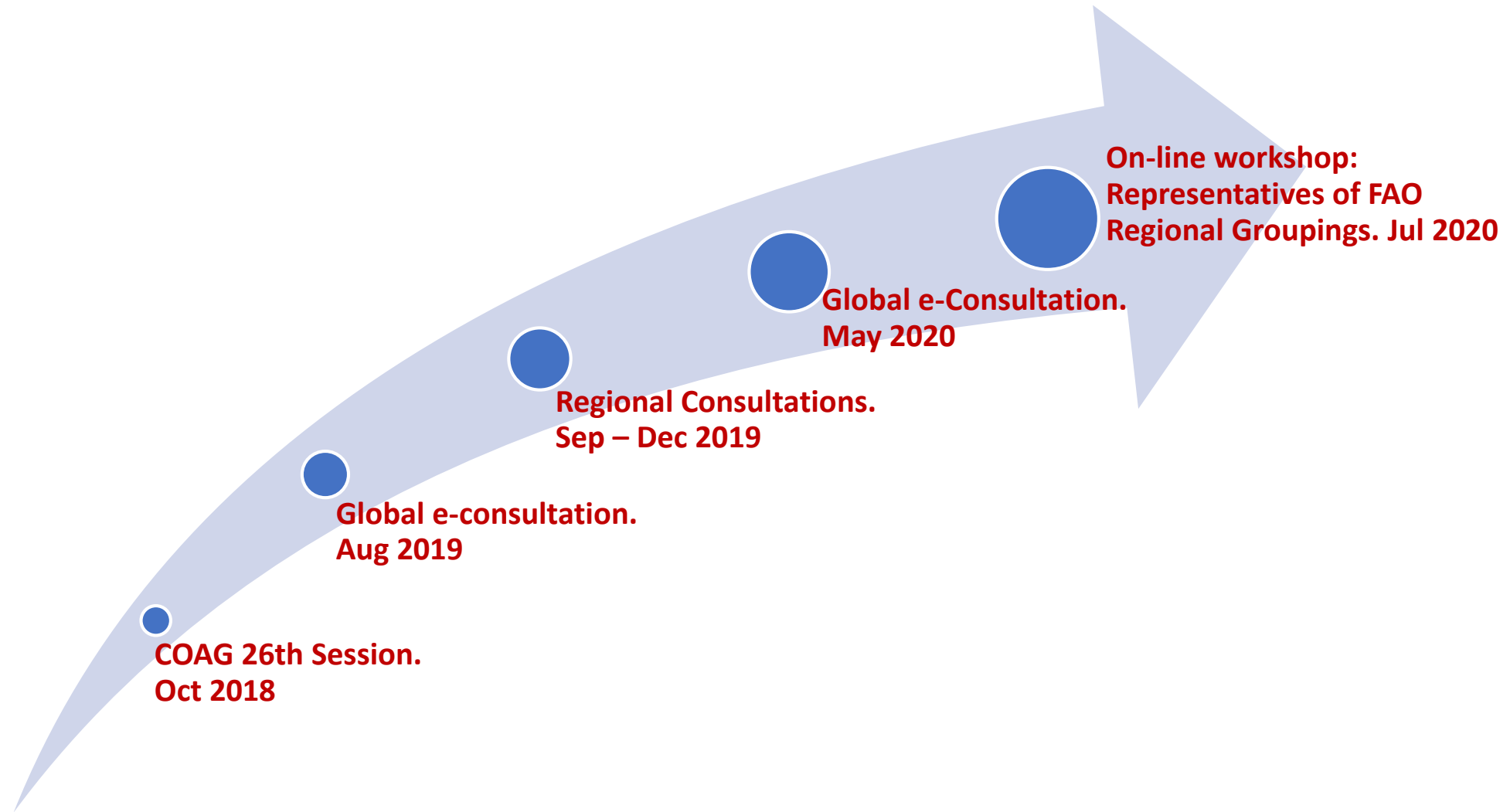
## 26th Session of COAG in October 2018

The Committee:

*“Requested FAO, subject to resource availability, to take the lead in collaboration with relevant actors to develop voluntary codes of conduct on food loss and food waste to be submitted to the next session of COAG (COAG 27)”*



# Development of First Draft





# Objectives of the Code of Conduct

- Internationally recognized, nationally adaptable guiding principles and standards for responsible practices for food loss and waste (FLW) reduction.
- Framework for strategies, policies, institutions, legislation and programmes on FLW reduction.
- Guidance against which different stakeholders can gauge the actions they take to reduce FLW.
- Facilitate joint action, harmonization of approaches and assessment of progress.



# Nature of the Code of Conduct

- Voluntary and legally non-binding.
- Interpreted and applied consistent with existing obligations under national and international law and commitments under applicable regional and international instruments.
- Does not limit or undermine any legal obligations to which countries may be subject under international law.
- Global in scope. May be used by all countries and regions at all stages of economic development to reduce FLW in all sectors.



# Structure of the document

- Introductory section
- Article 1. Objective, nature , scope and target audience
- Article 2. Terms and definitions
- Article 3. Guiding principles
- Article 4. Actions to address secondary and systemic causes of FLW
- Article 5. Practices and investments to address direct causes of FLW
- Article 6. Implementation, monitoring and evaluation



# COAG 27 and Next Steps

In October 2020, the 27th Session of COAG:

- Welcomed the proposed Code of Conduct;
- Noted the importance of the Code in FLW reduction globally, sustainable food systems development and achieving the SDGs, in particular SDG target 12.3;
- Provided comments, queries and suggestions for improvement to the document;
- Requested FAO to prepare a revised document in consultation with Members and under the guidance of the COAG Bureau.



# COAG 27 and Next Steps

- FAO prepared a revised version on the basis of Members comments and suggestions:
  - ✓ Written submissions by e-mail: 7 December 2020 to 18 January 2021
  - ✓ Virtual consultation: 12 to 13 January 2021
- Final virtual consultation for Members to agree on final text: 15 to 17 March 2021 – to be continued
- Once Members agree on the text, submission to the 42nd Session of the **FAO Conference in June 2021** for endorsement





# What is expected of different stakeholders after endorsement

- Governmental actors (national, subnational and municipal authorities, and parliamentarians):
  - ✓ take the lead in promoting the use of the Code of Conduct;
  - ✓ bring the Code of Conduct to the attention of all stakeholders it refers to.
- Development agencies, international financial institutions and regional organizations:
  - ✓ support Governments to implement the Code of Conduct: technical cooperation, financial assistance, capacity development, knowledge sharing and exchange of experiences, policy assistance and transfer of technology.



# What is expected of different stakeholders after endorsement

## ■ FAO:

- ✓ Support Governments in the implementation of the Code of Conduct;
- ✓ Monitor the application and implementation of the Code of Conduct and report on progress to COAG;
- ✓ Periodically review relevance and effectiveness of the Code of Conduct and update it when necessary;
- ✓ Prepare supplementary codes of good practice and technical guidelines to permit practical application (e.g. for specific food commodities or regions).



# What is expected of different stakeholders after endorsement

- Food supply chain actors: adhere to the applicable parts and spirit of the Code of Conduct in their activities.
- Civil society organizations with relevance to food systems: integrate the guidelines in the Code of Conduct in their policies and programmes and advocate for use of the Code of Conduct.
- Academic and research institutions: integrate the guidelines into their activities, and facilitate knowledge exchange and skills development to contribute to FLW reduction.