



## Template for non-Party stakeholders' inputs for the Talanoa Dialogue

### Question 3 - How do we get there?

*This template is meant to guide non-Party stakeholders (organization(s), coalition(s), initiative(s) and/or sector(s) etc.) in providing inputs that are relevant and impactful to the Talanoa Dialogue process. Using such the template is not mandatory, however, the High-level Champions encourage non-Party stakeholders to use such a structure to facilitate capturing and highlighting the key messages across the three questions.*

#### How do we get there?

*Ways in which the UN Climate Change process can help you achieve your vision and goals, and how your actions can help in expediting sustainable transitions to climate neutral societies [Maximum 300 words]*

Food waste is the 3<sup>rd</sup> largest source of GHG emissions, after the USA & China; and reducing food waste was identified by the authors of 'Project Drawdown' as the 3<sup>rd</sup> most effective way to mitigate climate change – coming above both solar power and electric cars! What few people realise however, is that in the developed world, well over half of all food waste takes place in the home. So if we want to seriously tackle climate change then we *\*have\** to tackle the problem of food waste in the home. Sadly to date, the conversation around food waste has focused on food waste at a retail store level, which in many countries accounts for a relatively small part of the problem (less than 5% in the UK).

We would therefore like the UN Climate Change process to highlight the problem of food waste in the home as a major driver of climate change – 1) because food waste is not yet widely recognised for the role it plays in climate change; and 2) because where food waste is acknowledged, it is an *\*extremely\** common misconception that the majority of food waste takes place at a retail store level.

We believe that the UN Climate Change process has a truly unique opportunity to call upon the citizens of the world to take simple, but impactful and engaging steps to mitigate climate change themselves – by sharing their surplus food in their homes rather than throwing it away. With the advent of modern technology including OLIO – the world's only neighbour to neighbour food sharing app, with 700,000 users – there is no longer any reason for good food to end up in the bin. Our vision is therefore of a world where 1 billion+ citizens are connected to *\*share\** our most precious resource – food – rather than throw it away.

*Concrete solutions that have been realized while implementing your commitments, including lessons learnt from success stories and challenges, and case studies that are in line with the 1.5/2 degrees' goal and can support the Parties in achieving their NDC goals, enable higher ambition and inspire engagement of other non-state actors [Maximum 300 words]*

To date we have discovered the following:

- Most people assume that retailers generate the majority of food waste – whereas in reality it is us as individuals. Why? Because a typical retail store throws away 0.5-1% of their turnover, in contrast to the average UK family who throws away 22% of their weekly shop, worth £800 p.a. (WRAP).



- Whilst the idea of sharing food with neighbours via an app seems ‘novel’ and ‘innovative’, actually it is drawing on something profoundly human – the joy of sharing, and the dislike of throwing food away. Our research shows that 1 in 3 people are “physically pained” throwing away good food, and yet they are having to on a daily/weekly basis because there has been no innovation since the rubbish bin. Similarly, humans have been sharing food for over 2 million years and it has played a critical role in our successful evolution, but it is a skill we’ve forgotten in the past 50 years.
- Linked to the above, we’ve discovered the power of a grassroots growth model. We have 25,000 volunteers who have reached out to offer to help spread the word about OLIO/food waste in their local community and/or redistribute unsold food. This provides a cost effective and localised way to grow. And there are many other examples of community oriented initiatives solving the twin problems of food waste and hunger e.g. Fareshare, FoodCycle
- In our experience demand for surplus food is almost insatiable – half of all listings are requested within 2 hours, and many within minutes!
- A people powered digital solution is extremely scalable and is the most effective way to tackle ‘micro-quantities’ of surplus food, which is where the majority of waste lies.

*Collaboration models with other stakeholders and, in particular, between non-Party stakeholders, national governments and the UN Climate Change process that have been successful in helping you, or can help you, achieve your commitments [Maximum 300 words]*

We have formed some successful partnerships to date:

- 1) Food businesses – food retailers and events businesses are using OLIO’s trained volunteers (Food Waste Heroes) to enable them to have zero food waste stores/locations. How it works is that our volunteers are put onto a rota to support a particular location (NB the volunteers live near the location) and they go to the store at the end of the day, collect the unsold food, take it home, photograph it, add it to the app and then redistribute it to their OLIO neighbours who pop round and pick it up. We’re supporting over 300 locations with 2,500 volunteers and are growing this very rapidly
- 2) Charities – We’ve partnered with the UK’s leading charities to ‘co-pitch’ our food redistribution solution alongside theirs. Charities also promote OLIO to their end users, as well as sometimes source, or redistribute food via the OLIO app
- 3) Governments – Approximately 20 Local Authorities in the UK are promoting the OLIO app to their citizens as 1/3 of all municipal waste of food waste, which across the UK costs Local Authorities £1 billion p.a. to dispose of.
- 4) Universities – We have partnered with several UK & US universities to analyse our data using sophisticated techniques to derive insights about our network model
- 5) Media – We have received over 500 pieces of media, and whenever OLIO is featured on TV in particular, we receive thousands of signups per minute!

*Opportunities to further scale up action and means to address barriers that can enable even further action by non-Party stakeholders based on the actions you have taken to implement your commitments. (“We’ve made progress and have made new commitments as described above. This is what I need from national governments, other non-*



*Party stakeholders and the UN Climate Change process to take even further action...”) [Maximum 200 words for each item below]:*

- *Policy levers*

- Introduce a new level within the global food waste hierarchy – at present the hierarchy goes straight from ‘feeding vulnerable people’, to ‘feeding animals’. However in a country like the UK, the charitable sector – once fully scaled up – will only be able to absorb approx. 25% of all food waste generated by businesses, leaving 75% unaccounted for. Rather than sending that 75% off to feed animals, we believe that a new level called ‘Feeding the community’ should be introduced before ‘Feeding animals’ (NB there are many, many people in local communities who are vulnerable and in need and what they \*love\* about a community oriented solution is that it has no stigma)
- Encourage Governments to enshrine the SDG 12.3 into national legislature i.e. as a legally binding target
- Encourage Governments to implement tax rebates to businesses that redistribute unsold/unserved food
- Encourage Governments to remove Best Before dates, and keep just the health & safety date i.e. the Use By date, to avoid consumer confusion over date labelling
- Encourage Governments to promote tech solutions such as OLIO to their citizens
- Consider introducing a global “Good Samaritan Law” which conclusively removes concerns from food donors (individuals or businesses) about liability when donating food

- *Collaboration/cooperation opportunities*

We would like the UN Climate Change Process to draw greater attention to solutions which are inherently digital and scalable AND empowering to individual citizens. We profoundly believe that if we want to stand any chance of mitigating climate change, then each and every one of us needs to get involved.

- *Lessons learned based on the experience and progress so far*

- Government action, particularly in the UK, has been extremely weak around food waste so far. We need the UN Climate Change Process to encourage all Governments to really step up and have a national food waste (and waste more broadly) strategy. Governments have resources and routes to market that a startup can never achieve. If we want to solve this problem we have to pool resources and collaborate

- *Public and private financing models*

Access to Government grants to date has proven a slow and painful process. PLUS in the area of food waste specifically, too often money is ring-fenced for charities only and sadly there isn’t any evidence of charities scaling rapidly on a global level. Therefore the power of businesses to solve this problem



must not be overlooked – it IS possible for a business to do good AND have a sustainable business model

- *Impact on non-Party stakeholders if these actions by national level governments and the UN Climate Change process and other opportunities are implemented and how much further they could go*

If a Government or group of Governments were serious about tackling food waste in their country, and actively promoted/supported/worked with businesses tackling the problem of food waste in the home, then there is no reason to believe that we couldn't solve approximately one half of the 3<sup>rd</sup> largest driver of climate change! And..... in the process build more resilient local communities, and enable a decreased burden on the planet as the global population expands to 10 billion people by 2050.