**Taipei HLPD FLW - Wrap-Up Session Statement - June 14, 2018**

**Dear Honorable Guests and Delegates, Ladies and Gentleman,**

We hope you have enjoyed your first day at our policy dialogue. Thank you all again for traveling to Taipei, from near and far. We have had a long, but very productive day.

Let us review what we have discussed today. There are so many moving parts when building a sustainable APEC food system. I am glad that we have discovered a number of key themes.

One overarching way to think about these themes is to fit them under the umbrella of **prioritization**. Building a sustainable food system is a pressing issue for the APEC region. And the changes and risks are fast approaching. We should determine where to focus our efforts for maximum impact. So let’s target where we can act first to prevent problems later.

**First,** it is interesting that almost every speaker raised the issue of data collection. While some of our speakers have worked on food loss and waste issues for decades, the quality and volume of data is still low. This concern was consistent. We should double our efforts to implement or develop new measurement in APEC. We have to understand our problem before we begin to solve it.

**Second,** adequate policy support was another consistent theme. Having our governments support our efforts is key. There are many ways to think about this issue, but in the spirit of moving decisively, efficiently, and effectively, we should consider solutions which are easy first steps. This will help us build momentum, gain government buy-in, and get the ball rolling.

For example, governments hold a unique position for creating effective incentives or removing legal barriers to faster success. Dr. Golan discussed one such actionable step. We can change our laws to reduce liabilities for food donations. By reducing such risks, we can incentivize private stakeholders to act in the interest of us all. We should think of ways to better push our governments, via media coverage or celebrity campaigns for example, to act on the pressing and timely issue of food loss and waste.

Continuing in this vein, we come to our **third** theme. This theme is in the title of our dialogue: our speakers today express continuing faith in the importance of public private partnership. By bringing government into direct engagement with private actors, we can increase the effective reach of the government while forging deeper changes in our corporate and private cultures. We cannot lead by force, but we can help consumers and stakeholders change their own thinking from within.

Dr. Timmermans raised the importance of changing behavior. The REFRESH project in the EU shows that there are ways to research effective influence on consumers. We can also explore these methods towards changing our APEC culture to better reduce food loss and waste.

**Fourth,** we must also change our own thinking. The food loss and waste issue was expressed by our esteemed speakers today as an interdisciplinary and system-wide issue. So, to return to this idea of prioritization, we must move with purpose and due speed.

Let us first continue our efforts to measure adequate data. Second, let us use that data to push for greater government investment and involvement. Third, let us use greater government investment to bring the public into conversation and cooperation with the private. And finally, let us remember that we need to work across sectors, across disciplines, and across expertise to solve our problems.

We should have our solutions build on one another and be aware of one another. From the audience, Malaysia and Mexico both reminded how we can avoid double work. Being transparent and in constant communication will allow us to discover if our colleagues have already started solving a problem already. In this way, we can continue to move effectively.

Just as we can stop one apple from spoiling the whole harvest, we can start with the solutions we can most effectively implement right now. Let us pursue low-cost, no-regret solutions in the law and in voluntary industry agreements. For example we can consider reforming liability laws to encourage food donation. By solving the obvious wins, we can focus and prioritize on problems of data measurement which we will then use to change greater culture about our food system in APEC.

So by the end of today, we all learn that we have so many areas that are moving at the same time. For now, let’s focus ourselves on getting some rest after a hard-working day. We look forward to seeing you all at the welcome banquet tonight.

We also look forward to tomorrow. We hope that we have built a foundation to stay connected so that we continue to improve the sustainability of our APEC food system.

Thank you!