



CONFERENCE

Forty-fourth Session

Rome, 28 June – 4 July 2025

International Day of Fruits and Vegetables (Draft Resolution)

Extract from the Report of the 176th Session of the Council (Rome, 2-6 December 2024)

20. The Council welcomed the Report of the 29th Session of the Committee on Agriculture (Rome, 30 September – 4 October 2024), and in particular:

[...]

- n) endorsed the draft Conference Resolution on the observance by the United Nations System of an “International Day of Fruits and Vegetables” on 4 March every year, as set out in Appendix D to this Report, for adoption by the 44th Session of the Conference.

Resolution .../2025

International Day of Fruits and Vegetables

THE CONFERENCE,

Recalling that the International Year of Fruits and Vegetables in 2021 successfully highlighted the importance of increased cultivation, availability and consumption of fruits and vegetables for improving human nutrition, food security, and hence achieving the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs);

Recognizing the urgent need to further raise awareness and to promote and facilitate actions towards increased availability, accessibility and consumption of fruits and vegetables in order to achieve the SDGs by 2030;

Affirming that adequate fruit and vegetable consumption is a cornerstone of healthy diets and leads to the prevention of several nutrient deficiencies and non-communicable diseases, and that consuming a variety of fruits and vegetables is key to obtain the health and nutrition benefits they offer;

Recognizing that worldwide fruit and vegetable intake falls short of recommendations and accounts for more than an estimated five million deaths annually;

Recognizing that promoting the sustainable production of fruits and vegetables in a changing climate requires cropping system diversification (including neglected and underutilized species) and offers opportunities to generate income, protect the environment, and create social equity and decent jobs;

Documents can be consulted at www.fao.org

Recognizing women's critical role in household food production, procurement, preparation and child feeding, as well as in production, sale and distribution of locally produced fruits and vegetables;

Recognizing that the development of the fruit and vegetable sector can positively impact income generation especially for smallholders and family farmers, as well as for rural and urban consumers;

Recognizing that fruits and vegetables are highly perishable and suffer high levels of losses and waste when there are no adequate post-harvest services and market linkages;

Acknowledging that strengthening of agrifood systems that includes the important role of fruits and vegetables can support all pillars of sustainability;

Recognizing that the celebration of an International Day of Fruits and Vegetables is an opportunity to promote healthy diets and sustainable production and that it will allow focused attention on global and national level policies to overcome challenges of production, value chains, consumption and losses and waste of these products;

Trusting that such an initiative would establish a platform and encourage actions to promote and implement activities in favour of preserving and sustaining global fruit and vegetable resources, as well as raise awareness of the importance of fruits and vegetables for health and in addressing issues of global concern, including hunger, malnutrition, inequities, poverty and threats to the environment;

Stressing that additional costs of activities arising from the implementation of the International Day of Fruits and Vegetables be met through voluntary contributions, including from the private sector;

Requests the Director-General to present this Resolution to the President of the General Assembly of the United Nations (UNGA) and the President of the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) of the United Nations for informational purposes;

Encourages FAO Member Nations to take the requisite steps to ensure the consideration of the Resolution to observe 4 March as an International Day of Fruits and Vegetables at forthcoming sessions of the UNGA, as appropriate.

(Adopted on ... 2025)