

CHAMPIONS 12.3

Oyun Sanjaasuren's Work to Reduce Food Loss and Waste

Early Beginnings

As an Eisenhower fellow in 2003, Oyun Sanjaasuren was already focused on food loss and waste. In her contribution to the 50th anniversary fellowship publication, she wrote on food loss and waste in her native Mongolia. While early in her career, this essay set a clear tone for her work in the years to come, and helped bring the issue to the forefront before her involvement in politics.

President of UNEA

While serving as the first President of the United Nations Environment Assembly, she consistently worked to reduce food loss and waste through the effective implementation of international agreements. At the Second Session of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA 2) in May 2016, she sought to deliver on the ambitious environmental goals set out in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

She has championed of SDG Target 12.3 in particular – noted in her organization of an official and highly successful [side event](#) on halving global food loss and waste by 2030. Also at UNEA 2, she worked with the Mongolian government to draft and submit a resolution, which was ultimately approved, to the United Nations on waste and chemicals management, which touted the importance of reducing food loss and waste.

Also at UNEA 2, environment ministers from around the world agreed to a resolution calling on governments to implement national food loss and waste reduction programs, participate in efforts to improve food loss and waste measurement, and share technical know-how to advance progress.

Speaker Engagements and Advocacy

Today, she continues to advocate for targets, measurement and action to reduce food loss and waste. As both a keynote speaker and panelist, she has advocated the importance of achieving SDG Target 12.3 from a variety of perspectives. From the United Nations General Assembly to the First Green Business Forum to World Water Week and her position as Chair of the Global Water Partnership, she continues to explain the far-reaching implications of food loss and waste to novel groups and to recruit new actors in the fight against food loss and waste.