

# OFFICIAL FEEDBACK FORM

<b>DIALOGUE DATE</b>	Wednesday, 26 May 2021 14:00 GMT +02:00
<b>DIALOGUE TITLE</b>	Food Justice: Jobs, innovation, and finance at the service of food security
<b>CONVENED BY</b>	Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development
<b>DIALOGUE EVENT PAGE</b>	<a href="https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/12040/">https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/12040/</a>
<b>DIALOGUE TYPE</b>	Independent
<b>GEOGRAPHICAL FOCUS</b>	No borders

The outcomes from a Food Systems Summit Dialogue will be of use in developing the pathway to sustainable food systems within the locality in which they take place. They will be a valuable contribution to the national pathways and also of interest to the different workstreams preparing for the Summit: the Action Tracks, Scientific Groups and Champions as well as for other Dialogues.

# 1. PARTICIPATION

## TOTAL NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS

13

## PARTICIPATION BY AGE RANGE

0-18

19-30

7 31-50

4 51-65

2 66-80

80+

## PARTICIPATION BY GENDER

7 Male

6 Female

Prefer not to say or Other

## NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS IN EACH SECTOR

4 Agriculture/crops  
Fish and aquaculture  
Livestock

1 Agro-forestry  
1 Environment and ecology  
1 Trade and commerce

1 Education  
Communication  
Food processing  
1 Food retail, markets  
Food industry  
Financial Services

Health care  
Nutrition  
1 National or local government  
Utilities  
Industrial  
3 Other

## NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS FROM EACH STAKEHOLDER GROUP

Small/medium enterprise/artisan  
Large national business  
Multi-national corporation  
Small-scale farmer  
Medium-scale farmer  
Large-scale farmer  
1 Local Non-Governmental Organization  
5 International Non-Governmental Organization  
Indigenous People  
1 Science and academia

Workers and trade union  
Member of Parliament  
Local authority  
2 Government and national institution  
Regional economic community  
4 United Nations  
International financial institution  
Private Foundation / Partnership / Alliance  
Consumer group  
Other

## 2. PRINCIPLES OF ENGAGEMENT

### HOW DID YOU ORGANIZE THE DIALOGUE SO THAT THE PRINCIPLES WERE INCORPORATED, REINFORCED AND ENHANCED?

Act with urgency: participants were asked to propose concrete socio-economic measures and policy changes required to harness the capacities of agri-labor forces, emerging technologies and finance to promote dignity and justice across all stages of food systems, in light of the unique opportunity for radical change implied by the COVID-19 pandemic. Be respectful: The dialogue convened people of diverse disciplines and faith backgrounds. It brought hard science and ethical/religious perspectives together in a complementary and respectful fashion. Both sides spoke of the realities of those left behind and excluded from today's food systems, and highlighted the need for the latter's participation and leadership in promoting the transition. Embrace multi-stakeholder inclusivity: participants represented UN organizations, academia and international think tanks, public institutions, and local non-governmental organizations. The diversity of the panel symbolized the need for inter-sectoral dialogue and collaboration to combine research and action to ensure inclusivity and sustainability. Complement the work of others: The dialogue was organized in a way that the speakers in each session gave an overview of the flaws/challenges of agri-food systems that disproportionately affect workers (eg. insufficient labor protections and exploitation) and that are amplified by the current application of technologies and finance (eg. pollution and financial speculation in food prices). Guided by ethical reflections about applying existing tools to the service of the common good, participants articulated the actions and policies necessary to reformulate the use of technology and finance so that they may better serve human dignity and the care for the environment. Finally, we showcased testimonies that exemplified where these actions are being taken today.

### HOW DID YOUR DIALOGUE REFLECT SPECIFIC ASPECTS OF THE PRINCIPLES?

Commit to the summit: participants identified challenges/shortcomings in today's food systems and offered concrete policy proposals to rebuild food systems in a more resilient, sustainable and inclusive way (action-oriented). Proposals were complemented with real-life testimonies of local NGOs and social service workers involved in food systems in low and middle-income countries that highlighted the differential vulnerability of women to food insecurity and "best practices" that are leading this change today (people-centred). Recognize complexity: the dialogues convened experts from multiple sectors and sought to analyse present-day food systems in light of their origins and consequences on the environment, economics, peace and health. The objective was to come up with holistic proposals for food systems that neutralize tradeoffs between feeding the world and destroying the environment. Build trust: The Vatican COVID-19 Commission acted a convenor, opening a space for a dialogue between faith and science. Under the framework of a UN event, it responded to the Holy Father's mandate of working with others to solve the structural issues underlying current food systems and regenerate a world in which there is food for all.

### DO YOU HAVE ADVICE FOR OTHER DIALOGUE CONVENORS ABOUT APPRECIATING THE PRINCIPLES OF ENGAGEMENT?

# 3. METHOD

The outcomes of a Dialogue are influenced by the method that is used.

**DID YOU USE THE SAME METHOD AS RECOMMENDED BY THE CONVENORS REFERENCE MANUAL?**

Yes

No

Initial proposal to host a series of independent dialogues inspired by the levers of change was born from conversations between the Vatican COVID-19 Commission, the Permanent Observer Mission of the Holy See and the UNFSS Organizing Committee Drafting of an initial concept note, responding to the WHAT, WHY, HOW of the event. Definition of the theme of the dialogue around the levers of change: human rights, finance and technology Definition of the unique framing that the conveners of the dialogue can bring: food justice as a moral issue and promoting an integral approach to the transformation of food systems as a whole. Definition of the unique contribution that the conveners of the dialogue can bring: leveraging the convening power of the Church to create space for interdisciplinary dialogue in light of the principles of Catholic Social Teaching and highlighting the voices of the most vulnerable Selection of Dialogue Curators, convening dialogue facilitators and participants (partnerships) Drafting the agenda: determining discussion topics, based on the profile of invited participants Confirmation of invited speakers and of the final program Announcing the dialogue on UNFSS page and on Holy See press Office Drafting participants brief including: i) introduction to the dialogue series so that participants could have a clear idea of the process they were invited into, ii) technical background - challenges and opportunities surrounding dignified labor and the ethical use of technology and finance in food systems (answering the question of why the theme is important), iii) explaining the framing of the discussion and the position of the Church on this issue, iv) objective of the dialogue (stimulate a dialogue, advance proposals and share experiences of technology and finance applied to resilient and sustainable food systems, v) guidelines for participants, vi) common set of questions to which the different disciplines represented in the panel contributed to so that they could each complement their viewpoints. Participants briefing session – meeting led by Dialogue curator with participants to exchange ideas and coordinate/ complement the key messages conveyed, and set the “rules” of the dialogue (respecting time, other participants). Final outline of the dialogue discussions sent to participants and final brief prior to the event. Participants appreciated this methodology as they felt supported throughout the process. Dialogue – dialogue facilitators ensured participants respected the time allotted so that all could have a chance to be heard. They collected the key messages and then guided participants in the dialogue. Their questions encouraged participants to provide forward-looking, action-oriented answers and proposals.

# 4. DIALOGUE FOCUS & OUTCOMES

## MAJOR FOCUS

In light of the "human rights, finance and technology" levers of change, this dialogue emphasized the importance of dignified work, finance and innovation in rebuilding sustainable food systems in the post-COVID future and how they can be effectively used in a way that serves everyone equally.

The COVID-19 pandemic has amplified pre existing structural injustices in global labour and financial markets, that have made some better capable than others to navigate the pandemic. According to the latest Oxfam report, while hundreds of millions of jobs have been lost since the start of the pandemic - with direct consequences on access to food and nutrition -, by the end of 2020 stock market activity had increased the collective wealth of the world's billionaires by \$3.9 trillion. The 10 richest billionaires in the world witnessed an increase of \$540 billion in their collective wealth; a figure exceeding the amount necessary to guarantee universal access to COVID-19 vaccines and food security. Moreover, greenhouse gas emissions continued to increase throughout 2020, determined to be the warmest year on record globally, thereby threatening the integrity of ecosystems and their capacity to sustain agri-food systems in the future. As environmental and social disparities are more evident than ever, there is an urgent need to find new ways of re-articulating and re-building food systems to become more resilient, inclusive, and sustainable. When employed in the right way, innovation and finance can be essential tools for developing models of economically-viable food production, capable of recognizing farmers' rights, strengthening supply chains and ensuring the integrity of ecosystems for future generations.

While the Church rejoices in the capacity of technological innovations to serve the common good as they are the fruits of God-given talents and creativity. "Technology has remedied countless evils which used to harm and limit human beings. How can we not feel gratitude and appreciation for this progress [...]?" (Laudato Si', 102-103). Moreover, it embraces finance as an "instrument directed towards improved wealth creation and development" (Caritas in Veritate, 65) by connecting those with innovative ideas to serve the common good, with those with the resources to bring them to life. Applied to food systems, this entails ensuring equitable access to financial services for food producers to enhance food security and food justice, while also nurturing innovations that are designed and used in a way that cares for our common home and respects human dignity, of which labour is an essential component. "All this calls for an alternative way of thinking. [...] if we accept the great principle that there are rights born of our inalienable human dignity [including the right to food and nutrition: Fratelli Tutti, 189], we can rise to the challenge of envisaging a new humanity. We can aspire to a world that provides land, housing and work for all." (Fratelli Tutti, 127).

Therefore, the objective of this dialogue was to listen and share experiences on the role of dignified work, finance and innovation in ensuring fair and sustainable food systems, while addressing the need for a new development paradigm that could guide their application and use in favor of regenerative models of food production.

### ACTION TRACKS

- ✓ Action Track 1: Ensure access to safe and nutritious food for all
- Action Track 2: Shift to sustainable consumption patterns
- ✓ Action Track 3: Boost nature-positive production
- Action Track 4: Advance equitable livelihoods
- ✓ Action Track 5: Build resilience to vulnerabilities, shocks and stress

### KEYWORDS

- ✓ Finance
- ✓ Innovation
- ✓ Human rights
- Women & Youth Empowerment
- ✓ Policy
- Data & Evidence
- ✓ Governance
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## MAIN FINDINGS

The first session focused on the challenges and opportunities specific to agricultural workers across the world. Mons. Robert Vitillo, General Secretary of the International Catholic Migration Commission (ICMC), began with an analysis of the fragility of food systems, amplified by the pandemic, and the real consequences these have on the people at every stage of the food system. He elevated solidarity, subsidiarity, equity, and the respect for human dignity as essential pillars to guide international action towards resilient food systems, starting from the enhancement of local food production to ensure greater availability and affordability of food and youth engagement programs to integrate future generations into food systems, based on a renewed set of values. Dr. Maurizio Martina, Deputy Director of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), followed and spoke of the need to re-value agricultural labor. In order to ensure adequate remuneration for agricultural workers and combat exploitation in food systems, states and public institutions need to assume heightened regulatory responsibilities, through stronger and more targeted policies, to regulate market competition and ensure equitable prices of final food products. The panel was closed by Ms. Harriet Cynthia Nakasi, Executive Director of the Advocacy Coalition for Sustainable Agriculture (ACSA), who gave an overview of food systems in Uganda and ongoing work by grassroots advocacy groups in support of smallholder farmers (supporting local innovation, guaranteeing access to land and financial resources, etc.).

The second session was centred around how to apply emerging technologies and innovations to transform food systems in a way that benefits all and leaves no one behind. Dr. Esben Larsen, fellow in Food, Forests, and Water Program, World Resources Institute (WRI) proposed; i) a global research and innovation pact between the world's largest economies to conduct research and innovate so as to improve conditions in Global South and promote sustainable practices in the Global North, ii) guarantee the Global South real access to technology, and iii) increase opportunities for vocational training in agri-food production to equip workers to optimise the use of available technologies. Faith communities can play a special role in providing thought leadership and convening decision-makers to employ available technologies and listen to local knowledge to accelerate concrete action towards resilient, inclusive and sustainable food systems. Dr. Ismahane Elouafi, Chief Scientist at the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), thereafter stated that technology and innovation can enable the elimination of world hunger, while staying within planetary boundaries. She called for institutional innovation along the lines of a lifecycle approach, integrated policy and local empowerment. In order to minimize trade-offs between ensuring universal access to food and caring for our common home, multi-stakeholder dialogue, coordination across sectors and among policy arenas are required to articulate concrete and holistic measures capable of rebuilding food systems from the grassroots-level, up. She praised the centrality of human dignity, fairness and justice in the webinar, as they are often absent in global dialogues on the topic. Finally, Bishop Paul Tighe, Secretary of the Pontifical Council for Culture urged the adoption of a systemic approach to technology, capable of recognizing its impacts on social and natural ecosystems. Technology, such as artificial intelligence and big data, can help achieve a more nuanced judgement of how the use of technological innovations impact food systems as a whole by constructing data sets that comprise diverse disciplines, wisdoms and local knowledge. The adoption of this approach at global level can provide the necessary framework for local initiatives to thrive and promote an awareness of individual participation and responsibilities in food systems. The panel was closed by Mr. Houman Haddad, Head of Emerging Technologies at World Food Programme (WFP), who presented WFP's Building Blocks project, which employs blockchain technology to coordinate humanitarian aid and food assistance to Rohingya and Syrian refugees.

Maximo Torero, Chief Economist at the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) opened the session with an overview of the state of global food insecurity and the extent to which the COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated pre-existing fragilities and inequalities. He called for a more concise and targeted destination of COVID-19 recovery funds to solve the urgent food crisis while laying the foundations for a long-term transformation of global financial architectures so that they may sustain resilient and inclusive food systems. Jeanne-Maureen Jorand, Head of Food Sovereignty and Climate Advocacy Unit, CCFD-Terre Solidaire stated the need to revisit global and local governance structures to truly recognize food security as a fundamental human right and empower local communities as key drivers of change. Finally, Sr. Helen Alford outlined the role and responsibility of the Church in guiding international debates towards the common good. The universal church must be active in mobilizing its resources to connect COVID-19 recovery plans with the people who need support, and enrich global discussions with values that can promote systemic change towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals once and for all. The panel was closed with success stories of targeted financing for agroecology projects.

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## OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 1/3

- 1) Need to enhance local food systems to ensure greater availability and affordability of food
- 2) Need for more youth engagement programs
- 3) Need for stronger and more targeted policies to regulate market competition and ensure equitable prices of final food products

### ACTION TRACKS

- Action Track 1: Ensure access to safe and nutritious food for all
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## OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 2/3

- 1) Need for a global research and innovation pact between the world's largest economies to conduct research and innovate so as to improve conditions in Global South and promote sustainable practices in the Global North
- 2) Collaborative political action to guarantee the Global South real access to technology
- 3) Increase opportunities for vocational training in agri-food production to equip workers to optimise the use of available technologies.
- 4) Institutional innovation along the lines of a lifecycle approach, integrated policy and local empowerment
- 5) Multi-stakeholder dialogue, coordination across sectors and among policy arenas are required to articulate concrete and holistic measures capable of rebuilding food systems from the grassroots-level, up
- 6) Technology, such as artificial intelligence and big data, can help achieve a more nuanced judgement of how the use of technological innovations impact food systems as a whole by constructing data sets that comprise diverse disciplines, wisdoms and local knowledge

### ACTION TRACKS

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## OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 3/3

- 1) More concise and targeted destination of COVID-19 recovery funds to solve the urgent food crisis while laying the foundations for a long-term transformation of global financial architectures so that they may sustain resilient and inclusive food systems.
- 2) Renew recognition of food security as a fundamental human right and empower local communities as key drivers of change
- 3) Universal church must be active in mobilizing its resources to connect COVID-19 recovery plans with the people who need support, and enrich global discussions with values that can promote systemic change towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals once and for all

### ACTION TRACKS

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## **AREAS OF DIVERGENCE**

### **ACTION TRACKS**

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### **KEYWORDS**

- |  |  |
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| <input type="checkbox"/> Finance                   | <input type="checkbox"/> Policy                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Innovation                | <input type="checkbox"/> Data & Evidence         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Human rights              | <input type="checkbox"/> Governance              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Women & Youth Empowerment | <input type="checkbox"/> Trade-offs              |
|  | <input type="checkbox"/> Environment and Climate |

# ATTACHMENTS AND RELEVANT LINKS

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## RELEVANT LINKS

- **Food Justice: Jobs, Innovation, and finance at the service of food justice**  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XsCLjyh\\_TDQ](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XsCLjyh_TDQ)