

OFFICIAL FEEDBACK FORM

DIALOGUE DATE	Thursday, 6 May 2021 16:00 GMT +02:00
DIALOGUE TITLE	City Dialogue Geneva and Lausanne
CONVENED BY	The Delegate of the Federal Council for the 2030 Agenda, Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (FDFA), and the Federal Office for Agriculture (FOAG)
DIALOGUE EVENT PAGE	https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/13513/
DIALOGUE TYPE	Member State
GEOGRAPHICAL FOCUS	Switzerland

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

33

PARTICIPATION BY AGE RANGE

0 0-18

2 19-30

18 31-50

13 51-65

0 66-80

0 80+

PARTICIPATION BY GENDER

14 Male

19 Female

0 Prefer not to say or Other

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS IN EACH SECTOR

5 Agriculture/crops

0 Fish and aquaculture

2 Livestock

0 Agro-forestry

2 Environment and ecology

0 Trade and commerce

3 Education

2 Communication

0 Food processing

1 Food retail, markets

1 Food industry

0 Financial Services

9 Health care

0 Nutrition

7 National or local government

0 Utilities

0 Industrial

10 Other

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS FROM EACH STAKEHOLDER GROUP

2 Small/medium enterprise/artisan

1 Large national business

0 Multi-national corporation

7 Small-scale farmer

0 Medium-scale farmer

0 Large-scale farmer

6 Local Non-Governmental Organization

2 International Non-Governmental Organization

0 Indigenous People

3 Science and academia

0 Workers and trade union

0 Member of Parliament

3 Local authority

4 Government and national institution

2 Regional economic community

1 United Nations

0 International financial institution

1 Private Foundation / Partnership / Alliance

1 Consumer group

0 Other

2. PRINCIPLES OF ENGAGEMENT

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

The Geneva/Lausanne Food System Dialogue was held virtually on the 6th of May 2021 as the first of three city dialogues conducted in the frame of the Swiss National Food Systems Dialogue. It gathered 33 representatives from many sectors along the food value chains. During this event, the participants took part in three different break-out GROUP DISCUSSIONS on city relevant topics focusing on food systems transformation. These group discussions constituted the core of the event. The diverse life and work experiences, expertise and opinions of participants stimulated lively interactions and DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVES. Each participant was allocated to a discussion group prior to the event. The group discussions brought together a wide range of stakeholders and nominated facilitators allowed for a CONSTRUCTIVE EXCHANGE. The Chatham house rule applied to all the discussions in the break-out groups, to create a SAFE SPACE FOR EXCHANGE. In addition, participants were reminded that MUTUAL RESPECT is the basis of a true dialogue, and that it involves listening and openness to different viewpoints. The stakeholders were encouraged to speak out throughout the event and use the chat function for questions and comments during the plenary sessions at the beginning and the end of the event.

HOW DID YOUR DIALOGUE REFLECT SPECIFIC ASPECTS OF THE PRINCIPLES?

To address the different topics through A HOLISTIC APPROACH, MULTI-STAKEHOLDERS GROUP DISCUSSIONS were organized. The topic of the three group discussions were identified and prioritised by the Geneva and Lausanne focal persons out of a list of eight future statements elaborated by the consultative group of the National FSS Dialogue Convenor. The topics discussed in each break-out group were presented as prioritised and city relevant future statements with a time horizon to 2030. Group participants were asked to think of CONCRETE ACTIONS allowing to achieve the statement of their group, bearing in mind potential synergies and trade-offs.

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

N/A

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

4. DIALOGUE FOCUS & OUTCOMES

MAJOR FOCUS

The City Dialogue Geneva and Lausanne is part of the second stage (out of three) of the Swiss National Food Systems Summit Dialogue, convened by the Delegate of the Federal Council for the 2030 Agenda of the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (FDFA) and curated by the Federal Office for Agriculture (FOAG). The 1st national food systems dialogue (23 March 2021) involved food systems stakeholders at national level and discussed 8 future statements developed on the basis of the five Action Tracks of the Food Systems Summit, and of the food systems approach of the 2030 Sustainable Development Strategy put out for public consultation by the Swiss Federal Council, the executive branch of the federal government, until 4 February 2021, as well as of other strategies of the Federal Council. The 2nd round of dialogues focused on context-specific discussions in selected cities representing three linguistic regions, namely Zurich/Basel (German) Geneva/Lausanne (French) and Bellinzona (Italian). The aim of the City Dialogues was to take up current key topics of the cities related to sustainable food systems and to involve a broad range of stakeholders to discuss concrete, feasible measures in these topics. The cities of Geneva and Lausanne proposed the following priority TOPICS for the dialogue:

1. SUSTAINABLE COLLECTIVE CATERING,
2. CONSUMERS AWARENESS and
3. FOOD POLICIES.

These topics were formulated as future statements, describing an ambitious situation to be realized within ten years and serving as a common frame for the discussion group. Participants were asked to think of CONCRETE ACTIONS leading to achieve the future statements, by bearing in mind the synergies and trade-offs inherent to the anticipated transformation. These discussions enable representatives to dress a comprehensive exploration of their local food systems and to suggest some solutions, policies, or joint actions.

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
- ✓ Trade-offs
- ✓ Environment and Climate

MAIN FINDINGS

The GROUP DISCUSSIONS allowed all the stakeholders to share and have a constructive exchange, in a cordial atmosphere. The different groups reached the following main results and conclusions: 1. DEFINE A SYSTEMIC FRAMEWORK INTEGRATING CLEAR ENVIRONMENTAL, SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC CRITERIA to strengthen the implementation of sustainable food systems. This framework should embed agriculture, environment, nutrition and the public health interests, synergies, and trade-offs. The strategic frame shall ensure healthy and sustainable food for all by defining desirable diets for Switzerland in the next 30 years, reducing meat consumption and food waste, while improving the sustainability of our food system (e.g. preservation of ecosystems, land and soil, viability of the food system...). 2. The strategic frame shall serve the elaboration of a FEDERAL FOOD POLICY. Such a policy should encourage and allow a financial support to the cantons and municipalities initiatives. The right to healthy and nutritious food at national level should also be included. 3. The elaboration of a federal food policy should be built through a HOLISTIC AND TRANSVERSAL APPROACH, that would include all actors of the Food System. 4. In parallel of new policies, the group discussions addressed the importance of individual responsibility in the transformation of the food system. RAISING AWARENESS is therefore a major focus for both YOUTH AND ADULTS. This awareness must be strengthened through a more widespread access to trainings, clear and fair sustainability rating, and a strengthened producer-consumer relationship. Refocusing on the quality of our food would allow a stronger public health, less waste and an economically stable food system in the long term. 5 The FOOD WASTE REDUCTION is also a crucial step for the transformation towards a sustainable food system. A drastic reduction could be achieved through a JOINT EFFORT OF THE CONSUMER AND THE RESTAURANT OWNERS to prepare smaller portion of raw products.

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OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 1/3

TOPIC 1: SUSTAINABLE COLLECTIVE CATERING: The stakeholders discussed how the SHARE OF LOCAL AND ORGANIC PRODUCTS could be increased and how an EXEMPLARY PURCHASING POLICY for the imported products could be set for the public and private collective catering, through a LEGISLATIVE FRAMEWORK and appropriate FINANCIAL SUPPORT. Participants also discussed current NUTRITIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS.

I. PRIORITY ACTIONS: 1. The participants declared that AN INCREASED COMMUNICATION is essential to extend the impact of the current initiatives aiming at increasing the share of local and organic products. Communicating on success stories and achieved results is crucial to raise awareness among consumers and producers and to enable further implementations. 2. The second action identified was the need for a COORDINATED FRAMEWORK BASED ON A DIALOGUE BETWEEN STAKEHOLDERS. Policies, economic incentives, and penalties should be CONTEXT SPECIFIC MEASURES put in place according to the stakeholder's dialogues. Such a dialogues would IMPROVE THE STAKEHOLDER'S UNDERSTANDING of the complex collective catering system. 3. Collective catering is a difficult environment because budgets depend on several factors (public-private institutions). PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS should ensure a significant FINANCIAL SUPPORT. This increased economic support from the State would allow restaurant owners to make a transition to sustainable sourcing and, consequently, increase demand for the local producers. 4. The possibility of a TAX ON PRODUCTS WITH A HIGHER CO2 impact has been discussed as a complementary and non-confrontational measure. The participants stated that it is crucial to consider the consumers financial situation while showing the 'real cost' of the products to raise awareness and strengthen INDIVIDUAL RESPONSIBILITY. 5. Collective catering should be used to consolidate PUBLIC AWARENESS. Canteen and restaurant owners are actors of change and can influence the PERCEPTION OF A BALANCED AND SUSTAINABLE MENUS (e.g. by preparing them at elementary schools). 6. The public awareness will result in sustainable consumption habits only if it is combined with more TRANSPARENCY. Consumers should have a complete information disclosure on the products they buy and consume to be able to make healthy and sustainable choices. 7. The participants highlighted the need to update and increase information and transparency on NUTRITIONAL STANDARDS. The dietary recommendations (SSN) do not always reflect state of the art nutritional standards and are often misunderstood by the population (in terms of quantity and consumption of meat). 8. A BETTER IDENTIFICATION OF PLANT BASED PROTEINS IN THE FOOD PYRAMID is necessary. Sustainable catering should not be based on the substitution of animal proteins by vegetable proteins, which is not sustainable and represent a financial burden, but by vegetarian cuisine. 9. The menus should be simplified and served in smaller portion to REDUCE FOOD WASTE. Restaurant owners should encourage clients to use "doggy bags" to recover unfinished food. 10. To adapt their menus, dieticians and cooks should receive adequate TRAINING to enhance their skills and knowledge about using more local, organic products. The reduction of animal products, out-of-season vegetables, and highly processed products would limit the overall costs for restaurant owners. 11. Overall, the participants agreed that a HOLISTIC APPROACH including the prices, the supply system and the kitchen is needed.

II. POTENTIAL CHALLENGES: 1. The participants noticed a LACK OF COORDINATED DIRECT INTERVENTION by the state and municipalities (cantons/communes). The challenge is to have FLEXIBLE FOOD SYSTEMS FRAMEWORK/POLICY at a federal level, which allows context specific implementation by each level of decision making (federal, canton, municipality). 2. The collective catering has the power to influence the offer, but the transition period from conventional to sustainable sourcing can be long. The challenge is TO SUPPORT THE REORGANIZATION/ TRANSFORMATION OF THE AGRICULTURAL AND PROCESSING SECTOR to adjust to changing needs by collective catering.

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OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 2/3

TOPIC 2: CONSUMER AWARENESS: Participants discussed about how consumers can be actors of a sustainable food system by buying sustainable, local, and seasonal products and by reducing food waste. Participants also talked about how consumers could have access to healthy and sustainable food and to the relevant information about food and production.

I. PRIORITY ACTIONS:

- The group stated that most of the AWARENESS INCREASE should be achieved through YOUTH EDUCATION. The young generation of consumers can directly bring change in their households. The learning process should include KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS LEARNING, with hands-on activities (guided tastings, nutrition education etc) and experiences in farms, and should be accessible to all. Effort made to help them DISCOVER HEALTHY DISHES should be strengthened.
- ADULT'S KNOWLEDGE AND KNOW-HOW in terms of sustainable cooking should be improved, to establish NEW HABITS of cooking raw products instead of buying processed products. Activities (tastings, cooking) could be accessible to train consumers without being prescriptive.
- BRINGING CONSUMERS AND PRODUCERS TOGETHER is an essential axis to create a dialogue and to increase the value of sustainable food from the consumers perspective. Consumers can go to farms (farm visits, direct sales, etc.) or farmers can come to meet them (urban farms, markets, etc.). This relationship makes the consumers aware of the importance to eat seasonal and non-standardized fruits/vegetables to reduce imported products and food waste.
- FOOD WASTE REDUCTION is a key driver to mitigate climate change. Consumer's knowledge in preparing food from raw products, their purchasing habits of 'non-standardized' products and the understanding about products shelf-life should be improved.
- Once consumers are aware of their individual responsibility, TRANSPARENCY on the origin of food products, production and environmental impact should be accessible. Federal Office of Environment shall provide frame conditions for healthy and sustainable food consumption that prevent misleading "green" marketing ("healthwashing, green washing"). The indication of origin must be improved, also for products supplied to restaurants. The Nutri-Score and the Eco-score are good tools; however, a single system is needed instead of multiple overlapping labels.
- The over-consumption of meat has a proven impact on the environment and health. However, it is often replaced by "ultra-processed" foods whose over-consumption is associated with certain non-communicable diseases. Participants agreed that a REDUCTION OF MEAT consumption should be based on AWARENESS AND VOLUNTARY ACTIONS and meat should not be replaced by processed food.
- Fighting marketing that stimulates buying large quantities of food will contribute to REDUCE FOOD WASTE. In restaurants, we need to change habits; by being able to choose the size of the meals and by having the option to take the unfinished food to go.
- There is a real necessity to establish FAIR PRICES for the stakeholders (producers, consumers, distributors etc). The participants suggested to impose taxes on unhealthy or ultra-processed products and tax revenues could be redistributed to households unable to afford quality food. The question on true cost accounting in setting fair product price was raised, but a consensual answer was not reached.

II. CHALLENGES:

- We need to contextualize Swiss consumption at a global level. A certain proportion of the meat consumed in Switzerland comes from abroad and has a "spill over effect". This important IMPACT OF SWISS CONSUMPTION ABROAD should be considered.
- We need to recognize that not all people have the same level of knowledge, interest or commitment about this issue. We need to bring into the conversation actors closer to the social realities of cities.
- The future food system needs to consider the food insecurity of certain population groups.
- It is interesting to consider the cultural diversity of the different neighbourhoods in terms of food consumption.
- The food supply consists mainly of highly processed foods. This offer needs to adapt with the change of the consumers purchasing habits.

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✓	Women & Youth Empowerment	✓	Trade-offs
		✓	Environment and Climate

OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 3/3

TOPIC 3 : FOOD POLICIES: Participants discussed on developing local agriculture to reduce processing, packaging and transportation and how to support local and regional initiatives on awareness raising, information dissemination and training. Participants also talked about the need for a strong link between production and consumption at the federal level, and more precisely how the Confederation could put in place a comprehensive food policy which embeds agricultural policy and other sectoral policies such as health, food quality, nutrition, protection of resources and the environment, economy, and trade.

I) PRIORITY ACTIONS: 1. Participants agreed that a **NATIONAL COORDINATION** was essential. The work done by the associations (civil society) as well as by the cities must serve as a basis. 2. A Food Policy should address a whole population, and **ALL THE STAKEHOLDERS** should be **INCLUDED** in the **DISCUSSION** and the **ELABORATION**. 2. It is particularly important to involve large retailers, which should have a diverse offer, also of local products, so that the consumer can choose quality products. 4. The stakeholders suggested to organize **INTERSECTORAL MEETINGS/ WORKSHOPS** at the federal level to build overarching policy addressing agriculture, food, health, and economy sectors (e.g. trade, export and import policies). 5. It is crucial to establish a **RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN HEALTH AND FOOD PRODUCTS** to transform production into something that is really needed. 6. The health funding should also be revised, as only 3% of the health care spending are spent on preventive health care. There is a necessity to emphasize the orientation of research in the field of health, particularly on prevention, through research on an adapted diet for instance. 7. Participants also stated that **EDUCATION AND PROMOTION WORK** is crucial to empower consumers. The consumers and the intermediaries need to have access to education and training and a priority needs to be set for the schools - there is a real necessity to train and inform teachers on sustainable food systems. The objective is to restore the appreciation of local products and encourage people to take the time to cook, learn about the products and adapt their consumption (e.g. less but local meat). 8. Empowered consumers require **TRANSPARENCY** to choose sustainable products. Distributors should provide full product declaration through coherent labelling. A food policy could penalise non-conform declaration and regulate its application with the appropriate governance structure. Moreover, transparency can encourage consumers to accept higher price. 9. We must find mechanisms to have **FAIR PRICES** for all the stakeholders. It is a necessity to convince large-scale retailers to pay producers well (fair pricing) and reduce intermediaries. 10. These fair prices should be accompanied with support mechanisms to allow consumers with a limited food budget to consume sustainably produced and healthy foods, as the involvement of consumers is essential to make the policies coherent. 11. It is important to integrate the issue of **FOOD WASTE** by sensitizing value and use of agricultural products (non-standardized products) and by reducing food waste in the shops as well as in the restaurants. 12. The participants expressed that the **SUPPORT/INCENTIVES TO LOCAL INITIATIVES** must be reinforced and broadened. There is the need to set up a system to promote local products at various levels (e.g. access to markets, access to land, training, information, etc.). 13. Finally, the **IMPLEMENTATION OF THE FOOD SECURITY INITIATIVE** is still pending and farmer's role as a food producer should be put at the centre.

II. CHALLENGES: 1. A policy coordination at the federal level may be more **COMPLICATED**, which may take time 2. **LOCAL SENSITIVITIES** are not always identical with the federal level, and a federal policy could not be adapted to what is offered at the local level.

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AREAS OF DIVERGENCE

The GROUP DISCUSSIONS of the workshop gathered 33 representatives, who affirmed their will to contribute to the transformation of cities food systems, without denying nor shifting responsibilities to other stakeholders. Although participants tended to agree on the issues at stake, several challenges and trade-offs were identified:

1. Organic labels can convey information to consumers in a clear and simple way, which make it easier for them to choose products. However, they can be used for products that do not reflect sustainable consumption. This is especially true for imported products or products grown under greenhouse which, despite the organic label, may have a higher CO2 impact/footprint. Product labels lack of full transparency and prevent informed decision making by consumers. It is therefore necessary to adopt an INCLUSIVE PRODUCT DECLARATION POLICY, rendering local products and fair trade more competitive due to informed purchase decisions. 2. Legislative and promotional efforts do not automatically translate into increased consumption of organic products or plant-based proteins. It is impossible to ask farmers to produce them if the demand does not exist or if they compete with imported products. A COORDINATED APPROACH is needed to promote consumption that is local, organic and healthy. 3. THE OBJECTIVES of efforts towards sustainable consumption are sometimes CONTRADICTORY. It is therefore difficult to reconcile the health aspect, eating habits and sustainability to organize efforts with compatible objectives. This is particularly the case for restaurants serving old age homes, which must reconcile habits of certain segments of the population with the consumption and nutritional guidelines and policies. 4. While laws do have the power to drive change in consumption patterns, the lack of legislation should not be an excuse for inaction. Efforts can be made on a VOLUNTARY BASIS and are said to BE MORE EFFECTIVE than any government effort. 5. While participants highlighted the necessity to have more PARTICIPATORY APPROACHES framed by the state, to have more credibility; others questioned the legitimacy of participatory approaches and pictured it as an obstacle.

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ATTACHMENTS AND RELEVANT LINKS

ATTACHMENTS

- **Feedback form - city dialogue Geneva-Lausanne**
https://summitdialogues.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/Rapport_dialogue_SA_-GeneveLausanne_francais_FBA_210506-1.pdf