

OFFICIAL FEEDBACK FORM

DIALOGUE DATE	Tuesday, 18 May 2021 17:00 GMT +02:00
DIALOGUE TITLE	City Dialogue Bellinzona
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/13515/
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

46

PARTICIPATION BY AGE RANGE

0-18

8

19-30

19

31-50

17

51-65

2

66-80

80+

PARTICIPATION BY GENDER

24 Male

21 Female

1 Prefer not to say or Other

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS IN EACH SECTOR

9 Agriculture/crops

Fish and aquaculture

Livestock

Agro-forestry

3 Environment and ecology

4 Trade and commerce

6 Education

2 Communication

3 Food processing

Food retail, markets

0 Food industry

1 Financial Services

1 Health care

Nutrition

5 National or local government

1 Utilities

Industrial

11 Other

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS FROM EACH STAKEHOLDER GROUP

3 Small/medium enterprise/artisan

1 Large national business

1 Multi-national corporation

9 Small-scale farmer

Medium-scale farmer

Large-scale farmer

3 Local Non-Governmental Organization

3 International Non-Governmental Organization

Indigenous People

9 Science and academia

Workers and trade union

Member of Parliament

6 Local authority

3 Government and national institution

1 Regional economic community

United Nations

International financial institution

Private Foundation / Partnership / Alliance

3 Consumer group

4 Other

2. PRINCIPLES OF ENGAGEMENT

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

The City Food System Dialogue of Bellinzona, was held virtually on 18 May 2021. It brought together many different stakeholders of local food systems: producers, consumers, caterers, retailers, charities' and academia members', municipal officials, local political representatives, etc. The core of the event was four breakout group discussions on topics concerning the sustainability of the regional food systems and the ways to transform them. Each group consisted of people having a specific expertise on the topic but also of people with different backgrounds to ensure a wider diversity of perspectives. Each participant in the workshop was allocated to a group prior to the event and all were invited to discuss candidly but always with mutual respect and most importantly, to be open to different points of view. Group works were guided by a facilitator and took place in accordance with Chatham House rule to allow participants to express safely and freely their opinions and come up with bold solutions. The stakeholders were encouraged to be actively engaged in the workshop throughout the event through the chats. Besides the break-out group discussions, participants were invited to submit questions and comments during the plenary sessions.

HOW DID YOUR DIALOGUE REFLECT SPECIFIC ASPECTS OF THE PRINCIPLES?

To explore the challenges of the local food system and outline possible actions to transform it, participants in the City Dialogue were divided in multistakeholder diverse groups. They were asked to discuss statements reflecting an ambitious goal to be reached in 2030 on a specific topic. These statements, elaborated at the federal level for the National Dialogue, were adapted to reflect priorities identified by the City of Bellinzona. Participants were asked to reflect on the obstacles and challenges on the path to achieving the 2030 goals, and put forward concrete solutions. They were also asked to imagine possible synergies and forms of collaboration among different stakeholder that could foster more sustainable local food systems

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

4. DIALOGUE FOCUS & OUTCOMES

MAJOR FOCUS

In preparation for the Food Systems Summit (FSS) in September 2021, Switzerland decided to implement a Multi-Stakeholder Food Systems Summit Dialogue (Fssd) at national level. This Dialogue took place in three stages, from March to June 2021. The City Food systems Dialogue of Bellinzona was part of the second stage which consisted in a series of three dialogues involving 5 cities to discuss solutions at local level. Representatives from all major food systems' stakeholder groups were invited to reflect and propose suggestions and recommendations on 4 topics: 1) Food waste and loss, 2) Sustainable production, 3) Sustainable diets and nutrition, 4) Entrepreneurship, innovation, science, and technology. These topics were chosen by the City of Bellinzona among those identified at national level and discussed during the first stage of Swiss national dialogue. They were formulated as statements of ambition for the city region in 2030. The purpose was to stimulate a discussion on the challenges to be overcome in order to achieve the envisioned goals, to explore concrete solutions and identify necessary trade-offs and possible forms of collaboration among stakeholders.

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

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

MAIN FINDINGS

The discussions across the four groups highlighted some key common points:

- 1) It is important to define what kind of food system a community wants to build: what does make it sustainable, what are the main values and the priorities to be achieved and what the necessary trade-offs among the different sustainability dimensions. This would guide decision-making, awareness raising, and education.
- 2) It is necessary to increase consumers' awareness on the true cost of food: only if people know better how much efforts it takes to produce food, what is the real environmental, economic, and social cost of bringing it to the tables, will they stop wasting and adopt more sustainable eating habits (i.e. buy more seasonal local food and pay more for products with a higher environmental impact)
- 3) Raising awareness in schools on the importance of consuming sustainable product it is key
- 4) A closer relation between consumers and producers can trigger changes at many levels: i.e putting pressure on decision makers to adapt regulations and ensure local farmers a better access to public procurement; defusing certain marketing dynamics that lead to more food waste (such as special offers, aesthetic criteria etc.); shorten the food supply chain allowing producers to improve their revenues
- 5) Innovation in food systems is not necessarily the result of technological progress, but more a shift in thinking and it will be fostered by the creation of new partnerships and networks among producers, academia and consumers willing to exchange information and ideas, thus increasing collective positive impact on the territory.
- 6) Local governments have crucial role to play in promoting the sustainability of the food systems through bold comprehensive policies.
- 7) Micro-enterprises will be the key to future sustainable development, as they are better able to optimize natural resources use and reduce waste. Nevertheless, it is necessary to redefine the relationship between agriculture and the protection of biodiversity in order to allow small-scale producers to maintain the economic sustainability of their farms while respecting the environment.

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KEYWORDS

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OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 1/4

1) FOOD WASTE AND LOSS

In this group stakeholders discussed 1) how to reduce avoidable food waste and curb losses along the food chain 2) how to encourage consumers to acknowledge the environmental cost of food waste and act consequently. Participants agreed that food waste is the results of several causes, therefore single actors do not have the solution and a strong coordinated action to tackle this issue is needed. Nonetheless since a large part of food waste occurs at the household level, to raise awareness and educate consumers is key. At this regard it was highlighted that more transparency on all the food related aspects it is needed. Consumers should know what efforts it takes to produce food, what resources are used in the production, what is the carbon footprint of their groceries shopping, how the value is shared along the food supply chain. At the moment food prices do not reflect the true value of food therefore it is easier to waste it. Thus, increase the price of out of season, imported produce and promote seasonal and local ones can help consumers to buy more consciously, in the meantime reducing food losses for local farmers. Yet, expiry dates are too conservative, consumers should learn to determine when a product is still good for consumption. Finally local authorities have fundamental role to play in fostering education and information on food and bridge the gap between consumer and producer.

During the discussions some concrete solutions were proposed such as

- Introduce a system of double labeling: show on labels not only the price to be paid, but also the price with externalities giving the consumer the choice to pay the real price of food and use the revenues for food waste measures,
 - Find a way to invite consumers to use their senses to assess whether the product is still good (smelling, looking, and tasting) instead of throwing it away just because the expiry date has passed.
 - Introduce a system of compulsory recycling/tax on food waste following the steps of South Korea
 - Create opportunities to increase direct contacts between producers and consumers, so that for instance producers can propose tailored offers on seasonal local food at the weekly market: a way to reduce waste and educate customers.
- Participants also stressed that food retail sector should act in concert to accept less strict aesthetic standards and more flexible contracts with producers involving the purchase of the entire harvest, thus helping to reduce losses in the field. Only through a better dialogue between consumers and producers can a greater awareness of the cost of food waste be achieved. And local policy has an important role to play in fostering this dialogue.

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OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 2/4

2) SUSTAINABLE NUTRITION

In this group stakeholders discussed: 1) how to make people more aware of the importance to adopt healthier and more sustainable diets 2) how to make more sustainable choices available for consumers at a price that includes environmental, social, and economic cost of food. One of the first points raised during the discussion is that to address this complex issue a more systemic and holistic approach is needed: it's not enough to promote local food or raise consumers' awareness, for example, on food waste if the food supply chain is built to make all kind of food available at every moment in huge quantities, thus encouraging the consumption of products with a higher carbon footprint or causing food wastage. This first consideration led participants to underline the importance for a community to define what is a sustainable food system, what are the shared values and the priorities to be pursued: (i.e., should priority be given to better remuneration of producers - resulting in higher prices-or wider access to food?) so that decision-making, awareness raising, and education can be shaped accordingly. Education is crucial to change consumer's behavior but should not be limited to schools. A "continuous" education on food and nutrition issues has been called for because well informed citizens can trigger important changes even at the legislative level (as, for example it happened in the past during a campaign against GMO products). Proximity emerged as key element to enhance the sustainability of nutrition. More local products should be served in schools' canteens, elders' homes and hospitals even if they are more expensive, but implementation of the national law of public procurement at the regional level is too strict, according to participants in the group discussion. Local governments, then, should change regulations to take into greater consideration criteria related to food sustainability rather than price improving access to public procurement for small producers. Greater proximity between consumers and producers was also called for, for example through new tools such as the digital platform connecting farmers with restaurants being tested in the Poschiavo valley.

As regarding price of food, the participants pointed out that currently it does not reflect the true value and costs of food, therefore there is a need to find better ways to take into consideration environmental, medical, and social cost of food production and distribution. One way could be improving the food labeling and certification mechanism and its transparency to avoid corporate green washing but also misleading choices: i.e local food production is not necessarily fair and environmentally friendly.

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OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 3/4

3) Sustainable production

In this group the stakeholders discussed 1) How agricultural sector can reduce its ecological footprint by making more efficient use of local resources preserving biodiversity and animal welfare; 2) how to improve farmers resilience through the promotion of circular economy, short commercial circuits, and synergies with other sectors. During the discussion, some participants highlighted the fact that often citizens are not aware of the efforts local farmers are already making to transform food production (i.e using renewable energy sources, conservation agriculture techniques, etc.) and the importance of their role as consumers to trigger and sustain a wider production shift. Thus, the group suggested to:

- Improve education on food sustainability in schools.
- Encourage supermarkets to promote local and sustainable food, for example through special dedicated offers and/or initiatives such as « local food days », but also through invest part of their revenues to supports local projects
- Enhance possibilities for farmers to produce directly for end customers (public and company canteens, consumer groups, etc.) thus it would be possible for producers to negotiate an appropriate remuneration and for consumers to have a say on the production systems.
- Change local regulation on public procurement because at the moment there are no clear criteria rewarding sustainability in the public procurement law, that's make it very difficult for cities to prioritize local and environmentally friendly food.
- Simply and better regulate labeling standards of food. In Switzerland there are too many labels (30 only for organic products) promoting sustainable consumption and prioritizing different criteria, this can be confusing for consumers.

Another important point raised during group works is that existing legal framework on environmental protection must be adapted to allow producers to comply with sustainability requirements while securing their income. Technological solutions and innovations in cultivation techniques can help the transformation of farms but it is still necessary to invest in their improvement and dissemination

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KEYWORDS

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✓	Innovation	✓	Data & Evidence
	Human rights		Governance
	Women & Youth Empowerment	✓	Trade-offs
		✓	Environment and Climate

OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 4/4

4) Entrepreneurship, innovation, science and technology

In this group the stakeholders discussed: 1) how the agri-food sector can apply the results of scientific research and adopts cutting-edge technologies that promote sustainability 2) how companies can promote sustainable and the wellbeing of the community by applying innovative organizational and production systems.

The group's main conclusion was that even if technology will shape our ways to produce and consume, innovation is not necessarily related to technological progress, but rather to a change in thinking about how people are used to acting in today's society. To bring about the needed change marketing campaigns should be carried out on all existing media (digital and non-digital) to promote the true value of food, convince people to adopt different consumption habits and pushing them to support a premium price to promote products that were produced in respect to society and the environment. Boosting local food production is a way to better cope with future challenges related to climate change and reduce carbon footprint from imports. Local food producers should already start to adapt their production to future challenges (environmental changes, increased bacterial risk, etc) by selecting crops better suited to the area. Mapping challenges might help producers to make informed and better decisions.

Participants in the group discussion reckoned that micro-enterprises are the key to future sustainable development, as they are better able to optimize land resources and reduce waste. They also stressed the importance of creating partnerships and networks to exchange information and ideas, increasing the collective positive impact on the region. Throughout the dialogue participants underlined the importance of sharing and collaborating, creating partnerships and networks to exchange information and ideas. From academia, where multiple disciplines can and should work together to promote systems transformation. Equally for businesses, where multiple companies can and should work together to create larger scale projects and multiply their impact, to regions which can and should work together even if only by creating joint awareness campaigns and joint projects of larger scale and influence.

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AREAS OF DIVERGENCE

Areas of divergence

Across the discussion on all the four topics some specific issues raised debate or have been highlighted as possible source of debate, in particular:

- 1) Very little of the income is spent on food. How is it possible to put the right value on food? Sustainable food choices can and probably should be more expensive, but on the other end not everyone can afford to spend the same amount of money on groceries, so how is it possible to reconcile the need to value the food and to limit practices, such as special offers and price reductions, that fuel food waste with the right to food?
- 2) Consumers are used to find groceries shops well stocked at all times and restaurants ready to offer a wide choice of dishes which inevitably leads to food being wasted. What is the main cause? Aggressive market practices or consumers demand? And where do you start from to tackle this issue? Participants point out that this is a vicious circle; if a retailer or a restaurant limit their offer, the majority of consumer would simply just look for another shop or restaurant where they can find a better choice
- 3) If local production has to be boosted to better answer to future environmental and climate-change related challenges, region's biodiversity and water sources could be threatened.
- 4) To enhance sustainability of food productions there is a need to increase areas dedicated to the promotion of biodiversity within farms (already envisaged in the Swiss agricultural policy), but "farmers are not gardeners" and there is a need to protect their steadily decreasing income
- 5) What to determine the most relevant dimension of sustainability: a clear example of trade-off was brought up during discussions: What's more sustainable local food or fair-trade products? Are local products fair? Are long distance fair food imports sustainable?
- 6) Some of the participants pointed out that technological and digital innovations not necessarily end up making it easier for producers and local businesses to carry out their work. In many recent cases this just resulted in an additional bureaucratic burden

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ATTACHMENTS AND RELEVANT LINKS

ATTACHMENTS

- **Dialogo cittadino sui sistemi alimentari di Bellinzona_ Feedback ufficiale**
https://summitdialogues.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/City-Food-Systems-Dialogue-Bellinzona_feedback-_ITA-.pdf