

# OFFICIAL FEEDBACK FORM

<b>DIALOGUE DATE</b>	Monday, 17 May 2021 14:00 GMT +02:00
<b>DIALOGUE TITLE</b>	Food for Life: The Role of Women In Promoting Integral Human Development
<b>CONVENED BY</b>	Permanent Mission of the Holy See to FAO, IFAD & WFP and Rome Forum of Catholic-Inspired NGOs
<b>DIALOGUE EVENT PAGE</b>	<a href="https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/14959/">https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/14959/</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

14

## PARTICIPATION BY AGE RANGE

0-18

1

19-30

5

31-50

7

51-65

1

66-80

80+

## PARTICIPATION BY GENDER

Male

14

Female

Prefer not to say or Other

## NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS IN EACH SECTOR

Agriculture/crops

Fish and aquaculture

Livestock

Agro-forestry

1 Environment and ecology

1 Trade and commerce

3

Education

Communication

Food processing

0

Food retail, markets

1

Food industry

Financial Services

Health care

Nutrition

1

National or local government

Utilities

Industrial

7

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

Local Non-Governmental Organization

4 International Non-Governmental Organization

Indigenous People

3 Science and academia

1 Workers and trade union

Member of Parliament

Local authority

2 Government and national institution

Regional economic community

2 United Nations

International financial institution

Private Foundation / Partnership / Alliance

Consumer group

2 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 social and policy changes required to empower women across all stages of food systems, in light of the unique opportunity for radical change implied by the COVID-19 pandemic. Be respectful: The webinar focused on the role of women in food systems in their capacity as agents of change and leaders of sustainable food systems. They were not framed as mere victims of unjust food systems, but rather as active transformers of food systems and caretakers of the wellbeing of their communities. Embrace multi-stakeholder inclusivity: participants represented social movements, global public institutions, academia, non-governmental organizations. The diversity of the panel symbolized the need for inter-sectoral collaboration and spoke to the fact that healing the world requires everyone's participation. Complement the work of others: The dialogue was organized in a way that the first speakers in each session gave an overview of the flaws/challenges of agri-food systems that fall disproportionately on women and an ethical reflection that empowering women in food systems is a moral imperative. These reflections were followed by 1/2 technical presentations that articulated the actions and policies to achieve women empowerment. 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 women and organizations involved in food systems in Africa and Latin America 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 as a convener opening a space for dialogue among women. Under the framework of a UN event, it responded to the Vatican COVID-19 Commission's mandate of being a "fertile soil" – facilitating and supporting others to promote the change.

### 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 first lever of change: women's empowerment. • Definition of the unique framing that the conveners of the dialogue can bring: food justice as a moral issue and an integral and holistic 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 Curator • Convening dialogue facilitators and participants (partnerships) • Drafting the agenda: determining discussion topics, based on the profile of invited speakers • Confirmation of invited speakers and of the final program • Announcing the dialogue on UNFSS page • Announcing on Holy See press office and starting promotion • Drafting participants brief including: i) introduction to the dialogue series, so that participants could have a clear idea of the process they are involved in, ii) technical background - challenges and opportunities for women in food systems – describing why the theme is important to discuss, iii) framing and the position of the Church on this issue to frame the discussion, iv) objective of the dialogue (stimulate a dialogue, advance proposals and share experiences about the role of women in promoting integral human development, rebuilding resilient food systems and improving relations with others and with the planet, v) guidelines for participants. Common set of questions to which the different disciplines represented in the panel, contribute to and complement their viewpoints. Participants were given detailed background information to prepare their participation. 2. Curators briefing sessions – meetings with dialogue facilitators to reiterate and reinforce the goals of each discussion 3. Participants briefing session – meeting led by Dialogue curator, with facilitators and participants to exchange ideas and coordinate/ complement the key messages conveyed, and set the “rules” of the dialogue (respecting time, other participants). 4. Final outline of the dialogue discussions sent to participants 5. Final brief prior to the event 6. Dialogue – dialogue facilitators ensured participants respected the time allotted. 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

Responding to the first lever of change of the UNFSS, women empowerment, the focus of this dialogue was the unique role of women in promoting human development, with emphasis on how to support their leadership in shaping resilient food systems across the globe.

Women represent approximately 40% of the world's rural agricultural workforce – nearly 50% in low-income countries – and they are crucial contributors to agri-food value chains as farmers, businesswomen, entrepreneurs and community leaders. They are central elements to ensuring food security and nutrition in their families and communities. However, they suffer from a higher vulnerability to food insecurity in relation to their male counterparts: as smallholder farmers, they produce the majority of the food in their countries, but few own the land they cultivate, and many don't have access to public services and lack basic rights. At the same time, removal of forests, wetlands and wild eco-systems for annual cropping, removes habitats from which women source foods, medicines, energy and untapped biodiversity for future opportunities. Finally, women's voices have largely been neglected in COVID-19 decision-making processes due to an enduring underrepresentation in senior positions in key fields of medicine and politics. This implies that the unique contribution of women to the regeneration of food systems in the post-COVID world remains largely unexplored.

The COVID-19 pandemic has increased the vulnerability of countless women across the world, yet they continue to be fundamental pillars in the transition to sustainable and resilient food systems, capable of producing enough food for all. The Catholic Church's teaching has long recognized the equal dignity of men and women, especially with regards to their roles in public life and seeks to enhance their participation in processes addressing their exclusion from public life.

Therefore, the focus of this dialogue was to i) listen to the injustices and challenges faced by women in food systems, ii) connect experiences of organizations, institutions and actors working to build up the capacity of women in food systems, and iii) inspire holistic proposals to promote the participation, representation and leadership of women in rebuilding resilient food systems and improving relations with others and with the planet.

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

## MAIN FINDINGS

The first session focused on the challenges and opportunities faced by female rural workers and small-scale farmers around the world. It featured presentations by Daniela Fumarola, Confederal Secretary of Italian Confederation of Trade Unions (CISL) and Ndaya Beltchika, Lead Technical Specialist for Gender and Social Inclusion at International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), who stressed the critical role of women in food production and the insufficient recognition of their contributions. The absence of specific data to measure the contributions of women in food systems, as well as their specific challenges and needs (e.g. their exclusion from necessary productive resources like financial instruments, technology, training, etc.), places them at greater risk of being left behind by development processes. Speakers affirmed the need for desegregated data to measure and give visibility to the work done by women (both formal and informal), so as to target national policies and budgets to their special needs and support their leadership in ensuring food security. Following this discussion, Romana Koech of the AVSI Foundation in Kenya, Betty Rose Aguti and Musamba Mubanga from Caritas Uganda and Zambia respectively, brought the real-life testimonies of women in these countries, who are nurturing the development of their communities through their work in food production. These stories showcased how the “three Cs” aggravating present-day global hunger - Conflict, COVID, Climate Change - can be overcome with other, more positive “Cs”: Care for life, Culture of life, Community of life.

The second session was centred around the contribution of women to food security through their participation in international political processes. The discussion was opened by Daniela Ropelato, Director of the Doctoral School of the Sophia University Institute, who asserted the “culture of care” (Laudato Si’, 231) as the necessary paradigm for holistic and collective action. Engaging political processes relating to food systems through the lens of care, would allow for the appreciation of the complementarity between men and women in political processes and forge necessary alliances in decision-making. Afterwards, Lola Castro, Regional Director for Southern Africa, World Food Programme (WFP), urged audiences to move beyond the interpretation of women as victims of an unsustainable, unjust and fragile food system, and recognize them as “agents of change” and leaders in the reformulation of systems. She reiterated the need to formally recognize their contributions across all stages of food systems, and enhance their participation in political processes destined to shape them. She stressed the importance of increasing the involvement of women in early prevention and response strategies to food crises, and increasing their representation in leadership positions. The panel was completed by Gabriella Arrigo, Head of International Relations at the Italian Space Agency (ASI) and Susie Snyder, International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN) who gave testimonies of successful international cooperation projects involving women in leadership positions in fields normally reserved to men. The novelty of their presentations was the relation between space missions and nuclear disarmament to the promotion of sustainable and inclusive food systems, particularly through the collection of data and the promotion of peace.

The final session featured presentations by Marcela Villarreal, Director partnerships, advocacy and capacity development, Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO); Prof. Vera Zamagni, Professor of Economic History, University of Bologna; and Prof. Linda Ghisoni, Undersecretary of the Dicastery for Laity, Family and Life, on the contribution of women to sustainable and inclusive food systems as household leaders. While Dr. Villarreal reiterated the need to recognize and enhance the role of women in food systems through national policies and incentives, and increase their participation throughout decision-making processes, Prof. Vera Zamagni and Linda Ghisoni focused on the role of women as educators for a new “culture of care”. They explored the work of women in educating future generations on a better use of agricultural resources, nurturing the integral development of communities, and transferring knowledge in support of resilient, inclusive and sustainable food systems. This work, often unrecognized in public spheres, should also be supported through political and economic measures. The session was closed by Catalina Hinojosa López, from the Agriculture and Justice Village of the Economy of Francesco, who gave an inspiring testimony of her experiences with indigenous women in Ecuador and their role in perpetuating the buen vivir philosophy, by transferring knowledge to future generations about how to live in harmony with their communities and their environment. Working the land to ensure food for all, while caring for the earth and its people is possible.

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

## OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 1/3

Speakers affirmed the need for desegregated data to measure and give visibility to the work done by women (both formal and informal), so as to target national policies and budgets to their special needs and support their leadership in ensuring food security.

### 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

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

## OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 2/3

Speakers affirmed the need to formally recognize women's contributions across all stages of food systems, and enhance their participation in political processes destined to shape them. Of special importance is the involvement of women in early prevention and response strategies to food crises, and increasing their representation in leadership positions.

### ACTION TRACKS

<input type="checkbox"/>	Action Track 1: Ensure access to safe and nutritious food for all
<input type="checkbox"/>	Action Track 2: Shift to sustainable consumption patterns
<input type="checkbox"/>	Action Track 3: Boost nature-positive production
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Action Track 4: Advance equitable livelihoods
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Action Track 5: Build resilience to vulnerabilities, shocks and stress

### KEYWORDS

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



## OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 3/3

Need to support women's role in educating future generations on a better use of agricultural resources, nurturing the integral development of communities, and transferring knowledge in support of resilient, inclusive and sustainable food systems. This work, often unrecognized in public spheres, should also be supported through political and economic measures

### 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

## **AREAS OF DIVERGENCE**

### **ACTION TRACKS**

- Action Track 1: Ensure access to safe and nutritious food for all
- Action Track 2: Shift to sustainable consumption patterns
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- Action Track 4: Advance equitable livelihoods
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### **KEYWORDS**

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <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

- **The role of Women in Integral Human Development**  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DutDmyp\\_6WY](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DutDmyp_6WY)