

# OFFICIAL FEEDBACK FORM

<b>DIALOGUE DATE</b>	Wednesday, 9 June 2021 14:00 GMT +02:00
<b>DIALOGUE TITLE</b>	Bites of Transfoodmation - A vision complemented by some concrete lines of actions
<b>CONVENED BY</b>	Ludovica Donati, Bites of Transfoodmation project coordinator
<b>DIALOGUE EVENT PAGE</b>	<a href="https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/20542/">https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/20542/</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

56

## PARTICIPATION BY AGE RANGE

0-18

41

19-30

14

31-50

1

51-65

66-80

80+

## PARTICIPATION BY GENDER

20 Male

36 Female

Prefer not to say or Other

## NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS IN EACH SECTOR

7 Agriculture/crops

Fish and aquaculture

1 Livestock

Agro-forestry

10 Environment and ecology

2 Trade and commerce

8 Education

1 Communication

1 Food processing

1 Food retail, markets

2 Food industry

Financial Services

1 Health care

2 Nutrition

9 National or local government

Utilities

1 Industrial

10 Other

## NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS FROM EACH STAKEHOLDER GROUP

3 Small/medium enterprise/artisan

2 Large national business

2 Multi-national corporation

2 Small-scale farmer

1 Medium-scale farmer

Large-scale farmer

1 Local Non-Governmental Organization

3 International Non-Governmental Organization

1 Indigenous People

14 Science and academia

Workers and trade union

Member of Parliament

Local authority

8 Government and national institution

1 Regional economic community

5 United Nations

1 International financial institution

7 Private Foundation / Partnership / Alliance

Consumer group

5 Other

## 2. PRINCIPLES OF ENGAGEMENT

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

The organizing team has selected a group of young and motivated individuals already (or ready to be) projected into the realm of food systems and provided them with a safe space to discuss, openly and creatively, the way forward for a more sustainable and resilient future. As such, both the organizing team and the participants understand the need to act with urgency and are committed, either personally or professionally, to contribute to the vision, objectives and outcomes of the Food Systems Summit. The BoT participants aim to be agents of change and wish to contribute to the outcome of the FSS. David Nabarro's intervention during the first BoT virtual meeting clearly inspired them and helped them better understand the process behind the Summit. In the organization of the Dialogue, the BoT organizing team made sure to embrace multistakeholder inclusivity by inviting participants from different countries, backgrounds and sectors, including but not limited to civil society, government, academia and the private sector. It must be pointed out, however, that the Dialogue has been organized and carried out with a focus on the youth and on the Middle Eastern – Mediterranean region geographically speaking. The facilitators selected were all part of the organizing team and had been briefed with attention to ensure the creation of a safe space conducive for dialogue based on respect and trust. A number of 'principles' for discussion were shared with the participants at the beginning of each session to foster this sense of inclusivity, mutual respect and trust. These included the need to complement the work of others, build on what the person before has said, challenge only when you have an alternative to propose, and finally seek compromise in order to reach a unifying message.

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

The Dialogue re-grouped and focused on all the topics that were addressed during the previous six workshops, with a major focus on narratives and advocacy; knowledge, connectivity and digitalization; habitats and proximity; diversity of food systems; renewed traditions and empowered culture; affordability and true value of food. The Dialogue is part of a broader set of workshops and events organized by the Bites of Transfoodmation team that aim to take into account and discuss different aspects of the food systems, thus recognizing their complexity. Previous dialogues and workshops have focused on the topics of sustainable consumption and on the future of production, transformation and distribution. Sometime has been dedicated to the unifying power of potentially divisive concepts. The final aim is to achieve some Lines of Action, which will take a holistic and systemic approach to food systems transformation. Yet, as the very name Bites of Transfoodmation suggests, the idea is to propose some 'bites' of change which are coherent to and reflect the vision of the group of young change-makers and the themes identified by the group as key. The principles of inclusivity, respect and trust were reflected in the design and roll-out of the Dialogue and have been an essential feature of the entire Bites of Transfoodmation process. The participants have not only been included in all stages of the project in a transparent and inclusive way but have been its very center. A real sense of trust has been created along the way, and this could be witnessed during the Dialogue as the participants felt they could express their views freely and openly, even when these did not necessarily reflect the views held by others.

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

Thanks to the fact that there is a team working exclusively on the Bites of Transfoodmation project, a lot of information and knowledge sharing is able to take place both among the participants, and between the participants and the organizing team. The organizing team has ensured that various different avenues and spaces for exchange are created, both during and in the build-up to the Dialogues. This has definitely contributed to building trust as well as to keeping the momentum, engagement and commitment of the participants high. Our advice to other Conveners would be to make sure, if possible, that there is a strong point of contact between the Dialogue participants and the Conveners. This allows for participant's feedback and continued interaction after the workshops and Dialogue so that the ideas can be further refined, and knowledge further shared. Furthermore, it seems to be a valuable approach to choose participants with a diverse background in order to permit exchange about different realities, while working towards compromise and unifying elements.

# 3. METHOD

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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

During the previous Bites of Transfoodmation Independent Dialogues the group agreed that there is a need to rethink our life habits and to develop some renewed traditions by a change of narratives lead by advocacy, incentives and intergenerational initiatives. We acknowledged the need to transform and reorganize our habitats and professional life based on the determinants of health and the well-being embedded in true values of food. We also understood that personalized diets demand a reorganization of food economy based on diversity, proximity and interconnectivity.

During this Independent Dialogue, we decided to focus on the paragraphs of the Bites of Transfoodmation Manifesto and on discussing how the vision behind it could be achieved and implemented in practice. After a short introduction, in which we recalled the journey already made together since October as well as where it will lead us in the short term, we created six groups around the six main paragraphs of the Manifesto, namely:

- a) Narratives and advocacy
- b) Habitats and proximity
- c) Connectivity, knowledge, and digitalization
- d) Renewed traditions and empowered culture
- e) Diversity and food systems
- f) Affordability and true value.

Based on the text of the Manifesto, the goal was to start thinking about some concrete lines of action through an inclusive, common and unifying language suitable for the whole group. After the group discussions, participants had the opportunity to share what was discussed in each group to the plenary, in order to connect the dots and work as a group towards possible future pathways.

### ACTION TRACKS

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

### KEYWORDS

<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 checked="" 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

In this Independent Dialogue, the participants had to focus on concrete lines of action with the departure point being the Bites of Transfoodmatation Manifesto. Being divided into six groups, the participants had sufficient space for discussion and ideas sharing.

The main take-away of the workshop has been that education - in all its forms - and knowledge sharing is at the center of a structural, systemic and long-term change of food systems. Indeed, even though people were discussing very different topics, in every break-out room the participants highlighted the importance of supporting initiatives related to improving the quality and accessibility to food education. The group figured out that education encompasses different ways of teaching and learning, in the sense that school education for children or teenagers is as important as intergenerational education activities with elderly, workshops organised by local authorities, volunteering activities related to farming, or information campaigns on social media.

At the same time, participants also stressed that the weight cannot only be given to consumers and that a bottom-up approach driven by the people also needs support from institutions and its infrastructure. In this regard, the group also suggested that (local and national) governments support initiatives aiming at making people responsible and accountable for their choices, support initiatives that try to collaborate with the private sector more closely in order to make the small-holder realities more interconnected, and ensure that (global and national) norms are set in place to create a framework that allows people to do the best they can with the means they have.

In conclusion, the group highlighted the importance of having all actors involved in the process towards a change of food systems - from national institutions to people, and from international organisations, as well as non-governmental organisations, to the private sector - because of the complexity and interconnectivity that are prevalent in a globalised world.

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

## OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 1/6

### Narratives and Advocacy.

The group discussed the role of narratives and advocacy in the transformation of food systems. First, the group commented the paragraph of the manifesto, highlighting the importance of empowerment; of one's own responsibility but also the responsibility at the higher level (e.g. community) as we want structural and systemic changes; of the emphasis on accountability of the different actors; of the concept of affordability in its multi-dimensionality; and of the role of behavioural change and education. They commented that the manifesto would need more practical examples as it is rather abstract. Then, the idea was brought up by a participant to create a visualisation of the manifesto through videos and storytelling. The group outlined the importance of having diverse narratives coming from diverse realities, empowering the people through sharing their stories. Other concrete ideas were discussed and included a social media campaign with local recipe and information on the "externalities" of each products, a storytelling showcasing diets of today's families in comparison with diets from 3-4 generations back, a campaign using local influencers to promote local, healthy and nutritious diets and the BoT manifesto, a campaign through the BoT members in which they would advocate within their communities for the manifesto and encourage people to show a will for accountability when it comes to their food choices.

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## OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 2/6

### Habitats and Proximity.

After a re-reading of the paragraph "Habitats and Proximity" of our Manifesto, the newcomers expressed their thoughts about it and, even though they did not participate in the whole process that led to the drafting of the Manifesto, they agreed with the content. Above all, they supported the need to reconnect the urban area with the rural area, emphasising the importance of a cognitive approach - an aspect that, according to the group, is not considered as important. In support of this thesis, some participants reported examples of initiatives and projects that aim to bridge this gap by focusing on a form of education that leads to this goal.

Another important aspect that the group felt necessary to reconnect and rethink our habitats, was to give space to cross-sectoral careers in order to make it easier to disseminate information and knowledge. In this regard, a fundamental element stressed by some participants was to rethink education in order to increase everyone's awareness on where the food we eat comes from, how it is produced, and what its real value is. The group also emphasised the importance of subsidies and their poor distribution among recipients, thus incentivising unsustainable production, especially in certain regions of the world. A participant underlined the need for new laws that would protect sustainable food production and consumption, giving weight also to the role of the private sector, envisaging a system of transparent reporting of the most virtuous companies that could act as an example for all others. A final aspect that some participants raised concerned the relevance of local production and how this should be protected and valorised, for example by relaunching local markets in order to make them attractive to all consumers and reforming food pricing policies without affecting small producers.

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## OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 3/6

### Diversity of Food Systems.

The group discussed how a different future world could look like through the lens of the manifesto, outlining certain premises of lines of actions. First, the group looked into the need of increasing awareness about diets fostering diversity, making them more personalised and - even more importantly - more sustainable. In this sense, two BoT participants recalled projects that they developed in previous steps of the BoT process: a health app that would tell you according to your health condition what kind of food fits you best, and an app that would assist you during your groceries to switch to more sustainable products. The group shortly discussed the possibility to combine these two apps into one. Second, the group discussed the role of the private sector in a future diverse system based on small-interconnected realities. All participants agreed that big international enterprises needed to rethink their ways of working. A participant proposed for example that authorities would decentralise production to the places the products are sold. Another participant pointed out that big companies created the unsustainable world in which we are living and thus needed to radically change or disappear to enable the creation of another sustainable system. Two participants, small entrepreneurs, pointed out the need to make competition fairer between SMEs and large companies but underlined the opportunities of collaboration between both. Lastly, someone pointed out the need to create global norms for private sector to enable fair competition. Related to this, participants discussed how the government could create incentives for local and healthy products by accounting, among others, the health costs of unhealthy products via e.g. the insurance system. To conclude, the group agreed that all actors were needed to bring changes and needed to be held accountable and that making information flow in the system was central.

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## OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 4/6

### Renewed Traditions and Empowered Culture.

In the fourth break-out session dealing with the paragraph of the Manifesto about renewed traditions and empowered culture, the participants considered that food is perfect for connecting people to nature, because agricultural practices are considered as being the true connection between these two things, rather than only a product of human activity. From this starting point, the group proposed some lines of actions. First of all, in order to connect the youth with the elderlies, in other words connect innovations and traditional knowledge, they proposed to revive old traditions on an individual scale, rediscover traditional dishes, reintroduce traditional cooking ingredients, and make it become a “cool” habit again. Secondly, the participants concluded that it is highly important to give everybody the feeling of being included by empowering all cultures: in order to overcome social exclusion, differences and diversities need to be empowered and to be given space within the communities. Finally, in order to break down the barriers among traditionally separated sectors, as well as between urban and rural areas, the group proposed a “participatory guarantee system” allowing everybody who is interested in the processes behind food production to go and see themselves how everything functions (from production to distribution, to consumption, to disposal). In conclusion, the participants proposed to take old ideas and directing them into new pathways - so, connecting traditional knowledge with new ideas, new techniques and new people - to build trust between different generations, sectors, cultures, and geographical areas.

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## OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 5/6

### Digitalization and knowledge.

In the fifth group dealing with digitalisation, technologies and knowledge, the participants considered that much knowledge is already out there and that digitalization is the tool offering many possibilities to share this and make it universally comprehensible. Moreover, the group highlighted the importance of using technologies in a wise way and of making data and information available in the right places and to the right people. More concretely, the participants proposed to link demand and supply for food through internet to make the production and consumption chain more transparent and efficient, in order to avoid unsustainable consumption patterns due to misinformation and disinformation, and to avoid food losses along the chain due to grey zones. They also stressed the importance of connecting knowledge with consumers, in order to de-complexify consumer behaviour and make consumer choices more informed.

The lines of actions proposed by the group worked on many different levels. First of all, it was considered that on the political level authorities need to incentivise and promote certain behaviour, such as for example the recycling of organic waste. Second, the participants suggested more collaboration with the private sector, in the sense that for example supermarkets and small-holder farmers get access to digital solutions. Third, the group highlighted the need for education and capacity building for children, adults and elderlies through project weeks or workshops. Finally, also the possibility to collaborate with social media influencers and advocate in various languages was mentioned as a possible way of improving food systems.

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## OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 6/6

### Affordability and True Value.

In the sixth group dealing with true cost and true value, as well as accessibility and affordability of food, the participants considered that people definitely have not enough education on the origins and on the nutrients of food. Moreover, thanks to the international character of the group, we figured out that the fact of not having access to healthy, various and nutritious food in poorer countries is often due to the exportation of the good quality food to richer countries, which could be avoided by adopting the "principle of subsidiarity" proposed in the BoT Manifesto, as this practice suggests to consume as locally as possible and switch to import products coming from far away only when in-land production is not possible. Another important point that was raised was that the price of food needs to be calculated based on its true costs, which are currently not taken into account by our economic system, as the environmental, social, and cultural values have no or little weight in the financial markets.

When coming to the lines of actions, the participants proposed some important ways to ensure that true values are considered and accessibility to food is ensured. For example, the participants proposed educational workshops connecting producers and consumers in order to get a feeling of where the food comes from, how much work and time is necessary to grow it, what it means to respect seasonality and understand the advantages of local supply by making the supply chain more transparent. Another proposition from the group was to strengthen education at school for children in order to teach the younger generations about food systems, in order to make food knowledge part of school programs from the beginning.

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## AREAS OF DIVERGENCE

Within group 1, while some participants were in favour of self-accountability in transforming food systems, others were rather redirecting accountability to governments or the private sector. In addition, some new-comers commented the not sufficiently practical character of the manifesto.

Within group 2, while everyone agrees on a change in food systems, some believe it can only happen by applying some drastic measures, while others think it should happen slowly through education and awareness. A minority of the group believes that artificial intelligence will be key in the food systems of the future while others claim that it will be only a part of it, AI does not have to be essential for the proper functioning of the system.

Within group 3, while some participants were rather sceptical regarding the role of large companies in a future sustainable world, others pointed out to the huge impacts they could have by changing their business model.

Within group 6, some participants considered labels as a way to fix the lack of knowledge from the consumers about the origins and the treatment of food (biological growth, no pesticides, local production, etc.). For others, however, labels were considered misleading, in the sense that they do not tell the entire truth.

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# ATTACHMENTS AND RELEVANT LINKS

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## ATTACHMENTS

- **Independent Dialogue structure**  
<https://summitdialogues.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/BoT-5th-Independent-dialogue-structure.pdf>