

OFFICIAL FEEDBACK FORM

DIALOGUE DATE	Tuesday, 16 March 2021 16:00 GMT +01:00
DIALOGUE TITLE	Bites of Transfoodmation - Hands on the Bites of Transfoodmation Manifesto
CONVENED BY	Ludovica Donati, project coordinator BoT; Martina Bonazzi, Gianna Angermayr, scientific collaborators BoT; Leonetta Luciano Fendi, Strategic Communication Consultant MiRo. Permanent Mission of Switzerland to the United Nations organisations in Rome
DIALOGUE EVENT PAGE	https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/7905/
DIALOGUE TYPE	Independent
GEOGRAPHICAL FOCUS	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

47

PARTICIPATION BY AGE RANGE

0-18

31

19-30

15

31-50

1

51-65

66-80

80+

PARTICIPATION BY GENDER

21

Male

26

Female

Prefer not to say or Other

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS IN EACH SECTOR

6 Agriculture/crops
Fish and aquaculture

1 Livestock

Agro-forestry

12 Environment and ecology

1 Trade and commerce

3 Education

3 Communication

4 Food processing

Food retail, markets

2 Food industry

Financial Services

1 Health care

Nutrition

3 National or local government

Utilities

1 Industrial

10 Other

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS FROM EACH STAKEHOLDER GROUP

6 Small/medium enterprise/artisan

Large national business

Multi-national corporation

Small-scale farmer

1 Medium-scale farmer

Large-scale farmer

Local Non-Governmental Organization

4 International Non-Governmental Organization

Indigenous People

16 Science and academia

Workers and trade union

Member of Parliament

Local authority

9 Government and national institution

Regional economic community

1 United Nations

International financial institution

Private Foundation / Partnership / Alliance

Consumer group

10 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 multi-stakeholder 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 four 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. Some time has been dedicated to the unifying power of potentially divisive concepts. The final aim is to achieve a political intention of the group, in the form of a Manifesto and 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 Convenors would be to make sure, if possible, that there is a strong point of contact between the Dialogue participants and the Convenors. 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

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

Our first four Bites of Transfoodmation workshops showed us the need for a change of narrative, with a greater emphasis on espousing diversity, whilst nurturing a culture of empowerment, reconsidering our habitats and reassessing the value of food through the lens of a true cost approach. We acknowledged that shifting the status of food from a commodity to a public good can help in contemplating its true cost and value and we recognized that a new perspective in the way to produce, process and distribute food, orientated towards achieving healthy and sustainable diets for all, will lead to profound systemic changes. Existing inequalities both in terms of access to knowledge and income often result in affordability and accessibility issues, with the risk of strengthening divisive narratives and limiting space for drawing useful lessons out of food systems in complex environments. During this Independent Dialogue, we decided to focus on the Manifesto and on some concrete projects and project ideas developed by the participants. After a short introduction, in which we recalled the journey already made together as well as the future path of this series of workshops, we created three groups around the following topics that have emerged since the beginning of the process: a) Narratives and advocacy & connectivity, knowledge, and digitalisation; b) Habitats and proximity & diversity and food systems; c) Renewed traditions and empowered culture & affordability and true value. Based on a draft version of the Manifesto, the goal was to find an inclusive, common and unifying language suitable for the whole group. After the group discussions, participants had the opportunity to present their projects to the plenary, in order to show possible future pathways and provide concrete lines of action.

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 structure of this fifth workshop was a little bit different from the previous ones, because we decided to focus on the Manifesto and on the participants' own ideas and projects - and therefore did not envisage the participation of external speakers. What was important for us, was to allow the participants to really focus on some paragraphs of the Manifesto, try to project themselves into the future and find a common and unifying language. We perceived that during the groups discussions, where the main topics that emerged during the Bites of Transfoodmation journey were discussed, participants had a hard time sticking to the themes of their discussion group. Indeed, due to the interconnectedness of food systems, there was the tendency to include concepts already covered in other paragraphs. This showed us even more that a holistic approach is needed to truly understand and address pathways towards the future of food systems. Nevertheless, the groups managed to stick to their chapters, and eventually the Manifesto draft was modified to suit the whole group's wishes, feelings and ideals. After the break-out sessions, participants that developed some concrete projects able to transform current food systems in line with the lines of action of the Manifesto, were able to make some elevator pitches to present their ideas to the plenary of the group. This opportunity was great for those presenting their projects, as well as for the rest of the audience, as the first could show their ideas and achievements and get a feedback, and the latter could listen, get inspired and connect for future ideas. Moreover, the presentations really allowed the whole group to see their ideas and visions gaining shape and be applied on the ground, in a true and feasible way. Certainly, through these projects, the Manifesto reconfirmed itself and gained even more legitimacy, as it allows for concrete and collective action.

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- Environment and Climate

OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 1/3

Group 1: Narratives and Advocacy + Connectivity, knowledge and digitalization

First of all, the group talked about narratives and advocacy. It underlined the importance of allowing for a multitude of narratives. More specifically, the group highlighted the need to change the binary nature of plant-based diets, where eating meat is classified as being bad and unhealthy and eating plants is good and healthy. Indeed, the group suggested that narratives should be inclusive, in the sense that nobody is obliged to consume or give up on something, and that a plant-based diet could for instance be complementary to any person's nutritional traditions, habits and culture. The idea is to open up the nutritional options and to improve accessibility of these kinds of diets.

Secondly, the group talked about connectivity, knowledge and digitalization. It suggested that, in order to shift our food systems, on one hand we need knowledge coming from family, school, etc. to know how and what to consume and on the other hand we need data to improve the provision of food in terms of diversification and personalization to make it more accessible. Indeed, by quantifying and analyzing the impacts of every single sector in the food system it is possible to understand the connection and correlation among all the sectors. The group also underlined the importance at the governmental and city level to provide knowledge through school/workshop/etc. to make sure there is easy access to information about food systems. Another proposal of the group envisaged the creation of a platform both connecting and informing different people about food systems, personalized diets, origins of food, etc. using a simple language that allows everybody to access the information.

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OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 2/3

Group 2: Habitats and proximity + diversity of systems

Participants were asked to discuss two topics: the need to rethink our habitats by linking sustainability with social proximity, thus leading to a positive cycle of citizenship, and the narrative of understanding diversity as the main unifying factor of food systems of the future. Participants highlighted the presence of physical and cognitive invisible walls, somehow separating the rural and the urban world, and the need to tear these walls down to allow for a space of social proximity in which producers, transformers and consumers are constantly connected with feedback flowing easily in both directions. While the physical barrier was perceived as more explicit, which can partially be explained by unaware urban planning in terms of the chosen location of infrastructures (corporations, supermarkets, food processing plants, etc.), the cognitive barrier is linked to the predominant narrative that food production is only meant for rural areas. They considered that new technologies can play a predominant role in breaking down these invisible walls since, through new ideas and possibilities, they would be able to change the perception that food can only be produced on empty, flat spaces. Another proposition made was to recreate stronger linkages with per-urban areas and suburbs through the establishment of food/nutrition corridors between cities and their surrounding areas. Moreover, big corporations were seen as key actors in this separation and therefore participants suggested that the normative framework should address this issue. Finally, the group suggested that everyone, architects, civil engineers, lawyers and many other professions should be involved in the process of creating new spaces for production, exchanges, transportation, transformation, etc. Participants stressed the importance of promoting new forms of cross-sectoral professional careers as a means of promoting social change and allowing for a positive cycle of citizenship.

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KEYWORDS

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

OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 3/3

Group 3: Renewed traditions and empowered culture + Affordability and true value

The group discussed two subjects which were outcomes of previous workshops : one about how renewed traditions can ensure a culture of empowerment, the second about how affordability is linked and relates to the true value of food, and eventually to seeing food as a public good.

First, about renewed traditions, the group underlined the importance of taking the best out of both traditions and innovations, as it would reduce the fear of losing something. It highlighted that while intergenerational dialogues are key, the voice of the youth should be strengthened in decision-making arenas, in a real and honest manner, in particular when it comes to taking actions with a sense of urgency.

Second, about affordability and true value, the group highlighted the need not only to account for the true value of food in the consumption price but also at each stage of the chain, redistributing at the same time accountability and positive side-effects across the chain in a fairer manner. The link between true value and well-being was underlined and the need for providing consumers with more and more easily accessible information highlighted. The group also talked about the multi-dimensionality of affordability which not only refers to the financial capacity of a consumer to access a good but also embeds awareness, education, information,... eventually relating to inequalities. It finally stressed the necessity of taking actions in a collective and holistic manner and not only individually.

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✓	Women & Youth Empowerment		Trade-offs
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AREAS OF DIVERGENCE

In the first group dealing with narratives, advocacy, knowledge, connectivity and digitalization there were only two points of divergence. First, some participants suggested that the narrative of reducing meat consumption in order to have a more sustainable impact on food systems is a western narrative mostly related to urban areas, while some others considered it to be interesting and feasible on a global scale. Moreover, some participants were more convinced than others about the importance of data in the transformative process: some considered that data are a “must” to tackle the major structural challenges of current food systems, while others believed that change must also originate from traditional knowledge sharing (school, education, workshops, etc.)

In the second group, discussing about habitats, proximity, and diversity of food systems, there was the need to solidify what we mean by the term “diversity”. Indeed, participants seemed to have different interpretations and eventually, a clearer understanding of the concept of “embracing diversity” was not reached. Moreover, a few participants were not convinced by the fact that a more specialized production might lead to more diverse systems allowing for personalized diets.

In the third group, dealing with renewed traditions, empowered culture, affordability and true value, the group did not have any sharp contention. Slight divergences (which were then settled through a common understanding) included the importance of intergenerational discussions versus the importance of strengthening the voice of the youth and the understanding of true value as inherently spanning across the chain or not.

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