



UNESCO World Forum

Culture and Food: Innovative Strategies for Sustainable Development

Parma, Italy

PARMA DECLARATION

13 September 2019

We, the participants gathered in Parma on the occasion of the *UNESCO World Forum on Culture and Food: Innovative Strategies for Sustainable Development*, (12-13 September 2019), express our gratitude to the Government of the Republic of Italy, the Emilia Romagna Region and the city of Parma for their generous hospitality in hosting an international forum to explore effective strategies for transformative change that place culture and food at the heart of social development and environmental sustainability in line with the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

Acknowledging the collective responsibility of the international community to preserve culture and cultural heritage, as the wellspring of creativity, rooted in the cultural identity of peoples and community, with the aim of achieving inclusive social and economic development, quality education, environmental sustainability and well-being for all;

Recalling the paramount role of culture as a source of innovation to provide sustainable solutions for future generations and for the planet;

Considering that food culture plays an important role in defining each person's identity and is a key driver for intercultural dialogue, social inclusion, education and environmental protection for sustainable development;

Affirming that inclusive, educational and social development requires a cross-sectoral and multi-dimensional approach and perspective;

Recognizing the role of cities and regions as key actors of change and breeding grounds of expertise to develop scientific research and technologies, as well as scientific and technical education in the service of sustainable development for all;

Stressing the importance of referring to diverse knowledge systems and skills, and giving due importance to food traditions, in order to provide effective and sustainable responses, as well as action-oriented solutions, to global challenges;

Fostering the effective implementation of UNESCO's international Cultural Conventions, United Nations Resolution 72/229 on Culture and Development, United Nations Resolution 71/246 on the Sustainable Gastronomy Day celebrated each year on 18 June, as means and instruments to devise and implement strategies, policies, programmes and plans to harness the contribution of culture to sustainable development, notably through tangible and intangible cultural heritage, and the safeguarding of cultural diversity.

We call on the United Nations, Governments and the civil society, including public and private stakeholders, to strengthen efforts, means and resources towards the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and actions for the effective operationalization of the Sustainable Development Goals, to the benefit of the whole mankind.

Building on the outcomes of the *UNESCO Forum on Culture and Food: Innovative Strategies for Sustainable Development*, We, the participants of the Forum, commit to the above-mentioned principles; and Recommend to take actions for the advancement of the following priorities at the global, regional, national and local levels, in order to unlock positive societal transformation for all:

- **Better integrate** culture into sustainable development policies and strategies at all levels, based on international standard-setting instruments that recognise the fundamental principles of human rights, respect for cultural diversity, and environmental sustainability;
- **Promote** a cross-cutting cooperation in the fields of culture, education and science with a view to developing a sustainable strategy to better address food challenges, by involving all social and institutional actors;
- **Strengthen** the nexus between culture, food and education, as well as the evolving patterns of food security and food systems, including the production, distribution and consumption of food, ensuring that they become established priorities, critical to the realization of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;
- **Sustain** culturally appropriate methods of food production and consumption that respect communities, their cultural heritage and the environment;
- **Develop** educational systems, including technical and vocational education, for sustainable development in order to inform new strategies and policies that ensure food security, safety and well-being for all;
- **Promote** through education, and awareness of, the positive value of traditional cultural knowledge systems and practices, and improving, to this end, both curriculum design and teacher education;
- **Identify** new business models and forms of creativity that reinforce local learning, innovation and development processes in the nutritional sector;
- **Adapt** inclusive urban development tools to local contexts, including through appropriate urban planning and designing instruments, so as to ensure the sustainable management of production models and use of the land and natural resources;
- **Ensure** sustainable consumption and production patterns that fully integrate culture and culture-related considerations in nature-based solutions, placing the communities at the heart of sustainable development, to respond to the challenges of scarcity of natural resources.

In accordance with the above-mentioned principles and priorities, We, the participants, call upon governments and civil society, including the private sector, to take appropriate action to promote creative and innovative approaches and processes, notably by:

1. Strengthening human and institutional capacities in the pursuit of the Sustainable Development Goals through research and innovation, notably targeting youth;
2. Reinforcing legal and policy environments that promote sustainable food culture based on local systems and support the emergence of dynamic creative sectors;
3. Supporting cities as laboratories of creativity and innovation;
4. Investing in advocacy, awareness building programmes and activities through informal education and technical and vocational education (TVET), as well as through the effective implementation of UNESCO Cultural Conventions and related action-oriented programmes;
5. Preserving traditional healthy diets such as the “Mediterranean Diet”, inscribed in the Unesco intangible cultural heritage List, as well as promoting food diversity and healthy eating habits and lifestyles, as key components of the global strategy to achieve the sustainable goals set by the 2030 Agenda