

**INTERVENTO DELLA VICE MINISTRA SERENI  
AD EVENTO "BITES OF TRANSFOODMATION"  
16 aprile 2021**

Dear participants,

I am pleased to participate in this **exciting journey among different experiences and approaches to Food systems**. I would like to thank Director Com  and Ambassador Adam for their invitation.

I appreciate the **accent on diversity and empowerment** that you are putting at the center of your Manifesto. This resonates very much with the Italian position, since we believe that on these issues there is not a "one size fits all" solution.

The **Food System Summit** is an extraordinary occasion to discuss and improve **the way we think about food and the way we produce and consume**.

Everyone in this virtual room knows that if you had to imagine an "Instagram Story" for Italy, a good chunk of it would be **on our food and food traditions**. The world of "Stories" tilts more towards what is natural and beautiful - and, above all, what is fun. This would be the Italian Story with Food.

Thus, our vision on the "**bites of transfoodmation**" concerns our commitment to **explore new paths to preserve and strengthen local food cultures, reduce food waste, recover surpluses for a sustainable and ethical use of food**.

We believe that **protecting agricultural value chains and embracing the traditional methods** of food production and consumption is essential in order to pass a **healthy culture of food from one generation to another**. Food production is part of a cultural heritage that can be enriched by sustainable technological innovations, when necessary, but that should always **remain respectful of nature and natural processes**, bearing in mind the preservation of biodiversity.

The vision we are bringing to the global discussion on food systems is based on **complementarity between local food systems and global ones**. The care of the territory and the enhancement of the landscape must remain connected to food production, in a **dialogue between rural and urban areas**.

Along these lines, Italy is working to favor a **strong commitment to the promotion of a sustainable world, in line with 2030 Agenda, on the Summit**.

We need both **solid roots on science** and **solid grounding in the human rights**. These two complementary themes must characterize our approach to development, through the support to small producers' organizations, cooperatives, local communities and, last but not least, gender empowerment.

We are important partners of FAO and of all the agencies of the Rome-based UN Hub. Our work with the Food and nutrition UN agencies has always taken into account the **necessity of having resilient food chains**, capable of reacting to external shocks and continuing their indispensable function of **supplying the population**.

In times as difficult as those we are living, this view has proven right, leading us to promote, together with FAO, the **Food Coalition**.

Our idea was to find a way to **connect, and share, all the best available practices and expertise**. In a moment of crisis, we believed our good practices of sustainable agriculture and food supply chain could also be used to create **resilient and sustainable food systems** and prevent new challenges to the most basic needs such as food and nutrition, and so could do other **partners countries**.

A common effort as the Food coalition, which entails our view of the humanitarian / development nexus, can save millions of lives exposed to systemic crises and to the effects of food insecurity. It is then very easy to understand **why we will carry it forward in the main global events of this year, including the G20 Italian Presidency**.

We will work with the aim of putting an end to chronic food insecurity for almost a billion people, **without moving away from the earth, from agriculture, from food linked to our cultures**.

I wish you all a fruitful discussion and I hope that today's event will contribute to **take a stand for authentic, traditional and safe food**.