ZERO HUNGER
IV World Summit of Regions on Food Security and Sovereignty
Arica - Región de Arica y Parinacota - Chile
October 27 / 28, 2022
ORU Fogar followed with great attention the celebration on September 23th, 2021 of the Summit Food Systems convened by the United Nations General Secretary, Antonio Guterres. It could not have been otherwise for an organization that, since 2008, has had a Food Security Working Group, that the same year signed an agreement with FAO and that has organized three regional summits on food security (Dakar, 2010; Medellin 2012; and Cuenca 2018). The United Nations Summit approach was so innovative that ORU Fogar decided to dedicate Zero Hunger IV Regions Summit on Food Security and Sovereignty to land at regional level the conclusions of that event called by Antonio Guterres.

What is the context in which these two summits are being held, the first by the United Nations, the second by regions? The 2021 report on "The State of Food Insecurity in the World" by the FAO states that 811 million people go through hunger. And, according to the World Health Organization, 3 billion cannot afford a healthy diet and, paradoxically, 2 billion are overweight or obese, with the consequent health problem.

The FAO 2021 report, like those of previous years, shows that global food fragility is related to economic precariousness, but also to socio-political conflicts, climate variability, extreme weather events or the emergence of a pandemic such as COVID-19. Without denying all these aspects, ORU Fogar has always pointed out that misgovernance aggravates food problems. Centralization, the rural environment neglect and the lack of strong and capable regional and local powers hinder policies to overcome food problems.

In some ways, the pandemic has proved ORU Fogar was right. COVID-19, which has disrupted many global food supply chains, at the same time, it has shown the resilience of local and regional food systems. Everyone has seen that food systems which are more closely linked to the territory are much more resilient. Thus, without denying the advantages of an open global market, the need to pursue food sovereignty to the maximum has been seen. At this point, the appropriate scale to work on is undoubtedly the regional one.
Food Systems

The "food system" concept includes a large network of food-related activities: production, harvesting, packaging, processing, distribution, sale, storage, marketing, consumption and disposal. It also involves many economic sectors: infrastructure, transport, financial services, information and technology. Moreover, it affects a wide range of areas, from the environment to the economy, culture, politics and trade. The Food Systems Summit focused on all these aspects.

It was seen that all these issues have an important impact on The 2030 Agenda. SDG 2 is "Hunger Zero", but food systems also have a lot to do with SDG 1, 3 or 6, dedicated to the ending of poverty, health or the clean water and sanitation needs. Above all, it was noted that everything related to food has a strong link with the environment and, in order to preserve it, the Summit found that food systems need to undergo a profound transformation. To begin with, 29% of greenhouse gas emissions come from the supply chain that takes food from the farm to the table. Thus, certain food systems can end up being a very real threat to life.

The Summit hosted by Antonio Guterres paid close attention to the impact of nutrition on certain diseases. Poor nutrition in childhood can lead to stunted growth, which in turn impairs cognitive functions and undermines school and work performance. Worse still, almost half of all deaths in children under five years old are due to malnutrition. One of the conclusions was therefore that access to a healthy school menu must be guaranteed for all children by 2030.

Considerable emphasis was also placed on the need to ensure that healthy diets are available, affordable and accessible to all, especially those living in vulnerable circumstances. Healthy diets and sustainably produced food are a human right and a goal that can be achieved through clear, well-established and aligned actions. Thus, a commitment has been made to consolidate health as a fundamental pillar of food systems.
The European Union went to the Summit with a very aligned approach in relation to the defense of the environment, as well as in relation to healthy diets. It presented its “Farm to Fork” strategy, which sets quantitative targets to reduce pesticides, antimicrobials and nutrient losses, but also to restrict the promotion of foods high in salt, sugar or certain fats. The purpose, in any case, was to develop measures to increase EU agricultural land devoted to organic farming, expand organic aquaculture and increase the consumption of organic products.

Very concerned about reducing food wastage, the Europeans also presented a new methodology for measuring food wastage. It remains to be considered that 35% of all food produced is wasted.

The Summit, and this is a topic that ORU Fogar has always been committed to, was strongly in favor of the rural world. It was stated that food security was based on rural prosperity. The importance of investing more in rural farms and local small and medium-sized enterprises was stressed, as they can help to build more inclusive, fair and sustainable food systems. There was a call for small farmers in developing countries, who grow a third of the food consumed in the world, to receive "living wages".

In the end, the United Nations Summit set five objectives:

1) Nourish all people.
2) Promoting solutions based on nature.
3) Encourage equitable livelihoods, decent work and community empowerment.
4) Build resilience to vulnerabilities, shocks and stresses.
5) Accelerate the means of local and regional food implementation.

The Arica Summit must address how all this is translated to the regional level. How, with their competences, regions can contribute to achieve these five objectives. With a Food Sovereignty Côre Group working since 2008, with multiple regions with very solid food security projects, ORU Fogar can make a great contribution to this debate. Always with the conviction that good governance contributes decisively to the fight against hunger and that regional governments, governments with a human dimension, are more efficient in providing services than a distant and centralized national government.

Here the conclusions of the Food Systems Summit by UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres:
Thursday, October 27th, 2022

10,00 am  Opening

11,00 am  Opening Conference
“The conclusions of the Food Systems Summit” FAO

12,00 am  Best Practices Workshop
“Prosperity in rural areas”
“Combating Chronic Child Malnutrition and Anemia”

13,30 am  Lunch time

15,00 am  Debate
How do we implement the conclusions of the Food Systems Summit at the regional level?

16,00 am  Best Practices Workshop
“Avoiding food wastage”
“The role of indigenous, peasant and native communities”

17,30 am  Best Practices Workshop
“Women's work to ensure food security”
“Quality food and health”
Friday, October 28th, 2022

9,00 am  Best Practices Workshop  
“Water security, reforestation and sustainable agriculture” 
“The possibilities of organic agriculture”

10,30 am  Masterclass

12,00 am  Best Practices Workshop  
“Beating Coca”  
“Promoting regional gastronomy supporting family farming”

13,30 am  Lunch time

15,00 am  Debate  
Food security or food sovereignty?

16,00 am  Best Practices Workshop  
“Avoiding obesity”  
“Proximity Production and Denominations of Origin”

17,30 am  Best Practices Workshop  
“From the market to the table. From the producer to the consumer”  
“Education for a healthy diet”

19,00 am  Closing  
Final Declaration (sto be approved at the ORU Fogar General Assembly)

*All the spaces will have a Concept Note that will situate the thematic and the debate.