



ZERO HUNGER

BARCELONA, 2-4 OCTOBER 2024

V WORLD SUMMIT OF REGIONS ON FOOD SECURITY & SOVEREIGNTY

We, the regional governments gathered at the 5th Zero Hunger Summit, Barcelona, from 2 to 4 October 2024, under the theme “Regions empowered to build a sustainable, fair and resilient future”, adopt the

Manifesto of Catalonia

REGIONAL GOVERNMENTS FOR TRANSFORMATION TOWARDS A SUSTAINABLE FOOD SYSTEM TO ACHIEVE ZERO HUNGER

Regional governments recognise the urgency of taking decisive, coordinated and urgent measures to address zero hunger and transform food systems. We therefore subscribe the Catalonia Manifesto and undertake to:

1. Implement comprehensive policies to guarantee food sovereignty and nutritional security in our regions. It is essential to recover the value of food through education about its social, economic, environmental and cultural importance.

2. Support small producers and family farmers. We undertake to strengthen the network of small and medium-sized enterprises, farms and agricultural holdings, and food industries throughout the country, as a guarantee of a more inclusive, equitable and sustainable food system. Small producers create jobs in the area, boost local production and, ultimately, promote economic growth in rural areas which are at the greatest risk of depopulation and poverty.

3. Promote local production and short marketing circuits. Food sovereignty requires a firm commitment to proximity. It is essential to support local production strategies, as well as to protect guarantees of origin, such as protected designation of origin seals, and to promote short marketing circuits that bring producers and consumers closer together, facilitating efficient market, traceability throughout the food chain, marketing and transport systems. In this way, local economies are strengthened, the carbon footprint is reduced and access to fresh, high-quality food is guaranteed.

4. Prevent and reduce food loss and waste throughout the value chain. The regions are committed to applying policies on the prevention, reduction and quantification of food losses and waste.



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5. Promote food education and promote healthy and sustainable diets. We undertake to promote the inclusion in school curricula of basic knowledge about the origin of food and its responsible and healthy consumption.

6. Protect and preserve living and development conditions in rural areas. We are committed to taking measures to promote territorial balance and cohesion and prevent rural depopulation, in order to preserve, protect and promote agricultural activity in the territory. To this end, regional governments are calling upon each other to increase investment, innovation and technological development in the primary sector, as well as improving communications, services and infrastructure in order to promote prosperity in rural areas.

7. Promote cooperation to promote vocational agricultural training. The promotion of exchange and cooperation between regions is crucial to improving capacities and skills in the agricultural sector. Collaboration between governments and other relevant actors can facilitate the development of training and education programmes tailored to regional needs through the exchange of good practices and knowledge, or the creation of networks of experts, among others.

8. Invest in research, innovation and technology transfer to improve agricultural productivity and sustainability. Investment in this area is key to improving the productivity and sustainability of the agricultural sector, which is essential for increasing efficiency in the use of resources, reducing environmental impact and improving the resilience of food systems in the face of climate change. This approach will enable the primary sector to optimise crops and increase the availability of nutritious food, improving the viability of farms.

9. Promote sustainable and climate-resilient agricultural practices. Regional governments are committed to promoting measures to achieve a neutral environmental impact throughout the food chain. We also call on each other to decarbonise the primary sector and adapt food systems to climate change through practices such as promotion of crop diversification, conservation of agricultural biodiversity, efficient management of natural resources, sustainable livestock management, and efficient use and reuse of water, along with other alternative sources of water production.



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10. Recognise the importance of regional governments in the fight against hunger. The challenges facing regional governments require governance based on the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and the principle of subsidiarity. Regional governments must therefore have the necessary skills and resources to effectively address hunger, taking into account the specificities and needs of each region.

11. Promote gender equality and social inclusion in food policies. Ensure that food systems policies and programmes incorporate a gender-responsive approach and foster the inclusion of the most vulnerable groups. Recognize the crucial contributions of women and marginalised communities to food production and distribution.

12. Strengthen public-private partnerships to accelerate sustainable food system transformation. Acknowledge the vital role of cooperation between subnational governments, the private sector, and civil society in creating synergies that drive innovation and sustainable development in the food sector.

This manifesto reflects the commitment being made by regional governments to collaborate with all stakeholders and at all levels of government in the fight against hunger. Subnational governments advocate for a governance in which all levels of government embrace the principle of subsidiarity

The urgency of the situation and the need to implement concrete actions at the regional level are recognised, especially those targeting the most vulnerable sectors, such as children, the elderly or those with fewer resources.

We also undertake to strengthen interregional cooperation to share knowledge and best practices, allowing for the sharing of knowledge, experiences and best practices that have proven effective in different areas, as well as learning from each other. This collaboration enriches existing policies and programmes, as well as creating synergies and alliances that enhance our collective efforts to eradicate hunger.

We undertake to implement these actions and monitor our progress. Therefore, we call on municipalities, states, and international bodies to join our firm political will to achieve the pressing “Zero Hunger” objective and the achievement of Sustainable Development Goal 2, thus contributing to a fairer and more sustainable future for all.

In Barcelona, 4 October 2024