

7th Slow Food
International Congress
Chengdu, China
September 29-October 1, 2017

Declaration of Chengdu

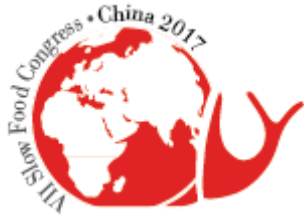
Passed by the 400 delegates participating at the 7th Slow Food International Congress, Chengdu, China – September 29 – October 1, 2017

We, representatives of the Terra Madre and Slow Food network from 90 countries,

- on behalf of those who, by working the land, guard it, tend it and keep it fertile;
- in the name of those who preserve the health of the oceans, marine biodiversity, and aquatic ecosystems, which the most precious source of food and gastronomic identity for millions of people.
- on behalf of those who guard and preserve seeds, saving them from extinction and protecting them from patenting, speculation and privatization;
- on behalf of those who protect and preserve common goods, especially the soil and its fertility, water, air and knowledge;
- on behalf of those who believe in an economy of solidarity and cooperation;
- on behalf of those who pledge to ensure good, clean, fair and healthy food for all;
- on behalf of co-producers, for whom it is fundamental to know about the food they buy and consume, who wish to be assured of their freedom to choose what to eat and who believe in the need for transparency and access to information;
- on behalf of those who believe in the transfer of knowledge and skills from generation to generation as a tool resource for building a better future for all, for adults, for young people, adults and the elderly;
- on behalf of indigenous peoples and those who fight for the assertion of their rights in every corner of the world;
- on behalf of those who feel as brothers and sisters on this Earth, which is the mother of all living things;
- on behalf of anyone who has been unjustly imprisoned or rejected or shunned on account of the color of their skin, their ethnicity or their place of origin, and of those who are fighting to ensure that this injustice comes to an end;
- on behalf of those who believe that rights – including food, water and land – should be universally recognized;

DECLARE

- 1) that good, clean, fair and healthy food is a right of all and that we shall not give up the fight until every last person and the entire web of life on this planet has access to it;
- 2) that the whole world is our home and that our action is global in scope. Our network knows no boundaries. We thus reject any form of political, economic and social exclusion that turns into outlaws people who migrate on account of conflict, violence, discrimination, eviction, poverty and natural calamity. We fight oppose every thought and action that deprives the weakest segments of the population of their rights, that



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rides roughshod over indigenous cultures, that fails to hold women, children and the elderly in due esteem. In particular we recognize, favor and promote the fundamental contribution that women bring in term if knowledge, work and sensitivity, in the family, community and the social spheres;

- 3) that environmental protection is the main priority of our work as activists, farmers, shepherds, fishers, artisans, scholars and cooks. The production, distribution and consumption of food cannot conflict with the right to enjoy a healthy environment and its fruits for generations to come;
- 4) that diversity is the greatest wealth we possess as human beings and as a community. Be it genetic, cultural, linguistic, generational, sexual or religious;
- 5) that the unjust division of riches and opportunities originates suffering and discrimination, hence needs to be addressed courageously at every decision-making and practical level – starting from the theme of labor – in order to achieve a fairer distribution among the women and men of our planet;
- 6) that access to knowledge is a right of all and that traditional knowledge and skills must have the same dignity as academic learning. Only informed, mindful people can make well-pondered, well-reasoned free choices.
- 7) that our daily choices, starting from the table, can contribute to changing the world, and these small gestures that each of us makes several times a day are the first and most important instrument that Slow Food wants to implement.
- 8) That we work to ensure the future action of Slow Food extends this vision and these rights not just to human beings but to all living creatures.

Only by radically renewing the organization of Slow Food, only by making it more open and inclusive, and only by trying out new forms of aggregation, involvement and participation can we address the challenges that await us in the future in the best way possible and thwart those—the very few—who possess power and wealth and decide the fate of the world's food and of humanity itself.

They are giants but we are a multitude!

Chengdu, October 1 2017