

7<sup>th</sup> Slow Food  
International Congress  
Chengdu, China  
September 29-October 1, 2017

Seventh Slow Food International Congress  
Chengdu, China, 29 September – 1 October 2017

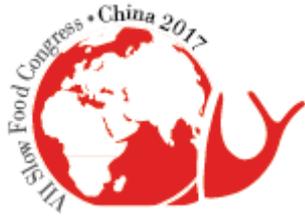
### Motion number 2

#### The Africa of Slow Food and Terra Madre

Given that:

- Africa is an immense continent, with a wealth of forests, waters, fertile land, minerals and oil. But it is also the most heavily scarred by war, ethnic and religious conflict, drought and famine. And it is the most plundered continent in human history.
- In Sub-Saharan Africa one in four people is malnourished.
- The western agro-industry, sells its own surpluses below cost on African markets, driving local farmers to ruin. Almost all products in the African markets are imported from Europe, America and Asia. Basic raw materials (rice, maize, etc.) are also imported and cost less than their local counterparts.
- Governments and private investors around the world are buying up one of the future's most precious commons (land) on the world's poorest continent. This phenomenon is known as land grabbing and it affects millions of hectares of land in Ethiopia, Ghana, Mali, Sudan and Madagascar.
- The agro-industry marginalizes traditional farming, focusing on monocrops for export, replacing traditional crops with enhanced hybrids (and, in some countries, GMOs), and using synthetic chemicals (fertilizers and pesticides) on a massive scale.
- Fishing fleets from Europe, China, Japan and Russia plunder the seas off the African coast and destroy coastal communities, buying up fishing licenses from local governments and fishing indiscriminately.
- Despite making a negligible contribution to the build-up greenhouse gases – 4% according to the Deputy Chairperson of the African Union Commission – Africa is the continent hardest hit by climate change, in terms of droughts, desertification and famine.
- Every year, thousands of young Africans perish in the Mediterranean in search of a better life.

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



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the world, having met at the Congress in Chengdu, China, firmly restate our commitment to Africa, with the goal of radically changing the direction of the continent, which, more than any other, is paying the price of the madness of the current global food system.

In particular, we commit to supporting and carrying out actions and projects to:

- ensure access to good, clean and fair food for all;
- continue and consolidate the Gardens in Africa project, which, with more than 2800 gardens (in schools and communities) launched in 35 countries is now one of the most important programs to spread agroecology and makes a concrete contribution to the food security of small communities all over the continent;
- map the traditional biodiversity of each country (plant varieties, animal breeds and processed products) and catalog it in the Ark of Taste, as a first step to save it from extinction;
- support small producers by launching specific local projects, such as Slow Food Presidia, Earth markets, alliances between chefs and local producers and other projects and other projects inspired by the same principles;
- promote the fundamental role of women in African agriculture and gastronomy, as well as the education of younger generations;
- recover and restore traditional knowledge including, in particular, the ancient skill of local communities to select and propagate seeds;
- organize training and exchanges between African communities to share the principles of agroecology and to raise awareness among adults and children of the significance and importance of eating local food;
- support information campaigns with the aim of halting the spread of GMOs, monocrops and land grabbing;
- encourage the integration of African migrants in the various countries of Europe by organizing activities, including in conjunction with their countries of origin;
- create a network of African young leaders conscious of the value of their land and with the capacity to strengthen and consolidate Slow Food's African network, encourage the formation of new food communities and lead to the launch of new Presidia and Earth Markets and advocate for better food and agricultural policies.