



Dear all,

At the end of the international congress in Chengdu in October 2017, we concluded with the great promise of a change that would allow our movement to play an active and influential role in the immense challenges that humanity is facing at this moment in history.

The **gravity of the social and climate crisis** means we are dealing with a difficult and complex situation in which we must **act with urgency** and determination.

Ecosystem collapse, increasing social inequality, biodiversity loss, deaths from hunger: these are just some of the alarming developments that we have been seeing for some years now. What's even worse is the inadequate or even non-existent response from politicians, unable to see beyond the limitations of a model of infinite growth.

So now, my dear friends, our everyday choices have become the needle on a scale that has not been calibrated for some time. The **social and political responsibility of each of us** must reflect a way of acting that can bring about positive change. We must return to being activists, united by shared sentiments and common actions, with a strong and constructive vision that can guide our efforts in the coming years.

To ensure that our voice is heard and that our actions become strategic for guaranteeing discussion and dialog, which is essential for the sharing of important political decisions, **we must be a multitude**.

In Chengdu, we launched the **communities**, an essential tool for fully representing the incredible diversity of our movement. We are women and men, fishers and farmers, cooks and activists, artisans and professors, people of all ages. We are a physical network of people with a focus on relationships and the value of diversity, who believe in good, clean and fair food for all.

Now, 30 years since the signing of our manifesto, and with an awareness of the incredible work that we have done and the many victories we have won, we need to forge a new pact, one that will clearly show us the **path forward for the next decade**. This congressional document should not only set out our network's political vision, but also be a true working tool at every level, helping us to define a new **global language** and allowing us to unite our forces for every local battle. This shared process puts our overarching objectives at the center: to promote biological and cultural diversity, to educate holistically and, with growing urgency, to actively take part in the dialog on the future of food.

We are being called to the table with leading international actors to represent our vision on food. We must not lose the chance to overcome this challenge too, with hope, great joy and the most distinctive characteristic of our organization, our movement, and our history: **emotional intelligence**.

Kindly,
Carlo Petrini



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