



QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

THE INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS

> WHAT IS IT?

The **International Congress is a crucial moment for the Slow Food movement**, where our political, strategic and organizational direction is decided at the international level, and therefore, at all other levels of the organization, right down to the grassroots level on which our network is based. It usually takes place every four years, with the participation of delegates who represent the different nodes of the Slow Food network around the world, and the most important projects which the movement carries forward. The decisions taken by the Congress should therefore reflect an adequately-wide representation of the whole network, and have a widespread impact everywhere that we work. The next Congress will take place three years after the preceding event (Chengdu 2017), thus respecting the terms which were defined during the previous Congress.

> WHERE IS IT?

The 2020 Congress will be held in **Turin** (Italy) at Lingotto Fiere.

> WHEN IS IT?

The 8th Slow Food International Congress will take place at the same time and in the same place as Terra Madre, from October 8-12, 2020. The Congress will begin on **Thursday, October 8** and conclude on **Monday, October 12** with the election of new governing bodies of the movement, the approval of the Congress documents and the closing speeches.

The concurrence of the two events is no accident. The International Congress and Terra Madre should propose a consistent vision, each one complementing the other, confronting the same themes in different ways, with the goal of shaping the future of food, accrediting Slow Food as **The Food Movement *par excellence***, i.e. the movement that will be recognized as the world leader in changing the food system, thanks to its projects and the widespread diffusion of its network.

> WHO ARE THE DELEGATES?

For 2020 we plan to convene **500 delegates** who'll be chosen on the basis of the congressional rules elaborated by the International Executive Committee and ratified by the International Council.



The composition of the delegation will take into account the necessity of guaranteeing representation of all the diverse branches of Slow Food:

- the **associative representation** which refers to the convivia
- the **Slow Food Communities**
- the **main projects of the association** (Slow Food Presidia, the Ark of Taste, the Gardens and the Earth Markets in particular)

As always, a proportion of delegations will be allocated on invitation or on the basis of specific contingencies.

TOWARDS THE INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS

> WHAT HAPPENS BETWEEN NOW AND THE CONGRESS?

Below are the main steps on our journey towards the 2020 Congress. These steps, except where specified, **regard all the nodes of the international Slow Food network**. The national governing bodies, local coordinators, thematic networks and other forms of organization within our movement can **adapt this path according to their needs**, as long as the fundamental aspects are respected and the **right to participate is guaranteed to all** our members, activists, volunteers and others who wants to be part of this crucial moment in our history.

- November 2019 - March 2020: discussion of the Call to Action at every level of the network
- January 2020: first Congress document communicated worldwide (a Call to Action, accompanied by this Q&A) and a first "Save the Date"
- End of February 2020: closure of the calculations which will be used to define the Congress delegates (with particular but not exclusive reference to a tally of active members)
- February - March 2020: definition of the regulations of the Congress and submission to the International Council for approval
- April 2020: convocation of the Congress as according to the Statute
- May 2020: deadline for selection of the delegates at the Congress (and for Terra Madre)
- October 8-12, 2020: 8th Slow Food International Congress

CALL TO ACTION

> WHAT IS IT?

Together with this Q&A you will have received a Call to Action document entitled "An Urgent Call to Slow Down". This document was born from the Chengdu Declaration and the motions of the 7th Slow Food International Congress, as well as all the documents which have been approved throughout the history of Slow Food and its previous Congresses, starting with the signing of the historic Manifesto in 1989.

The document **confirms the philosophical and political outlook that we have constructed over our 30-year history**, an outlook which is most clearly elaborated in the Chengdu Declaration, **but contains important new elements regarding our working methods**: it aims to systematize our activities and to clearly define the objectives we have given ourselves for the medium- and long-term in order to change the future of food and contribute to saving the world. Above all, the document proposes a first step forward via the adoption of mechanisms and tools which allow us to both increase our impact at the local and global level, and to evaluate it. This new way of defining our global action plan requires the contribution of everyone in order to be successful.





For this reason, the goal of the document is to **start the congressional debate in every angle of the world, starting from a common base.** Every node of our network, every Slow Food member, volunteer and activist will be asked, via this document, to imagine the future of Slow Food in their local context. Starting from what is contained in the document, they should be inspired and enabled to enrich, expand and articulate this vision, adapting it to each local context where our network is active.

> **HOW IS IT USED?**

Each one of us is invited to read the document carefully, discuss it and describe their own ideas in the coming months, first of all within their own convivium or community, and thereafter reporting feedback from these discussions to other levels of the organizations and other nodes of the network.

Each level of the Slow Food movement is called upon to **improve, integrate and comment upon the Call to Action document**, and at the same time **to define their own field of action and contribution** to one or more of the nine specific objectives included in the document.

The main objective is to design the future commitments of Slow Food in each local context, and immediately thereafter, to contribute to a reflection on the future of Slow Food, which will be defined by the 2020 Congress. This is when the document (in its amended state) will be assumed as an official declaration to be subscribed to collectively (without forgetting the longer perspective of the next, fundamental 10-year period).

How can we defend biodiversity in our local areas? What educational projects should we work on? What advocacy strategies do we want to implement in order to influence public institutions and actors in the private sector? What commitments can we undertake in order to be more effective and ensure we make real change towards creating a better world, one in which good, clean and fair food is guaranteed to everyone? These are the fundamental questions that the document contains, and which we all need to start thinking about, and try to respond to, first and foremost by reflecting on our daily lives.

