

1ST SLOW FOOD
PARTICIPANTS' ASSEMBLY
TURIN, ITALY
September 24 – 27, 2026

REAL CONNECTIONS FOR REAL CHANGE
POLITICAL DECLARATION

We gather for the first time without our founder and leader Carlo Petrini — the voice that helped millions understand that food is never only food, but culture, dignity, pleasure, justice and ecology.

His vision crossed borders, connected worlds, and transformed a small movement into a global community capable of changing imaginations before changing systems.

But Carlo never built a movement around himself. He built communities capable of walking together. He taught us that leadership means planting futures that others will help grow.
He created a movement that belongs to the communities, farmers, fishers, cooks, youth, Indigenous peoples, artisans and activists who bring it to life every day across the world.

And he prepared us for this moment.

The transition he envisioned began four years ago when he stepped down as president and handed his baton to Edie Mukiibi, setting in motion a process he had carefully prepared. His passing does not leave us uncertain. It reminds us of our responsibility.

Today, we stand at the threshold of a new collective chapter.

A VISION ROOTED IN THE PAST, DRIVEN TOWARD THE FUTURE

We gather at a time when the world feels increasingly fragile and fragmented.
Geopolitical tensions, climate disruption, inequality, polarization of society, and isolation are reshaping lives and landscapes across the globe. Food systems stand at the crossroads of these converging crises.

And yet – everywhere, people resist.

Farmers regenerate land. Fishers defend ecosystems Indigenous communities protect ancestral knowledge.
Cooks, artisans, activists and communities build futures rooted in solidarity, care and cooperation.
We reclaim sharing food as a political act.

We reject the rise of individualism, authoritarianism and nationalism that divide, isolate and exclude.

We choose our path: dignity, justice, biodiversity, and peace.
There can be no food justice without peace. And no peace without justice.

DIVERSITY IS OUR COLLECTIVE STRENGTH

Monocultures — of crops, thoughts, and identities — make ecosystems and societies brittle.

Uniformity weakens life.
Diversity makes it resilient.

Biological diversity sustains life. Cultural diversity sustains freedom. Human diversity sustains democracy.

Food cultures have always been shaped by exchange, encounter, and human mobility.

Yet today, migration is too often framed as a threat rather than recognised as a source of cultural richness and renewal. As borders harden and walls rise, people continue to risk – and lose – their lives in search of dignity and hope. Food tells a different story: one of connection rather than division, of cultures shaped by encounter and exchange. It transcends borders, builds bridges between communities, and reminds us that our histories, like our tables, have always been shared.

Diversity is not a threat.
Diversity is resilience.
Diversity is dignity.
Diversity is hope.

Indigenous peoples, afrodescendant peoples and local communities hold essential ecological knowledge, food heritage and cultural memory for the future of humanity. Their rights, lands and cultures must be protected and respected.

We choose our path: to defend food diversity is to defend coexistence and cultural resilience.

FOOD IS A RIGHT

Good, clean, and fair food is not a privilege.

It is a universal and non-negotiable human right.

To transform food systems, we must confront the power that controls seeds, land, water, knowledge, technology, and markets.

We reject food systems that sacrifice biodiversity, environmental justice, health and human dignity for profit.

We reject labor systems built on exploitation and invisibility.
We reject political systems that exclude communities from decisions that shape their future.

Technology alone will not save us.

Innovation must serve the common good. Communities must retain agency over the data, knowledge and technologies that increasingly shape food systems. Artificial intelligence and digital tools must strengthen communities, transparency, and biodiversity—not replace traditional knowledge, autonomy and human relationships. Technological progress cannot be built on the dispossession of communities from their land, their resources, and their future.

We choose our path: agroecology, food sovereignty, regenerative economies, the commons, shared resources and meaningful participation.

We are not here to improve a broken system. We are here to transform it.

CARE, COMMUNITIES AND JOY

Slow Food believes in the transformative power of conviviality, solidarity and collective joy.

Around tables, gardens, markets, and kitchens, people rediscover trust, belonging and responsibility toward one another. Communities are the heart and soul of our movement.

Celebration is not superficial.
Conviviality is cultural resistance.
Joy is political.

In an age of fear and disconnection, communities become spaces of healing and belonging. They also become spaces where coexistence, dialogue and peace can be practiced every day.

Where systems fail, communities endure. Where fear divides, communities reconnect.
Where institutions retreat, communities organize.

We choose our path: community over isolation, care over fear.

RURAL AND URBAN FUTURES

Food justice must exist everywhere.

From rural areas to urban centres, communities defend land, biodiversity and traditional knowledge against abandonment, depopulation, speculation and extraction. Yet millions still experience hunger, food insecurity, unhealthy diets and isolation.
We believe that transforming food systems requires reconnecting cities and rural areas, citizens and producers, people and the ecosystems that sustain them. The future of food depends on restoring the relationships that industrial food systems have broken.

We believe that municipalities must become laboratories for food democracy. Places where public food policies, school meals, urban gardens, local markets and community-led initiatives can rebuild social cohesion, strengthen ecological resilience, and ensure the right to healthy, sustainable food for all.

We choose our path: reconnecting people, food and place.
We choose our path: reconnecting countryside and city, people and food, communities and place.

WE ARE ALL THE NEXT GENERATION

The future of food depends on the present of young people.

Across the world, young farmers, activists and food workers face barriers to land, dignified work, participation, and opportunity.

Yet a new generation is reimagining agriculture, community and activism.

We commit to supporting youth leadership, expanding agroecological education, increasing access to land, knowledge and dignified livelihoods, demanding fair remuneration for all, and fostering intergenerational exchange.

A just transition will only succeed if young people can see dignity, meaning and possibility in food work.

We choose our path: We are the next generation.

WE ARE THE MULTITUDE

We are a global movement rooted in local action and united by a common purpose.

A diverse multitude of communities living in different ecosystems, cultures and political contexts, yet connected by a shared commitment to good, clean and fair food for all.

Today our movement includes:
— 8,000+ agroecological gardens
— 500,000+ people involved in the Slow Food gardens in Africa
— 10,000+ farmers and food artisans engaged through Presidia, Slow Food Farms and Earth Markets
— 2,000+ cooks mobilized through the Cooks' Alliance
— 6,700+ foods defended through the Ark of Taste
— 1 million+ people reached through education, advocacy and collective action

But this is only the beginning.

Our movement belongs to all who grow, fish, transform, distribute, cook or share good, clean and fair food responsibly.

Our movement belongs to all who nourish life.

All belong.
All matter.
All lead.

Slow Food is a living organism: decentralized, diverse, interconnected, and unstoppable.

We choose our path: a multitude in motion, speaking as one.

FROM VISION TO ACTION

We choose our path: The future will not be built through declarations alone. It will be built through the daily work of millions of people acting together. Our commitments for the next four years are clear:

1. We Build Caring Communities
By inviting individuals to come together around tables, markets, kitchens, and gardens, transforming shared food experiences into new local groups rooted in participation, care, and collective action.

By creating spaces for participation, education and mutual support.

By sharing food as a radical act of connection.

Our commitment: to double the Slow Food local groups around the world.

2. We Defend Biodiversity
By protecting seeds, landscapes, oceans, farms, and food cultures.

By working with farmers and producers to advance agroecology, regenerate ecosystems, and preserve knowledge and collective memory.

Our commitment: to engage 5,000 farms as global beacons of agroecology, biodiversity and justice.

3. We Educate for Awareness and Change
By raising food awareness and critical understanding of the links between what we eat, how it is produced, and its impact on people, biodiversity, climate, and health.

By turning knowledge into action, empowering communities to make informed choices and transform food systems.

Our commitment: to reach 1 million people worldwide through education and awareness-raising actions.

4. We Cultivate Political Change
By influencing public institutions and private companies, public policies and economic systems.

By confronting systems that place profit over life.By advancing food sovereignty, agroecology, the commons, and food justice.

Our commitment: to strengthen Slow Food as a global political force for food system transformation.

A CALL TO RISE TOGETHER

A divided world tells us to fear one another. We answer with cooperation.

A broken food system tells us that profit matters more than life. We answer with justice.

A culture of individualism tells us to look after ourselves alone. We answer with community.

We come from many worlds.
We speak many languages.
We live in different ecosystems, cultures and realities.

Yet **we choose our path:** to walk together because food can transform the world.

The future is not something we wait for. It is something we cultivate, together.

The table is open.
The movement is growing.
The moment is now.