

# Executive Summary<sup>1</sup> - independent dialogue

## ACCESS TO HEALTHY FOOD IS EVERYONE'S RIGHT.

How to guarantee universal access to healthy food and curb the increase in food insecurity and obesity in Brazil?

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Support: *Ibirapitanga Institute*

<https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/11710/>

## MAIN FOCUS

The focus of the Dialogue was to explore mainly among Brazilian civil society actors, how to guarantee universal access to healthy food and curb the increase in food insecurity and obesity, assuming that access to healthy food is a right for everyone. The main focus of the Dialogue, therefore, was related to Action Track # 1, and this was identified and exposed to participants prior to the meeting.

The dialogue followed the guidelines for food system summit dialogues and had a total of 35 participants, 7 facilitators and with opening talks from three Brazilian representatives of the world food summit champions network (Mr. Graziano da Silva, Mr. João Bosco and Mrs. Juliana Tângari). The participants were placed in 7 different groups, and the themes of the groups involve aspects or challenges in ensuring this access to healthy food in the current Brazilian scenario, namely:

1. Good food, at a fair and affordable price: healthy food accessible to everyone's budget, without burdening the producer.
2. Healthy food everywhere: strengthened territories so that everyone has access to healthy food.
3. Knowing healthy... and unhealthy food: informing consumers and ensuring nutritional education.
4. Emergency actions in the fight against hunger: reactions from civil society that generate collective learning.
5. Government actions to combat food insecurity: emergency responses given in time, in addition to strengthened structural responses.
6. Governance of actions to guarantee healthy eating: the assurance of democratic processes to ensure everyone's right to food.
7. Food safety and ensuring an increasingly adequate, healthy and safe diet for all (the meaning of safe food in an environment that values family and artisanal food production).

<sup>1</sup> This document brings the main outcomes of the dialogue, and a full report (in Portuguese) was submitted officially to be considered both on the UNFSS pre-summit (Rome, July 2021) and in the summit (New York, September 2021) and is available for download at [en.comidadoamanha.org](http://en.comidadoamanha.org).

Each participant was invited to bring input on 4 main questions, within its group's topic context:

1. What are the urgent and necessary actions that must be taken in that topic in the next 3 years?
2. Who shall implement those actions?
3. How to evaluate progress?
4. Which challenges can be already anticipated in the implementation of those actions?

## MAIN RESULTS

All groups highlighted the moment experienced by Brazil, where a significant increase in food insecurity and poverty, and the constant reduction of national (federal) policies and structures to combat food insecurity by the current federal government results either from significant budgetary reductions in food security programs, or from legislative changes that directly or indirectly harm or weaken the human right to food - a right recognized in Brazil by its Federal Constitution - or even due to the mischaracterization of participatory and inclusive governance structures in the monitoring of these public policies. This scenario brings tragic results for the structural mechanisms of a state that must guarantee people's rights, and also for the socioeconomic situation of the Brazilian population. Therefore, it is of no surprise that the setback in food and nutrition security policies was the most prominent point among the dialogue, recognizing the need to resume these public policies (at the national level) to support family production, to guarantee healthy eating, and to support vulnerabilities, but also:

1. The need for **networking and joint and coordinated action between various civil society actors, managers and researchers**, for the development of actions, monitoring of results and the generation of data and information in a transparent manner. Also the need for greater rapprochement between groups of producers and groups of consumers, and greater articulation between the various social movements that work on the themes related to food.
2. **Guarantee of basic socioeconomic conditions**: the need to guarantee minimum income (minimum income policies or income transfer) and basic infrastructure for the population (for example, access to water and cooking gas).
3. Advocacy for the **resettlement of the national food and nutrition security council** - which was a forum for dialogue between government and civil society at the national level and for the control of federal public policies in matters of food and nutrition security - a council within the federal administration but with a presidency and a majority of members of civil society.
4. **Regulation** of advertising, access and packaging (labeling) for ultra-processed foods to discourage access to these products.
5. Expansion of **spaces for popular participation and community articulation, mainly at the local / municipal level**, so that the diverse voices of the food systems can be heard, mainly from farmers, fishermen and family extractivists and from traditional and indigenous communities - the real producers of healthy food .
6. Need for **local policies that seek to guarantee universal access to healthy food**, such as examples of community kitchens, popular restaurants with meals for vulnerable populations (totally or partially funded by local governments), and the expansion of open markets / street markets with healthy foods. Need for greater investment in logistics structures and transport of perishable food (with impact on reduction of food prices).

7. Need to **review current tax incentives and disincentives, in order to promote healthy eating**: reduction of taxes and fees that affect healthy products sold locally and end of tax exemptions for food intended for large-scale export (commodities).
8. **Need for information and data generation with transparency and combating fake news**. Need for regular indicators on the nutritional status of the population, as well as clear and reliable data on the production chains and consumption of healthy food.
9. **Capacity-building, training and awareness-raising** actions for the various key actors and professionals working in the food systems, but also with managers and the population in general, in actions that point to an integrated and holistic understanding of food and food cultures.
10. Expansion and development of **food education programs and projects with insertion of indigenous and traditional food cultures** and valuing diversified diets, which pay attention to Brazilian socio-biodiversity. An experience of a successful school of gastronomy for the most vulnerable, in the northeast region of the country, was mentioned and can be seen as a good example of bringing a more holistic and social perspective over food and gastronomy education.
11. **Guarantee to smallholder farmers their access to land and water**, through actions taken by the three spheres of government (federal, state and municipal), through agrarian reform measures and strategies and fostering urban agriculture in cities.
12. Need for expansion of **agroecological technical assistance programs and actions, and digital inclusion / access to the internet** by producers, fishermen and family extractivists and traditional communities.
13. Development and dissemination of **communication strategies about healthy eating and sustainable food systems**, valuing the narrative of real food and food sovereignty. Designing campaigns and communication strategies that can also focus on general knowledge about the right to food, healthy and agroecological foods, and the role of producers, fishermen, family extractivists and traditional communities (indigenous, *quilombolas*, *caçaras* ...) in food security- highlighting the relevance of women.
14. Need for the **concept of safe food (food safety) to include** (both in its communication and regulation) the non-use of pesticides in production, and violence and deforestation free production systems - due to dispute over land and irregular production practices that take over natural ecosystems.

## DIVERGENCE AREAS

There was no mention of disagreements and everyone was free to express their point of view.

Although the participants came from different socio-economic realities, both in the city and in the rural areas, there was a common connection, resulting from their participation in actions to fight food insecurity and the defense of rights. The opinions were placed in a complementary way, with an independent position and territorial representation of each participant, which could sometimes bring diversified views on an action that could be oriented to the same target.

Although there was an agreement on the most important issues, it is important to highlight the difference in emphasis placed by people of different origins, whether from a regional or rural / urban point of view, or from the point of view of their institutional representations. Thus, for example, people from the North of Brazil have emphasized more the issue of foods produced sustainably, while representatives of producer organizations emphasized the importance of family farming in healthy eating; etc.