

Carta di Milano

**Le idee di Expo verso la Carta di Milano,
Report tavolo tematico 17**

WE - Women for Expo

Contributo n° 44

17 LE IDEE DI EXPO 2015 - VERSO LA CARTA DI MILANO

Milano, 7 febbraio 2015

TAVOLO N° _17_ _

Tavolo di Lavoro: Women for
Expo _____

Coordinatore:

Marta Dassù, WE-Women for Expo Executive President

Rapporteur:

Riva Federica – LAB. EXPO, Univ. Milano Bicocca, Fondazione Giangiacomo Feltrinelli

Participants:

1. Simonetta Agnello Hornby- scrittrice
2. Hannah Corbett-Commissioner General UK
3. Lella Costa, Actress and author
4. Piera Cusani, WE- Women for Expo, Project leader, Mondadori Foundation
5. Vichi de Marchi-Communication Officer, Global Issues, World food Program
6. Filippo de Robilant- Member, board of Directors, IAI, Istituto Affari Internazionali
7. Nicoletta Ferro, WE- Women for Expo, Senior Fellow GOLDEN Network for Sustainability, Bocconi University
8. Najila Habibyari- Commissioner General, Afganistan
9. Monica Pagliarini - Project Manager Dott.ssa Letizia Moratti
10. Federica Riva – Rapporteur, Università Milano Bicocca - Lab Expo - Fondazione Giangiacomo Feltrinelli
11. Marcela Villareal- Director, Office for Patnership, Advocacy and Capacity Development, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)
12. Ivan Scalfarotto – PD
13. Sandra Perilli - Head of Corporate & International Agreement Expo 2015 spa

MORNING SESSION

After a brief introduction of every member of the participants to the table, Marta Dassù briefly described the content and scopes of the Women for Expo Project and of the **Women for Expo Alliance**.

As Marta Dassù points out “Women for Expo is a network of women from around the world who speak out and act jointly on the subjects of food culture, nutrition, food waste and loss reduction, and food safety and security do so placing women’s culture at the heart of its reasoning processes and activities”.

M. Dassù stressed the uniqueness of Women for Expo as the first Women centred project ever existed within a Universal Exposition.

The participants acknowledged the marginal role played by women within the public debate

taking place at Expo Idee, thus urging for a stronger feminine role leveraging on We for Expo

The meaning of “women empowerment” (widely recognized as a valid but sometimes too elusive concept), has been broadened along with the role women can play in avoid, limit and in some circumstances manage food losses and waste, thanks to the contribution of every participant and along the following ideas and line of reasoning:

CENTRALITY OF WOMEN related to the food system presents several aspects:

I. The role played by women within the food system is central, and spans from a **primary role** played in **food provision** (as farmers) to an **active role played along the whole food value chain** (as food workers) and **down to the educational role** played by women as nutrition providers and sharer for the whole family and inner circle.

II. Food security, in terms of on going availability of food provisions and **food safety** seen as an umbrella term that encompasses many facets of handling, preparation and storage of food to prevent illness and injury. Both objectives **cannot be achieved without a recognising the key role played by women.**

III. Previous assumption in mind make it clear that Women has a crucial role to play in **limiting, managing and avoiding Food Loss and Food Waste.** According to the generally accepted definition: “Food loss and waste refers to the edible parts of plants and animals that are produced or harvested for human consumption but that are not ultimately consumed by people” (FAO).

In particular, “**food loss**” refers to food that spills, spoils, incurs and gets lost before (ie during production or harvest in the form of grain left, fruit not harvested or discarded because they fail to meet quality standards) it reaches the consumer. **Food loss is thus clearly the unintended result of a broken agricultural process or of technical limitation in storage** (ie in the form of food degraded by pests, fungus, and disease), **infrastructure** (ie processed foods may be lost or wasted because of poor order forecasting and inefficient factory processes) **packaging** (ie the form of spilled milk, damaged fish, and fruit unsuitable for processing) or distribution and **marketing** (ie in the form of edible food discarded because it is non-compliant with aesthetic quality standards or is not sold before “best before” and “use-by” dates).

“**Food waste**” refers to food that is of good quality and fit for human consumption but that does not get consumed because it is discarded—either before or after it spoils. **Food waste is the result of negligence or a conscious decision to throw food away.**

In every single step of food loss and waste women have precise role to play. This role is not the same in every part of the world and has to be identified.

Moreover enabling women to act as primary actors in the food loss and waste reduction

cannot be achieved without empowering women as follows:

DIMENSIONS OF WOMEN EMPOWERMENT

Leveraging on its various dimensions: the legal frameworks (that in many setting still prevent women household from access to credit both in terms of traditional credit mechanisms and microcredit); lack of information availability for women (not only in terms of training option but also the lack of simple information on market options for instance); rights to inherit, own and pass resources such as land; lack of access to technologies; lack of mobility which in many developing countries seems a big constraint.

RECOGNISING THE ECONOMIC & MARKET VALUE OF WOMEN EMPOWERMENT

Women make economic sense, Gender inequality in work costs women in poor countries US\$9 trillion each year – more than the combined GDPs of Britain, France and Germany – according to research released today by the international development agency ActionAid. Empowering women makes economic sense in two ways: it actually boosts economic growth and create new costumers with purchasing powers.

ACCESS TO MODERN FORMS OF ENERGY

is a prerequisite for social, health and economic development for women and it is currently a major issue within the global sustainability agenda with relevant outcomes for health (better vaccines conservation), food security (better food conservation and storage).

EDUCATION AND HEALTH

Access to education will boost food waste reduction and avoid malnourishment (also in terms of professional information, new technologies, and training activities).

EMPOWERING WOMEN IS EMPOWERING THE WHOLE COMMUNITY,

as for the is for all, the benefits of empowering women will be widely diffused and create positive externalities for the whole community

CREATING AN ENABLING ENVIRONMENT FOR WOMEN

Women empowerment will remain an empty box without adequate support and policies for **child caring** and **elderly assistance**.

The key words identified by the Table and related concepts are the following:

- EMPOWERMENT
- ENABLING (ENVIRONMENT)
- MUTUALITY

- COLLECTIVE THINKING AND ACTING
- FROM INDIVIDUALITY TO MULTIPLECITY

Case history description:

1. Afghanistan: combating gender based prejudices within the agrifood system and gain access to information and training for women
2. Italy: lack of a proper women representation within the public Arena , Expo 2015 included

AFTERNOON SESSION

During the afternoon session the participants discussed the possibility of creating a legacy of Women for Expo 2015 connecting the current Expo directly to be the next one, to be held in Dubai in 2020, under the theme of *Connecting Minds, Creating the Future*, under the sub-themes of: Mobility, Sustainability & Opportunity.

RECOMENDATIONS:

INSTITUTIONS

- Recognize a central role to women in food producing mechanisms and food safety
- Empower women trough easing access to credit, fight gender discrimination within legal regulatory frameworks (as for rights to inheritance and property rights), ease women access to information, new technologies and training, foster women mobility or make it safer in many developing countries.

PRIVATE SECTOR (ENTERPRISES)

- Invest and experiment on Business model innovation across operational areas (supply chain, R&D, HR, Packaging, marketing and distribution) to include sustainable practices as per: avoid, limit waste reduction systems, innovations boosting energy efficiency and resource optimization, interventions on selected stages of the food supply chain.
- Create awareness on corporate best practices related to food loss reduction, food safety and foster consumer engagement trough marketing campaigns.

PEOPLE

- embedd sustainability in everyday life aimed at reducing or avoiding food waste
- empower women within their central role in fostering innovative as well as traditional practices to avoid food waste.
- educate kids on more sustainable practices aimed at avoiding food waste.

ORGANISATIONS (THIRD SECTOR AND RELATED)

- leverage on media supported campaigns to create awareness, on more sustainable practices related to food waste reduction and food safety

EVENTS AGENDA, INITIATIVES ; PROJECTS; DOCUMENTS EMERGED WITHIN THE DISCUSSION

WE- Women's week – 29 giugno-9 luglio 2015- Agenda still in under discussion

SUMMARY

The first part of the day has been devoted to discussing relevant issue for We for Expo Project. The content of the **Women for Expo Alliance**, meant to be the legacy of WE-Women for Expo, have been discussed and need for some changes and integration proposed.

The second half of the day has been devoted to identify initiatives, strategies and actions to foster the We for Expo agenda, raising awareness about women role in food mechanisms , suggesting innovating practices, supporting them with social media campaign and initiatives.