



Alliance for Multilateralism

Ministerial meeting of the Alliance for Multilateralism (13 November 2021)

Press release

The Alliance for Multilateralism met at ministerial level on 13 November 2021, on the occasion of the Paris Peace Forum, to discuss “Sustainable food systems central to our common agenda: climate, environment, health and the fight against inequalities”.

Alongside Jean-Yves le Drian and Heiko Maas, the French and German Foreign Ministers, several ministers, heads of international organizations and civil society leaders took part in the meeting.

The speakers were as follows: Faisal bin Farhan bin Abdallah al-Saud, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Saudi Arabia; Takako Suzuki, State Minister of Foreign Affairs, Japan; David Beasley, Executive Director, World Food Programme (WFP); Gabriel Ferrero, Chair of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS); Elwyn Grainger-Jones, Managing Director of the CGIAR; Sabrina Elba, Goodwill Ambassador for the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD); Jean-Philippe Dop, Deputy Director General, World Organization for Animal Health; Wanda Markotter, Co-Chair of the One Health High-Level Expert Panel; Jean-Luc Angot, Special Envoy for the PREZODE initiative.

Two round tables provided the opportunity to address ways of fostering the transition to sustainable food systems and the cross-cutting challenges related to food systems, including climate, the environment, the fight against inequality and health.

While food systems today account for one third of greenhouse gas emissions, and food insecurity has been exacerbated by the COVID-19 crisis, the speakers highlighted the importance of cooperation between the specialized UN agencies, in particular those established in Rome (FAO, WFP, IFAD), States and civil society to enable the transition to safer, more sustainable food systems.

The meeting also highlighted the role of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS). The CFS, through its scientific recommendations for policy-makers, plays an essential role in supporting the transformation of food systems, in particular in the follow-up to the Food Systems Summit.

Tangible initiatives and projects, linked to our common agenda for climate, the environment, health and the fight against inequality, were also highlighted.

Concerning the fight against hunger and malnutrition, the participants presented the School Meals Coalition which deals with food security, nutrition, health and gender equality. They also recalled the upcoming Nutrition for Growth Summit which will be held in Tokyo on 7-8 December 2021.

On the challenge of sustainability and environmental protection, the Coalition for Agroecology, launched at the UN Food Systems Summit, and the Great Green Wall Accelerator were presented as concrete tools to foster the transition to safer and more sustainable food systems.

Concerning health challenges, the meeting provided the opportunity to mention the strengthening of the One Health approach, with the first results of the work done by the High-Level Expert Panel and the PREZODE initiative for preventing and fighting zoonotic diseases.

The Alliance for Multilateralism, launched in 2019 at the initiative of Germany and France, aims to bring together all partners who believe in strong, inclusive and effective multilateralism. International solidarity is more needed than ever to deal with the many challenges that the world is facing. In particular, multilateral management of global public goods must be improved.