

Address to the International 'Optimal Nutritional Care for All' Conference

Torino, 6 June 2024

Assessore Jacopo Rosatelli

Dear guests,

On behalf of Mayor Stefano Lo Russo and the city administration, I am honored to welcome you to Torino for the International 'Optimal Nutritional Care for All' Conference, which our city is pleased to host.

According to the definition of the World Health Organization, health should be conceived as "a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity". In the spirit of the Italian Constitution, health is "a fundamental right of the individual and an interest of the community". In short, there is no health without social justice, and a healthy society is a society where each person's right to health is guaranteed. This is especially evident in policies addressing food inequalities.

Torino is continuously fostering many practices, projects and policies to make the food system more sustainable and fair, considering the different dimensions of food: environment, culture, economy, health, social justice. The importance of food issues has been evidenced in 2017, when the right to food became part of the Statute of the City of Torino: "The City promotes the implementation of the right to adequate food, understood as the right to have permanent and free access to quality, sufficient, nutritious, healthy, culturally and religiously acceptable food, which guarantees the mental and physical satisfaction, individual and collective, necessary to lead a worthy life".

In this brief address, I would like to underline two issues that are very important to me and to the city administration.

Firstly, nutritional care is a fundamental part of health promotion and education: the City of Torino has recently signed a Memorandum of understanding on health promotion and prevention policies with the 'Azienda Sanitaria Locale Città di Torino', the local branch of the regional health system. This Memorandum includes a program aimed at promoting a culture of nutrition for all levels of the supply chain (from producer to consumer), healthy and sustainable, fair and available to all and supported by alliances and synergies between various stakeholders.

Secondly, nutritional care is strictly linked to equitable access to food, which must be considered a fundamental human right. For this reason, during the Covid19 health emergency, the City of Torino created 'Torino Solidale', a network of charities which organized distribution – first weekly, then monthly - of basic necessity goods to families reported by the Municipality. Since then, Torino Solidale has evolved, becoming a stable network of hubs, promoting food solidarity and community empowerment.

I wish you good work for your congress and I hope that your stay in Torino will be pleasant.

Thank you very much for your attention