

CLOSING SESSION

Barbara Stinson - President, World Food Prize Foundation

October 22, 2021 | 1:00-1:15 p.m.

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So we have been trying to have a future focus mindset for food system transformation in these discussions to try to achieve the bold goals that have been set globally. It is difficult. It is going to be challenging to make our way forward to meet what is necessary by 2030 – but it has to happen. And as many people said, you can't make choices between this priority or that priority. We really have to do it all.

So in this week in the International Borlaug Dialogue what we've tried to do is showcase the incredible work going on by all of our partners. We are not the experts at the World Food Prize Foundation. We don't do this work ourselves. What we do is we showcase and elevate what everyone around the world is doing. And I just thank all of you for coming to participate in that, for devoting your time to it. It's been an incredible week.

To do the International Dialogue, by the numbers, we had: 41 speakers in roundtable dialogues; 15 pre recorded videos offered as different assets throughout the week; 40 side events; 2,000 participants registered but many more watching in different venues and will so in the future; 350 students and teachers at the Global Youth Institute that Beth just referred to; two amazing laureates; and so many here, 80 in Des Moines participating in person.

We thank all of you. We couldn't have done this without you, of course, and we have a tremendous staff here, an amazing array of volunteers here that committed, our own production team, CLE, has done an excellent job throughout the week, trying to create a seamless experience for the virtual and in-person. And we have lots of lessons learned on that.

So the most important thing we've offered, tried to offer, is that multi stakeholder engagement, the continued commitment to deliver on Sustainable Development Goal #2 – the SDG2 is our moniker. The global food security community is mobilized. Countries are activated and committing. And we have COP26 and the Nutrition for Growth Summit coming up ahead. We must continue the momentum in the *Decade of Action*.

So we hope this has in some small way been able to contribute to that momentum. We offer and ask that anybody go back and review the sessions that you missed. Click on a Whova event and reflect on what these incredible speakers and participants offered in workshops – four interactive partnership workshops. Click on what they have offered throughout this week of events, and review it. Renew your interest, your commitment, your partnerships with each other. It's so important. It'll all be available on Whova for the next six months.

I want to say from us what you will see next—our meeting highlights. We do have all of this also featured on YouTube, so you'll get hopefully not quite as many reminders, but you'll get reminders about what's coming up. We'll send meeting highlights. In 2022 the World Food Prize Foundation hopes to host regional events. It was our plan for 2020 and sidelined, and 2021 also was sidelined. So we hope to be in South Asia for our first-ever regional dialogue. We'll continue with the digital dialogues.

You'll see a survey. We'd like all of you to complete a survey and tell us what you thought of the week of events, whatever reflections you have. What more do you want to see next year, what more do you want to see throughout the year, and what's next for you.

We hope you use our platform to continue your collaborations, your communications. Thank you all for joining us in the 2021 International Borlaug Dialogue. Please carry the momentum forward that you have created together in all of your work in your communities already, and keep that momentum moving forward. Stay connected, share your progress with us, and continue to collaborate for a more secure food future. Stay safe, take care, and we will see you again soon.
