

An Open Letter to Antonio Guterres, Secretary-General Of The United Nations

Dear Mr. Secretary General,

Along with most of the citizens of the world, we at [Eat Differently](#) are looking forward to this year's United Nations [SDG Summit 2023](#) in September in New York City. This is a unique opportunity for leaders from around the globe to discuss the worldwide response to the multiple and interlocking crises that have placed our health and the health of the planet in peril.

In looking through the [programme](#) for the Summit we noticed a glaring omission in that there is absolutely no mention in any of the 6 Leader Dialogues—or anywhere else, for that matter—about the significant and undeniable positive impact on 11 of the 17 UN Sustainable Development Goals which could be immediately and impactfully addressed by a worldwide shift to a diet of plants, not animals.

We at Eat Differently have one goal, to inspire and encourage people around the world to make a change by making a change to what's on their plate. As we see it, the 11 SDG's which would be directly addressed by switching to a plant-based diet include:

- **Sustainable Develop Goal #2** – Zero Hunger
- **Sustainable Develop Goal #3** – Good health and Well-being
- **Sustainable Develop Goal #6** – Clean Water and Sanitation
- **Sustainable Develop Goal #8** – Decent Work and Economic Growth
- **Sustainable Develop Goal #10** – Reduced Inequalities
- **Sustainable Develop Goal #11** – Sustainable Cities and Communities
- **Sustainable Develop Goal #12** – Responsible Consumption and Production
- **Sustainable Develop Goal #13** – Climate Action
- **Sustainable Develop Goal #14** – Life Below Water
- **Sustainable Develop Goal #15** – Life on Land
- **Sustainable Develop Goal #17** – Partnership for the Goals

The summit, which this year marks the halfway point to the UN's 2030 stated deadline, will address many of the 17 SDG goals with declarations, programs, and innovation, but NONE of those solutions will *singlehandedly* address 11 of those goals like the adoption of a plant-based diet will.

This week, [COP 28 in Dubai](#) announced that they are making the menu at their summit in November primarily plant-based. They understand the value to the planet of eating plants, not animals, and we applaud Dr. Sultan Al Jaber and his team for their commitment to the massive impact that a worldwide change in diet can have. We are calling on you and the UN SDG team to do the same by incorporating a discussion about diet change into one (or more) of the 6 Leader Dialogues as well as by announcing a commitment to making plant-based food options widely available at the summit.

We believe that global summits like yours which bring together political leaders and experts from around the globe can no longer ignore the elephant in the room. A plant-based future must start now. For all of the world.

Thank you for your consideration and we look forward to hearing your response.

-Eat Differently