The traditional way of cooking food on an open fire inside the home is harmful to human health. Yet it is common habit for 2.6 billion people (38 per cent of humanity), mainly in Sub-Saharan Africa and Developing Asia, as the International Energy Agency estimates. Consequently, according to the World Health Organization, over 4 million people die prematurely each year. This is what we mean by “lack of clean cooking facilities”.

There are other negative aspects: the basic fuel used, wood and other biomass, is scarce. Generally the burden of walking miles to collect and carry falls on women and girls. This means sacrificing other activities (including school) and also depleting a scarce natural resource: an open fire consumes four times as much fuel as a stove.

One important component of the UN sponsored campaign towards Sustainable Energy for All is general provision of clean cooking solutions, the easiest of which being a stove: the Global Alliance for Clean Cookstoves (http://cleancookstoves.org) has taken a commitment to foster the adoption of clean cookstoves and fuels in 100 million households by 2020. In fact, an improvement in the collection and transformation of fuel is also necessary. Finally, distribution of stoves is effective if a local community becomes able to maintain and replace them, possibly by local manufacturing. A number of projects, which can be seen on the website http://www.wame2015.org, illustrate the variety of tested solutions.
PROGRAMME

2:00 pm  Registration

2:15 pm  Welcome
Pippo Ranci, WAME President
Giampaolo Canlini, Director General, DGCS-Directorate General for Development Cooperation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Giovanni Valotti, President, A2A spa, founding member of WAME

2:30 pm  Introduction of the theme
Kavanaugh Livingston, Global Alliance for Clean Cookstoves, Washington, DC, interviewed by Laura Susani, WAME

Moderator Corby Kummer, Senior Editor “The Atlantic”, Washington DC

2:45 pm  Panel on the issue
The health consequences of home air pollution, Heather Adair-Rohani, World Health Organization
The burden on women and girls, Joy S. Clancy, University of Twente and Energia NGO

3:20 pm  Panel on large programs and small initiatives
Lucy Stevens, Practical Action NGO
Nathaniel Mulcahy, World Stove, Social Enterprise

4:00 pm  Closing remarks
Pippo Ranci, President, WAME

4:10 pm  A conversation on the culture of food with
Lidia Bastianich, Ambassador Women for Expo
Andrea Illy, Chairman and CEO, Illy Caffè
Moderated by Corby Kummer, Senior Editor, “The Atlantic”, Washington, DC.