



## Milan Urban Food Policy Pact

15 October 2015

**Acknowledging that cities which host over half the world's population have a strategic role** to play in developing sustainable food systems and promoting healthy diets, and because while every city is different, they are all centres of economic, political and cultural innovation, and manage vast public resources, infrastructure, investments and expertise;

**Noting current food systems are being challenged** to provide permanent and reliable access to adequate, safe, local, diversified, fair, healthy and nutrient rich food for all; and that the task of feeding cities will face multiple constraints posed by inter alia, unbalanced distribution and access, environmental degradation, resource scarcity and climate change, unsustainable production and consumption patterns, and food loss and waste;

**Acknowledging that accelerated urbanisation is profoundly impacting our world** – in economic, social and environmental dimensions – which therefore necessitates re-examination of the ways in which cities are provisioned with food and water as well as other essential goods and services;

**Acknowledging that hunger and malnutrition in its various forms exist** within all cities, posing great burdens on individual health and well-being and thus generating major social and economic costs at household, community, municipality and national levels;

**Recognizing that family farmers and smallholder food producers**, (notably women producers in many countries) play a key role in feeding cities and their territories, by helping to maintain resilient, equitable, culturally appropriate food systems; and that reorienting food systems and value chains for sustainable diets is a means to reconnect consumers with both rural and urban producers;

**Acknowledging that urban and peri-urban agriculture offers opportunities** to protect and integrate biodiversity into city region landscapes and food systems, thereby contributing to synergies across food and nutrition security, ecosystem services and human well-being;

**Acknowledging that since food policies are closely related to many other urban challenges and policies**, such as poverty, health and social protection, hygiene and sanitation, land use planning, transport and commerce, energy, education, and disaster preparedness, it is essential to adopt an approach that is comprehensive, interdisciplinary and inter-institutional;

**Acknowledging that civil society and the private sector have major roles to play** in feeding cities, bringing experience, innovation and campaigns for more sustainable food systems and mainstreaming the critical need for a socially inclusive and a rights-based approach in urban food policy;

**Recalling** that cities have made commitments to address climate change; to promote strategies and actions for mitigating GHG emissions and adapting cities to the impacts of climate change on urban food systems (for example in successive World Urban Fora and the upcoming Habitat III United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development); and to promote sustainable management of biodiversity through city biodiversity initiatives as part of the Convention on Biological Diversity;

**Acknowledging** that cities and their neighbouring territories will be active in operationalising international processes such as Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and targets in the post-2015 Development Agenda; that they will be involved in the upcoming negotiations for the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP21), as well as contribute to the Zero Hunger Challenge, address sustainable urban diets in the Second International Conference on Nutrition, and play important roles in the post-2015 Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction;

**Gathering** in Milano on the occasion of the Milan Expo *Feeding the Planet, Energy for Life*,  
we hereby state:

BY SIGNING THE MILAN URBAN FOOD POLICY PACT,  
WE, THE MAYORS AND REPRESENTATIVES OF LOCAL GOVERNMENTS,  
COMMIT TO THE FOLLOWING:

1. We will work to develop sustainable food systems that are inclusive, resilient, safe and diverse, that provide healthy and affordable food to all people in a human rights-based framework, that minimise waste and conserve biodiversity while adapting to and mitigating impacts of climate change;
2. We will encourage interdepartmental and cross-sector coordination at municipal and community levels, working to integrate urban food policy considerations into social, economic and environment policies, programmes and initiatives, such as, inter alia, food supply and distribution, social protection, nutrition, equity, food production, education, food safety and waste reduction;
3. We will seek coherence between municipal food-related policies and programmes and relevant subnational, national, regional and international policies and processes;
4. We will engage all sectors within the food system (including neighbouring authorities, technical and academic organizations, civil society, small scale producers, and the private sector) in the formulation, implementation and assessment of all food-related policies, programmes and initiatives;
5. We will review and amend existing urban policies, plans and regulations in order to encourage the establishment of equitable, resilient and sustainable food systems;
6. We will use the Framework for Action as a starting point for each city to address the development of their own urban food system and we will share developments with participating cities and our national governments and international agencies when appropriate;
7. We will encourage other cities to join our food policy actions.

**Signed by:**

(Name of the authorised representative of the city or local government)

Representing (the city of \_\_\_\_)

Date:

## Urban Food Policy Framework for Action

The nature of this Framework for Action is **voluntary**. Its purpose is to provide strategic options to those cities aiming **to achieve more sustainable food systems** by adopting the Milan Urban Food Policy Pact launched by the Municipality of Milan on the occasion of the 2015 Expo “Feeding the Planet, Energy for Life”.

The Framework builds upon the direct experience of participating cities and takes into account relevant diverse commitments, goals and targets. While the options have been organized into thematic clusters, they should be seen as entry points towards achieving the common goal of sustainable food systems. Most interventions (such as school meals or community gardens) may fall under the jurisdiction of more than one municipal agency or department. Most interventions will have an impact on multiple dimensions (economic, social, health and environment) of sustainable development.

Cities can select, adapt and group options into guidelines as necessary to suit their particular situations. Links to related information material and samples of best practices are available as a complementary set of guidance materials.

### *Recommended actions: ensuring an enabling environment for effective action (governance)*

1. **Facilitate collaboration across city agencies and departments** and seek alignment of policies and programmes that impact the food system across multiple sectors and administrative levels, adopting and mainstreaming a rights-based approach; options can include dedication of permanent city staff, review of tasks and procedures and reallocation of resources.
2. **Enhance stakeholder participation** at the city level through political dialogue, and if appropriate, appointment of a food policy advisor and/or development of a multi-stakeholder platform or food council, as well as through education and awareness raising.
3. **Identify, map and evaluate local initiatives** and civil society food movements in order to transform best practices into relevant programmes and policies, with the support of local research or academic institutions.
4. **Develop or revise urban food policies and plans** and ensure allocation of appropriate resources within city administration regarding food-related policies and programmes; review, harmonize and strengthen municipal regulations; build up strategic capacities for a more sustainable, healthy and equitable food system balancing urban and rural interests.
5. **Develop or improve multisectoral information systems** for policy development and accountability by enhancing the availability, quality, quantity, coverage and management and exchange of data related to urban food systems, including both formal data collection and data generated by civil society and other partners.
6. **Develop a disaster risk reduction strategy** to enhance the resilience of urban food systems, including those cities most affected by climate change, protracted crises and chronic food insecurity in urban and rural areas.

### *Recommended actions: sustainable diets and nutrition*

7. **Promote sustainable diets** (healthy, safe, culturally appropriate, environmentally friendly and rights-based) through relevant education, health promotion and communication programmes, with special attention to schools, care centres, markets and the media.

8. **Address non-communicable diseases associated with poor diets and obesity**, giving specific attention where appropriate to reducing intake of sugar, salt, trans fats, meat and dairy products and increasing consumption of fruits and vegetables and non-processed foods.
9. **Develop sustainable dietary guidelines** to inform consumers, city planners (in particular for public food procurement), food service providers, retailers, producers and processors, and promote communication and training campaigns.
10. **Adapt standards and regulations to make sustainable diets and safe drinking water accessible** in public sector facilities such as hospitals, health and childcare facilities, workplaces, universities, schools, food and catering services, municipal offices and prisons, and to the extent possible, in private sector retail and wholesale food distribution and markets.
11. **Explore regulatory and voluntary instruments** to promote sustainable diets involving private and public companies as appropriate, using marketing, publicity and labelling policies; and economic incentives or disincentives; streamline regulations regarding the marketing of food and non-alcoholic beverages to children in accordance with WHO recommendations.
12. **Encourage joint action by health and food sectors** to implement integrated people-centred strategies for healthy lifestyles and social inclusion.
13. **Invest in and commit to achieving universal access to safe drinking water and adequate sanitation** with the participation of civil society and various partnerships, as appropriate.

***Recommended actions: social and economic equity***

14. **Use cash and food transfers**, and other forms of social protection systems (food banks, community food kitchens, emergency food pantries etc.) to provide vulnerable populations with access to healthy food, while taking into consideration the specific beliefs, culture, traditions, dietary habits and preferences of diverse communities, as a matter of human dignity and to avoid further marginalization.
15. **Reorient school feeding programmes** and other institutional food service to provide food that is healthy, local and regionally sourced, seasonal and sustainably produced.
16. **Promote decent employment for all**, including fair economic relations, fair wages and improved labour conditions within the food and agriculture sector, with the full inclusion of women.
17. **Encourage and support social and solidarity economy activities**, paying special attention to food-related activities that support sustainable livelihoods for marginalized populations at different levels of the food chain and facilitate access to safe and healthy foods in both urban and rural areas.
18. **Promote networks and support grassroots activities** (such as community gardens, community food kitchens, social pantries, etc.) that create social inclusion and provide food to marginalized individuals.
19. **Promote participatory education, training and research** as key elements in strengthening local action to increase social and economic equity, promote rights-based approaches, alleviate poverty and facilitate access to adequate and nutritious foods.

***Recommended actions: food production***

20. **Promote and strengthen urban and peri-urban food production** and processing based on sustainable approaches and integrate urban and peri-urban agriculture into city resilience plans.
21. **Seek coherence between the city and nearby rural food production**, processing and distribution, focussing on smallholder producers and family farmers, paying particular attention to empowering women and youth.

22. **Apply an ecosystem approach to guide holistic and integrated land use planning and management** in collaboration with both urban and rural authorities and other natural resource managers by combining landscape features, for example with risk-minimizing strategies to enhance opportunities for agroecological production, conservation of biodiversity and farmland, climate change adaptation, tourism, leisure and other ecosystem services.
23. **Protect and enable secure access and tenure to land** for sustainable food production in urban and peri-urban areas, including land for community gardeners and smallholder producers, for example through land banks or community land trusts; provide access to municipal land for local agricultural production and promote integration with land use and city development plans and programmes.
24. **Help provide services to food producers in and around cities**, including technical training and financial assistance (credit, technology, food safety, market access, etc.) to build a multigenerational and economically viable food system with inputs such as compost from food waste, grey water from post-consumer use, and energy from waste etc. while ensuring that these do not compete with human consumption.
25. **Support short food chains**, producer organisations, producer-to-consumer networks and platforms, and other market systems that integrate the social and economic infrastructure of urban food system that links urban and rural areas. This could include civil society-led social and solidarity economy initiatives and alternative market systems.
26. **Improve (waste) water management and reuse** in agriculture and food production through policies and programmes using participatory approaches.

***Recommended actions: food supply and distribution***

27. **Assess the flows of food to and through cities** to ensure physical access to fresh, affordable foods in low-income or underserved neighbourhoods while addressing sustainable transportation and logistics planning to reduce carbon emissions with alternative fuels or means of transport.
28. **Support improved food storage, processing, transport and distribution** technologies and infrastructure linking peri-urban and near rural areas to ensure seasonal food consumption and reduce food insecurity as well as food and nutrient loss and waste with an emphasis on diversified small and medium scale food businesses along the value chain that may provide decent and stable employment.
29. **Assess, review and/or strengthen food control systems** by implementing local food safety legislation and regulations that (1) ensure that food producers and suppliers throughout the food chain operate responsibly; (2) eliminate barriers to market access for family farmers and smallholder producers; and (3) integrate food safety, health and environmental dimensions.
30. **Review public procurement and trade policy** aimed at facilitating food supply from short chains linking cities to secure a supply of healthy food, while also facilitating job access, fair production conditions and sustainable production for the most vulnerable producers and consumers, thereby using the potential of public procurement to help realize the right to food for all.
31. **Provide policy and programme support for municipal public markets** including farmers markets, informal markets, retail and wholesale markets, restaurants, and other food distributors, recognizing different approaches by cities working with private and public components of market systems.
32. **Improve and expand support for infrastructure** related to market systems that link urban buyers to urban, peri-urban and rural sellers while also building social cohesion and trust, supporting cultural exchange and ensuring sustainable livelihood, especially for women and young entrepreneurs.
33. **Acknowledge the informal sector's contribution** to urban food systems (in terms of food supply, job creation, promotion of local diets and environment management) and provide appropriate support and training in areas such as food safety, sustainable diets, waste prevention and management.

***Recommended actions: food waste***

34. **Convene food system actors to assess and monitor food loss and waste reduction** at all stages of the city region food supply chain, (including production, processing, packaging, safe food preparation, presentation and handling, re-use and recycling) and ensure holistic planning and design, transparency, accountability and policy integration.
35. **Raise awareness of food loss and waste** through targeted events and campaigns; identify focal points such as educational institutions, community markets, company shops and other solidarity or circular economy initiatives.
36. **Collaborate with the private sector along with research, educational and community-based organisations** to develop and review, as appropriate, municipal policies and regulations (e.g. processes, cosmetic and grading standards, expiration dates, etc.) to prevent waste or safely recover food and packaging using a “food use-not-waste” hierarchy.
37. **Save food by facilitating recovery and redistribution for human consumption of safe and nutritious foods**, if applicable, that are at risk of being lost, discarded or wasted from production, manufacturing, retail, catering, wholesale and hospitality.