



WORLD FOOD DAY: CITIES OF MILAN URBAN FOOD POLICY PACT GATHERED AT FAO FOR THE SECOND MAYORS SUMMIT

Mayor of Milan Giuseppe Sala: "We shall all commit to make the Pact grow" Baltimore and Mexico City win the two monetary prizes of the the Milan Pact Awards, the international award conferred to good practices of MUFPP signatory cities

Rome – 14 October 2016- Today, on the occasion of the World Food Day celebrations, mayors and cities delegates of MUFPP signatories gathered at FAO headquarters in Rome for the second Mayors' summit.

"The Milan Urban Food Policy Pact represents one of the most important legacies of Expo 2015, it shows the capacity to translate food policies into practice. We shall all commit to make the Pact grow " said the Mayor of Milan, Giuseppe Sala. "Milan has an extraordinary capacity to be open to the world e we want to reinforce our leading role in food policies. We are working together with many city stakeholders: universities; civil society organizations, business sector to curb food waste, increase access to healthy food, support local production, put the food policy at the core of our political action. The spirit of cooperation fostered by the Milan Urban Food Policy Pact underlined by the Milan Pact Awards conferred today, is crucial in this path, but even more important is to invest in the future generation to make children understand the healthy food for all is a priority".

FAO Director General José Graziano Da Silva opened the Summit by drawing attention to the fact that "in 2050, two out of three people will live in an urban area, therefore cities have the potential to make the difference and contribute to build resilient food systems"

The summit has been a great opportunity to discuss the commitments and the future of the first international Pact on urban food policies, launched in 2015 by the city of Milan and signed by 130 cities so far. The debate focused on the most compelling food issues and on a new possible model of development. Mayors and delegates have exchanged views on the role that the networks of cities can play in the implementation of the Pact. Moreover, the opportunity to establish a monitoring framework to take stock of progress made has been assessed.

In 2017 MUFPP cities will meet in Valencia.

The Summit ended with the proclamation of the winners of the first Milan Pact Awards (MPA), launched by the City of Milan together with Fondazione Cariplo. MPA stands for a recognition of the work done by MUFPP signatory cities in implementing good practices and a stimulus to foster peer to peer collaboration.

The MPA foresees 8 awards: two monetary prizes and six special mentions.

The two monetary awards equal to € 15,000 each have been assigned to Baltimore (highest score) and Mexico City. The "Baltimore Food Policy Initiative" aims at addressing health, economic and environmental disparities by increasing access to healthy affordable food in Baltimore City's food deserts. Mexico City's "Community Dining Rooms Program" has set up more than 200 canteens throughout the city in areas with high rates of marginalization in order to offer affordable meals, thus empowering vulnerable people by providing them with an employment. Winners will use the contribution of the awards to exchange their policies and practices with other MUFPP cities.

Six special mentions, one for each category of the MUFPP Framework for Action, have been conferred to Vancouver (Governance) for the Vancouver Food Strategy; Birmingham (Sustainable Diets and Nutrition)



for its projects to fight childhood obesity; Lusaka (Social and Economic Equity) for the “Women Groups economical empowerment”; Quito (Food Production) for the AGRUPAR programme on urban agriculture; Toronto (Food Supply and Distribution) for “Grab Some Good”, a collaborative initiative aiming at bringing healthy food in underserved communities; Riga (Food Waste) for an innovative method to treat and reuse food waste.

More than 30 cities have participated to the Milan Pact Awards with 53 good practices, that have been assessed by an international committee of experts, academics, members of international organizations, civil society and media. These are some of the criteria that guided the selection of winners: replicability or adaptation of the practice; the degree to which the policy has been integrated with other categories of food policy or practice; the level of innovation of the practice or policy; impact; the degree of inclusion of stakeholders outside the local or territorial governments, such as civil society and private sector; the extent to which adverse conditions (administrative, environmental, economic etc.) have been overcome in the development of a city’s food policy or practice.

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