



EXPO 2015. MORE THAN 100 CITIES SIGN THE “MILAN URBAN FOOD POLICY PACT”

Milan, 15th October 2015 – More than 100 cities from all over the world sign today the “*Milan Urban Food Policy Pact*”, the first international protocol through which Mayors commit to develop sustainable food systems to grant healthy and accessible food to all, protect biodiversity, fight against food waste. In the urban areas of the signing cities live and work more than 400 million people.

City delegations, international guests, among which the FAO Director-General José Graziano Da Silva, the Italian Minister of Agriculture, Food and Forestry Policies Maurizio Martina, the European Commissioners for International Cooperation and Development Neven Mimica and for Health and Food Safety Vytenis Andriukaitis.

Mayors and delegates will simultaneously sign the adherence to the protocol through a tablet endowed with a dedicated app. Tomorrow, on the 16th of October, the Milan Urban Food Policy Pact will be presented to the UN Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon at Expo 2015 site on the occasion of the World Food Day.

The Pact represents one of the most important legacies of the Universal Exposition which has transformed Milan into the global capital of the debate focusing on the theme “Feeding the Planet, Energy for Life”.

Today more than half of the world population live in cities. It is estimated that in 2050 more than 6 billion people will move to conurbations. Metropolises will detain an increasingly relevant political and economic role and the challenges ahead are complex: cities will have to ensure all people the right to a healthy nutrition without jeopardizing the future of the Planet. This is one of the most difficult challenges to tackle.

Therefore, the Mayor of Milan Giuliano Pisapia has decided to call together urban areas from the north and the south of the world in order to map out a common route towards new food policies.

The idea of *Milan Urban Food Policy Pact* has been launched by Mayor Pisapia in 2014 during the Summit of the C40 Cities, committed to fighting climate change. In September 2014, a group of 46 cities began a dialogue on the content of the Pact with the assistance of a team of international experts and the support of the Advisory group, comprising representatives of the most important international organizations.

Meanwhile, the number of urban areas joining the Pact has more than doubled.

Contents of the Pact and Good Practices

The Pact includes the commitment to develop and implement policies that promote fair, sustainable and resilient food systems and a **Framework of action** that focuses on six different areas of intervention.

- 1) **Governance**, through actions such as the mapping of existing local practices, the information exchange the involvement of all stakeholders within a local food system;
- 2) **Sustainable diets**, through various activities such as the development of guidelines on healthy nutrition;
- 3) **Social and economic justice**, that includes the support to disadvantaged groups by setting up canteens and community kitchens and through the promotion of activities enhancing social inclusion, such as shared fruit gardens;
- 4) **Food production**, with specific interventions targeted at supporting urban and periurban production;
- 5) **Food distribution**, through sustainable low environmental impact logistics systems, and the support to city and farmers markets;
- 6) **Food waste**, with the adoption of policies aimed at promoting the reduction of food surpluses and losses across the entire food supply chain and increasing people's awareness on the need of reducing food waste.

The aim of the Pact is that of creating a network of cities committed at developing and implementing sustainable food systems, also through the exchange of ideas and suggestions on how to concretely address common problems. In order to fight against obesity and promote healthy diets, **New York** has adopted regulations to increase servings of fruit and vegetables in schools, thus fostering the purchase from local

producers. **Paris** has an ambitious goal, that is to say the development of 33 acres located on roofs and walls by 2020. In more than 60 schools of the city of **Milan**, catered by the public company Milano Ristorazione (that delivers more than 80,000 meals on a daily basis), a new initiative called "Io non spreco" ("I don't waste") encourages pupils to take home non-perishable food leftovers from lunch by giving them a special bag. These are just some of the 49 best practices implemented in 28 of the cities signing the Pact. These practices have been gathered in an e-book, "*Milan Urban Food Policy Pact. Selected Good Practices from Cities*" published by Feltrinelli.

The international framework

The Milan Urban Food Policy Pact is endorsed in at a crucial stage of the debate on sustainable development and the fight against global change.

At the end of September the UN General Assembly has adopted the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Many features and issues strictly link the need to grant the access to food to an efficient management of resources, the importance to promote sustainable consumptions and plan a resilient growth in urban areas.

Goal n° 2 foresees to end hunger, achieve food security, improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture". The first target of this goal states that we shall "ensure access by all people, in particular the poor to safe, nutritious and sufficient food by 2030".

Goal n°11 wants to "make cities inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable" with targets that include the support the cooperation between urban and peri-urban areas, waste management, etc.

Goal n° 3 focuses on health and one of its target is that of reducing premature mortality due to non-communicable diseases (many of them are related to bad and poor nutrition).

From November, 30th to December 11th Paris will host the COP 21, the international Conference of Parties on climate change that shall find a universal agreement in order to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Food is at the very centre of the climate issue: agricultural production contributes substantially to greenhouse gas emissions, however global warming and the disruption of usual rainfall patterns endanger the capability to further grow enough food, especially in the most vulnerable areas of the Planet. Rethinking the farming model is pivotal,

as well as adopting new consumption patterns. And it is from cities the all process shall begin.

The Signing Ceremony and the Mayors Summit see the cooperation of the European Commission and benefit from the partnership of COIMA SGR, SEA and Westfield. The event sees the collaboration with Iveco Bus and technological support of TIM, through the TIM2Go service that has developed a dedicated app for the signature of the Milan Urban Food Policy Pact. A special thank goes to the Civica Scuola per Interpreti e Traduttori (applied linguistics department of Fondazione Milano).