



## **Montpellier Declaration**

5th Annual Meeting and Mayors Summit  
7th, 8th and 9th October 2019

We, the mayors and elected officials of the signatory cities that signed the Milan Urban Food Policy Pact, meeting in Montpellier (France) on October the 7th, 8th and 9th, 2019,

We refer to the Milan Urban Food Policy Pact, adopted on the 15th of October 2015 in Milan (Italy);

Endorsing the conclusions of the previous Milan Urban Food Policy Pact Summits: Milan (Italy) on the 15th-16th of October 2015; FAO-Rome (Italy) on the 13th-14th of October 2016; Valencia (Spain) on the 19th-21st of October 2017; Tel Aviv (Israel) on the 4th-5th of September 2018;

Taking into consideration the declarations of the regional Summits of the Milan Urban Food Policy Pact: the Rio Declaration, adopted in Rio de Janeiro (Brazil) on the 31st of May 2019; the Niamey Declaration, adopted in Niamey (Niger) on the 13th of June 2019; and the conclusions of the Regional Forum of Dakar (Senegal) on the 21st-23rd of September 2016 and the Regional Forum of Brazzaville (Republic of Congo) on the 12th-14th of June 2018;

Taking into consideration the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, adopted on the 9th of May 1992 in New York, as well as the Conferences of the Parties (COP), held every year since 1995, in particular the Paris Agreement approved on the 12th of December 2015 at the outcome of the Paris Climate Change Conference (COP21); and the Climate Action Summit held in New York on the 23rd of September 2019;

Taking into consideration the New Urban Agenda, adopted at the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III) in Quito, Ecuador, on the 20th of October 2016; the recommendations of the United Nations Decade of Action on Nutrition, proclaimed at the second International Conference on Nutrition (ICN2) in November 2014, and in particular its 2016-2025 action framework adopted on the 21st of November 2014 in Rome (Italy); the Urban Food Agenda framework of the Food and Agriculture Organization in Rome, Italy, in 2019; the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples adopted on the 13<sup>th</sup> of September 2007;

Taking into consideration resolution A/RES/70/1\*, '*Transforming Our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*', also known as 'Agenda 2030', adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in New York on the 25th of September 2015;

Acknowledging that the Sustainable Development Goals define the path to achieving a better and more sustainable future for all and for meeting the global challenges facing people and the planet; that the Sustainable Development Goals are 'integrated and inseparable', and that to leave no one behind, it is essential to take action to achieve each one of them; that there are multiple and complex inter-relationships between food issues and the Sustainable Development Goals; that food and urban policies are essential in the realisation of Sustainable Development Goal 2 'Zero Hunger'; and that the respect and promotion of cultural and intercultural diversity is essential;

Endorsing the recommendations of the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development held annually since 2015 at the United Nations in New York;

Acknowledging that as elected representatives of cities we fully endorse the 2030 Agenda, and that we are major actors in the realisation and appropriation, through local communities and local territories, of the Sustainable Development Goals;

Recognising that cities have levers for action to create, promote and maintain links between urban food policies and the Sustainable Development Goals,

**We declare that as elected representatives of cities, municipalities and local governments, we can contribute to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, under the Milan Urban Food Policy Pact, by taking the following actions:**

- Prioritising awareness of the Sustainable Development Goals when developing, implementing and monitoring urban food policies so as not to forget any social, economic or environmental aspect of these policies,
- Measuring the impact of urban food policies in the light of indicators from the Sustainable Development Goals;
- Sharing the good practices that have been implemented for the Agenda 2030 under the Milan Urban Food Policy Pact, and contributing to the informing of the general public on this subject;
- Promoting training and awareness of the Sustainable Development Goals for those people in charge of developing, implementing and monitoring urban food policies.
- Implementing the human, technical and financial resources — in accordance with our prerogatives and to the extent of our respective capacities — in order to mobilise the levers listed above and thus contribute to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals in the framework of the Milan Urban Food Policy Pact. These courses of action may take the form described in the appendix.
- Mobilising all food stakeholders to ensure food hygiene (stemming from mass distribution) and food health, and stating that our common intention is to eliminate plastic.

## **Appendix:**

In line with Area 3, *social and economic equity*, and Area 5, *food supply and distribution*, of the Milan Pact, we can participate in the achievement of Sustainable Development Goal 1, aimed at **ending poverty in all its forms everywhere**, by:

- Encouraging the development of social pricing in canteens and other public establishments;
- Establishing public programmes and policies to protect family and subsistence farming, ensuring a fair income for all stakeholders in the food production and distribution chain, including encouraging direct sales and the creation of producer cooperatives.

In accordance with Area 2, *sustainable diets and nutrition*, and Area 5, *food supply and distribution*, of the Milan Pact, we can participate in the achievement of Sustainable Development Goal 2, aimed at **eliminating hunger, achieving food security and improving nutrition and promoting sustainable agriculture**, by:

- Supporting the development of a local food and subsistence agriculture;
- Ensuring that small and medium-sized producers have access to traditional and farmers' seeds from their own farms or from public seed banks;
- Linking urban, peri-urban and rural areas to ensure a fair and efficient distribution of land resources;
- Developing policies that promote the access of vulnerable populations to products coming from eco-responsible agriculture, and facilitating the establishment of local markets, including in areas that are economically and geographically marginalised/isolated;
- Developing social protection systems such as food banks and community kitchens for the most vulnerable populations;
- Establishing circular savings policies, redirecting the surplus from canteens, public establishments and distributors towards food donation;
- Recognising the impact of household economic vulnerability on food insecurity.

In line with Area 2, *sustainable diets and nutrition*, and Area 5, *food supply and distribution*, of the Milan Pact, we can participate in the achievement of Sustainable Development Goal 3, aimed at **ensuring healthy lives and promoting well-being for all at all ages**, by:

- Reinforcing food quality control policies, from production to distribution;
- Promoting social protection schemes aimed at ensuring access to a healthy and sustainable diet for all;
- Investing in a drinking-water distribution system that is accessible to all, as well as in an innovative and efficient sanitation network;
- Developing public policies to fight against undernutrition and malnutrition, with special attention on children, in particular measures concerning school menus;

- Discouraging the poor eating habits of all by adopting public awareness policies, especially for the very young;
- Improving the quality of life by developing public policies aimed at developing agricultural practices that do not harm health nor the environment.

In accordance with Area 2, *sustainable diets and nutrition*, and Area 3, *social and economic equity*, of the Milan Pact, we can participate in the achievement of Sustainable Development Goal 4, aimed at **ensuring inclusive and equitable quality education and promoting lifelong opportunities for all**, by:

- Encouraging the creation of school canteens that are accessible to all, in particular to strengthen the inclusion of disadvantaged populations and enabling children to learn in good conditions;
- Promoting programmes on nutritional education and responsible production methods for healthy foods in educational establishments;
- Supporting technical education, land-based work, and agricultural and scientific training aimed at improving farm production and management systems.

In line with Area 3, *social and economic equity*, Area 4, *food production*, and Area 5, *food supply and distribution*, of the Milan Pact, we can participate in the achievement of Sustainable Development Goal 5, aimed at **achieving gender equality and empowering all women and girls**, by:

- Ensuring equal distribution of water, land and food resources between the sexes;
- Promoting the establishment of women's agricultural co-operatives, and other forms of women's entrepreneurship, thus enabling the social and economic inclusion of all, regardless of sex or gender identity;
- Incorporating gender equality into new and already established urban food policies;
- Promoting breastfeeding as a vehicle for good child and maternal health as well as the socio-economic balance of families, and providing mothers with special reserved spaces for breastfeeding as well as childcare in or near their workplace.

In accordance with Area 2, *sustainable diets and nutrition*, and Area 4, *food production*, of the Milan Pact, we can participate in the achievement of Sustainable Development Goal 6, aimed at **ensuring availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all**, by:

- Improving or implementing waste-water treatment and recycling systems with access to good sanitation for everyone;
- Optimising water resource allocation strategies between human drinking water needs and agricultural needs;
- Developing waterway and groundwater management plans, which vary according to the watersheds, thus ensuring a sustainable use of water resources;
- Promoting crop and farming techniques adapted to arid lands with low water requirements.

In line with Area 6, *food waste*, and Area 1, *governance*, of the Milan Pact, we can participate in the achievement of Sustainable Development Goal 7, aimed at **ensuring access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all**, by:

- Establishing integrated municipal solid-waste management systems, based on the circular economy, to differentiate the treatment of non-organic waste from the treatment of organic waste that can be converted into a renewable energy source;
- Developing research and innovation aimed at establishing a clean and sustainable agriculture;
- Encouraging the access of small and medium producers to public infrastructures, in particular to energy services, thanks to preferential tariffs;
- Accompanying small and medium producers in the domestic production of renewable energies, in order to reduce their energy dependence or to create an additional income.

In accordance with Area 3, *social and economic equity*, Area 4, *food production*, and Area 5, *food supply and distribution*, of the Milan Pact, we can participate in the achievement of Sustainable Development Goal 8, aimed at **promoting sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all**, by:

- Encouraging local social and solidarity economic initiatives, and recognising their role in the livelihoods of the most vulnerable populations;
- Providing producers with access to the institutional services and infrastructures necessary for the development of their economic activity;
- Promoting local circuits and sustainable models of agro-ecological production in the procurement of public contracts;
- Supporting small and medium-sized producers, and promoting an agriculture that is respectful of the environmental, human labor and public health;
- Facilitating food sovereignty and local trading channels to ensure fair economic and social conditions for producers.

In line with Area 1, *governance*, and Area 5, *food supply and distribution*, of the Milan Pact, we can participate in the achievement of Sustainable Development Goal 9, aimed at **building resilient infrastructure, promoting inclusive and sustainable industrialisation and fostering innovation**, by:

- Developing information systems and connecting all involved in the chain of food production and distribution to help promote the innovation and harmonisation of practices;
- Creating or improving infrastructure to link agricultural producers in rural areas with urban and peri-urban consumers;
- Ensure the fair distribution of wealth created throughout the value chain.

In accordance with Area 3, *social and economic equity*, and Area 5, *food supply and distribution*, of the Milan Pact, we can participate in the achievement of Sustainable Development Goal 10, aimed at **reducing inequality within and among countries**, by:

- Adopting legislative standards and regulatory systems to ensure access to safe food and drinking water for all in public service facilities;
- Establishing fair-price policies between countries through the various international congresses and summits of countries and local governments by agreeing on the supportive policies and financial aid for internal production in a reasoned and fair manner;
- Promoting social and solidarity initiatives aimed at ensuring the social inclusion of all, specifically vulnerable populations such as migrants and refugees;
- Supporting the establishment of an inclusive and economically viable food chain;
- Combating the standardisation of food production by promoting a culture of local, resilient, subsistence farming, of small and medium-sized crops and family farms;
- Promoting fair-trade policies, and support and financial aid for socially and environmentally sustainable productions.

In line with Area 1, *governance*, and Area 4, *food production* of the Milan Pact, we can participate in the achievement of Sustainable Development Goal 11, aimed at **making cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable**, by:

- Improving the participation of those involved in the food chain in partnership with the institutions of the city with an aim to participate in developing a sustainable agroecosystem that allows for healthy diets for all;
- Encouraging sustainable community initiatives such as shared gardens and urban agriculture;
- Recognising and celebrating food as a vector of social connection and multicultural sharing;
- Raising awareness among urban and peri-urban citizens about transboundary social and environmental issues.

In accordance with Area 6, *food waste*, and Area 4, *food production*, of the Milan Pact, we can participate to the achievement of Sustainable Development Goal 12, aimed at **ensuring sustainable consumption and production patterns**, by:

- Putting in place policies to support local markets that meet both the needs of consumers and producers;
- Promoting and strengthening local urban and peri-urban food production;
- Establishing a system for the redistribution of food produced but not consumed;
- Awareness of zero waste through the fight against food over-packaging, single-use packaging and the promotion of bulk sales and deposit packaging;
- Fighting food waste through more efficient supply and distribution chains enabling the prevention of food loss;
- Supporting the requirements of traceability and clear food labelling in order to offer consumers transparent and quality information on the sustainability of their origin and the sector;
- Promoting awareness about the recycling of organic waste through the circular economy.

In line with Area 6, *food waste*, with Axis 2, *sustainable diets and nutrition* and with Area 4, *food production*, of the Milan Pact, we can participate in the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goal 13, relating to the **taking of urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts**, by:

- Adapting the menus of the school canteens, and other collective canteens, to promote a diet that respects the environment from the youngest ages;
- Building awareness among citizens of a lower CO<sub>2</sub>-emitting diet, notably by promoting a reasonable weekly consumption of animal proteins;
- Reducing or eliminating the use of single-use plastics in community canteens;
- Promoting local circuits in order to reduce the production of CO<sub>2</sub> needed to supply cities with food.

In accordance with Area 1, *governance*, and Area 4, *food production*, of the Milan Pact, we can participate in the achievement of Sustainable Development Goal 14, aimed at **conserving and sustainably using the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development**, by:

- Promoting fish farming and sustainable fishing that is respectful of the environment and attentive to the preservation of biodiversity;
- Promoting the traceability of species fished throughout the whole distribution chain;
- Increasing awareness in communities on the impact of human actions, particularly of their food habits, on biodiversity, ecosystems and the water cycle;
- Ensuring the treatment of wastewater and waste in a bid to preserve streams and marine environments;
- Reducing the use of plastics in public organisations, such as collective canteens and office spaces, in order to preserve environments, especially aquatic, from pollution.

In line with Area 1, *governance*, Axis 2, *sustainable diets and nutrition* and Area 4, *food production*, of the Milan Pact, we can participate in the achievement of Sustainable Development Goal 15, aimed at **protecting, restoring and promoting the sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably managing forests, combating desertification, and halting and reversing land degradation and halting biodiversity loss**, by:

- Promoting environmentally friendly agricultural, livestock and agroforestry practices;
- Organising the distribution of land resources so as to reconcile agricultural production and the preservation of biodiversity;
- Paying particular attention to seeds and grains, which carry genetic diversity within them;
- Establishing biodiversity refuges, critical zones and protected natural areas;
- Diversifying food systems to limit excessive pressure on an environment.

In accordance with Area 1, *governance*, and Area 3, *social and economic equity*, of the Milan Pact, we can participate in the achievement of Sustainable Development Goal 16, aimed at **promoting peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, providing access to justice for all and building effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels**, by:

- Mobilising city services for the development of a policy promoting sustainable food systems;
- Promoting dialogue between producers, consumers, civil society players and municipal institutions in order to jointly develop sustainable solutions to the challenges of providing food for all.

In line with Area 1, *governance*, of the Milan Pact, we can participate in the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goal 17, aimed at **strengthening the means of implementation and revitalising the global partnership for sustainable development**, by:

- Developing systems of consultation with representatives from the private, research and education sectors as well as from civil society to establish good agricultural and food practices;
- Promoting the collaboration between cities that have signed the Milan Urban Food Policy Pact through the sharing of experiences, good practices and innovations;
- Encouraging cooperation projects with countries from the south in the context of sustainable urban food policies;
- Promoting a creative dynamic by recognizing the diversity of cultures, ethnicities, genres, and ages, etc.