

# Joint Working Session with Global and Regional Networks of Local Governments



## Provisional Agenda

FAO HQ – 13-14 March 2018  
Queen Juliana Room – B323

### 1 Context

The central role of local governments in shaping food systems - from small cities and towns to metropolis, from district to regions and provinces – is increasingly acknowledged. FAO fully acknowledges this role, and is seeking increasing partnerships with global networks local governments. A first meeting with some major networks was organized in June 2017 in Rome. It gathered 5 networks (C40, ICELI-RUAF, UCLG, UCLG Africa, ORU-Fogar and MUFPP). During this meeting, a joint action plan was developed. It included 1/ the development of the Urban Food Action Platform; 2/ the development of a joint advocacy document; 3/ a mapping of roles, activities, capacities of the coalition members; 4/ the city to city initiative; 5/ joint advocacy at international events; 6/ collaboration modalities.

Meanwhile, as the international agenda has evolved, especially following the beginning of the implementation phase of the New Urban Agenda and of the SDGs, the collaboration between different UN agencies is strengthening. Thereby, FAO is developing increasing collaborations with the other Rome Based Agencies (IFAD and WFP), as well as with UN-Habitat, who are themselves also engaging with local government networks. As a result of these evolutions, we propose to organize a joint working session gathering both networks and the 4 UN-agencies (FAO, IFAD, UN-Habitat and WFP).

### 2 Objective

**To review the action plan established during the June 2017 meeting, present progress made by and the work program of the different participants, identify further stream of collaborations.**

Main takeaways for participants:

- Greater understanding of each other's work and synergies;
- Increase the understanding how those engagements and collaborations help to achieve the SDGs and implement the NUA
- Lessons from last year's engagements and collaborations;
- Action plan for 2018 based on lessons learnt;
- Resource mobilization plan.

### 3 Agenda

*Tuesday 13 March 2018*

**9:00-9:30      Session 1: Welcome and introduction**

Introduction:      Marcela Villarreal (Director, Partnerships and South South Cooperation division)  
Presentation of the workshop, objectives of the meeting, structure  
Round of introduction

**9:30-10:45      Session 2: FAO Urban Framework Agenda and Work Program**

Presenter:      Jorge Fonseca (Strategic Program 4)

Context:      Over the past few weeks, FAO has developed an Urban Food Framework Agenda aiming at clarifying FAO works with local governments, and at supporting to the implementation for the New Urban Agenda. This Framework Agenda will be presented as well as FAO's draft Program of Work for the next 2-years. This is an important context to understand for our partners.

Discussion:      How do the networks and international organizations understand this Framework agenda? Does the agenda speak to their own strategy? What are the possible overlaps with their positioning? What would be the main differences and complementarities?

**10:45-11:15      Coffee Break**

**11:15-13:00      Session 3: Implementing the New Urban Agenda: Role of secondary cities, small towns and urban-rural linkages to foster an integrated territorial development**

Presenter:      UN-Habitat, Regional and Metropolitan Planning Unit

Context:      Well-functioning urban-rural linkages are key for sustainability of food systems and the implementation the NUA Agenda. Fostering collaboration between UN-agencies, development partners and local government networks is required to enhance coordination of urban and rural development strategies and programmes, to apply an integrated approach to sustainable territorial development and urbanization. Several initiatives are underway where contributions of different stakeholders (including different government levels and sectors, civil society, private sector and academia) is crucial, such as the development of the "Guiding Principles for Urban-Rural Linkages" (convened by UN-Habitat) or the technical publication of successful innovative food governance (SIFG) practices (and the underlying enabling environment) at regional/small city cluster level (prepared by FAO).

Discussion:      What support local governments would need (tools, advisory services, projects, etc.) for implementing or enhancing urban-rural linkages, with food security as one entry point? How could international organizations best support local governments (fostering dialogues across government levels? policy work at national level? Advocacy? Capacity development?) for an integrated territorial development and strong urban-rural linkages? What evidence could we collectively produce for SIFG practices in cities and towns? What would be criteria to use to assess such "innovations"?

**13:00-14:00 Lunch**

**14:00-15:00 Session 4: Strengthening the Urban food Action Platform and Advocacy**

Presenter: Thierry Giordano (Partnership and South South cooperation division)

Context: The June 2017 meeting identified several joint actions. The Urban Food Action Platform and joint advocacy at international events have constituted the bulk of our joint activities since then.

Discussion: What lessons could we draw from these two main sets of activities? Where are we today with the platform? What needs to be done to increase its relevance and make it more effective? How do we improve our participation in international events?

**15:00-16:00 Session 5:**

Presenter: Valérie Nicolas (UCLG)

Context: The transition towards sustainable and resilient food systems implies stronger urban rural linkages and, for some, the partial re-localization of food systems (rural youth employment, organic value chains and agroecology, short chains, etc.). There is no clear understanding of these impacts of such changes on jobs could be. UCLG is launching a prospective study on this topic. This question is critical for all continents, far beyond Europe.

Discussion: What is the demand from the different networks' members on this issue? What is the current state of thinking and knowledge? How would such prospective study contribute to the urban rural / integrated territorial development debate? What would be the opportunities to jointly work together on this matter?

**16:00-16h30 Coffee Break**

**16:30-17:30 Session 6:**

Presenter: WFP

Context: In progress

Discussion:

### *Wednesday 14 March 2018*

**9:00-13:00 Session 7: Discussion on the joint advocacy paper and mapping**

Presenter: Marielle Dubelling (ICLEI-RUAF City Food Network)

Context: At June meeting, we agreed to develop a joint advocacy paper to promote sustainable food systems planning for healthy diets and improved nutrition that contribute to healthy diets, environmental sustainability and social wellbeing for all across countries and local governments. FAO has asked ICLEI-RUAF City Food Network to take the lead on this work and

coordinate the development of this advocacy paper. This session will be dedicated to the development of the content of the paper, and the possible contributions of each partner,

Discussion: How do we structure the paper? What are the main messages we would like to promote? What information would be needed to make our case? Who could contribute? How?

**10:45-11-15 Coffee Break**

**13:00-14-00 Lunch**

**14:00-15:00 Session 8: Elaboration of a definitional framework, and conceptual guide, for understanding sustainable food systems, using the lenses of the local governments**

Presenter: Tori Okner (ICLEI-RUAF City Food Network)

Context: FAO seek to develop a conceptual guide and definitional framework for understanding sustainable food systems planning for healthy diets and improved nutrition that contribute to environmental sustainability and social wellbeing for all in urban and territorial contexts. The target audience will be decision makers at city, regional and national levels as well as local governments' staff working on food-related issues.

Discussion The publication goal is two-fold: i) Firstly, for practitioners, city officials, food system and urban planners, etc., to have first-hand what is understood in different world regions by the commonly-used terms in the food system realm; ii) propose some standard language for selected terminology commonly used in multilateral negotiations and in the UN System. The brief discussion will spin around: Is this the direction needed for a useful conceptual guide? If not how to shape it so that can become a source for newcomers in local governments.

**15:00-16:00 Session 9:**

Presenter: Davide Di Martino and Cécile Michel (MUFPP Secretariat, City of Milan)

Context: Three years after its launch, the Milan Pact represents one of the main frameworks for cities and international stakeholders to work on food systems and a new arena of debate and cooperation among 163 cities worldwide, as witnessed during some of the last international events and global agenda appointments. Cooperation with international networks and organizations is crucial to build partnerships, mobilize resources and streamline efforts. The positive returns of the cooperation path consolidated over the last years proved to be a success for developing common tools, advocacy activities, projects and events.

Discussion: How can networks and the FAO keep on supporting cities that work in the framework of the Milan Pact? (Active participation to the 2018 MUFPP Annual Gathering and Mayors Summit in Tel Aviv; contribution to the Urban Food Action Platform; encouragement and support to cities for practice submissions to the 2018 Milan Pact Awards, for adoption of MUFPP Monitoring Framework etc.)

**16:00-16:30 Coffee Break**

**16:30-17:30 Session 10: Conclusion and way Forward**

Moderator: TBD