



# Achieving Urban Food and Nutrition Security with the New Urban Agenda

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## A Background

I. Habitat III (United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development) will take place in Quito, Ecuador on 17-20 October 2016

II. Habitat III will formulate the New Urban Agenda that will dictate the strategy on urbanization for the next 20 years

## B Draft New Urban Agenda

I. We commend the fact that the Draft New Urban Agenda:

1. Envisages cities and human settlements that provide equal access to goods and services surrounding food and nutrition security
2. Is resolved to ensure poverty eradication and greater equity in urban areas by providing access to basic physical and social infrastructure for all including nutritious food and that these services are responsive to the rights and needs of women, children and youth and other particularly vulnerable populations.
3. Promotes the creation of green public spaces, good management of urban deltas, the support of local provision of basic services, and the strengthening of sustainable management of resources in order to effectively promote food and nutrition security goals

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4. Will implement integrated, polycentric, balanced territorial development policies and plans:
  - a) encouraging cooperation and mutual support among citizens, different scales of cities and human settlements,
  - b) strengthening the role of small and intermediate cities and towns in enhancing food systems for healthy food and nutrition security, providing access to housing, infrastructure, and services,
  - c) facilitating effective trade links, across the urban-rural continuum, ensuring that small scale farmers and fishers are linked to regional and global value chains and markets.
5. Supports urban agriculture that is environmentally responsible, healthy, and safe.
6. Supports local commerce and markets as an option to contribute to sustainable urban food and nutrition security.
7. Will promote the integration of food and nutrition to meet the needs of urban residents, particularly the urban poor, to end hunger and malnutrition.
8. Will promote coordination of food security and agriculture policies across urban, peri-urban, and rural areas to facilitate the production, storage, transport, and marketing of safe and healthy food to consumers and to prevent food waste and conserve water and other resource use.

II. These food and nutrition security goals in the Draft New Urban Agenda are appropriate, considering:

1. the second Sustainable Development Goal is to: end hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture;
2. the eleventh Sustainable Development Goal is to: make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable;
3. over 100 cities from around the world have signed the Milan Urban Food Policy Pact that acknowledges 1) that there are many challenges posed to the current food system among which include: unbalanced distribution and access to scarce resources, unsustainable production and consumption patterns, climate change; 2) 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 3) that cities have a strategic role to play in developing sustainable food systems and promoting healthy diets;
4. 12 urban areas over three continents will coordinate their food policy and their international cooperation activities as part of the Food Smart Cities for Development project where cities and civil society organizations will work together until the end of 2016, organizing activities that enhance the collaboration to create a coordinated urban food policy agenda and show the potential of the European Territorial Cooperation in fighting against poverty and hunger
5. The Rome Declaration on Nutrition acknowledges that malnutrition, in all its forms, including undernutrition, micronutrient deficiencies, overweight and obesity, not only affects people's health and wellbeing by impacting negatively on human physical and cognitive development, compromising the immune system, increasing susceptibility to communicable and non-communicable diseases, restricting the attainment of human potential and reducing productivity, but also poses a high burden in the form of negative social and economic consequences to individuals, families, communities and States.

6. The United Nations General Assembly proclaimed a UN Decade of Action on Nutrition that will run from 2016 to 2025
7. The COP 21 Paris Agreement recognizes the fundamental priority of safeguarding food security and ending hunger, and the particular vulnerabilities of food production systems to the adverse impacts of climate change

**C. We acknowledge that good nutrition is essential for equitable growth and that building sustainable food systems is key for responding to many of the challenges posed to growing cities.**

I. We recommend that in order to achieve the food and nutrition security goals of the New Urban Agenda policy makers should:

1. Acknowledge that feeding cities well is a complex challenge related to many other compelling issues such as tackling poverty and social and economic inequalities, ensuring adequate housing and sanitation, providing access to health care and education, planning resilient communities, enhancing environmental protection, land tenure, biodiversity conservation and boosting local economies;
2. Acknowledge the importance of shaping urban food systems that are more resilient, safe and facilitate greater access to nutritious foods;
3. Acknowledge the strategic role played by public institutions to promote healthy diets, reduce greenhouses gas emission, make the city's food systems more safe and resilient to climate change prevent negative impact of potential disasters, and create jobs locally and across the region through effective policies, social safety net programs and public procurement;
4. Promote municipal food policies as an effective means to address the above mentioned challenges of growing cities with a comprehensive, interdisciplinary and inter-institutional approach;
5. Call for cities to undertake nutrition specific interventions particularly for its most vulnerable populations;
6. Incorporate a nutrition sensitive lens when it comes to the development of urban infrastructures including water and sanitation facilities, energy, roads and transport, informal settlements, terminal and retail market infrastructure, as well as, informal and formal employment while facilitating food safety and good nutrition practices;
7. Acknowledge that in order to achieve the goal of inclusive cities that are pro poor and pro youth, cities must help ensure all children have access to good nutrition, in particular infants during the first 1000 days of their life, women of a reproductive age and adolescent girls;
8. Recognize poor urban consumer constraints and livelihoods challenges( and in particular the time burden of mothers and women of reproductive age) as a driver of food choices in urban areas;
9. Call for cities to adopt people-centred policies, engage people in the definition of territorial planning, food and nutrition policies and goals;
10. Incorporate within the spatial development framework a strategy to improve access to food and good nutrition with urban landscapes, reduce urban food deserts, and create public spaces that encourage exercise and movement;

11. Call for cities to facilitate effective trade links, across the urban-rural continuum, ensuring that farmers and fishers, including small scale, are linked to cities and cities' neighbourhoods in more efficient and sustainable ways, to improve access to nutritious food;
12. Recognize that the urban poor in low and middle-income countries source a majority of their food from small and medium-scale enterprises (both formal and informal) and that these need to be strengthened;
13. Recognize the interdependence of local, regional and global food systems as a key element which needs to be strengthened and promoted by the public sector in collaboration with all the key stakeholders;
14. Call for cities to support safe urban agriculture and alternative supply chains to better connect producers with consumers and enhance responsible local sustainable consumption and production;
15. Acknowledge that targeted, appealing and innovative food education and awareness programmes are imperative if we want to improve people's quality of lives, reduce NCDs, and lighten the health care system's expenditure;
16. Work with public regulators and the private sector (both formal and informal) to promote proper food safety practices, such as appropriate and adequate food labelling that also highlights the nutritional value of food products;
17. Acknowledge the food and nutrition data gap and invest in effective, systematic and regular measurement.