



Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations



## 4th global conference - SFS Programme *The Transformation We Need* Side Event

### Cities and local governments accelerating cohesive and inclusive food systems transformation

25 April 2023 | 16.00 – 17.30 (GMT +7)  
Sheraton Hanoi Hotel, Ha Noi, Viet Nam

By 2050, 68 percent of the world's population will be living in cities, with 90 percent of the urbanization increase occurring in Africa and Asia (UNDESA, 2015). Urbanization is associated with changes in diets which may lead to additional pressures on natural resources. Food systems today already account for 21-37% of total greenhouse gas emissions (IPCC, 2019).

The recent **UN Food Systems Summit** (UN-FSS) process highlighted the importance of urban food systems for the overall food systems transformation, and in this context it was established a specific [Coalition on Urban Food Systems](#).

Despite this global acceptance, **urban food systems** issues are largely missing from national policy frameworks for food systems transformation including in most of the national pathways. Local governments are generally not included in national consultations, which results in lack of an enabling policy environment for food system transformation in cities.

To make concrete progresses on vertical integration of urban food systems transformation, FAO, together with partners, is developing a **guidance note and framework for action on how to establish multi-level food systems governance mechanisms** to strengthen the engagement of local governments in the implementation of food systems national pathways and the achievement of SDGs, especially SDGs 2, 11 and 12. Many national and local governments and non-governmental actors are also requesting specific guidance and action on the creation of multi-level food systems governance mechanisms.

Once finalized, the guidance note and framework for action will be used as a capacity building tool to assist local and national governments to establish such mechanisms that will facilitate to implement the national pathways and other related strategies and plans to transform food systems across different governance levels.

The **objective of the side-event** is to debate and **receive critical feedback** on this guidance note and framework of action on multi-level urban food systems governance that is currently under development.

The main outcome of the event will be concrete input on existing barriers for multi-level food system transformation and recommendations on how to develop and improve the relevance and added value of the guidance note.

The side event will include:

- i) a roundtable discussion between national, local governments and non-state actors on multi-level food systems governance;
- ii) group discussions around good practices, challenges, and opportunities in creating such governance mechanisms and empowering local and sub-national governments.



# Agenda

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## 16.00 Opening

Moderator - **Charlotte Flechet**, Global Programme Director - Good Food for Cities, Rikolto

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## 16.05 Setting the scene

**Corinna Hawkes**, Director, Food Systems and Food Safety Division, FAO

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## 16.10 Video messages from the cities

- **Giuseppe Sala**, Mayor, Milan Municipality, Italy (TBC)
  - **Maximilian Iranqhe**, Mayor of Arusha, Tanzania
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## 16.15 Panel discussion

- **Martin Hoppe**, Head of Division 123, Food and Nutrition Security, Global Food Policy, Fisheries German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development
  - **Meti Tamrat**, School health and nutrition advisor to the mayor, City of Addis Ababa, Ethiopia (TBC)
  - **Mansi Shah**, Senior Coordinator, SEWA - Self-Employed Women's Association of India
  - **Tường Tạ Văn**, Deputy Director, Hanoi Department of Agriculture and Rural Development
  - **Truong Tuyet Mai**, Vice-Director of National Institute of Nutrition, Viet Nam National Convenor
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## 16.45 Group Discussions

Panellists and audience will discuss on the following three questions:

- (1) What are the main barriers in effectively engaging local governments and other levels of government with the national level in the design and implementation of food systems policies, plans and actions?
  - (2) In your country, which formal and informal mechanisms exist to coordinate between national and local levels of government in relation to food systems policy making?
  - (3) What kind of information would you like to see in practical guidelines to improve coordination between different levels of government on food systems? Which needs do you want to see addressed in the guideline?
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## 17.15 Reporting back from the groups

*One Rapporteur from each group*

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## 17.25 Closing remarks,

**Jamie Morrison**, Senior Advisor, GAIN

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