



## United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development – Habitat III

### City region food systems are key to sustainable urbanization: Summary points for Habitat III Prepcom 2, 14-16 April

This summary of key points is drawn from the Discussion Paper on city region food systems prepared for the Nairobi 2nd preparatory committee (prepcom) meeting for Habitat III summit to be held in October 2016 in Quito, Ecuador. The following ten points are further elaborated in the paper, found at [www.cityregionfoodsistemas.org](http://www.cityregionfoodsistemas.org):

1. **Sustainable food systems** and the *new urban agenda* need to be better understood in relation to each other. The future habitat for an urban planet must link rural and urban communities. This relationship is vital today, but will become only more vital tomorrow.
2. **Integrated city region food systems** are a key dimension of the rural-urban nexus that needs to be explored and developed in order to contribute to a more sustainable and resilient urbanisation and rural development.
3. The **jobs and livelihoods** found in the expanded food sector of cities can be a significant percentage of all urban jobs, from the informal to formal employment sectors. Therefore, the food supply infrastructure for cities needs investment like any other urban infrastructure.
4. Cities can and have found ways to **address both vulnerable urban and vulnerable rural communities simultaneously** through a rights-based approach and integrated policy to provide stable livelihoods, jobs and food security across the urban rural continuum.
5. Strong city region food systems can, at least in part, address some of these issues, by developing **urban food strategies** that support the development of alternative food systems that are economically, environmentally and socially sustainable, fair and rights-based.
6. **A landscape or territorial approach** requires integrated planning across urban, peri-urban and rural landscapes to maximize potential to prepare for climate change by strengthening the resilience of urban, peri-urban and rural areas together.
7. Sustainable urbanization and the future of our common habitat demand a level of **greater interaction between producers and consumers** concerning food, products and other ecosystem services. Urban food demand can stimulate the development of food systems and agricultural value chains, but constraints of poor access to finance, energy, transport and infrastructure must be addressed.
8. When the **services, infrastructure and the resources they depend on**, especially for the urban and rural poor, are well integrated by government, private sector and civil society actions to serve economic, social and environmental values simultaneously, then a healthy symbiosis of town and country may be concretely realized.
9. **Inclusive, sustainable and affordable finance is a critical condition for development of city region food systems.** It is important to strengthen the public and private capacities and unlock domestic financial markets for financing transformative investments in city region food systems, including through financial innovations to de-risk such investments.
10. **A multi-stakeholder approach will be essential** to achieve the collaboration between all levels of government, nongovernmental and community-based civil society organizations, the private sector, the research and philanthropic communities and international support.
11. **People and community-based organizations are vital** in dialogue and policy decision-making. Most of the innovations adopted by local governments in city region food systems have been initiated by civil society, and partnership not only with the private sector but with civil society will be key to a fully inclusive resilient urban agenda for the human habitat.