



# HABITAT III



Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations

Second session of the Preparatory Committee

Side Event

## **The Importance of City Region Food Systems in the New Urban Agenda**

**15 April, 2015 08:30-09:30 (room 14)**

### **Abstract**

Food is one of the basic needs for humans. Yet, it is often ignored or neglected in the decision making process for urban development. Current food systems that support the cities are either broken or not sustainable, as witnessed in the 2007-8 price shock and various natural and human disasters that have struck cities in the recent years. Rise in obesity in urban populations and waste issues are also closely linked to food. Sustainable urban development should not be only about the environment that people live in but about the quality of life those people have.

The relationship between urban and rural spaces, peoples and environments is vital, and is undoubtedly one of the critical development issues that needs to be addressed in the post-2015 development agenda. While critical urban rural linkages go beyond food systems to include labour, migration, ecosystem services, input and output markets etc., integrated city region food systems are a key dimension of the rural urban nexus that need to be explored and developed in order to contribute to a more sustainable urbanization and rural development, to promoting environmental sustainability and to building inclusive food systems for urban and rural-based populations.

This session will describe the importance of effective planning and governance of city region food systems in relation to the New Urban Agenda process and the post-2015 SDG context through various stakeholder lenses. Speakers will include national/local government representatives, civil society, UN agencies and NGOs.

Furthermore, discussions will focus on the actions that can be taken at local level to translate reality into appropriate policy, and policy into practice. FAO, along with research and development partners such as RUAF, CIRAD and IWMI, is developing a city region food system assessment tool to support local governments and stakeholders to establish a baseline and make informed policy and investment decisions. This will then be piloted in cities and regions through the newly developing Milan led Urban Food Policy Pact participating cities as well as ICLEI, UCLG/ORU-FOGAR members.

This side event is co-organized by FAO and the International Sustainability Unit of the Prince of Wales' Charitable Foundation, with support from the city region food system Global Collaborative Group. The Group has been established to bring stakeholders together to effectively share

information and experiences, and collectively identify needs and opportunities to maximize resources and impact. Current core group includes: FAO, HIC, ICLEI, IFAD, ISU, IUFN, LPFN, and RUAF.

## Programme

1. **Introduction and presentation of the city region food systems paper** (10 min)  
**David Edwards**, Assistant Director, International Sustainability Unit
2. **Panel discussion** (30 min) – Moderator: **Makiko Taguchi**, Co-Secretary, Food for the Cities (FAO)

### *Panelists*

- **Maina Mugeny**, Executive Committee Member, Agriculture Livestock and Fisheries, Nairobi City County
- **Davinder Lamba**, Mazingira Institute/Habitat International Coalition
- **Jacobus VanDerMerwe**, Somalia Food Security Cluster
- **Yunus Arikan**, Head of Global Policy and Advocacy, ICLEI
- **Dmitry Pozhidaev**, Regional Technical Advisor, UNCDF

3. **Open discussion** (15 min)
4. **Wrap up** (5 min)

### Institutions supporting this side event

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)  
Prince of Wales Charities International Sustainability Unit (ISU)  
Global Food Security Cluster/Urban Working Group  
Habitat International Coalition (HIC)  
ICLEI  
International Fund for Agriculture Development (IFAD)  
ILO  
Mazingira Institute  
RUAF  
UNCDF  
UNHabitat  
World Health Organization (WHO)  
World Food Programme (WFP)  
Ecoagriculture partners