

## **Letter to Habitat III**

### Summary Outcomes from the Milan Pact Technical Workshop and Mayors Summit October 13-14, 2016, Rome Italy

For two days Mayors and representatives from 50 cities, technical experts, national representatives, and other stakeholders met at FAO Headquarters in Rome, Italy. They met on the occasion of World Food Day to review the progress of the Milan Pact launched one year ago. Speakers and participants discussed follow up activities, priorities for the coming years, and presented Milan Pact Awards to eight cities for their good practice related to the Pact's Framework for Action.

Just prior to the Rome meeting the new Milan Pact Steering Committee cities were announced. The 13 cities are:

AFRICA: Abidjan, Dakar, Nairobi

EUROPE: Athens, Milan, Valencia

LATIN AMERICA: Belo Horizonte, Buenos Aires, Sao Paulo

NORTH AMERICA: Baltimore, Toronto

SOUTH & WEST ASIA: Astana, Tel Aviv

EAST SOUTHEAST ASIA & OCEANIA: No candidate cities

The Steering committee elected Milan to be the president of the Steering Committee for next two years.

The Technical Workshop on 13 October began with a session on building a monitoring framework for the MUFPP and preliminary results of two surveys to signatory cities were presented. Such a framework could be used to help cities understand the functioning of their own food systems, define the trajectory they would like to follow in implementing the Pact, and monitor progress made.

Technical experts from cities provided key inputs and priorities in the first two surveys that the FAO team used to shape the development of indicators to meet their priorities. However, more participation from cities will be needed in order to have a better base of information. This will help to refine the preliminary indicators that have been proposed in all categories of the Milan Pact Framework For Action. These draft indicators will also be available for response from cities.

A discussion of networks at global, national and local levels ensued, with input from C40, Eurocities, the European regional office of ICLEI, the Italian healthy cities network (Cittàsane), francophone African cities, the US Conference of Mayors' urban food policy directors' task force and a Dutch network of cities. In existing networks at all scales, working groups including Milan Pact cities and other cities interested in food policy

issues represented in the Pact have been initiated (e.g. C40, Eurocities, US Conference of Mayors,). In emerging city networks Milan Pact cities have been at the forefront and non-signatory cities are included in these organizing efforts as well (e.g. African cities, Dutch network, Healthy Cities network). An alliance between the food working groups in city networks will be further explored.

The final part of the workshop was a presentation by FAO of technical peer-to-peer cooperation and exchange of practices drawing from past city-to-city and south-south cooperation exchanges in FAO's technical cooperation programme to foster and accelerate the implementation of the Pact in developing countries. The development of a technical support service building on this model was offered for consideration by Milan Pact cities and will be taken up by the Steering Committee in the near future.

On October 14, World Food Day, the Milan Urban Food Policy Pact Mayors Summit occurred after the official World Food Day ceremony hosted by FAO. The FAO Director General opened the Summit referencing links of the Mayors Pact to ending hunger, fighting climate change and to the implementation of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda. Supporting statements were made by Mayor Sala of Milan and representatives of the Italian Food and Agriculture Ministry, the Italian Permanent Representative at FAO, and the City of Rome. Keynote addresses and a Mayors debate brought out the many challenges and opportunities presented by efforts to implement the Pact.

The final part of the Summit showcased awards to 8 cities that were scored the highest among 53 submissions from 33 cities. The 6 special mention awards in the categories of the Framework for Action were presented to:

- **Quito** for food production
- **Birmingham** for sustainable diets and nutrition
- **Riga** for food waste
- **Lusaka** for social and economic equity
- **Toronto** for food supply and distribution
- **Vancouver** for governance

The 2 monetary awards for the highest score and challenging environment were presented to:

- **Mexico City** for the highest score within a challenging environment
- **Baltimore** for the overall highest score

All eight cities made presentations in the form of slides or video that will be shared on the Milan Pact website.

A full report together with next steps for the monitoring framework, indicators, network alliances, technical cooperation will be forthcoming. The next city for the third annual Mayors Summit will be Valencia, Spain in 2017.