

STRENGTHENING URBAN AND PERI-URBAN FOOD SYSTEMS TO ACHIEVE FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION IN THE CONTEXT OF URBANIZATION AND RURAL TRANSFORMATION

FIRST DRAFT (as at 11 July 2025)

Rationale

(i) By 2050, the world's urban population is expected to nearly double, making urbanization one of the twenty-first century's most transformative trends¹. Considering that out of the 2.33 billion people who are moderately or severely food insecure in the world, 1.7 billion live in urban and peri-urban areas*, this rapid urban growth represents a significant global food security and nutrition challenge as well as an opportunity, taking into account the rural-urban continuum and linkages, including rural livelihoods and investments. *(agreed ad ref.)*

*Footnote on SOFI 2024(ii) Urbanization and peri-urbanization result from interconnected transformations in demography, economies, culture, social systems, land use and technology and innovation. Understanding the changes occurring throughout agriculture and food systems requires therefore adopting a rural–urban continuum lens. This approach allows highlighting the growing interconnectedness of urban, peri-urban, and rural areas as a foundation for addressing socio-economic dynamics, planning effective resource production and distribution, and developing policies that reflect the complex realities of these interlinked communities. *(agreed ad ref.)*

(iii) Building on a rural-urban continuum approach, the following CFS policy recommendations are envisioned as a focused, action-oriented guidance tool to strengthen urban and peri-urban food systems to achieve food security and nutrition in the context of urbanization and rural transformation and contribute to the progressive realization of the right to adequate food in the context of national food security, while taking into account multiple challenges such as climate change, including extreme weather events and slow onset events, loss of biodiversity, ecosystem degradation and desertification, political instability, economic downturns, debt** and debt sustainability*, increasing inequality, conflicts, man-made and natural disasters and rapid and unplanned urbanization, and contributing to achieving all Sustainable Development Goals according to national priorities and contexts. *(agreed ad ref.)*

* Footnote: A/RES/79/197

** Footnote: Section e) in its entirety, taking into account para 47, 48 h), 50 f) and 51 a) of the Sevilla outcome document

(iv) The Policy Recommendations recognize that the complex nature of urban and peri-urban food systems requires a systemic, territorial approach that integrates multi-sectoral, multi-level, multilateral, multi-actor governance processes, within and beyond the State, to promote an enabling policy environment that empowers stakeholders and fosters collaboration to deliver equitable, resilient and sustainable food systems. In addition, recognize the complementary roles of all food systems actors when developing urban and peri-urban food policies ensuring that policies reflect and support the diverse contributions of each production model to food security, economic development, and sustainability. In particular, it is important to highlight the key role of local governments, municipal authorities and local food systems actors as agents of change in driving innovation and building resilient food systems to achieve food security and tackle all forms of malnutrition. *(agreed ad ref.)*

¹ [A/RES/71/256](#) – New Urban Agenda

(v) At the same time, ensuring food security and nutrition across the rural-urban continuum requires policies that comply with internationally agreed human rights instruments and respect principles such as participation, accountability, non-discrimination, transparency, human dignity, empowerment and the rule of law*. This entails fostering policies that address inequality in all its forms and are people-centred, protect the planet and are age- and gender-responsive and that contribute to the realization of all human rights**, particularly the progressive realization of the right to adequate food. (agreed ad ref.)

*footnote from VG Right to Food

**footnote Universal Declaration of Human Rights

(vi) These Policy Recommendations are addressed primarily to national and subnational governments, in particular regional/metropolitan/municipal departments as well as relevant networks of cities. Additionally, the recommendations are addressed to the private sector, including private sector associations, philanthropic foundations, civil society organizations, International Organizations, universities and academic institutions. They are voluntary and non-binding and should be interpreted and applied consistently with existing obligations under national and international law, and with due regard to voluntary commitments under applicable regional and international instruments and in accordance with national legal systems and their institutions. They build upon and complement relevant existing CFS policy products, and are informed by the CFS High-level Panel of Experts on Food Security and Nutrition (HLPE-FSN) report on "[*Strengthening Urban and Peri-Urban Food Systems to Achieve Food Security and Nutrition, in the context of Urbanization and Rural Transformation*](#)". (agreed ad ref.)

A. Urban and peri-urban food systems for food security and nutrition

Production

Governments, including subnational and local government authorities, should:

1. Recognize, promote, respect and safeguard and protect legitimate and equitable tenure rights and prioritize equitable access to land, water, finance, services, innovation, technology and other food production resources to address the needs of the poorest, those in vulnerable situations and those most likely to be left behind²; (*access to resources*) (agreed ad ref.)
2. Develop, reform and implement land-use zoning policies adapted to local context to fostering sustainable agriculture and addressing food insecurity including forestry and green spaces, that support biodiversity, soil health, soil restoration, sustainable food production and citizens' well-being, by safeguarding and supporting urban and peri-urban agriculture, small scale farming, as well as family farmers, livestock, aquaculture and fishing activities (*zoning policies*) (agreed ad ref.)
3. Prioritize agricultural advisory and extension services that communicate and foster practices that preserve, sustainably manage and use natural resources, enhance soil health and conserve and sustainably use biodiversity while promoting climate change mitigation and adaptation. This could entail, among others, promoting resilient farming techniques, agroecological and other innovative approaches³, as well as promoting regenerative and nutrition sensitive practices while also exploring all forms of innovation and sustainable and circular bioeconomy strategies, centering on strengthening food sovereignty, social and solidarity economies, creating healthier, more self-reliant communities; (*extension services*) (agreed ad ref.)
4. Promote bioeconomy for sustainable food and agriculture aiming at the development of new production models that integrate sustainable use of natural resources, including biodiversity, all forms of innovations, such as sustainable intensification, agroecological and other innovative approaches* and the development and integration of local economies in the value chains, while also conserving and restoring biodiversity and maintaining nature's contributions to people, including ecosystem functions and services**; (*bioeconomy*) (agreed ad ref.)

*CFS policy recommendations on Agroecological and Other Innovative Approaches and the FAO 10 elements of agroecology CL163/13/Rev.1

**Target 10 of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework

5. Strengthen food systems actors' equitable access to all forms of innovation and technologies through finance, including affordable and accessible public and private finance, capacity building, technology development and transfer on voluntary and mutually agreed terms, while ensuring these are adapted to local context and recognizing farmer-led innovation and traditional knowledge; (*innovations*) (agreed ad ref.)

² For the purpose of these policy recommendations "the poorest, those in vulnerable situations and those most likely to be left behind" refer to: women, smallholder farmers, family farmers, peasants, landless, farmworkers, homeless, informal workers, migrants, internally displaced people, refugees, low income residents and neighborhoods, urban and peri-urban poor, slums and informal settlements dwellers, racial and ethnic minority groups, persons with disabilities, persons with chronic illnesses, older people, youth, boys, girls, Indigenous Peoples and local communities, without prejudice to relevant legal rights frameworks.

³ In line with the CFS Policy Recommendations on [Agroecological and Other Innovative Approaches for sustainable food systems that enhance food security and nutrition](#). 2021

6. Facilitate agricultural product aggregation systems in diverse urban and peri-urban contexts, allowing small scale producers and micro, small- and medium enterprises (MSMEs) to produce the volume and quality needed to access markets, processing, quality control and marketing services. (*product aggregation*) (agreed ad ref.)

Midstream (storage, processing, packaging, transportation, wholesale)

Governments, including subnational and local government authorities, the private sector and civil society should:

7. Strengthen responsible investment in technical, social, and organizational mid-stream activities including in all forms of innovation, such as resilient, energy-efficient and affordable storage systems, biodegradable or recyclable packaging and digital platforms, as well as measures in reducing food loss and waste, to effectively leverage the opportunities that urban and peri-urban food systems provide; (*investment in mid-stream activities*) (agreed ad ref.)
8. Strengthen public and private investment, including Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) and Public-private Producer Partnerships, in infrastructure dedicated to storage, processing, marketing and logistics and enhance capacities in the intermediary segments of urban food value chains including local fresh produce markets, farmers markets, territorial markets, supermarkets and modern convenience stores, to increase consumers' access to affordable, diversified, safe and healthy diets that encompass a variety of foods, including fresh and whole foods while promoting sustainable food systems and respecting regional and cultural specificities, and supporting local economies, as well as developing and strengthening accountability mechanisms, in accordance with national contexts. (*investment in infrastructure and logistics*) (agreed ad ref.)
9. Encourage and support social innovations such as producer-to-consumer platforms, including community supported agriculture, community gardens, farmer field schools, family farming, cooperative models, such as agricultural and food cooperatives, associations of producers, processors, distributors, food hubs and farmers' markets that would help to pool costs, benefits, risks and to achieve economies of scale, and to enhance access to affordable, diversified, safe and healthy diets that encompass a variety of foods, including fresh and whole foods while promoting sustainable food systems and respecting regional and cultural specificities as well as promoting the use of information and communication technologies to foster economic and social development in rural areas particularly across the rural-urban continuum, while contributing to equity, social inclusion and resilience; (*social innovations*) (agreed ad ref.)
10. Foster diversity of food actors and support inclusive wholesale markets to strengthen connections with small-scale producers and informal sector actors, ensuring fair, economically viable, supply chain practices to redistribute value. This could entail supporting the use of social, organizational, technological and ecological innovation for small businesses, women- and youth-led cooperatives, including startups, in developing market-driven solutions that connect consumers to small scale producers through digital platforms, delivery services, cooperatives and food hubs; (*inclusive supply chains*) (agreed ad ref.)

Market, retail and trade

Governments, including subnational and local government authorities, should:

11. Strengthen, support and promote the important role of territorial and informal markets*, including all types of supply chains, linking them into the national and subnational zoning policies, as well as spatial and urban planning. This would promote: (i) market access for smallholder farmers, fisher folks, and family farmers, women, youth and traditional gatherers; (ii) sustainable management and use of natural resources, including land, forests and water; (iii) increased access to affordable, safe, healthy, nutritious and sustainably produced

food for all residents across the rural-urban continuum, including in particular urban food deserts; (iv) food losses and waste reduction; (*territorial markets*) (agreed ad ref.)

*footnote on CFS Policy recommendations on Connecting smallholders to markets

12. Support, promote and sustain traditional, local, and territorial markets, by strengthening investment in infrastructure, operations, logistics, innovation and technology, access to land, water and affordable energy, as well as by providing capacity development and training to value chain actors, particularly informal and mobile vendors, to ensure their development and compliance with relevant hygiene standards to enhance food safety in urban and peri-urban areas, according to national capacities; (*traditional, local and territorial markets*) (agreed ad ref.)

New 13. Tackle urban and peri-urban food deserts* , especially in low-income areas by supporting and investing in local markets, mobile food vendors and logistics infrastructure in order to foster geographic equity to access affordable, diversified, safe and healthy diets that encompass a variety of foods, including fresh and whole foods while promoting sustainable food systems and respecting regional and cultural specificities ; (*food deserts*) (Agreed ad ref.)

*Footnote: reference to HLPE Report on Food Systems and Nutrition.p.29 footnote 12. 2017

13. Address power imbalances and inequalities among different actors within agriculture and food systems across the rural-urban continuum to foster competition and diversification of food distribution channels. This entails supporting traditional and community markets, street food vendors, supermarkets and online delivery services; (*diversified distribution*) (agreed ad ref.)
14. Support non-market channels, such as food distributions, community kitchens, solidarity kitchens, food banks and school meals which: (i) promote decent work and dignified livelihoods; (ii) increase the resilience of households; and (iii) enable equitable access to affordable, diversified, safe and healthy diets that encompass a variety of foods, including fresh and whole foods while promoting sustainable food systems and respecting regional and cultural specificities, and iv) promote the progressive realization of the right to adequate food; (*non-market channels*) (agreed ad ref.)
15. Strengthen the capacities of peasants, smallholder farmers⁴, family farmers, traditional gatherers, - especially women, youth, persons with disabilities, Indigenous Peoples* and local communities - to access international, regional, national and local markets, by strengthening cooperatives, farmers collectives, associations, networks and other organizations, as well as promoting unions, enterprise and entrepreneurship, which can expand their bargaining power and allow meaningful participation in agriculture and food systems value chains, including in territorial markets⁵; (*inclusive market participation*) (agreed ad ref.)

⁴ For the purpose of these policy recommendations, references to smallholders include small scale producers and processors, pastoralists, artisans, fishers, communities closely dependent on forests, agricultural workers, Indigenous Peoples and local communities, without prejudice to relevant legal rights frameworks.

⁵ In line with the CFS Policy Recommendations on [Reducing Inequalities for Food Security and Nutrition](#). 2024

16. Promote equitable access to affordable, diversified, safe and healthy diets that encompass a variety of foods, including fresh and whole foods while promoting sustainable food systems, respecting regional and cultural specificities for urban and peri-urban residents, and strengthening local markets, particularly in areas where poverty in all its forms and dimensions including extreme and multidimensional poverty is prevalent. This could entail implementing appropriate regulatory measures—such as food safety and marketing standards, science and evidence-based nutritional labeling* of food products for consumer protection, and fiscal measures, including nutrition-sensitive fiscal measures—to foster healthy food environments and promote the consumption of sufficient, safe and nutritious food; *(regulatory and fiscal instruments)* (agreed ad ref.)

* Footnote on Codex Alimentarius Commission Standards, Guidelines and Recommendations and other agreed relevant international and national standards to help consumers to make informed and healthy choices

17. Promote nutrition education to support and empower consumers to make informed choices on food consumption and healthy diets through:(i) awareness raising and public education campaigns, including in public health services; (ii) targeted, school and university curricula on food security and nutrition, including sustainable food systems; (iii) interpersonal communication and community dialogues; and (iv) activities such as gardening and food preparation as a way to encourage healthy behaviors and lifestyles, positively influence consumers' choice, knowledge, attitudes, skills and social norms, while also respecting regional and cultural specificities; *(nutrition education)* (agreed ad ref.)
18. Consider and assess the implications and impacts of trade policies on public health and agriculture and food systems with a view to enhance the accessibility and affordability of healthy diets for urban and peri-urban consumers, particularly the poorest, those in vulnerable situations and those most likely to be left behind. *(trade policies)*) (agreed ad ref.)

New 19. Promote inclusion and participation of local governments in national-level dialogues on food trade policy, according to national context and legislations, to consider the needs and contributions of urban and peri-urban food systems, including by strengthening the capacities of urban food policy stakeholders to effectively engage with trade and investment policymakers, fostering integrated governance approaches that support sustainable and inclusive food systems; *(local governments and trade dialogues)* (agreed ad ref.)

Public procurement and non-market initiatives

Governments, including subnational and local government authorities, should:

19. Prioritize and invest in nutrition-oriented public and community programmes, including school meals programmes, food services in public institutions and public distribution systems, to ensure that healthy diets are available, accessible, affordable, sourcing from local food producers, where possible, while promoting sustainable food systems. These programmes should target the poorest, those in vulnerable situations and those most likely to be left behind across the rural-urban continuum to achieve multiple objectives related to nutrition, sustainability, biodiversity, social inclusion, education and resilience of livelihoods; *(nutrition-oriented programmes)* (agreed ad ref.)
19. Strengthen capacities of relevant actors to provide humanitarian assistance including food aid during crises, cash transfers, nutritious foods, school meals, as appropriate, including effective delivery of services during emergencies, leveraging civil society's reach and local networks, and ensure the progressive realization of the right to adequate food, ending hunger, and addressing all forms of malnutrition, including through food aid that reinforces local and national food systems for long-term resilience to both internal and external shocks to in order to prevent disruptions in urban food supplies and in adherence to humanitarian principles; *(humanitarian assistance)* (agreed ad ref.)

Food losses and waste

Governments, including subnational and local government authorities, and all relevant stakeholders should:

21. Strive to minimize food loss and waste throughout all stages of the food value chain by providing supportive infrastructure such as shading, cooling, and storage units, including cold storage; facilitating access to all forms of innovation and technology to informal sector actors to preserve perishable foods; supporting redistribution programmes that repurpose surplus food developing policies to reduce food losses and waste*; and creating awareness among food systems actors involved in public procurement, private sector activities, including hospitality sector as well as consumers to reduce waste; (*food losses and waste*) (agreed ad ref.)

*footnote: FAO Voluntary Code of Conduct for Food Losses and Waste reduction; and CFS policy recommendations on food losses and waste

22. Promote circular economy approaches through the sustainable management of organic municipal waste and agricultural residues, including composting, bioenergy including biogas production and safe use of by-products, as well as through enabling policies that support local food losses and waste platforms, food recovery networks and waste-to-value innovations, including by providing technical training, capacity building and financing; (*circular economy*) (agreed ad ref.)

B. Urban and peri-urban interrelated systems that impact food security and nutrition

Governments, including subnational and local government authorities, should:

23. Promote access to and investments for the provision of services and basic physical and social infrastructure for all, without discrimination, including for housing, reliable and affordable energy, safe drinking water and sanitation, waste management, education, hygiene and information and communications technologies to enable access to safe food handling, targeting of the poorest, those in vulnerable situations and those most likely to be left behind; (*physical and social infrastructure*) (agreed ad ref.)
24. Increase responsible investment in infrastructure - including transport, mobility, services, technologies - aiming at strengthening inclusive, equitable and sustainable connectivity, ensuring that it benefits areas where poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty. This entails adopting territorial approaches as well as strengthening connectivity and linkages among local, regional, national and international markets and trade including for smallholders and family farmers to support food security and nutrition; (*improved connectivity*) (agreed ad ref.)
25. Enhance equitable and affordable access to essential healthcare services and well-being for all, across the rural-urban continuum, to improve food security and nutrition outcomes, particularly for women of childbearing age, pregnant and breastfeeding women, youth, boys and girls while also safeguarding the availability, quality, connectivity of, access to and benefits from green and blue spaces*, especially in densely populated areas sustainably, to support human health and well-being; (*healthcare services and well-being*) (agreed ad ref.)

*Footnote: target 12 Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework

26. Embed and explicitly integrate food, including food trade infrastructure, into urban and peri-urban planning to ensure that all residents across the rural-urban continuum, regardless of income, sex, age, race, ethnicity, migration status, disability and geographic location and other characteristics relevant in the national context can access affordable, diversified, safe and healthy diets that encompass a variety of foods, including fresh and whole foods while promoting sustainable food systems and respecting regional and cultural specificities.

Integrate land-use planning and frameworks with food security and nutrition policies to facilitate urban and peri-urban food production by providing legal frameworks, guidance, finance and support for urban and peri-urban farming, promoting local food culture; (*urban and peri-urban planning*) (agreed ad ref.)

27. Recognize food security and nutrition policies as a fundamental pillar of urban and peri-urban planning and integrate them into urban and peri-urban spatial planning, to promote sustainable land use and to recognize, promote, respect and safeguard legitimate tenure rights* in accordance with national laws and regulations. This could entail: a) encouraging the conservation and sustainable use of agricultural land, water resources and biodiversity and enhancing ecosystem services; b) promoting sustainable fisheries management, urban forests and green spaces; c) enhancing climate change mitigation and adaptation and disaster risk reduction, in accordance with national circumstances and respective capacities; d) supporting food production within the built environment through urban agriculture and gardens, green infrastructure, utilization of underutilized spaces. This requires strengthened coordination between land-use planning and food system governance, including by developing locally based agreements across multiple administrative zones, establishing multi-stakeholder platforms and networks and managing urban growth in a manner that enhances the resilience of food systems across the rural-urban continuum; (*urban and spatial planning*) (agreed ad ref.)

*Footnote: In accordance with the CFS-VGGT

28. Design interventions and adopt best practices, including inclusive and participatory contingency planning and early warning systems, that integrate disaster risk reduction into urban planning and design, and prioritizing risk mitigation and adaptation, to enhance the resilience of food supply chains across the rural–urban continuum. Strengthening critical infrastructure including cold storage, cooling facilities, safe and affordable water, and distribution and trade networks is essential to ensure that food security and nutrition needs are met for urban and peri-urban residents during times of crisis. This also requires addressing gaps in supply chain management to ensure continuity in distribution and prevent disruptions across food systems; (*resilient supply chains*) (agreed. ad ref.)
29. Integrate food security and nutrition into urban and peri-urban, housing, and zoning policies in support of food production and processing solutions within the built environment including urban and peri-urban farms, gardens, green infrastructure, and the use of underutilized spaces in both new urban developments and areas requiring revitalization. This may entail identifying and removing regulatory barriers to urban agriculture, particularly in areas where there is food insecurity; (*housing and zoning*) (agreed. ad ref.)
30. Support the integration of urban and peri-urban agriculture, including agroecological and other innovative approaches, into educational curricula at all levels. These programs should equip youth with relevant technical skills and practical knowledge in areas such as sustainable agriculture and food systems, soil health and sustainable soil management, healthy diets, food security and nutrition, food literacy, supply chain management, and food processing with an aim to encourage youth employment in these sectors, and foster innovative partnerships and collaboration with business groups and organizations that can offer integrated academic, production, and nutrition-focused learning opportunities; (*education*) (agreed. ad ref.)
31. Promote access to decent work and employment in agriculture and food systems across the rural–urban continuum, prioritizing the protection of workers’ rights, well-being, and in accordance with international labor standards (ILS). Particular attention should be given to young people, women and informal, seasonal, and migrant workers and persons with disabilities, by strengthening and enforcing regulatory frameworks and labor laws that ensure safe working conditions, social protection, and work security. These efforts should foster equal pay for work of equal value, eliminate health risks, and enable wages that provide an adequate standard of living; (*decent work and employment*) (agreed. ad ref.)

32. Develop and invest in social protection programmes* in line with national priorities, including safety nets, shock-responsive measures, and cash and voucher assistance (CVA), to address the specific needs of the poorest, those in vulnerable situations and those most likely to be left behind across the rural-urban continuum, with particular emphasis on young people, women, informal and seasonal workers, migrants and persons with disabilities; (*social protection*) (agreed. ad ref.)

~~33.~~

*Footnote: reference to Section 3.7 of the CFS Voluntary Guidelines on Gender Equality and Women and Girls' Empowerment

C. Urban and peri-urban governance for food security and nutrition

Governments should:

~~34.~~33. Promote municipal financing that is effective, innovative, sustainable and consistent with municipal mandates and regulatory frameworks, particularly for developing countries to encourage investment in urban and peri-urban food systems and to support the progressive realization of the right to adequate food. Undertake a systematic evaluation of existing policies, investments, and resources directed at urban and peri-urban food systems to identify gaps and inform context-specific, impactful actions. Identify and promote innovative approaches for resource mobilization such as municipal bonds, public funds, and public-private partnerships aligned with national priorities and development plans. Efforts should be made to prioritize vulnerable areas with a focus on the needs of the poorest, those in vulnerable situations and those most likely to be left behind; (*financing and resource mobilization*) (agreed. ad ref.)

~~35.~~34. Include local and subnational governments and all relevant stakeholders in the development of national food security and nutrition policies and strategies. Their contributions as stewards of local knowledge and experience are essential for enhancing the quality, sustainability, and accountability of interventions, particularly those targeting the poorest, those in vulnerable situations and those most likely to be left behind and for promoting inclusive and strategic governance; (*inclusive governance*) (agreed. ad ref.)

New 35: In the context of urban and peri-urban food systems, assess the food security and nutrition implications of unsustainable national debt, from all sources, and assist developing countries in attaining long-term debt sustainability through sound debt management and coordinated policies aimed at fostering debt financing, debt relief, debt restructuring, debt swaps and domestic resource mobilization, as appropriate, on a case by case basis, to enhance the ability of local, sub-national and national governments to implement urban and peri-urban policies and strategies to achieve food security and nutrition; (*debt management*) (agreed. ad ref.)

~~36.~~35. Recognize the role of trade and investments agreements and integrate those considerations into urban and peri-urban food policies to ensure the progressive realization of the right to adequate food (*trade agreements*) (agreed. ad ref.)

Governments, including subnational and local government authorities, should:

~~37.~~36. Develop and strengthen the capacities of food system actors across the rural–urban continuum particularly of the poorest, those in vulnerable situations and those most likely to be left behind to effectively engage in and influence decision-making processes, including those related to trade and investment. This includes raising awareness of their human rights and building skills in financial and digital literacy, market dynamics, policy development and advocacy, tenure rights (including land, fisheries, and forests), resilience, consumer awareness including on communicable and non-communicable diseases, accountability, and monitoring tools and mechanisms. Food policies should promote a participatory approach that includes relevant stakeholders such as local governments, farmers, civil society, businesses, researchers, and consumers to ensure fair

representation and effectiveness. Special attention should be given to promoting healthy diets, and reducing food related disease burdens; (*capacity development*) (agreed ad ref.)

~~38~~37. Strengthen the effective participation and/or agency of food system actors across the rural–urban continuum particularly the poorest, those in vulnerable situations and those most likely to be left behind by fostering and financially supporting their meaningful inclusion, participation, and representation in institutional and legally recognized multi-level, multi-actor, and multi-sectoral policy platforms, such as inclusive food policy councils that are part of political decision-making processes, and by co-developing strategic documents such as urban food policies; (*effective participation and representation*) (agreed ad ref.)

~~39~~38. Promote and support North–South, South–South, and Triangular Cooperation, as well as subnational, decentralized, and city-to-city cooperation to achieve the progressive realization of the right to adequate food across the rural–urban continuum; (*cooperation for development*) (agreed. ad ref.)

~~40~~39. Systematically map and analyze existing national and local policies to assess their coherence with and impact on urban and peri-urban food systems, and promote accountability and transparency frameworks that clarify the roles, responsibilities, and mandates of different levels of governance, while fostering inclusive multi-actor, multi-level, and multi-sectoral participation across platforms, with specific measures for managing conflicts of interest and strengthening the integration of urban food systems solutions into existing national priorities, as appropriate, and in alignment with human rights principles; (*accountability and transparency*) (agreed. ad ref.)

D. Strengthen data, research and knowledge systems to enable improved understanding and monitoring of food security and nutrition across the rural urban continuum

Governments, including subnational and local government authorities, International Organizations and all relevant stakeholders should:

~~41~~40. Promote and fund capacity development for food security and nutrition (FSN) data collection, analysis, and use in urban and peri-urban contexts, ensuring transparency, community-led approaches, independent research using an intersectional lens, while applying applicable data privacy, data protection and intellectual property safeguards and principles. Prioritize areas where FSN data availability is limited, particularly in developing countries with large informal sectors and limited resources, infrastructure, data literacy, and skills. This may include developing capacities in areas such as geographic information systems (GIS), remote sensing, digital tools, and participatory mapping to better identify areas most vulnerable to food system disruptions due to various factors, including socio-economic and to inform long-term planning, contingency strategies, and crisis prevention and response; (*capacity development*) (agreed ad ref.)

~~42~~41. Promote financial and technical support for urban and peri-urban food systems, including statistical capacity building, co-designing approaches for community-led data collection, and voluntary technology transfer on mutually agreed terms. Support innovative frameworks such as South–South and Triangular cooperation to strengthen capacities to generate, collect and analyze high-quality data, and use it to guide participatory decision-making related to food security and nutrition; (*technical support*) (agreed ad ref.)

~~43~~42. Encourage transparent disaggregation of food security and nutrition (FSN) data* and incorporate qualitative data to capture multiple and compounding dimensions of vulnerability across the rural–urban continuum while also enhancing the dissemination and use of disaggregated FSN data in the design and monitoring of FSN policies; (*data disaggregation*) (agreed ad ref.)

*footnote: in accordance with the New Urban Agenda and footnote 23 of the CFS Policy Recommendations on Data

- 44.43. Invest in tools, information technology, and digital systems that address data gaps, at all levels, including in baseline data, and particularly in informal and midstream sectors, and streamline and simplify food security and nutrition (FSN) data collection, while improving data quality and analysis tools, including using Artificial Intelligence, as appropriate, to track food system performance, including disruptions, preferably in real-time; *(investment in data collection)* **(agreed ad ref.)**
- 45.44. Invest in and enhance participatory monitoring, adaptive learning strategies, and evaluation of food policies and programs by carrying out impact assessments using comprehensive assessment frameworks, informed by relevant global indicator frameworks monitored by custodian agencies and reported by countries. These frameworks should also evaluate economic development, social, economic and environmental sustainability, and other broader socio-economic dimensions of urban and peri-urban food systems within existing resources and without creating additional financial burdens on relevant institutions; *(monitoring and evaluation)* **(agreed ad ref.)**
45. Invest in and learn from local governments, city food networks, local universities, civil society organizations, including farmers' organizations, cooperatives, businesses and enterprises in social and solidarity economies (SSEs) and local knowledge institutions, as well as peer-to-peer exchanges, and leverage diverse knowledge, including traditional knowledge, and digital tools to inform, participatory frameworks, and multi-level, multi-stakeholder platforms. This ensures transparency, enables progress and uptake tracking, and facilitates sharing of lessons, results, challenges, and good practices between cities, territories, across sectors, and policymakers; *(knowledge sharing)* **(agreed ad ref.)**
46. Prioritize public funding for context-specific inter and multidisciplinary research including independent research, scaling of research innovations, qualitative and participatory research approaches that focus on food security and nutrition that encompasses innovative, evidence and science-based, diverse and sustainable agricultural practices, urban and peri-urban and spatial planning, supply chains, public health, and social sciences to address community needs, provide inclusive and context-appropriate solutions for evidence based decision-making; *(inter and multidisciplinary research)* **(agreed ad ref.)**