

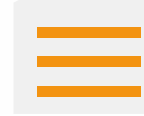


UN-HABITAT

ASSEMBLY

5 to 9 June 2023

Achieving SDGs in times of global crises



Side Event 39

Cities Engaged in Food System Transformation: Challenges and Opportunities



8 JUNE 2023, 18:15-19:15



Conference Room 7

SUMMARY

It is estimated that 68 percent of the world's population will be living in cities by 2050 and 90 percent of the urbanization increase will occur in Africa and Asia (UNDESA, 2015). By the end of this decade, it is expected that six in 10 people will be living in cities. The urban population of low-and middle income countries is growing three times faster (3%) than the rural population (less than 1%) annually. Urbanization is characterized by changing consumption patterns and diets, increasing pressure on natural resources, increasing youth unemployment and poverty levels among other challenges. Currently, 70% of food is consumed by urban inhabitants while at the same time food systems contribute to 21-37% of total greenhouse gas emissions of which food loss and waste is among the top five largest contributors (IPCC, 2019). The 2021 UN Food Systems Summit (UN-FSS) process highlighted the importance of urban food systems for the overall food systems transformation, and resulted in establishment of an Urban food systems coalition.

Despite this global recognition 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 guideline on engaging cities and local governments on a framework for action on ways of establishing multi-level food systems governance mechanisms. This guideline will 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 requesting specific guidance and action on the creation of multi-level food systems governance mechanisms. More than ever before the number of cities, local and regional governments making commitments to sustainable urban and regional food systems has grown. Delivering on commitments is being sought through urban and local food strategies and programmes such as integrating urban and peri-urban agriculture, food environments, public food procurement, food waste management and spatial planning is instrumental to achievement of the 2030 agenda and the SDGs.

The event “Cities Engaged in Food System Transformation: Challenges and Opportunities” aims at:

- i. Brainstorm on approaches for integration of urban food system governance at local, regional and national level towards achievement of SDGs.
- ii. Discussions around good practices, identifying persisting bottlenecks and challenges as well as opportunities in creating such governance mechanisms and empowering local and sub-national governments;



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- iii. Discussing the role of cities as key nodes of food system transformation and of urban-rural linkages.
- iv. Exchange and experience sharing by cities which have included food systems in their local plans using different entry points such as urban and peri-urban agriculture, urban forestry, the improvement of the retail food environments, food waste management.

Organizer(s)

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations Country, <https://www.fao.org/urban-food-agenda/>

UNHABITAT, <https://unhabitat.org/>

ICLEI, <https://iclei.org/>

Moderator

Tito Arunga, FAO, Kenya

Speaker(s)

- CARLA MUCAVI FAO REPRESENTATIVE KENYA FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS
- OUMAR SYLLA, REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVE UNHABITAT (TBC)
- Mr. NIXON SAMBA, CO-CHAIR, FOOD LIASON ADVISORY COUNCIL OF KISUMU (FLACK)
- ICLEI Representative
- Maureen Njeri, County Executive, Green Nairobi, Nairobi City County (TBC)
- Kenneth Onyango, County Executive Kisumu County (TBC)
- Dr. Mary Mwale, Food Security Office Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development



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