



Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations



## Local and Regional Governments Day

*"Inclusive and sustainable urban food systems for urban and territorial development"*

**Virtual event on the occasion of the United Nations Food Systems Summit  
co-organized by the Global Taskforce of Local and Regional Governments and  
the  
Food and Agriculture Organization, in partnership with the Working Group on  
Urban  
Food Systems**

**September 22<sup>nd</sup>, 16:30-18:30 CEST**

**Register here:**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZAvceqspj8oHtOS4jISw6uTM0v0dBrHsXPh>

### Concept Note

The world faces the huge challenge of improving food systems and guaranteeing healthy and nutritious food for all, especially considering the impact of the crises stemming from the COVID-19 pandemic. An integrated approach to food systems is required to secure people's access and right to food, guaranteeing social inclusion and prosperity, transforming our relationship with nature – boosting solidarity and setting people's wellbeing and aspirations at the heart of improved food systems.

Local and regional governments have been at the forefront of the pandemic response, working to maintain and improve local public service provision, ensuring that people and the planet are duly protected and ensuring that food systems are inclusive and sustainable. Given the actual and projected importance of urban food consumption and the links to local and regional food systems, urban food systems play a key role in the transformation of sub-national, national and – by extension - global food systems. Furthermore, cities have a central role as aggregators of food systems activities and as major consumers of food.

In the Decade of Action for the achievement of the 2030 Agenda, food systems have a cross-cutting relevance to all SDGs, representing a crucial topic to foster an inclusive, resilient and locally driven recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic. At the same time, urban food systems will be key in accelerating the implementation of the New Urban Agenda, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, the Paris Agreement and the Cities Race to Zero, and many other international agendas.

However, despite the significance of urban, local and regional governments and sub-national (urban, local, regional) food systems, international recognition and presence of those in charge of governing those systems in the related multilateral processes remains limited. Moving towards the UN Food Systems Summit and beyond, it is key to secure a seat for local and regional governments within relevant decision-making spaces and follow up mechanisms, including, for example, the Committee on World Food Security (CFS), to design and implement national food systems pathways and national plans that take into account place-based needs and priorities.

To this end, and to foster global advocacy in support of a greater voice and role of urban, local and regional governments and all urban food systems actors in various fora, a Working Group on Urban Food Systems was established in 2020, facilitated by FAO and

GAIN. The Working Group currently comprises UN agencies, civil society organizations, city networks and research institutes, which are working together to raise awareness about, and advocate for, the recognition of cities' roles in food system governance. Considering the unique relevance of territorial approaches to food systems, an Ad-hoc Working Group on Territorial Governance was also established, highlighting the role of local and regional governments in strengthening multilevel governance and enhancing coordination and collaboration of relevant actors to transform food systems.

Independent city dialogues and a global dialogue, as well as sessions during the UN Food Systems Pre-Summit, have highlighted the unique relevance of cities and regions. Inputs and game changing solutions have been collected and submitted to the Action Tracks and preparatory process of the Summit.

Within this context, the Local and Regional Governments Day on "Inclusive and sustainable urban food systems for territorial development", co-organized by the Global Taskforce of Local and Regional Governments, facilitated by United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG) and the Food and Agriculture Organization, in partnership with the Working Group on Urban Food Systems, will be held virtually within the framework of the United Nations Food Systems Summit and will bring together urban, local, regional and national governments, representatives of UN agencies, and civil society, among others, to illustrate the importance of localizing action towards the achievement of sustainable and inclusive food systems. The event also aims to highlight the crucial importance of partnerships amongst different spheres of government and stakeholders are crucial to support a sustainable and resilient recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic and build an effective pathway towards the achievement of the 2030 Agenda.

### **Objectives:**

Present insights and lessons learned over the last few years, including as part of the preparation for the UN Food Systems Summit, with a view of amplifying the engagement of urban, local and regional governments in food system transformation towards sustainability.

Mobilize the international community and support the establishment of an alliance on urban food systems to scale out and scale up collaboration and joint work in this area.

### **Format**

The virtual session will take the shape of a high-level dialogue, bringing together governments at all levels, UN agencies and other relevant stakeholders to discuss the key contributions, needs and future transformation of urban food systems.

The event will be held online via zoom, with a 2-hour duration, around the key thematic blocks below. Simultaneous interpretation will be provided in English, French and Spanish.

### **Thematic blocks:**

#### **1. Urban Food Systems – Challenges and Solutions:**

- Towards healthy diets for all: Linking urban food systems, healthcare and public service provision to ensure proper nutrition for all.
- Facing the urban poverty challenge.
- Urban Food Systems and the territory: ecological transition to build resilience, face the climate emergency and address global commons.

#### **2. Inclusive food systems, multilevel governance & alliance building**

- Mechanisms for multi-level governance and multi-stakeholder action to engage in policy.

- Partnership building, financing and transforming urban food systems.
- Human rights and local participatory democracy in food systems.
- Way forward and alliance on urban food systems.

## **Agenda**

### **1. Opening Remarks**

- Ms. Emilia Saiz, Secretary General, UCLG
- Dr. Jamie Morrison, Director, Food Systems and Food Safety Division, FAO

### **2. Urban Food Systems – Challenges and Solutions**

**Moderation:** Mr. Mohamed Nbou, Director of Climate, Biodiversity and Food Systems, UCLG-Africa

- Mr. Donatien Beugre, President, San Pédro region, Côte d'Ivoire
- Ms. Virginia Cardozo, Director of the Health, Montevideo, Uruguay
- Mr. Bruno Oliveira, Head of International Relations and Cooperation, Municipality of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
- Dr. Malay Choudhury, Additional Secretary, Local Government Division Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives, Government of Bangladesh
- Mr. Vicente Domingo, Director, CEMAS, Spain
- Mr. Daniel Adeniyi, Professional Officer, Urban Systems, ICLEI Africa

### **3. Inclusive food systems, multilevel governance & alliance building**

**Moderation:** Dr. Kostas Stamoulis, Senior Advisor, FAO

- H.E. Thanawat Tiensin, Chairperson, Committee on World Food Security (CFS)
- H.E. Gabriel Ferrero, Ambassador at Large for Global Food Security, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, European Union and Cooperation, Spain
- Mr. Mohamed Sefiani, Mayor of Chefchaouen, Morocco
- Dr. Mücahit Sami Küçüküçü, Director of Foreign Relations, City of Konya, and Secretary general of Union of Agricultural Cities of Turkey
- Mr. Gilchrist Okuom, Minister of Agriculture, Irrigation Livestock and Fisheries, Kisumu County, Kenya
- Dr. Jane Battersby, Associate Professor, African Center for Cities, University of Cape Town, South Africa

### **4. Closing Remarks**

- Dr. Lawrence Haddad, Executive Director, GAIN

