

## OBSERVATIONS ON THE ZERO DRAFT OF THE NEW URBAN AGENDA

Milan, 12th May 2016

This contribution is focused on the proposal of **inclusion of urban food issues** as a key part of the sustainability of cities and, more in general, of an urbanized world.

The view of **food system as an urban infrastructure** is a fundamental component of a city that is inseparable from citizens' basic rights and needs, individual lifestyles and cultures, the socio-economic structure, and the city's relationships with the surrounding environment.

In line with the **Agenda 2030** (*goal 2*), in the different cities in the world that have adopted an **Urban Food Strategy**, the concept of food is defined in terms of "urban infrastructure" on a par with social services, public transportation, health care, education, or waste and water management; also considering that all these policy areas are generally managed to local authorities.

In the "Main topic A: commitments for sustainable urban development" we recognize that the **urban food issues, although not directly mentioned, are implicitly included** in different parts of Zero Draft, such as:

- in the "*cultural leverage*" (37.) where the different **food cultures** can make an instrument for **social inclusion**;
- in the "*sustainable mechanisms in cities to broaden democratic platforms that allow participation in decision-making*" where "*local government have a key role as interface among all actors*" (42.) where the **Food Councils** are a concrete example of **democracy** and actors participation;
- in the "*vibrant urban economies*" (74.) where food is a commodities of local farmers, market and trade exchange;
- in the "*territorial system that integrate urban and rural functions [...] that promote efficient use of land*" (51.) where food can play a key role in the **relationship between urban and rural space**;
- in the "*formulation of medium and long-term strategic vision, plan and policy*" (52.) where **food strategies and policies** are a perfect example of long term vision;
- in the promoting of "*participation and collaboration among stakeholder, government, private sector, civil society, academic, trade union*" (65.) we have another example of the implementation of **Food Council**;

In relation with the "Main topic B: effective implementation" there is **no mention** about the food issue. We are totally agree with the sub-topic 1 about the building of "*urban structure on supportive national, sub-national and local framework*" such as the food policies need to this support. Also we recognize the sub-topic 3 about the "*financial and other tool of implementation*": in force of this two strong sub-topic, **we observe a severe lack of food issues in the sub-topic 2** "*planning and managing the urban spatial development*" where the six fundamental topics are listed as pillars to develop strategies (*urban planning, land, housing, mobility, basic service, heritage and culture*); we strongly suggested to insert food issues in the sub-topic 2.

The Zero Draft consists of 13.000 words, but **the word "food" is used only 9 times** (6 associated with the concept of food security, 3 in lists of issues), the word "nutrition" only appears once more still associated with food security, appears one time, the concept of "ecosystem services", always associated with food security. Never appear the words "Urban Food System" and even of "urban agriculture".

*The excerpts of the use of term "food" are provided in Annex A.*

In conclusion, such as the **key role of the food system** on new Urban Agenda, in line with:

- the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;
- the Paris Agreement of COP21 that recognizing the fundamental priority of safeguarding food security;
- the "Milan Urban Food Policy Pact" (Milan, 2015) signed on 15<sup>th</sup> October 2015 by more than 120 cities and with an Advisory Group of about international organizations presented to the Secretary-General of the UN during Expo2015;
- the Call for Action on "City Region Food System" (Medellin, 2014) lead by a technical and institutional large international alliance;
- the "Bonn Declaration of Mayors" (Bonn 2013) signed by 20 city leaders;
- the FAO Food for the Cities multi-disciplinary initiative Position Paper "Food, Agriculture and Cities" (Rome, 2011);

We would **propose to suggest an amendment**, that would **include the Urban Food topic among the six topics** described in Main Topic B: "*Effective Implementation*" - Sub-topic 2. "*Planning & managing the urban spatial development*".

## Annex A: excerpts of the use of term "food" in Zero Draft

### A. THE TRANSFORMATIVE COMMITMENTS FOR SUSTAINABLE URBAN DEVELOPMENT

#### *Public spaces as an enabler of the socio-economic function of the city*

36. [...] **Green public spaces** have positive **impacts on health** and well-being, and they **provide ecosystem services** that range from climate change mitigation and adaptation to **contributing to water and food security**.

#### **Ecosystems and Cities**

69. We commit to **facilitate urban development** in a manner that **preserves rapidly diminishing natural resources** while **promoting** economic development, access to modern energy services, **food and water security**, health, air quality, more attractive and liveable urban landscapes, and increased human wellbeing.

70. We will **ensure that sources of critical resources** which are part of a **city's basic services** and daily consumption (e.g. clean water, **food**, access to modern energy services) are secured and **protected by policy** at all levels of governance. We also commit to enact national and territorial policies that safeguard against environmental degradation and to mainstream ecology in the institutional setting, allocating responsibilities for **environmental governance to appropriate institutions at all levels of government**.

73. We commit to **decentralization of basic resources**, recognizing that a heavy reliance on distant sources of energy, water, **food**, and materials has made some cities vulnerable to sudden disruption of supply.

#### *Sustainable consumption and production*

74. The **consumption and production patterns** of cities are a **critical element** of achieving global **resilience and sustainability**. We therefore commit to strengthening the crucial linkages and **efficient management of resources** like land, water, energy, materials, **food**, as well as the reduction and management of waste and the mitigation of emissions of greenhouse gases and air pollutants, taking into consideration the full-range of resource requirements vis-à-vis the environmental impact and sustainability. We support the development of transparent frameworks for public and private entities to **report on their environmental footprints** to ensure sustainability.

#### **Resilience to Disasters and Climate Change and other shocks and stresses**

82. We commit to **ensure the effective planning**, management, and conservation of urban deltas, coastal and other environmentally critical areas and hotspots that combine socio-economic and natural/ environmental dynamics in different regions of the world. This is important to **address global issues**, such as the provision of **drinking water** and sanitation, rising sea level, **food security**, and uncontrolled urban development, which are often concentrated in these areas, in order to achieve all ecological, economic, and social sustainability in addition to urban resilience.

### B. EFFECTIVE IMPLEMENTATION

#### **Urban Planning and Management**

103. We will **ensure coherence between goals and measures of sectorial policies at different levels/scales of political administration** in order to strengthen integrated approaches in areas such as land-use and planning, housing construction, **food security**, management of natural resources, provision of public goods and services, climate change adaptation and mitigation, resilience-building, and risk management.

#### **Land**

105. We **promote the social and ecological function of land**, considering **food safety and nutrition**, in order to promote just cities through policies that distribute the burdens and benefits of urbanization fairly and avoid the processes of segregation. [...]

#### **Mobility**

113. We will **implement polycentric and balanced territorial development policies** and interventions, promoting the **role of small and intermediate cities in strengthening food security systems** through provision of sound infrastructure, **access to land** and effective trade links, to ensure that small scale farmers are linked to larger supply chains including a density-based fair distribution of diverse services across cities and their territories, which will minimize demand for travel. [...]