

Third Forum of Milan Pact Cities in Africa

Niamey, Niger, 11 – 13 June 2019

NIAMEY MUFPP DECLARATION

The 3rd African Forum of the Milan Urban Food Policy Pact (hereinafter referred to as the “MUFPP”) was held in Niamey from 11 to 13 June 2019. It aims to promote exchange and cooperation between African cities that have signed the MUFPP and to strengthen the impact of initiatives led by cities and their partners in this framework.

During the Forum, four working groups have been set up to define a plan for dialogue and *collaboration* among participating cities in the short and medium term.

Eighteen delegates from different countries in Africa and Europe participated to the Forum in order to support good practices and policies at the municipal level. In coherence with the topics discussed during the 1st Regional Forum in Dakar and the 2nd in Brazzaville, participating cities have defined priorities and actions committing municipalities and their citizens for which substantial progress could be realized in the short and medium term.

The 4th Forum, to be held in Ouagadougou in 2020, will represent an opportunity to take stock of actions undertaken so far.

Delegates recognize that, in order to adopt policies to ensure access to safe and quality food while reducing climate change’s risks, there is an urgent need to strengthen local governance of food systems, in particular:

- to facilitate collaboration between different municipal departments and agencies (MUFPP recommended action n°1);
- to increase stakeholders’ participation (MUFPP recommended action n° 2);
- to develop a disaster risk reduction strategy (MUFPP recommended action n° 6).

In this regard, delegates commit themselves to promote consultation and collaboration between different municipal departments, different State structures, stakeholders, the civil society and private sector organizations involved in cities’ food policies.

While acknowledging the diversity of processes and actions that may be undertaken, cities commit themselves to the progressive constitution of a policy instrument to guide urban food policy in their cities, carrying out the following steps:

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- Constitution of an internal and transversal consultation committee bringing together different municipality's departments;
- Constitution of a multi-stakeholder consultation committee;
- Definition and implementation of concrete activities stemming from the multi-stakeholder consultation committee.

For these purposes, delegates stressed the importance of identifying an "official" focal point for the Pact, which should play the role of internal coordinator for MUFPP-related activities in the city and for the cooperation of the different city's departments, with clear terms of reference, essential for a strong advocacy on urban food policies.

The establishment of a multi-stakeholder consultation committee represents a valid instrument for the definition and implementation of effective food policies at municipal level.

In addition to governance, working groups identified three other areas relevant for city-to-city cooperation, particularly through south-south and triangular cooperation.

Delegates recognize that promoting social and economic equity in the urban food policy realm means supporting social protection networks and local communities' resilience. In this regard, delegates consider the following actions as particularly relevant:

- to encourage and support social economy activities (MUFPP recommended action n°17);
- to promote local networks and local initiatives (MUFPP recommended action n°18);
- to promote participatory education, training and research (MUFPP recommended action n°19).

These recommendations become concrete when actions are undertaken to reduce the vulnerability of school children, through the promotion of a balanced diet in school period. In this perspective, public procurement of locally produced fresh and diversified food is particularly suitable.

It has been considered that school canteens can promote other functions to improve quality food and overall wellbeing, such as:

- the set-up of spaces dedicated to the preparation of meals in schools: a prerequisite to ensure the provision of quality, safe and nutritious meals;
- to promote services for the most vulnerable children;
- to promote self-production of vegetables in schools, especially through micro gardening techniques.

In order to ensure the sustainability of these initiatives, it has been suggested to cities to diversify partnerships to reduce the risks associated with projects' cycle.

Cities' delegates identify support to food production (healthy, quality and local) as a way to create value in their communities and to reduce environmental and social vulnerability. For this reason, they recognize as relevant:

- to allow and secure access to and use of land (MUFPP recommended action n° 23);
- to support short food chains (MUFPP recommended action n° 25).

To this end, it is necessary to strengthen land tenure security in urban and peri-urban areas, as well as zoning, especially for planning of green and productive areas in urban areas, considering food production as a promoter of a better quality of life in urban contexts.

In order to gain a better understanding of sustainable and local supply systems, it is important to develop a smallholders' register (farmers, processors, breeders).

In order to promote the diversification of healthy dietary patterns, it has been suggested to create local food labels in order to identify local products, local sectors and fresh produce, including dedicated spaces in existing markets.

Delegates point out that supporting city's public procurement policies is significant to ensure supply and distribution of healthy, quality and local food at the municipal level. For this reason, they propose:

- to adopt monitoring and evaluation instruments for markets' supply system (MUFPP recommended action n° 29);
- to steer toward a systematic revision of public procurement's rules and trade (MUFPP recommended action n° 30) in order to protect and support urban, peri-urban and local producers.

In this sense, adopting a market monitoring and evaluation mechanism can improve transparency of both prices and quality of marketed products, can raise awareness amongst producers involved in these issues and strengthen access to markets for small producers, reducing information asymmetries and inequalities along the entire value chain.

This monitoring and evaluation system would indirectly strengthen the sustainability of initiatives supporting local and quality production in urban spaces.

The markets' monitoring and evaluation mechanism will need to ensure collaboration of the private sector and of statistical data collection agencies.

Niamey, 13.06.2019

The signatories

Antananarivo (Madagascar)	Bobo Dioulasso (Burkina Faso)
Praia (Cap Vert)	Dakar (Sénégal)
Douala (Cameroun)	Kitwe (Zambie)
Maputo (Mozambique)	N'Djamena (Tchad)
Nairobi (Kenya)	Ouagadougou (Burkina Faso)
Agadez (Niger)	Diffa (Niger)
Gaya (Niger)	Tillabéri (Niger)
Niamey (Niger)	Windhoek (Namibie)
Yaoundé (Cameroun)	Kisumu (Kenya)