

**UN Food Systems Pre-Summit
Main Programme
Session on City and Local Food Systems
28th July, 9:00-10:30 CEST**

Speech by Peter Defranceschi (ICLEI-Local Governments for Sustainability) on behalf of the Informal Urban Food Systems Working Group in Panel Discussion on Governance: Towards an Emerging Coalition

- I am very pleased to speak on behalf of the **Urban Food Systems Working Group**, an informal alliance created over a year ago to amplify and recognize the voice of cities and towns in food systems transformation.
- The Working Group, which is a co-organizer of this important event, comprises 26 UN and civil society organizations, city networks and research institutes, and is co-led by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition (GAIN).
- In the process of the FSS, members of the Working Group have organized
 - o Independent dialogues in more than 26 cities around the globe; undertaken consultations among 52 cities;
 - o collectively submitted game changing solutions and engaged in the discussion on the solutions clusters; and
 - o we organized the **Global Summit Dialogue on urban food systems** to bring political attention to the key role of cities and urban food systems.
- Now, after all these months of collective efforts and dialogues, the time has come to let **supportive words** be followed by **supportive action**:
- We, the members of the Working Group, are calling upon cities, national governments, and all partners to join the **Call to Action** to support the establishment of a **Coalition on Urban Food Systems** as a key outcome and legacy of the Summit.
- The Coalition aims to ensure that **commitments** to support urban food systems transformation are made and **resourced** and that cities and their partners play a **catalytic role** in their implementation. Local governments need national governments and national governments need local governments to achieve sustainable food systems change.
- Why is it important **to act now** and to support a **Coalition on Urban Food Systems**?
 - 1) There is an urgent need to promote **systemic and cross-sectoral food systems management** and to **develop such capacity at the urban and territorial level**. The previous panelists in this session raised important entry points to this comprehensive approach.
 - 2) The Coalition will **create a space for dialogue** and **strengthen food systems linkages between national and sub-national governments thus** promoting vertical and horizontal

coherence and integration between policies, plans and programmes.

- 3) **The coalition will leverage the work and expertise of existing networks and initiatives** to promote integrated actions on the ground and meaningful engagement of local actors.
 - 4) **Socially innovative mechanisms of multi-stakeholder food governance will be promoted.** Think of food policy councils or similar community-based mechanisms to ensure the active participation of all stakeholders in food systems transformation.
 - 5) **Integrating food into local planning and co-developing holistic food strategies** strengthen the connections between different food system components addressed by previous speakers. It also helps achieving other policy priorities, such as public health and climate action.
 - 6) **Establishing emergency food plans** at the urban level and integrating urban food provisioning into existing emergency plans is crucial to ensure nutritious food for all citizens during emergencies, as the COVID-19 experience demonstrates.
- To conclude, we propose that the Working Group becomes the **nucleus of the Coalition on Urban Food Systems**. We need the support of all stakeholders at all levels, in particular National Governments, who will be the catalysts of change for turning summit commitments into reality.
 - **A UNFSS legacy without cities is a UNFSS legacy without people**, because it is in cities, where most people live and most food is consumed.
 - Please find the Working Group's **draft Call for Action** in the Resources area of this Session page.