

SIDE EVENT

Optimizing Investment for Food Security and Nutrition in the New Urban Agenda

October 18, 2016, 2.30- 4.00 pm

Room B, "One UN" Pavilion, Quito Habitat III

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The New Urban Agenda (NUA) clearly recognizes food security and nutrition as one of the major challenges for cities and local governments. While this question has long been limited to supplying food to urban centres, the dramatic changes of the past decades has profoundly disrupted the food agenda. Indeed, the deep transformation of food systems from production, transformation to consumption; the changes in diets and the resulting nutrition challenges, from malnutrition to obesity; the increasing impact on the environment, including water pollution, greenhouse gas emission, land degradation, etc. In addition, the rapid pace of urbanization, not only in developing countries where industrialization has been too slow, but also in developed countries where economic growth is limited, come with increasing urban poverty and the development of urban food desert.

Such a combination of transformations creates a particularly complex and challenging environment for meeting urban food security and nutrition needs. The global objective is rather simple: the necessary transition towards sustainable and resilient food systems. Its concrete implications on the ground raise many interrelated questions. Unravelling and understanding current food systems remain a challenge, which goes beyond urban areas, due to the intertwined nature of rural-urban linkages. However, since this transition towards sustainable and resilient food systems is urgently needed, this complexity should not jeopardize decision-making and put a break on investments.

Based on the experiences from the Global North and South, this side event aims at fostering the need for optimizing interventions and investments in rural and urban areas aiming at reaching food security and nutrition. Today many cities across the globe are investing in financial and human resources on food related issues, developing integrated food planning strategies and policies, food charters, projects on school catering, promoting healthy food within walking distance, facilitating healthy food access in food desert areas, urban gardening, food waste management, strengthening urban-rural linkages, developing urban and peri-urban forestry and green infrastructure, as well as territorial development. These issues are receiving growing attention worldwide and are a key resource for clearly understanding why investing in urban food security and what are the key entry points for optimizing the investments.

FAO is already working on many initiatives aiming at addressing urban food security and nutrition and is seeking collaboration with the other UN Agencies for the implementation of the New Urban Agenda.

This side event will provide a discussion for determining guidance to facilitate investment plans aiming at food security and nutrition in cities.

DRAFT AGENDA

2:30 – 2.45	WELCOME & INTRODUCTORY REMARKS ON FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION IN THE NEW URBAN AGENDA
<i>Moderator</i>	Simone Borelli <i>Urban Forestry Officer, FAO</i>
<i>Introduction</i>	Raúl Osvaldo Benítez <i>FAO Assistant Director General of the Region of Latin America and the Caribbean</i>
2:45 – 3.40	INVESTING ON FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION IN URBAN AREAS: CHALLENGES AND GOOD PRACTISES – Roundtable
<i>Keynote speech</i>	Joe Nasr <i>Investing in food system planning in cities: the experience of Toronto</i>
	<i>Ximena Campos, Municipality of the City of Sucre, Bolivia</i> <i>Joaquim Oliveira Martins, OECD</i> <i>Francisco Obreque, World Bank Latin America</i> <i>Jesus Quintana, IFAD, Sub-regional Coordinator for the Andean Region</i> <i>Bernd Christiansen, Embassy of Germany Argentina</i>
3:40 – 3.50	DISCUSSION PLENARY
3:50 – 4.00	WRAP UP AND FINAL REMARKS <i>Raúl Osvaldo Benítez and Joe Nasr</i>