



MUFPP | **Afrique**

DAKAR

17-19 July 2023

Report

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5th MUFPP Regional Forum in Africa

MILAN URBAN FOOD POLICY PACT

Introduction

From the 17th to the 19th July 2023, the Municipality of Dakar (Senegal) hosted the 5th Milan Urban Food Policy Pact Regional Forum, in collaboration with Fondazione ACRA and Mani Tese.

The main objective of the event, titled "Empowering City Officers for the Development of Food Strategies in Africa" was to support cities wishing to develop more sustainable urban food systems by promoting cooperation between cities and the exchange of best practices.

The forum was divided into two phases: a presentation phase with mapping exercises and a phase devoted to field visits to successful examples of good practices. The forum was also intended to provide a framework on sustainable food systems development around the world and was part of the regionalisation process of the MUFPP as a further step of the Pact's previous regional forums: Dakar 2016, Brazzaville 2018, Niamey 2019 and Ouagadougou 2021. The event saw the participation of 19 policy officers and local authorities from 12 African cities as well as 10 African activists and 24 Food Wave activists from Europe and Brazil.

Monday, 17 July

9:00 - 10:00

Welcome and introduction

The first day of the Forum started with the opening speeches from the Vice Mayor for the **Municipality of Dakar**, Mr Jean Louis Ndiaye, Cécile Michel, **MUFPP Secretariat**, and Valeria De Paoli, Head of Programmes for **ACRA**.

A welcome video of Anna Scavuzzo, Vice Mayor for the **Municipality of Milan**, introduced the objectives of the Forum and the journey so far of the Pact.

10:00 - 11:00

State of the Pact

In the morning, Cécile Michel, **MUFPP Secretariat** presented the state of the Pact.

From 2014, facing global urbanization and climate challenges, the Municipality of Milan has developed the Pact in order to create a network of cities to share experience and knowledge on sustainable food systems and meet the SDGs.

The Milan Urban Food Policy Pact was signed on the **15th October 2015 in Milan** by more than 100 cities. It represents one of the most important legacies of Milan EXPO 2015. The Pact is composed by a **preamble** and a **Framework for Action** listing **37 recommended actions**, clustered in **6 categories**. For each recommended action, there are specific indicators to monitor progresses in implementing the Pact. The Milan Pact Awards offer concrete examples of the food policies that cities are implementing in each of the 6 Pact categories.

Today at the 5th Regional Forum in Africa, after **8 global fora** and **621 practises collected**, **270 signatory cities** are committed "to develop sustainable food systems that are inclusive, resilient, safe and diverse, that provide healthy and affordable food to all people in a human rights-based framework, that minimize waste and conserve biodiversity while adapting to and mitigating impacts of climate change".

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11:15 - 12:30

Introduction and presentation of Food Policy Action Canvas Training with repartition in groups

During the second half of the morning, Ernst Johannes Prosmann, from the **Food Sustainability Lab** of the School of Management of the Politecnico di Milano presented the **Food Policy Action Canvas (FPAC)**.

Born in **2017**, the **Food Sustainability Lab** is an initiative of the School of Management of the Politecnico di Milano, which takes origin from a solid research activity of several years on the topics of food recovery and redistribution and sustainability-oriented innovation. The Lab promotes various applied research projects, involving companies and trade associations, the Third Sector and public institutions. Those initiatives include the **Food Sustainability Observatory**, which proposes a program of research and dissemination activities, updated annually, on innovation topics for sustainability together with a Community of companies and other key players of the agri-food sector.

The Lab has developed as part of the **Horizon Food 2030 "Food Trails"** project with the involvement of different stakeholders the **FPAC**, with the objective to assist cities in developing practical and relevant food policy actions and to guide them in implementing those actions.

The advantages of FPAC proven from the positive feedback during different tests and uses are: **fast, comparable, easy to use and proven**.

The tool has the basis of the business model canvas developed by Osteralder and Pigneur including the fundamental elements to develop an activity/policy action, facilitating the thinking on what do we want to offer, beneficiaries to reach, where do we want to reach them, adjustments of what is already there. It is an evolving tool that can be compiled and adjusted over time, easy to access and understand.

The use of the FPAC must be accompanied by 3 blocks: **feasibility** (are we capable of doing it?), **desirability** (for citizens), **viability** (is it likely to succeed?).

14:00 - 17:30

Food Policy Action Canvas Training

In the afternoon, the participants were divided into groups. The training aimed to assist city officers from MUFPP African signatory cities in identifying priorities and gaps in their urban food systems and brainstorming on the way forward.

Each group was asked to select a category of the MUFPP: governance, sustainable diets and nutrition, social and economic equity, food production, food supply and distribution, food waste, and to select amongst the 37 types of actions.

With the support of the facilitators, each city had to:

1. Prepare and fill in the model canvas, starting from activities already in progress in terms of food policy actions;
2. Perform a stakeholder map identifying who is involved in the action, who is affected by the food policy action (beneficiaries), who/what affects the current food policy action (organizations, municipalities...), who is involved in activities/provides funds/manages relationships and channels;
3. Explore new propositions: what value is currently created for each stakeholder, what value is destroyed for each stakeholder (negative impacts), what value is missing for each stakeholder (or not fully utilized), what value opportunity exist for each stakeholder;
4. Identify barriers and drivers and how can these be faced by the food policy action;
5. Prepare a 10 minute final presentation for Wednesday, the last day of the Forum.

Tuesday, 18 July Parallel session - City officials

The second day of the Forum offered an occasion of exchange between international cooperation agencies, international organizations and MUFPP African city officials. The session was articulated in three separated but connected sections:

- The presentation of **AfriFOODlinks** project;
- The presentation of the **Green Cities Initiative** by the FAO[CM1] ;
- The **roundtable** between development agencies, international organizations, and city officials.

AfriFOODlinks

The Project Coordinator, Luke Meterelkamp from coordinating organization **ICLEI Africa**, presented AfriFOODlinks, an 11,8 million Euro Horizon Europe project, running from December 2022 until November 2026. AfriFOODlinks is among the first experiences of Horizon Europe project conceived, led and run by African institutions.

AfriFOODlinks aims to improve **food and nutrition security** while delivering positive outcomes for climate and the environment, and building socioecological resilience in **65+ Cities** (15 African and 5 European Hub & Sharing cities and 45+ Network Cities) cities by:

1. Promoting **public shifts to sustainable healthy diets**;
2. Transforming urban food environments through real-world **sociotechnical experiments**;
3. Promoting inclusive **multi-actor governance** to empower public officials, established and informal small businesses, communities, youth and women with ownership and agency to shape their food systems;
4. Accelerating **innovative, women- and youth-led agri-food businesses** to support local value addition and inclusive economic participation.

The presentation served a double purpose: on the one hand, cities that are not already participating in the project got acquainted with it, and had the chance to **express their interest in becoming involved as network cities**; on the other, international organizations and development agencies could receive information regarding a large ongoing project, that could **intersect with their own strategic objectives**.

Green Cities Initiative – FAO and Rikolto

FAO and Rikolto representatives presented the Green Cities Initiatives, explaining how their respective organizations are increasingly interested in observing the role of cities following the fast and unprecedented urbanization in Africa.

The Green Cities initiative's approach is then based on **four core principles**:

- The use of a systemic approach that entails a **multi-stakeholder involvement**, here including the mobilisation of local universities/research;
- The importance of fostering **urban-rural links**, while adapting to the context;
- The **leave no-one behind principle**, encompassing the concepts of food security for all, access to green spaces for all, job creation and an inclusive economy and participatory governance.
- **Sustainability and resilience**: interventions include circular economy, the management of natural resources and ecosystem protection, consider climate risks, and aim at promoting sustainable diets.

Priority actions selected by involved cities so far are:

- **Governance** of food systems and green cities
- **Urban and peri-urban forestry** (FUP) and green spaces
- **Urban and peri-urban agriculture** (AUP)
- **Food processing**
- **Healthy food in schools**
- **Short food chains** for urban markets
- **Food retail** environments
- **Food loss and waste**



The city of **Bambilor** – Senegal, one of the partner cities of the initiative, presented its successful experience in building a multi-stakeholder platform to improve its governance.

Roundtable between development agencies, international organizations, and city officials

The third part of the session featured the gathering of representatives of development agencies and international organizations, focused on fostering the exchange of African approaches to urban food systems. The goal was to **collect examples of existing funded projects** with replicable strategies or actions that can be successfully implemented across Africa and to **explore cooperation and synergies**.

Invited representatives were asked to present programmes, actions or strategies targeting urban food systems in African cities -if any-, and in particular in African cities partners of AfriFOODlinks project (Kisumu, Mbale, Cape Town, Ouagadougou, Tunis, Niamey, Chefchaouen, Tamale, Dakar, Windhoek, Lusaka, Quelimane, Arusha, Antananarivo, Bukavu).

Among the main takeaways it was noted the **increasing interest from international organizations to work with cities**. This was expressed in particular by the representative of the **World Bank**, who underlined two major challenges in supporting this type of actions: firstly, he noted that historically, the World Bank has worked at state level, and not with cities and communities, and secondly that impactful intervention on food system need a comprehensive approach, while organizations and agency often work by themes.

IUCN underlined the need for localization, coupled with a stronger focus on partnerships with the private sector.

City officers responded vividly to these inputs, in particular inviting organizations to collaborate directly at the local level, and even underlining how often decentralization is praised in theory while in reality development interventions still target mainly central governments. Some also underlined the lack of feedback mechanisms and communication between local and state level.

FAO then suggested joint advocacy actions between the **MUFPP**, international organizations and development partners, to invite governments to support local administrations in their development efforts around food systems.



Tuesday, 18 July Parallel session - Young activists

Young activists participated in a parallel session dedicated to four main questions: where are we now as activists in food systems, what is our role at the moment, and what role we want for the future.

During the session, the marginal role of activists in policy making was highlighted, as well as the need to break the bubble and reach the larger population on the tackled topics. Activists would like to be stakeholders, but at the moment they felt left outside the decision-making room, leaving little to no room for real impact and change-making. At the same time, though, it was important to highlight their role as a link between civil society and policy officials, bringing the instances and point of views of young people to the table.

The group works were presented at the end of the parallel session and a final presentation was prepared for the last day of the Forum in the plenary session.

18 July - 14:30 Agroecology and urban food policies (presentation by Azione Terrae)

Giovanni Sartor, Desk Officer for **Mani Tese** presented the experience of **Azione TerrAE coalition**.

Created in **2019**, the coalition brings together diverse actors with the main purpose of working for **agroecological transition in Western Africa**. Members include not only NGOs, but also the academic sector through research institutes and producers with realities such as that of Reti Semi Rurali. The objective of Azione TerrAE is to support the agroecological transition in West Africa in international cooperation policies and programs, starting with the Italian Cooperation. In fact, responding to crises in the region requires a systemic, multi-actor approach that focuses on the issues of land and peasant agriculture, the role of women and young people. The coalition has organized seminars inviting stakeholders and consultations in the process that led to the elaboration of the position paper, with the aim of lobbying Italian cooperation to place agro-ecology at the heart of its strategies. Agroecology is not just in rural development, but also as part of the development for the society as a whole and there is a call to mobilize for urgent and coordinated action, focusing on the crisis in West Africa.

Valeria De Paoli, Head of Programmes for **ACRA**, presented the definition of agroecology as a process that enhances biodiversity and functional interactions between plants, animals and humans. Agroecology was recognised internationally by the **FAO** in **2019**. An approach must be adapted to the working context. Yet the relationship between agroecology and urban nutritional systems is not in the manifesto, but important work on the emergence of agroecology in urban policies is underway, as envisaged in the **Ouagadougou Declaration** following the 2021 Regional Forum.

Following the presentation, group work continued in preparation for the next day's restitution.

Wednesday, **19 July**

The final day of the 5th Regional Forum in Africa saw the presentation of the work from 14 cities. Where possible, the presentation was made by a Representative of each City Municipality and a Young Climate Activist.

Here a summary for each presentation:

Mozambique – Quelimane

A young climate activist from Quelimane has described the ongoing initiative on waste management and food loss prevention. In this framework, the proposal focuses on capacity building through training for local farmers in order to increase awareness on sustainable practices, enhancing food security and improve management of local resources.

Burkina Faso – Ouagadougou

Presented by the representative of the municipality of Ouagadougou and a young climate activist, the selected action was to Promote and strengthen Urban Food Production through the enhancement of the Green Belt as a protected green area that can feed the city with local and quality food, in a sustainable approach.

Mali – Bamako

The proposal elaborated by the representative of the municipality of Bamako focused on promoting food production, implementing training for local farmers in urban and peri-urban areas in order to create food production systems that can meet the needs of the population.

Senegal – Dakar

The proposal presented by the representative of the municipality of Dakar and a young climate activist was to draw up a local food and nutritional security strategy for the city of Dakar, reinforcing the good practice already in place for urban micro-gardens.

Madagascar – Antananarivo

The representative of the municipality of Antananarivo described the food resilience strategy elaborated with FAO in 2020. The intention is to develop further the local government capacities and to draft a development plan at municipality level. The young climate activist said that a strong limit is the weak participation of civil society in the decision making process.

Cape Verde - Praia

Presented by the representative of the municipality of Praia, one of the barriers identified in the food system is social equity, especially in terms of quality food for children. The proposal focused on providing quality food services.

South Africa - Durban

The main barrier observed in the city is the lack of baseline information. Food policy is a national mandate, cities try to put into practice and adapt. The focus of the proposal was on promoting civil society action, not to fight against the government but to work with them, focusing on strengthening agricultural sustainable practices.

Kenya - Nairobi

Presented by the representative of the municipality of Kenya and a young climate activist, the proposal was on food waste management, with different actors and methods to save food from losses and manage waste at all different levels. A key point is on enhancing education and awareness for the public on waste management and food related good practices

Niger – Niamey

Presented by the representative of the municipality of Niamey and a young climate activist, the focus of the proposal was on organic waste management through production of compost. This activity is already ongoing in two suburban areas of Niamey, linking local markets with farmers. Another point is the protection and rehabilitation of the green belt that is strongly threatened from urbanization.

Camerun – Bafoussam

According to the representative of the municipality of Bafoussam, the main barrier identified in the city is the lack of urban food policies. This type of policy could guarantee coordination in the activities. The suggestion is to create committees in order to conceive and put into place an urban food policy.

Senegal – Thies

The city of Thies does not currently have a policy on food systems. The representative of The municipality of Thies claimed that there is a strong interest in the direction of signing the MUFPP. Currently there are exchanges in order to implement a food waste system.

Senegal – Ziguinchor

Presented by the representative of the municipality, the proposal for the city of Ziguinchor focuses on waste management, awareness and capacity building, sustainable production and rehabilitating local markets. However, the first step must be a baseline on local initiatives. The city has not signed the MUFPP yet

Cameroun – Douala

Presented by the representative of the municipality, the proposal focused on trainings on farm production for vulnerable people and especially people with disabilities with the involvement of technical experts.

Tchad – N'Djamena

The city of N'Djamena was represented by a young climate activist and the proposal focused on improving local food supply and distribution systems by engaging women and young people.

14:00 - 17:00 Field visits

In the afternoon, the young climate activists met two local associations at the Hann park in Dakar.

The first association, *Jeunes Volontaires pour l'Environnement du Sénégal* (JVE Sénégal) is a non-profit civil society organization that plays a key role in preserving the environment and promoting sustainable development in Senegal. Founded in December 2010, JVE Senegal has several local branches, deploying its actions throughout the country.

JVE Senegal was created in response to growing awareness of the environmental challenges facing the country. As a developing nation, Senegal faces a number of environmental problems, including the degradation of ecosystems, the loss of biodiversity, air and water pollution, and the effects of climate change. JVE-SN's ambitious goal is to become a key player in the fight against climate change in Senegal. To achieve this objective, the organization aims to increase its visibility, ensure the traceability of its projects and activities, promote the environmental missions it carries out and become a key reference point for environmental issues in Senegal.

The second association, *Action pour la Justice Environnementale* (AJE) is a national association that defends the ecological interests of communities in the face of environmental damage.

In a context marked by ever-increasing integration into the global economy, environmental concerns in Senegal are becoming more and more acute. AJE intends to make its contribution through environmental education, the implementation of ecologically sustainable activities and the fight against environmental inequalities. In addition to advocacy and dialogue, AJE is promoting the referral of environmental issues to Senegalese courts. Such an approach will not only help to raise environmental awareness among the general public, but will also, and above all, help to ensure that the rights enshrined in the legal instruments in force in Senegal are effective.

Following the presentations of the two associations, there was an open debate with the young activists, comparing their backgrounds: Europe, Africa and Brazil. Many similarities were discussed, especially in terms of climate injustice and the lack of participation of civil society and young people in decision-making processes.

At the same time, policy officials and institutions visited the experience of the micro-jardins, a form of soilless horticultural production undertaken in small urban spaces, that contributes to the fight against food insecurity in Dakar.

Dakar houses approximately 25% of the country's population. Agricultural space is sparse, and proper food security is not provided. To provide Dakar inhabitants with alternative supply solutions, the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) in collaboration with the government of Senegal, the Municipality of Dakar, and several NGOs launched the project for micro-gardening in 1999. Since then, the project has been re-launched several times. In 2004 the project was transferred to other cities in Senegal and Africa.

Micro-gardening technology permits soilless horticultural production in small urban spaces such as roofs, yards, or vacant areas. The project provides families with food and allows them to sell the surplus for a small income. It generally targets environmental enhancement for fragile groups in societies by enabling inhabitants to produce food in urban situations.





