



United Nations

— HABITAT III —

SIDE EVENT REPORT

| Submitted by Lead Organization | |
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| Name of the lead organization | The Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition (GAIN) |
| City and country where the lead organization is based | Geneva, Switzerland |
| Title of the event | Good Governance for Healthy, Nutritious and Sustainable Urban Food Systems |
| Date | 10/18/2016 |
| Room number | R2 |
| List of partner organizations | Food Smart Cities for Development-an EU project coordinated by the City of Milan and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands |
| Number of attendees | 61-80 |
| Percentage of women participating | 41-50% |
| Background information on the event (themes, issues, context). | <p>Rapid urbanization is creating radically new challenges to feeding cities which by 2030 will contain 5 billion consumers, a great number suffering from some form of malnutrition. The food system is governed by both state and non-state actors including the private sector. All actors (local and national governments, civil society, the private sector, and international organizations) need to work better together to meet the challenge of a healthier, equitable and more sustainable food system for all. Malnutrition now affects every country in the world and is having severe societal and economic impacts. Ensuring sufficient and healthy food for all is a great challenge for growing cities because urban food systems are vulnerable to climate change, economic shocks, violent crises, dramatic social changes (i.e. migration). Recognizing those challenges, the Sustainable Development Goals have highlighted the need of ending hunger, reducing malnutrition (SDG2) and making cities more resilient and sustainable(SDG11) as key goals. Linking SDG2 with SDG11 is critical. By 2030 a billion people will move to cities and fewer people will be living in rural farming areas. The majority of urban growth will occur in Africa and Asia where malnutrition is most severe and food systems are already constrained. Around 24% of urban populations are stunted and obesity has become a major concern in most cities around the world. Hunger and malnutrition (in its various forms: obesity, micronutrient deficiency etc.) are not challenges just for the health sector, but for all. A joined-up approach among different stakeholders will be key. The side event discussed what constitutes a good urban food policy and will examine how to foster sustainable food systems which: 1) stimulate local economies; 2) provide affordable nutritious foods to all; 3) mitigate the negative effects of climate change.</p> |



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Concise summary of the event proceedings, including key points discussed

On Tuesday 18 October 2016, The Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition (GAIN) in partnership with Food Smart Cities for Development-an EU project coordinated by the City of Milan and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands sponsored an official Habitat III side event “Good Governance for Healthy, Nutritious, and Sustainable Urban Food Systems”. The event was moderated by the Mayor of Utrecht, Jan van Zanen and the panellists included Amir Abdulla, Deputy Executive Director of the UN World Food Programme (WFP), Alfonso Abdo, Executive Director of ConQuito, the economic promotion agency of the City of Quito, Cinzia Tegoni of the City of Milan, and Sudhvir Singh, Policy Director of the EAT Foundation. This side event was a dialogue about the importance of creating good urban food policies and the key role cities play in this process, the main themes of the position paper “Achieving Urban Food and Nutrition Security with the New Urban Agenda” that was supported by The City of Milan, The City of Utrecht, The Consuming Urban Poverty Project, EAT, Food Smart Cities for Development, The Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition (GAIN), Hivos, The Hungry Cities Partnership, The RUAF Foundation, The Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) Business Network and The United Nations World Food Programme (WFP). Mayor van Zanen started off the discussion by highlighting the need of linking up the agricultural sector with the urban development sector and nutrition sector. He explained that while in general food systems are mainly looked at from a rural perspective, he wanted to call attention to specific urban dynamics and specific needs with regards to food. “Urban infrastructure is critical for the connection between cities and rural areas and urban infrastructure in itself gives form to what and how food can be distributed, sold, and accessed,” Mr. van Zanen stated. He elaborated that, “In Utrecht we aim to be a healthy city. As a Global Goals city, Utrecht has committed itself to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. We are urbanizing in a healthy and sustainable way, which is reflected in being the healthiest city in the Netherlands.” Utrecht, is one of the partners of the Food Smart Cities for Development project, together with the City of Milan. This European project enables cities to look into food system questions and through working sessions connect people and networks and form new platforms and partnerships. Utrecht is also a signatory of the Milan Urban Food Policy Pact which has been signed by 100 cities around the world. It has been one year since the Pact was signed and Cinzia Tegoni of the City of Milan explained that this year has been an incredible story filled with a lot of momentum from cities working on improving urban food systems and nutrition. A steering committee was established consisting of 13 cities that will determine how the pact will evolve and collaborate with existing networks, work on a monitoring framework and determine possible indicators to evaluate the effectiveness of various urban food policies. This year at the second Mayors Summit, that was hosted by FAO in Rome, various cities were awarded prizes for best practices that were transferable and had concrete results. “We wanted a peer to peer approach and winners will be empowered and financed to implement their project in another partner city”, Cinzia explained. Among the winners was the City of Quito and it was an unexpected, sweet surprise when Cinzia got up and handed the award during the side event to Alfonso Abdo for ConQuito’s great work in the AGRUPAR project. This project empowered vulnerable populations to take part in urban agriculture, food processing activities (such as making jams, dry beans etc.) and selling organic produce not used for own consumption in kiosks year round in areas around Quito. It particularly focused on the empowerment of women as 84% of the beneficiaries were women. He explained the importance of improving access to healthy and affordable foods as low income families in Quito spend 60-70% of their income on food. The project helped both increase nutritious food consumption and incomes of beneficiaries. However Mr Abdo explained that results are still small and that it will be critical to scale up the project. The only way to do this, however, he explains is to collaborate with the private sector. If not, we will not create sustainable and systemic change. Mr Abdo declared the essential role of multi-stakeholder partnerships for creating effective urban food policies and programs. Amir Abdulla of WFP expounded that the New Urban Agenda is a first step in history to create a world that leaves no one behind. It did a good job in having an inclusive preparation process however it will require this same inclusivity in the implementation if it is to be successful. Furthermore, he stressed the need to integrate this initiative with others such as the Agenda 2030 and the Decade of Action on Nutrition. “Cities have to move forward in a sustainable manner, and therefore need policies and practices that provide sustainable nutrition”, Mr. Abdulla explained. He further highlighted however that we also need to address how this can be done in cities under extreme pressure due to conflict and natural disasters. Mr Abdulla stressed that cities differ but one common thread is the need for good urban food policies and practises to get us there and that we need a good evidence space, which wasn’t necessarily there. We need to understand the diversity in demand, how and where food is serviced and how to strengthen linkages between rural and urban areas and re-establish them in areas of conflict. An important tool will be targeted social safety nets. Both physical and institutional infrastructures of cities are important factors in creating nutritious but also sustainable food systems Sudhvir Singh of the EAT Foundation elucidated. He further elaborated that the physical infrastructure that gets food into cities (eg. Cold chains, roads, etc.) is complex and can have trade-offs. For example cold chains that rely on fossil fuels may get more fruits and vegetables into a city but can be a contributor to greenhouse gasses and exacerbate climate change. Institutional infrastructure such as multi-stakeholder partnerships amongst governments, private sector and civil society are also important. Local governments can for example, via public procurement of food (eg. in schools, hospitals, etc.), stimulate demand for nutritious and sustainable food. Sudhvir emphasised that we need a comprehensive definition of sustainable urban food systems that should bridge economic and social factors and not just look at climate change impacts but also the environmental impact on biodiversity, forests, oceans etc. Active participation from the audience revealed that solving urban food system and urban nutrition issues is no simple matter. It will require balancing the priorities of local vs national governments, working with the informal sector, reducing the impact of food price spikes, technological innovations but also at times a return to back to basics such as cooking, and good urban planning. However one thing is clear, cities should be empowered to create and implement effective urban food policies and good governance for urban food systems will require collaboration amongst all actors including governments, businesses, civil society, producers and consumers.



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| <p>Recommendations that emerged from these discussions.</p> | <p>The side event emphasised that in order to achieve the New Urban Agenda and the Agenda 2030 we have to break silos and work together (governments local and national, businesses, civil society, NGOs, producers, consumers) to improve urban nutrition in a sustainable manner. This side event was a dialogue about the importance of creating good urban food policies and the key role cities play in this process, i.e. the main themes of the position paper “Achieving Urban Food and Nutrition Security with the New Urban Agenda” that was supported by The City of Milan, The City of Utrecht, The Consuming Urban Poverty Project, EAT, Food Smart Cities for Development, The Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition (GAIN), Hivos, The Hungry Cities Partnership, The RUAF Foundation, The Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) Business Network and The United Nations World Food Programme (WFP). The position paper was distributed during the side event and can also be found online here: http://www.gainhealth.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/10/Position-Paper-with-Logos.pdf</p> |
| <p>Partnerships or collaborations that emerged from the event.</p> | <p>The position paper “Achieving Urban Food and Nutrition Security with the New Urban Agenda” was supported by The City of Milan, The City of Utrecht, The Consuming Urban Poverty Project, EAT, Food Smart Cities for Development, The Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition (GAIN), Hivos, The Hungry Cities Partnership, The RUAF Foundation, The Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) Business Network and The United Nations World Food Programme (WFP). The position paper was distributed and discussed during the side event and can also be found online here: http://www.gainhealth.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/10/Position-Paper-with-Logos.pdf</p> |
| <p>Name, nationality, title and organization of the 1st speaker at your event.</p> | <p>Jan van Zanen, Mayor of Utrecht , The City of Utrecht, The Netherlands</p> |
| <p>Name, nationality, title and organization of the 2nd speaker at your event.</p> | <p>Amir Abdulla, Deputy Executive Director of the UN World Food Programme (WFP)</p> |
| <p>Name, nationality, title and organization of the 3rd speaker at your event.</p> | <p>Alfonso Abdo, Executive Director of ConQuito, the economic promotion agency of the City of Quito, Ecuador</p> |
| <p>Name, nationality, title and organization of the 4th speaker at your event.</p> | <p>Cinzia Tegoni, Project Manager Food Smart Cities for Development of the City of Milan, Italy</p> |
| <p>Name, nationality, title and organization of the 5th speaker at your event.</p> | <p>Sudhvir Singh, Policy Director of the EAT Foundation</p> |
| <p>Dissemination of the outcomes of your event?</p> | <p>We live tweeted during the event and have written several blogs and published the position paper online. Please find them below. http://www.gainhealth.org/knowledge-centre/good-governance-healthy-nutritious-sustainable-urban-food-systems/ https://t.co/hALVyA1Czz http://www.gainhealth.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/10/Position-Paper-with-Logos.pdf</p> |