

Milan Pact: a new global arena

Three years after its launch, results went beyond expectations and the Milan Pact became an innovative space of cooperation among cities, networks and international organizations

www.milanurbanfoodpolicypact.org

The Milan Urban Food Policy Pact is the main legacy of the Universal Exhibition “**Expo Milan 2015**” *Feeding the Planet, Energy for Life*. The Milan Pact is a global commitment of mayors from around the world that considers food as an entry point for the sustainable development of growing cities. It represents the main framework for cities and international stakeholders active in the definition of innovative urban food policies for the management and governance of local food systems. Nowadays the pact is a new arena of debate and cooperation among cities, metropolitan and regional authorities.

Milan Pact framework for action

The Milan Pact is the result of a participatory process among 46 cities that worked together in 2014, under the guidance of a technical team of international experts, on the definition of **37 recommended actions structured into 6 integrated categories:**

- governance;
- sustainable diets and nutrition;
- social and economic equity;
- food production, urban-rural linkages;
- food supply and distribution;
- food waste reduction and management;

Cities choose specific actions to develop and if and how to adapt them to their specific contexts. The overall objective of the Pact is to develop urban food systems that are sustainable, inclusive, resilient, safe and diverse, that provide healthy and affordable food to all people in a human right based framework. This ambitious goal can be achieved through urban food policies built on a comprehensive and integrated approach.

The Milan Pact gathers today **161 cities from 62 countries**. The governance of the Pact is ensured by its Steering Committee, composed by 13 cities from different continents (Abidjan, Dakar, Nairobi, Athens, Milan, Valencia, Belo Horizonte, Buenos Aires, Sao Paolo, Baltimore, Toronto, Astana, Tel Aviv). The City of Milan is the chair of the 2016-2018 SC’s mandate. The Milan Pact Secretariat, established within the Mayor’s Office of Milan, guarantees the coordination of all activities of the Pact as well as its relations with cities, networks and international organizations.



2015, Milan. Signing ceremony of the Milan Urban Food Policy Pact.



2016, FAO, Rome. 2nd Annual Gathering and Mayors Summit.



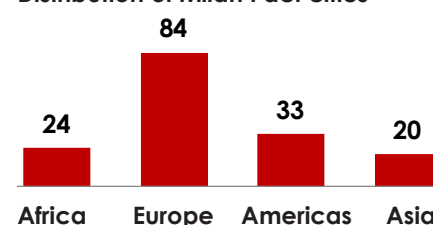
2017, Valencia. 3rd Annual Gathering and Mayors Summit.

Annual Gathering of the Pact

Signatory cities gather once a year during an event held every year in a different Milan Pact city. It is an opportunity to meet, exchange knowledge and practices, participate in technical workshops, share progresses and build partnerships.

Mayors meet each other and get inspired by innovative solutions implemented in other cities.

Distribution of Milan Pact cities



Hosting cities:

2015 - Milan
2016 - FAO/Rome
2017 - Valencia
2018 - Tel Aviv
2019 - next call

Positioning the Pact within global trends and actors

Global Agenda

The Pact is in the process of getting connected to the global agenda for sustainable development. In the last three years cities have been working to connect and address international debates and negotiations:

- **New Urban Agenda**, participating and coordinating advocacy's actions and events leading to the UN-Habitat III conference in Quito in 2016, for the inclusion of food policies in the priorities for a sustainable urban future;
- **Paris Declaration on Climate Change**, participating to the preparatory work and being present at the COP21 in Paris, at COP22 in Marrakesh, at COP23 in Bonn;
- **G7-Health and Global Nutrition Summit 2017** organizing a debate among three Pact cities: Cape Town, Toronto and Milan on urban nutrition policies, during the Global Nutrition Summit under the Italian presidency of 2017 G7-Health. The event was co-funded by Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, with the participation of former UN Secretary General, Kofi Annan;
- **9th World Urban Forum**, participating to different events and sessions of the forum held in Kuala Lumpur. The goal is to reinforce the synergies between Milan Pact and the New Urban Agenda.

UN bodies

Since its launch, the Pact has been working with different UN bodies:

- **FAO-Food and Agriculture Organization**, main UN partner, developing a monitoring framework, supporting city-to-city cooperation, spreading practices;
- **UN-Habitat**, common advocacy action in the field of New Urban Agenda;
- **WHO-World Health Organization**, working with the multilevel Healthy Cities Network;
- **UNSDSN-Youth**, joint communication activities and delivery of webinars to UNSDSN fellows on food and SDGs;

Existing urban networks

The Pact is working with existing international networks and prompted the creation of specific working groups on food:

- **Eurocities WG Food** composed by 51 European cities working for advocacy to EU Commission, building partnerships for food policy projects and meeting twice a year for thematic workshops;
- **C40 Food Systems Network**, participation to webinars on food related issues linked with climate change and meetings.
- **WHO-Healthy Cities**, collaborating with the network on the topics of health and nutrition.



2017. Global Nutrition Summit (G7) session of discussion at urban level among Cape Town, Milan and Toronto.



2016, Quito, UN-Habitat III. MUFPP side event to advocate on food policy topics inside the New Urban Agenda.



2017, Brussels. EU Commission DG SANTE, participation to the EU Platform for Food Losses and Food Waste meeting.



2017, Global Nutrition Summit at the presence of former UNSG.



2016, FAO. Workshop on the Milan Pact Monitoring Framework during 2nd Annual Gathering.

Regionalization processes: Africa, Europe, USA

The Milan Pact gathers 161 cities belonging to different contexts, from North to global South. Aware of this geographical challenge, since 2016 different forms of regionalization stemmed, adding value and contents to other existing regional networks.

Africa

In 2016 the **Dakar Forum** was held in Senegal. The forum was attended by six West African cities of the Pact: Dakar, Abidjan, Brazzaville, Douala, N'Djamena, Nouakchott and the city of Milan. Cities were engaged in several working sessions and produced a statement acquiring the recommendations of the Pact helping them to keep on working on African specific challenges. Next forums will be organized by FAO in 2018 in **Durban** (South Africa) and by Italian NGOs in 2019 in **Ouagadougou** (Burkina Faso) and **Niamey** (Niger).



Europe

Inside the main European cities association, Eurocities, the debate around food and cities is particularly dynamic and focused. Thanks to the inputs of the Pact, the Eurocities Working Group Food was established. The working group joins: focusing on **priority EU calls for cities** (policy development, research and innovation, international cooperation, etc...); on **advocacy to different European DGs** (food and health, regional development, R&I, agriculture, international cooperation); on knowledge sharing during **workshop and meetings** (Brussels, Birmingham, Valencia, Utrecht, Amsterdam, Tel Aviv).

Eurocities WG Food has become a relevant shareholder at EU level.



United States of America

Since winning the Milan Pact Award in 2016, the City of Baltimore worked to strengthen the **United States Conference of Mayors (USCM) Food Policy Advisor Network**. As a result, the network gathered two day convening of food policy advisors at the USCM Annual Meeting in June 2017 in Miami and adopted the Milan Pact as its leading framework.



Governance of the Pact

The governance of the Milan Urban Food Policy Pact is ensured by the Steering Committee, a group of 13 cities from different continents, elected by all signatory cities every two years. The role of the SC is to take decisions about partnerships, cooperation with networks, advocacy activities, MUFPP internal rules and to vote the hosting cities for the Annual Gathering (AG). The SC meets once year in person during the Gathering and online throughout the year.

AFRICA: Abidjan, Dakar, Nairobi

EUROPE: Athens, Milan, Valencia

LATIN AMERICA: Belo Horizonte, Buenos Aires, Sao Paulo

NORTH AMERICA: Baltimore, Toronto

SOUTH & WEST ASIA: Astana, Tel Aviv

The chair of the Steering Committee is the city of Milan.



2017 Valencia meeting of European cities



2016 Dakar Forum of African cities

Sharing knowledge, transferring practices, monitoring progresses

106 practices and solutions

Milan Pact Awards (MPA) were launched in 2016 thanks to the support of Fondazione Cariplo. The two editions of the MPA (2016 and 2017) collected 106 practices on urban food policies developed worldwide. The goal of the prizes is to share the winning practices among Milan Pact cities: **Baltimore** (MPA 2016) is working on governance within the USCM; **Mexico City** (MPA 2016) on school canteens and nutrition with **Tegucigalpa** (Honduras); **Toronto** (MPA 2017) on food as a driver for social inclusion with **Athens** and **Thessaloniki** (Greece) and **Antananarivo** (MPA 2017) on urban agriculture. Collected good practices will be showcased in the **Urban Food Actions Platform**, a tool elaborated by FAO and Milan Pact to share policies and knowledge.

Monitoring framework and SDGs

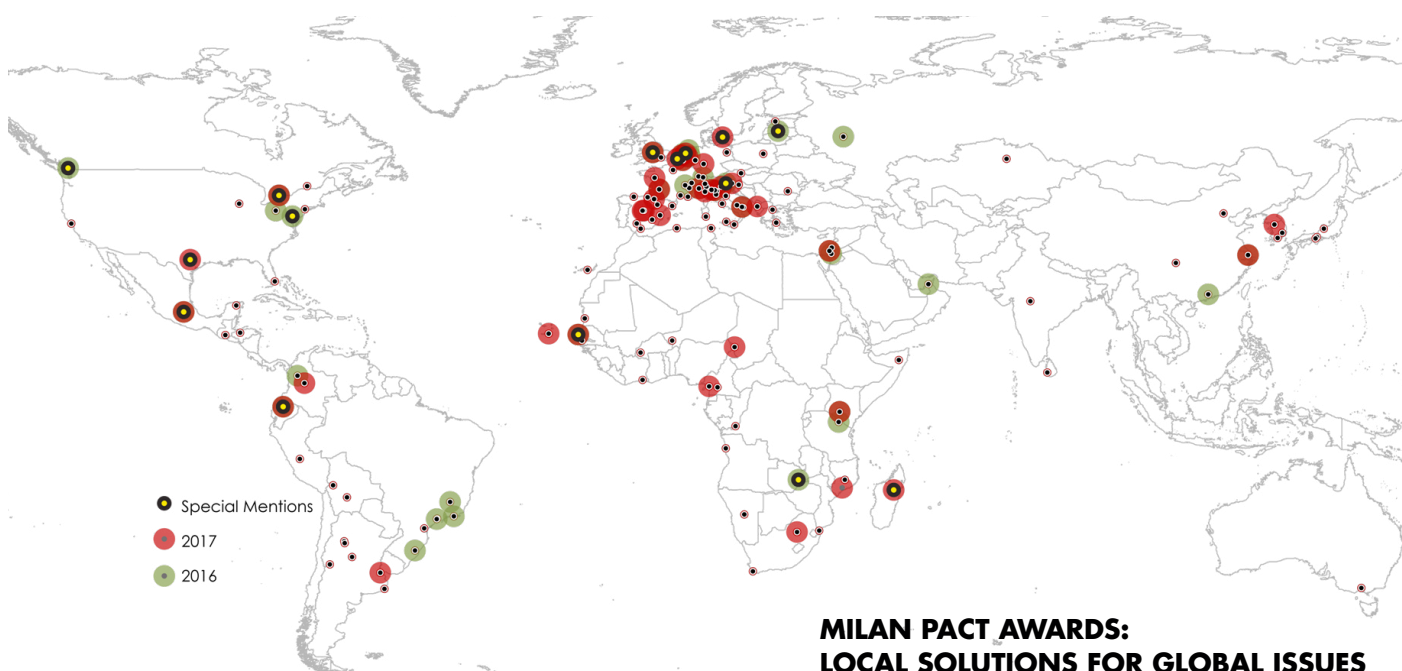
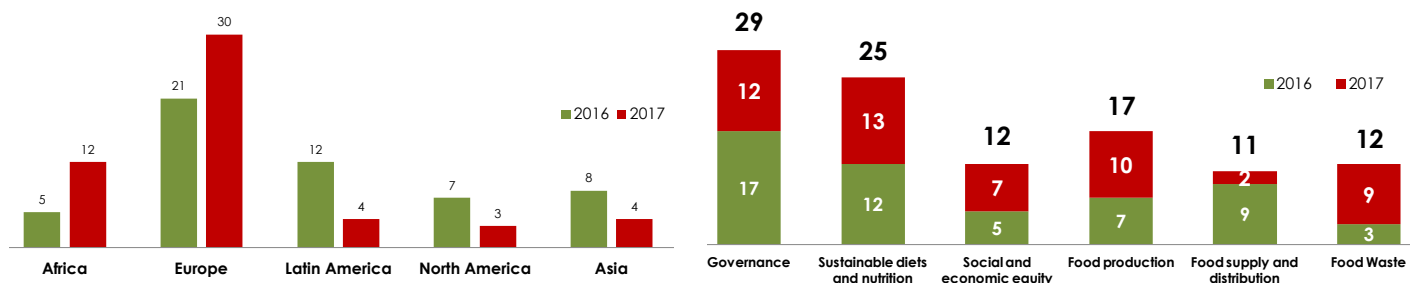
Milan Pact and FAO are developing the MUFPP Monitoring Framework to assess the progress made by cities in achieving more sustainable food systems. **45 cities** took part in the technical consultation to define target topics for the indicators. As of now 13 pilot cities identified the 42 final indicators. Each indicator is related to specific targets of the SDGs and will link the urban level to the global accountability of sustainable development goals.

City-to-city cooperation

Integrating the Milan Pact Awards, cities are invited to start cooperation and knowledge exchange among themselves as well as sharing tangible solutions.

Since 2015 the exchanged experiences helped to define the added value of decentralized cooperation. The following examples show the variety of the different kinds of cooperation taking place:

- **Urban oriculture:** Milan – Dakar (Senegal) – Douala (Camerun) - Praia (Cape Verde) - Toronto - Nairobi (Kenya)
- **School canteens and nutrition:** Mexico City (Mexico) – Milan – Tegucigalpa (Honduras) and Birmingham (UK) – Pune (India)
- **Food waste reduction and waste management:** Milan - Niamey (Niger) – Maputo (Mozambique)
- **Water purification and distribution:** Milan – Quelimane (Mozambique)
- **Cooperation within national network:** Baltimore (USA) – US Conference of Mayors Food Policy Task Force
- **Governance:** Toronto - Cape Town (South Africa) - Milan - Ouagadougou (Burkina Faso) – Daegu (South Korea) e Lyon – Ho Chi Minh (Vietnam).



**MILAN PACT AWARDS:
LOCAL SOLUTIONS FOR GLOBAL ISSUES**