



POLICY BRIEF

Milan Urban Food Policy Pact

The first and foremost international agreement among cities from all over the world, committed to developing sustainable, inclusive and resilient urban food systems

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**.

The MUFPP 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
- Food Supply and Distribution
- Food Waste

The Milan Pact’s framework presents a holistic approach towards the food system. A dedicated **Monitoring Framework**, developed with FAO and RUAF, supports cities in better structuring and assessing the impact of their food policies.

Governance and membership

Today, the Milan Pact gathers more than **280 cities**, representing a total of **460 million inhabitants** over the **6 MUFPP regions**. The governance of the Pact is ensured by a **Steering Committee**, which is elected every two years and has the responsibility of representing signatory cities at global level and the regionalization of the activities on urban food system. It is composed of **13 members**, 2 per each MUFPP region together with the Mayor of Milan which is the permanent Chair.

The **MUFPP Secretariat**, hosted by the City of Milan, is responsible for engaging new signatory cities; facilitating the knowledge sharing and organizing capacity building activities; developing partnerships with relevant stakeholders and institutions; engaging in international food-related policy and advocacy processes; coordinating the elections and work of the MUFPP Steering Committee; supporting the organisation of Global and Regional Fora in collaboration with hosting cities; and organizing the Milan Pact Awards.



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

MUFPP Global Fora

Global Fora are a fundamental moment for the network, an opportunity for our signatory cities to meet, exchange knowledge and practices, participate in technical workshops, share progress and build partnerships. Over the years, the MUFPP Global Fora has become a regular occurrence for cities and key actors in the global urban food agenda. As per tradition, the Global Forum is hosted in a different Milan Pact city. In 2022, the city of **Rio de Janeiro**, Brazil, hosted the **8th MUFPP Global Forum** with the theme “Food to Feed the Climate Justice: urban food solutions for a fairer world”. Past Global Fora have been hosted in Milan (2015), Rome (2016), Valencia (2017), Tel Aviv (2018), Montpellier (2019), online (2020) and in Barcelona (2021).



2022, Rio de Janeiro. 8th Global Forum



The MUFPP text



8th Global Forum Report

Milan Urban Food Policy Pact

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Comune di **Fondazione Milano CARIPLO**



Regionalization process

Cities face similar challenges and seek appropriate solutions for their specific geographical and socio-economic contexts. Therefore, the Milan Pact promotes a **regionalization process** allowing signatory cities and regional stakeholders to meet and exchange knowledge regularly within their respective regions, in strong coordination with the Steering Committee. During each mandate, the Steering Committee representatives develop a **leadership plan**, which defines objectives and goals for their respective region.



Africa

In 2016, the 1st MUFPP Regional Forum was held in **Dakar**, Senegal. Next Regional Fora took place in **Brazzaville** (2018), **Niamey** (2019), **Ouagadougou** (2021), **Dakar** (2023).

The MUFPP is also partner of the Horizon project **AfriFOODlinks**, aimed at improving food and nutrition security and transforming the food environment by involving 5 hub cities (**Cape Town, Kisumu Mbale, Ouagadougou** and **Tunis**) along with other 10 sharing cities in Africa and 5 sharing cities in Europe.

Europe

Within **Eurocities**, the European association of cities, the debate around food and cities is today particularly dynamic. In 2016, thanks to the inputs of the MUFPP, a **Working Group Food** was established. It is chaired by **Milan and Warsaw** and it encounters 51 cities that gathered 11 times in **Brussels, Birmingham, Valencia, Amsterdam, Lyon, Ghent, Montpellier, Almere, Milan, Barcelona, Almere, Bordeaux and Warsaw**. The Working Group focuses on sharing knowledge, promoting joint projects and advocating towards the European bodies. The City of Milan, to promote the commitment of the MUFPP, is leading **Food Trails**, an Horizon 2020 European project working in **11 European cities** with **3 universities** and **5 European stakeholders** to translate the Milan Pact's vision through the implementation of food policies and pilot projects in the 11 municipalities. The MUFPP is also partner of other EU projects like **SchoolFood4Change, Cultivate** and **CLEVERFOOD**. The City of Milan together with Lisbon Metropolitan Authority co-coordinates the **Urban Agenda for Europe - Thematic Food Partnership**, advocating for better regulation, knowledge and funding in Europe.

Eurasia & South West Asia

The 1st Regional Forum was held in **Kazan** on the topic "Healthy Cities. Healthy Nutrition for Children". In 2022 thanks to the collaboration with the FSSAI, the MUFPP welcomed 11 Indian cities, winners of the EatSmart Cities Challenge, an initiative supporting smart cities to develop a plan for a healthy and sustainable food environment.

South America

In 2019, the 1st Regional Forum of South America took place in **Rio de Janeiro**. The forum aimed at promoting the dialogue between South American cities to improve food governance in the region. The second meeting of the region was held during the 8th Global Forum in Rio de Janeiro, focusing on the identification of common challenges and experiences on the theme of food security and climate justice. In 2023, an agreement was signed with **Mercociudades** to strengthen the role of the MUFPP in the region.

Asia Pacific

The MUFPP is working to disseminate knowledge and to foster cooperation through the European programmes: IURC and ICP. Within this framework, Milan is supporting on a variety of topics the cities of **Bangkok, Chiang Mai, Seberang Perai** and **Singapore**.

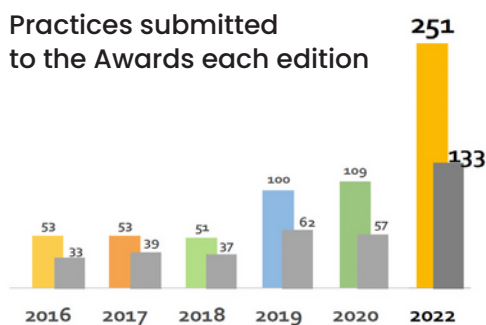
In 2022, the Milan Pact together with the IURC Programme developed the **Asia Pacific Food Policy Training**, a series of webinars aimed at cities in the region willing to enrich their knowledge on food policy development. In August 2022, the **1st MUFPP Asia Pacific Regional Forum** was held in **Bandung**, Indonesia. The MUFPP also signed an agreement with **Parahyangan Catholic University** to spur knowledge on food system transformation in the region.

Over the last months, the MUFPP has also started a fruitful collaboration with **ASEAN**, in particular with the Health Sector, on the theme of food and nutrition in cities of the region.



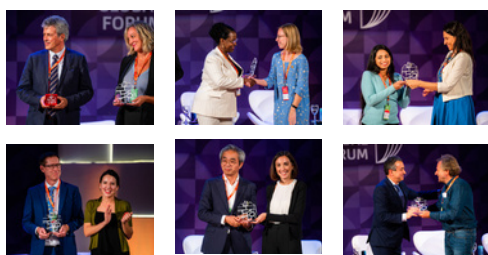
Sharing knowledge among signatory cities

Practices submitted to the Awards each edition



Milan Pact Awards: 621 practices shared

One of the most important goals of the Milan Urban Food Policy Pact is to stimulate the **exchange of practices and learning** between signatory cities. Therefore, in 2016 the City of Milan and the Cariplo Foundation launched the **Milan Pact Awards (MPA)**. The aim is to recognize the most creative efforts and monitor cities' improvements since they joined the Pact. Every year the practices submitted are evaluated by an **international Evaluation Committee** who awards the most innovative practices. Moreover, the Awards are an opportunity to show to international stakeholders the proactivity of the MUFPP cities and their leadership role in shaping food systems. Year after year, the Pact gathered **621 practices**, creating a **unique library of food policies** officially approved by city mayors. This library represents the **Pact's common knowledge**. The increasing participation demonstrates the growing enthusiasm towards food policies and their relevance in the mayoral agenda.

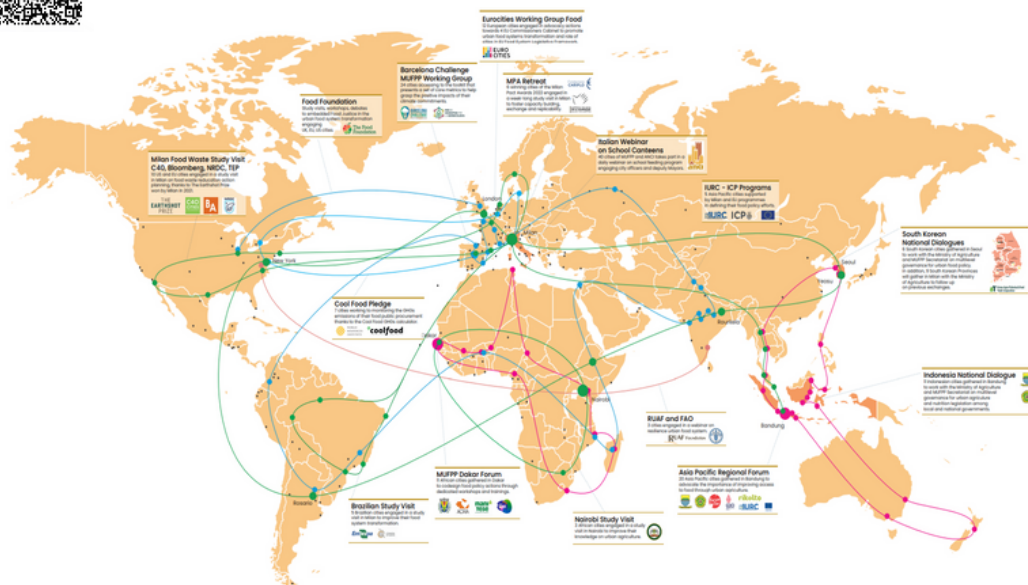


2022 Milan Pact Awards ceremony in Rio de Janeiro

Milan Pact Awards 2022

In April 2022, the Secretariat opened the call for the 6th edition of the Milan Pact Awards. **133 MUFPP signatory cities** submitted **251 practices** in the six MUFPP categories. The **Milan Pact Awards Ceremony** took place in Rio de Janeiro (Brazil) during the 8th MUFPP Global Forum. The six winners of this MPA edition are **New York** (United States), **Addis Ababa** (Ethiopia), **Rourkela** (India), **Yeosu** (South Korea), **Rosario** (Argentina) and **London** (United Kingdom). 18 cities also received a special mention from the Evaluation Committee for their important achievements. In 2023, the winning cities were invited to Milan to take part in the **MPA Retreat** - aimed at sharing their knowledge with the MUFPP network and developing innovative food systems solutions.

[Read the MPA 2022 report](#)



- 9** Years of activities
- 280** Signatory cities
- 6** MUFPP Regions
- 8** Global Fora
- 21** Regional Fora
- 13** Steering Committee cities
- 621** Practices collected

Fellowship Programme

The **MUFPP Fellowship Programme** is a comprehensive learning and capacity building programme that will run throughout 2023 and 2024, and **engages MUFPP cities in capacity building activities**, in order to develop and strengthen their skills and capacities, acquire tools and knowledge to achieve their food policy objectives.

The Fellowship Programme includes various activities: field visits, webinars, workshops, online and in-person training, peer-to-peer exchanges, participation in research and mapping activities, publications, networking opportunities, joint organization of events.

All those activities are facilitated by the MUFPP Secretariat together with the important **contribution of MUFPP key partners**. Indeed, MUFPP partners - based on their field of work and areas of interest - have the possibility to join forces with the MUFPP, and work together with MUFPP cities, streamlining efforts and finding new synergies.

Until now, **more than 100 cities** and 30 partners have been involved in over 20 initiatives developed within the Fellowship Programme.

Shaping the global food agenda

The Milan Pact is fully involved in the **definition of the global food agenda**. Over the last years, the MUFPP Secretariat has been working to raise the attention on urban food policies and **catalyze synergies** of international stakeholders **towards the Milan Pact's objective**.

International processes and advocacy actions

The Milan Pact is constantly striving to highlight the **major role of mayors in the transformation of the food system**, thus contributing to the **achievement of the SDGs**. At the same time, it is committed to **mobilizing resources and attention** within the international community to support the work that cities are undertaking.

On 3-4 August, within the framework of **Indonesia's G20 Presidency**, the MUFPP organized the **1st Asia Pacific Regional Forum in Bandung**. Moving from the **U20 objective** to strive for a more **equitable, sustainable and resilient future**, the Forum represented a unique opportunity to advocate G20 leaders about the **importance of improving access to food in cities** and obtaining greater food security through urban and peri-urban agriculture.

The MUFPP played a primary role within the UNFSS process. Among the different activities developed, within the **UNFSS Pre-Summit** the MUFPP Secretariat organized **"City and Local Food Systems"**, the unique plenary session focusing on the **role of cities as key drivers of the food system transformation**. Thanks to the contribution of MUFPP mayors, the Milan Pact has been able to showcase also at the UNFSS+2 its cities' efforts and solutions to the international community.

The Milan Pact is also committed on the advocacy at international level. In March 2023, the MUFPP together with **Eurocities** organized in Brussels the event **"Bringing urban food policy to the table"**, gathering **eleven deputy mayors** from European cities and **eight cabinet members and policy officers** from the **European Commission** discussing what cities are doing on food policies and how they can collectively contribute to the proposal for a **Sustainable Food Systems Framework Law** which highly impacts the context of urban food policies.

International partnerships and projects

Over the years, the Milan Pact has consolidated an **increasing number of partners**, ranging from international organizations to universities, research centers and NGOs, gathering opportunities and linking them to its signatory cities. Significant in this regard is the agreement signed in 2022 with the **Italian Agency for Development Cooperation (AICS)**. This strong alliance will further support the MUFPP in its mission to foster cities' actions all over the world focusing on developing more sustainable and inclusive food systems.

Another valuable partnership is the one established with the **School Meals Coalition** led by the **World Food Programme** that involves an alliance of governments and a wide range of partners engaged to drive actions that can urgently **improve and scale up school meal programmes all over the world**. The MUFPP is proud to lead one of the initiatives of the SMC: **Cities Feeding the Future**, fostering the key role of cities in improving school meal programmes in their communities.



Read the *1st MUFPP Asia-Pacific Regional Forum Report*

